10-10-1968

Benito Cereno Program [1968]

University of Maine Portland Campus
EVENTS OF THE ARTS
YET TO COME

at

LUTHER I. BONNEY HALL AUDITORIUM
Portland Campus
University of Maine

Friday, November 8, at 8:15 p.m.
THE NEW LOST CITY RAMBLERS
Folk Singers

Friday, December 6, at 8:15 p.m.
VIRGINIA ESKIN
Pianist

Friday, February 28, at 8:15 p.m.
THE BOSTON BALLET COMPANY

Thursday, April 17, at 8:15 p.m.
DOUBLE QUINTET
Philharmonia Woodwind Quintet and
Herb Pomeroy Jazz Quintet
in joint concert

ART THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

November 14, 15, and 16 at 8:00 p.m.
WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF

March 20, 21, and 22 at 8:00 p.m.
MISS JULIE

University of Maine
PORTLAND CAMPUS
presents

THE THEATRE COMPANY OF BOSTON
in

BENITO CERENO

by

ROBERT LOWELL

Auspices
The Art Theatre of the Portland Campus

LUTHER I. BONNEY HALL AUDITORIUM
Thursday, October 10, 1968
8:15 p.m.
AN HISTORICAL INCIDENT, first reported in Delano's *Voyages and Travels*, published in Boston in 1817, caught the imagination of Herman Melville some 40 years later. Melville, whose now famous novel, *Moby Dick*, had been a critical failure when it was first published in 1851, had turned to the writing of short stories. He used Delano's account as the basis of a short story which was published by Putnam's Magazine under the title of *Benito Cereno*.

MELVILLE'S STORY stirred brief interest, but then it sank into obscurity for more than one hundred years, when the famous contemporary American poet, Robert Lowell, recognized its significance.

ROBERT LOWELL, born in Boston in 1917, had become interested in writing a dramatic trilogy under the title of *The Old Glory*. The play dealing with the oldest historical incident, *Endicott and the Red Cross*, was not produced until last spring. The second and third parts of the trilogy, *My Kinsman, Major Molineux* and *Benito Cereno*, were first produced at the American Place Theatre in 1964.

*Benito Cereno*, through the magic of Lowell's pen and the inspired interpretation of the Theatre Company of Boston, has been acclaimed a cultural and poetic masterpiece by critic Robert Brunstein. Of particular significance is the portrayal of Babu, the black slave, a character central to the dramatic conflict of the play.

THIS PERFORMANCE of *Benito Cereno* marks the third annual appearance of the Theatre Company of Boston at Bonney Auditorium on the Portland campus.