

# Heart Strings, quilt project team up

By Dan Hulbert

STAFF WRITER

Benefiting AIDS awareness and support, the 1989-90 tour of **Heart Strings** was a huge success — raising \$1 million for AID Atlanta alone. And it was only the beginning, judging by a plan recently unveiled by the Atlanta-based organization.

A new edition of the touring theatrical production, produced by **David Sheppard**, is joining forces with the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project to create "**An Event in 3 Acts: Heart Strings, the AIDS Memorial Quilt, and You.**" The 35-city tour begins Feb. 7-8 in San Diego and will visit Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Washington and Miami on the way to its finale at Atlanta's **Fox Theatre** on June 27-28.

The first super-gala stop is Feb. 21-22 in Los Angeles, when the emcees and performers will include **Phylicia Rashad, Christopher Reeve, Nell Carter,**

---

## STAGE NOTES

---

**Sandy Duncan, Sally Kirkland and Joel Grey.**

The national goal of \$8 million makes this the largest AIDS benefit project ever. The Atlanta goal is \$500,000 by July 30.

■  
**TICKLED IVORIES:** If it seems as though the ghost of Sutter, the 19th-century slave driver who haunts a 1930s African-American family, is a very real and creepy presence in "**The Piano Lesson,**" much of the credit goes to the Alliance Theatre sound design team of **Dwight Andrews** and **Brian Kettler.**

Since the ghost inhabits an antique piano, they reasoned, the sound of his movements should be produced from inside the instrument. Mr. Kettler, the theater's 27-year-old sound engineer, and Mr. Andrews, its resi-

dent composer, produced the sounds from an old upright piano that has been sitting unused in the "trap room" under the Alliance stage. Taking the piano's back off, they struck and plucked its wires, using mallets, drumsticks and a number of found objects (including a length of chain). In the Alliance sound studio, electronic treatments (reverbs, delays) were added to the recorded sounds to create a flow of unearthly cacophony.

■  
**'BAMA DRAMA:** Two plays set in Alabama will open next weekend at the **Alabama Shakespeare Festival.** **David Feldshuh's** 1989 drama "**Miss Evers' Boys**" — based on the 1930s racial-medical scandal at Tuskegee Institute — and **Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes"** open Saturday and next Sunday, respectively, at the Montgomery theater complex. Call 205-272-1640.