

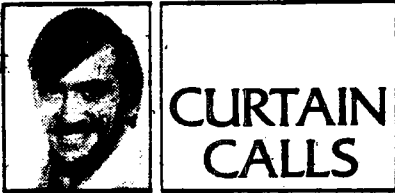
Wherefore art thou, Grammy?

By TOM KILLEN
Staff Reporter

Grammy, Grammy, who's got the Grammy?

August Wilson's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," which had its world premiere at the Yale Repertory Theatre, won the Grammy Award last Tuesday night as Best Spoken Word or Non-Musical Recording — but trying to elicit who, if anyone picked up the statue, and who is its rightful owner, is a scenario straight out of "The Maltese Falcon."

So call me Sam Spade. After



more phone calls than I care to remember, I have narrowed down the list of possible "suspects."

August Wilson did not pick up the award. He was, he says, nowhere near the joint on Tuesday night, and he has an airtight alibi. The playwright was right here in New Haven on the night in question, paying a backstage visit to *Charles Dutton*, who starred in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" both at the Rep and on Broadway, and is currently playing the title role in the Rep production of "Othello."

Wilson, Dutton and "Ma Rainey" music supervisor *Dwight Andrews* were first notified of their Grammy win by Rep press director *Rosalind Heinz*, who was tuned into her television set when *Roberta Flack* and *Emmylou Harris* announced the winners in several categories that had been presented prior to the televised portion of the program.

Likewise, *Mike Bernika*, who produced the two-record set for Manhattan Records, a division of Capitol Records, claims no knowledge of the event. While Bernika certainly has a motive — National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences rules dictate that it is the producer, and the producer alone, who gets to keep the engraved statuette — he was at home in Fort Lee, New Jersey when the presentation was made.

As we go to press, the prime suspect is *Bruce Lundvall*, president of Manhattan Records, who was in Los Angeles on Tuesday night and remains there to this day.

Then again, maybe the butler did it.