

Play lauds women's writings

The words of the world's great female writers will come to life onstage when The Acting Company performs "The Other Half" at the Birmingham Theatre, Oct. 26-28.

"The Other Half" is one of three plays to be performed by the repertory company of classically trained young actors under the artistic direction of John Houseman, Michael Kahn and Alan Schneider.

A new play by Elinor Jones with music by Kathrin King Segal, "The Other Half" was suggested by Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own."

The play utilizes journals, speeches, letters, poems and songs to illuminate the lives of great women writers from

Theater

Sappho to Austen, Eliot and the Brontës. It is a tribute to the spirit, dedication and creativity of all womanhood.

THE ACTING COMPANY will present Shakespeare's immortal love story, "Romeo and Juliet," Oct. 29.

"Romeo and Juliet," one of Shakespeare's earliest plays, is a tender love story set against the violent back-

ground of the quarreling houses of Montague and Capulet, whose antagonisms are resolved only with the deaths of a son and daughter.

Jean Anouilh's "Antigone" will be presented Oct. 30 and 31. Written in 1944, "Antigone" is a modern-dress version of the Greek classic by Sophocles.

The play focuses on the conflict between man's law and political expediency on one side and moral law and human dignity on the other. It emphasizes the tragic view of life that requires a price for everything received in this world.

Its parallels to modern times are as easily grasped as they were when the

play was first performed in France during the German occupation.

"THE OTHER HALF" will be presented Oct. 26-28 at 8 p.m. with a matinee Oct. 28 at 2 p.m.

"Romeo and Juliet" will be presented Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"Antigone" will be presented Oct. 30 and 31 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are priced for general admission and for students. Matinees are one price for all reserved seats. For additional ticket information contact the Birmingham Theatre box office at 644-3333.

Psychological hit 'Equus' staged

The Oakland University Theatre Arts Program will present the hit psychological thriller "Equus" in an eight-performance run starting Thursday, Oct. 12.

The play, which drew rave reviews in London and New York runs, will be repeated Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 20-22, and the following weekend Oct. 28-29.

Performances will be at 8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Varner Hall with special 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. General admission tickets are available at the door or in advance by call-

ing 377-2000. "Equus," by British author Peter Shaffer, traces a psychiatrist's investigation into a bizarre crime. An adolescent youth who loves horses and is employed weekends in a riding stable has blinded five of the animals by plunging a metal spike into their eyes.

INSTEAD OF imposing a sentence on the youth, a magistrate puts him under the care of a psychiatrist. The cunning youth strikes a bargain with his interrogator; he will answer one question for each of his own that the

psychiatrist will answer, thus setting the stage for a powerful verbal duel that reveals the turmoil in the psychiatrist's own life.

Richard Klessig of Bay City is the psychiatrist Martin Dysart, and Glenn Mazur of Mt. Clemens is the troubled youth Alan Strang. Melanie Neal of Fraser is cast as the sympathetic magistrate, while David Marshall of Rochester and Martha Kent of Pontiac Township are the boy's parents, Frank and Dora Strang.

Kim Renfrew of Lansing plays a young girl who adds another dimension to the boy's emotional problems.

James Westerby of Troy plays Nugget, the man-horse on whose back the boy takes pantomimed, ritualistic rides through the countryside.

David Stevens directs the production and James Hatfield designed the multi-purpose set which serves as the psychiatrist's office, hospital room, and the stable where the binding of the horses takes place.

'Devil's Disciple' cast announced

Terence Kilburn has announced the full cast for "The Devil's Disciple," which will open the professional theater's 13th season with a four-week run Thursday at 8:30 p.m. on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Leading roles in G. B. Shaw's exuberant comedy about the American Revolution will be played by Tom Spackman, Carolyn Lagerfelt, Michael Allison, Joan White, Harry Ellerbe, Edmund Lyndeck and Ray Logan. Patricia Reilly, Curtis J. Armstrong, Dan C. Bar, Michel Cullen and James R. Hartman will be featured.

Soldiers and townspeople in the large cast will include Pam and Wendy Bonnell, Rebecca Brodrick-Shann, June Coppens, Hal Doyle, Maribeth Fisher, Mark Halpin, Andy Hurley, Wade Kelley, Karoline Kito, Kimberly Kirkpatrick, Steve Lutes, Robert Murphy, David Parker, Lori

Philo, Gary Rankin, Mike Rose, John Turner and Harry Wetzel.

Terence Kilburn will stage "The Devil's Disciple" which will feature sets by Peter-William Hicks, lighting by Fred Fenner and costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell.

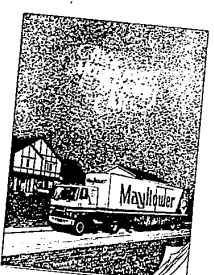
OPENING WEEK performances of "The Devil's Disciple" are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The following three weeks performances are at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Friday, 6 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, 6:30 p.m. Sundays and 2 p.m. Wednesdays. The Theater is dark Mondays.

"The Devil's Disciple" will run Oct. 12-Nov. 5.

Tickets for all Meadow Brook Theatre performances for the entire 1978-79 season may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling 377-3300, the Meadow Brook Theatre box office.

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