

Different shows set by Gurwin

In 1976, after almost a year of exposure in the dinner theater medium, Nancy Gurwin formed her own production company.

The musical "I Do! I Do!" became the chosen vehicle and she secured Phil Esser of Jacques Bret fame as her star. The show opened in the historic Belford Inn.

In June of that year, the show moved to Livonia where it enjoyed several months more production, for a total of over eight months. Two years later, it was revived and presented in Detroit for three months.

From 1977 to now it has been a highly successful traveling show for the company.

On June 20, the show starring Nancy Gurwin and Joe Lannen opened at Mama Mia Restaurant and Lounge in Union Lake, where it is now enjoying an open-end run.

In addition to the enduring "I Do! I Do!" show, Nancy Gurwin Productions has produced many musicals and comedies during the last five years. Many of these shows have been presented in various metro Detroit locations in dinner theater format.

The musicals included "Once Upon a Mattress," "Romy Girl," "Guys and Dolls" and "Annie Get Your Gun." The comedies included "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," "The Odd Couple," "The Owl and the Pigeon" and "Any Wednesday."

Ms. Gurwin has now decided to present her company in a form of repertory. On Friday, at the Mama Mia location, they will start "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" featuring local talent.

Throughout September, the comedy will play on Friday nights, and "I Do! I Do!" will play Saturday nights.

Plans are now being formalized for the production of the next musical — Neil Simon's "They're Playing Our Song."



Nancy Gurwin plays Agnes in Gurwin Production's musical comedy "I Do! I Do!" at the Mama Mia dinner theater in Union Lake.

Shooting Star's new album equipped to head sky-high

By Nick Charles special writer

C'mon, break out of that 9 to 5. Lift your nose from the grindstone and enjoy the sounds of Shooting Star.

The band, whose first LP was on Virgin/Atlantic (now on Virgin/Epic) Records, caused some stir on the airwaves with the song "You Got What I Need." Shooting Star backed up the stir with powerful live performances with Robin Trouser and Cheap Trick.

The present finds Shooting Star headlining its own show. The Star, which is soon approaching, will be shooting by Canton's Center Stage on Sept. 14 at 9 p.m.

Guitarist/vocalist Van McClein and keyboardist/guitarist/vocalist Gary West, who are responsible for writing all of the band's material, seem to be very influenced by their next door neighbors, Kansas.

McClein also seems to have some connection with the West Coast since his vocal inflections are hauntingly close to those of Angel's Frank DiMino.

Shooting Star is also proud to have bassist Ron Verlin, drummer Steve Thomas and a very Kansas-

like violin sound belonging to Charles Walls.

"Hang on For Your Life" contains 10 new songs and 10 potential singles. It opens with philosophical lyrics and driving sound of "Flesh and Blood."

If there is an overall theme in the band's songs it would be that of the hardworking underdog who's tired of taking guff from the rich man and the rest of society. And everyone knows that the perseverant underdog always wins (at least in rock and roll).

The mixture of hard rock with classical overtones breaks through the playful yet realistic lyrics of "Easier." At the same time the descriptive and colorful words of "Hollywood" cause images in the mind and touch the soul with loneliness that breaks hearts like high notes break glass.

The beautiful "Sweet Elatia" ends the album like an innocent good night kiss. The work resembles an intricate jigsaw puzzle, a finely tuned piece of art.

Each puzzle piece represents an emotion. All strung together, the pieces create a necklace of hope worn by the shipwrecked sailors waiting in desperation to touch "Sweet Elatia."

'Talley's Folly' currently going

True Grist Dinner Theatre is presenting the 1980 Pulitzer Prize winning comedy Talley's Folly.

The inventive and determined Matt Friedman, is playing for the first time in Michigan at the Homer theater.

The comedy, a tale of the wooing and winning of a reluctant Sally Talley by

For ticket information, call the box office at 568-4151.

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