

# Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Suburban audiences are taking to the dinner theater concept. Newest addition to an evening of dinner theater is the Somerset Mall in Troy, which will open Neil Simon's "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" weekends, beginning this Friday and Saturday.

Edgar A. Guest III of Birmingham is directing the comedy, which moves to Troy from the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

"It had run its gamut there," Guest said. "It opened on Sept. 18 and played Thursday nights to excellent houses."

Pierre Turgeon of Farmington Hills will head the cast, playing the husband who decides he deserves an extramarital fling and goes about it entirely unsuccessfully.

**COSTARRED** as the three women with whom he tries to become romantically involved will be Kathryn Sutton of Detroit, Nancy Gurwin of Southfield and Delores Shavin of Farmington.

At the Botsford, another Neil Simon comedy will open in dinner theater format Feb. 12. This one stars Ed Guest, Mary Geiger of Birmingham, who played the woman in Act 1 of "Lovers," will be his costar in "Piazz Suite."

Director actor Guest has been wearing a beard off and on since he appeared in a production of "Kismet" at St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook last spring. He shaved it after the show, but his friends were disappointed. So he grew it back again.

Now he's about to shave it once again before he goes in front of an audience.

Guest said Somerset Mall's upcoming show is "as far as we know, the only dinner theater in a major shopping center in the country."

The cast of "Lovers" did a portion of the play last fall during Theatre Vis Week at the mall. That prompted

## Dinner theater grows in popularity

"Mercy College (now offering Phil Easer's 'Personals') has really been successful. Others didn't seem to catch on."

At Schoolcraft College in Livonia, a new student cabaret theater which opened last November is resuming weekend performances of the musical "Godspell."

Explaining the popularity of dinner theater, Guest said, "It allows people to relax a little more than they would in the theater. They can drink and smoke during the performance."

The combination with dinner in a convenient, often economical package is another plus.

Guest was asked about the difference in the dinner-theater audience from an actor's point of view.

"There might be a tendency for the audience to talk among themselves a little more. It's more distracting to the actors at the start. The audience is so close it's a bit unnerving," Guest replied.

**BEYOND THE ACTORS** get used to it they say. "My god, an orchestra pit!" once back on a regular stage, he said.

Guest claims one woman in a dinner theater audience told him, "That's the first time my husband has stayed awake during a play."

John Anhalt, who owns the Botsford, has long been theater-oriented. Guest said. He had a theater on the grounds in the 50s. Last year Botsford started its dinner theater with "Facades," which ran through the summer.

"Then John asked Pete (Pierre Turgeon) to come up with a show during the fall," Guest said.

Turgeon asked Guest to direct, and they formed a production company. The two men had first met in a Franklin Village Players production of "Kiss Me Kate."

"We both played gangsters," Guest said. "We had great rapport."

"Lovers" will continue at Somerset, "as long as somebody's gonna buy a ticket for it," he said. Hopefully, the show will run through March. Then, the company will bring in "Piazz Suite" or another show.



Detroit first nighters

Raleigh House impresario Sam Lieberman, right, and Chrysler Corporation Vice-President R.B. McCurry were among notables attending the charity preview of the 60th annual Detroit Auto Show in Cobo Hall, which runs through Sunday, Jan. 18. Glistening dinner dance and tour of exhibits last Friday raised funds for the Boys Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit among other charities.

**RECALLING** the unsuccessful effort of the Elmwood Casino in Windsor to institute dinner theater, he said, "It didn't go. I don't think it was the theater's fault."

## Broadhead open house is slated

Rep. William M. Broadhead (D-Southfield) is inviting Southfield and Lathrup residents to meet informally with him between 1 and 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, in the auditorium of the Parks and Recreation Building at the Southfield Civic Center.

"The open house," Broadhead said, "will give me another opportunity to meet with area residents and listen to their views and concerns. The comments of my constituents are useful to me as I consider important issues before Congress."

This is the second open house which Broadhead has held in Southfield since his election last January.



## Drawing for charity

Mrs. Russel Gilbert of Farmington watches as her husband gets a lesson in sumo wrestling in the Dodge exhibit during the charity preview of the 60th annual Detroit Auto Show in Cobo Hall. Artist Jim 'The Hangman' Balogh appears daily at the show to demonstrate the ancient Japanese art of painting in many colors with a single brush and a nearly continuous stroke. The preview raised funds for the Boys Club of Metropolitan Detroit, Easter Seals and the Northeast Guidance Center.

## Will run fund

Julian Tobias, 2730 Arborway, Southfield, recently was elected president of the Wayne State Fund. Calvin Bogart, 17580 Dorset, Southfield, was elected first vice president.

Members of the fund channel gifts and donations from alumni and other contributors to Wayne State University.

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**Dining And Entertainment Guide**

# ON THE TOWN

## Class offered

Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be given at Providence Hospital's Community Health Education Program scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29.

Providence cardiologist Dr. George Ritter, will be the featured guest speaker at the meeting, discussing the symptoms of a heart attack and the emergency action that should be taken. Dr. Ritter will be assisted by paramedics from Southfield's Life Support Unit in demonstrating many ways to save a victim from a heart attack, drowning, suffocation and many other conditions resulting in cardiac and respiratory arrest.

The program which will be in the hospital's Fisher Center Auditorium, 16001 W. Nine Mile, Southfield, is open to the public at no charge. Tickets should be obtained in advance by calling the hospital's community relations department at 424-3021.

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