

# 'Iguana' moving drama Review

By HELEN ZUCKER

The Farmington Players has done well by Tennessee Williams. At its best, "Night of the Iguana" is moving and well-paced. Williams' collection of desperate people at the end of their tether is an actor's delight. Meaty parts, lines that sing, the Farmington actors understand the characters they are playing and go about their business with relish. Jan Salisbury shines as Hannah Jolkes, the Nantuxet spinster who makes her living doing quick sketches while traveling with her ancient grandfather. Hannah is perhaps the most difficult role in the play and Ms. Salisbury makes her complex and believable.

Hannah's touching revelation of her lonely chastity and her philosophy (Williams' philosophy)—nothing is dirty except violence and cruelty—has utter credibility. We do not doubt for an instant that Hannah has lived through the sad, absurd evening with her salesman in China.

A LESSER ACTRESS would have brought foot-chuffing from the audience. Ms. Salisbury commands respect for Hannah's spirit, for the kindness she is capable of, her struggling will to live despite overwhelming odds.

Jack Grulke gets off to a slow start as tour guide the Rev. T. Lawrence Shannon, draftee after one year as a shepherd who leads young girls astray.

Grulke unwinds into the part. His Shannon lives in a fevered state of half-enjoyable leaching and ambivalence; his irritability with himself extends to the world. Grulke loosens up as the play goes on.

In the last act Grulke winds himself into a hysterical fit that comes off well. By play's end, he has made the exhausted, nerve-wracked, high-strung reverend a very believable character.

## Table Talk



Customers gather at the bar in Piper's Alley Troy.

As the unbereaved widow, Maxine Faulk, who runs the Mexican hotel where all the action takes place, Sandy Dietrich flounders and sashays through the evening. But she delivers her lines well.

SOME WORK with movement would help Ms. Dietrich to do a terrific Maxine. Her voice has vibrancy and range, her face darkens and lightens with her moods.

Thomas J. Dougal's Nonno is beautiful. Dougal can do lovely things with his voice; his stresses during the poem that closes the play were exquisite. Dougal's striking resemblance to Burgess Meredith could've worked against him in "Iguana" since Meredith's face these days calls up memories of "Rocky." But everything Dougal does works for him; he is Nonno, the dying poet.

Kudos to Director Don Craig for getting so much out of his actors. And to Don Briggs for his authentic-looking set.

"Night of the Iguana" continues Friday-Sunday and May 19-21. The Players Barn is located on Twelve Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

## Piper's Alley

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Tiffany lamps and potted palms help create the attractive yet informal atmosphere of the new Piper's Alley Troy. The lamps hang down on dimly lit tables and booths, and a multi-colored, leaded glass ceiling adorns the circular bar.

Open since late March, the intimate contemporary restaurant is in the Sheffield Office Plaza at 3270 W. Big Beaver, just west of Coolidge.

There are two other Piper's Alleys, the first opened in Grosse Pointe in 1974 and the second the following year in the historic Cornice & State Building in downtown Detroit.

Each of the restaurants has its own decorative touches, and in Troy there's a different menu, too, according to General Manager William Rush of Birmingham. The menu, printed on the table napkin, is designed especially to appeal to the community's taste buds.

PIPER'S ALLEY Troy is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. The

same menu is available all day, along with daily specials.

Offerings include dinners, with many seafood selections, and a variety of sandwiches. Seafood platters have been added in Troy, as have the appetizers featuring crab meat, oysters or shrimp.

Dinners range in price from \$4.95 for P.A.'s Oysters to \$7.95 for king crab meat served hot or cold, or sea food platter supreme.

If you're not a seafood lover, you can also get a Tiffany tender, char-broiled filet of tenderloin, or center cut pork chops. Frog legs and scallops are other dinner entrees, and all dinners come "WTW."

Translation of "WTW" is "With the Works"—soup, salad, potato and roll. A la carte suggestions go from homemade chili to P.A.'s Own Lightly Fried Mushrooms.

WHEN YOU'RE in a salad mood, you can order fresh avocado stuffed with crab meat, a house specialty, at \$4.95, or for a lighter appetite, a fresh tomato stuffed with crab meat, shrimp, chicken or tuna.

## TV star in special

David Soul, star of the "Starsky & Hutch" ABC TV series, is starring in his first musical special.

The David Soul and Friends Special, 8-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, on ABC-TV.

In a "Hooray for Hollywood" segment of the program, he will sing an original song revealing his own vision of the motion picture capital.

He will move from location to location to illustrate his points. The locations include Carney's Restaurant, a favorite Hollywood eatery; Mike Bam's Store, the place to get the show business styles; F.B.D. Fine Motor Cars, purveyors of sleek and expensive automobiles.

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## Children's show slated

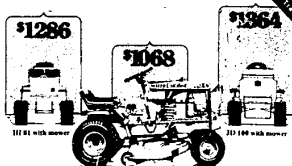
The Michigan Youth Theatre production of "Goliwhoppers" will open Saturday at the Altie Theatre in Detroit's Greektown.

"Goliwhoppers," by Flora Atkins, is made up of four American folk tales interspersed with song and dance, as well as audience participation. The play is produced by the Michigan Youth Theatre, Inc., in conjunction with New Plays for Children, Royowton, Conn.

The Michigan Youth Theatre is a locally based group of professional actors and musicians performing plays for children. Their productions are assembled ready to tour into schools, libraries and community centers. The performers also are available for instructing creative dramatics workshops.

"Goliwhoppers" will be performed at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturdays and at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

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