

Cranbrook is setting for summer theatre

By ETHEL SIMMONS

near St. Dunstan's Pavilion in Bloomfield Hills.

One boy hobbles on an imaginarily injured leg. "Oh, my, I'm tired," he says. "I don't want to sleep in the graveyard but where else can I go?"

"Straight out!" the teacher responds, in an effort to get him to speak his lines more clearly. She goes

over and straightens his posture, to help him be more effective.

In ANOTHER small group of about a half-dozen youngsters, the children read their lines aloud from scripts while their teacher silently studies her copy of that particular play.

The first group continues to rehearse, students stepping from a grove of trees into a clearing when it is their turn to speak. "I wonder!" the teacher admonishes one student. "No! Never cross in front of anyone!" she tells another.

The second group is still reading lines aloud softly, not yet well versed enough in the dialogue to rise and move about a make-believe stage. They remain seated in a semi-circle.

Still another group, sitting on the grass, listens as their teacher reads, "And WHO wants to look at a FROZEN PICKLE FACE." She explains that the line is much more effective with the emphasis, than it would be in a monotone.

"If you're saying something mean, say it that way. Really get into your part," she stresses.

TWO BOYS STAND and read their lines. The teacher interrupts, "You're mad at your brother. Tell 'em," and demonstrates by stamping her foot.

In a fourth group, a little girl says "Perambulators are on the fifth floor." The teacher says, "Say, 'Perambulators are on the fifth floor.'" The student recites the line in a sing-song, swinging her body as she walks. "Do me a favor," the teacher says. "Change that to baby carriages."

"Do I say that too?" questions another student who has the same line. All these groups, with their teacher-directors, are practicing different plays which they will perform for the rest of the camp each Friday. Some selected plays will be repeated Monday night for their parents.

Everyone in the camp will get a chance to be on stage Monday nights. Stages alternate between the indoor St. Dunstan's Pavilion and the outdoor Greek Theater, to provide both kinds of acting experience.

FOR THE YOUNGEST group, the camp ends after six weeks when the

final play is performed for the public. This year, three casts will take turns playing roles in Cranbrook Theater School director Annetta Wornberger's adaptation of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland."

Ninety children, from ages 8 to 13, will perform at 8:15 p.m. July 26-28 in the Greek Theater. Tickets at \$2 are available by calling 644-9668 or 644-6033.

Intermediate and senior students have an eight-week session, also ending with public performances. The entire school numbers 150 students.

Mrs. Wornberger co-founded the school with her husband, Carl, 36 years ago. "The general program has not changed remarkably but it has grown," she said. "We started with a four-week program, 25 students and four or five teachers."

The teaching staff now totals 36. "All of our key people are people with degrees or the equivalent of professional training," Mrs. Wornberger said.

ASKED TO TELL what they like about theater school, some of the students gave these replies:

Rob Biel, 11: "I've always loved theater and do puppet shows with my partner, John Arno. I belong to the National Puppeteers Guild of America."

Georgia Borgias, 9: "I think it's fun and I like plays. I like to perform."

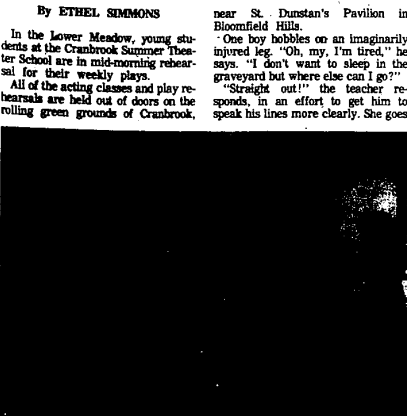
Jenny Breitmeier, 10: "I like acting. I saw the final play last year. I was going to go to camp."

Ben Von Zadow, 10: "I came here because I didn't want to have a boring summer. I swallow my words when I say them. I want to learn how to memorize. And Mom says I have a talent in acting."

Christy Knight, 10: "This is my fourth year. I like to act and to do costume and creative dramas. I like swimming a lot (swimming is included in the theater school's daily program) and a lot of my friends are here. I've learned to speak louder and clearer, and lots of other things."



Gwen Rogers and Greg Hollway have fun with mirror mime. (Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell)



(From left, front row) Maria Petrella, Fred Dicks and teacher Rochelle Rosenthal rehearse Euripides' "The Electra."

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Encore Cinema features flicks

By SANDY TESSLER

Roughly two years ago, Geri Lester of Franklin became acutely aware of her superficial knowledge of both the technical and artistic aspects of filmmaking.

She and two Birmingham friends committed themselves to providing the Birmingham community with an approach to film that would prove to be educational as well as entertaining.

Ms. Lester's friends are Doreen Matthews, who studied at the London Film School, and Lesley Frost, a former London resident who missed the ready availability of quality films at reasonable prices.

The nonprofit Encore Cinema Club was born last September, conceived over coffee and dessert at a local restaurant and nurtured by middle-of-the-night scrawlings on the back of a torn envelope.

MS. LESTER said, "Film is the media of our time. It is the art of our time. It is the unique aspect of our way of life. And it is so taken for granted."

The cinema club's concept is unique to the Detroit area but is relatively simple: Run a film of some artistic value, provide a knowledgeable speaker to discuss the film, as well as an opportunity for open audience discussion, and serve coffee and dessert.

to enhance the social aspect of the evening.

Films among last season's choices were "Women in Love" and Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train."

Ms. Matthews was impressed at the availability of fine films. She is an independent film editor who has contributed her talents to a documentary nominated for an Academy Award. Her office is in downtown Birmingham.

As to future programming, Ms. Frost explained, "Last season was an experiment. Now we have a better feeling for what we're trying to do. Now maybe we'll choose (from the categories of) classics, silents, even a wild one or two."

Already selected for this season are "Modern Times," a Charlie Chaplin film, and "Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams," a contemporary drama. The Chaplin film will be addressed by Elliot Wilhelm, director of Detroit Film Theater at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Wilhelm has wholeheartedly supported this subcommittee effort at broadening the film experience for viewers.

FOR THE coordinators as well as the club's members, one of the best parts of the upcoming season will be moving to a new location, in September. After much research, Ms. Lester discovered and obtained the newly renovated 25-seat theater at the Cranbrook Institute of Science building.

The floor is sloped, which means subtitled films can be shown. A professional projectionist as well as two projectors will be there. And the projectors, sound and lights are all in working order, a much-welcomed benefit for the three women who spent many frantic hours last year merely assembling the necessary equipment for the Bloomfield Library location.

Although plush, the theater is intimate enough for discussions.

Season tickets for one film each month, September-March (except December) are \$25. Any of the six tickets may be used for any performance, however; all six may be used to admit a member and five guests to one film.

Individual tickets also will be available at the door for \$5, provided all members have been seated.

As the new season approaches, the goal of helping people to experience film as a total art—rather than simply an emotional or observational experience—will be foremost in the minds of Encore Cinema Club's coordinators.

Smallest pony

The smallest breed of pony is the Shetland pony, which usually is 32-40 inches high and weighs 275 to 385 pounds, less than some people.

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