

'Man and Superman' top drawer

By ETHEL SIMMONS

A polished cast delivered engaging performances in George Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman*, opening night at the Meadow Brook Theatre last week. The 11th season got off to a bright start as the thoroughly appealing cast made light of the Shawian wit about love and marriage. The production continues through Oct. 31 at the professional theater on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

Ann Whitefield (Elizabeth Horner) becomes the ward of two guardians after her father's death. They are Rubeck Ramsden (Donald C. Moore), an elderly, upstanding gentleman, and Jen Tanner (William Hart), a young man of wit and wit who was her childhood playmate and mascot.

Both guardians are ushers about the

joint role, but Ann declares she wants to follow her father's wishes. Ann is a very clever young woman who manages to do just as her late father, her mother Mrs. Whitefield (Mary Benson) or her guardian desire but always gets her own way. SHE IS MANIPULATIVE and charming, and Jen ("Jack") is no match for her. A wary bachelor, he does not believe in marriage and can avoid any trap, almost. But Ann's maneuver of playing up to Octavian (Robertson Williams) (Haliday) throws Jack completely off the track. When he finally discovers she has set her cap for him, she applies the direct approach of admitting her design, alternated with fainting spells.

It is almost with relief that Jack succumbs.

The aspirations of the English middle class is one of the motifs of this drama. Violet Robinson (Cheryl Gunnar) shocks

her friends when they discover she is an expectant mother; they are doubly shocked to find she is secretly married. Hypocrisy is exposed.

Violet's husband Hector (Fred Thompson), an American with money, is the son of a self-made man. Mr. Malone (Harris Kilgore).

VIOLET'S TASK is to convince her father and her mother that she and Hector deserve to have his money, even though she is an unfilled lady and therefore Hector is not improving his station.

The reasoning of what makes a good marital match is discussed and class warfare also involves a discussion of upward mobility from the lower class. Much to Mr. Malone's annoyance.

To all Americans, in general, one's social class is not as offensive as it is in England or as it is in 1910. But there are still les-

sons to be learned, morals to be drawn, although it is all somewhat confusing.

Man and Superman can be appreciated on many levels behind its gristly boy story. It challenges the customs by which one lives, exposes the deceptive nature of shoddy by one's principles.

Also in the cast are Henry Straker, the chauffeur (Richard Hager) and the Parlor-maid (Melanie Henkel).

As the lovers of odds, both Mr. Horner and Ann are deft in their portrayals. She is expertly cast, he is a down-to-earth rake.

AS OCTAVIUS (Tav) Haliday manages to look just the part, with a head of curls, a lifted nose and wonderful expression. He is the kind of man with a petti- nature who, Ann explains to Jack, never marries, while some of men like Jack always do.

The evening is attractive. Sets, including Hamden's study in London, a park setting complete with antique automobile and the garden of a villa in Granada Spain, all provide nice touches.



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Curtain Time

Man and Superman G. B. Shaw's comedy sparkles with polished performances by the entire cast, as women outwits and gets the reluctant bachelor to propose. Through October 31 at Meadow Brook Theatre on Oakland University campus in Rochester. For ticket information call Meadow Brook box office at 377-1300.

An Evening of One Act Plays presented by the Academy of Dramatic Art in season's premiere at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Sunday at Studio Theatre, Vassar Hall, Oakland University. Plays are: "Enchanted Night" by Sawward Mink; "The Bird Soprano" by Eugene Ionesco; and "Home Fires" by John Galsworthy. Tickets at 377-3315.

Finishing Touches Jean Kerr comedy about English professor who becomes disturbed about his legions for one of his students' present. At Vassar Players on Friday through Sunday and Oct. 22-23 at Vassar Playhouse, 1100 Washington. Tickets by calling 651-9229.

A Touch of Spring reliving comedy by Samuel Taylor in their delight production Friday and Saturday at W.O. W. W. W. Theatre, 771 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 644-4458 for reservations.

Androcles and the Lion two-act comedy by George Bernard Shaw presented by the Players Group from North Congre-

gational Church, Southfield. Friday, Sunday. Curtain time 8:10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Drama about clever battle between church and state. Tickets on sale at the church, at Northwestern Highway, just east of Laber. Information by calling the church at 326-1960.

No Sex, Please. We're British comedy by Anthony Marriott and Alastair Ford. Friday, Sunday and Oct. 22-23 at playhouse, 451 S. Hunter, Birmingham. Curtain 9 p.m. except Sunday at 7:30. Call 441-0757 for reservations.

Private Lives Noel Coward comedy is stylish romp, a coming of nostalgia and romance, starring WFL personalities Jimmy Lauer. Twelve-week run Friday and Saturday at Somerset Dinner Theatre at Somerset Mall in Troy. Curtain at 8:40 p.m. Buffet dinner every Friday and Saturday. Reservations and tickets at Alfred's Restaurant or by calling 643-8863.



Pierre Turgeon portrays Prymne in "Private Lives" at Somerset Dinner Theatre.

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