

Players perfect art in WSU workshop

Officers from Rochester's Avon Players, Birmingham Village Players, Frisco Village Players, St. Paul's Guild, Farmington Players and several other little theater organizations have collaborated with Wayne State University on a training program for newer members and for those less experienced in theater arts working with The McGraw-Hill Memorial Conference Center, representatives from the various area community theaters of which there are about 100 in Southeast Michigan, now have a continuing program of workshops. The first series of workshops, sponsored by professional theater faculty from Wayne State University, was held in October and November. The first three workshops were completed in October with more than 100 students from the general public, as well as from community theater organizations attending. Workshop students have been coming from as far away as Toledo, Midland, Lansing, and Jackson.

Coordinator of the entire activity is Dean Giffin, longtime Birmingham area resident, actor, stage writer and director of numerous community theater productions. Dean is the father of actor Fred Giffin, seen to be seen in a featured role on television's "Baywatch" and is married to Wayne Giffin, seen recently in some 30 recent Hollywood productions for television and motion pictures.

Wayne Giffin was for many years active in the Birmingham area groups productions at St. Dunstan's Guild and The Village Players.

ABOUT THE Wayne State University Program Giffin says. These people are coming to the university campus in suburban Detroit to work with the director of training and the skills of these working backstage and front line. The little theater is getting their act and it needs to get better.

I think these groups are to be praised for taking the initiative in aiming at more professional quality productions. After all, when you charge the public up to \$4 a ticket, you owe it to the audience to be good and to make it a complete work of the professional effort.

It is no longer a big deal to come and watch a play and see how the lines on stage or back at the top of the theater that never runs in time. Community theaters are now capable of producing the finest classic and contemporary dramas to their credit.

The workshop series in November includes The Stage Manager's Job, Costuming and Wardrobe and Sound Effects and Systems. Later, if support for the series continues as enthusiastically as for the first series, there will be workshops for actors, for directors and for promoting selling a play in a community, all under the tutelage of the university's professional theater faculty.

Instructors in the November series include Susan Lambert, Gary Witt, Norman Hamlin and Russell Smith from the university faculty, under the direction of Leonard Levine, head of the theater program at the university.

EACH WORKSHOP continues for three Saturday mornings and consists of nine hours of class work, plus outside assignments as required. All sessions meet at the Birmingham or Hillberry Theatre of the Theatre Production Center at 95 W. Hancock.

The Stage Manager program will concentrate on the role of the backstage boss and his relationship to the technical crew, the director and actors.

All too often, says Giffin, in amateur theater productions in the past, the stage manager is the relaxed type who enjoys a can of beer and some casual showbiz talk with beautiful people in the wings while the sound man makes the cue.

This workshop in November will lay it out the way it ought to be when you charge admission to the public.

Costume Design and Costuming will get into principles as well as some practical problems in finding, selecting, renting or making costumes. Research sources for period clothing selection will be touched on.

The Sound Systems and Effects workshop will equip the amateur with understanding of the types of systems available, a complete review and more. It will review methods of curing sound effects into a show and review ways of finding or making the right sound effects.

REGISTRATIONS for the workshops are now under way. Information about the program can be obtained by calling the university at 527-2406 or 527-2428.

The interest and support for the October series suggests a new trend toward higher quality in community theater productions. People support their community theaters as a close hand, convenient and economical way of seeing some of the most important productions of the American Stage.

Two moving plays such as last June's production of "Our Town" by St. Dunstan's Guild and sassy contemporary musicals such as the Village Players' December production of "Company" are making many theater groups into something more than social clubs.

The Grand Rapids Community Theatre and Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, for example, have literally thousands of season ticket buyers supporting their box offices.

The Community Theatre Association of Michigan estimates that as many as half a million people are involved in Michigan either as audience or in the production of community theater dramas and musicals. SHIRLEY HARBIN, performing arts director for the City of Detroit, says of the current workshop series at Wayne State University: "We believe it is an important step in helping your organizations present better productions to the public and to at-

tract more people into the work of each production."

Community theaters are subsidizing their participation in the workshops, encouraging members to attend and absorbing part of the cost of each registration to train their members.

Giffin sees the series as a year-round activity, providing a professional training experience for the amateur organizations that will stimulate members interest and improve the quality of their offerings.

In an evaluation of the first series of workshops, made by students, one young high school teacher said, "I learned more in one October workshop and one course than I did in four years of undergraduate work in the theater elsewhere."

Theater at Wayne is taught under the chairmanship of Dr. Edward J. Pappas, speech communication, theater and journalism department.

**VOTE NO
TO
HIGHER PRICES**

**VOTE NO
ON
PROPOSAL "A"**

Paid for by the committee against forced deposits

Save \$497.50 on Ethan Allen's
Elegant "Classic Manor" Dining Room...

• BUFFET & CHINA TOP • PEDESTAL TABLE • 4 CANE-BACK SIDE CHAIRS



What a great time for dining room savings just in time for the holidays! Ethan Allen's "Classic Manor" is an interpretation of our traditional American heritage. Save \$239.50 on the Buffet and China Top and \$258 on the Pedestal Table and 4 Cane-Back Side Chairs. Also, save \$30 on each Arm Chair (limited stock for your immediate delivery).

Your Choice:

• 56 Buffet and China Top

—OR—

• 42 Pedestal Table
• 4 Cane-Back Side Chairs
and 4 Side Chairs

\$699.50

WIGGS

1000 TELEGRAPH RD. at ECHO LAKE RD. BLOOMFIELD HILLS
OPEN MONDAY THURSDAY & FRIDAY 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. 664-7770

echo park school

Kindergarten a.m. or p.m.
Full Day Program
Preschool 2 1/2 to 5 — a.m. or p.m.
Mother-Toddler Program

ENROLL NOW 646-5590

4275 Echo Park Road, Bloomfield Hills

Claudette's FASHION
FALL CLEARANCE
SALE

Now in progress

SAVE UP TO 70%
ON NEARLY OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY OF
FALL FASHIONS
IN JUNIOR AND MISSES SIZES
INCLUDING SUCH GREAT LOOKS AS

WRAP AND
NOVELTY
SWEATERS

VESTED
PANT SUITS

COATS

JUMP
SUITS

CULOTTES
AND
GAUCHOS

Claudette's FASHION
2 LOCATIONS

19043 MIDDLERLY RD.
CORNER OF WILB &
MIDDLEBELT
ACROSS FROM WILSON A.MALL
PHONE: 76-4422
HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10-6 P.M.
SUNDAY 12-5 P.M.

"PLYMOUTH SQUARE"
SHOPPING CENTER
CORNER OF ANN ARBOR RD
44615 ANN ARBOR RD.
PLYMOUTH MI.
PHONE: 467-0000
HOURS: MON-SAT 10 A.M.-6 P.M.

Why Pay More! Why Pay More! Why Pay More!

MEIJER
thrifty acres

Clearance

SAVE 30% OFF
our original
\$49.84 to \$89.84

CHOOSE FROM OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF LADIES' LEATHER JACKETS

NOW ONLY \$34.95 to \$60

LAMES DEPT.

MEIJER THRIFTY ACRES — 45001 FORD RD. AT CANTON CENTER RD.
SHOP MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 9 A.M. TO 10:30 P.M. — SUNDAY 9 A.M. TO 7 P.M.