

# Curtain time

The Night of the Iguana vivid portrays in an electric drama by Tennessee Williams at Meadow Brook Theatre on Oakland University campus in Rochester. Tickets for all performances at Hudson's or by calling theater box office at 377-3300.

Private Lives by Sir Noel Coward presented by Southfield Civic Theatre at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday at Southfield Parks and Recreation Center. Ten and One-half Mile and Evergreen Tickets available at the door.

Twelfth Night William Shakespeare comedy at 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and Nov. 19-21, presented by Farmington Players at Farmington Players Barn. Tenth Mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. For tickets call 677-1664. Lead actors Sandy Dietrich and Hope Nabholz as the mad lady take the honors for good performances in some production.

Arnsie and Old Lady comedy by Joseph Kneibling on Friday-Sunday at West Bloomfield High School Auditorium.

presented by West Bloomfield High School Drama Club at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at the door, school located at 1225 Orchard Lake Road.

Oedipus musical adaptation of original script by Sophocles presented at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday and Nov. 19-21 at Oakland University's Barn Theatre on campus. Call 377-2245 for information.

Private Lives Noel Coward comedy is stylish romp, an evening of nostalgia and romance, starring WJR personality Jimmy Launce. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 18 at Somerset Dinner Theatre at Somerset Mall in Troy. Curtain at 8:45 p.m. Buffet dinner every Friday and Saturday. Reservations and tickets at Alfred's Restaurant or by calling 643-6865.

I De I De musical comedy based on "The Four Poster" at 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Cocktail Playhouse in Pontiac. Bloomfield Sheraton Motor Inn at 1601 Woodward, Pontiac. Dinner and theater packages available, also theater only. Cocktails served in the theater.



(From left) Rob Shaw, Ronald Merkin, Guy Marel and Hope Nahstoll in comic scene from Farmington Players production of "Twelfth Night."

Thursday, November 11, 1976

151C/F-11C/R-7C/1013D

## Critic's view

# Electric world of high drama

By ETHEL SIMMONS

When the audience arrives, the stage is set for "The Night of the Iguana," showing the veranda of a timeless sleepy Mexican hotel, in the year 1940. The mood is in stardust, promising an escape from reality into the languid, electric world of Tennessee Williams characters.

In the current Meadow Brook Theatre production, through Nov. 28 on the Oakland University campus in Rochester, a cast headed by four co-stars turns in compelling performances.

David Canary plays the difficult role of a priest defrocked for lust and heresy, who now conducts tour groups to earn his living. He gets most of the rigorous demands the part makes; as the man who is again at the end of his rope, spoked and ready for another crack up.

The ensuing crack up takes place at the Casa Verde, a run-down but comfortable resting place with a fabulous view of the coast.

ELISABETH ORION is the Nantucket spinster, who sketches portraits, does little water colors and travels with her grandfather, an aged, published minor poet.

Ms. Orion's performance is a luminous one, where the acting doesn't show. The quality is of the natural, warm, steady lady she portrays. Her spinsterhood reflects a lifetime of devotion to her grandfather, caring for him and not developing a loving relationship with a man.

The tension and feeling between the spinster, Hannah Jelks, and the defrocked priest, the Rev. T. Lawrence Shannon,

builds to some of those breath-stopping moments where the audience is completely quiet.

Redheaded Marie Wallace portrays the boisterous hotel keeper, Maxine Faulk, who has an approach to life that is busy and practical. Her husband has died, at his request she has thrown his body into the water in his favorite fishing clothes, and continued to run the hotel with a little help from two pleasure-loving beach boys.

Maxine's strength is in her stamina to persist and face up to the unpleasantness of life. Although she despises Shannon at times, he finds a comfort in her total acceptance of him.

THE GRANDFATHER Nono, is forcefully played by Richard Hilder. Although old and weary, Nono keeps his wandering mind centered by composing his last poem, alone, committing the lines in memory.

A Texas schoolgirl, Jaubart Charlotte Goodall, traveling with the tour, is enacted by Melonie Resnick, who looks almost unreasonably young. Joyce Fearing plays Miss Judith Fellows, a lesbian teacher leading the choir group tour. These performances were not as strong as other ones in the cast, the schoolgirl a little too mealy-mouthed, the teacher a little too strident.

Four cast members, William Haliday, Cheryl Glanville, George Connors and Christa Gievers, were skillfully make-believe as the gleeful German hotel guests, who combined their holiday with reports from Hitler on the wireless.

## Mime troupe visiting Wayne State

The San Francisco Mime Troupe, probably the country's best known political theatre, will appear at Wayne State University's Student Ballroom in a new full-length play with music, "False Promises/No Exaggeration."

Performed by a cast of whites, blacks and chicanos, the play deals with race relations at the time of the Spanish-American war. The Mime Troupe is noted for its ability to create comedies about serious issues. Two of its plays about the Vietnam war, "L'Amant Militaire" and "The Dragon Lady's Revenge," won Obie awards. The troupe last appeared in Detroit in 1973 with Bertolt Brecht's "The Mother."

Performances are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. The ballroom is located on the second floor of the University Center Building. Sponsor of the occasion is the Urban Humanities Division of Weekend College. For information call 677-4576. The three stories come together in a surprise ending when the protagonists understand too late that empire offers the good life only to a selected few.

MONTHS OF research and years of theatrical experience are put to work in this action-packed drama, which combines western with epic, and farce with tragedy. It boasts original songs, dancing and a thought-provoking message. This is the Mime Troupe's first full-length original production since its award-winning "The Dragon Lady's Revenge." Now in its 16th year of production original shows, the troupe still survives without government or foundation subsidy, supported entirely by its audience, which ranges from alumni sophisticates in New York's off-Broadway theatres to lunching longshoremen along San Francisco's waterfront.

The company performs free in the parks of the Bay Area every summer (passing the hat after shows, and tours the country in the winter months).

## Dining And Entertainment Guide

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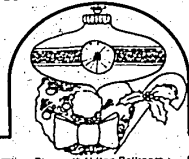
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