

# Botsford dinner theatre set to open 'I Do! I Do!'

By LORRAINE McCLISH

"I Do! I Do!", the musical which tells the story of 50 years of marriage, comes to Botsford Inn Dinner Theater for its opening Jan. 28.

The two-person cast is handled by Phil Marcus Esser and Nancy Gurwin, who are in rehearsals now with director Edgar A. Guest III.

The musical hit was performed on Broadway, with Mary Martin and Robert Preston, but never got to Detroit. It is based on the comedy-drama, "The Fourposter," performed on Broadway by Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy.

"I Do! I Do!" contains more than 20 songs and dance numbers, which will be interpreted by the two artists who have been delighting dinner pa-

trons in the Detroit area for the past several years.

Esser is probably best known here for breaking a record in dinner theater performances with his production of "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris," in Mercy College. When that closed he followed it with "Personals" for another 15-month record-breaker.

DINNER THEATER patrons will remember Ms. Gurwin, a Southfield resident, when she took lead roles in "Facades," and "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," both in Botsford Inn's Coach House; and in "Two Knights With Nancy" in the Jewish Community Center.

Michael Goodman, also a Southfield resident, is producer of "I Do! I Do!" Goodman says of Ms. Gurwin, "If you like Betty Hutton, Ethel Merman and

Lucille Ball, you'll love Nancy as she sings, jokes and dances her way through the show."

What she sings is a gamut that runs from the poignant "What is a Woman?" to the rambunctious "Flaming Agnes."

An extraordinary number of the show's songs have become hits: "Nobody's Perfect," "My Cup Runneth Over With Love," and the title song.

Marty Mandelbaum, a music major at Wayne State University, directs the music, assisted by Dale Anderson. The book and lyrics for "I Do! I Do!" were written by Tom Jones, and the music is by Harvey Schmidt.

Choreography for the show is done by David Brian, an actor-singer-dancer-model who is now playing the lead in Hilberry Theatre's "Pal Joey." Goodman describes Brian as superb.

THE VERSATILE director comes to the Botsford Inn with an extensive background in theater. Guest's theatrical career includes writing, directing, supervising, producing and acting.

He has directed Ms. Gurwin twice before "I Do! I Do!" and was most recently involved in this area for Project Hope's annual fund raiser in Raven Gallery with Esser.

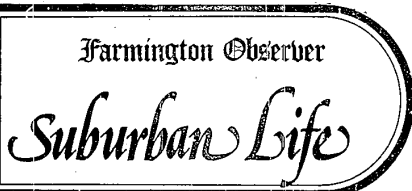
Before that he was on tour with two industrial shows, for Campbell Soup and Ford Tractor.

Performances of "I Do! I Do!" will run every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, in the Coach House, at 2800 Grand River, west of Eight Mile. Dinner is served from 7 p.m. Show time is 8:30 p.m.

Reservations are being accepted now at Botsford, by calling 474-1800.



All of the scenes in "I Do! I Do!" revolve around the four-poster bed of characters played by Phil Marcus Esser and Nancy Gurwin.



## Venice: A sinking paradise

By TOM MacKINNON

I think I have found my own paradise on earth in Venice, Italy.

I was accompanied on my tour through this beautiful city of bridges and canals, gondolas and opera music, with Janine and Carole Ouellette from Farmington Hills and Chris Bradford from Westland.

The sad part about Venice, however, is that every year the city sinks deeper and deeper into the ocean, at the rate of about six inches a year.

The Venetians are doing their best to let the world know about this before it disappears completely into the sea and ends up a mystery, something like the city of Atlantis.

A couple of weeks before we arrived here, Paul McCartney and his group Wings held a concert in St. Mark's Square for the benefit of the city, and they gathered about 30,000 people there in their effort to save Venice from disaster.

By the way, I understand McCartney's newest album was scheduled to be released Dec. 3 and has a picture of him on the cover, with the ice carving I did for him last spring, but I haven't seen it yet.

OUR LITTLE tour group had lunch in one of the cafes that line the streets here, where the waiters sing while they serve your meal.

I chose Venetian bouillabaisse, which is a fish soup. The recipe is said to be as old as the city itself, but when I obtained the recipe I eliminated some of the hard-to-find ingredients, such as seaweed and ocean water.

I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have.  
Bon appetit.

### VENETIAN BOULLABAISSE (for two persons)

#### Ingredients

- About 1/2 pound shrimp
- About 1/2 pound scallops
- About 1/2 pound mussels
- About 1/2 pound clams
- 1 tsp. saffron
- 2 medium sized onions
- 8 carrots
- 8 stalks celery
- 1 quart water
- 1/4 pound margarine

#### Procedure

Cut vegetables in Julienne style (pieces about 1 x 1/4 inches).

Saute the vegetables in a soup pot with margarine. After about 10 minutes, add the water and saffron. When the water begins to boil, add the mussels and clams. It will take about eight minutes for the shells to begin to open. Then add the shrimp and scallops.

Season with salt and pepper, only after the fish is completely cooked, and then serve as is, in soup bowls.

#### Tips

Wash the shells of the mussels and clams before placing in the boiling water.

Do not remove the shell from the shrimp, because the shell helps hold the shrimp flavor.

If you desire more vegetable flavor, remove all the shellfish from your pot and boil your vegetables and broth for a little more time than I have suggested.

Some good hard rolls and a bottle of white wine would go nicely with this soup dish at the table.

Saffron is dried stamens of the cultivated crocus; a bulb. You can tell a good saffron by its dark orange color without any white streaks in it, at all. Don't confuse saffron with safflower. Enjoy.



Nancy Gurwin and Phil Marcus Esser handle the two person cast of the musical which tells the story of 50 years of marriage. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

## 'Ryder' runs 4 weeks

"When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?" the Off-Broadway hit of the 1973-74 season, opened for a four-week run in Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Performances begin at 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; at 6 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 6:30 p.m. Sundays. Wednesday matinees begin at 2 p.m. The theater is dark Mondays.

Playright Mark Medoff chooses an all-night diner in southern New Mexico for the setting of his chilling lament for the loss of heroes in our time. The ineffectual young man who gives the play its title has adopted the name of "Red Ryder," a bygone cowboy star.

The action of the play is sparked by anti-hero, Teddy, who intimidates, and finally terrorizes, the various occupants of the diner.

RICHARD HILGREN has been cast

as the anti-hero; Thomas C. Spackman as Stephen (Red Ryder); and Elizabeth Dallas as the counter girl, Angel.

A concert violinist and her husband will be played by Lynne Bradford and John Petlock. Cast members include William LeMassena, J.L. Dahmann and Elizabeth Horowitz.

This production of "When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?" is directed by Charles Nolte with a setting by C. Lance Brockman, costumes by Mary Lynn-Bonell and lighting by Nancy Thompson.

Tickets for all performances may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling the Meadow Brook Theater box office at 377-3300.

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