

'Night Must Fall' is pleasant theatre fare

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The three-act murder mystery "Night Must Fall" has all the ingredients of the classic Gothic tale: an isolated house on the edge of a forest, lorded over by a hypochondriac mistress, the niece who works for her, a suspicious character new to the scene, and a village fraught with gossip about a murder.

The Farmington Players production of the drama also has Steve Zygmunt, a versatile senior in St. Mary's College, who superbly takes full responsibility for the bulk of the mystery surrounded by British mores and manners of the 1930s.

He is a three-year member of the Players pursuing a career in drama who has added another kudo to a long list of stage accomplishments.

Zygmunt took the role of Dan, a frustrated subservient who wheedles his way into the favors of Mrs. Bramson, matriarch of Forest Corners, much to the chagrin of the rest of the household.

Zygmunt shares stage honors with Ellie Jorgensen, as Mrs. Bramson.

She provides the audiences one of the play's most dramatic highlights, portraying a frightened old woman who has found herself alone in the house as talk of the murder winds its way closer and closer to Forest Corners.

Ms. Jorgensen is another veteran of the Players who calls her role in "Night Must Fall" the most challenging she's ever faced.

NOTABLY SMOOTH performances were turned in by Rick Thayer and Bob Thomas.

Thayer returns to the Farmington stage as a character player par excellence, this time as Hubert Laurie, the stereotype of the bumbling, pompous Englishman, who never "realizes I made a joke until after I make one."

Thomas is back on stage after an absence of almost five years, as Scotland Yard Inspector Belsize, who becomes a regular visitor to the house without a phone in the woods.

Local theatre goers will welcome newcomer Sheila Grain, who plays the prim and proper, shy and studious

niece, working her way to nowhere in the dreary house.

Comedy relief came equally from Kathleen Monticello in the role of the housekeeper and Tess Schafer as the simple, but lovable kitchen maid.

MS. MONTICELLO is a drama instructor in the Redford Township school system, who comes on strong as the crusty servant openly hostile to Mrs. Bramson.

Ms. Schafer is an attorney in Farmington Hills who portrayed the plight of an unwed pregnant servant girl who hasn't grasped the situation.

The cast was rounded out by Karen Oliver, as Nurse Libby, one of the Players' newest and brightest members, and Stu Orman, a long-time member of the group, as the Lord Chief Justice.

The play was directed by June Payne, assisted by Ellen Dietrich and Dorothy Hill. "Night Must Fall" was produced by Eleanor Johnson.

The cast and crew all culled for a very pleasant night at the theatre.

The Players Barn is at 32332 Twelve



STEVE ZYGMUNT



SHEILA GRAIN



ELLIE JORGENSEN

Mile and has been furnishing local players with productions since 1962. "Night Must Fall" is the second of

four plays scheduled for the 1976-77 series. It continues Jan. 27, 28, 29, 30 and

Feb. 4 and 5. Tickets are available by calling the Players Box Office, 477-1066.

Parenting is called 'a learning process'

By DIANE SANDS

Each of the current theories on child development approach the subject from a different direction, often producing conflicting views, according to Farmington librarian Barbara Walker.

Mrs. Walker, who is in charge of the adult-young adult reading section in the Farmington Community Library on Liberty, presented several of the most popular books on the topic to a gathering of the area's Mothers of Twins Club.

"Parenting is a learning process and each parent should use advice only in a way that it pertains to the individual situation," she explained. Among the books introduced was Selma Fraiberg's "Magic Year," (New York: Scribner, 1959) in which the author devoted her effort to the first five years of childhood. She called this period "a time when the child sees himself as a magician who controls events through personal thoughts and actions."

The author discusses three stages of development during this period and advises parents to handle problems with

relation to the child's mental development at the various stages.

The book was described as fun to read with the author coming across as a warm human being.

TAKING THE opposite bent is Stella Chess in her book, "Your Child is a Person," (New York: Viking, 1955).

Here the author emphasizes the differences in each child; not the similarities. She advises parents to work with their child as an individual, not part of an age group.

Mrs. Walker offered several books that contain helpful suggestions for everyday situations, in the form of short articles, by experts in the field of child development.

"The New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Child Care and Guidance," by Sylvia Greenberg (New York: Doubleday, 1969) was recommended as one of the better anthologies.

Dr. Benjamin Spock's revised edition of "Baby and Child Care," (New York: Hawthorn, 1970) is a traditional standby for parents looking for a practical guide to child care. It was mentioned as a good reference book along

with the controversial author Jean Piaget.

The book was described as fun to read with the author coming across as a warm human being.

"Children of the Dream," by Bruno Bettelheim (New York: Macmillan, 1969) was discussed as one of the more interesting psychological studies of children. The author chose the Kibbutz children of Israel to demonstrate the effects of communal living on children.

THE PURPOSE of Bettelheim's study was to find out why these children seemed better equipped to handle the situations of later life than children raised in the more traditional family setting.

It was pointed out that as infants, the children received more attention because there were more than two parental figures to care for them, but less attention was offered in some respects because individual needs were not catered to as often.

These children did not experience as many do's and don'ts as their American counterparts, and as a whole they spent more time with their peers at an earlier age.

A comparison is drawn in the book between the Kibbutz children and children in American institutions who find difficulty coping with problems of later life.

Mrs. Walker also mentioned "Between Parent and Child," by Chubb (New York: Macmillan, 1955) and "How to Parent" by Dodson, (Los Angeles: Nash Publishing, 1970) as recommended reading for parents of young children.

A NUMBER of books dealing with the unique situation of parenting twins were offered to the club members, but the selection is small only because there is a general lack of literature on the subject.

Along with the twin books for parents were several volumes of children's stories, based on the adventures of young twin brothers and sisters.

The Farmington Community Library staff offers this kind of book presentation to any interested Farmington based-group. The staff will zero in on the topic of your choice.

Requests will be taken by calling the Farmington Community Library at 477-7770 or the Farmington Hills Community Library at 477-1313.

Creative writing workshop offered

A creative writing class will be offered in Farmington Community Center by Iris Sanderson Jones, who has recently moved into the Farmington area.

Mrs. Jones has published a book, "Early North American Dollmaking," that has been favorably reviewed. Before her first book, she published several hundreds of articles in newspapers and magazines, and says she remembers how difficult it is to be a beginner.

She calls her eight-week course "Writer's Workshop" and said it will provide a casual round table setting where a publishing writer will share professional techniques and help students develop their own work on an individual basis.

The class will meet from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 2, in the center.

Mrs. Jones is the first woman to ever be asked to teach journalism in Wayne State University. She is currently chairman of the Literary Advisory Panel for Michigan-Council of the Arts, and has been writer-in-residence



IRIS SANDERSON JONES

for the Michigan Creative Writers project.

Class size is limited and registrations will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis.

Registrations are being taken now by calling the center, 477-8404.

Dr. Salk discusses the parenthood dilemma

By CYNTHIA PRIES

"Parenthood is the most important role a human being can take on in life," said Dr. Lee Salk during a talk on Tuesday night.

The well-known New York child psychologist spoke at the Henry Ford Hospital Troy Counseling Center on "The Parenthood Dilemma: To Be or Not To Be."

Dr. Salk said he believes the responsibilities of parenthood are not taken seriously enough. Too often, he said, children are a result of outside pressures rather than a highly private, personal decision.

"Most people don't realize what parenthood is all about, what the everyday nitty gritty problems are," he said. "More people should be considering not doing it because it is such a tremendous commitment. So many just sort of slip into it."

DR. SALK is a child psychologist at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York and former director of pediatric psychology at Cornell University Medical College. He also writes a nationally syndicated newspaper column.

"People will brainwash you into having children—if you don't, you're emo-

tionally immature and selfish," according to them, he said. "I think the height of maturity is being able to choose whether you want to be a parent, rather than bringing a child into the world and paying an institution to provide emotional support."

"We don't need to have children to prove we are altruistic,"

Dr. Salk became interested in child psychology during his undergraduate years at the University of Michigan. He found that most adult mental disturbance is directly connected to early experiences, he explained. The role of the parents during the first years of life is crucial.

LEARNING HOW to be a good parent is complicated by the severe lack of reliable information and the conflicting information available from professionals, he said.

"Parents want to do what is best for their children, but too often they are like dry sponges, so eager for any information that they will accept almost anything—harmful and inaccurate information as well as good."

"I'm very concerned that what is offered to parents is substantial information to enable them to solve their problems."

One of the biggest pitfalls may be what Dr. Salk terms the "cookbook approach" to raising children—the recipe, which tells parents what to do and what not to do without adequate basis and without taking into consideration the individual child and situation.

THE KEY TO BEING a good parent is being a responsive one, he said. Parents who are sensitive to the needs of their child, especially during the first year, will be able to give a sense of self-worth and esteem and establish a bond of trust. This becomes invaluable in later communication and discipline.

According to Dr. Salk, responsive parents are much more likely to raise children who are curious, aggressive, confident and independent—in short, more healthy emotionally.

"When you have fulfilled your role as a parent, you render yourself useless. The child doesn't need you, but wants you. If you reach that, you have succeeded."

CONDITIONS WHICH may interfere with the involvement of either parent, such as work that is committing, desire to travel extensively,

or an unwillingness to deal with the inconveniences connected with small children, should be taken into consideration well before the decision to assume parenthood is made.

Inviting the children of relatives or friends for limited periods of time can be a valuable alternative to those who are doubtful about raising their own family.

There is no reason, however, why both parents shouldn't work, provided top priority is given to the child, he said. Dr. Salk outlined six areas of responsibility and emphasized the need for equal sharing of such responsibility between partners—acceptance, approval, affection, protection, discipline and guidance.

"IT IS UP TO the parents to provide the circumstances for optimum growth and development of their children. You've got to help them learn things and to teach them; you've got to be there a lot."

To help working parents accomplish this, Dr. Salk advocates individually subsidized child-care centers in factories and office buildings.

Two hours of the cure should be spent with the child and Dr. Salk maintains that the cost of running

such programs would be less than for those used now.

DR. SALK IS fighting to raise the dignity of children and to clarify their role in society.

"Too often, they are downgraded and used as scapegoats or pawns in a shaky marriage. Everyone should have the right to examine parenthood for themselves."

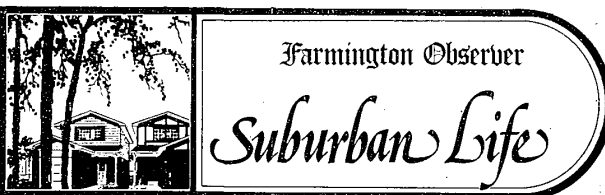
Above all, don't let anyone stigmatize you if you decide not to be a parent.

Prospective parents who would like further information may enroll in a series of workshops offered by the Troy counseling center.

They will meet from 7-9 p.m. on Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7, or from 4-6 p.m. on Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10. The price of the workshops is \$55 per couple and \$30 per individual.

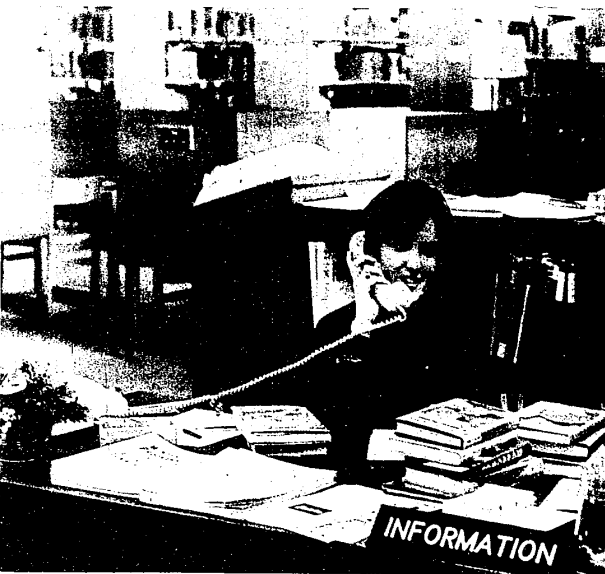
Registration may be made by writing to Troy Counseling and Psychotherapy Center, Henry Ford Hospital, 2849 Catherineville, Troy 48064, or by calling Suzanne Pelix at 689-7476.

"Things That Go Bump in the Night," Evidence for poltergeists, apparitions and hauntings will be presented, with decision as to whether to believe left up to the participants.



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Barbara Walker mans the reference desk in Farmington's downtown library, but will research any subject to give a program for a special-interest group.

This week, she talked on child development to Farmington women who are mothers of twins. (Staff photo by Cynthia Abatt)

Intellectual fun at OU

Intellectual fun, ranging from hypnosis to hauntings to "pop psychs" and body language, will be offered on Friday evenings by Oakland University's Division of Continuing Education beginning Feb. 4.

Eight different subjects will be sampled in a series of programs designed to stimulate the mind as well as to entertain. The weekend series will be held from 8-10 p.m. on campus in Rochester.

Subjects and dates are as follows: Feb. 4—104-974. You are

Getting Sleepy." The question of whether hypnosis is a parlor game or a medical tool will be examined. Registrants can participate or observe.

Feb. 11—"Let's Play." Based on "TA." A different look at reality will be provided through transactional analysis.

"Things That Go Bump in the Night." Evidence for poltergeists, apparitions and hauntings will be presented, with decision as to whether to believe left up to the participants.