

Critic's viewpoint

'Cabaret' sparkles

By HARVEY LEON KATZ

The Southfield Civic Theatre production of "Cabaret" brought smiles and laughter to its audience, who witnessed a German showcase of talent during the 1930s.

The musical, which was presented the last two week-ends at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Center, was originally a Broadway hit also made into a movie with stars Joel Grey and Liza Minnelli.

A newcomer to the Southfield Civic Theatre, Mary Jo Lipon took on a lengthy role as the appealing Sally Bowles. She has appeared in such productions as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Little Mary Sunshine" and "Butterflies Are Free."

Karen Drummmonds, as the top-hatted emcee, teased her audience, with professional acting, dancing and singing. She portrayed Joel Grey's happy transvestite role provocatively and frankly.

THE KIT KAT Girls—Janet Brooks, Denise Baron, Kathleen O'Neil, Vickie Carter and Lane Miller—were attractive to watch. The Telephone Dance number was sophisticated humor at hidden passion, suggesting that adults participate in harmless activities.

The "Meekie" singer, Herr Schultz (John Puchalski) delivered a boasting businessman. Judy Privasky, the humorous and delightful Fraulein Schneider, sang "So What," "It Couldn't Please Me More" and "Married." Each number had increasing impact.

Also contributing to the fine production was Ronald Deihl as Clifford Bradshaw, Sally's English friend.



Fred Thompson plays a leading role in "Sleuth" at Meadow Brook Theatre.

'Sleuth' opens run at Meadow Brook

"Sleuth," called "The best thriller I have ever seen" by New York Times drama critic Clive Barnes, will open a four-week run at the Meadow Brook Theatre, Thursday at 8:30 p.m. on the Oakland University campus in Rochester.

Written by Anthony Shaffer.

"Sleuth" is a teaser for the most experienced devotees of detective fiction. The play's suspenseful action takes place in the usual British country mansion but in no other way is it usual in its tale of plot and counter-plot between a writer of mystery stories and an impudent young man visiting him with the announced intention of taking the writer's wife away.

Clive Rosengren and Fred Thompson head the cast, as a games-playing British country gentleman with a taste for writing detective novels and as a newcomer who has moved into the neighborhood. Others in the cast

include Rigg, Corey, David Robertson and Alfred L. Reed.

The Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Sleuth" is directed by Vincent Dowling with a set and lighting by Larry A. Reed and costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnel.

Opening week performances for "Sleuth" are scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 p.m. Sunday. There will be a special preview performance Wednesday (Jan. 26) at 8:30 p.m.

The following three weeks will offer performances at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 6 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays and 6:30 p.m. Sundays. The theater is dark Mondays.

Tickets for all performances may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling the box office, 377-3300. The Meadow Brook Theatre is a member of The League of Regional Theatres.

Bob Sheeley Joins Show

Detroit's own master of boogie, ragtime, and stride piano, Bob Sheeley, will make a guest appearance with Max Morath in his musical show, "The Ragtime Years" at Detroit's Music Hall, Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Seeley, now playing at the new

Charley's Crab restaurant in Troy, has played in Chuck Muer restaurants for five of the 10 years he has appeared professionally in the Detroit area.

Seeley, a resident of Novi, grew up in Detroit and studied at the University of Detroit.

Pegasus plays at the Midtown

A new group titled Pegasus continues a two-week stay through Sunday at the Midtown Cafe, 139 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

The group features three young Bir-

mingham musicians: Chris Svenske on piano, plus guitarists Jenny Teague and Rob Candler, who also provide the vocals.

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