

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Tennessee Williams dramas have clout

The dramas of American playwright Tennessee Williams still stun audiences but are now theatrical classics. Productions of these hits are on everyone's playbills, it seems.

In November, Meadow Brook Theatre presented a compelling production of Tennessee Williams' "Night of the Iguana," directed by Charles Nolte (who also directed the controversial "When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?" by Mark Medoff, which just ended its run at Meadow Brook).

The Birmingham Village Players will open "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," Williams' Pulitzer-Prize-winning drama, on Friday. Performances will continue Saturday and Sunday and Feb. 4, 5.

In his own "Memoirs," the brilliant playwright Williams has this to say about "Cat":

"THAT PLAY comes closest to being both a work of art and a work of craft. It is really very well put together, in an opinion, and all its characters are amusing and credible and touching. Also it adheres to the valuable edict of Aristotle that a tragedy must have unity of time and place and magnitude of theme.

The set in "Cat" never changes and its running time is exactly the time of its action, meaning that one act, time-wise, follows directly upon the other, and I know of no other modern American play in which this is accomplished.

However, my reasons for liking

"Cat" are deeper than that. I believe that in "Cat" I reached beyond myself, in the second act, to a kind of crude eloquence of expression in Big Daddy that I have managed to give no other character of my creation."

Howard Beer plays the challenging role of Big Daddy in the Village Players production. Others in the cast are DeeDee Johns Charlton as Maggie the Cat, Joe Nicolini as Brick, Dee Dwellley as Big Mama, Tom D'Agostino as Gooper and Jo Ann Sellers as Sister Woman.

Another Pulitzer-Prize winner by Williams, "A Streetcar Named Desire" opens Friday at "The Theatre" of the University of Detroit/Marygrove College.

Performances of the drama surrounding Blanche DuBois, who is probably the playwright's most poignant character, will be given Fridays through Sundays for the next three weekends.

DINNER THEATRE productions are lively within the coming weeks. The musical "I Do! I Do!" starring Phil Marcus Esser and Nancy Gwin, opened Wednesday at the Botford Inn in Farmington Hills.

The buffet dinner setting includes candlelight and wine. Botford Inn owner John Anhalt said two hot entrees are being offered. There is waitress service, with cocktails and wine served before the show, at intermission and after the show.

A new rated stage has been created to provide optimum viewing for this



Joe Nicolini (left) as Brick and Howard Beer as Big Daddy appear in a scene from Birmingham Village Players' production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

production, in the Coach House at the inn. The Coach House includes an original barn dating back to 1865, which Henry Ford brought from the east when he owned the Botford Inn, and converted it into a banquet room before converting it for the enlarged dinner theatre.

Botford Inn presents "I Do! I Do!"

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Friday and Saturday performances have not been scheduled because those nights co-star Esser entertains at the Colonial Lounge in Livonia.

EDGAR A. GUEST III is directing the show. He formerly was in partnership with Pierre (Pete) Turgeon with Turgeon/Guest Productions.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

ALL CINEMAS—EVERY DAY 'TIL 2:30 P.M.—\$1.50

SOMERSET INN
643-6744
11400 E. 13th Ave. (at 13th & Woodward)
THE SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION (PG)
LAST 5 DAYS
2:15-4:45-7:15-9:35

PONTIAC MALL
682-5544
N. 11th St. at Elizabeth (at R.D.)
THE SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION (PG)
THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN (PG)
LAST 5 DAYS
2:15-4:45-7:15-9:35

NICKEL ODEON
LAST 5 DAYS
2:15-4:45-7:15-9:35

GENERAL CINEMA THEATRES

CAMPER SHOW
FEB 11 thru 20
SAVE 50¢ Advance Ticket! good any time for admission to the show
WEST EIGHT MILE ARMY
NEAR NORTHLAND

DINNER THEATRE at the Botford Inn
I DO! I DO!
EDGAR A. GUEST III
OPENING JAN 26th
Performances every Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday
\$13.95 PER PERSON
GROUP RATES AVAILABLE
2:00-9:00 P.M.
2000 GRAND RIVER at 11th, Farmington Hills
RESERVATIONS 474-8800

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This weekend, let the good times roll.
Each weekend at Windsor Raceway there's a total of four fabulous programs with all kinds of chances to make you a winner.
The action gets under way Friday at 7:45 P.M. when you'll see some of the top drivers and horses going all out in races packed with thrills and excitement. It continues on Saturday with a "Doubleheader." A brace afternoon program at 1:30 and another brace program at 7:45 featuring outstanding pacers and trotters.
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the movie at prudential town center
EVERGREEN AT 10 MILE ROAD SOUTHFIELD 333-5657 FREE COVERED PARKING
DAILY EARLY BIRD MATINEES FROM 1:00 TO 3:30 P.M. \$1.25
1 **KING KONG** 12:00-2:30-5:00 7:30-10:00 WED. 1:00-4:00 6:30-9:00
2 **"ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST"** 1:15-4:00 6:45-9:30

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5
25100 VAN DYKE ROAD at 15 MILE STERLING HEIGHTS 979-3100
BARGAIN MATINEES \$1.50 UNTIL 2:00 WEDNESDAY 8:00 TIL 1:00 P.M.
SILVER STREAK (PG) GENE WILDER 1:00-7:15-9:35
CLINT EASTWOOD THE ENFORCER 1:00-7:15-9:35
King Kong 1:00-7:15-9:35
ROCKY 1:00-7:15-9:35
THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN 1:00-7:15-9:35
Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5
2400 SOUTH TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 322-0241
BARGAIN MATINEES \$1.50 UNTIL 2:00 WEDNESDAY 8:00 TIL 1:00 P.M.
SILVER STREAK (PG) GENE WILDER 1:00-7:15-9:35
CLINT EASTWOOD THE ENFORCER 1:00-7:15-9:35
King Kong 1:00-7:15-9:35
Frankenstein 1:00-7:15-9:35
NETWORK 1:00-7:15-9:35
Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

SUBURBAN DETROIT THEATRES INC.

1 "THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN" (PG)
Sneak Preview Fri. Night: "TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING"
Richard Pryor Gene Wilder
"SILVER STREAK" (PG)

2 "THE SHAGGY D.A." (G)
with Dean Jones
Starts Friday:
Walt Disney's "NEVER A DULL MOMENT" plus, short: "3 CABALLEROS"

The Rolling Stones "GIMME SHELTER" (PG) plus "FACES"
Matinee Wednesday — 1 show, 1:00 p.m.

Held Over!
Sherlock Holmes meets Sigmund Freud
"SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION" (PG)
also Basil Rathbone
"THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" (G)

Coming Soon! MAPLE 2 THEATRES
West Maple Rd. at Telegraph
Adjacent to the Bloomfield Plaza

1 Gene Wilder Richard Pryor "SILVER STREAK" (PG)
Matinee Wed, Sat & Sun

2 "ROCKY" (PG)

1 Gene Wilder Richard Pryor Jill Clayburgh "SILVER STREAK" (PG)
Matinee Wed, Sat & Sun
HOLLYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW — FRI. NITE

2 Starts Friday: Walt Disney's "NEVER A DULL MOMENT" plus, featurette: "THREE CABALLEROS"
HOLLYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW — FRI. NITE!

Rod Stewart and "FACES" (PG)
also The Rolling Stones
"GIMME SHELTER"
Matinee Wed. 1:00 p.m. — \$1.00
Continuous Matinee Sat & Sun
HOLLYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW — Friday Night

1 Gene Wilder Richard Pryor "SILVER STREAK" (PG)
HOLLYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW Friday (Jan 28th) Night

2 Alan Arkin in "SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION" (PG)
also Basil Rathbone
"THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES"
Matinee Wed. — 1 show, 1:00 p.m.
HOLLYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW — Friday Night (January 28th only)

William Holden Faye Dunaway Peter Finch "NETWORK" (R)

2 "LUMIER" A film by Gean Moreau

Andy Warhol's "FRANKENSTEIN" Presented in 3-D (R)
Sorry, no passes for the engagement!