### 10D(O)(S.F.Ro-6C SUBURBAN DETROIT THENTRES IN "THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN" (PG) WILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING Seeak Preview Set. Nife: "FUN WITH DICK & JAME" (R) "SILVER STREAK" (PG) Walt Disney's 'NEVER A DULL MOMENT' "THREE CABALLEROS" MONTY PYTHON FAIRLANE AND THE HOLY GRAIL" "TUNNELVISION" (R) Held Over! KINGSWOOD Woodward at Square Loke Rd. "SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION" (PG) THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" (G) Sooul. NAPLE 3 Mondo Rd. Coming 2 NORTHLAND T "SILVER STREAK" <sup>2</sup> "ROCKY" Şο 12 ġ. Gene Wilder Richard Pryor "SILVER STREAK" 0RCHARD 1000001141 Rd R. of 1 (PG) Matinees Wed, Sat & Sun ck Preview Sat. Nite—9:05 p.m Starts Friday: NEVER A DULL MOMENT "THREE CABALLEROS" 2 RADIN 543-5 MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL" (PG) "TUNNELVISION" (R) ) CITY atinee Wed. 1:00 p.m. — \$1.00 Continuous Matinees Sat & Sun LYWOOD SNEAK PREVIEW — Friday Nich Gene Wilder Richard Pryor "SILVER STREAK" (PG) HOLLYWOOD SHEAK PREVIEW koy (Feb. 4) Night Last Day! 2 "SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION" 1 & 2 GA 7-1200 "HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" Walt Disney's "FREAKY FRIDAY" (G) National Weel.—1 show, 1:80 p.m. William Holden Faye Dunaway 10 **NETWORK"** <sup>2</sup> "LUMIER" ှု စွာ "FANTASTIC VILLAGE 643-8888 INVASION OF PLANET EARTH" (PG)

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## Critic's viewpoint

# production charged with energy

'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," Tennessee "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Tennessee Williams' modern classic, is a powerful drama, and the current production by the Birmingham Village Players crackles with electricity. Under the able direction of Richard Charlton, an excellent cast brings both strength and credibility to that the decaying lives on a modern-day Southern plantation.

Among the first things one potices

Among the first things one notices is the ease with which the players handle the Southern accents, never allowing them to sound forced or overly thick.

Dee Dee Johns-Charlton is out-standing as Maggie, a woman struggl-ing with catlike ferocity to hold on to her crumbling marriage and her hus-

band's stake in his inheritance. Sexually frustrated by her husband's indifference. Maggie can be in turn sensual, scheming, supplicating.

"I'm alive! Maggie the Cat is alive!" Maggie screams at her brood-ing husband Brick, and Miss Johns-Charlton indeed makes Maggie come very much alive.

As Brick, Joseph Nicolini visibly seethes with suppressed anger and frustration. Hobbling about on a crutch because of a broken ankle. Brick's real crutch is alcohol. He drinks to try to obliterate his impotence against his domineering father. avaricious brother and sister-in-law, and bitterly disappointing mariage

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The sailor who fell from grace with the sea [

and to ease his guilt over his best friend's death.

Howard Beer portrays Big Daddy, the wealthy plantation owner who re-mains a true redneck beneath a thin

veneer of Southern gentleman. Beer is a rough and tough Big Daddy, coarse, loud, overbearing but thoroughly lik-able for resisting the hypocrisy polite society requires of him.

Dee Dwelley does an accomlished job as Big Mama. A bit simple-minded on the surface. Big Mama still has the steel to stand up to her domineering husband after some 40 years.

JoAnn Sellers is effective as the syr-upy-sweet Mae, the scheming Sister Woman trying to wangle her way into Big Daddy's affections by breeding a

dynasty for him. Tom D'Agostino is Mae's husband Gooper, the elder son who never had a firm grip on his par-ents' affections.

Enhancing the performances, the Birmingham production employs some clever staging, utilizing the idea of invisible mitrors and doors. Having the veranda adways visible server as an effective reminder of the stifling end to the stifling emotions on center stage.

The Village Players' version of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" is thoroughly skillful and moving. The production concludes this weekend with performances Friday and Saturday evenings at the playhouse.

### How to send news items

Ethel Simmons is entertainment edi-tor for the Observer & Eccentric news-

papers.

News releases, photographs or other information on theater, movies, night life, restaurants, travel. TV and radio

can be mailed to Ms. Simmons at 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012, or deliv-ered to any office of the Observer & Eccentric.

The Birmingham office can be reached by phone at 644-1100.





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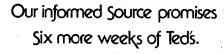
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that's depressing.

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