

Your Group Can Sponsor Quality Entertainment

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Want some ideas about a high quality program your organization can sponsor?

The Michigan State Council of the Arts can help with ideas and might even be able to help make certain that your group won't suffer absolute financial disaster.

One of the services provided by the Council is a Touring Attractions Program. Gary Schaub says that the groups are listed in a packet and "provide good quality entertainment for

their fee."

The packets are available to any organization by contacting the Council at 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit 48214.

IT WAS under the auspices of the Touring Attractions program co-ordinated by the state council that the University of Michigan's production of "Magic of the Stage" visited the Clarensville High School last spring.

In all the U-M Players made 27 performances in 22 different areas of the state during a

four-week tour.

How about the financing? The Council operates a mini grant program for those projects when just the donation of a few dollars might mean the difference between having a

program or not.

Maximum amount of a grant is \$500 and individual approval of each project is required. In the past year these grants assisted in a variety of projects ranging from an opera workshop

to dance, to high school music to a two-night performance of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" to partially financing the Community Theatre Association of Michigan's Newsletter to helping set up an International

Afro-American Museum.

ONE specific grant was a \$500 check towards the total cost of \$885 to train a representative of the Ministerial Society to prepare the

manikins needed to display a collection of historical costumes. Needless to say there are more requests for mini-grants than the funds available. During the last six months of 1968 only

six mini grants were approved by the Council. These are just two possible ways that your organization might be able to utilize the Michigan State Council for the Arts.



BILL BIXBY as Eddie's Father

Bill Bixby Is TV Bachelor Dad

A conversation with Bill Bixby is like instant replay. You ask a question and it's almost as if you pushed a button. The 31st star of the new ABC-TV series, "The Courtship of Eddie's Father," has instant answers. He likes to talk and especially about his new show.

Bixby calls the show, which is seen Wednesday's on Channel 7, "a love story between a man and a boy." In addition to Bixby, the series stars Brandon Cruz as Eddie and Miyoshi Umeki as the housekeeper Mrs. Livingston.

HOW DOES a 35-year-old bachelor react to being a TV father?

With enthusiasm -- at least that's Bixby's reaction. The bachelor spends one weekend a month with his six-year-old co-star. He says this "started out as homework, and has now turned into a love affair."

"These weekends have helped me to learn about the drudgery of being a parent," he says. "Parenthood is a marvelous extension of yourself. It's also

a great irritation, but a great amount of love makes up for that. Irritation," he concludes. "The show is an adult show which children are allowed to watch." Bixby explained, "and I think that the best thing that could possibly happen would be for a child who is watching the show to turn to his parents and ask, 'Why... the rest of the question can be anything.'"

"If the parents give the child an honest and adult answer to the question, I'll be happy," he said.

BIXBY is emphatic that the show is contemporary in that it will deal with today's problems. "This is not a sweet syrupy situation comedy that has been done in the past," he says. "We will present situations that can be problems in the eye of the viewer, but the show has no preachy message. When man put his foot on the moon reality surpassed anything seen on television," Bixby said. "And television had better move to get some reality into its comedy."

"This is a 1970 show and I hope that in the 1970's people will look back at this show and say that we told it like it was." What about controversy? "Of course we'll get letters about things that take place in the show," the star replies. "I can't wait to see them and if the letters are written by an adult with an adult mind I'll answer them in that manner," he promised.

"We have been given a free hand with this show," Bixby said. "ABC is tired of being the Axis of the networks and the new regime is really trying. What the network has done is given us the right to be wrong in this series and if the show is a dud we have nobody to blame but ourselves."

"That's why I'm willing to go on the road to sell this product." The proof is in the doing because Bixby's promotional tour will take him to 24 cities in 26 days.

Tuition for the entire series is \$4 with individual admissions priced at \$1.50. All of the meetings will be in Building 4 on the Farmington Township campus. The series meets each Tuesday during October beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Films that will be shown are: Oct. 7, "The Bicycle Thief" and "The Red Balloon," Oct. 14, "Adventures of a Young Man," Oct. 21, "Sons and Lovers" and "I've Got This Problem," Oct. 28, "Johnny One."

Exposition Opens

The Michigan Restaurant Association will host the Third Annual Michigan and Great Lakes Area Restaurant Equipment and Food Service Exposition Oct. 14, 15 and 16 in Detroit's Cobo Hall. The meeting will offer outstanding food and equipment displays for all food service industry personnel.

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