# Special kids thrive on dramatics

By MACKIE KLEIN
When a child is totally involved in an
experience, when he explores his creativity and exercises his emotions, he
will learn and grow.
On this premise, Frances Aaron, a
tegsher for Oakland Schools, has writton- "Creative Activities for Trainable
Martially Impaired."
grs. Aaron instructs deaf, retarded
persons from Southfield and surrounding areas in the Farmington Training
Cotter. She also heads an acting club
in the school; writing and staging pro-

Conter. She also heads an acting club in the school; writing and staging productions for students.

"Trainable mentally impaired young pelsons need to widen their scope of experience and experiment with many fagets of creative movement and self-acrysision," Was. Aaron maintains.

"We must offer our students a variety of proportions to the students a variety of proportions to the same their design of the same their des

senses; explore their emotions; to become alive and develop their fullest expressive potential." Mentally impaired children, like others, have the same basic needs, Mrs. Aaron said. But there are individual differences among them. The degree of growth and ability of the impaired has, in certain areas, been influenced by their handicaps.

"THE SHORTCOMINGS of a formal type of dramatics for mentally impaired children are obvious," Mrs. Aaron said. "Plays written for children aren't written with the impaired child's mind in view. But regardless of their limitations, the handicappea discovering their abilities and potential." The Farmington Training Center Acting Club recently presented "How

the Good Guys Won the West." Even the most severely handicapped student participated.

participated.
"I wish everyone could have seen what these young persons have achieved," Mrs. Aaron said. "Unfortunately, most of what we read about is low the mentally impaired are mistrated in institutions. But there is a positive side that should be emphasized.

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"Children who view themselves as persons with valuable strengths enhance their self-concepts. Soon, they're free to discover new abilities which develop and improve their self-cetem."

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The first attempts in creative expression are in pantomime. Children can act out familiar experiences like eating an ice cream cone or an apple, throwing a ball or walking through

mud, Mrs. Aaron said. Pantomine is based on movement.

SENSORY awareness can be woven into pantomine exercises. A student becomes a cuddly kitten, Mrv. Aaron said. The kitten purrs, curls into a laid, meows and fulls asleep. Children may become huge glants crouching behind chairs or butterfly catchers: "Through listening to stories or poems told or read aloud, mentally impaired children develop powers of comprehension and the ability to hear and react," Mrs. Aaron said. These children are usually slow in devising or creating but are quick to limitate."

Mrs. Aaron wrote a three-scene pantomine play called "The Perils of Peturia." She also uses puppets to guide students into learning activities and for school shows.





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The Michigan premiere of "From Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill'will be performed by the Attic Theatre in Greektown beginning June 23. The show will run Thursdays through Sundays until July 29.

Curtain is a 8 p.m.

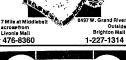
"From Berlin to Broadway with Kurt-Weill" is a musical voyage through the life and works of Kurt Weill. His dramatic music was worded by the greatest lyricists of his time such as Bertoli Brecht Maxwell Ander-son, Ira Gershwin, Alan Jay Lerner and Ogden Nash.

the Stars," "Three Penny Opera."
"Knickerbocker Holiday" and "The
Rise and Fall of the City of Mahogany."

Joined together in a montage by the character of a tour guide, a quartet of singers share some of Weill's most memorable musical moments playing Mack the Knife, Pirate Jenny and

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