

Meadow Brook encounter wasn't the best kind

By MARK E. GALLO

Review

The dynamics of a large symphony orchestra, the grace of ballet and the visual propensities of rock music all combined Sunday at Meadow Brook Music Festival for a Starship Encounter concert.

The success of that blending remains debatable. Sunday night was a parade of technical faux pas that should never have been seen in the company of a world-renowned orchestra of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's stature, pops or no pops.

Lighting seemed to be a great task for whoever was its intended master, as lights could be seen flickering throughout the opening theme from "2001," both overhead and on the music stands, much to the distraction of the audience and no doubt to the consternation of the musicians.

It seemed that the promised light show had started ahead of schedule.

THE FOG MACHINES (fans over drums of dry ice), used to great effect by so many visually oriented bands, were in fact singular and threw the intended effect off balance.

Of course, the DSO was in strong form under the circumstances. One gets the feeling that this wasn't exactly exciting for the members, although it must be borne in mind that, as my companion for the evening reminded me, this was one of those rare occasions when the orchestra played "just for fun" music.

The announced speaker, Leonard Nimoy, was not in attendance, and we were instead guided through the program by local radio personality, Jimmy Launce.

The evening wasn't without its highlights, however. Richard Hayman, principal pops conductor for the Detroit Symphony and chief arranger for the Boston Pops, was resplendent in a white suit, trimmed in red satin and sporting a back-length sparkling, red-ribboned tie on his jacket, ala Liberace, for the first set.

Group's oldies keep you cool

By ERIC MOBEY

The Manhattan Transfer provided a break from the hot weather last weekend. The group's Sunday matinee at the air-conditioned Birmingham Theatre was the perfect cooler.

Hein Schneider opened the show with several songs that could best be described as cocktail lounge music. Even though the performance appeared out of context with a concert setting, the audience responded fairly well to songs like "Mr. Valentine," "Let It Be Now" and "Moose Allson's—Your Mind's on Vacation But Your Mouth Is Working Overtime."

The Manhattan Transfer provided comic relief in contrast to Ms. Schneider's contemporary Minelli-type chic.

As the curtain went up, sensibilities were rocked by the appearance of top hats and tails and the slinky sensuality of the big-band-era evening wear, along with the four-part close-knit harmony of "That Cat Is High," an old Ink Spots tune.

JIMMY DORSEY'S "Blue Champagne" elevated the farcical to the camp with smooth professionalism.

The Manhattan Transfer consists of Tim Hauser (founder), Laurel Masse, Alan Paul and Janis Siegal, whose performances complemented each other throughout the show.

The concert seemed to be divided into thirds with Tim Hauser and Laurel Masse showcasing songs from the big band era. While Ms. Masse crooned out a solo she described as "music to tilt your wrist by," the rest

The second set featured his shiny silver jump suit with matching race cap, ala Charles Nelson-Reilly. His podium, in accordance with the program's theme, resembled nothing less than the captain's deck on the Starship Enterprise, and was mounted upon a platform of opaque plastic that shone red, blue, green and gold.

FOLLOWING AN uninspired rendition of Carole King's "I Feel the Earth Move," the "Star Trek Theme" was enthusiastically received, and played beautifully, especially in the string sections.

Strauss' "Blue Danube Waltz" followed, and was unchallenged as the high spot in the evening's performance, although its relationship to a space theme isn't readily apparent. (It was included in the movie 2001: A Space Odyssey.)

Holst's "The Planet, Opus 32, followed, in three segments named after the planets Jupiter, Venus and Mars, accompanied by two sets of aspiring dancers.

Following intermission came what was to be the flashing Fourth-of-July smashing end of the presentation: The Laser Light Show. Interesting though it was in concept, it lacked unforgivably in execution.

Showco, the people responsible for the attempted visual stimulation, would do well to study rock groups like Pink Floyd who have brought the art of visual effects to a fine science.

WHITEY THOMAS, a bear of a man with shocking white mane, was effective at his colossal wall of synthesizer equipment, especially in "The Five Note Theme" from the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," in which he shared space with tuba and oboe.

The sound system faltered often

under his touch, while in his frenetic energies at the panels, keyboards, switches, lights and dials, Thomas seemed to be underlining the irony of the fact that the only thing more awesome than the size of the set-up was his incredible lack of doing anything

with it. His special mention in the program seemed a matter of striving for effect rather than giving notice where it is due.

In the segment of selections from the movie "Star Wars," we were again

presented a ballet dancer, interpreting a character from that movie, Princess Leia. The dancing here, as in the two previous attempts, was inspired, if not inspirational.

Flashing laser lights, exploding flash pots, smoke and symphony notwithstanding,

For an introduction into the world of commercial schlock for the DSO it was at least an interesting evening.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN

SOMERSET INN EVERY DAY TIL 2:30 P.M. - \$1.50
WALK-INS ONLY. NO RESERVATIONS.
105-145-710-9-50

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER
1:30-3:30-5:30
7:30-9:30

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE
1:45-3:15-5:45-9:15

PONTIAC MAJESTIC EVERY DAY TIL 2:30 P.M. - \$1.50
RICH O'NEAL, BRUCE DERN
1:40-3:10-5:40

THE DRIVER 1:40-3:10-5:40

Peter Falk THE CHEAP DETECTIVE 1:40-3:10-5:40-9:10-9:30

GENERAL CINEMA THEATRES

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5
2400 SOUTH TELEGRAPH RD. PONTIAC 332-0231

BARGAIN MATINEES \$1.50 UNTIL 2:00

Now it's the **REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER** PG

JAWS 2 PG

CONVEY PG

HEAVEN CAN WAIT PG

Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

SUBURBAN THEATRES INC.

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
FOUL PLAY (PG)

Warren Beatty Julie Christie
"HEAVEN CAN WAIT" (PG)

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

"JAWS 2" (PG)

Matinees Daily - All Theatres

DINNER PLAYHOUSE
STARRING
NANCY GURWIN
PRESENTS
THE MUSICAL HIT . . .
once upon a mattress

FEATURING **JOYCE SCHULTHEISS** Director, Producer, Editor, Guest to Choreographer. Barbara Cowan, Dennis East

AT THE BUM STEER LOWER LEVEL
1824 W. 14 MILE ROAD—ROYAL OAK

FRI., SAT., DINNER 7:00 p.m. SHOW 8:30 p.m.
SUNDAY DINNER 4:00 p.m. SHOW 7:30 p.m.
\$14.95 per person

RESERVATIONS 549-2233

A NANCY GURWIN PRODUCTION

DINE OUT TONIGHT

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5-6-7
2510 W. DYKE ROAD at 15 MILE STERLING HEIGHTS 979-3160

BARGAIN MATINEES \$1.50 UNTIL 2:00

DAMEN OMEN II PG

JAWS 2 PG

CONVEY PG

HEAVEN CAN WAIT PG

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE PG

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER PG

Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

ALL THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 for first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

Warren Beatty James Mason Julie Christie
"HEAVEN CAN WAIT" (PG)

Wed. Mat. - Seats \$1.50
1 show 1 p.m.

La Familia Martinez
FINE MEXICAN FOOD

Tacos
Nachos
Tostitos
Enchiladas
Quesadillas
Burritos
Tangues

PONTIAC 845 WOODWARD
338-8477

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-2-3-4-5-6-7
2510 W. DYKE ROAD at 15 MILE STERLING HEIGHTS 979-3160

BARGAIN MATINEES \$1.50 UNTIL 2:00

DAMEN OMEN II PG

JAWS 2 PG

CONVEY PG

HEAVEN CAN WAIT PG

THE CHEAP DETECTIVE PG

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER PG

Entertainment is the perfect gift. Gift certificates are always available at our box office.

ALL THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 for first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

Jill Clayburgh Alun Bates
"AN UNMARRIED WOMAN" (R)

Winner of 7 Academy Awards!
"STAR WARS" (PG)

BOTH THEATRES! Continuous Daily Matinees
Seats \$1.50 for first 2 performances only.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
Dolby Stereo Sound
"GREASE" (PG)

Warren Beatty Julie Christie
"HEAVEN CAN WAIT" (PG)

Starts Aug. 9 "EYES"

ALL THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

Peter Sellers Dyan Cannon
"REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER" (PG)

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
"FOUL PLAY" (PG)

John Travolta
"SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER" (R)

BOTH THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
"FOUL PLAY" (PG)

SOMERSET DINNER THEATRE Already

Barfest in the park

MACHUS DINNER THEATRE
MR. MAC'S STABLE
Dearborn
The Fantasticks
America's Longest running Musical
Fri & Sat at 8:00
649-0903
A Theatre of the Arts

A BUNCH OF BULL FOR BEASTLY HUSBANDS.

Little things like blowing a big deal at the office can make an otherwise charming hubby perfectly beastly.

Well ladies, cheer up the old grump with a trip to Ted's for a man-size dinner of beef. Our roast prime rib of beef au jus is cut extra thick and is a local favorite. The prime steer filet mignon is broiled to perfection and exactly to order. Or choose New York cut Sirloin served with mushroom saute. Or a rib steak with onion rings. Absolutely delightful!

There's no need for the gentleman to remain upset. Come to Ted's often.

ted's Old Town Inn
Woodward at Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills. Call 444-7764.

ALL THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
"FOUL PLAY" (PG)

John Travolta
"SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER" (R)

BOTH THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 first 2 performances only. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

John Travolta Olivia Newton-John
"GREASE" (PG)

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
"FOUL PLAY" (PG)

BOTH THEATRES! Matinees Daily
Seats \$1.50 daily until 3 p.m. Except Wednesday until 5 p.m.

"JAWS 2" (PG)

Goldie Hawn Chevy Chase
"FOUL PLAY" (PG)

UA theatres
MOVIES PRUDENTIAL TOWN CENTER
BOX OFFICE OPENS 30 MIN PRIOR TO SHOWTIME

THE BEANS
IT'S FOR EVERYONE! (PG)
Daily 1:05-3:00
5:00-7:00-9:00
Starts Friday
"STAR WARS"
1:30-4:00-7:00-9:30

DEAR INSPECTOR
Starts Friday, July 27
A swift and sparkling blend of romantic comedy and murder mystery.
with subtitles
1:15-3:30-5:30
7:30-9:30

Abbey 1-2-3-4
Fairlane 1-2-3-4
Maple 1-2-3-4
Northland 1-2-3-4
Old Orchard 1-2-3
Terrace 1-2-3
Towne 1-2-3