

# Best of Broadway packages musicals, comedy

Four recent and past New York hits—three musicals and one comedy—have been packaged together for the 1978-79 Best of Broadway series at the University of Michigan.

The Professional Theatre Program (PTP) series has been on sale since March and has already sold a record 2,700 subscriptions.

The Best of Broadway series in the Power Center for the Performing Arts

opens Oct. 6-8 with a new lavish production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical classic "The Sound of Music."

The heartwarming story of the von Trapp family will feature stage and film star Sally Ann Howes in the role of Maria. Miss Howes, who has starred both in Britain and the U.S., appeared on Broadway in the lead role as "My Fair Lady." She is perhaps

best known in this country for her starring role opposite Dick Van Dyke in the film "Chitty, Chitty Bang Bang."

SECOND IN THE Best of Broadway series is Neil Simon's hit comedy "California Suite," which will be presented Nov. 3-5. The story concerns the different people occupying suites at the Beverly Hills Hotel at different times for different purposes.

Hermione Gingold, star of stage,

screen and television, will be featured in the hit musical entertainment "Side by Side by Sondheim" Feb. 24. The inimitable Miss Gingold starred in the musical presentation of works by songwriter/lyricist Stephen Sondheim both on Broadway and in Los Angeles.

The final series production will be Vinnette Carroll's celebration in song "Your Arms Too Short to Box with God," opening April 20-22. Miss Car-

roll personally supervised in Ann Arbor in April 1975 the hit touring production of "Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope."

"Your Arms Too Short to Box with God" is a gospel show, which according to one New York critic, "rocks the theater with a celebration of the human voice, the heart and the spirit."

All four of the Best of Broadway

shows will be presented for four performances each in the Power Center: Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 6 p.m.

The PTP Ticket Office is located in the Michigan League and is open Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. Call 764-9450 for ticket information and 763-5211 for brochures and general information.

## Theatre offering 7 shows

The University of Detroit Theatre, two-time winner of the American College Theatre Festival, has scheduled its 1978-79 season of plays to be presented at its two performance centers.

The eighth season features seven productions. Of these, the first six will be staged at The Theatre, located at Marygrove College, 825 W. McNichols at Wyoming, Detroit.

The season opens Sept. 29 with Robert Lowell's "Benito Cereno," a melodrama about the problems that arise when a troubled Spanish slave ship appeals to an American naval vessel for assistance. (Dates: Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15.)

"The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht weaves a stimulating tale of humanism and social comment and provides an exciting example of Brecht's use of music and myth. (Dates: Nov. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19.)

Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" is a classic farce in which a hypochondriac deduces that if he marries his daughter to a doctor he will receive free medical care. (Dates: Dec. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 17.)

"MOONCHILDREN" by Michael Weller is a comedy about five college men and their co-habitants, none of whom has any real purpose in life. What keeps them going is their gift of mockery and the put-on. (Dates: Feb. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18.)

Set in a bawdy Irish bar, Brendan Behan's "The Hostage" probes and comments on Anglo-Irish relations and the Irish themselves. (Dates: March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25.)

"The Fantasticks" by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt is New York's longest-running musical—a celebration of love and innocence that lives up to its name. (Dates: April 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, May 4 and 5.)

The final production of the season is the Michigan premiere of Tom Cole's "Medal of Honor Rag" a drama based on the actual experiences of a black Medal of Honor winner who has returned to Detroit from Vietnam. The play will be presented at Studio 100, located in Shiple Hall on the University of Detroit campus, W. McNichols at Livernois, Detroit.

Season subscribers see seven shows for the price of six. They also are invited to several student productions, and they will receive a special newsletter published prior to each show.

For reservations, brochures and additional information, call the U of D Theatre Box Office at 927-1130 during regular business hours.

## Cole Porter revue staged

The Black Sheep Repertory Theatre opens the second show of its fall season with the revue "An Evening With Cole Porter" on Sept. 21.

This revue contains more than 30 classic Cole Porter songs including "Begin the Beguine," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Wonderbar," "Let's Do It," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Anything Goes" and many more.

The revue was assembled by two members of the Black Sheep Company, Stan Gill and Robert Ferris, in association with the Cole Porter Musical and Literary Trust. This is the same cast that opened the show in the spring season to rave reviews.

After the run at the Black Sheep Theatre, Sept. 21-24, 28-30 and Oct. 1, the show will tour throughout the Midwest.

The Black Sheep Repertory Theatre is located on Main Street in Manchester, off of M-52 in southwest Washtenaw County. For tickets and information call 428-8280 or 428-8287, or write 104 E. Main, Manchester 48158.

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| <b>SEPT. 30</b> | <b>WATERFORD TWP. &amp; SOUTHFIELD</b> |
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