

Getting Around

Musical director describes show By ETHEL SIMMONS

Back in 1965 Tenna Rose was a stu-dent teacher at Scaholm High School. Today Ms. Rose is musical director of "The Fantasticks," the longest-run-ning musical in the world, still playing at the Sullivan Street Theatre in New York.

She also is musical director of "The Other Half," one of three plays that will be presented by the John House-man Acting Company in repertory at the Birmingham Theatre, Oct. 26-31.

By phone from her home in Brook-hyn, Ms. Rose talked about her contri-bution to "The Other Half."

This is an all-woman play based on the writings and works of famous women in drama, comedy, music and poetry. It has been described as a trib-ute to the spirit, dedication and crea-tivity of all womanhood.

A PLAY WITH MUSIC, "The Other Half" was written by Elinor Jones Harding, who was married to Tom Jones, co-author with Harvey Schmidt of "The Fantasticks."
"Ellie called me up and said she

was commissioned to write a play for the Acting Company," Ms. Rose said. "She wanted help with the music. I began to research old folk songs, English ballads and American tunes." Explaining what kind of music they were looking for, Ms. Rose said, "We wanted the right feeling for the right period or writer. Some music is serious, ironic, or fumy." One song was commissioned for "The Other Hall" and was the only music actually written for the show. No planist accompanies the songs, which are done a cappella, or with an accompanist in the company playing gultar or autoharp.

Tenna Rose's unusual first name is actually a surname, she said, from her father's family in Cornwall, England. She was born and raised on a farm in Fowlerville, Mich., about 60 miles from Detroit.

HER SISTER-IN-LAW, Judy Rose, lives in Southfield and teaches journal-ism at Wayne State University. An uncle and aunt, George and Hope Nah-stoll, live in Farmington and are

active with the Farmington Players.

After studying musical education with a major in organ at Michigan State, Tenna Rose did her student teaching in Birmingham.

"I went from Michigan to New York to get a master's degree in organ at Union Theological Seminary, then decided to stay in New York," she said

She worked in a wice studio as an accompanist, then worked Off-Broad-way musically directing "La Mama," then started working with Jones and Schmidt, who wrote a series of four experimental plays.
"I was one of three musicians who played for those," she said.

LAST YEAR "The Other Half" was done as a work in progress and this year opened in August in Saratoga, N.Y.

N.Y.
Performances of "The Other Half"
will run Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 26-28,
at 8 p.m. and a Saturday matinee at 2
p.m. at the Birmingham Theatre.
The repertory company also will

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RESERVATIONS SUGGESTE

present, direct from Lincoln Center, two performances of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," Sunday, Oct. 29, at 2 and 8 p.m., and two performances of the Greek tragedy "Antigone," Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 30 and 31 at 8 p.m.

ROSANOVA PRODUCTIONS new Sunday night In Concert Series at db's Club in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn got off to a great start Sunday, with concerts at 4 and 8 p.m.

concerts at 4 and 8 µm.

The concerts featured Johnny Trudell and his Orchestra, the 20-piece
band that backs the name entertainers
who play the club.

The big band offered smooth
arrangements in polished performance
of jazz classics and was highlighted
with solos by Trudell on trumpet and
flugelhorn, Dick Shearer on trombone,
and Ray Witherspoon on vocals.

At the second concert (which actually started at 8:45 p.m.), the audience gave the band an enthusiastic reception throughout the evening's two-part program.

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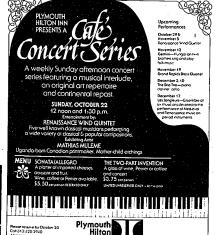
UAC Musket will be performing "Man of La Mancha". Nov. 2-11 at Mendelssohn Theatre, Ann Arbor. "Man of La Mancha" is the musical adaptation of Cervantes "Don Quixote."

Quixote."
Set in 16th century Spain, the play tells of a simple squire who read too many teles of knights and fair damsels, and began to see himself as a knight-errant on a quest for the

"impossible dream."

Musket, the largest student-run thea-ter group in the nation, is now in its 22nd year of producing musicals for the southeastern Michigan area.

Musket has added 2 ninth performance to its traditional eigh. Tickets are on sale at Ticket Cent. al, Michigan Union. Arm Arbor or call 763-1107 for further information.





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