

# Beatlemania succeeds nicely

By ERIC MOBEY

## Review

The idea of four young Americans imitating the Beatles in a touring road show is automatically open to suspicion. And well it should be.

The unmitigated gall of some unknown picking up a guitar and imitating a George Harrison riff. A Young man who was only eight or 10 when Paul McCartney wrote "Yesterday" now portrays the original. On top of that, he plays the bass right handed.

Well, somehow the foursome in the show "Beatlemania" turned the trick Wednesday at Pine Knob Music Theatre near Clarkston. The show continues at Pine Knob through Sunday, Sept. 23.

All four of the actor — musicians have adopted the movements and mannerisms of the Beatles without being ostentatious in the presentation. Their singing and musicianship is surprisingly good.

At all times it was obvious that you were viewing imitations of the real

Beatles. But the portrayal did not strive for deep accuracy. The overriding feeling of "Beatlemania" is fun, not an attempt of an accurate reenactment of the history of the Beatles via song.

Several songs were out of sequence with the theme of the show. However, it didn't matter that "Day in the Life" was performed before "Strawberry Fields Forever." The overall effect of the multimedia approach of several slide and movie projectors held unending interest.

The visual impact of split screen images in front and in back of the performers created a sandwiched 3-D effect that was captivating.

One of the most witty uses of this effect is employed in the opening of the show. A film of Ed Sullivan appears on

the screen and Ed yells, "Ladies and gentlemen, the Beatles" (silent "t"). The mop-headed boys launch into "She Loves You" as a large TV screen is superimposed around the stage.

"Beatlemania" takes the audience from the historic Sullivan appearance to the breakup. In all, 29 songs, several costume changes and films, combined with thousands of slides, take the audience through the Beatles era.

Images projected on the various screens created a feeling of reliving the stormy '60s as well as a re-experiencing of the Beatles. This is the real genius of the show.

The films and slides are an assemblage of '60s memorabilia that could be considered an artform on its own merit.

One of the high points of the performance was the visual onslaught depicting the time frame of the infamous "white album." The group added to the intensity with two of the best songs of the show "Revolution" and "Helter Skelter."

The performers who portrayed the Beatles on this outing were Joey Cura-

tio as Paul, Bob Miller as George, Rouert Willford as John and Ralph Castelli as Ringo. Although this quartet is only one of several who have portrayed the Beatles in the show, they showed excellent composure.

Despite the tasteless premise of imitating an institution as coveted as John, George, Paul and Ringo, Robert, Bob, Joey and Ralph did a palatable job.

## Theater group offers tryouts

Open auditions for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" will be held by the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 19 and 20, at 15138 Beech Daly (just south of Five Mile Road), Redford.

Performances are scheduled for Nov. 23, 24 and Dec. 1, at Livonia's Stevenson High School auditorium. For further information, call 255-2547.

## Youth symphony schedules auditions

The Oakland Youth Symphony (OYS) will hold auditions at Varner Hall, Oakland University, near Rochester, for interested young musicians, according to the following schedule:

Strings and Woodwinds — Monday, Sept. 17, 7:30-10 p.m. Violins/violas, 7:30-10 p.m.; Cello/basses, 9-10 p.m. Flutes, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; Oboes, 8:30-9 p.m.; Clarinets 9-9:30 p.m.; Bassoons, 7:30-10 p.m.

Strings, Brass and Percussion — Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7:30-10 p.m. Violins/violas, 7:30-9 p.m.; Cello/basses 9-10 p.m.; French horns, 7:30-8:15 p.m.; Trumpets, 8:15-9 p.m.; Trombone/tuba, 9-9:30 p.m.; Percussion, 8:30-10 p.m.

Final auditions will be held at Varner Hall, Oakland University, on Monday, Sept. 24, from 7:30-10 p.m. Those students involved in final auditions will be notified after their preliminary auditions.

Former OYS members need to audition at final auditions only. Applicants should be prepared to play a solo or etude chosen from the standard repertoire

for the instrument. They also will be expected to sight read. Applicants should be between 14-19 years old.

The Oakland Youth Symphony is under the direction of Ervin Monroe, principal flutist of the Detroit Symphony, a member of the Wayne State University faculty and director and conductor of the Mt. Clemens Symphony Orchestra.

The associate conductor is James Hohmeyer, orchestral and choral director for the Clawson Public Schools. Hohmeyer was a finalist-winner in the recent 1979 National Conducting Competition.

The Oakland Youth Symphony rehearses Monday evenings beginning Oct. 1 at Varner Hall and will hold three regular concerts in the 1979-1980 season.

A summer music camp again will be held in the summer of 1980. A special concert also will be performed Jan. 18 or 19 in Ann Arbor for music educators throughout the Midwest.

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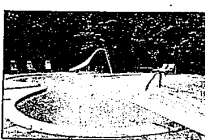
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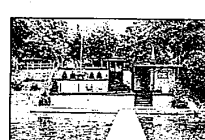
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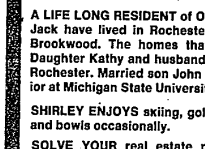
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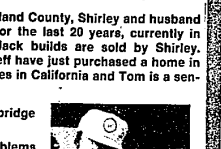
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