

Gurwin starring in 'Funny Girl'

Southfield's Nancy Gurwin stars in her own dinner theater production at Detroit's Paraiso Cafe as the legendary comedienne Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl."

Joe Lannen of Farmington Hills plays Nick Arnstein, the high-roller gambler who became Fanny Brice's first husband. Lannen is a high school drama and English instructor, and this is his third dinner theater appearance for Nancy Gurwin Productions.

He appeared as one of the poker players in the comedy "The Odd Couple" which ran for more than five months in various Oakland County dinner theater restaurants and has just completed a three-month engagement in Detroit as Cass Henderson in the comedy "Any Wednesday" at the Paraiso.

Several Birmingham-Bloomfield residents are involved in "Funny Girl," in either acting or technical roles.

FRAN HAYES of Birmingham plays the delightful character role of Mrs. Strakosh. Mrs. Hayes has a long-time affiliation with St. Dunstan's Guild where she has appeared in numerous musicals including "Fiorello" and "How to Succeed in

Business Without Really Trying," as well as dinner theater experience in the comedy "Last of the Red Hot Lovers."

Dike Dwelley of Bloomfield Hills plays Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr. He is a veteran actor of 40 years in local theater groups and dinner theater productions, plus TV commercials. His major acting roles include appearances in "A Thurbur Carnival," "Fantasticks," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "My Fair Lady."

Birmingham residents Edgar A. Guest III and Nancy Brassett have a major share in "Funny Girl." Guest is Nancy Gurwin Productions' resident director and "Funny Girl" is his eighth production for Ms. Gurwin.

Mrs. Brassett has charge of coordinating and supplying all costumes for "Funny Girl" and takes on the title of costumer for the show.

Rounding out the cast are Sterling Heights resident Irene Jordan, Roseville's Alice Flis, St. Clair Shores' Bill Giroux and Peter Schmidt, Redford's Marie Henter, Highland Park's Paulette Brockington, and Detroit residents Dennis East, Betsy Houghton Tom Steward, Kevin Beverly and Leah Betts.



Nancy Gurwin stars as comedienne Fanny Brice in Ms. Gurwin's own dinner theater production of "Funny Girl."

Best of Broadway offers 'Showboat'

The 17th season for the University of Michigan's Best of Broadway Series opens Friday, Oct. 5, with the American classic musical "Show Boat."

Starring Forest Tucker as Captain Andy and Butterfly McQueen as Queenie, it will be performed at the Power Center for the Performing Arts on Friday-Sunday, Oct. 5, 6 and 7, at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee performance Sunday.

This is the first national tour for "Show Boat" in 30 years. Tucker, who starred in Michael Bennett's "Balletroom" this summer, is known to millions of television viewers as the sergeant in "F Troop." He has appeared in more than 100 films, among them, "Austin Mame" with Rosalind Russell.

Butterfly McQueen, who plays Queenie in this production, has her career in film, radio, television and on the stage. She is immortalized on film as Prissy in "Gone With the Wind."

BASED UPON the Edna Ferber novel, "Show Boat" was first presented on Broadway in 1927 by Florenz Ziegfeld. With music by Jerome Kern and book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, it became an immediate success, and songs such as "Make Believe," "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man," "Why Do I Love You," "Bill," and "Ol' Man River," since have become American standards.

A romantic piece of Americana, "Show Boat" tells the story of the men and women who live and work aboard the "Cotton Blossom," a show boat playing the waters of the Mississippi in the 1880s.

Central to the story is Captain Andy,

the father figure, who somehow holds everything together through good and bad times.

Sponsored by the U-M's Professional Theatre Program, "Show Boat" is followed by the critically acclaimed "Da," by Irish playwright Hugh Leonard. Winner of practically every prestigious theatrical award, 16 in all, including the Tony Award for "Best Play of the Year," "Da" is still running on Broadway.

The critical and popular hit of Broadway's 1978-79 musical Broadway season, it is next in the Best of Broadway series.

A CELEBRATION in song and dance, "Eubie!" contains some of Eubie Blake's best-loved songs including "I'm Just Wild About Harry," "Memories of You" and "Charleston Rag." "Eubie!" plays Feb. 8, 9 and 10.

The final selection of the series is "Deathtrap." Time magazine said this play, "a brimming tumble of arsenic and schweppes... embraces the audience with fun and terror." By Ira Levin, "Deathtrap" follows in the classic thriller footsteps of "Sleuth." Performances are April 25, 26 and 27.

Performance times for the Best of Broadway Series are Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 8 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. All performances are in the Power Center. Subscriptions and tickets for individual shows are on sale.

For further information, write the U-M Professional Theatre Program ticket office, 227 S. Ingalls, Ann Arbor, 48109, or telephone 764-0450. Tickets are also on sale at all J.L. Hudson's ticket outlets.

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Saturday films shown on air, sea navigation

Cranbrook Institute of Science's Saturday film program begins in October with movies about air and sea navigation.

On Saturday, Oct. 13, "Bird Brain: The Mystery of Bird Navigation" documents instinctive behavior of birds that allows them to travel up to 20,000 miles every year and return to exactly the same place from which they started.

"Paddle to the Sea," to be shown Saturday, Oct. 27, tells a classic story of a

young Indian boy who carved a small wooden Indian in a canoe and launched it into Lake Superior, hoping it would float all the way to the sea.

Films, shown in the museum's auditorium at 2:45 and 3:45 p.m., are free with museum admission of \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens.

Also free with museum admission are planetarium demonstrations "Our Galaxy and Beyond" at 2, 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.

Cougar plays lounge

Cougar, vocalist and guitarist, returns to Win Schuler's Grate Steak and Seafood Lounge, Winston's Bar, for several weeks.

The entertainer has an array of folk rock numbers and enjoys presentation of the music of John Denver, Dan Fogelberg, Paul Simon and America, along with many others.

Cougar is originally from near Traverse City and at one time was a member of the Sierra group.

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