

'Oklahoma!' revival plays Fisher



Aunt Eller (Mary Wickes) and lovers Curly (Laurence Guittard) and Lauree (Christine Andreas) star in "Oklahoma!"

On March 31, 1943, Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Oklahoma!" opened in New York. It played for five years and nine weeks and was called the "national anthem of musicals."

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, a revival of "Oklahoma!" will begin a five-week engagement at Detroit's Fisher Theater prior to returning to Broadway for a new engagement. It will play for five weeks at the Fisher ending Dec. 1.

"Oklahoma!" was the first Broadway musical to record its score with the original cast. It won a gold record, selling more than a million copies. The title song was designated, by an act of legislation, as the official state song of the state of Oklahoma.

It won a special Pulitzer Prize in 1944. From February-October 1945, a USO company toured the Philippine Islands and Dutch New Guinea. The movie version won an Academy Award. Agnes DeMille's exciting choreography broadened the scope of musical comedy.

Mary Wickes plays the lovable role of Aunt Eller in this all-new production. Ms. Wickes created the role of Miss Preen in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and is best known for her forceful "starched" roles. Her credits include "Trouble with Angels," "Now, Voyager," "The Music Man" and TV's sitcom "Doc."

The young lovers will be played by Laurence Guittard and Christine Andreas. Add ("I Can't Say No") Annie is played by Christine Everole and her boy friend, Will Parker, by Harry Goerner.

In a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, it is the score that people remember and "Oklahoma!" is filled with melodies such as "People Will Say We're in Love," "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," "Many a New Day," "Surrey with the Fringe on Top," and, of course, the title song.

"Oklahoma!" is the second subscription attraction of the current season.

Update '79 shows nearly 100 shorts

Film teachers and media buffs will have an opportunity to screen close to 100 contemporary short films at a one-day saturation screening, called Update '79, on Saturday, Oct. 27, at Macomb County Community College.

Current award-winning releases as well as shorts that have never been screened before will be offered in the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. program. There also will be a special screening of films by Detroit area filmmakers.

The annual event is co-sponsored this year by Detroit Area Film Teachers (DAFT) — now entering its 11th season — and Macomb County Community College, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

DAFT is headquartered in Southfield.

"If you're a media educator or just a film lover," said John Prusak, president of DAFT, "you know how difficult it is to find out what's new in short film. People who attend Update will be able to see shorts they just can't see anywhere else at the same time."

IN ADDITION to the categories already mentioned, the program will include abstract short subjects, animation, films on filmmaking and film and videotape as art forms, documentaries, and women's films.

Registration for Update '79 will take place at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the John Lewis Student Union, Macomb College, 14500 Twelve Mile, Warren. The program will run until 5 p.m.

'The Great White Hope' opens U-D's theater

The Theatre Company of the University of Detroit has opened its first season at the Northwest Activities Center, located at Curtis and Meyers, Detroit, with the explosive Pulitzer Prize winning play by Howard Sackler, "The Great White Hope." The drama continues through Oct. 21, at 8 p.m.

In "The Great White Hope," the passionately powered boxer who "refused to think colored," is called Jack Jefferson, but under this thin disguise the play follows the pattern of Jack Johnson. In the pre-World War era, Johnson was hounded by a prejudiced country that couldn't bear the notion of a black

man seizing the boxing championship and defying the white world with his involvement with a white woman.

Many Detroit freelance actors are working with the University of Detroit actors. David L. Regal, chairman of theater at the University of Detroit, is directing the production.

For reservations and information, call the Theatre Company box office at 927-1130 during regular business hours. Admission is priced for the general public and for students and senior citizens. Group rates and season tickets are available.

Library to show Anne Frank story

Bloomfield Township Public Library's Saturday Cinema Series is showing "The Diary of Anne Frank" on Oct. 13. The movie is a poignant rendering of the final days of an adolescent during the Nazi occupation of Holland. It is based on a diary written by the young Anne during the time she spent in hiding with her parents, rela-

tives, and friends. The author recalls her happy days — bicycling and discovering love — as well as dark hours.

Highly recommended for children 12 or over and for adults. Show times are 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Call 542-5880 for more information. The library is located at 1059 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

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