

'40 Carats' opening St. D season

One of the north end's most durable theater clubs, St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, kicks off its 48th season with a "40 carat" comedy of the same name, "40 Carats," on Friday, Oct. 19.

The St. D's opening night tradition of "Black Tie Optional" may be giving way to a new tradition of wine and cheese receptions for season ticket holders only on every night of the first show's run.

The parties begin at 8, before the 9 p.m. curtain, and are hosted by board members in the Green Room lounge of the theater in Bloomfield Hills.

In "40 Carats," by Jay Allen, Nancy Brassert of Birmingham plays the leading role created by Julie Harris in the Broadway original.

Her character is an attractive, successful and 40-ish New York real estate woman, already twice married and twice burned. On a Greek Islands hol-

Theater

day, she meets and is smitten by a warmly intelligent and dashing young man (John Shirk). He, unfortunately, is far closer to her daughter's age.

MRS. BRASSERT has starred in "Mary, Mary" and "6 RMS RIV VU" for St. Dunstan's, as well as contributed her talents to many productions as dancer-choreographer, set design and construction supervisor. She also is a former president of the organization.

Joe Dabbs is cast as Billy Boylan, a likable but somewhat ne'er-do-well ex-husband and father of the "now genera-

tion" daughter, played by Janet Spector.

Gertrude Thomsen is the status-conscious grandmother, forever promoting the wrong romance. Bill Studebaker adds a Southern accent to the comedy (and the love triangles) as a big-spending real estate prospect from Texas.

Others featured in the cast include Patti Hurst, Betsy Todd, Aggie Melman, Ralph Todd and Patrick Cavannah.

The production is being directed by Nancy Scott, assisted by Mary Anne Wilson. Co-producers are Polly Henry and Liz Smith.

THE BALANCE of St. Dunstan's four-show season includes the classic mystery drama "Dial M For Murder," slated for early February; a fresh and fast-paced British comedy "Best of Friends," in late March; in June, under

the stars in Cranbrook's outdoor theater, Lerner and Loewe's "Brigadoon" probably one of America's best-loved musicals.

Season tickets, at a saving of almost 25 percent off regular box-office prices, are available through the run of "40 Carats." Further information on season tickets may be obtained by calling Kelly Gustafson at 647-4928.

Performances of "40 Carats" are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27. Reservations can be made by calling 644-0527, a 24-hour phone reservation service.

The St. Dunstan's Playhouse is located on Lane Pine Road west of Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. Drivers who drop their passengers at the theater entrance will be chauffeured back from the Christ Church Cranbrook parking lot by a "valet van."

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'Spider' creeps on Ford Theater stage

The Henry Ford Museum Theater production of the 1926 comedy-mystery, "The Spider" casts suspicion on just about everyone - including the audience.

A member of the audience is inexplicably murdered during a magic and mind-reading act when he tries to stop a disclosure from the magician's clairvoyant assistant. Police hold the entire audience captive until the trail of am-

Author to visit

M. M. Kaye, author of the bestseller "Far Pavilions" will be at the Birmingham Bookstore, 263 Pierce St., Birmingham, 2-4 p.m. Sunday Oct. 14. Mrs. Kaye will be autographing her new book "Shadow Of The Moon," as well as the new paperback edition of "Far Pavilions."

biguous clues finally reveals the identity of the murderer.

During this play, the entire museum theater at Greenfield Village in Dearborn becomes the mythical Tivoli Theater. A sophisticated vaudeville show graces the stage as the curtain opens.

Action takes place in the aisles as well as seats, and members of the audience might find themselves sitting next to one of the protagonists and perhaps even the murderer.

"THE SPIDER" will be performed at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings, Oct. 19-Nov. 24, with a special Halloween performance Oct. 31, beginning at 9:30 p.m. and ending at midnight.

Tickets can be purchased at the box office beginning one hour before the performance, or at the museum entrance between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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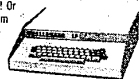
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