

## Are you sitting next to a killer?

# The stage moves to the audience

By JOHN MACCOLL

The year: 1926.  
The place: the Tivoli Theater, home of "the world's best vaudeville."  
The feature attraction: "Chatrand the Great," mind reader.  
The plot: murder.  
The only clue: the killer is somewhere in the audience.  
And you are a suspect.

If you don't mind sitting next to a killer, you'll enjoy the Greenfield Village Players' production of "The Spider."

Director Joseph French has revived this classic 1926 comedy-mystery written by Fulton Oursler and Lowell Brentano.

AN INTRICATE web of whodunit is spun when a member of the audience is murdered during a magic and mind-reading act.

While performing with his clairvoyant assistant, Chatrand the Great is accused of killing the guardian of a beautiful and rich young lady who had come to see him perform.

The plot thickens when Chatrand's assistant, Alexander, is discovered to be the young lady's long-lost brother. Alex happens to be suffering from amnesia, caused years ago by a not-so-subtle push off a cliff by the now-deceased guardian.

Alexander's memory is shocked back to reality, but he finds himself, his sister and Chatrand the prime suspects in the police investigation.

It falls to Chatrand to save his friends and catch the real villain. But not too surprisingly, Chatrand falls in love with Alex's sister, Beverly.

The task is made no easier by the suspecting police Captain Reilly. His hot Irish temper and desire for an open-and-shut case leaves Chatrand no alternative than to escape from his handcuffs and disappear before our eyes.

DURING THE PLAY, the entire Henry Ford Museum Theater becomes the mythical Tivoli Theater and a vaudeville show ensues, complete with a singing bear act.

Action takes place in the aisles as well as the seats, as members of the cast have been placed throughout the theater.

Teams of Keystone cops patrol the halls and guard the doors during intermission, just to make sure no one leaves the scene of the crime. Even the program announcement depicts a vaudeville playbill. Nothing is left to chance.

It isn't until Chatrand, with the aid of a skeptical Captain Reilly, re-enacts the crime that the real truth is discovered.

By this time, no less than 10 members of the audience have been implicated in one way or another.

"THE SPIDER" is being performed at 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Nov. 24. Tickets are \$3.50, available in advance at the museum entrance or at the box office up to an hour before the performance.



John Roberts and Tom Hinks play the parts of the police captain and the clairvoyant in "The Spider," playing weekends at the Henry Ford Museum Theater.

A dinner is also available each night, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Cost of the meal and the play is \$12.50. For more information, call 271-1520, ext. 417.

## Travel film series begins

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce will present the first of five travel adventure films Sunday, Nov. 11, at the Walled Lake Western High School auditorium, 600 Beck Rd., Walled Lake. Show time is 2 p.m.

The first show is Dr. Franklyn K. Carney presenting "As An Artist Sees Spain."

The other programs are:  
Sunday, Dec. 9, "England by Canal Boat," Fran Reidelberger.

Sunday, Jan. 13, "The Canyon," Ralph Franklin.

Sunday, Feb. 10, "The New Panama," Clint Denn.

Sunday, March 9, "Bahamas Holiday," Dennis Glen Cooper.

A bus will pick up senior citizens at Richardson Community Center, Walled Lake Junior High School on Pontiac Trail and Walled Lake Villa.

For season tickets and bus information call 624-2826 or 644-2428. Individual show tickets can be purchased at the door.

## Cast includes area residents

Three area residents are appearing in the Windsor Light Opera production of "Gi Gi" opening Saturday, Nov. 17, at the Clary Auditorium in Windsor.

They are John Watson of Bloomfield Township and Marilyn Suddick and Fred Shulak, both of Rochester.

Performances continue through Dec. 2. Further information is available by calling the box office in Windsor at 252-6555. Box office hours are noon-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

# DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN

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