

Grand Old Opry auditions Detroit talent

An audition team from Opryland U.S.A. will make two stops on Michigan next month. Talent is sought for 14 musical productions set for the park's ninth season in 1980. The team, which will visit 26 cities in December and January, will be in Ann Arbor on Monday, Dec. 3, and in Detroit on Tuesday, Dec. 4. At Ann Arbor, auditions will be held at Assembly Hall of the Michigan Union at the University of Michigan.

Michigan from noon to 4 p.m. In Detroit, the auditions will be held at Alumni Hall of Marygrove College; hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. OPryLAND, located in Nashville, emphasizes musical entertainment. Its shows are in a variety of theaters — formal and informal, indoors and outdoors. The shows run the gamut from "For Me and My

Gal," a George M. Cohan revue with 18 singers and dancers and an orchestra of 16, to solo specialty acts in a children's area. The audition staff includes the park's entertainment director, entertainment manager, choreographer, musical director and show directors. They are searching for 400 singers, dancers, instrumentalists, dance captains and musical leaders and conductors.

Also being sought are experienced stage managers, lighting technicians, sound engineers and stagehands. Appointments are not needed for auditions. Detailed information is in a brochure available by writing Entertainment Department, Opryland U.S.A., 2802 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tenn., 37214, or by telephoning 615-889-6600, ext. 341.

Studio Theater does 'Godspell'

"Godspell," a musical revue based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, will open at the Wayne State University Studio Theater downstairs at the Hilberry, on Sunday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m. Additional performances are Nov. 26-28, and Dec. 3-5 at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

"Godspell" was written in 1970 by John-Michael Tebbel as a project for his master's degree at Carnegie-Mellon University. It has since become one of the most popular musicals of this decade, having been produced both on and off-Broadway, adapted into a successful film version, and at one time performed by more than 16 professional companies around the world.

It has been called one of the most innovative plays in modern theater and combines many theatrical devices — pantomime, improvisation, vaudeville antics and minstrel show routines.

The soft-rock score by Stephen Schwartz, composer of the hit musical "Pippin" (to be produced at the Bonstelle Theater later this season), includes such familiar songs as "Day by Day," "By My Side" and "Turn Back, Oh Man."

"GODSPELL" is directed by William P. Ward, with costumes by Kevin Alberts, settings by Curt P. Vandenberg choreography by Susan Panek and musical direction by Phillip J. Micahel.

The cast includes William and Shari Akey of Livonia, Deborah Barvinski of Dearborn Heights, Tom Denoff of St. Clair Shores, Johanna Marie Mueller of Milford, Jeffery E. Williams of Adrian, Clara Onie Smith of Garden City, Richard A. Schrot of Bloomfield Hills, Edward M. Nahant of Royal Oak, and Renate.

The proceeds from this production will aid the Biakely Scholarship Fund for undergraduate theater students.

Tickets and information for "Godspell" are available from the Wayne State University Theater box office, Cass and Hancock, Detroit 48202. The telephone number is 577-2972.

TV programs offer nostalgia

Channel 56 viewers can spin back the years on three different nights during the station's Winter Pleasure Drive with a nostalgic blend of music, comedy and drama.

This 16-day public awareness and fund-raising campaign, running Nov. 26 through Dec. 11, aims to raise \$300,000 to keep the non-commercial station broadcasting.

On Monday, Dec. 3, "The Fred Waring Show: All About Love," at 8 p.m., features Waring and his Young Pennsylvanians performing modern songs and classic compositions. At 10 p.m., Bob Hope, George Burns, Jack Benny and many more are part of "The Great Radio Comedians." This special re-lives the Golden Age of radio comedy.

It's an evening of jazz greats Thursday, Dec. 6, on Channel 56, beginning at 8 p.m. with "Satchmo." This portrait of the world-renowned musician includes interviews with the late Louis Armstrong, his friends and colleagues.

"AN EVENING with Ella Fitzgerald," on "Soundstage," at 10 p.m., features the first lady of contemporary music with guest Oscar Peterson, Roy Eldridge, Joe Pass and Zoot Sims.

At 11:30 p.m., Carmen McRae performs favorites like "Mood Indigo" in the re-broadcast of "Carmen McRae."

Finally, Saturday, Dec. 8, blends the drama and excitement of old newsreels, music from the big band era and show-stoppers from Broadway hits.

"Yesterday's Witness," at 9 p.m., with narrator Lowell Thomas, provides an affectionate look at the men and events that made newsreels popular, including the assassination of King Alexander and the Lindbergh kidnapping.

At 10 p.m., "Musical Comedy Tonight" features stars like Carol Burnett, Rock Hudson and Ethel Merman performing numbers for "Good News," "Company" and other shows.

"Big Band Bash" at 11 p.m. goes back to those grand old days of dance-era music with Count Basie, Woody Herman and many more.

Dickens' work being staged

Charles Dickens' immortal classic, "A Christmas Carol," will be presented Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7 and 8, at 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 9, at 2 p.m., at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theater.

The 19th century story has been adapted for the stage by Barbara Field.

"Perhaps Dickens' most famous work, 'A Christmas Carol,' includes some of his best-remembered characters: Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim.

The play, like the story, takes place on Christmas Eve, when a miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by "spirits." The spirit of his late partner, Jacob Marley, with the assistance of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, attempt to change Scrooge's "Bah Humbug!" attitude towards the very special holiday into one of good-will towards his fellow men.

Tickets and information are available at the Wayne State University Theatre box office, Cass and Hancock, Detroit, telephone 577-2972. Tickets also are available through Hudson's ticket offices and most Detroit-area colleges and universities.

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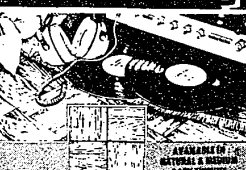
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