

Birmingham Theatre extends 'Mousetrap' run

Agatha Christie's classic whodunit "The Mousetrap" has been extended for one week, running through Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Birmingham Theatre.

"The Mousetrap" has been lauded as the world's most popular play. It recently celebrated its 28th year on the London stage.

"Mousetrap" was originally written at the request of Queen Mary in celebration of her 80th birthday. The director general of the British Broadcasting Co. approached the Queen and asked what she would like to celebrate her birthday.

A play by her favorite author, Agatha Christie, was the answer. The BBC broadcast a 30-minute play entitled "Three Blind Mice" to celebrate the occasion.

Five years later, Ms. Christie extended the play to three acts and re-titled it "The Mousetrap."

PERFORMANCES OF "The Mousetrap" are given Tuesday-Sundays at 8 p.m.; Wednesday matinees are at 1 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

The theater is offering a senior citizen discount at all matinees and half price discount for 18-year-olds accompanied by an adult to both matinee and evening performances.

Next production at the Birmingham Theatre will be "Daisy Mayme," a comedy starring Jean Stapleton. The play is directed by Ms. Stapleton's husband, William Putsch; her daughter Pamela also is in the play.

"Daisy Mayme" by Pulitzer-Prize-winner George Kelly is set in north Philadelphia in 1931 and tells the story of a middle age man who brings his bride-to-be home to meet his family.

Ms. Stapleton has been touring in the revival and is currently in Florida. The play will open Feb. 19 at the Birmingham Theatre and run through March 16.

"Elephant Man" is still in negotiation as the season's fourth show; no dates have been set but it probably would be an April offering.

Theatre of the Arts relocates

Theatre of the Arts Production, Ltd., has moved into larger offices, located at 1800 W. 14 Mile, Suite B, Royal Oak 48073.

Included on the schedule of shows for Theatre of the Arts are: "Slueth," second show in the Machus subscription season at Mr. Mac's Stable in Dearborn. "Slueth" plays till March on Friday and Saturday nights. John Puchalski of the Southfield Repertory Theatre is directing his first show for Theatre of the Arts.



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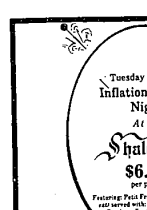
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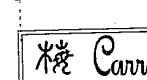


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WTVS receives state grant for equipment

The Michigan Legislature has awarded a \$340,000 grant to the Detroit Educational Television Foundation, the licensee of WTVS/Channel 56, on behalf of all public broadcasting stations in Michigan.

The money will be used to buy electronic equipment to enable the stations to transmit programs statewide and nationally via satellite.

This is the first state grant awarded to WTVS/56.

Acquisition of the new electronic equipment is the initial step toward a future, full-fledged Michigan Public Broadcasting Network connecting all of the state's public radio and television stations.

Such interconnection, already a fact in Florida, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and other states, makes possible live, cooperative broadcasting of events having statewide or national interest.

THE GRANT also will be used by Channel 56 and other Michigan public broadcasting stations to show the "Detroit Renaissance" during the Republican National Convention.

Since convention coverage will originate from Detroit," said WTVS President and General Manager Jack Caldwell, "we recognize the importance of being able to provide facilities for live, direct relay of events to the state and the nation. That is why we made the decision to pursue the equipment grant."

The new equipment will make WTVS capable of directly feeding live coverage to the nation's 282 public TV stations via the public television satellite.

New contest opens for dinner-theater playwrights

Theatre of the Arts Productions, Ltd. has announced its first annual dinner theater playwrighting contest.

The competition was formed because of the increasing demand of dinner theatres to find more scripts to perform in a dinner theater format. The 1980 script writing contest has the following limitations:

- Scripts should be comical or musical.
- Scripts should be tailored for a cast of six people or less. However, larger cast shows will be read and considered.
- Scores must be submitted with the books of any musicals.
- Return envelopes and postage must be included if the submitter wants it back.

• Scripts should be postmarked by no later than April 30.

The winner receives \$100, and the author will be able to see the winning play performed by Theatre of the Arts in a regular run in the dinner theater format.

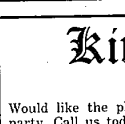
Theatre of the Arts holds all rights to the winning script until the end of its original run, at which time rights revert to the author.

Submissions should be sent to the following address: Theatre of the Arts Productions, Attention Del Howison, 1800 W 14 Mile, Suite B, Royal Oak 48073.

Submissions will be read by a panel from Theatre of the Arts.

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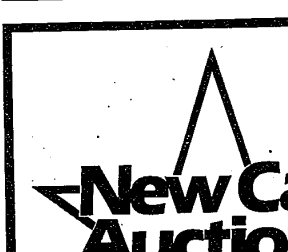


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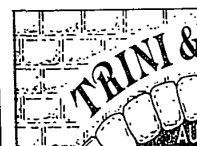
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