

'Dial M for Murder' receives classy production

Most critics would probably agree that "Dial M for Murder" is a classy murder mystery — and St. Dunstan's Theater Guild of Cranbrook is involved in giving it a production worthy of that definition.

The mystery melodrama by Frederick Knott opens Friday, Feb. 1, at the Bloomfield Hills Playhouse and runs both Friday and Saturday evenings for two weekends.

"It may not be a classic yet," said the director, George Ryder, "but it is a very classy show. Smart-set people, money, fast repartee among fashionable West End Londoners. It isn't a who-done-it in the usual sense; the audi-

ence knows who-kills-whom almost from the beginning.

"The intrigue of 'Dial M' is in all the twists and turns, the detective work, the traps that are set to catch the nice-guy villain in his murderous plot."

Ryder, a General Motors executive who lives in Birmingham, has international responsibilities that take him to Japan or down-under as often as they do to England. (Matter of fact, he's scheduled to depart for London on Feb. 10, the day after "Dial M" closes.) But he has managed to stay in the country for the entire six weeks of rehearsal — so far.

"THAT WAS A lucky circumstance,"

Ryder figures. "We're going for maximum authenticity on this show, playing it as a 1952 period piece, for example, not of today as such."

"We're using a dialogue coach, Pat Spector, who knows her British accents — both high and low — and how to teach them. The set is going to be plain gorgeous, very upper-middle-class London town house."

And rehearsing the cast in the murder scene is almost like choreographing a ballet-duo in slow motion, time after time after time. That's the real kick of directing for me — having a hand in guiding all the parts and pieces of the show."

The cast includes some talent not seen on the St. Dunstan's stage before. New member Barbara Elpern of Bloomfield Hills plays Margot Wendice, the role that helped make Grace Kelly famous in the movie version. Margot is the young and comfortably wealthy wife of fading tennis pro, Tony Wendice, played by Ron Wheeler of Southfield.

A romantic triangle in the play is completed by Paul Geiger of Birmingham, as Max Halliday, a great, good American friend.

Others in the cast include Fran Loud of Birmingham as Captain Leggate, Lou Bonamy of Farmington Hills as In-

spector Hubbard, and Lee Hackley of Bloomfield Hills as Officer Thompson.

THE CREW IS headed by Barbara Cowans, producer, assisted by Liz Boyne Smith. Aggie Meldman is assistant director.

Reservations for "Dial M for Murder" can be made by calling 844-0527, a 24-hour ticket reservation service. Performances are scheduled for 9 p.m. curtain Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1 and 2, 8 and 9. The theater provides free

parking and mini-bus service from and to the parking lot for drivers who leave their passengers at the playhouse door on Lone Pine, just west of Cranbrook Road.

The St. Dunstan's house has been sold out for special benefit performances sponsored by the Birmingham Optimists on Wednesday Jan. 30, Blessed Savior Lutheran Church on Sunday, Feb. 3, and the Royal Oak Penguins on Thursday, Feb. 7.

'Showboat' music highlighted

Music from "Showboat" will be featured when the Warren Symphony Orchestra presents its Jerome Kern Cabaret Pops at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Grants go to theater

The Professional Theatre Program (PTP) of the University of Michigan has received more than \$22,000 in grant money from the Michigan Council of the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts for programs this season.

The money was given in two unrelated grants. The Michigan grant brought U-M alumnae Jeffrey Guyton back to Ann Arbor from Stratford, Canada, where he is a member of the internationally known Stratford Theatre Festival acting company.

THE NATIONAL GRANT, a first for the PTP, was given to the university as prime contractor for a consortium of six performing arts centers in the Midwest. The consortium enabled John Houseman's the Acting Company to tour and perform workshops at the six communities.

Guyton, who recently was a student at the university, is a Michigan native. He appeared with the Michigan Rep in 1977 and 1978 before moving to Stratford.

In his return engagement to Ann Arbor, he was choreographer and instructor in stage combat, a position he holds with the Stratford Company. Besides conducting workshops and coaching students in stage combat, he choreographed the battle scenes for the Guest Artist production of "Richard III," work which received critical praise.

THE NATIONAL GRANT, totaling \$22,000, enabled the Acting Company to stay in Ann Arbor for a week, where the company can only perform but conducted workshops for students and the public.

These workshops ranged from acting and directing to the use of wigs and masks on stage.

Because of the grant from National Endowment for the Art's touring program, the Acting Company also was able to perform at Ferris State College in Big Rapids, the Theatre Guild of Midland Center, U-M-Flint, Central Michigan University and the Marion Cultural Center in Indiana.

"We are grateful for the support NEA and MCA have given our program," said Jean Galan, general manager of PTP.

"They have permitted us to offer opportunities to students and the public which financially would have been impossible otherwise. The excellence of the work speaks for itself."

Actor's Trunk performs play

The Birmingham Community House continues its Children's Show Series on Saturday, Feb. 2, when the Actor's Trunk Company will perform the Grimm Brothers' fairytale "Rumpelstiltskin."

Show times are 1-2 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. at the Community House, Bates and Townsend. Tickets are available in advance.

Adult chaperones will be in the audience during the performance.

"Rumpelstiltskin" is a classical favorite about the little man who can spin worthless straw into gold. A miller's daughter must guess his name if she is to save her child.

The stage production is directed by Henry K. Martin of Birmingham.

The Actor's Trunk Company is a group of professional actors who will bring the children a trunkful of songs and games while the actors perform the fairytale.

FOR FURTHER information, call 644-5832.

Three additional shows remain in the Children's Series. All bring live theater to youngsters, complete with colorful costuming and stage sets. Some shows have special music with each performance.

The balance of the season includes "Snow White" on Saturday, March 1; "The Wizard of Oz" on Saturday, March 29; and "Hansel and Gretel" on Saturday, April 26.

Creative drama classes offered

The Detroit Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Wayne State University Recreation Department, is accepting registrations through Feb. 2 for its winter quarter of Creative Drama classes for young people ages 6-18.

Classes meet from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday mornings beginning Feb. 9 for five weeks in the Old Main building of Wayne State University, Cass and W. Warren. The classes are correlated with the Wayne State Creative Drama Class for teachers and will place emphasis on child development through the use of improvisation, movement and creative dramatics.

Initial registration may be made by phoning the Detroit Recreation Department at 224-1195. All of the following information should then be sent to Drama Class, 2735 W. Warren, Detroit 48208: the child's name, exact age, address and phone number.

There is no charge for the classes, but a \$5 registration fee is required of each student. Checks must be made payable to Recreation Activity Fund and enclosed with the registration information in the mail. All fees will be used to further children's theatre programs for the city of Detroit.

For additional information regarding registration and scheduling, call the Detroit Recreation Department at 224-1195.



PINE LUMBER'S PRICES ARE TAKING A DIVE

50%
OFF

25%
OFF

OUR REGULAR EVERYDAY
LOW PRICES ON
ALL
Celotex
PATTERNS—
ALL
SALE
PRICED!

12x12 RONDELAY REG. 31' 23' SALE 20' 15'

12x12 WASHABLE WHITE

2x4 WASHABLE WHITE REG. \$1.55 SALE \$1.16

2x4 RONDELAY REG. \$2.19 SALE \$1.63

SPECTACULAR PLUMBING SPLASH!!!

	REG.	CLEARANCE
— CHROME SINGLE LEVER SINK FAUCET	\$24.59	\$19.59
— CHROME SINGLE LEVER LAVATORY FAUCET	\$28.35	\$22.35

BALANCE OF SINGLE LEVER FAUCETS IN STOCK
25% OFF OUR REGULAR CASH & CARRY PRICE

	REG.	CLEARANCE
— 40 GAL. ENERGY-SAVER GAS WATER HEATER — 5 YR. WARRANTY	\$1320.5	\$1098.8
— 5 FT. RECESSED FIBERGLAS TUB WHITE	\$98.95	\$73.95
— 2233 DOUBLE BOWL SINK STAINLESS STEEL — SELF RIM	\$44.88	\$33.88
— TOILET SEAT — WHITE FINISHED WOOD WITH COVER	\$7.98	\$5.48

BALANCE OF TOILET SEATS IN STOCK
25% OFF OUR REGULAR CASH & CARRY PRICE

25%
OFF

ALL FEATHERLITE
STORM DOORS
IN STOCK

6'x6'
PATIO
STORM DOOR

REG. \$117.00 NOW \$87.75

ACT AS A THERMAL INSULATOR WHEN INSTALLED OVER YOUR EXISTING PATIO DOOR

COLONIAL
CROSSBUCK

TEMPERED GLASS
1 1/2" THICK
3'x6'

REG. \$72.15 NOW \$54.00

CHECK THE STORE
NEAREST YOU FOR
OTHER STYLES &
SIZES AVAILABLE
ALL AT 25%
SAVINGS

SUPER STUD SPECIAL

CONSTRUCTION GRADE

	REG.	SALE
2x4x6'	99¢	74¢
2x4x8 5/8"	\$1.34	99¢
2x4x9 5/8"	\$1.45	\$1.39
2x4x8'	\$1.45	\$1.39

ECONOMY GRADE

	REG.	SALE
2x4x9 5/8"	95¢	71¢
2x4x8'	99¢	79¢

DELIVERY AVAILABLE — FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 25-MILE RADIUS ON ORDERS OVER \$2000

MT. CLEMENS
5 S. GROESBECK
South of Cass Ave.
469-2300

UTICA
48075 VAN DYKE
Bet. 21 Mile & 22 Mile
739-7463

WEST SIDE
12222 INKSTER RD.
Bet. Plymouth & Schoolcraft
937-9111

LINCOLN PARK
3255 FORT ST.
Bet. Southfield & Goddard
386-5177

FENTON
14375 TORREY RD.
Torrey & S. Long Lake Rd.
629-3300

YPSILANTI
626 N. HURON
481-1500

WATERFORD TWP.
7374 HIGHLAND RD.
Q-M-38 Bus. Airport
& Williams Lake Rd.
666-2450

BRIGHTON
525 MAIN ST.
1.8 Mi. W. of Grand River
227-1831

SOUTHFIELD
22800 W. 8 MILE
1/2 Mile E. of Telegraph
353-2570

SOME ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE AT ALL LOCATIONS

LUMBER YARD HOURS — ALL LOCATIONS
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 8 A.M. — 5 P.M.; FRIDAYS 8 A.M. — 4 P.M.

ALL ITEMS CASH & CARRY — GOOD WHILE QUANTITIES LAST — ALL COSE-OUT SALES FINAL

PINE CASHWAY LUMBER