

theater

Actor stars as Einstein

"Albert Einstein: The Practical Bohemian" is the title of a new one-man show starring Ed Metzger from Feb. 5-9 at the auditorium of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

As a theatrical production, "Albert Einstein: the Practical Bohemian" was overwhelmingly received by reviewers and audiences in Los Angeles and New York, as well as Einstein's family and friends who remarked on the accurate recreation of the man they knew behind the public image.

Co-authors of the play are actor Ed Metzger and director Laya Gelfi.

The performance spans a large portion of Einstein's life and encompasses entertaining and interesting incidents connected with the development of his theories. One theme in the play is Einstein's bitterness and frustration about the Nazi persecution of the Jews and his forced departure from Germany.

METZGER USES incidents in Einstein's life to paint a picture of the man. To illustrate Einstein's description of himself as a "practical bohemian," he lets his hair grow long and unkempt because "it eliminates the need for barbers." He wore no socks because "all they produce is holes."

Reviewers in Los Angeles and New York have praised the play and its star: "Metzger is immersed in the personality he plays... takes on the role and guise of Einstein... genius and pixie," New York Times.

"Einstein comes alive, and Metzger's portrayal captures his warmth, sensitivity and humor. His performance has gentleness and charm... Metzger is very moving, he's brilliant..." Show Business, May 3, 1979.

"Not only has Metzger reminded us that the scientists with profound human concern did and do exist, but also he manages to draw from Einstein's lectures to give us very simple and effective illustrations which illuminate the complexity of Einstein's theories," Los Angeles Times, Oct. 6, 1978.

"The actor brings the scientist to life with well-researched biographical material that he pieces together... Metzger uses gentle humor and a sensitivity of which Einstein would have been proud," Variety, Oct. 5, 1978.

Metzger has a long list of acting credits and his performances include the Al Pacino production of "Arturo Ui" in Boston, the West Coast Actor's Studio Production of "Uncle Vanya" and off-Broadway, "Night Hawks" and "The Bear."

He was in the films "Reflections of the Golden Eye," "Car Wash" and "Dog Day Afternoon," and television's "Kojak," "Baretta," "Mannix" and many others.

Six performances are scheduled at the Engineering Society of Detroit auditorium, 100 Farnsworth at John R, starting Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Tickets are available to the public for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening performances and a Saturday matinee.

Tickets may be obtained by obtaining by calling 832-5400.

Script for murder

Paul Geiger of Birmingham (left), Barbara Elper of Bloomfield Hills and Ron Wheeler of Southfield confer over a plot twist during rehearsal for the St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of the mystery "Dial M for Murder." Geiger plays Max Halliday former American fiancé of Margot

Wendice, played by Ms. Elper. Wheeler portrays the somewhat over-the-hill tennis pro with gentlemanly motives for marrying his wealthy wife. Performances are Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1, 2, 8 and 9, at 9 p.m. For reservations call 644-0327.

Music Hall restoration

Electrical system restoration work will soon be under way at Detroit's historic Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Board Chairman Harold Rydholm has announced.

Renovation plans for the theater, built in 1928, include the installation of new distribution panels, lighting panels, and dimming systems in the auditorium and orchestra pit, as well as the reconditioning of existing lighting systems throughout the building.

Besides providing for more efficient energy consumption, the modernized system will facilitate the accommodation of high-powered equipment, such as that used by television crews and large-scale touring productions. Increased power capabilities backstage will also afford performing artists greater flexibility.

Following a formal bid procedure, the Gerald L. Reed Electric Co. of Pontiac has been awarded a contract to complete the electrical work. Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Detroit-based architectural firm which designed the theater, will supervise the projects.

ELECTRICAL WORK IS expected to be completed in August 1980 and will not interfere with Music Hall's schedule of performances.

The electrical system restoration project is the third stage of Music Hall's multi-phase renovation program. Previous capital improvement work, also funded with grants from government agencies and private foundations, provided for repair to the center's exterior masonry, roof replacement, and upgrading and updating of the mechanical systems plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning.

Family Favorite

Actress Jean Stapleton, who has become a television star through her role as Edith Bunker in "All in the Family," will play another character in the comedy hit "Daisy Mayme," on stage at the Birmingham Theatre. "Daisy Mayme" is directed by her husband, William H. Putsch, and co-stars her daughter, Pamela Putsch. The play, a revival of a Broadway hit by George Kelly, opens Feb. 19 and continues through March 16. The run of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" mystery thriller has been extended through Feb. 10 at the Birmingham. For ticket information call 644-3533.

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