# Farce skates along speedily

By HELEN ZUCKER

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French farce is alive and well at Meadow Brook Theater.

"Scapin," written my Moliere in 1671, is witty enough to withstand a Scapin on roller skates, gentle rock music and enough props to supply Barnum & Bailey's main tent. Lines as high spirited as Moliere's are made of the stuff that endures.

The Meadow Brook Theater Production of "The Adventures of Scapin," adapted from Moliere's play and directed by John Ulmer, walks a fine line between the original spirit of Hariequin, Pantalaion, Punch and Columbine, and a series of 1979 nightclosh routines.

Fast timing, a high sense of nonsense and a cast that thorougally enjoy pratfalls, high jinks, and quick asides turn this production into an ovening of pleasant, lunatic entertainment.

THIS UPDATED version o foliere's comedy works. It sticks fair THIS UPDATED version of Molier's comedy works. It sixes fairly close to the original lines, hew strictly to the plot and the acrobatic cast seems to have no trouble at all clambering up ropes and whizzing in and out of the pilings, netting, docks and marketplace.

The set, by Douglas Wright, was beautifully designed. It served Ulmer's conception.

#### Review

Moliere set his play in Naples. Ulmer said his version takes place in "the square of a small seacoast village, some time ago . . . . "Wright's set, "where ever" it may be, is a picturesque flight of fancy that sets the mood for the evening.

Eric Tavaris as Scapin, the only fel-low with any brains at all, is jazzy, clever and always on cue. Tavaris has a face like silly putty, a body like a rubber band and he uses both to the fullest.

Scapin is the legendary servant who always gets his high-born master out of scrapes. Tavaris gives us a Scapin who is a servant because of the class structure of 17th century society, he manages to hint that in today's more flexible society he would be running the village he lives in and the many people he does favors for would probably all be working for him.

SCAPIN MANIPULATES people as easily as he breathes, and Tavaris is convincing as a master schemer who must scheme to live.

Michael Forella is fine as Octave, the frantic son of old Argante. Curtis J. Armstrong displays a genuine comic property of the common of the

Ms. Resnick gives us a Hyacinthe who is thoroughly cheerful through thick and thin; she knows she's a

THE EVENING belongs to Tavaris and the old gentleman. George Gitto as Geronte, Leander's father, and Peter Blaxill as Argante, Octave's lather, are especially good. Blaxill is the most professional member of this good cast, he lends a bit of depth to the means of a parent taken in by his own son and a wily servant.

Gitto carries off the famous bag scene with aplomb; he writhes about in-

side an orange sack while Scapin, imitating various foreign invaders, beats him.

David Kroll looks suitably aristocratic as Leander, the high born lad in love with a gypsy. He romps about, playing tricks on his father with high glee.

Mary Gutzi as the gypsy maid who is not a gypsy at all, as things turn out, is filled with vitably, be gives us a Zerishnette who is gutsy, vivacious, sexy, irrepressible. She increases the tempo as the play sweeps along to its inevitable, happy conclusion. The lovers pair up, the fathers pair up and everyone sweeps offstage followed by Scapin in an outlandish well and the same of the content of the table and I'll wait there till death comes to claim me."

FAT CHANCE. Death has no claim

FAT CHANCE. Death has no claim on anyone in this happy production.

Lighting by Fred Fonner was very good. So were the costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell. Artistic Director Terence Kilburn and Production Manager Peter-William Hicks have every-living under noghrol

ger Peter-William Hicks have every-thing under control.

Meadow Brook Theater is located in Wilson Hall on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester. "The Ad-ventures of Scapin" runs through April 22.

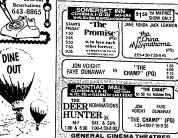
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### Getting Around By ETHEL SIMMONS



Media personalities and others have been slaving under those hot TV lights on the set of the Channel 56 Auction during fundraising days, which continue through Saturday. More volunteers have been working at full speed backstage, assembling bid slips that runners bring from the telephone crew textine calls on the set.

sembling bid slips that runners orang 110m to the section taking calls on the set.

The television audience been calling in those bid to keep the auction for the educational TV station whirling along.

The auction brought \$196,413 during its first three days this year, \$10,000 ahead of this time last year. Reaching the goal should be a reality, especially if more goods are donated to the overtion.

Auction Central says the only potential problem is they may run out of merchandise and have to cut the auction hours (just like last

out 01 met channols and nave to cut me autroin nours (list line last, year). Housand items were still needed Monday. Got one (new merchandise valued at \$50 or more) to help the auction along? So far, 6,000 gitts have been donated toward the \$700,000 goal. Call 673-7200 to contribute merchandise, or to lend a hand answering phones. And don't forget to tune in and bid, another way to help.

MEN! Do you know how to apply a beard, mustache, grow old or oung? You can learn it in a jiffy, for on-stage appearances, that

is.

Sally Sawyer of the Family Players is again conducting theater workshops in make-up. Especially geared for male performers, the series of three classes teaches men how to do their own make-up. Classes can also be laken individually. The first one is on general make-up the second, strictly beards and mustaches; the third, youth and aging.

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### Annual TV auction brings out bidders

Often men have a macho thing against doing their own make-up, reports Pat Quinn of the players. "They wait around for a woman to do their make-up, which can really slow up a production," Ms. Quinn said.

A few women also have signed up for the classes, held three consecutive Wednesdays, April 18 and 25 and May 2, from 7-10 pm. at 32740 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills.

For more information, call 626-1693.

EVERYWHERE YOU look there's a comic these days. At the Oakland University Barn Theater, the Mirme Ensemble will perform on the first half of a program, Friday, April 6.

Their amusing antics will give way to all-out comedy acts on the second half of the coffeehouse program. Comics Dave Couviller, Tony Hayes, Bill Thomas and Wayne Brinston will perform. The mimes begin at 8:30 p.m., and the comedians take over around 9:30 p.m. Sponsored by the university, the evening's entertainment on campus near Rochester is open to the general nublic.

tainment on campus near Rochester is open to the general public.

Tickets are available at the door. For more information, call
377-2245.





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John Williams' piano arrangements in the background.

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