

'Sweat hog' stars in 'Hooters'

Theater

Ron Palillo, best known as "Sweat Hog" Arnold Horshack on the television series "Welcome Back, Kotter," will demonstrate his versatility as an actor in the upcoming stage production "Hooters" at the Birmingham Theater.

Palillo has appeared in numerous theatrical productions and has played everything from Puck in "Midsummer's Night Dream" to Prince Dauntless in "Once Upon a Mattress."

In "Hooters," Palillo will portray an eager young male intent on making a sexual conquest. The comedy which studies mating rituals

among the young was written by and Tally, a graduate from the Yale School of Drama.

A new playwright, Tally has recently been acclaimed for another work entitled "Terra Nova" which was staged at the O'Neill Theater Center and the Mark Taper Forum.

TALLY IS a past recipient of both the John Golden and CBS Foundation Fellowships in playwrighting.

"Hooters" will run May 7-May 19. For ticket information, contact the Birmingham Theater box office at 644-3533.

Detroit Alan Rust has been signed to direct "Hooters."

When the Birmingham Theatre opened its season in March, it made a commitment to utilize the talents of local professionals. Rust is the first Detroit to be involved in the spring season at the theater.

An associate director

for the Monomoy Theater in Cape Cod, Rust has directed such productions as "Night of the Iguana," "The Good Doctor," "The Three Musketeers" and "The Crucible." In the Detroit area he has done "Irma La Douce," "Moonchildren," "The Imaginary Invalid" and "Christmas Carol."

Rust's theatrical skills transcend directing. He is also a choreographer and actor.

His most recent roles include a narrator in "The Soldiers Tale" by Stravinsky with the Michigan Chamber Orchestra and El Gallo in "The Fantasticks" at University of Detroit-Marygrove.

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Kurt Weill show ends season

Artistic Director Terence Kilburn has announced the cast for the final production of the Meadow Brook Theater season, "Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill," which will open a five-week run on Thursday, April 26 at 8:30 p.m. on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

The show is directed by John Ulmer with musical direction by Ted Kocielek and choreography by Chris ZeVan. "Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill" will feature Jenny Brown, Richard Marshall, Andy McAvin, Ty McConnell and Henrietta Valor.

Jenny Brown, a native of New Jersey, has appeared throughout the east in repertory, dinner theater, summer stock

and children's theater. Richard Marshall, a busy actor-singer recently played Curly in "Oklahoma," Frank Butler in "Annie Get Your Gun," a doctor in ABC-TV's "All My Children" and a beer-drinking fireman in a TV commercial.

He has appeared at the New York Shakespeare Festival and with the acclaimed National Company of "Eugene."

ANDY McAVIN recently appeared in two national tours, "The Sound of Music" starring Shirley Jones and "Camelot" with Rock Hudson.

Ty McConnell, a native of Coldwater, Mich., lists among his Broadway roles Julian in "Dear World" opposite Angela

Lansbury and Geoffrey in "The Lion in Winter." Henrietta Valor starred on Broadway in "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris." Her other Broadway credits include "Hail a Sixer" and "Applause."

"Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill" will feature a unit set by Peter-William Hicks, costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell and lighting by Benjamin F. Levenberg.

Tickets for "Berlin to Broadway," which continues through May 27, may be purchased at Hudson's or by calling the Meadow Brook Theater box office, 377-3300.

Opening week performances are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2 and 8:30 p.m., Saturday and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. The following weeks will offer performances at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 6 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Sunday and 2 p.m. Wednesday. The theater is dark Mondays.

Tickets are required for museum benefit

The Sunday, May 6, benefit for the Detroit Institute of Arts at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford home will be by ticket only.

Sponsored by the Antiquaries, an auxiliary of the museum's Founders Society, the 4-7 p.m. event to the Ford residence on Gaultier Point, will feature a program by Dr. Frederick Cummings, museum director, who will discuss the artistic interests of Eleanor Clay Ford, as reflected in the home which was designed in 1927 by Albert Kahn.

Reversations are limited. For information, call 833-7875.

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WOMC FM104



Marta Heflin is Sheila, one half of "A Perfect Couple," Robert Altman's latest film about a computer-matched pair.



Robert Altman loses again with 'Perfect Couple'

"A Perfect Couple" (PG) joins the ever-growing list of Robert Altman's more imperfect, less important films.

Altman is a prolific producer/director who just might be making more films in less time than anyone else, but the pace is beginning to show.

The last three productions, "A Wedding," "Quintet" and now "A Perfect Couple," have lost the sparkle and insight of previous films. It's almost as if Altman feels challenged to show that he can transform any random idea spawned by him or his colleagues into a motion picture. Not all ideas are cinematic material and not all of these are suitable to the low-pressure, rambling style associated with Altman.

The cultural clash that is at the core of "A Perfect Couple" provides ample material for a decent comedy and a comment on social customs. But watching this film is like waiting for the other shoe to drop. The comic possibilities are introduced and mostly abandoned.

PAUL DOOLEY and Marta Heflin, who both appear in "A Wedding," are computer-matched dates who would seem to be oddly matched. He is a member of a large, strait-laced, wealthy Greek family ruled by the grandfather who is patriarch and tyrant.

The family, including married children and spouses, live in a huge, richly furnished house and work in the family-owned business. They take their meals together and spend their leisure time together. Evenings they listen to recorded classical music as Grandfather Theodopolous (Tos Vandas) follows the score and conducts.

Dooley's date is an easy-going, uninhibited singer who belongs to a soft-rock group called Kopein. "Em On the Streets." The group is her nuclear family. They share living quarters in a loft, travel together and work together. Teddy (Ted Neeley), the leader, is as demanding and stern as the grandfather.

Heflin and Dooley, both tied to family, both involved with music and both having difficulty in establishing their own independence, ultimately, don't seem so mismatched after all.

THE COURSE of their love, however, doesn't run smooth. Indeed, one of the running gags in this film is the couple's inability to consummate their love because of an absence of privacy. The other running gag involves another couple who seem to be close and end up distant. Neither gag is slap-you-knee funny, particularly when drawn out over two hours.

The musical performances by the rock group are too many and too long; they relegate the story to the status of a subplot. The proportions seem all wrong. Eliminate the music and you've got about 15 minutes of film, or so it seems.

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

- AGATHA (PG).** Sketchy characters but intriguing story and fine acting by Vanessa Redgrave and Dustin Hoffman carry film based on Kathleen Tynan's speculations about the 11-day disappearance of Agatha Christie.
- THE BELL JAR (R).** Crack-up of a young poet, torn between life and art, is presented in somewhat flattened film version of Sylvia Plath's autobiographical novel.
- THE DRINKS JOB (PG).** William Friedkin directed this comic adventure about the big heist with Peter Falk, Peter Boyle, Warren Oates and Gene Roddenberry.
- THE CHINA SYNDROME (PG).** A gripping melodrama about an accident at a nuclear power plant and the potential danger. Jane Fonda is a television newscaster; Jack Lemmon is the plant engineer.
- THE DEER HUNTER (R).** An emotionally gripping and violent film about the lives of three friends from a small steel town as they are affected by the Vietnam war.
- FAST BREAK (PG).** Gabriel Kaplan is a N. Y. dell clerk named to coach a motley crew of basketball players at an obscure college.
- GET OUT YOUR HANKY-THEFTS (R).** Eccentric view of male-female relations as woman's husband and lover work toward her happiness in unconventional way.
- HAIR (G).** The counter culture musical of the '60s, directed by Milos Forman, comes to the screen with amazing vitality and musical energy — if a decade late.
- MOVIE, MOVIE (PG).** Expert and entertaining spoof of past double bill movies with George C. Scott in fight movie and Busby Berkeley-type musical.
- MURDER BY DECREE (PG).** Christopher Plummer and James Mason play Holmes and Watson as they stalk Jack the Ripper in foggy London.
- NORMA RAE (PG).** Sally Field is outstanding in contemporary story of union organizing activities in southern textile mills.
- THE PASSAGE (R).** Cliche-ridden film about family's flight from Nazi persecution during World War II.
- QUINTET (R).** Paul Newman and Bibi Andersson play deadly game of survival in Robert Altman's icy, bizarre film.
- SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR (PG).** Alan Alda and a radiant Ellen Burstyn in warm, witty tale of an extramarital affair that persists for 26 years.
- SUPERMAN (PG).** Christopher Reeve plays Big S. Marlon Brando is father and Gene Hackman the villain in this humorous fantasy.
- THE WARRIORS (R).** Police and street gangs hunt down teenage gang from Coney Island as they fight their way out of Manhattan.

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

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