



Breaking in the act

Kathy Heard of Rochester will sing favorites from her new nightclub act, accompanied by John Anderson at the theater organ, Friday-Saturday, June 8-9, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 10, at 2:30 p.m. at the Merrie Melodie Theater in Meadowbrook Mall, Avon Township. Ms. Heard will present a combination of old favorites, blues and show tunes. Her background in theater adds dimension to her musical talent. On screen will be Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy in the MGM hit "Girl of the Golden West." Tickets are available in advance at the Merrie Melodie Theater box office, 375-0011.

Anvil salesman tackles tough job

By SUE ROSIEK

It's going to be tough, but Joe Guest has visions of polishing his acting talents all the way to the professional stage.

For starters, he's concentrating on learning his craft in community theaters and acting schools throughout the area.

But his goals are set and the desire burns.

"I'll give myself to age 30. If I can't make it by then, I'll try something else. But I think I can (make it) and I'm going to try. That's why I make the 21-mile trek out to Will-O-Way (an apprentice acting school) in Bloomfield Hills a few times each week," said Guest, a Garden City resident.

Is he good?

"Yes," replies a confident Guest. "People I know and respect and a few directors have said so. And I'm determined to be good — that's important — to want to be good," adds Guest.

At 22, Guest calls himself a late bloomer. Although interested in acting in high school, Guest said he opted for a part-time job and some extra spending money.

"Having a little money out-weighed my love for the theater at that time. I regret it now, but I can't go back," he says.

So he forges ahead. Guest debuted in the Garden City Civic Theater production of "Don't Drink the Water" in April. He played a 65-year-old eccentric priest who practiced magic.

Afterwards he shopped around for another play and noticed an ad for the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theater in Bloomfield Hills. The acting school was just completing casting for "Music Man" and asked Guest to audition for one of the few remaining parts.

He got a part and, now through June 23, Guest spends his Fridays and Saturdays onstage as Charlie the Anvil Salesman at Will-O-Way Theater. The show is under the direction of Celia Merrill Turner.

Guest's next goal is an audition at Meadow Brook Theater at Oakland University in Rochester and possibly to attend acting school.

Guest says he always knew he had a theatrical streak. It just took a little time to find his niche.

"I always thought I was creative and imaginative. I tried radio for a short time in Traverse City. But in radio you have to be the same person every day because that's who people are tuning in to hear," says Guest.

"The theater offers a chance to be somebody different — not that I dislike being Joe Guest. It's a challenge to put on another coat and make the character believable. Acting offers a chance to stand in somebody's else's shoes," explains Guest.

The fledgling actor says his radio audience reaction just didn't compare to that of performing before a theater audience.

"In radio it's you and the microphone and the little black box. You might get a letter or a call but it takes time. In theater the audience reaction is spontaneous and immediate."

With characters like an eccentric old priest and Charlie the anvil salesman under his belt, Guest says he's acquired a new sense of determination.

"I'm versatile and I've proved it," says Guest.

In the meantime Guest supports himself by working as an aircraft jet refueler at Detroit Metro airport. He recently was switched to the afternoon shift and it could crimp his acting style.

"It does, I'll just have to find something else. I've made up my mind."

Thursday, June 7, 1979

(OJSD)

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