

her family (from left) Eric, David and Paul aler

Undercurrent enlivens show

By GAY ZIEGER

The college theater scene has been altered radically by the advent of the

altered radically by the aurent and rock opera.

Audiences can no longer be assured of traditional, sweaty, self-conscious performances of "The Importance of Bedig Ernest." Instead, as in the Oaklang University Barn Theatre production "The Phantom," audiences se writhing and crawling and sexual overtures and body patting — indeed, body caressing.

overtures and body patting — indeed, body caressing. This can be heavy stuff for older theatergoers. Yet it is this element of sexuality and potential violence that gives zest to the performance.

"The Phantom"(is William McCarty and Paul Maryine's rock, usuical adams.

"The Phantom (IS William inclary) and Paul Marvin's rock-musical adap-tation of the film "The Phantom of the Opera." Thomas A. Aston directed and also did scene and lighting design.

WHILE THE movements, the brief, form-fitting costumes, and the music itself may accost at times, one cannot help but be caught up in the surge of it all.

The brilliant first 20 minutes reach a crescendo with a production number that rivals that of any professional pro-duction. The electric dancing, the "no-holds-barred" singing, and the scream-ing music blend with a force that is al-most unbearable.

ing music blend with a force that is almost unbearable.

All this culminates with a huge pillar-crashing to the floor. The drama of it is handled expertly and the audience is handled expertly and the audience is left both frightened and grateful that the ensemble didn't sing or play one to higher or louder. It was truly a fine moment.

From then on, the action, the excitement and the plot wane. Individual performances and the music bring back, some spark but basically the storyline doesn't have much to sustain it:

MANY OF THE LINES are unimagi-native and delivered blandly and with-out conviction. The speaking parts are generally poor, partly because of the material.

Review

But, ah, the singing. What the performers lacked in acting ability they made up for in mustical adeptness. Terry Armita Bass as the lead singer has a crying, almost wailing quality that is so popular these days. It would seem that she has places to go after graduation. To boot, she is a beauty. It was always a pleasure to listen to her. Dan Derkacz as the Phantom came on surprisingly strong after a rather uninspired first number. By the end it was clear that his was th most effective and moving male voice.

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Alan Spiller as Lucifer had fire in his eyes and voice. He was best when sign in an evil 10 net.

OTHER COMPENT singing performances were given by Gary De Var and Nancy M. Bright. Christopher Other had been been singing, gyrating number nearly brought down the house. Jerry Back as the rather slow-witted janitor added a nicely befuddet, tender touch.

Many of the dancers were hard to identify in the jumble of names and faces, but some of them were outstanding and there wasn't a weak link among and the wasn't a weak link among

faces, but some of them were outstanding and there wasn't a weak link among them.

The band never disappointed, never let down for a minute. Each new number was better than the ône before. All the performances — the singing and the dancing — were enhanced by the sounds produced.

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While the show is weak in many areas, it is worth attending for the grand singing, playing and dancing. Additional performances of this world-premiere production will be given on the evenings of Priday-Sunday June 15, 16, and 17, with a matinee also on the 17th.



Terry Bass (left) and Dan Derkacz portray an opera star and The

1st anniversary party honors Green Quartet

Less performed with the Spinners and Jimmy Ruffin who's now with Motown. The public is being invited to especie 24, from 9 pm. 2 a.m.

The public is being invited to especie cae a festive evening, with jazz cuisine, drink and complimentary refreshments from owner-host Michael Kuckelman.

"There's not enough good jaza around, especially in the traditional New York style, which the Charles The Complete Caes and Policy Roman Rowland, vocalist with Green Quartet creates with exceptional talent," Kuckelman said.

Detroit born and bred, Green has studied, classical music from age 5.

Seeing 'Players'

When the melodrama "Players," which is all about tennis, opened Friday at the Maple 3 in Bloomfield Township, moviegoers were encouraged to wear tennis clothes to the opening.

And, not only was the audience dressed for the sport, but even the ushers were tennis garb. It was all part of a promotion arranged with Call it Love, a tennis store in Orehard Lake Mall in West Bloomfield. In the film, the tennis outfits are designs by Fila. Call it Love's creator Eleanor Lakin introduced Fila's fabrics and designs directly from Italy to Detroit.

"Players" stars Ali MacGraw and Dean-Paul Martin, with Pancho Gonzalex and Guillermo Vilas.

Throughout the run of the film, ushers will wear the lisle cotton Fila tennis clothes, identified by stripe, square and check designs.



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