



The Star Theater of Flint presents "Don't Drink the Water" Tuesday-Sunday, July 24-29. Actor and television personality Paul Lynde stars. Performances will be at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, with a 2:45 p.m. matinee Saturday. Sunday performances are at 2:45 and 7:30 p.m. Call the box office at 239-1464 for ticket information.

Paul Lynde stars in Allen comedy

Paul Lynde will star in Woody Allen's comedy, "Don't Drink the Water" opening Tuesday, July 24 at the Star Theater of Flint.

The play will run through Sunday, July 29, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday evening performances will be at 8:30, and at 7:30 on Sunday.

The play is about a caterer from Newark, his wife, and daughter who go abroad and end up in a U.S. Embassy in an iron curtain country because Daddy

took pictures of some top secret military bases.

"Don't Drink the Water" first ran in New York in 1966 and had a Broadway run of 17 months.

Co-starring as Lynde's wife will be Denise Lor. Ms. Lor began her career at the Center Theater in New York, and has toured in shows such as "Funny Girl," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Mame."

For more information and ticket reservations call the Star Theater's box office at 239-1464.

'Fiddler on the Roof' proves less is more

By EDWARD TOWNLEY

The Will-O-Way Repertory Theater production of "Fiddler on the Roof" that opened last weekend at the Bloomfield Hills theater is a delight. Director Celia Merrill Turner and a large talented cast have turned space and budget limitations into surprising assets as they demonstrate that less is sometimes more.

What often gets lost in more lavish productions of this musical perennial is the fact that beneath the slick Broadway facade provided by collaborators Joseph Stein, Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Bock beats a heart as pure and simple as the Sholom Aleichem stories from which the story is taken. Tevye and his daughters are very poor and very human — the stuff of folk songs and fairy tales.

The Will-O-Way production, making a virtue of necessity, strips away the glitter and shows us the people, problems and emotions that remain. The result is a warm, moving and intimate evening.

"WHAT WILL become of our traditions?" asked Tevye at Saturday night's performance, and the fact that President Carter posed the same question one night later underlines the timeliness of the "Fiddler" theme. The Jewish dairy man in czarist Russia finds the absolutes he has lived by crumbling; tradition gives way to progress, parents give way to children, submission gives way to defiance. And

through it all, and despite it all, everyday village life goes on in all its humor and richness.

Jack Cortes is a sly and charming Tevye, particularly in his discussions with his God. The other roles are being alternated within the company as the run progresses; the level of Saturday's performance was surprisingly high.

In particular, Shirley Benyas, Tina Turner, Eileen Wels and Michelle Levine as Tevye's wife and marriageable daughters created a believably warm, loving and querulous family unit. Like nearly everyone in the large company, they brought focus and energy to solo moments and crowd scenes alike.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR David Wilson with violinist Bruce Davidson and oboist Ed Benyas — kept the rich score fresh and the voices clear and precise, although the tempo in several ballads threatened to stand still altogether.

Michelle Levine has contributed simple and believable folk dances; these are not professionals flawlessly executing Jerome Robbins' choreography. But when did you ever see everyone in step at a real wedding celebration? They have energy and they have fun, and so will you.

The Will-O-Way Repertory Theater has a long history in its apple barn theater, and in these days of prepackaged superstars, it seems a delightful throwback to a more relaxed time. You'll think of Judy Garland in "Summer Stock." And you'll enjoy "Fiddler on the Roof" in playing weekends through August 25.

Pat Shuffler of Redford and Alice Vial of Detroit as Ernestine; Esther Lekich of Warren and Evelyn Harper of Rochester as Ermengard.

Wayne Brumm of Birmingham will play Rudolph, while Nora Van Deven of Birmingham and Sally Burns of Troy play Mirale Pay.

In addition to the cast, the show will feature the 60-member South Oakland County Chorus. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

Mrs. St. Amand is assisted by co-chairwoman Jacki Kaye, musical director of the S.O.C. Chorus. Kathi Bush of Warren is the choreographer. Set design and scenery is under the direction of Ruth Sommers of Rochester.

This year's show will be the South Oakland County Chapter's third presentation of a barber shop production patterned after a Broadway musical. In 1975, they joined with the Macomb County Chapter of Sweet Adelines in "A Salute to Music Man." In 1977, the South Oakland County Chapter successfully staged four performances of "Hats Off to Oklahoma!"

For ticket reservations, call 689-0026.

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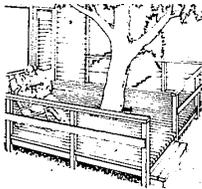
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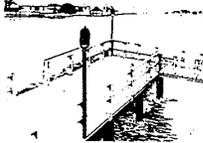
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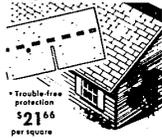
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Fall show announced.

"A Toast to Dolly" will be the 1979 show of the South Oakland County Chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc.

The barbershop adaptation of one of Broadway's biggest hits will be presented on Oct. 26-27 and Nov. 2-3 at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills at 8:15 p.m.

The cast was selected from auditions open to all barbershop quartets in the Detroit area. Because of the abundance of talent evidenced during the auditions, it was decided to have two casts this year. Since the performances are scheduled for two weekends, each cast will perform on a Friday and a Saturday night.

Sharing the title role of Dolly are Karen Hudson of Taylor and Carol Sanders of Detroit.

Playing opposite Dolly, in the role of Horace, are Dick Liddicate of Sterling Heights and John Roher of Warren. Miss Malloy is played by Connie Lepke of Royal Oak and Betty Kraft of Sterling Heights; and Bruce LaMarte of Ferndale and Tom Wing of Warren share the role of Cornelius.

Also in the cast are Bruce Young and OAI Fisk, both of Rochester, as Barnaby,

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