

Paul Anka, superstar, puts on a terrific, long show

By GARY D. LIGHTMAN

Review

Wednesday night's crowd at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston applauded and screamed for more, after Paul Anka's two-hour, fifteen-minute set came to a close.

From the crowd's reaction, one

surmised that everyone left Pine Knob well satisfied for their money's worth of entertainment for one evening.

Jazz pianist gives concerts

Jazz pianist Barry Harris will be the featured performer at the Detroit Institute of Arts "Jazz at the Institute" on Thursday, Aug. 2. Two performances will be given at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the museum's Kresge Court.

Born in Detroit in 1929, Harris graduated from Northeastern High School. As house pianist for Detroit's Blue Bird Lounge, Harris played back-up for such nationally known jazz stars as Miles Davis, Sonny Stitt, Max Roach and Lester Young. Transplanted in New York,

Harris has performed with Coleman Hawkins and Charles McPherson, as well as his own groups.

Tickets at \$5 per person are available in advance through the museum ticket office (832-2730), and on an availability basis, and at the door. Entrance for jazz at the Institute will be through the museum's John R Street door. Wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks may be purchased.

For a complete listing of all upcoming jazz at the Institute concerts and ticket information, call 832-2730.

Ted Knight surpasses playhouse's ticket record

Actor Ted Knight, who for seven years played dim-witted anchorman Ted Baxter on TV's "Mary Tyler Moore Show," set a new box office record at the Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City July 17-22.

Knight, appearing in "The Impos-

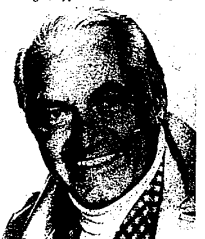
sible Years," was the first actor there to do 100 percent business.

Knight played the part of Dr. Kingsley, a psychiatrist who is writing a book about teenagers, in the Bob Fisher and Arthur Marx comedy. Knight's daughter, Elyse, played the part of one of his two daughters. The Cherry County Playhouse performance marked the first time Knight and his daughter had appeared on the same stage.

Knight studied theater at the American Theatre Wing. He appeared in West Coast productions of "The Rivalry," "Critics Choice," "Compulsion" and "Inherit the Wind."

Miss Knight appeared in several productions as a theater arts major at San Francisco State College, including "Godspell," "Company" and "Guys and Dolls." She will be seen this fall in "Habeas Corpus."

After leaving Traverse City, Knight is traveling to the Playhouse in the Park in Philadelphia, Pa., and the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, Mass.



TED KNIGHT

Talbert hosts benefit for MD

Bob Talbert, Detroit newspaper columnist, will be the master of ceremonies for "Happy Day," a benefit for muscular dystrophy (MD) 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, in the Birmingham Theatre.

Ron Kruman, benefit coordinator, noted, "With the addition of a puppeteer, we hope to make the afternoon event an ideal one for the whole family."

Previously announced stars include singer Phil Marcus Esser, guitarist Ron Coden and other Detroit singers and comics.

Tickets priced at \$5 are on sale at the Birmingham Theatre box office. Check should be made out to: The Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Music Hall hit in final week

"Your Arms Too Short to Box With God" is approaching its final week at Detroit's Music Hall Center. Saturday, Aug. 4, is the last scheduled performance date.

Box office revenues reached their peak during the fourth week of "Arms Too Short," with \$153,110 in weekly ticket sales. The show will move on to Chicago following the final Music Hall performance.

Showtimes for "Arms Too Short"

will change for the final week only. Evening performances are at 8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, July 30-Aug. 2. Two shows are scheduled for Friday, Aug. 3 (7 and 10 p.m.), and Saturday, Aug. 4 (2 and 8:30 p.m.).

Tickets are available at the box office, 350 Madison Avenue, or by calling 963-7680 during business hours Monday through Saturday.

Call Joan Heidt at 963-7622 for information on group rates.

A LITTLE TRIVIA: "Somewhere In Time," with Christopher Reeve, is not the first major motion picture filmed on Mackinac Island. In 1947, Esther Williams and Jimmy Durante

starred in "This Time for Keeps." The pool at the Grand Hotel originally was built for a scene with Ms. Williams. Alas, because the pool was not heated, she never swam there.

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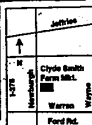
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Anka, a self-described short person, performed his rendition of the Randy Newman classic "Short People," as well as his own piece, "Tall People." He told the audience he wrote this song while spending an evening with one of his taller friends, Paul Williams.

It was apparent that Anka was having a good time performing at Pine Knob. He walked out into the audience numerous times throughout the show — a rarity for performers. He appeared more than happy to shake hands and greet his audience.

THE SHOW also included the only commercial he ever did, the song Eastman Kodak later took on as its trademark, "The Times of Your Life." While performing the hit, Anka showed mov-

ies of his early years — performing before fainting girls, as well as recent pictures of his wife, Annie, and their five daughters.

Anka's music has changed since the '50s. He no longer writes the early rock 'n' roll ballads that had the girls screaming and swooning at the Paramount, songs such as "Lonely Boy," "Puppy Love," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" and the song he wrote for his younger brother's babysitter in 1957, "Diana."

In 1973, such golden oldies just remain memories, demonstrated by his most recent gold records "Having My Baby," "I Don't Like to Sleep Alone" and "This Is Love."

Few performers possess the many talents of Anka. According to the superstar, "I'd probably be zero with-

out my songwriting." He acknowledges that about one-third of his annual income is derived from songs he has written.

The average person may not be aware that many of the songs heard on radio and television were written by Anka, such as the theme song for the "Tonight" show, "Here's Johnny"; "She's a Lady" (the Tom Jones theme); a song he wrote for the late Buddy Holly, "It Doesn't Matter Anymore," recently recorded by Linda Ronstadt; as well as Sinatra's gold record "My Way."

AT AGE 38, Anka remembers well his humble beginnings. He was born in Ottawa, Canada, where his Lebanese-

Canadian parents owned and operated restaurants.

At 13 he traveled to Los Angeles to record an album for RPM Records but recalls, "The record stilled out completely, so that fall I went back to Canada — a 13-year-old failure!"

Two years later he went to New York with \$100 make-or-break money and a tape recording of four of his best songs including the hit that sold 20 million copies, "Diana." This was the beginning of his climb to stardom.

To his list of talents as a singer, songwriter and entertainer, he has recently invested in a discotheque in Las Vegas, coincidentally named after one of his big hits, "Jubilation."

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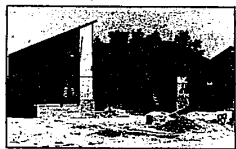
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