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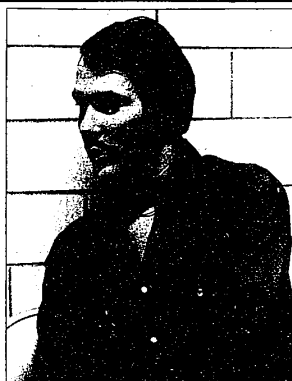
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Steven Goldsmith plays Carl, the bus driver.



Carol Gorman and Whit Vernon are among Screen Actors Guild professionals appearing in the Southfield Civic Theatre's production of "Bus Stop." Ms. Gorman plays Cherie and Vernon is Dr. Lyman.



Chuck Springer is Bo Decker, the cowboy who falls in love with Cherie.

## Professional actors join cast of show

Story: DONALD V. CALAMIA  
Photos: RON JEASON

Many civic and community theaters are pleased when they are able to cast one professional actor in their shows. Others are deliciously happy when two professionals join their group.

The Southfield Civic Theatre, though, considers itself honored that its current production "Bus Stop" has five professional actors in it.

The five performers are J. Craig Collicott, Steven Goldsmith, Carol Gorman, Chuck Springer and Whit Vernon, all members of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG).

According to Artistic Director John Puchalski, "Bus Stop" should be the group's best show.

"WE'D BEEN PLANNING as this is 'Bus Stop's' 25th anniversary. Tom Emmott, the show's director, and I never dreamed that we'd have

such a superb production on our hands."

It was through Chuck Springer that all the professionals joined the cast. "I was in a SAG workshop one day when a friend of mine who was taking a class from Tom Emmott told me about 'Bus Stop' auditions and so I went," Springer said. "I was impressed with Emmott and liked the way he ran his auditions and what he did with his actors on stage, so I joined the cast."

Emmott told me that he still headed a couple of men for certain roles. I then called a few of my friends and they, too, joined the cast."

Steven Goldsmith said with a laugh, "In fact, I did my audition in the parking lot outside the tennis courts at the Southfield Civic Center because no one could find the keys to the building. Not everyone gets to audition in the middle of a parking lot in the winter!"

With the men's role secured, Emmott turned his attention toward locating one last woman to complete the cast. Springer said, "Tom realized that we were going to have a great show and that we needed a real standout to round out the show. That's when I called Carol Gorman."

Ms. Gorman said, "When I heard through the grapevine that a number of really talented SAG members were in the show, I just couldn't turn down the role."

FOR EACH OF THE professionals, joining the cast of "Bus Stop" was a rare opportunity to get back into live theater.

Whit Vernon said, "We all get offered the chance to do a number of live shows each year, but when you work professionally you can't always commit yourself to a seven- or eight-week period. This show runs one weekend only, and we had a

short rehearsal period."

"One thing I want to stress," Emmott said, "is that these people are no different than anyone else. They are late to rehearsals just like non-professionals. The only difference is the end product."

When not rehearsing "Bus Stop," each of the professionals is busy doing television commercials, industrial and slide films and modeling jobs. All of them agree there is plenty of work available in Detroit for the working professional.

"Detroit is probably the third best city in the country in which to find work," Ms. Gorman said. "We do more film work here than Hollywood, as we've got so many industrial film houses here. There's plenty of film work here, but you have to be willing to go out and look for it."

AN INSTRUCTOR at the West-Barron School of Television Acting in Southfield, Ms. Gorman began her

theater career at age 4. Her professional career, though, began as a go-go girl with the Four Seasons at the Masonic Temple. She then began singing in nightclubs and toured for a year with the USO.

For the last four years, Ms. Gorman has been concentrating on film, video and audio work and can be seen locally on a Bank of the Commonwealth commercial and on a Giant Foods ad on the east coast.

Vernon said, "To become successful in this business, what you need is time, desire and commitment. You have to really pour yourself into your work."

A versatile actor, Vernon appeared in more than 80 plays in various regional and community theaters before appearing on Broadway in "Song of Bernadette" and "Macbeth."

After appearing in soap operas, Vernon returned to Detroit in time to work on such radio dramas as

"The Lone Ranger," "The Green Hornet" and "Sgt. Preston of the Yukon."

He currently can be seen in a local commercial for Standard Federal Savings, and he serves as a spokesman and narrator in various industrial and slide films.

Springer said, "What impresses me about Detroit actors and models is that they're very personable. This is a competitive business and you'll find a certain amount of snobishness, but Detroit professionals are different."

"THE PEOPLE I compete against have turned out to be some of my closest friends. Detroiters are also willing to help you in this business which is very important. We all learn something from others."

Known as the top male model in Detroit, Springer is currently the

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Michael Tolaydo, a graduate of Oakland University's old Academy of Dramatic Art, returned recently with his one-man show "St. Mark's Gospel." (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)



Ethel Simmons

Being in a one-man show, in which he plays dozens of characters is no problem for actor Michael Tolaydo. The tough part is the traveling.

"If anything, traveling is sometimes more grueling," he said, contrasting the rigors of the road with the ease of performing in front of a live audience.

Tolaydo recently appeared at Oakland University, starting in two performances of "St. Mark's Gospel." The shows on campus near Rochester were sponsored by the School of Performing Arts.

He will appear in "St. Mark's Gospel" Thursday, March 20, at the Power Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The touring production has seen Tolaydo do as many as five shows in five nights in five places.

"I've been known to go from West Coast to East Coast," he said, describing

the unusual swings of his bookings. "That slowly builds on you, because all the hotels are the same."

ALL OF THE ABOVE was said lightly by Tolaydo, a pro who has lived and traveled throughout the world, both in his professional and private life.

Born in Kenya, he went to school in England and college in the United States, including ones in Houston and the old Academy of Dramatic Art at OU. He graduated from the academy and went on to appear in Meadow Brook Theatre productions for two seasons.

The brown-eyed actor, with a headful of curls, talked about his career while having his morning coffee at the Kingsley Inn where he was then staying.

Asked about the kind of parts he gets to play, based on his appearance, To-

## On stage easier than road

laydo said, "I have a very classic face. A European type face, with classic bone structure."

He's more likely to be chosen to play the character who has breeding, rather than a street tough. But, "I'd like to play everything," he said.

TOLAYDO ALREADY has had a number of good shows to his credit. "I've been very lucky. I've worked steadily," he said.

He appeared on Broadway in the musical "The Robber Bridegroom," an ensemble show in which he played Herman MacLaughlin, one of the townspeople.

He portrayed Chamberlin in Tom Stoppard's "Dirty Linen," a hit on Broadway. It ran about three years ago, for six months.

Tolaydo hadn't been back to OU for about 10 years, until his performances (Continued on page 4D)

## Panelists explore theme 'Woman Against Herself'

By GAIL DeGEORGE

Lost dreams and bitter hopes haunt the women in Paul Zindel's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds."

At a panel discussion March 16, the audience will get a chance to explore themes brought out in the latest production of Oakland University's Student Enterprise Theatre.

"Woman Against Herself" will use the play's ideas as a springboard for discussing woman's place in today's society. On the panel will be Oakland University staff members Wilma Garcia, women's studies specialist, Sandy Webster, who teaches a women's psychology class, Robert Eberwein, associate professor of English and films, and the Rev. Sherry Mattison, St. John Fisher chaplain.

Although the social pressures on women are different than they were in the 1950s (the time period of Zindel's

play) they have not disappeared, said Ms. Garcia. The roles of women have changed, but not as much as some may think, she said.

The play focuses on Beatrice, a lonely, intelligent, bitter woman who is trapped by society's pressures and her own failures. She supports her two children by caring for sick or aging persons in her home, a converted warehouse once owned by her father.

Ruth, the eldest daughter, seems destined to endure similar empty circumstances.

Only Tillie is able to use her intelligence and love of science to rise above the situation. Her experiment for the school science fair, noting the effects of gamma rays on Man-in-the-Moon marigolds, illustrates the play's theme.

"Beatrice is any person's potential," said Ms. Bright. "She is the epitome of what can happen when people allow themselves to indulge in self-pity."

Director David Stevens said that although the play ends on a note of hope

for Tillie, there is despair for the lives of Beatrice and Ruth.

"It is Beatrice's play," he said. "We see her as she was, is, and could have been. She is caught between what society didn't let her do, and what she didn't do herself."

Most plays have only small roles for women, but "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" has two "fabulous roles" for women in Beatrice and Ruth, said Stevens.

The cast stars Nancy M. Bright of Warren as Beatrice; Lisa Marie Kaleita of Otisville as Ruth; Flora McIntyre of Pontiac as Janice Vickery; and Henrietta Kryskalla of Rochester as Nancy.

The play opens tonight for a three-weekend run — March 14-16, 21-23 and 28-30.

Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. for Friday and Saturday performances. Sunday shows are 6:30 p.m. with matinees March 23 and 30.



Nancy Bright (left) portrays Beatrice and Lisa Kaleita is Tillie in the Student Enterprise Theatre

presentation of "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds."