

Dynamic director organizes 'Globe' discussion

By MATT GERSON

Yolanda Fleischer, the director of Wayne State University's Studio Theatre production of three "Sholom Aleichem" stories, is a very industrious lady.

Besides the play, her second directorial effort, she helped organize a symposium last spring on the planned "Second Globe Theatre" to be constructed in the Detroit riverfront area.

Experts on Shakespearean theater from as far away as England attended, held discussions and heard lectures. Ms. Fleischer assisted director of WSU theaters Leonard Leone.

She coordinated the lectures, directed the delegates to the different events and helped with transportation and lodging.

The "Sholom Aleichem" show is one of four this season being presented for the Don Blakeley Scholarship, a fund set up five years ago to raise money for Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) students. Explaining the reasons for the scholarship, named in honor of a theater faculty member who died at an early age,

Fleischer notes, "Most BFA theater people hold down two or three other jobs. We want to increase their stipends so they can devote more time to the theater."

Ms. Fleischer herself is working under a Wayne State doctoral fellowship. Clifford Odel's Depression era "agitprop" (social commentary) drama last year was her final directing assignment for her program.

IN ADDITION, Ms. Fleischer is doing her dissertation, on a critical analysis of the situation today for professional women theatre playwrights and directors, focusing particularly on the job outlook on and off-Broadway. She will go to New York May 10 for a series of interviews with seven directors.

Ms. Fleischer observes "virtually nothing has been written about this subject before," and that she particularly wants to detail the problems coping with the "male bastion" of Broadway Theatre — learning the business of theater, figuring out the budget of a production, the risks that have to be

taken and the outlook and possibilities in the future in the field.

"I am particularly interested in why so few women are working in the higher levels of production. Women shouldn't be seen as just access material. They can function well in all areas, and New York needs their artistic inroads now more than ever," she explains.

MS. FLEISCHER notes that she enjoys the wide variety and ages of the students and community people who audition and act in the studio theatre productions. But she laments that "when the actors are forced to do everything — lighting and all the techni-

cal work, with people rushing from their role to other duties — it's so hard to do a truly high quality show."

Also, many of the Wayne State actors have other commitments to the Hilberry or Bonstelle productions in tandem with her play. She points out that as happy as she is to be doing the Sholom Aleichem work, "it was only one of many other plays I really wanted to do."

The three plays — "Tale of Shelm," Bontchescheig ("Bunty the Silent"), "High School" deal with differing reactions to social and economic hardships that characterized Jewish life in the ghettos.

what's at the movies

ALL THAT JAZZ (R). Tour de force by writer-director-Bob Fosse. Roy Scheider plays hard-driving, fast-living choreographer (Fosse) in "behind the scenes" story of unusual imagination and energy.

BEING THERE (PG). Peter Sellers is a TV-educated economist in satire that pokes fun at our political and social conceits.

THE BLACK MARBLE (PG). Paula Prentiss and Robert Foxworth in offbeat, romantic comedy about two ill-matched L.A. cops.

BLACK STALLION (G). Story about a boy and a horse told in rich visual images. Terrific performance by Mickey Rooney as an ex-jockey who befriends the boy.

CHANGLING (R). George C. Scott in haunted house tries to unravel

mystery of a child-murder that took place decades ago.

CHAPTER TWO (PG). Autobiographical Neil Simon story about a man starting over after death of his wife.

COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER (PG). Sissy Spacek is outstanding as Loretta Lynn in movie bio of country singer's grueling early years and troubled success.

FOLKES (PG). Adventure flick with Roger Moore heading up team of unusual underwater sabotage experts and problem of hijacked oil platform.

FOXES (R). Four San Fernando Valley teenage girls face problems and pressures of growing up.

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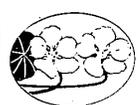
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