

### Comedy Opens At 24-Karat

Don Alan, an uncanny humorist who has won plaudits from world-famous comedians, will open a two-week engagement at the 24 Karat Club, Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Alan has appeared on the Ed Sullivan, Johnnie Carson, Mike Douglas and Sammy Davis Jr. television shows; at the Palladium in London, England, and at clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada.

By WALLY ROBERTS

## 'CURTAIN GOING UP'

The Ann Arbor Civic Guild, a community theater organization noted for their high standard of excellence, have clashed through the experimental barrier with an initial summer season of workshop productions.

For the months of July and August, a hard-working group of Ann Arbor Civic thespians gave local audiences a chance to see three productions over a period of some six weeks. Plays ran the gamut from farce to the classic Chekhov period piece "Uncle Vanya."

THE CHEKHOV play was the last on the summer schedule and brought the season to a happy, fun-filled conclusion. Director Dave Siglin staged this venerable classic with the sure touch of a Broadway professional. His ability to bring out the creative best in each member of the cast was evident all evening.

"Uncle Vanya" is not one of the better scripts that Anton Chekhov wrote. His "Three Sisters" and "Cherry Orchard" scripts are more mature pieces of dramatic art. "Vanya" was written during his formative years (1886-88) as an author, director, and actor. A good share of the writing was repetitive and discursive.

Director Siglin solved the problem neatly by deleting almost a third of the original script. Horrors! Not that Surely, Siglin didn't take such liberties. A classic violated!

Yes, he did. The results were a lively "Uncle Vanya." The joys and frustrations of early Russia to be found on some of the large estates was all there and quite understandable. By cutting away some of the chaff, the audience could cope with most of the Chekhov philosophy. Sense emerged out of chaos.

Charles Stallman in the leading role of Uncle Vanya projected the complex feelings of an embittered, middle-aged human being caught up in this vortex of time.

Let's hope the Ann Arbor Civic Guild continues the summer workshop on a permanent basis. In fact, there's no reason why their workshop building couldn't be in operation during their regular season.

Other community groups might take a lesson from the Ann Arbor Civic and plan to use their warehouse, storage rooms, or meeting places as small, intimate theaters. This production of "Uncle Vanya" (in the round) with the audience limited to 60 observers was a flawless gem.

Director Siglin paced his production perfectly. The edited script ran only one hour and 50 minutes with two intermissions.

## Youth Symphony Sets Auditions

The Livonia Youth Symphony Society will start its season Saturday, Sept. 7, with rehearsals and auditions in Stevenson High School, \$3500 Six Mile, Livonia.

The society maintains three orchestras: A String Orchestra for fifth through seventh grades; a Junior Orchestra for junior high school students; and a Youth Symphony for students of high school through college age.

Rehearsals for all present orchestra members will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

There are a limited number of openings in each orchestra. Students wishing to audition may contact the conductor of each respective orchestra. They are as follows: String Orchestra, Albert Larson, 261-3338; Junior Orchestra, Robert Randall, 425-7165; Youth Symphony Orchestra, Lester Parkas, PA 1-8817.

### Last Film Set

Wayne State University's Cinema Guild will present the last film in a summer series for children at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 31, in the Helen L. DeLoe Auditorium on Wayne's campus. The feature will be "The Three Worlds of Gulliver," plus three cartoons. Admission is free.

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