

# Barry Manilow wows the crowd

By NICK CHARLES

Look out, Las Vegas! Barry Manilow goes all out, from sequined shirts to valet parking. The singer/songwriter appeared Friday-Tuesday at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston.

Manilow was nowhere to be seen as the orchestra played a medley of his hits behind the curtain. All that was in sight was his piano and a picture of his face made out of lights.

Finally Manilow walked on stage very nonchalant in a beige blazer. He opened the show with "Ready to Take a Chance Again," which he wrote for the Chevy Chase/Goldie Hawn movie "Foul Play."

"This is spectacular," said Manilow as he looked out at the thousands of people filling the seats and covering every inch of the lawn.



BARRY MANILOW

THE NEXT SONG was "Who's Been Sleeping in my Bed" from Manilow's eighth and most recent album, "One Voice" (Arista). The supposedly shy singer made "Elvis the Pelvis" look like Howdy Doody with some of his gyrations.

Still, all the songs were performed to perfection. Manilow perched upon his tall piano stool to play Gino Cunico's "When I Wanted You," Ian Hunter's "Ships," and "Rain," which he co-wrote with Adrienne Anderson.

Manilow announced that he was a freak for '40s music. He then did what he called "a clump" of songs that sounded like they were from the '40s. The set included the "Jump Shout Boogie" from his fourth album, "This One's for You."

He continued to group his songs into sets all night long. His first group was called "Love, When It's Falling Apart."

The second set of songs, which he called "Love, When It Breaks Your Heart," featured the title tune from his third album, "Tryin' to Get the Feeling" and the title song from his sixth album, "Even Now."

MANILOW ENTITLED his next set "Roots," but there's no Kunta Kinte in my roots," he said.

"Every mother's dream, every kid's nightmare" Manilow said as he took out an accordion, which he learned how

## review

to play at the age of 7.

After a little bit of slow accordion music, he demonstrated to the audience that even new songs sound old on the accordion.

He proved this by playing Wild Cherry's "Play That Funky Music White Boy," K.C. and The Sunshine Band's "Get Down Tonight" and Rod Stewart's "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" all of which sounded like 1940s rejects.

One song that did sound good on the accordion was "I Don't Want to Walk Without You," which was complete with a tap dance interlude.

Manilow's next set: "Love in Different Cities," contained the beautiful "Weekend in New England." After the up-tempo "New York City Rhythm,"

Stagecrafters, beginning its 25th season in community theater, will hold open auditions for its fall production of Noel Coward's classic comedy "Blithe Spirit."

Tryouts will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday at 176 Bowers in Clawson. The show calls for two men and five women ranging in age from 20 to 60.

The play will be directed by Colleen

Manilow joined the urban cowboy craze as he sang in a cowboy hat in front of a mini-set which had the common props: a street lamp, a window and, of course, a fire hydrant.

After a 20-minute intermission Manilow was wheeled on stage in a giant Palm tree and conga drum set. He performed the popular "Copacabana" before peeling off his puffy silver sleeves.

THE 33-YEAR-OLD performer then preceded to wheel an electric piano to the front of the stage for an enchanting medley of TV commercials. The crowd enjoyed hearing him sing about Clearasil acne treatment, Band-aids and State Farm Insurance.

The beautiful love song medley followed the humorous one. Manilow pieced together "It's a Miracle," "Bandstand Boogie," "Daybreak," "This One's for You," "Looks Like We Made It," "Could It Be Magic" and "Mandy" for the fantastic finale.



## Will-O-Way sign stolen

Lego Mogill of Oak Park and Shirley Benyas of West Bloomfield look happy about their upcoming parts in the Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre production of "Cabaret," despite the fact that the theater is mourning the loss of its four-by-six-foot sign that says "Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre" and disappeared this weekend. The theater is willing to have the sign returned, no questions asked. The sign, which shows two theater masks wearing academic hats, borders the property on W. Long Lake Road in Bloomfield Township, indicating the entrance. Performances of "Cabaret" are scheduled at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday through Aug. 23. For tickets call 644-4418.

## Stagecrafters offers tryouts

Cummings of Troy, assisted by Amy Mosner of Royal Oak. Both were original cast members of the comedy when it opened the group's first season as the Clawson Players in 1956.

Production dates are Sept. 19-20, 25-27 and Oct. 2-4.

For more information call either Colleen Cummings at 643-0429, or Amy Mosner at 546-6579.

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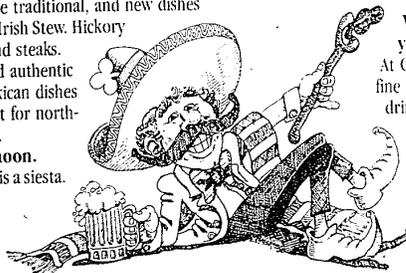
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