

Players' summer comedy marked with satire, bite

The Farmington Players summer production of "The Lady's Not for Burning" is billed as a comedy-satire of a 15th century witch hunt. The premise sounds zany, combining comedy with witch hunt, but it is exactly that.

Christopher Fry's play is a satire of the witch hunts plus all prejudice the world over, with a bite.

The entire play takes place in the home of Hebel Tyson, the mayor of a small medieval town. The zanyness starts with the introduction to Thomas Mendip who wishes to be hung for murders he didn't commit. Mendip is too much the coward to end it all himself, so he seeks out the law to do it for him.

Mendip is played by C.M. Novess III whose acting experience started in high school and whose major was theatre at Northern Michigan University. He was director for Farmington Players pro-

duction of "Caught in the Villain's Web." Dawn Walker plays the female lead, Jenet Jourdemayne, an English actress new to the Players but not to acting. She's been in drama classes since age 11. While living in England she was involved in Drama Festival and once performed multiple characters in Dylan Thomas' "Under Milkwood."

YOUNGEST actress on the stage is Bonnie Harrower, not yet out of high school, who takes the role of Allison Elliot. Work backstage at the Players Barn, she says, is preparing her for her career in theater production that she will study at Wayne State University.

Mike Frontczak, a newcomer to the Barn, takes the role of Nicholas Devise, a young man trying desperately to win the hand of Allison who is already engaged to his brother Humphrey. Mark Honeyman is in his first role at

the Barn as Humphrey but local playgoers saw him in North Farmington High School's production of "Hello Dolly."

John Hollingsworth brings a vast background in theater to his performance as the town mayor starting back in the early '50s when he was involved in WJR radio's "Make Way for Youth." The role of the chaplain is played by veteran actor George Martin who got his start in Will-O-Way Apprentice Theater. In the past 12 months he's performed major roles in 10 shows.

Tom Dougall, playing the role of Edward Tappercorn, is a veteran of stage, screen and radio, acting since 1928 on Broadway or in summer stock. He has written for both radio and television shows.

BY FAR THE funniest role in the play and perhaps the highlight of the third act comes from Dave McCabe's

portrayal of Old Skippis, the town drunk.

He has worked both as a stage and motion picture actor in Hollywood.

Director Hope Nahstoll takes on the added responsibility of performing the role of Margaret Devise. But for the charter member of Farmington Players, this is not a new experience for her.

She has starred in and directed three other plays in her career, including the first play produced at the barn, "The Torchbearers" in 1953.

She has directed 14 plays since then and calls upon all that past experience to handle the Shakespearean prose-type dialogue in "The Lady's Not for Burning."

The play continues in the barn on 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads Aug. 1-2. Tickets at \$3 each are available by calling the Players box office, 477-1066.



George Martin, (left) takes the role of the chaplain, while Thomas Dougall plays Edward Tappercorn in Farmington Players summer production of "The Lady's Not for Burning." Martin is a resident of West Bloomfield; Dougall comes from Farmington Hills.

Women artists invited to join festival

Space is still available for artists to display, demonstrate and sell their art during the second annual Fall Festival of Women's Works at Springfield Oaks County Park, Oct. 11-12.

"We especially need calligraphers,

dried flower arrangers, weavers, cake decorators and ethnic cooks, but all artists are welcome," said Anne Clinton-Circoco, the show coordinator.

Painters, photographers, quilters,

bakers and basket weavers are among the artists who are now registered for the show.

Applications can be obtained by calling Ms. Clinton-Circoco at 625-8133. The festival is sponsored by Oakland

County Parks and Recreation Commission and supported by Northwest Oakland County Council for the Arts.

Springfield Oaks County Park is on Andersonville Road, at Hall Road, in Davisburg.

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