Cross-purposes confuse 'Thieves' Carnival' farce

By BARBARA MICHALS
Laughter is a reliable gauge of a
comedy's success, but the laughter
was only sporadic on opening night as
Meadow Brook Theatre began its 15th

Meadow Brook Theatre began its 15th season last were season last were season last were dearly a contant farce by Jean Anouilh, continues through Nov. 2, on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Despite assembling an impressive cast of accomplished veterans, the production lacks the unified, grand sense of style needed to make it more than passably pleasant. Director Tereace Kilburn has included bits and pieces of

review

stylized stage business, but either he couldn't decide which tack to pursue or he was willing to try anything to sauce the very thin plot. Barbara Bergés icily cool postured mannerisms, Gary Mach's alry ballet and mime routines; and the finale's bouncy tomfoolery are examples of styles that are pleasing on their own but clash with one doother.

New decor, menu enhance Eden Glen

tationate. The most significant changes at Eden Glen have taken place in the restaurants main dning room. New dising areas have been created with the placement of booths in small groupings.

In the center of the room, a raised seating area has been added, dividing the room into different levels to add more dimension to the dining area.

Eden Glen restaurant, 2085 W. Big Beaver, Troy, has kicked off its seventh year of operation with a new book. Eden Glen Manager Gordon Bow. Date 180,000 has been spent erically glidting and fabric on the room's

Eden Glen restaurant, 2085 W. Big Beaver, Troy, has kicked off its seventh beaver of operation with a new look. Eden Glen Manager Gordon Borman said some \$80,000 has been spent on an extensive remodeling of the restaurant. The most significant changes at Eden Glen have taken place in the restaurant's main dining room. New difficulties the season of t

Mobius offers show '2 by 2'

Mobius Theatrical Productions is presenting "2 by 2" in cooperation with the Dearborn Civic Players. Performances continue at 8:15 pm. Thursday-Saturday at Mobius' 44-82 at theater at 57 W. Huron, Pontiac.

The muistical is based on the story of will be exhibited in the lobby.



SET AT A FASHIONABLE French resort in 1912, the plot involves three bungling thieves intent on victimizing a wealthy society matron and her two young nieces. The world-weary matri-arch turns the tables on the thieves, manipulting them into a scheme to re-lieve her benefit

lieve her boredom.

Polly Rowles is a stately Lady Hurf, but she conveys the character's boredom to the point where her own flat delivery suggests she is bored with the role. "Intrigues spring up at our feet like jungle vegetation," Lady Hurf declares tronically just before she decides to take matters into her own hands and enliven the proceedings.

Harry Ellerbe is a delightful caricature as the befuddled old Lord Edgard, though his relationship to Lady Hurf is never quite clear. Is he husband, friend, old lover, or none of the above?

As Eva, the elder niece, Barbara Berge's icy hauteur effectively con-

Dine Out

the DRY DOCK

trasts with Melanie Resnick's dreamily romantic Juliet, the younger niece.

Ms. Berge looks situaning in her costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell, but a good deal of the other costumes look rather homespon and ill-fitting.

Terence Marian is appealingly earnest as Gustave, the youngest thief, a curious mixture of practicality and romanticism. He pairs well with Ms. Resnick's convincing ingenue.

ALLAN STEVENS and Donald Ewer ALLAN STEVENS and Donate Ewer are adequate as the inept thieves whose various disguises fool nobody but them-selves. They poke fun at their younger companion's eagerness but are unable to set much of an example for him.

The comedy works best whenever A.D. Cover and Bob Murdy appear as a father-and-son team of outrageous fortune-hunters. Cover, whose hilarious Spettique in last season's "Charley's Aunt" was a classic, can convey comic

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subtleties effortlessly. Murdy's squeaky voice and self-effacing stance are comic gems. Dressed in gariah Hicks are art noveau in style and attactive in shafes of mauve, blue and matching outlits, the pair produces most of the evening's laughs.

The simple sets by Peter-William Hicks are art noveau in style and attactive in shafes of mauve, blue and matching outlits, the pair produces most of the evening's laughs.

To are affective but seem rather sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse for the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the Meadmanner of the sparse of the size of the





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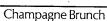
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