Caren Hebenstreit of Sterling Heights (left) plays Sarah Brown and Cecil Orman of Birmingham is Miss Adelaide in Farmington Players production of "Guys and Dolls." (Photo by Pat Boardman)

Show lives up to expectations

characters.

The current production by the Farm-ington Players boasts exceptionally skillful performances blended into a

fun evening.
"Guys and Dolls" continues its run at the Farmington Players' Barn Theater at 8:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday through Nov. 22.

Based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon, the plot focuses on Broadway's saints and sinners, as the Save-a-Soul mission tries to make some inroads amongst the gamblers and

other sleazy Broadway types.

JONNY KATZ brings a special warmth to his portrayal of Nathan Detroit, the persistent entrepreneur who runs "the oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York." Nathan is a plucky survivor, rebounding from the pressures of the police, his flancee, and a visiting hood from Chicago.

Katz's Nathan is a lovable rascal, with most of the hard edges rubbed off.

As Miss Adelaide, Nathan's long-suf-

fering fiancee, Ceci Orman achieves perfection. Her nasal twang and dumblond sense of bewilderment are comic gems but never overplayed.

Throughout a 14-year engagement Adelaide has tried to reform Nathan and get him to the altar. Recently discovering that her chronic cold may be psychosomatic, she sings the humorous "Adelaide's Lament:" "For want of a band of gold, a person can develop a condition of the contract of the contr

Handsome Norman Colborne is a refreshingly polished Sky Masterson, the gambler who takes on a bet to seduce one of the mission's "dolls." Colborne's charm makes it feasible that the girl will fall head-over-heels for him.

AS SARAH, the mission "doll," Caren Hebenstreit does a fine job of capturing the character's frustrations, confusion and vulnerability. Though Ms. Hebenstreit's voice is a little harsh on the high notes, she and Colborne team for pleasant renditions of the romantic ballads "Ill Know" and "I've Never Been in Love Before." Ms. Hebenstreit nicely conveys Sarah's new-found exuberance in "If I Were a

Bell" and pairs with Ms. Orman for a lively "Marry the Man Today."

In the plum role of Nicely-Nicely, James Trick is outstanding, and he re-ceives able support from Mason Weaver as his sidekick Benny South-street. Trick has a strong stage pres-ence and a smooth delivery, while Weaver excells at deft facial expres-sions.

ence and a smooth delivery, while ence and a smooth delivery, while wave excelled at det fleated expressions.

Trick belts out a memorable "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat," Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat," The Offeest Established" and the title song. The latter is a comic triumph for Trick and Weaver.

Director June Payne and musical director Louise McColl have achieved fine work from the principals and the spirited and harmonious chorus. Pacing is hampered by awkward entrances and exits on the small Farmington stage.

Choreographer Susan Froberg turns out pleasing production numbers of "A Bushel and a Peck" and "Take Back Oly, Michigan Statistics of the dancers diminish an otherwise first-rate production.





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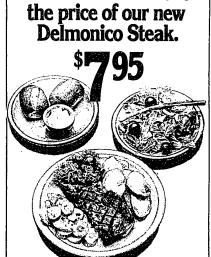
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