Humanity envelops drama 'Our Town'

Meadow Brook Theatre has staged

Meadow Brook Theatre has staged an impeccable and compelling performance of "Our Town." Under the direction of Edward Kaye-Martin, Thorton Wilder's play flourishes. Spanning by flourishes. Spanning by Foundard Families at the beginning of this century, the play opens a chink on humanity. Without experion, the actors describe the lineaments of the characters they play with discreet eloquence and wit. "Our Town" runs through Nov. 30 on the Oakhand University campus near Rochester.

HERE WE WITNESS life in Grovers HERE WE WITNESS HE HOTOVERS Corners, N.H.: in the kitchen, in the street, in the church yard and the church. Each scene ostensibly drama-tizes the homely ceremonies of simple people. Yet each is illuminated by a sense of the ternal.

people. Yet each is illuminated by a sense of the eternal. By Wilder's own design, the stage set is frugal to the point of being barren. Two tables, a handful of chairs, two ladders and two arbors, shuffled about, comprise the whole.

Eyecation is enough, Stage Manager

comprise the whole.
Evocation is enough, Stage Manager Peter Brandon sketching in the rest: the essentials of time, place and localor; the angle of the sun and the smells of a summer evening.
The actors fill in for missing cups and milk jugs with skillful mirning. The impact of such intentional invisibility is to create a sense of timelessness.

or the a sense of timelessness.

OTHER THEATRICAL devices in 'Our Town' contribute to this. The characters at times remain the characters at times remain the characters at times remain the characters at the characters at times the characters at times the characters at the character

review

supposed simplicity of the play. He summons and dismisses players with such an ease, we are sure it is his play, while at the same time, we know by the script he so ostentaciously refers to from time to time that the real author is offstage somewhere dreaming. This adds to the hint that life is but a repeating pattern in "Our Town," and to the haunting sequence of events which exist both inside and outside of time. supposed simplicity of the play. He summons and dismisses players with

which easies both instance and obcolor of time.

In an effort to inform the audience, the Stage Manager calls on Professor Willard to provide some sociological history of Grovers Corners. Bob Murdy gives a sprightly portrait of the acade-mician whose enthusiasm for his sub-ject borders on the absurd.

RON SEK IS restrained and graceful as Dr. Gibbs, an earnest country physi-cian married to the more imaginative Mrs. Gibbs. In this part, Jeanne Arnold frees her role from any apparent nar-rowness.

A.D. Cover plays Mr. Webb, Grovers

rowness.
A.D. Cover plays Mr. Webb, Grovers Corners' newspaper editor, with a sparkling intelligence. He balances wil with sentiment. As his counterpart Mrs. Webb, Flons Hale has a shary vit tailty. She comes forward out of the wedding scene to tell us delighted school of the balance of the

her part with an ingenuous vitality. She captures beautifully the precocious gravity of a young girl on the brink of

awareness.

IN THE FINAL act, while the dead sit upright on chairs clustered to stage left, we see Emily Webb's funeral procession and Emily herself gliding in a white gown toward her seat next to Mrs. Gibbs. Ms. Melnityre has surpassing grace here and in the following sequence when, choosing to relive her 12th birthday, she discovers life's sad uplicity. This is the poet's vision and Wilder's meaning, no doubt, when he decided to set "the life of the village against the life of the stars."

There are many sprightly bit parts in "Our Townt" which add both dimension and character to the play.

As the milkman Howie Newsome, Tom Mahard doffs his cap, talks to his invisible horse and offers his opinions on the weather with a perfect non-chalance of the play the selection of the play the selection of the play the selection of the work of the play the alcoholic organist Simon Stimon, both alive and later from the grave, with an acerbic temper.

Poking fun

'Gonzo Theatre' takes a jab at what's going on in Kelley Crowley, Beth Hallo, Hal Doyle, Ralph Valatmetro Detroit when the musical satire opens Priday at Stouffer's Showcase in the Northland Inn, Southtleld. The Southfield Repertory Theatre production features (from left) pianist Marlene Loucks, stand-in reservations call 569-4700. (Photo by Tom Treuter)

Film focuses on Netherlands

"The Netherlands" comes to life on screen in a color travel film at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at The Communi-Friday and Saturday at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham.

Tickets are available in advance at The Community House. For further information call 644-6832 Parking is adjacent to the building.

Russ Potter will narrate the armchair journey to Amsterdam to discover Holland's huge diamond cutting industry and the mining process in obtaining these fine germs.

A boat ride through Amsterdam's canals stops to visit the interesting house of Ann Frank; the Modern Art Museum — home of numerous, valuable Rembrandt and Van Gogh paint-

the canals.

THE SAME canals provide some of the world's largest and longest skating rinks in the winter. Thousands of people from tiny tots to those in their 80s and 90s are found enjoying ice skating, for sport, pleasure and as a means of transportation.

Winter in the Netherlands would not be complete without a visit from Santo-Claus, and the feast of Sinterklaus (as it is called there) shares this festive time with viewers through the camera of Ross Potter.

With springtime, the coastal resort

Ross Potter.
With springtime, the coastal resort
of Scheveningen comes to life, and the
audience will see fishermen with hun-

dreds of nets go to sea for the fresh catch of the day.

Spring also means tulip-time in the Netherlands. Viewers will visit the Deukenhof Gardens, world renowned for its multi-tool spectacle of thousands and thousands of tulips in bloom. Harvesting tulip bulbs for export at the City of Aalsmeer brings exporters from all corners of Europe to participate in this major auction of bulbs.

ALSO ON the travel agenda is Friesland, dairyland of the Netherlands. Here a weekly cheese market provides lougers with the famous Edam and Goule to the control of the providence of the control of th



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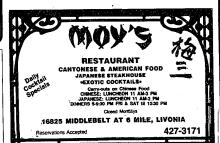
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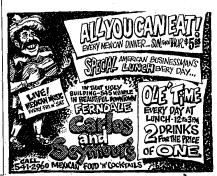


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