# Sprightly performances beef up weak production

Somerset Cinema Matinee extended The Somerset Inn Cinema I, II & III matinee until 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, in Troy has announced a fall inflationant at 2 price policy after 6 p.m. Monfighter special, extending its bargain day-Thursday.

COMERSET DINNER THEATRE

643-8865

By DONALD V. CALAMIA

The first Theatre Guild of Birming-ham's current production of "Two by Two" succeeds in entertaining its audi-ence primarily through the efforts of several highly energetic and talented performers.

several nigny energene and talence performers. If musical, written by Richard Rodgers, couldes its run Priday and Saturday and Kara endlerium, First Privarian Church, 1659 W. Maple. "Two by Two" follows the adventures of Noah who, after, a visit from God on his 690th birthday, tries to convince his unbelieving family that they must build an ark to save themselves from a terrible flood. The family, of course, is skeptical. Finally, with God's help, the family is convinced of the seriousness of the matter, and work on the ark is begun.

A HITCH THAT develops, though, is that two of every kind of creature has to accompany Noah on the ark, and Noah's youngest son is not married. In order to go with his family, the young-

order to go with his family, the young-est son must be married.

Throughout the ordeal, Noah's be-liefs are tested, but the family and ear-go finally board the ark for a year-long oryage. Eventually, the land is dry, and both humans and animals start new lives on a freshy cleansed world.

Leading off the cast as Noah is George Moore III. Moore avoids the stereotyped old man and brings to life an exciting, playful, yet fearful Noah who accepts the challenge given him

### review

with great enthusiasm.

Though Moore tends to "talk-sing" most of his musical numbers, he does them totally in character which makes his development of Noah quite accept-

able.

His eyes twinkling, Moore easily handles his comic lines with a flair nearly unmatched in community theater. It is obvious Moore knows his theatrical skills and limitations and uses them to their fullest.

their fullest.

CARTVING THE show with Moore is actress Harriet Fox, who plays Noah's wife, Esther. Unlike most amateur performers, Mrs. Fox has mastered the use of her face in conveying the meaning of her dialogue. Needless gestures are replaced by a raise of her eyehrows or a squint of her eyes which lets the audience in on Esther's innermost thoughts and feelings. Though Mrs. Fox had trouble with the lines of her song, "An Old Man," she rose above the average performer, remaining totally in character and making it appear as if nothing was wrong. The chemistry and comic timing between Moore and Mrs. Fox was a delight to watch. It's obvious they enjoy working together, which helps make this show enjoyable.

Another refreshing performance is given by Del Moore who plays the god-

dess of the golden ram, Goldie. Decked out in a skin-tight outfit and a blond corn-curl hair-do, Mrs. Moore's charac-ter is reminiscient of Madelin Kahn who portrayed Goldie in the show on Broadway.

HER DIMB-BLONDE characterization went far enough to remain funny and withy without getting on the nerves of her auditenee. Like Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Moore possesses one of the finest singring voices in the show.

Other satisfying performances and an are son, and Jim Brooks as the middle son, Hongwier by Jabe Davis as Shem, the eldest son, and Jim Brooks as the middle son, In undertaking his first directing asgiven by Jack Miller as Japheth, Noah's youngest son, who doubts God's with more experience he could become

intentions with the world, and is frustrated by the love of his world and the love for his family, Judy Trippett who plays Leah, the eldest son's wife, who plays Leah, the eldest son's wife, who can the the contract of the string husband's affairs; and Priscilla Summers as the innocent and lovely Rachel, wife of Noah's second son.

a good community theater director. This production, though, is flawed. It is only through the hardworking efforts of his cast that the show succeeds.

All the ingredients for an excellent

WHAT IS MISSING is tight directing in the group scenes. Actors who are speaking are blocked from view by other actors, and too many people are

Also, supporting characters are not fully developed, and they look bewildered by what's going on around them. With additional work on particular details within certain scenes, Lundra could improve this show tremedously.

Group choreography is also shaky, though Goldie's dance number "Tug Golden Ram" is delightfully sinful.

Information regarding "Two by Two" can be obtained by calling 528-3685.

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William Ingés Politzer Prize-win-ning drama "Pienie" is set to open April 24. "As You Like It," William Shakespeare's classic comedy, opens June 12. Topping off the season is a yet-to-be-announced new musical, slated for a July 17 opening.

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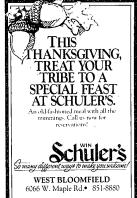
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