



The Ink Spots will perform at 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday at Somerset Mall in Troy.

Ink Spots gives 2 shows during festivities at mall

Gene Miller's Ink Spots will appear in two free shows, at 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday, to kick off the holiday season at Somerset Mall, Troy.

The day-long festivities begin with a choice of brunch and fashion show at 11 a.m. by Saks Fifth Avenue and Magic Pan Creperie, or attending a benefit for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra sponsored by Bonwit Teller at 10 a.m.

Tickets for the benefit are \$20 per person for the brunch and fashion show (children free). Children will see a puppet show and be visited by Santa and his Elves and Mimes.

Wayne State University's Jazz Band takes over the bandstand at noon to put guests in the spirit of the day. The Mime Time Players will roam the mall.

The Ink Spots will perform hits of the 1940s including "Do I Worry?"

"We Three," "Java Jive," "The Gypsy" and its first hit, "If I Didn't Care."

THE ORIGINAL group headed for the New York in 1938 to make it big. But, as so often happens with new talent in the big city, no one was buying. For a year members of the group worked as janitors at the Paramount Theatre.

The Ink Spots finally got the break the group had been waiting for and recorded "If I Didn't Care."

Gene Miller, leader of the group, joined the Ink Spots in 1946 when Duke Watson, leader of the original group, was still performing. Miller is first tenor and provides comic relief with some impressions during every set.

Nat Williams sings baritone and does most of the song narrations.

Paul Parks, bass, spent several years with the Illinois Jacquet Band before becoming a member, and Floyd McDaniels, tenor and guitarist, played with the famous Cab Calloway band.

Martin Scott Kosins, Detroit-born composer/pianist, will accompany the Ink Spots at the two shows. Kosins can be credited for the group's appearance. A fan since he was a child, Kosins met the group many years ago backstage after a performance. The friendship has continued through the years with get-togethers whenever the Ink Spots perform in the Detroit area.

WSU's Jazz Band fills in between shows. The mall fashion shops will have live models showing off holiday finery. Non-fashion shops will have demonstrations of their newest gift items.

Village Players stage uproarious production

The Birmingham Village Players production of Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's comedy "The Man Who Came to Dinner" is fast, funny and exactly what its authors intended it to be — delightful.

Directed by Dee Dwelley, the current production has a great deal of the manic energy and enormous charm of works such as "The Front Page" and '30s comedies that sent audiences home feeling exhilarated.

The show continues at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Village Playhouse at Chestnut and Hunter in Birmingham. Much of the credit for this luminous, joyful evening goes to Arnold Bernstein's superb performance as Sheridan Whiteside, the luminary who "comes to dinner" and stays on to wreck the Stanley home.

No invalid in a wheelchair ever looked more hale than Bernstein. Proving himself a trouper and a quick study, Bernstein learned the role of the legendary Alexander Wollcott in two weeks, after the actor originally cast became ill.

BUT BERNSTEIN is more than a good actor. He gives us a Whiteside who doesn't merely abuse hospitality; he carries abuse to a high art. And he has the poise to get away with it, the quick-wittedness to make us love him for his outrageous behavior.

Bernstein's booming voice, eloquent fustian and sheer joy in the kind of life Whiteside leads spills over to the rest of the cast and makes this a special production.

Lee Rosender is equally super as Lorraine Sheldon, the actress from Kansas who wants to marry Lord Bottomley. (Thank God we never meet Bottomley! There are enough crazy characters in this play to populate a small madhouse.)

"Cordie, don't stutter so, my darling, will you?" Ms. Rosender coos into the telephone, imagining she is speaking to Bottomley. She is assured, sleek, sexually personified.

Ms. Rosender's cupid-bow mouth, her fine movements, her lethal smile, great screams and marvelous hysterics when she finds herself tricked by an ex-lecturing man, are wondrous to behold.

Ms. Rosender has the role her talents have been crying out for in "the boudoir butterfly," Lorraine Sheldon.

Famous names fall like rain, and famous people drop in and out of the Stanley house in Ohio as Whiteside "recuperates," and tries to quash his sec-

review

retary's engagement to an Ohio newspaperman.

Larry Sweet is wonderfully loose and funny as Banjo. Banjo drops in to "avoid a woman in New York and Hollywood in general," and Nova Scotia is where he's going.

He manages to take Ms. Sheldon in a mummy case with him. God knows where they went. Sweet is equally funny as Professor Metz, an authority on insect life, who drops in with a fishbowl filled with roaches — Metz's idea of a gift.

One can hardly blame Rose Mary Schneider, who plays the proper Mrs. Stanley, for fainting and screaming a lot.

JOHN MC WILLIAMS as Mr. Stanley whips himself into an explosive frenzy when daughter June, played by Lisa Lowman, attempts to run off with a labor organizer in his factory, and his son, Richard, nicely played by Steve Colard, runs off to bum around as a photographer. Whiteside encourages these pursuits.

McWilliams, fairly frothing at the mouth, calls in deputies to evict his guest and is very good at shouting out the minutes Whiteside has left to "get out of my house!"

Albert Ratcliffe is positively wonderful as the dense Dr. Bradley, who confuses Whiteside's X-rays and who believes Whiteside is going to help him write a medical book. He does indeed make us believe he is, as Whiteside claims, "the best living argument for Stanley killing."

Dr. Bradley is packed off to help feed the penguins. The penguins eat the original script for Whiteside's Christmas Eve radio broadcast? Don't ask me to explain the penguins. Whether Admiral Perry or Shirley Temple sent them doesn't matter. They were delivered simply to bite Miss Preen, the long-suffering nurse.

Peggy McCall as Nurse Preen, "Mrs. Preen Custard," turns in a subdued performance until her outburst at the finale. She leaves the profession she entered to help suffering humanity "for a munitions factory." We understand why.

JO ANN BRITTON as Maggie Cutler, the secretary who has become indispensable to Whiteside, turns in a believable, intelligent performance. "Lay off!" she tells Whiteside when he refuses to understand that 10 years of high life have been great, but she has fallen in love and wants to settle down.

Maggie startles Whiteside by telling him he is a selfish man, and when she quits he understands he has really hurt her. Maggie thus sets in motion the final actions that redeem Whiteside.

John Hall is very funny as the talented, totally self-centered writer and actor, Beverly Carlton. Carlton's imitations of Bottomley on the phone nearly saves the day, but Carlton has really dropped in to recite his latest work and he makes his glamorous departure on schedule.

Kay LaForest as Sarah, the cook with dabs of flour on her face, is amusing. So is John Huddy as John, her husband and the butler.

Sharon Murphy gives a good, fey, ingenious performance as dippy "Harriet Stanley." Ms. Murphy runs about in wispy Victorian outfits, giving Whiteside little presents.

WHITESIDE, WHO has a monumental memory, recognizes the infamous murderers, Miss Sedley, from a photo she gives him, and turns the tables on Mr. Stanley. Of course, the tables turn once again as Whiteside slips on the porch as he is finally taking leave.

Bill Vanderkloot is canny as Bert Jefferson, owner of the Ohio paper and an aspiring playwright. He gets his Maggie, but we never do find out if they settle in Ohio. Since Whiteside promises to take his play to Katherine Cornell, chances are Maggie and Bill will wind up wherever Whiteside winds up.

All the cameos are played with obvious enjoyment. These include Mrs. McCutcheon, played by Ellie Bliss; Mr. Baker, by Scott Ramseyer Cameron; Expressman, by Stanley Fink; Sandy, the "anarchist boyfriend," by Chuck Peace; technicians and expressman, by James Kemp; and the choir that sings offkey, by Be Vanderkloot, Carol Vanderkloot and Campbell Quinn.

The script is as funny as when it was written. The set by John Lorne, is super. So is the wheelchair with its convenient basket for dumping letters and cigarette ashes into.

Lounge starts Ladies Night

Ladies Night is featured Mondays-Saturdays at Davey's in Southfield's Michigan Inn. Women's drinks cost \$1 from 5-9 p.m. Nachos and cheese also are sold in the lounge.

MS. ROSENDER has the role her talents have been crying out for in "the boudoir butterfly," Lorraine Sheldon.

Famous names fall like rain, and famous people drop in and out of the Stanley house in Ohio as Whiteside "recuperates," and tries to quash his sec-

Buffo plays at Roberto's

Buffo, clown, mime, musician and comedian, will appear in a Thanksgiving Day Holiday Concert, with performances Friday-Sunday at Roberto's Restaurant, 2485 Coolidge, between 11 and 12 Mile roads in Berkley.

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REGULAR DOLLAR MON-FRI 11:30-12:00 \$3.00 SAT-SUN 11:30-12:00 \$4.00 \$1.50 DOWNTOWN SAT & SUN 10:00-11:00 PM	GARY GELMAN 1:05 3:05 5:15 7:10 9:25
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