



Way out west

Southfield resident Nancy Gurwin stars in the Irving Berlin musical "Annie Get Your Gun," opening Friday in a dinner theater production at the Mama Mia Restaurant and Lounge, 9361 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. The show is directed by Edgar A. Guest III. Performances are Fridays-Saturdays, with dinner at 7 p.m. and show at 8:30. For reservations call 363-1535.

Benefit night offers show

The Friends of Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization will sponsor a benefit performance of the Birmingham Village Players musical "Rodgers and Hart: A Celebration" at 8 p.m. March 26.

Tickets are priced at \$7.50 and should be purchased in advance by telephoning 644-0660 or 647-5713.

The Oakland County Welfare Rights Organization grew out of the "war on poverty" in 1969. Its headquarters are in the old school next to St. Vincent Church at 70 Whittemore in Pontiac, in the heart of a large low-income area.

A South Oakland W.R.O. center has recently opened its doors at the Berkeley Town Center, 2627 Berkeley at Dorothea Street in Berkeley.

Musical comedy opens run

theater

"Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?," a musical by humorist John R. Powers, opens Friday at the Birmingham Theatre.

The show satirizing adolescent lives and loves in a Catholic school continues its pre-Broadway run through May 10. For ticket information call the theater box office at 644-3533.

Powers is the author of three best sellers, "The Last Catholic in America," "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" and "The Unoriginal Sinner and the Ice Cream God."

"Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" is based on his first two books.

Powers has appeared on more than 400 radio and television shows throughout the nation, among them "The Today Show," "Donahue" and "The Tomorrow Show."

Although he holds a doctorate in radio, television and film from Northwestern University, Powers considers himself to be "someone who grew older but who never grew up."

HIS ALMOST total recall of the traumas of growing up, neighborhood living and school and work experiences are the basis of his soft sell and comedy style. He populates his routines with such neighborhood characters as Felix the Filth; Fiend Lindor, who got thrown out of the Cub Scouts for making an

obscene knot; Bert the Beast Bensen, who ate old warehouses for dinner; Smooth Eddie, a teacher only his students could love; and Una, the girl every guy dreams of and Powers never gets.

'Conzo' makes time change

"Gonzo Theatre," a satirical revue, has changed the time of its Friday evening show at Stouffer's Northland Inn in Southfield.

Cocktails are now served at 7:30 p.m., dinner at 8:30 and the show begins at 10 p.m.

Ralph Valatka, producing director, said the new Friday night time should give working persons more time to get home and relax a bit before seeing the satirical revue.

The Saturday schedule remains unchanged, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 and the show at 9. "Gonzo Theatre" is now in its fourth month. Further information is available at 569-4700.

Powers was not a popular child, he says. One Halloween some kids tied him to a tree. His family went looking for him two years later. Five years later, they untied him.

In high school, Powers became the first student in the history of his school to flunk music appreciation. His guidance counselor, after looking over Powers' permanent records, suggested that he join the army and learn a trade.

Powers, although "stupid," was not crazy. He realized that "trade" was just another word for work. He went to

college instead.

Throughout his college years and thereafter, Powers worked a variety of jobs including rebuilding freight cars, retreading tires, packing hamburger buns on the graveyard shift and teaching elementary and junior high school.

Powers received his doctorate degree from Northwestern University in the field of radio, television and film and, until recently, was an associate professor of speech and performing arts at Northwestern Illinois University.

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