

# Meadow Brook cast energizes 'Bus Stop'

By Helen Zucker  
special writer

The Meadow Brook Theatre production of William Inge's "Bus Stop" is wonderful.

Ference Kilburn's energetic direction and the marvelous vitality of his cast make for an evening of high entertainment. The cast rises over the wobbly bits in Inge's script and manages to milk the play for every ounce of humor it's got.

The show runs through April 19 on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Marianne Muellerleile as Grace Hoyland, owner of the street corner restaurant 3 miles west of Kansas City, is earthy, funny, resigned to her life and good-humored enough to claim "headaches" when she wants to sneak up to her apartment over the restaurant with friend Carl, the bus driver.

Despite her casual life style, Grace is a woman who shows concern for her high school helper and a keen interest in the lives of the people who pass through her little "Bus Stop."

MS. MUELLERLEILE mannaes to take a rounded character out of an old Thelma Ritter role, she brings freshness and cheekiness to lines such as "Oh, dam, I forgot the cheese. Well, I don't like cheese," when Carl orders ham and cheese, and remembers wryly, "You never got cheese, Grace."

J.L. Dahlman, as Carl the driver who "needs walks" in the blizzard (so he can sneak upstairs), is clumsy, amusing and believable as a workaday bus driver.

The mad assortment of passengers stranded in Grace's place includes two cowboys, a professor who seems to have wandered in out of "The Petrified Forest"; and a marvelous, semi-ill-

terate, sweet floozy who wants to be treated with respect "due a lady."

It's a play with a happy ending; the barbarian cowboy, Bo Decker, played with loud gusto by Michael Patterson, turns into a gentleman who gallantly throws his coat over his beloved "fiancee" (she already has her own coat on, leaving him with none), and the floozy goes off to become a rancher's wife in "that wild place, Montana."

The fun lies in Bo's conversation and Cyd Quilling's poignant, hilarious portrayal of Cherie (called "Cherry" by Bo).

MS. QUILLING is endearing throughout, but she stops the show with her wonderful "That Ol' Black Magic" number. She climbs on a table, strips off her robe, wriggles her beautiful little body in a black and red brief costume and, keeping totally within the bounds of Cherie's character, gives the best no voice, off key rendition of "Ol' Black Magic" I've ever heard.

I liked Ms. Quilling's performance better than Marilyn Monroe's in the movie version. Ms. Quilling passes lightly over the forlorn pathetic quality of Cherie's life; she brings out the underlying dignity and the hope that still lives in his "experienced" girl who is, after all, only 19.

Mark Margolis is a powerful actor who holds himself in admirable restraint throughout the performance. I have the feeling he could have run the entire cast off the stage, given a role that gave full range to his capabilities.

Margolis can sing, and my only regret was that we got so little of great voice doing "Banks of the Ohio" and bits of incidental music that helped round out the show.

Margolis is terrific as Virgil Blessing, the cowboy who has raised Bo, who vanishes into the night after telling Bo,

## review

"You're virgin enough for both of you." Virgil drifts off like the tumbling tumbleweed, muttering, "Well, Albatheekie's good a place an any."

MARGOLIS COULD have made a heavy thing out of parting from his lifelong ward and buddy, but he doesn't.

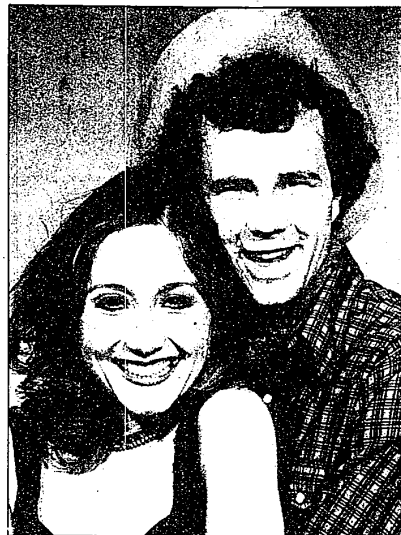
We wish him well as Grace slowly turns the lights out as the blizzard ends, passengers embark and Virgil slowly wends his way — the last one offstage.

Faye Haun as Elma Duckworth, in

loafers and school outfit under her apron, is fresh and delightful portraying the bright high schooler who waits tables at Grace's. Her infatuation for the professor who can quote Romeo to her Juliet, who wishes to take her "to dinner and a concert," is quite understandable.

She's too young to understand the professor's illness, despite her brains. And she never knows that her sweet nature sends the professor perhaps to the Menninger Clinic in search of help rather than "out to dinner" with her.

Jim Oyster is the drunk, Dr. Gerald Lyman, who has rolled destructively through three marriages. He's a Rhodes Scholar, a Harvard grad, and a girl chaser turned stumblum.



Cyd Quilling and Michael Patterson co-star as Cherie, the floozy, and Michael Patterson, the barbarian cowboy, who fall in love.

## Local artists in state watercolor exhibit

Seven Birmingham Bloomfield and four Troy painters were among the 68 chosen to participate in the 35th annual Michigan Water Color Exhibition being held at the Battle Creek Art Center, April 2-29.

The Birmingham artists are Karen Carter, Julie Dawson and Ray Frost Fleming. Those from Bloomfield Hills include Bertha Cohen, Margaret Lynn Kelleher, Sybil Mintz and Barbara Nigro.

From Troy the artists in the exhibi-

tion are Hilka Brown, Norita E. Frecka, Shirley D. Gower and Sonia Molnar.

The juror, Serge Hollerbach, New York artist, chose works from more than 300 entries. Open to former and present Michigan watercolorists, the competition regularly draws participants from throughout the state as well as many now living outside the state.

A reception for the artists will be held 3-4 p.m. on Sunday at the art center, 265 E. Emmet, Battle Creek.

**Kingsley Inn**  
HOTEL

Would like the pleasure of hosting your next banquet or party. Call us today. Our experienced staff, headed by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Petrides, will personally oversee all arrangements and details.

Woodward and Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills  
644-1400

ALBAN'S  
**Bottle & Basket**  
Restaurant & Delicatessen

**SUNDAY SPECIALS \$3.79**

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU LASAGNA  
BAKED WHITE FISH

The above includes Tossed Salad or Cole Slaw, Roll & Butter or Garlic Toast or Potatoes or Rice.

188 N. Hunter  
646-6553

**MARVIN'S**  
NEW YORK DELI

Is Now Open Sunday, 4 pm.-10 pm.

Family Tavern  
Best Salad Bar in the City  
Pizza • Overstuffed Deli Sandwiches  
Homemade Soups • Pastries  
Six Draught Beers

Kiddies Menu **99¢**  
includes **FREE POP**

Balloons  
Games  
& Lots of  
Fun!

on Telegraph Rd. - just N. of 12 Mile  
(next to Jacques)  
**642-2430**  
Major Credit Cards

**Carrie Lee's**  
Since 1950  
WHERE DINING IS AN EXPERIENCE  
Chinese Gifts & Famous Cantonese Cuisine,  
(American Food Also Available)  
Cooks from China

Visit our Main Dining Room, surrounded by  
Picketts Alley & Garden Court

Special detailed Attention given to CARRY-OUT SERVICE  
Private Rooms available for Parties • 644-7576  
Hours: Mon-Thurs 11 am-10 pm  
Sun & Holidays 12-10 pm  
656 N. Woodward, near Oak St., Birmingham

COUPON  
**The Ginger Man Restaurant**  
Maple & Telegraph BLOOMFIELD PLAZA (MALL)  
855-3313

**20% OFF ANY COMPLETE DINNER**

Excluding Saturdays & Sundays. Limit 1 coupon per party.  
Valid Sunday thru Thurs. All. 2 P.M. Expires April 6

**10% Senior Citizen Discount**  
Open: Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm; Fri & Sat 8 am-12 Mid.  
**BAR-B-Q RIBS & CHICKEN** Sun. 9-8 pm

**MOUNTAIN JACKS**  
Bart-Scotch & Spirits

2360 Rochester Court  
Troy, 688-7920

Grand River Avenue  
at Ten Mile Rd.  
Farmington Hills, 476-5333

**LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!**

**AT WINSTON'S PUB**

Cliff Gracey  
Now Appearing  
Wed. & Thurs. 7-11:30 pm  
Fri. & Sat. 8-12:30 am

WEST BLOOMFIELD  
6066 West Maple, 851-8880  
Pub Menu Available

ONLY AT  
**MOY'S**  
JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE  
1747 W. 11th St.

**SCALLOPS** \$18.00

16825 MIDDLEBELT AT 6 MILE, LIVONIA  
Reservations Accepted 427-3171

**SEA SHELL** SURF & TURF RESTAURANT

**\$5 OFF ANY DINNER**  
WHEN A SECOND IS PURCHASED  
OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE

BUSINESS LUNCHEONS • DINNERS • COCKTAILS  
FRESH SEAFOOD & CHOICE MEAT DISHES  
MON, TUE, FRI LUNCH & DINNER SAT. DINNERS ONLY FROM 5 pm.

1688 JOHN R  
JUST N. OF 15 MILE  
**689-1258**

**Dean Rutledge**  
Now Appearing  
Wed. & Thurs. 8-12 pm  
Fri. & Sat. 9-1 am

**ROCHESTER**  
2601 Rochester Road, 852-8330  
Pub Menu Available

**Schuler's**  
So many different ways to make you welcome!

**KEEGO CINEMA**  
Orchard Lk Rd at Cass Lk Rd  
Phone 682-1900

**\$1.00**  
All Seats At All Times

Luxuriously Remodeled New Seats

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE  
Best Actress **GOLDIE HAWN**  
PRIVATE BENJAMIN (R)  
Friday & Saturday 5:00, 7:00, 9:15, 11:00  
Sunday 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:15  
LATE LATE SHOW FRIDAY & SATURDAY

**SHOWCASE CINEMAS**

STERLING HEIGHTS:  
3010 VAN DYKE RD. AT 15  
MILE RD. STERLING HEIGHTS  
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY  
\$1.50 FIRST SHOW ONLY  
979-3160

2400 SOUTH TELEGRAPH  
RD. PONTIAC BARGAIN  
MATINEE DAILY \$1.50  
FIRST SHOW ONLY 332-0241

**\$2.00-ADULTS-MONDAY THRU THURS.  
EVENING PERFORMANCES**

**THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE**  
PONTIAC STERLING HTS.

**'TESS'**  
PONTIAC STERLING HTS.

**STIR CRAZY**  
STERLING HTS.

**9 TO 5**  
PONTIAC STERLING HTS.

**BACK ROADS**  
PONTIAC STERLING HTS.

**EYE WITNESS**  
STERLING HTS.

**AMERICAN POP**  
STERLING HTS. PONTIAC

**FORT APACHE**  
STERLING HTS.

**ANY WHICH WAY YOU CAN**  
STERLING HTS.

**FINAL CONFLICT**  
PG STERLING HTS.

**FUN HOUSE**  
STERLING HTS.

Under New Management!  
Our Sundays are  
**PRIME TIME**

A Maggie's cut of PRIME RIB...  
Select your favorite cut  
from rare to well done

For Only **\$6.95**  
1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**MAGGIE'S** of Bloomfield Hills

1801 S. TELEGRAPH  
Reservations Appreciated **334-2444**