You may not like Will-O-Way's 'As You Like It'

Alas, alack a day, as old Will Shake-peare would have said.

spears would have said.

The Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre
production of "As You Like It" does not
earry me into the Forest of Arden. Despite excellent music on the harpsichord from Dave Wilson, recorder by
Mark Finlay and lovely tuses from Jan
Poirer playing the Irish harp, the play
simply doesn't lift off the boards.

The Will-O-Way troupe excels at musicals and modern drama. I've no idea why Will-O-Way decided to end an excellent season with a 16th century play filled with gorgeous, difficult language, inverted metaphors and characters (that call for immensely experienced actors.)

Performances continue through June 27 at the theater in Bloomfield Town-ship.

hip.

Eileen T. Weiss, a proficient actress,

review

HARRY LOUCKS is light on his feet as Touchstone, the withy clown; George Martin lends his sweet face to the role of the goodhearted, exiled Duke; and Dike Dwelley manages to be somewhat amusing as the melancholy Jacques. Jacques has the best lines in the play, and further rehearsals will prohably belon matters a bit.

ann turner reactass win prousely belo matters about its strong as the blitchy brother, Glüver. I can't believe his conversion, neither does Pyykhone his conversion, neither does Pyykhone he seems totally befuddled at finding himself a nice brother at the finale. Ken Ponagajab is fitfully amusing as Le Beau, a courtier. His white outifs test you up for giggles, and you wish you could follow through with the bell juughs this character is meant to get.

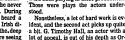
I wish I knew why McIvin Hardinan's strong voice is so muffled throughout the production. He's supposed to be Amiens, a singer, a main

Hardiman has the voice to make the Grand Canyon ring. Please unmuzzle him.

The Duke's men are supposed to be leading a lusty, happy life in the forest. The play is a fantasy, a romance. Grand sounds should ring among the trees. But the pace creeps, and the voices falter.

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Nonetheless, a lot of hard work is evident, and the second act picks up quite a bit. G. Timothy Hall, an actor with a lot of appeal, is out of his depth as Orlando. Ms: Weiss carries the ball in the forest scenes between the love-stricken Orlando and the "fair youth, Ganymede."

Helen King's costumes are lovely, and often funny. All the hats are wonderful. And Tim Hall is to be com-

in Inter director, and bee Devices, and beet Devices. Shirley Benyas coached the children's choir, they sang sweetly. But Shakespeare did not want children in this play. His pages were young men who sang like maddened goats at the wedding least.

I look forward eagerly to seeing the musicals Will-O-Way is doing this summer. I am willing to bet that "Damn Yankees" will be a gorgeous explosion of 20th century sounds.

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