

Glory days of baseball live in 'Damn Yankees'

Performances of "Damn Yankees" continue at 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays through Sept. 5 at Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Township. The box office phone is 684-4418.

By Helen Zucker
special writer

The Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre production of "Damn Yankees" is sheer fun.

Director Celia Merrill Turner and her energetic cast and crew have caught the spirit of true baseball madness — those baloney years when real baseball heroes existed and fans slept outside stadiums to get tickets to the series.

It's worth going just to watch Maureen Feder's steamy, humorous performance as Lola, the devil's vamp who turns good. Before goodness sets in, Feder delivers a neat rendition of "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets."

review

Feder has great legs, switches accents with aplomb and occasionally sounds like Miss Piggy, the most lovable vamp in town. Feder's conversion isn't as convincing as her delight in doing evil, but she's so full of high energy, I didn't really feel let down.

Melvyn Hardiman has a field day as Van Buren, manager of the Washington Senators. Hardiman's great voice roars through the theater, leading his team singing. "You Gotta Have Heart." He looks like a frustrated manager. He's right on base all night.

"I THOUGHT About the Game," a funny song delivered by the Senators, is a high point. Gas Wietsek is loose and funny as Smokey, a dumb player bent on doing crossword puzzles. Brett Reynolds exudes great vitality as the even

dumber player, Rocky. All the actors on the team turn in wonderful performances. You can feel the meowing between these guys. They work well together.

Harry Loucks, in his red socks, pulls cigarettes out of thin air. Loucks is "Mr. Applegate," alias the devil, who transforms middle-aged men into young baseball heroes.

Loucks is a stylish Mephistopheles. He kicks his heels, jumps about like an imp out of hell singing about the "good old days" when the plague stalked the earth and the Spanish Inquisition was in high gear. He exudes frustration and a nice undercurrent of steady ill will toward all.

Turner is sharp as a needle as the woman sports reporter, Gloria Thrope. The play, written in the early '50s, is a bit cruel to working women. Cries of "Go home! Have a baby! Get married! What're ya doin' here!" greet her at the ballpark.

"I came to see naked men in the locker room," Turner snaps, her eyes

flashing. One can hardly blame her for taking off for Hamilton, Mo., to do a bit of investigating into Joe Hardy's inexplicable past.

TURNER MAKES us believe that Gloria Thrope is a good reporter. She hangs in there, doing her job to the end. Since it's the '50s, she doesn't get a man, but she sure dresses well.

Elaine Keinert, as kindly Meg Boyd, gets two men. Keinert has a gift for listening with melting eyes, and it earns her the eternal devotion of steady, middle-aged Joe Boyd, and the 20-year-old hero, Joe Hardy.

Keinert's duets with young Marc Macagnone, who plays Joe Hardy, are touching. "A Man Doesn't Know What He's Lost," sung in front of a round TV set in the Boyd living room, is the heart and soul of the '50s.

The sacredness of hearth and home, Jackie Gleason and "Alice." Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio live again in the Boyd living room.

Richard Blanchard is believable and

sweet as Joe Boyd, the husband with a dream in his heart. And Macagnone is a hero who doesn't want to be one — he wants his home and his Meg. He looks every inch the part.

JEAN PLUMHOFF is very good as Sister, a bouncy ball fan and bridge player. Bonnie Weinrobb is very cute as her sidekick, Doris. Weinrobb's hoarse voice plays nice counterpart to Plumhoff's shriek. This Mutt and Jeff duo run about throughout the play.

Linda Nelson, who sounds exactly like Olive Oyl, is wonderful in her flirty appearances as Miss Weston, another wacky neighbor.

Michael Henrici as Henry, Dave Carmichael as Sobovik, Rocky Harding as Linville, Gerald Hoy as Lynch, Todd

Curless as Welch the Club Owner, David Koch as Bryant, ball players who double as night club waiters — all are splendid. Mark DuBois is fine in two roles, as Lowe and Mickey.

The scene in the Commissioner's office is especially good. George Martin is a stern Commissioner who wants to do right by the game. Henry Gesund is an alert Postmaster, and Gerald Hoy is a sleepy guard. Joe Guest has got a great Announcer's Voice.

The singers and dancers run about in that tumbling, naturally lively way at which the Will-O-Way troupe excels. Assistant Director Mariene Loucks deserves credit for her part in this home-run production. So does Elaine Keinert for the good costumes.



Me fool!
My brother is a carrier for the Observer & Eccentric newspapers and when I get to be 11 years old, I'm going to be one too! I'll have my own business and keep my own records and earn money and win prizes. It sure is neat being an Observer & Eccentric carrier and I can't wait until I'm old enough.

591-0500 in Livonia
644-1100 in Birmingham
651-7575 in Rochester



FREE ADMISSION
THIS AD WILL ENTITLE THE BEARER TO ONE FREE ADMISSION
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
—NO ADDITIONAL PURCHASE NECESSARY
OFFER EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 10, 1981

KEEGO CINEMA
Orchard Lk. Rd. at Cass Lk. Rd. 1 1/2 Miles West of Telegraph
NOW SHOWING THRU THURSDAY, AUG. 6
6 Academy Award Nominations — Best Musical!

FAME (R)
ALL SEATS \$1.50 Call 682-1900 for showtime!

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

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ON THE TOWN

DINE OUT

Can we do you a favor?
For example:
pick up delivery party planning
shopping product search
lawn care advertising
painting promotions
handyman chores more,
just name it. We'll do it for you!

favors... 288-1205
The ultimate personal service company

Pair off for Dinner and Save.

MOUNTAIN JACKS
24275 Sinacola Ct., Farmington Hills, 476-5333
2360 Rochester Court, Troy, 689-7920

J. Ross Brown's
2262 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, 334-4694

DATE	PERSONS	SERVER	CHECK NO.
8-1-81	2	14	40008
Lobster Tail — \$12.95			
Salad, vegetable, hot bread, rice			
Coffee 60			
Prime Rib + King Crab Combo 12.95			
Salad, vegetable, hot bread, baked potato			
Tea 60			
Dinner for Two, including coffee or tea, with coupon \$18.95			
That's a savings of \$8.15			

Here's a special offer from the two of us to the two of you. Bring this coupon to either Mountain Jack's or J. Ross Brown's, order any two dinner entrees from the regular menu and the check will only be \$18.95! You save up to \$8.15, depending on the dinners you order. And these are full dinners. Each includes our special salad, vegetable, freshly baked hot bread, your choice of potato or rice and coffee or tea. All for just \$18.95. Now that's the kind of savings you can sink your teeth into.

DINNER FOR TWO \$18.95 SAVE UP TO \$8.15

MOUNTAIN JACKS
24275 Sinacola Ct., Farmington Hills, 476-5333
(Grand River Avenue at Ten Mile Rd.)
2360 Rochester Court, Troy, 689-7920

J. Ross Brown's
2262 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, 334-4694

*Does not include tax, tip, alcoholic beverages or any items not included with the dinner. Coupon must be presented when ordering. Offer does not apply to Live Maine Lobster or Lobster Combination dinners and is valid only for two people. Offer good during regular dinner hours through September 6, 1981. Not redeemable for cash.

The American Express Card
© Commercial Restaurant Systems, 1981

Murphy's Law according to Carlos Murphy. Law #3

"GO WHOLE MURPH, OR DON'T GO AT ALL"

Carlos has heard that exercising self-discipline isn't easy. The fact is, you've probably worked hard to pay your dues. So Carlos thinks there ought to be a time and place to get them back.

Thus, Mexican Extravaganza time! Mammoth portions of delightfully prepared and seasoned dishes from south of the border. Like Carne Asada, a specially marinated and charbroiled steak served with rice, beans, tomato and Bermuda onions. Or Enchiladas Rancheros, two big corn tortillas stuffed with beef, cheese and onion, then smothered with our enchilada sauce. How about something different? Our Tortilla Pizza might be just the item.

There's Tacos, Quesadillas, Chimichangas, as well as a Mexican Steak Burrito that's big enough to eat for dinner one night, bring home and snack on for the rest of the week. So come in and listen to Carlos. Don't cut back. Cut loose, Mexican style.

CARLOS MURPHY'S
29244 Northwestern Hwy. Southfield, 352-6330
Open Daily From 11:00 a.m. Sunday Brunch 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.