

## theater

## Production glows at Meadow Brook

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Jillian Lindig, a fine, strong actress, has finally got a part worthy of her talents. She's every inch the honest, tough Lady Alice More. We believe the Lady's custards are as good as her plain speech and are sorry to see her suffer privation because of More's stanch.

Sara Morrison's high, flutey voice distracted the times. Lady Margaret was also a tough lady and a scholar rolled in one. I'd have liked her with a bit more spunk. But Ms. Morrison is proficient enough to carry the part. David Regal turns in a gem of a performance as the arrogant King Henry. We know he will get his way the moment he turns up at More's house. Despite Henry's respect for More — respect he never loses — Henry is

going to dump Katherine and have his Anne. Regal gives us a talented musician — a man who thinks he can make anyone, even God, come round — and a King rolled into one dashing ball.

ANDREW DUNN is very fine as Cardinal Wolsey, and Richard Bradshaw as the Archbishop of Canterbury looks as if he just stepped out of an El Greco painting.

Zdzislaw Gumul is strong in her indignation, in her brief appearance as the outraged Catherine Anger, who has tried to bribe More. And Donald Dailey is fine as Chapu's assistant. Costumes by Maria Marrero were splendid. Peter W. Hicks deserves credit for the fine set and costume designs. Lights by Barry Griffith were effective, especially in the jail scenes.

Performances of the Troy Players production of the musical "Damn Yankees" continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Troy Community Center on Big Beaver just off I-75. Call 879-1285 for ticket information.

By Cathie Breidenbach  
special writer

Corny, yes, a bit, with the "aw shucks" innocence of the young rookie fresh off the farm. That's the musical comedy "Damn Yankees," in a jolly Troy Players production.

The show is sure to warm a few hours this winter weekend during these dull, post-Superbowl days before the Tigers come home to open the baseball season.

Damn Yankees comes from the heartland of All-American wishful thinking where monogamy thrives, hot dogs have no nutrients, goodness takes the pennant, and "All You Really Need Is Heart."

The Troy Players "Damn Yankees" is a welcome revival, and it's full of heart.

IN THIS musical comedy, the Washington Senators are fumbling along

## review

seventh in the league when Joe Boyd makes his pact with the devil, one Mr. Applegate. Jerry McCray plays Applegate with debonair charm.

Joe, a middle-aged, mediocre everyman, is a baseball fanatic who agrees to sell his soul if the underdog Senators beat the invincible Yankees.

Joe demands an escape clause in the pact. On Sept. 24, he wants the option to undo the Cinderella transformation from Joe Hardy, baseball hero, back to Joe Boyd, local husband who sells real estate.

Mr. Applegate is devilish but never diabolical, so he agrees to the escape clause. He's a flashy darling who looks dapper in red and black and sports a grasspaint goatee.

Lola, his tempting assistant from the nether world, runs up the best batting average in the play. Not only is she a long-limbed, classy looking mix, she dances entrancingly, sings with style and acts devilishly well.

JOE HARMON, the slugger who

pulls together the Washington Senators so they're in the running for the pennant, is the object of Lola's attentions. Her assignment is to use her abundant allure to capture Joe Hardy's soul.

Hardy, don't forget, is really Joe Boyd, middle-aged baseball fanatic who loves his frumpy wife nearly as much as he wants the Senators to beat the Damn Yankees.

Bill Rybarczyk, who plays Joe, is as handsome as Bob Wagner and humble, loyal and kind in the bargain. No wonder Lola falls for him.

Rybarczyk plays Joe with a convincingly shy, stiff innocence that works, except in his mismatched duets with Meg, Joe, the humble hero, leads the Senators to victory.

Did I give it away? Surely you knew that in vintage musical comedies, good guys finish first and heart is what matters. Even Esther Chalfant as Joe's wife, Meg, has heart. Her voice is too whiny, her acting style hardly dynam-

ic, but she exudes so much sincerity that I couldn't help believe in her as if she were my own grandmother.

THEN THERE'S the team, a motley collection of gum-chomping mustachioed fellas who carry it off with good-natured camaraderie.

Troy Players carries the show well. In the production numbers, the leggy chorus members, if not virtuosos dancers, put on a pleasing show. Even in the Latin number where the syncopated rhythms barely sync, everybody has a good time and the good humor is infectious.

Maybe in the years since "Damn Yankees" was first staged, we Americans have learned that it takes more than heart to make virtue win the game, but we still believe that winning comes easier "if you've got heart."

"Damn Yankees" slugs a high fly that's sure to put springtime in your heart.



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## concerts

## Staples to perform Tchikovsky concerto

Continued from Page 11C

He talks about his own youngsters at home in Bloomfield Hills. One is studying violin and demonstrates genuine talent. The discipline alone, Staples insists, is reward enough — even if the kid tosses the fiddle in the trash in a few years.

Wife Beatrice, also a DSO first violinist, gives the boy a 14-hour lesson a day. Staples beams.

"My wife is a better teacher than the

young students," he said. "She squeezes it out of them."

"In Israel, if anyone has a flicker of talent, they work his can off."

Another son is developing into quite a hockey player. Staples describes a typical scoring pattern in detail. He has the disease: hockey parent.

Finally, he blurts it out: "Kids are more important than anything — even the violin."

## French movie scheduled at Detroit Film Theatre

"Heart to Heart," a 1981 French film directed by Pascal Thomas, will be shown by Detroit Film Theatre at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Tickets at \$2 (seniors \$1.50) and DFT's \$15 10-ticket discount coupon books may be purchased in advance

through the Art Institute ticket office (832-2730) and at the door.

Often compared to works of famed directors Renoir and Truffaut, "Heart to Heart" has been described by Newsweek as "the best French film to come to the U.S. in the last several years."

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