

St. Dunstan's has winner with 'Bells Are Ringing'

The St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of the musical comedy "Bells Are Ringing" continues at 9 tonight through Saturday at the Greek auditorium theater on the grounds of Cranbrook on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for students. For reservations call 644-0527.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

"Bells Are Ringing" hits all the right notes at St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook. This outrageously cheerful romantic musical comedy features polished performances and excellent vocal work.

Julie Cochill is immensely pleasing as Ella, employee of a telephone answering service who always becomes deeply involved in the lives of her phone customers. Ella, an incurable optimist and do-gooder, has an irresistible desire to help others.

Cochill ably projects Ella's whole-

review

somebody and innocent, and her outstanding vocal talents add luster to the show's score. Especially memorable are the lively "I'm Goin' Back," the comic "Drop That Name" and the haunting "The Party's Over."

Ella, despite her good intentions, arouses the suspicions of the police as she helps out a struggling young actor, a frustrated songwriter, and the playboy playwright whose voice she's fallen in love with.

WHILE THE police have been checking up on Ella, they've been oblivious to the bookie operation that's been sharing the same office in the guise of a record company.

Don Schore is poised and convincing as Jeff Moss, the playboy playwright

whose career is temporarily stalled. Moss is fond of chatting with the "little old lady" at his answering service whom he affectionately calls "mom."

He's slow to make the connection when a mysterious young woman shows up at his apartment one day and seems to know all about him.

Schore's singing is agreeable, and he comfortably handles the ballads "It's Better Than a Dream," "Just in Time" and "Long Before I Met You."

Fran Loui is delightfully smooth as Sandor, the head of the bookie operation. Sporting a goatee, spits and a European accent, Sandor charms the owner of the answering service into giving him office space and her life savings.

LOUD GETS two of the show's funniest numbers. In "It's a Simple Little System," he explains to his army of agents how to place a horse race bet so that it sounds like a record order.

"Saltburg's is a mélange of nonsense as Sandor tries to con the money from

his would-be girlfriend. Phyllis Meyers is pleasantly effective as Sue, the owner of the answering service and Sandor's pigeon. Though she poles fun at Ella's romanticism, Sue is an easy prey for Sandor's phony attentions.

Morris Weininger is hilarious as Dr. Kitchell, the dentist who longs to be a songwriter and composes on his air drill. Wild-eyed and wild-haired, Weininger is an instant audience hit.

Tim Teegarden is outrageously campy as the strutting, leather-jacketed, jive-talking Blake Barton, aspiring actor. Ed Cable is amusing as the pudgy policeman, Inspector Barnes.

The talented principals are backed by a fine company of singers and dancers in the chorus. All seem to have a comfortable stage presence, something of a rarity in community theater choruses.

ISABEL HIMELHOCH, director; Barbara Ann Gowans, musical director; and Debbie Krug, assistant director and choreographer, have welded a large company into an accomplished whole.

The nine-piece orchestra under Gowans sounds great. All musical numbers are well-staged, especially the number on the crowded subway car where Ella gets all the passengers meeting and greeting one another. The dancing is well-executed, and stage space is beautifully utilized throughout.

'Star Fest '82' to benefit MD

"Star Fest '82," will be presented by Comedy Castle and Maximilian's, in association with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, at 7 p.m. June 21 at Maximilian's restaurant in Royal Oak. General seating will start at 6:15 p.m.

Hosted by Bob Talbot of the Detroit Free Press, Star Fest will feature the talents of Earl Klugh, Rapture, Gary Kern, Phil Marcus Esser, Barbara Bradas, Stuart Mitchell, Larry Nozaro,

Tim Teegarden's pop art sets are appealing. Saturday night's performance had to circumvent a sound system gone completely awry. Whenever the cast worked from the grass apron it could barely be heard. Periodically the sound would blast out for a few seconds at a time. Hopefully the bugs will get worked out, but the grass apron seems to be a recurring problem for St. Dunstan's.

Tim Rowlands, O'Brien and Sevara, Larry Santos, Ron Coden, Josh White, Jr., Bob Saget, Dean Rutledge and Orther Barnes.

Tickets are on sale for \$15 per person at Maximilian's/Comedy Castle, 4616 N. Woodward, south of 14 Mile Road. For further information call 549-2323. All ticket proceeds, bar receipts and waitresses' tips will be donated to MD.

State fair gives details on entries

Farmers, homemakers, gardeners, beekeepers, artists and scarecrow makers — now is the time to begin planning entries for the 1982 Michigan State Fair.

Although the 11-day fair doesn't begin until Aug. 27, many of the more than 10,000 Michigan residents who annually participate start work on their entries months in advance. This year's total cash prize money is more than \$215,000 in addition to ribbons, trophies, gifts and plaques.

How to enter? Entry forms and premium books outlining contest fees and rules can be obtained without charge by writing the Entry Department, Michigan State Fairgrounds, Detroit 48203, or by calling 368-1000.

Several premium books are available: Community Arts (baking, canning, crafts); Fine Arts (painting, drawings, photography, sculpture); Horse Show; Youth Division (age 8-19); Special Events (husband calling, baton twirling); Livestock; and Poultry, Rabbits, Pigeons and Caves, which also covers Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture and Wine Show categories.

Persons should specify the premium book desired when writing or calling for registration material.

ANYONE WHO has entered an exhibit in the last four years will automatically be sent a 1982 premium book. Entries close Aug. 1 for all divisions except the horse show, which has a July 20 deadline.

New in Community Arts for 1982 are contests for sandwich making, whittling, eating the most hot dogs, and best salad dressing. In addition, Hudson's is sponsoring a "My Favorite Cake" contest and will feature the winning cake as a dessert item on the menus of its 14 restaurants throughout Michigan.

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JULY 12 Cheap Trick \$12.50 Pavilion \$10 Lawn (\$10 Special Discounts or Coupons for this Concert)	JULY 14 Pat Metheny Jeff Lorber Fusion \$11.50 Pavilion \$9 Lawn (\$10 Special Discounts or Coupons for this Concert)	JULY 15 Detroit Symphony Orchestra Gary Bertini, conducting Claude Vainval, conductor \$15.50 Pavilion \$10 Lawn	JULY 16 Loretta Lynn \$4.00 Pavilion \$8 Lawn	JULY 17 Children's Concert \$5 General Admission	JULY 18 Detroit Symphony Orchestra Gary Bertini, conducting Claude Vainval, conductor \$12.50 Pavilion \$8 Lawn
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