

Thursday, July 8, 1982 O&E

Edie Adams 'trashes up' for role in 'Whorehouse'

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

SOME OF THE wild costumes Edie Adams wears on stage as Miss Mona, the Madam, in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," are her own designs.

In her dressing room at the Birmingham Theatre, she pointed to a rack of garments and said, "These are my costumes." Not all of the outfits are worn in the show, but Adams brought them along, from her extensive costume collection, to see which ones would work best.

"I've always been a clothes nut," she said. "I went to Trapagen (School of Fashion Design).

In fact, it was a hard for Adams to decide whether to pursue a musical career or one in clothes design. Music won out, and she studied at Juillard.

But as her star has risen, she also has pursued the study of dress design. Some of her recent designs — elaborate gowns — were shopped up by Neilman Marcus. The high-fashion store wants her to do more, and this time will prominently feature the name "Edie Adams."

"THAT BLUE horror I designed myself," she said, describing a blue-and-marabou pants outfit she wears in "Best Little Whorehouse." "I love that really trashy, campy stuff."

In picking clothes for Madame Mona, Adams said she had first pulled out

lovely Galanos things but found she couldn't trash them up.

All of Miss Mona's outfits are set off by what looks like a frowny red wig. Surprisingly, at the interview, Adams is wearing the same bright red hair, and it's her own — although the style is decidedly more subdued.

She said her hair is teased to the limit for her stage role. But she declares, "I think I'll make it redder."

The attractive entertainer has a personality much like what comes through in her various roles. Adams doesn't take herself too seriously. A little chubbier than she used to be, she willingly admits it.

"All my designs are geared to cover a cloudy middle," she said. And when the photographer got ready to photograph her, she laughingly asked him to watch out for her double chin.

ADAMS, WHO has been making her own clothes since she was in seventh grade, was wearing a long-waisted, black, blousy top, and a short skirt in black and white stripes.

"The legs are still good," she said frankly. Soon, she hopes, the rest of her will match her slim legs. She works out to a "Jazzerise" record, but is not quite a devotee of exercise. "I just hate it."

She has a house in Los Angeles and a farm in Bakersfield, which is her legal residence. "It's a serious farm. It's started as a write-off," she said, launching into a detailed account of

how to produce almonds.

Almonds grow on trees, then "shakers" shake them down at harvest time. The almonds sit on the ground and dry out. The outside is mixed with molasses for cow food. The almond is a fruit. You can put them in a blender and bread fish or turkey, for diet dishes.

Adams said, "I really did run the farm." She spent about three years on the farm and gained 40 pounds. "I lost 20 pounds and I've got 20 to go."

People magazine photographed her driving her tractor, and she said she really does drive it. Her 13-year-old son drives the Bronco truck and rides a motorcycle. He can't decide whether he wants to run the farm, or be a comedian, like Ernie Kovacs.

"ERINIE NEVER looked at anything straight on," Adams said, describing her late husband. Asked whether Kovacs' zany comedy wasn't ahead of his time, she agreed, remarking that son Josh said, "He's further out the most of the new comics."

Two or three Ernie Kovacs comedy specials are being put together for "Showtime" cable television, using original tapes Adams now owns. She had learned from TV technicians that the network was erasing tapes of Kovacs' old shows to reuse the tape. "I took the insurance money and bought them back," she said.

Tears welled up in Adams' eyes when condolences were offered for her

daughter, who recently died in an automobile accident. "I just can't talk about it now. Maybe later," she said.

Edie Adams is a Tony-winning performer (for her role as Daisy Mae in the Broadway musical "Lil Abner"), but she is probably known best for her portrayal of a sexy, breathless blonde, in commercials for Muriel cigars. "I did those for 23 years. I think it was the longest deal in history," she said.

The character was Marilyn Monroe-like, but Adams recalls her as "more Mae West-y." Adams is planning to star in a production of Mae West's greatest stage hit, "Diamond Lil," next year.

"I USED to be snow white, but I drifted," she said, drawing out a sample of how she would deliver one of Mae West's famous naughty lines.

On Ernie Kovacs' show, Adams did all kinds of funny stuff, ranging from coming in with a non-sequitur to throwing him a chicken. "I became the master of the 10-second fill. 'The magician's assistant' they used to call me," she said.

"The Best Little Whorehouse" has been booked through July 25 at the Birmingham. Adams will stay with the show till then, but should the run be extended (she said the theater is thinking of it), she won't remain with the show.

She has another commitment, doing "Where's Charley?" in outdoor theaters in Indianapolis, St. Louis and Kansas City. Adams said, "That's where I'll be, using my lyric, coloratura voice."



Holding a floral bouquet, Edie Adams chats in her dressing room at the Birmingham Theatre.

Rovers generate excitement at Meadow Brook

By Judy Jablonski
special writer

on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

The weather was pleasant (for a change) and the hills and pavilion were filled with a crowd of all ages ready for a party. The audience was not disappointed.

It was a night of folk, fun and fireworks when the Kingston Trio and the Rovers played to a sell-out crowd Friday at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

review

The Rovers kicked off the evening with an hour of rousing songs about

whiskey, women and Ireland.

It's easy to see why the Rovers, celebrating its 18th anniversary this month, has been so successful for so many years. The group's hand-clapping and foot-stomping songs, such as its popular "Wasn't That a Party," are real crowd-pleasers.

AND THIS audience was indeed pleased with the Rovers' self-proclaimed "down to earth" music and humor. The group received numerous standing ovations from the enraptured crowd.

The Kingston Trio also was well-received, but the group didn't quite

generate the excitement that the Rovers did.

Touring as the Kingston Trio are Bob Shane, Roger Gambill and George Grove. Shane is the only original member of the trio that was continually at

(Continued on next page)

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