



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

'Deathtrap' opens

Bob Overmeyer (standing) and Jerry McKeon rehearse their roles as Sidney and Porter in the Birmingham Village Players production of Ira Levin's "Deathtrap." The mystery opens at 9 p.m. Sept. 24 at the playhouse, Chestnut and Hunter, Birmingham. Other performances will be at 8:30 p.m. Sept. 25, 2 p.m. Sept. 26 and 8:30 p.m. Oct. 1-2. "Deathtrap" is produced by Lynne Pobst and directed by Carol Burton. Set designer is Dick Wagner. Also in the cast are Kim Cooke as Clifford, Lynne Marthey as Myra and Ruth Seranian as Helga. Tickets at \$4 are available at the door, but reservations are recommended. Reservations may be made by calling 644-2075.

'Romantic Comedy' has charm in Jimmy Launce's production

The Somerset Dinner Theatre production of "Romantic Comedy" by Bernard Slade is presented at 8:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through January in the lower level of Somerset Mall in Troy. Cocktails are at 7 p.m., buffet dinner by Alfred's is at 7:30. An Afternoon Luncheon Theatre is offered at noon Wednesdays, with the show beginning at 1 p.m. Dinner-theater admission is \$18.95 per person including tax and gratuity, luncheon-theater \$13.95 per person. For reservations, call Alfred's restaurant at 643-8855.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

With a title like "Romantic Comedy," Bernard Slade's play is pretty direct about what it purports to be, and

review

in the hands of Jimmy Launce Productions at the Somerset Dinner Theatre, it succeeds.

The show is about a successful pair of playwrights, male and female, who collaborate on and off for 14 years until propriety takes over. With respective mates acquired along the way, the pair find themselves entangled in a plot they can't quite work out.

Ed Oldani is highly credible as Jason, the established playwright who desperately needs a new collaborator. Oldani puts a great deal of energy into the role and gives real dimension to the character.

Jason is witty and sophisticated, yet

affectingly insecure. He is tender one minute, egocentric the next, and always painfully vulnerable beneath his glib and polished exterior.

PAT CAROZZO'S Phoebe is a perfect counterpoint to Jason. Carozzo marvelously conveys Phoebe's wit, like naïveté when she stumbles into Jason's life. Phoebe is a Vermont English teacher awed by the chance to work with her idol. After years of success, she still dresses in sweatsuits and a baseball cap, while Jason preens in his well-tailored suits.

Adoring Jason from afar, Phoebe befriends his wife and tutors his son, always retaining the "incessant perky-ness" that makes her character a little hard to swallow.

In supporting parts, Jan Radcliff and Tom Emmott do fine work in slightly implausible roles. Radcliff is Allison,

Jason's terribly understanding wife, and Emmott is Leo, Phoebe's terribly understanding husband.

MAUREEN COOK is convincingly world-weary as Jason's agent and staunch friend. As Kate, a bitchy star in one of Jason's plays, Tanna Kienick is a late substitution and badly miscast.

Although the laugh quotient is sparse at times, there are lots of good lines worth waiting for. "Romantic Comedy" aims more for a warm glow than witty repartee, and director Tom Shaker ably achieves that effect.

The play's three acts are well-paced, but the two 15-minute intermissions seem interminable, each could easily be shaved by five minutes.

The current buffet at Somerset Dinner Theatre features salad, fresh fruit, fettuccine Alfredo, beef stroganoff, Polynesian chicken and chocolate tarts.

New season of musicals announced at Will-O-Way

The Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre in Bloomfield Township has announced a schedule of musicals for the 1982-83 season.

Current production at Will-O-Way is "West Side Story," based on a conception of Jerome Robbins with book by Arthur Robbins, music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

The show's run has been extended. Performances are offered Saturday and Sept. 24-25, Oct. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 and 22-23.

"Shoggy," the Charlie Brown sequel, will open in November. The show is based on the comic strip "Peanuts" and features book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner. It was originally produced in New York by Arthur Whitelaw and Gene Persson and originally directed in New York by Joseph Hardy.

Performances will be given Nov. 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27; Dec. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18.

The theater will be dark at Christmas. Holiday specials will have 6:30

p.m. curtains Dec. 29-30 and New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, Jan. 7-8, 14-15.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" will open in February. Music and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim and the book is by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart. Playdates will be Feb. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-

26; March 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26.

Another musical will be announced, running April 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30; May 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28.

"The Apple Tree" will close the musical season in June. Based on stories by Mark Twain, Frank R. Stockton and Jules Feiffer, the show has music by

Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Hacknick.

Performances will be June 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, July 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30.

For more information, call Will-O-Way at 644-4418.

Attic Theatre to present 'March of the Falsettos'

"March of the Falsettos," a musical by William Finn about the universal need for love and fear of rejection, will open the Attic Theatre's 1982-83 season Friday.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 6 and 9 p.m. Saturdays and 6:30 p.m. Sundays at the theater, 525 E. Lafayette at Beaubien in Detroit's Greentown.

Tickets are \$7, \$8 and \$9. Group

rates are available. For information and reservations, call 563-7789.

This one-act musical has no dialogue. Its 20 songs range from ballads to jaunty melodies. Songs include "Four Jews in a Room Bleeding," "Thrill of First Love" and "Marvin at the Psychiatrist."

"March of the Falsettos" was originally staged in 1981 at Playwrights Horizons in New York.

Help for diabetics

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