

# The First Theatre Guild does snappy 'Mousetrap'

Performances of the First Theatre Guild production of Agatha Christie's "Three Blind Mice" continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at Knox Auditorium of the First Presbyterian Church, 1609 W. Maple, Birmingham. For ticket information phone 642-8374.

By Mary Jane Doerr  
special writer

"Three Blind Mice" is a grisly nursery rhyme if we stop to think about it. Since the tune and story are the basis for Agatha Christie's play "Mousetrap," I did stop to think about it.

The latest mounting of the mystery that held London's attention for so many years is presently being performed by the First Theatre Guild at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham.

From the opening minor-keyed organ notes of that well-known tune and the screams of the murder taking place, the show has all of the mystery and fun so typical of its author's works.

Of course, I have seen "Mousetrap" before. But I could not remember who did it — the murder, that is. Was it the quiet mild-mannered Major Metcalf, a part taken by Dick Trippett in this production? Or was it the silly and childish

## review

Christopher Wren, who was played by Bill Krebs?

VALERIE IMUS acted her character, Miss Caswell, with such cynicism that I suspected her. And then there was Kirk Lietz's Mr. Parvinski. That unexpected guest at the Monkswell Manor was even more suspicious than all of the other weird and unpleasant people.

Mollie and Giles Halston, played by Kim Dresbach and Kim Daniel Cooke, seemed like the average young couple settling out on a new business venture, running a guest house. But as the plot moves along, even they became odd. Why did they both go to London on the day of the murder?

Miranda Burnett took the part of the despicable Mrs. Boyle. Burnett's high-pitched, winy voice gave irritability to the character. But who could dislike Mrs. Boyle that much to commit a murder?

I tried to consider the likely suspects as well as the unlikely ones. But Christie's well-crafted plot gave all the

characters some redeeming aspects and an unrevealed past as a reason for suspicion and motive for murder.

In this production Kim Dresbach does a fine job of carrying the movement of the performance. She gives it the normality to keep it believable.

AS DET. SGT. Trotter, Mark Walters also carries the action. He is quite acceptable as the detective, if somewhat unorthodox in his methods. Walters is able to portray the mood changes and personality differentials to make the detective real.

Valerie Imus also had to play a Miss Caswell who changes quite dramatically during the two-hour show. Imus moves from cynical to mysterious to emotional and finally to compassion.

Even though Christopher Wren is an eccentric, Bill Krebs brought a likeability and warmth to the blearny young man.

The two-hour production had nice sets which allowed the actors freedom of movement. Director Bill Haycock staged his actors evenly across the stage so action was not cramped and could be easily seen.

Ed Krebs, Jr., lighting was natural and made the actor's facial expression visible.



DEBORAH BOOKER/Waif photographer

Michele Savas delightedly displays the concert tickets she purchased after waiting in line for a couple of hours last week at a CTC outlet at Kay

Baum's in Birmingham. The long lines were for tickets to superstar Neil Diamond's upcoming appearance at Joe Louis arena in Detroit.

# Shakespeare goes on trial to celebrate Bard's birthday

The second "Shakespeare trial" is being planned by Mark McPherson for the 419th anniversary of the Bard's birth — at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23, in the Players Club at 3321 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

It's not really a play. McPherson, a 35-year-old publicist and impresario who prosecutes Shakespeare's status, doesn't know the outcome. That will be up to a jury and the audience.

"It's an appeal from last year's decision when the jury found 7-4 for the defendant," said McPherson. "The audience went about the same way — 123 to 82 for the defense. I'm working for a 'nay' vote expressing doubt about whether Shakespeare is to be accepted as he is or doubted." The Players seats 250. McPherson is handling ticket reservations at his office, 496-2622. The \$15 admission covers admission and refreshments.

WITH MICHIGAN Appeals Judge Myron Wahls presiding, McPherson will try to demonstrate that Shakespeare was an actor and businessman who doesn't deserve the Establishment's title as the English language's greatest playwright.

"It's not to defame or criticize the work attributed to him," said the college publicist who has become known on two continents for his work involving Sherlock Holmes.

He will argue that most of what is known about the author of 36 dramas comes from an 18th century biography, and that Shakespeare was obscure in his own day. McPherson thinks a political group in Elizabethan England wanted to conceal his identity. The trial — the theater — and settled on Shakespeare as the front for its efforts to "bust an Establishment viewpoint."

## theater

One may police a parallel between his efforts and those of Josephine Tey to clean up the reputation of King Richard III (in "Daughter of Time"). McPherson says the mock trial is preliminary to his own book.

HANDLING THE defense will be Kurt Berggren, an Ann Arbor attorney.

McPherson's prosecution witnesses will include Prof. Daniel P. Kelly of the University of Windsor and a graduate of England's Royal Acad-

emy of Dramatic Arts; James Turnbull, advertising man, historian and actor; and a third person to be named.

After a court recess — corresponding to a drama's intermission — Berggren will call on Dudley Randall, Detroit's "poet laureate"; Raymond E. Scott, president of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival of America; and Philip Tru-

FREE SUNDAY CONCERTS  
Every Sunday - 2 to 4 PM

APRIL 17

THE  
MAX DAVEY SINGERS

The Young Chang concert grand piano courtesy Smiley Brothers

SOMERSET MALL  
big beaver road at coolidge, Troy  
Sunday 12-3 / Monday-Thursday 10-9 / Other days 10-6

echo  
park  
school

Since 1961  
Applications now being accepted for  
FIRST GRADE  
Mother/Toddler - Pre-School  
Primary School  
(Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten, First Grade)  
Located in Franklin Village  
851-1866

Saturday, April 16 • 10-9  
Sunday, April 17 • 12-6

Michigan  
Technology  
Fair '83

The University  
of Michigan  
Track & Tennis Building  
in Ann Arbor \$2 admission  
Take State Road Exit off I-94 north 3 miles

See how Michigan's technology  
improves your life — today!

Computers • Robotics  
Environment • Fusion  
Medicine • Energy

SMITH  
& BROS.  
CO.

The Brothers' Brunch  
is the Best of the Bunch!

Saturday & Sunday  
10 am - 3 pm

- Personalized Table Service
- Choose from over 20 luscious entrees.

From \$2.95

1476 W. Maple at Crooks  
Troy • 643-0881

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

ALBAN'S  
Bottle & Basket  
Restaurant & Delicatessen

SUNDAY SPECIALS  
• CHICKEN CORDON BLEU • BEEF TENDERLOIN TIPS  
over buttered noodles

• BAKED SCROD  
Includes Potatoes, Salad, Roll & Butter  
\$3.99 Sunday, April 17

188 N. Hunter  
Birmingham  
646-6553

SOMERSET  
DINING THEATRE

Alfred's Jimmy Lince  
PRODUCTIONS, Inc.  
presents

ANY  
WEDNESDAY

A Comedy by  
Muriel Runk  
Performances:  
Wed., Mar. noon • Group  
Rates & Performances  
Available  
Fri & Sat, Cocktails 7pm  
& Dinner 7:30pm  
Show 8:45pm  
Reservations: 643-8865  
Somerset Mall-Troy

TOKYO  
ORIENTAL  
HEALTH  
SPA

OPEN  
10am - 1am

Walk in or Appointment  
Whispered, Sensitive  
Showers, Oriental Staff  
Muscle Pressure Massage  
Private Rooms for  
Men and Women

2841 Orchard Lk. Rd.  
(Between 12 & 13 Mile)  
Farmington Hills  
553-2893  
Parking in Rear

Have you tried the  
Dearborn Inn lately?

EARLY AMERICAN  
DINING ROOM

Back by popular demand  
our Famous Seafood Buffet  
Beginning April 15  
Friday Evenings 6-10 p.m. — \$15.95  
NO RESERVATIONS

The Dearborn Inn

20701 Oakwood Boulevard • Dearborn, MI 48123 • (313) 271-2700

DIVORCE  
RECOVERY  
WORKSHOP

Eight exciting, helpful weeks to a healthy divorce recovery!  
Begins APRIL 21 at 7 P.M.  
(Subsequent Thursdays at 7:30)  
Identity

Topics: "Getting my EX IN FOCUS,"  
"FORGIVENESS,"  
"DATING AND REMARRIAGE,"  
and other practical topics.

\$10 registration fee covers all sessions and materials.

WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
17000 Farmington (at Six Mile), Livonia  
Phone 422-0740 for information

TIMM JACKSON  
Minister to Single Adults  
Ward Church

Pearl's  
Garden

Serving the finest in  
Chinese & American Cuisine

Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders  
Chinatown Style Welcomed  
Open 7 days a week  
Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri 11 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sat 12 p.m.-11 p.m.; Sun. 12-10 p.m.

469 S. Woodward, Birmingham  
644-2913

BANQUETS

Gourmet dining for your conference of ten... or your wedding reception for 500! Bridal Showers, Wedding Banquets, and every other important occasion.

Kingsley Inn

4000 AND 17  
LONG LAKE ROAD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS  
644-1400

Rated best Hotel through  
Room by Monthly Detroit  
Magazine, the facilities  
are unsurpassed!

Rip's

RIBS  
RIBS  
RIBS

FOR RIBS! Live Music Nightly  
Special Happy Hours-Special Prices-GREAT DESSERTS!

Luncheon Specials  
Soup, Sandwiches &  
Salads from \$2.95

Drink Specials with lunch:  
Manhattan 85¢ Martini 85¢

Daily Dinner Specials  
from \$5.95 includes vegetable, au  
jour, Bread & Butter, Dinner Salad.

MONDAY RIB NIGHT  
Special Prices, 16 Sides, Whole Eats  
SUNDAY DINNER SPECIAL  
All the Chicken you can eat \$14.95  
incl. vegetable, salad, bread & butter.

Open Daily 11 am-2 am, Sunday 1 P.M.-12 Midnight  
Free Valet Parking Available Weekends  
988 W. Huron • 1 Block West of Telegraph • 683-1116