

Farmington Players artfully spins romantic farce

Performances of the Farmington Players production of "Three Bags Full" by Jerome Chodorov continue Friday-Sunday and May 12-15, 19-21 at the barn theater, 32332 W. 22 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information call the box office at 555-5822.

By Barbara Michale
special writer

"Three Bags Full" is a comedy as light and airy as cotton candy — and with a plot just as sticky. As currently presented by the Farmington Players,

review

air and sugar are spun into pure gold. Set in New York City at the turn of the century, "Three Bags Full" is a romantic farce. Business tycoon Bascom Barlow (Dick Coe) must contend with a feminist-socialist daughter (Cynthia Doeber) in love with the chauffeur, a parlor maid (Tess Schaefer) engaged to the millionaire he picked out for his daughter, and a company clerk (Larry Noves) who claims to love a second

daughter Barlow never heard of.

Then there are the three carpebaggers: One is filled with a quarter-million dollars in diamonds, one with a quarter-million dollars in cash and one contains the maid's bloomers. Characters and bags revolve in and out of doors like a variation on the old shell game. There's also the requisite case of mistaken identity, leading to the surprise revelation, leading to the happy ending.

Under director Ralph Rosati, the Farmington Players continues to show its especially deft touch with farce. Pacing is smooth and lively throughout, and most actors' performances are polished.

DICK COE handles himself well as Barlow, slightly befuddled at times but still a clever calculator when the chips are down. Coe has developed a long way as an actor, and he can now hold his own on center stage. His timing is good, his voice and facial expressions effective.

As the opportunistic clerk Richard Foyle, talented Larry Noves can be counted on for perfect comic delivery.

Flippant and overconfident, Foyle tries to maneuver Barlow into surrendering both his daughter and his business. In exchange, the clerk will put back the half-million dollars he has embezzled.

Pert Cynthia Doeber is excellent as Angela, Barlow's free-thinking daughter who totes around George Bernard Shaw as her bible. A dash of mugging seasons Doeber's performance just right.

Playing the sprightly parlor maid, Kathleen Tess Schaefer has a credible Irish brogue and an engaging smile. Joyce Moore is amusing as Barlow's wife, understandably bewildered by the strange goings-on in the household. Erik Carlson seems too mild-

mannered to be the erratic chauffeur Boris, but the incongruity works to advantage. Claudia Arnett draws laughs as the melodramatic ingenue Jeanette, the object of Foyle's affections.

GEORGE MARTIN is fine as a pushy millionaire, but Bob Taub is too exaggerated as his starchy son. Marie Ryan's Charlotte could be a bit more dynamic, while Bob Battaloni's manservant is terribly funny without saying a word.

The set design by Lee Ayres is attractive, and costumes are handsome except for Boris' barely recognizable cavalry uniform.



Second runs Tom Panzenhagen

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad.....	\$1
Fair.....	\$2
Good.....	\$3
Excellent.....	\$4

"The Shining" (1980), 8 p.m. Friday on Ch. 7. Originally 114 minutes.

Director Stanley Kubrick is much admired for such films as "Paths of Glory," "Dr. Strangelove," "2001: A Space Odyssey," "A Clockwork Orange" and "Barry Lyndon," as well as for having a judicious and artistic sense of subject matter. He rarely makes a bad picture. Unfortunately, Kubrick misses the mark with "The Shining," a run-of-the-mill horror story that stars Jack Nicholson. Plodding, banal and overwrought, all apply to "The Shining," a film that's so bumbling that it's almost worth watching for that reason alone.

Rating: \$1.

"Apocalypse Now" (1979), 8 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 7. Originally 139 minutes.

And speaking of bumbling, here's one of the most inadequate films of recent years. It's probable that director Francis Coppola never did know what he wanted to achieve with this picture, which was given two different endings and ballyhooed as the inspired off-

spring of Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness." Its connection to "Darkness" is slim, its claim to critical success nonexistent. The film does have its moments, but don't expect then to come across on TV. Marlon Brando and Martin Sheen star.

Rating: \$2.

"My Darling Clementine" (1946), 8 p.m. Monday on Ch. 20. Originally 97 minutes.

Ch. 20 pulls out all the stops on its campaign to unseat Ch. 50 as Detroit's movie station with this night's lineup of films that includes Alfred Hitchcock's "The Saboteur" at 8:30 p.m., "Clemence" is the laconic John Ford film that stars Henry Fonda as Wyatt Earp, Victor Mature as Doc Holliday and Walter

Brennan as the patriarch of the Clanton gang. The acting, editing and cinematography are prime, and the West never looked so majestic and gritty at the same time. Ward Bond, Tim Holt and Linda Darnell also star.

Rating: \$3.60.

"Casino Royale" (1967), in two parts at 1 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday on Ch. 50. Originally 130 minutes.

Woody Allen, Ursula Andress, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Charles Boyer, Wil-

liam Holden, John Huston, Deborah Kerr, David Niven, George Raft, Peter Sellers, Orson Welles — that, in alphabetical order, is the story of "Casino Royale," an overblown spoof of James Bond films. Still, there's something infectious about this romp of a film that's propelled by the trendy sounds of Burt Bacharach with Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. It's frequently infantile, sometimes moronic, but a genuine diversion that's an aural and visual delight.

Rating: \$2.80.

Bess Bonnier, Voices perform

The Orchard Ridge Fine Arts Theatre will present "Love Songs... Innocent and Otherwise" featuring the Bess Bonnier Quartet and the Voices in association with the Michigan Vocal Jazz Society at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

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concerts

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