

at your leisure

Birmingham Theatre tells season

SIX SHOWS, including one and possibly two musicals, will be on the 1983-84 season schedule beginning this fall at the Birmingham Theatre.

Also offered will be three dramas that recently played on Broadway and one that ran on Broadway a few seasons back. The schedule is being announced this week to season's subscribers, through a subscription brochure.

Tickets will not go on sale to the general public until the third week in September for the opening production "Master Harold and the Boys."

Although the brochure lists Lou Gossett Jr., as the star of this opening production, theater spokeswoman Bonnie Garvin said "that fell through." Another star will be announced in a few weeks.

GARVIN SAID the stars of other shows on the season's schedule will be named throughout the season. She cited difficulties with getting commitments from the stars much in advance, as they prefer to lock in any TV series first, for example.

The shows, however, are the thing, she stressed. Last season all the Birmingham Theatre productions did well and the audi-

ence is learning to trust the theater to bring quality shows, regardless of which star heads the cast (although there were popular personalities in last season's shows), she said.

"Master Harold" by Athol Fugard is about a relationship between a young man and his surrogate father. Play dates will be Oct. 7 through Nov. 6.

Second show will be "Shot Thru the Heart," a musical being produced locally by Ivan Bloch of Birmingham and Alan Lichtenstein who manages the Masonic Temple Theatre and the Nederlander Organization, which runs the Birmingham Theatre.

This world premiere is described as "a new musical thriller, a journey back to the Old West written by the Tony-nominated Paul Giovanni," who did "Crucifer of Blood" on Broadway.

"AGNES OF GOD" follows Dec. 28 through Jan. 27 "Crimes of the Heart" Jan. 27 through Feb. 26 and "I Love My Wife" March 2 through April 1. Final show of the season, to be announced, runs April 27 through May 27.

"Master Harold" closed on

Broadway in 1982, "Agnes of God" is still running on Broadway and "Crimes of the Heart" just closed after 65 weeks. "I Love My Wife" was on Broadway a few seasons back.

All tickets will be priced under \$10.

"Agnes of God" by John Pielmeier is about a young nun who is thought to have borne a child and murdered it; "Crimes of the Heart," a Pulitzer-Prize winner by Beth Henley, is about three sisters and their many relationships; and "I Love My Wife," with book and lyrics by Michael Stewart and music by Cy Coleman, tells about two couples who play around with the idea of switching partners.

Again this season the Birmingham Theatre is offering restaurant discounts to season's subscribers. A subscriber gourmet card entitles the theatergoer to a 10 percent discount at participating restaurants on the night of the subscription performance.

Restaurants included are Fox's by Macus at Great Oaks Mall in Rochester, Fox's of Troy, Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills, Macus 160 on W. Maple in Birmingham, Macus Sly Fox in Birmingham, Midtown, Cafe in Birmingham, Norman's Elton

Street Station (opening this fall in Birmingham), and the Phoenix in Birmingham.

For further information about season's subscriptions, contact the Birmingham Theatre at 211 S. Woodward, phone 644-9125.

"THE ESTATE OF Roger Dane" is the working title of a hoped-for TV movie-of-the-week being shot in the studios of Associates of Bloomfield and on location in metropolitan Detroit.

Karen Spiegel of Troy is co-producing the film with Associates of Bloomfield, headed by Dave Orr, in Bloomfield Township. Orr said his company is providing "the equipment and technology and production expertise" while Spiegel is funding the film project.

Orr said, "Associates of Bloomfield has half the action on the thing." He described the show as a cross between "General Hospital" and "Dynasty" and said, "There is no sex or violence to speak of, so we'll just call it GP."

Spiegel has a big hand in the operation. She is the originator and writer and also one of the co-stars. She has assistant writers, she said, but "I am totally in charge of the storyline."

THE SHOW is set in a fictitious location in Michigan. It's about the two Dane sisters who inherit an estate and decide they don't want to let it go out of the family, so they turn it into a resort.

The sisters are Kelly and Cas-

andra, and Spiegel plays the older sister, Kelly. She said her male co-star is Randy Fraser of Fraser, who plays a young country-style doctor.

Location shooting has been done in Bloomfield Hills and in Mason, Mich., where one of the actor's father has an Arabian horse ranch. Spiegel said many other Detroit-area locales will be used.

"We've got so many storylines going for so many different things that when we sit around and talk about it everybody's eyeballs light up," she said, anticipating an avid viewing audience.

SPIEGEL WAS born and raised in Chicago. Her background as a performer in the De-

troit area includes TV commercial modeling with narration and civil-type theater. "We do just about every play you go through," she said, "with me, it was always serious."

Asked about her experience in putting TV shows together, she said, "I have previous experience but this is the first I'd like to announce."

As to working with Associates of Bloomfield, she said "They are set up to be the deHolly-wood." Actors hoping to get in on the act needn't apply. "We're holding them off with 10-foot poles," she said, explaining the company is concentrating on development of the show.

Spiegel hopes to create a 90-minute TV movie that will lead to a TV series.

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