

upcoming things to do

• MALL CONCERTS

The Bassoon Quartet will appear in concert from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at Somerset Mall in Troy. Other concerts in the free Sunday series this month also will be classical — the Flute Quartet on Jan. 15; Thomas D. Barna and Stephen Caplan, piano and oboe duo, Jan. 22, and Susan Ivers Barna and Ruth Myers, flute and harp duo, Jan. 29.

• 'MARY, MARY'

Somerset Dinner Theatre will present the Jean Kerr comedy "Mary, Mary," opening a 12-week run Friday, Jan. 27, at the newly redecorated theater setting at Somerset Mall in Troy. Cocktails at 7 p.m. are followed by a buffet dinner and an 8:45 p.m. curtain. For reservations, call 643-8865. Ticket price includes dinner and show.

• WAGON WHEEL

Leigh Stanley and Rick Estes play light rock and 40 music Thursdays-Saturdays through Jan. 14 at the Wagon Wheel Saloon in Troy. Doug Thomas offers light pop rock Sundays, Jan. 8 and 15. Irish, Everests and Springer provide a wide variety of music, from bluegrass to country rock and light rock Thursdays-Sundays, Jan. 19-22 and 28-29.

• 4-H PROGRAM

Oakland County young people are eligible to participate in the 1984 4-H Performing Arts Program. Members of the program will then have the opportunity to join the 1984 Michigan 4-H Performing Arts Troupe. Workshops will be held weekends in January through March for young people, who must be at least 13 years of age. No membership or application fees are required for the Performing Arts Program. Troupe members' costs are approximately \$100. Troupe members must be at least 15 years old by Feb. 1, 1984. For more information call Carolyn Calandri at the Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service Office at 858-0880.

• MUSICAL SHOW

"Silhouettes and Ivory," a musical production, will be performed by Rebecca of West Bloomfield, Ron Carter of Pontiac and Mary Frankluth of Milford on Fridays-Saturdays during January in the upstairs lounge of the Holly Hotel. There is no admission charge. The TAP Ltd. cast will resume performances in the lower theater level as soon as renovations are completed. A new production, "Follies at the Holly," is expected to open downstairs by the end of January. For more information, call 634-5208 in Holly or 855-4293 in Detroit.

• AT MARLOWE'S

Flutist Alexander Zonfle and his Quintet plays jazz beginning at 9 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays through Jan.

25 at Marlowe's, new nightclub on Franklin Road at Northwestern Highway in Southfield. For more information, call Marlowe's at 357-4442.

• DANCE BAND

The Top 40 dance band Citizens appear beginning at 9 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays through Jan. 28 at Hurley's in the Northfield Hilton in Troy. The group plays for listening and dancing. There is no cover charge. Live bands perform on stage from the Modern era Sunday evenings. For more information, call 879-2100.

• AVON PLAYERS

Carl Kinsley has stepped in to play the lead role of Scottie Timpson in the Avon Players production of Bernard Shaw's drama "Tribute," at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Sundays at the playhouse at Tenken and Washington in Troy. The previous actor had to resign due to career conflicts. For further information, call the box office at 856-1130.

• WINTER SHOW

Thirty exhibitors will participate in the winter Antique Show from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Glen Oaks Golf and Country Club in Farmington Hills. Nancy Dietrich of Plymouth will be showing a circa 1890 gas stove, with langliss windows, used for home heating, as well as a 1920s wicker buggy and a folding flat oak china cupboard with two glass doors. There is no admission charge.

• 'CONSTANT WIFE'

The Farmington Players winter production will be "Constant Wife" by W. Somerset Maugham. The comedy set in the late 1920s opens Friday, Jan. 27, and will continue through Feb. 18 at the Farmington Players Barn, 32322 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For ticket information, call the box office at 535-8822.

• BESS BONNIER

The first of three 1984 jazz concerts will feature the "Bess Bonnier Quartet" at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Wallace Smith Performing Arts Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Larry Noser will be the attraction in March and Ursula Walker and the Buddy Budson Trio in March. Tickets are \$5 at the door, \$5 in advance and for reservations, and \$4 for students and senior citizens. For more information, call 471-7709.

• PLAYS PETITION'S

The Threepenny Opre performs Fridays-Saturdays through Feb. 11 at Petition's, 2225 Oxyde Road in Pontiac Township. The group consists of Steve Whalen on fiddle and mandolin, Will Derry on guitar and vocal and

Gary McMullen on banjo and guitar. Threepenny Opre plays bluegrass, Irish and contemporary music for listening and dancing.

• ANTIQUE SHOW

Faye Kirk of Westland will show 30 newly dressed German dolls in the Livonia Mall Antique Show from 10

a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Jan. 11-15, at the mall on Seven Mile Road at Middlebelt. New exhibitors to the show, Nancy and Howard King of Livonia, who will have a booth full of kitchen furniture. Admission is free.

• BLUES BAND

Robert Noll and the Brush Street

Blues Band will play Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 and Feb. 2 at the Soup Kitchen Saloon in Detroit and Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 6-7 and 27-28 at the Good Time Bar in Plymouth. Special guests will appear at the Soup Kitchen engagements. The band also will perform Sunday, Jan. 22, at the B'Stilla Bistrot in Detroit.

• FILM PROJECT

The Detroit Film Project will present "Black Cinema," six 16mm fictional, experimental, animation and documentary films by award-winning black filmmakers, at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Detroit Community Music School auditorium, corner of John R and Kirby, Detroit. Admission is \$3.

Doc Severinsen plays DSO pops

Trumpeter Doc Severinsen headlines the next Merrill Lynch Weekender Pops concert with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, in the Ford Auditorium. DSO resident conductor Kenneth Jean will conduct. Tickets for all DSO concerts are on sale at the Ford Auditorium box office and all CTC outlets including Hudson's. Charge card customers may order by telephoning 587-1406. Doc Severinsen is at home with popular, jazz and classical repertoire. He has been the trumpet-playing musical director of the NBC-TV "Tonight Show" since 1987. Remaining pops concert guest stars in the series with the DSO include singer Clio Laine (John Dankworth, conductor) on March 16 and 18 and jazz drummer Buddy Rich (Richard Hayman, conductor) on May 4 and 6.

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DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Good production survives gloom

The Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Long Day's Journey into Night" by Eugene O'Neill continues through Jan. 22 on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. For ticket information call the box office at 377-3300.

By Cathie Brudenbach
special writer

Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night" runs nearly three hours even when cut, and the excellent production barely survives the cloying gloom of the play.

The acting is fine and in spots superb. The set of the O'Neill summer home in 1912 by Peter W. Hicks is wonderful as are the costumes by Mary Lynn Crum and directing by Charles Nolte.

With due respect to O'Neill as one of this country's most innovative, serious playwrights, the problem is the play. It hovers on the edge of disaster for three hours with little relief. The audience was so desperate for relief, I thought at the early discussions of Jamie, the debauched older brother. In any other play, the scene would have been amusingly pathetic but hardly funny.

Watching three hours of family fighting, drunkenness, drug addiction and dashed hopes asks too much of an audience unless the gloom is tempered with moments of lightness or hints of hope. Only when Edmund describes sitting on the bowsprit of a boat at sea did the play soar with sheer glorious language. The audience could hear the poet in Edmund and look forward with promise to his eventual career as a dramatist.

O'NEILL'S "LONG DAY'S JOURNEY" is autobiographical. The character Edmund, played sensitively by Joey L. Golden, is Eugene O'Neill on the day a doctor confirmed that he had tuberculosis.

Eugene's father, James, was a nationally known actor whose fame came from the popular play "The Count of Monte Cristo." He played the role for years and stagnated as an actor because the money in "Cristo" was too good to pass up.

review

Tony Mookus with his robust shock of gray hair and his rich voice carries the role well. The father is played by Edmund's TB, Jamie's indulgent living and his wife's dream addiction, as well as by his own failure to become the actor he could have been.

The three Tyrone men, Irish to the last drop, try to drown their woes with drink. Greg Alquist turns in an outstanding performance as the wastrel brother, Jamie. Despite his shiffling ways, his energy and intelligent honesty make him likeable, an intriguing place that probably parallels O'Neill's own feelings about his brother.

"Long Day's Journey into Night" is a mature play that sees the characters with uncommon clarity balanced by compassion.

Mary Tyrone, James' wife and O'Neill's mother, needs illusion more desperately than the others. She uses morphine to cushion reality and retreats into romanticized memories of her past.

IT WAS AFTER the birth of her youngest son that a quack doctor first gave her morphine. She was never able to shake the addiction. There were remissions, but they never lasted. On this "long day" she again loses herself in drugs after being free of them for a while and leading her family to hope she might finally be cured.

Deanna Dunagan is a fine actress who plays Mary Tyrone as a frail, graceful creature rather than as a strong woman overwhelmed by trouble and drugs. O'Neill intended us to feel compassion for his mother. Instead we pity her for her weakness. Pity separates; compassion binds. Compassion grows only when the audience can identify with the characters and know that the trials of the people on stage are true for us all. But three long hours of unremitting tension can make compassion succumb to weariness.