

# There's sweet acting in players' 'Sugar'

Performances of the Avon Players production of the musical "Sugar" continue through Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Avon Players Playhouse in Avon Township. For ticket information call 656-1130.

Though the songs get in the way of this musical adaptation of "Some Like It Hot," "Sugar" is worth seeing. The singers sing well and the dancers dance well and the script is funny enough.

Who among us, except perhaps the very young, does not remember Sugar Kowalechik from Sandusky, Ohio? Marilyn Monroe's brilliant creation of the sensuous innocent who always got the fuzzy end of the lollipop added a name to our list of legendary heroic and not-so-heroic characters. She gave us a personality type as well defined as Caspar Milquetoast.

Sugar Kowalechik: warm, loving, buffeted about by the very weakness that is her strength — a lusty insistence on grabbing on to life and squeezing out every drop of happiness. The sad thing is that she always falls for the wrong man, the one who leaves her with nothing more than an empty tube of toothpaste.

Unfortunately, Julie Styne and Bob Merrill have done the same to us. They have taken a form but have not given it substance. The form had already produced a major film classic. They turned it into a musical with not very good music and only marginally passable lyrics.

## Windsor players open season

"The Country Wife" by William Wycherley will open the University Players 26th season Thursday, Oct. 18, at the Essex Hall Theatre in Windsor.

Performances continue Friday-Sunday, Oct. 19-21, and Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 25-28. For ticket information, call 253-4565 or 253-4232, Ext. 2804, during normal business hours.

The action takes place on a replica

## Mime troupe does new musical

After a nine-year absence from the Detroit area, the San Francisco Mime Troupe will present its new musical "Steeltown" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor and 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, and at 4 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, at the Rackham Auditorium in Detroit.

Tickets at the Michigan Theatre, \$3.50-\$12.50, are available from the box office, phone 663-0681. Tickets for the Detroit performances are \$8 at the



**Gay Zieger**

WHILE ON THE whole it is the dialogue that best displays the talents of the cast, one production number excels. Those tap dancing mobsters, led by a true delight, Curt Vincent as Knuckles Norton, are inordinately effective. Maybe the paradox of plotting assassinations while tap-tap-tapping away — a sort of murder on the Good Ship Lollipop — accounts for some of the fun, but mostly these hoods are just plain good.

When Knuckles searches for his prey among the chorus line and gets himself caught up in the rhythm, the audience guffaws. It does it again when he is shot and we hear/see his last gasp/dance step.

To Mary Whiting's credit, she does not attempt to mimic Monroe. Instead she gives Sugar her own reading. The result is a low, softer, much more genuine character. Whiting is a charmer, a picture of grace.

As the male musicians in an all-girl band, Nick Dara and Jeff Upchurch are silly and lots of fun. Dara has a wonderfully expressive face that conveys

lechery, outrage and a sense of the ludicrousness of the situation. His physicality is especially effective when he wobbles in his high heels and adjusts his slip straps or other accoutrements.

His comedy has style. With due apologies — he is not a candidate for the Booby Trap's luncheon lingerie show.

Upchurch is a good girl but an even better millionaire. His feigned suavity and romantic maneuvers are a joy. His interpretation is rich and detailed.

So, despite ultimately forgettable music and such lyrics as: "Do we dare in a democracy to shatter the hypocrisy" and "Her life will be in patches, her breath will come in catches," this production serves as a showcase for the multi-talented Avon Players.



Jeff Upchurch (left) and Nick Dara have their eye on Mary Whiting, who plays Sugar Kena, in the musical "Sugar" at the Avon Players.

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## Fund-raiser event to be given

"An Evening at the Players Club" featuring the play "The Bowery Burlesque Moves Up-town" will be hosted by the Friends of Barst Human Services at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 at the

Players Club, 3321 E. Jefferson, Detroit. The fund-raiser includes a light meal following the play. Beer, wine and snacks will be served during the show. Tickets are \$30 per

person, \$25 of which is tax deductible. For more information, contact Rita Gzellik at 833-1525.

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### RULES

1. List your favorite Country songs on the entry form to get a chance to win a prize. Fill in your name, address, phone number, age and mail to: WWW #1 Listens - P.O. Box 1000, Detroit, MI 48206.
2. Entries will be drawn at random from all entries received and announced on WWW. Your name will be called and you will win a prize. Send in your entry form by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 15, 1984. Entries received after this date will not be considered.
3. Listen to WWW Country at 106.7 FM. If you hear your name called, call us at 106.7 FM. We will announce the prize and you will win a prize. Send in your entry form by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, October 15, 1984.
4. All winners announced on the air will be eligible to win the Grand Prize. (Prize drawing will be held on WWW at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, November 18, 1984.)
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