Intelligence marks comedy

Performnces of the Meadow Brook Theatre production of Alan Ayckhurn's "Taking Steps" continue through Sunday, April 14, othe Oakland University campus near Rochester. For ticket Gormation, call the box office at 377-3300,

For ticket iformation, can the not office at officials.

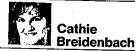
For hyperinetic hilarity, "Taking Steps" at Meadow Brook Theatre is an trearious delight. The comedy farce by Alan Ayekbourn, the phwright many call the Neil Simon of Great Britain, piles on the lighs without surrendering its intelligence.

Clever settesign maximizes the humorous abenanigans of the six member sat. Set designer Barry Grifflith creates on the Meadown of the Steps of of

sentences animassacres meaning lawyer type.

William Ku who plays the attorney, is a welcome newcomer to the Meadow East. He projects a shy, klutsy virility that is a perfect for the part of the man who succumbs to the charms of a bordello ghost and ends up in bed with two live women. Not had for a fellow who cit say a word without tripping on his tongue.

GEORGE GTO play the hard-drinking business tycoon who wants a big hoje to match his big success. He's as upperturbed by the mansloot's kity roof and its big success. He's as upperturbed by the mansloot's kity roof and its business. He's love late is by tales that wengeful ghost basined update. He's jovial and assured—untile learns that his wife is least bed and any postures and posess with ever inch of her long limber legs. Linding, fine actress that abe is, dockn admirable job. The problem is in catting. It's hard to imaginish the artisticarties and assured Linding control and to the control of the



husband brags he found ber. A dippy young dancer with dilusions of art would have been inherently more humorous. Where are you, Goldie Hawn?

Her brother, Mark, enlisted to belp her escape from ber husband, has problems of his own — a flancee who skipped out on him on their wedding day and a propensity for putting people to sleep with his tess-than-schilllating conversation. Part of the humor of the dear, dull man, played by Henson Keys, is that he never has a clue why anything happens to him.

His flances shows up and Joins the parade of people running about the mansion. The choreographed chaos is designed to make the audience laugh, and it succeeds. So does Jane floodyshell as the confused flances who can't make up her mind about anything except that ahe doesn't want anybody muscling in on her right to be indecisive.

The minimison's present owner, a middle-aged Yamaha jockey played by Donald Emer, arrives dressed like Darth Vader to negotiate the sale of his house. He and the tycon take an inspection tour of the premises and join the parade of people scurrying up and downstain.

The jumbled speeches, garbled farewell notes and general lack of communication of these six oddballs makes for uproariously funny entertainment.



Jillian Lindig is Elizabeth Boxer Crabbe, the wife who once was a chorine, in the Michigan premiere of "Taking Steps," at Meadow Brook Theatre.

St. Dunstan's offers polished production, 'Nuts'

Performances of the St. Dun-stan's Guild of Crobrook produc-tion of "Nuts" by Tor Topor contin-ue at 8:30 p.m. Fridy-Saturday at the playhouse at Franbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Fe ticket infor-mation, call 644-0527 nytime.

Anyone who doubts hat good com-munity theater can hat the emotional impact of topnotch profisional theater should head straight or "Nuts," the

current production by St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook.

This fascinating courtroom drama is presented with consummate skill and polish. Acting, directing and technical achievements all mesh, and director Betsy Todd does an especially fine job of integrating newcomers with the group's many talented stage veterans.

"Nuts" takes place in the courtroom attached to the psychiatric wing of New York's Bellevue Hospital. A sanity hearing is being conducted on Claudia Draper (Bonnie Cook) because the young woman's suburban, middle-class

Preview

AS CLAUDIA, Cook gives a riveting performance, projecting barely suppressed rage and frustration with every numer of movement and facial expression. Claudia's erratic courtroom of her clients.

Claudia lights to uphold her sanity and right to stand trial, screaming to her parents and the court, 'I won't be nuts for you's She and her young law-prefixed the progression of the client's antics and the court, it won't be nuts for you's She and her young law-prefixed the progression of the evidence against her.

Weston Meyer is wonderful as ArturKirk, Claudia's devoted stepfather.

who raised her after her own father shandoned his family. Kirk visibly distingrates on the wincess stand as the rought to light. Having taught claudid that everything has a price on ti, he is pathetically touching as he wings out his checkbook to try and buy back unpleasant truths.

Claudia that everything has a price on the control of the control o



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