



'El Grande' spotlights cabaret stars

Maggie Wysocki (left), Jonathon Round and Anita Barone appear in the cast of "El Grande de Coca-Cola," musical revue at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 8:30 p.m. Sundays through June 16 at the

Actors Alliance Theatre Company in Southfield. Round plays Pepe Hernandez, who brings his relatives to star as cabaret performers at a nightclub in Honduras.

second runs
Tom Panzenhagen

"Tora Curtain" (1966), 12:05 Saturday night on Ch. 8. Originally 128 minutes. TV time slot: 130 minutes.

Alfred Hitchcock's "Tora Curtain" is frightfully bad. The master of suspense manages only one chilling moment — when Paul Newman must quietly kill a communist police agent in the kitchen of a farm house without alerting the agent's partner outside. The sequence, in which Newman batters, strangles, stabs and finally gasses the agent before he succumbs, would be worth the price of admission. But the rest of the movie is so dreadful, and the interaction between Newman and icy co-star Julie Andrews so stilted, that ultimately nothing can save the picture.

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

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

to see where even the greatest movie makers can go wrong.
Rating: \$1.

The movie may have been doomed from the onset. Hitchcock, who shaped his stars to the detriment of their own creativity, did not see eye-to-eye with Newman, a method actor who shunned Hitch's direction. Andrews wasn't so brash but she turned in a very wooden performance. To top it off, Hitchcock hated the musical score composed for the movie by longtime associate Bernard Herrmann, who worked with Hitch on such films as "The Man Who Knew Too Much," "Vertigo," "North By Northwest" and "Psycho." He fired Herrmann and hired John Addison, who wrote the music for "Tom Jones," after Addison auditioned part of the score over the telephone for Hitchcock.

"Tora Curtain" is, to be sure, a curious failure, and almost worth watching

"Beyond the Poseidon Adventure" (1979), 8 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 7. Originally 122 minutes. TV time slot: 180 minutes.

Beware of movies that begin with "Beyond" or which in any other way portend a sequel. Also beware of movies produced and directed by Irwin Allen, as this one is, and which feature a large cast of Hollywood has-beens such as Telly Savalas, Shirley Knight, Shirley Jones, Karl Malden, Jack Warden, Slim Pickens and Peter Boyle. On the plus side there's an engaging turn by Veronica Hamel, better known today as attorney Joyce Davenport of "Hill Street Blues." And you may wonder what Sally Field and Michael Caine are doing in this movie in the first place, but as long as they're there, they're in to watch to. You could spend a duller two hours — by watching "Tora Curtain," for instance.
Rating: \$1.50.

Baritone, Uppman shows versatility

For those who were unable to attend the Met performances in Detroit, there was still an opportunity to listen to one of the leading operatic singers under more intimate surroundings. Recently, baritone Theodor Uppman presented a recital at Varer Hall, Oakland University.

He was accompanied by John Wustran, one of the leading accompanists who has appeared with many major opera stars. This recital was sponsored by the Birmingham Musicale. While such an event can't compare to a full opera production, there was no lack of entertainment. Uppman is one of the most versatile singers, who knows how to



Avigdor Zaromp

combine the art of singing with that of acting. The program was divided into four categories to listen to one of the leading operatic singers under more intimate surroundings. Recently, baritone Theodor Uppman presented a recital at Varer Hall, Oakland University.

AMONG the lesser known selections were arias by Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947) and Ravel. Hahn, a composer of French descent born in Argentina, was represented by the love song "A Chloris."

The songs from Ravel's "Don Quichotte a Dulcinee," which was the composer's last work, provided a rare glimpse into his seldom performed vocal output. The piano part, which is quite challenging, provided an opportunity for Wustran to demonstrate his skill in a more assertive manner.

Sally Rogers, a Michigan native and nationally known folksinger, will lead the lineup of more than two dozen performers at the seventh annual Ann Arbor Festival of Folk Song and Dance on Sunday.

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