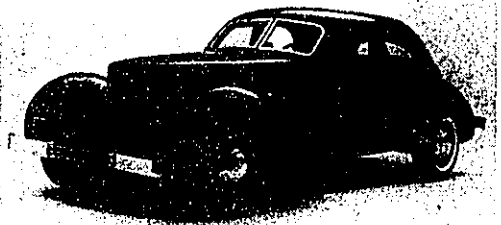
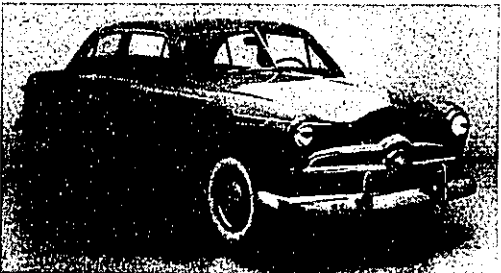
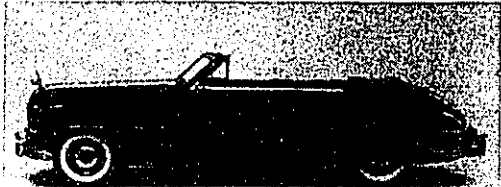
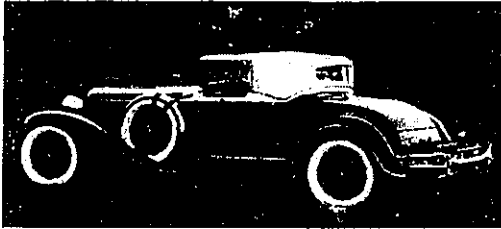


Cars and the Art They Inspire



Automobile and Culture Detroit Style

**The Detroit Institute of Arts
June 12-September 8**

DIA
CENTENNIAL
100 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

The exhibition is open during regular museum hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; closed Mondays, holidays. **FREE ADMISSION.**

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
5200 Woodward Avenue
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Theater staging variety of shows

By Cathie Breidenbach
special writer

IT'S A BUMPER crop of summertime theatre productions, promising to fill mellow summer nights in metropolitan Detroit with laughter and song.

Like girls wearing bikinis, theater offerings that attract the most attention during vacation season seem to be on the lighter side — musicals and comedies. People who like to get out to see a live performance rather than stay home to watch reruns and videos on a flickering TV set have more choices this summer than ever before. There's something doing every weekend now through Labor Day.

The list of coming attractions reads like a roster of seasoned Broadway successes — "Chorus Line," "Carousel," "Once Upon a Mattress," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Godspell." In the last few years, the metro-Detroit climate has been warming to summertime theater, and the trend of holding summer workshops and bringing in productions is expanding.

Last summer Meadow Brook Music Festival included a musical as part of its summer season on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. "Oklahoma!" was so popular that this season "A Chorus Line" is scheduled to dance across the stage at Baldwin Pavilion.

THE NATIONAL Touring Company will present eight performances of the hit show, starring Donna McKechnie, a Royal Oak native who was in the original Broadway cast. "Chorus Line" will run evenings Tuesday-Sunday, Aug. 20-25, plus two matinee performances.

Pavilion tickets for evening shows run \$20; tickets on the lawn are \$12; matinee seats are \$15 in the pavilion, \$8 on the lawn. Call the box office at 377-2010 for information.

Earlier in the summer, during the week beginning Tuesday, July 16, the Star Theatre of Flint also will bring in a company of dancers to do "A Chorus Line." This will be followed the week of July 30 by Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Carousel" with John McCook, star of the soap opera, "The Young and the Restless," and the TV series, "Codename: Foxfire."

All tickets are \$12.50. Senior citizen and student discounts are available. Call 239-1464 for information.

The irrepressible "Dolly!" will be back in town at the Birmingham Theatre from Wednesday, Aug. 7, to Sunday, Aug. 25. Patsy Garrett, star of the movie "Benji" and veteran TV actress, will play Dolly.

Robert L. Moloney Productions has rented the Birmingham Theatre to present six weeks of Summer Stage musicals, three weeks each of "Hello, Dolly!" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." The latter will run Wednesday, July 17, to Sunday, Aug. 4.

SUMMER STAGE musicals at the Birmingham Theatre is a first-time venture for the Moloney company that produces entertainment for theme parks, cruise ships and conventions.

Tickets range from \$7 for matinees, \$9 for evening performances on Wednesdays-Thursdays and \$11 for Fridays-Saturdays. Group rates are available. Call 373-4410 for ticket information.

This year for the second time ever, the Avon Players will put on a summer show Friday-Saturday, July 19-20 and 26-27, at

its playhouse in Avon Township. The summer experiment was initiated by college-age players in the group.

The players will perform, direct and stage the high-energy musical "Godspell," which is based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew and is particularly suited to the enthusiasms of young players. Tickets are \$5. Call 375-1527 for information.

For those who hunger for meatier fare, even in sunshine season, the Farmington Players will present a Summer Workshop Production of the poignant drama, "Elephant Man," based on the true story about a grotesquely deformed man's struggle against the ugliness of prejudice. "Elephant Man" will run Friday-Sunday, July 19-21, and Thursday-Saturday, July 25-27, at the Farmington Players Barn on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Tickets on Thursdays and Sundays are \$3, Fridays and Saturdays \$4. Call 661-4599 for information.

SUMMER IS becoming not only a grand time to see theater but a good time to learn the ropes at area theater-schools and workshops. Those smitten by the call of the footlights can polish their skills at Cranbrook and Will-O-Way theater schools and at a summer workshop for adults put on by the Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford. The evening workshop by the guild will focus on the technical aspects of theater, and students will help stage the premiere production of a play by a Michigan playwright on Fridays-Saturdays, Aug. 2-3 and 9-10. Call 522-8057 for ticket information.

Cranbrook Theatre School opens Monday, June 24, and offers three simultaneous sessions for different age groups ranging from third grade through college. Students study speech and movement on the Cranbrook grounds and at the outdoor Greek Theatre and St. Dunstan's Playhouse on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

Performances for the public during the last week of July and the first two weeks in August culminate the theater school sessions. Call 645-3678 for information.

Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre offers summer classes for both students and adults. Afternoon sessions for students ages 8-17 run Monday, July 15, through Thursday, Aug. 15, at the new playhouse on Cole Street in Birmingham. Evening classes for adults run Sunday, July 14, through Sunday, Aug. 11. Will-O-Way will open the musical "Once Upon a Mattress" on July 12, to run Fridays-Saturdays through Aug. 31.

"Mattress" will be Will-O-Way's first production in the new Birmingham playhouse which it has just finished renovating. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens and children under 12. Call 644-4418 for information.

THE FAST-PACED comedy "Not With My Daughter" plays Friday and Saturday evenings through Sept. 14 at the Jimmy Launice Dinner Theatre at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. The Hyatt offers three theater package options: \$35 for theater and dinner at Julio's, \$18 for theater and dinner at Kafay's and \$9.50 for theater only. Call 593-1234 for reservations.

Another light comedy, "A Gentleman and a Scoundrel" plays through Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Somerset Dinner Theatre in Troy's Somerset Mall. Tickets are \$18.50 and include dinner at the Cafe Jardin, followed by the romantic comedy. Call 649-1359 for reservations.