

Hello, Dolly!' is fair attraction

Performances of the Summer-Stage production of the musical "Hello, Dolly!" continue through Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Birmingham Theatre. Tickets are available at Ticket World outlets, 423-6688, or the Birmingham Theatre box office, 644-3376.

By Barbara Michals
staff writer

Serving as a showcase for local talent, the current production of "Hello, Dolly!" for SummerStage at the Birmingham Theatre offers a pleasant rendition of this popular Jerry Herman musical.

Aside from TV actress Patsy Garrett in the title role, nearly all the cast is from Michigan and the majority from the Birmingham area. The many young performers in the show are particularly fine, including a male chorus line that fairly dazzles.



Barbara Michals

In casting Garrett as the mischievous matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi, the production returns to the original, pre-musical concept of Dolly as a pudgy, middle-aged matron determined to have more fun in life "Before the Parade Passes By."

Garrett may be the antithesis of glamorous Carol Channing, the actress most associated with the role, but the plot actually makes more sense this way. Or at least it would if Garrett had a little more pizzazz and less deliberateness in her delivery. The heavy amplification of her voice only accentuates the negative.

HIRED BY wealthy Yonkers businessman Horace Vandergelder (Mike Evans) to find him a suitable second wife, Dolly decides to win Vandergelder for herself. Along the way, she assists Vandergelder's young clerks to find love and adventure in New York.

Evans is delightful as the crusty Vandergelder, known for being "hard as nails" but simply putty in Dolly's hands. Evans persuades that behind all the growl and bluster there lurks amiability waiting to be discovered.

As Vandergelder's overworked and underpaid clerk, Martin Flynn and David New are excellent, portraying Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker. Models of youthful innocence, they charm in lively numbers like "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," "Dancing" and "Elegance."

New is an especially accomplished dancer.

Mary Callaghan Lynch is a fetching Irene Malloy, the milliner almost engaged to Vandergelder but now smitten by Cornelius. A vocal standout in any show in which she appears, Lynch has the lovely solo "Ribbons Down My Back" and the other half of "It Only Takes a Moment."

FAMELIA MARTIN is sweetly ingenious as the outspoken Minnie Fay, Irene's shop assistant, and holds her own in the song and dance department. Shirleyann Kalladjan does not make the most of her comic opportunities as Ermengarde, Vandergelder's perpetually weeping niece. Similarly, Dan Perrelli is unimpressive as Ambrose, Ermengarde's sweetheart.

While all the chorus work is lively, it is the young men who really excel.



Val Kilmer is Chris Knight, a brilliant, mischief-making senior at Pacific Tech.

the movies
Dan Greenberg

Where's the genius beyond clever idea in muddy comedy?

"Real Genius" lacks what its title offers. Even for a comedy, it is not very credible and if there was any genius involved in the production, it certainly doesn't show.

Although the film's premise is clever, and there is some funny stuff, "Real Genius" dwells on weakly self-absorbed storylines, one-dimensional characters, jokes that are over or underdone and some special effects that aren't worth the big bucks invested.

Pacific Tech, modeled loosely after Cal Tech, is the setting in which super-alek Professor (and television teacher) Jerome Hathaway (William Atherton) exploits the genius of personally recruited students to fulfill his own selfish ends.

There are five young principals, three of them students Hathaway exploits: Smart-aleck, wise-cracking Chris Knight (Val Kilmer), whose manner is a defense against academic burnout; recently recruited and very young (even for a freshman), 15-year-old Mitch Taylor (Gabe Jarret), and ex-teacher's pet Kent Toolevel (Robert Prescott), reduced to near-servant status since Mitch arrived on campus.

THE OTHER TWO leads, hyperkinetic engineering student Jordan Cochran (Michelle Meyrink) and dropout Laslo Hollyfield (Jonathan Gries), who lives in the college's steam tunnels, complement one another: she has too much energy and personality and he has none.

It is all very well to say that's good characterization. As a matter of fact, it was either too much or too little and, as with all but Chris Knight, the characters in this film have no dimension. Professor Hathaway is a completely self-absorbed egotist with no redeeming qualities. Kent, his toady, has only one dimension. Mitch is just there and the rest of the local geniuses act like refugees from Mr. Kotter's classroom.

Effective comedy and satire present characters and situations that appear real. To do so, one needs characters that are human, that have good and bad features. Chris Knight is the only one who meets those criteria in "Real Genius." His defense against academic burnout and the problems genius brings is flippancy and apparent disinterest in everything (except sex). Kilmer plays it sharp and snappy and has most of the film's clever dialogue, well-delivered.

One of the film's potentially funniest scenes is underdeveloped to the point that it isn't funny. The humor possible in a reading room filled with students intensely studying for finals is lost because the long shots presented never let the audience feel the tension, as close-ups would have. When one student finally goes berserk under pressure, no laughter, again, because of long shots, the audience never sees or feels released tension as a contrast to built-up pressures.

At the other end of the spectrum, it isn't funny to take an old joke and drag it out. Such overdevelopment telegraphs the punchline and the audience gets bored waiting for the obvious. Students leave tape decks to record the professor's lecture. He, in turn, gets tired of lecturing to tape recorders and tape records his lecture for the students' tape recorders. Funny, huh? Maybe as a one-liner, but not here with so much screen time devoted to the build-up.

THE UNDER and overdeveloped loose ends are characteristic of "Real Genius," with Mitch's search for Laslo in the closet leaving us all somewhat confused and disinterested.

Mitch finally detects the secret of his closet's trapdoor (for such a bright kid, it sure takes him a long time to figure it out) and he discovers the steam tunnels where Laslo lives. He takes a ride down there on a very expensive funicular railway and the scene cuts to something else. Why bother with all that for no apparent reason?

Why Laslo is down there, what he's doing and who's the blonde that drops in and out of things looking for love with men of genius are but three of the distractions woven in and out of this story of Professor Hathaway using student geniuses to build a profitable (for him) weapon.

The foolishness mercifully comes to an end with an overdose gag involving 100,000 pounds of popcorn, retail value \$1.8 million. Once you pop all that corn, you have to use it. "Real Genius" is long on corn and short on clever.



Gabe Jarret is Mitch Taylor, a bright, young freshman who joins in clever pranks with other campus geniuses.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

Walk in or Appointment:
Whirlpool, Saunas
Showers
Oriental Staff
Massage
Private Rooms for Men and Women.

TOKYO ORIENTAL HEALTH SPA
2841 Orchard Lake Rd.
In the Mt. Everest Plaza
(Between 12 & 13 Mile)
Farmington Hills
553-2898

SHOOGUN ORIENTAL HEALTH SPA
23100 Telegraph Rd.
North of 8 Mile
356-7310
Monday-Saturday 10-2 A.M.

Jan Drake's
Dietician Cafe
33010 NORTHWESTERN HWY. at 14 Mile • 551-0394
FREE LUNCH OR DINNER
With this coupon valid only at other areas
Expires August 12 • Dine-in Only

FREE OFFICE DELIVERY (Lunch Only)
• 8 Entree Salads • 10 Sandwich Combinations
• Hearty Soups & Entrees
NEW FEATURE
PASTA SPECIALTIES
Includes: Appetizer, Cream Sauce and Fresh Hot Italian Bread
OPEN 7 DAYS 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mon.-Sun.

RIB REBATE

We Are Proud To Announce the Addition Of Great

BABY BACK RIBS

TO OUR MENU. MADE WITH OUR OWN SECRET BARBECUE SAUCE!
TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR RIBS, WE WILL GIVE A

\$2.00 REBATE

Expires Aug. 19

ON ALL RIB DINNERS!

ANY HOUR! ANY DAY!

BLOOMIES

6560 Orchard Lake Road at Maple West Bloomfield 626-1587

August

FILM FESTIVAL

The Detroit Science Center brings back the excitement of 5 favorite films in our 67 1/2 foot domed screen SPACE THEATRE.

SHOW #1
• HAIL COLUMBIA • ERUPTION OF MOUNT ST. HELEN'S • ATMOS

SHOW #2
• BEHOLD HAWAII • GREAT BARRIER REEF

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS: SATURDAYS:
Show #1 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Show #1 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Show #2 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Show #2 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Through August 31st

Show #1 or #2	Both Shows (same day)
Adults 13 and up	\$5.50
Ages 6 - 12	\$4.50
Ages 4 and 5	\$1.50
Senior Citizens	\$3.50

The Exhibit Hall will be open during intermissions at no extra charge. Refreshments will also be available.

\$1 Off Admission.
Good for any show listed above.

5020 John R Street • Detroit, MI 48202 • 577-8400

Join
pta

DINE OUT

Kimono Oriental Spa
GRAND OPENING
ALL ORIENTAL STAFF

- SAUNA
- SHOWER
- JACUZZI
- MASSAGE
- WHIRLPOOL
- STEAM ROOM

34443 Telegraph Rd. • Southfield, MI 48075 • 354-1022
(South of 10 Mile Across from McDonald's)

pettijo's 2225 OPDYKE ROAD AUBURN HILLS 373-1313 2 Miles N. of Silverdome

Food and Drink
AUGUST
DINNER SPECIAL
FRESH LAKE PERCH...10*
Includes Salad Bar

PETTIJON'S
★ ENTERTAINMENT ★
DICK HAYNES
Synthesizer & Vocalist
Wed. & Thurs. 6 to 10 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 8 to 12 Midnight

CATERING

YOUR PLACE OR OURS

Anywhere, anytime, any occasion.
From the moderate to the exquisite, we cater to your particular needs. We prepare, deliver and set-up.

Carry out service and box lunches available.

Kingsley Inn

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD
BLOOMFIELD HILLS • 644-1400

The Good Earth's Early Bird Specials. Especially for You.

\$4.95.

A complete dinner just \$4.95 at The Good Earth Restaurant 4 to 6 P.M. Monday-Friday.

Here's something you early birds will come flying in for—The Good Earth's Early Bird Specials.

It begins with your choice of homemade soup or salad. Either our 12-summer vegetable soup or the soup of the day. Or our multi-vegetable garden patch salad or spinach salad with our own special dressings. What's next? The choice is yours!

- Beef Kabob
- Eggplant Casserole
- Catch of the Day • Teriyaki Chicken

All entrees are served with The Good Earth's warm, delicious 10-grain rolls and brown rice pilaf. So, never put off 'til later what you can do between 4 and 6. Catch the Early Bird Special for just \$4.95.

the Good earth
Restaurant, Bakery & Bar
Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

ORCHARD LAKE RD. at 14 MILE
FARMINGTON HILLS, adjacent to Tully Mall
Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-10 pm, Fri. & Sat. 7 am-11 pm, Sun. 8 am-6 pm
626-4575