



Cathie Breidenbach

Large cast creates rousing production

Performances of the St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of the musical "Guys and Dolls" continue Thursday-Saturday, June 5-7, at the outdoor Greek Theatre at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. For ticket information, call 644-0527.

By Cathie Breidenbach

St. Dunstan's wraps up this year's theater season with the lively and pleasing production of "Guys and Dolls," staged in its outdoor Greek Theatre.

Director Isabel Himelhoch adeptly handles the large cast of 43 players in the complicated comedy and going onstage as crapshooters, hookers, hoopers, Salvation Army do-gooders and cops. All 17 scenes move right along.

After a feeble opening, the orchestra warmed up nicely to the music by Frank Loesser, in this musical fable based on Damon Runyon's story about a tender side of life on the tough streets of New York.

The gamblers led by local punk Nathan Detroit are looking for a place to hold their floating crap game where the cops won't break up the action. Joe Lannon as Nathan pulls off his part with a successful "New Yawk" accent.

His longtime love, Adelaide, played with heart and high humor by Dianne Rydén, is a dumb dame who could win even the hardest heart. Winning Nathan's heart was no challenge to Adelaide with her

dizzy, endearing "personality." But it took 14 years and a cast of 43 to get Nathan to take the big step and marry his lady love.

ANOTHER CHARMER in the cast is Nicely-Nicely Johnson, a roly-poly tough with a squeaky voice who's played wonderfully by Gary Temple.

Sarah Brown, a pretty Salvation Army sergeant, succumbs to the persuasions of Sky Masterson, a gambler with a bet for a thousand riding on whether he can convince her to fly off to Havana with him. She thinks she's converting a sinner, he thinks she means an easy gain, but neither of them predicts that Cupid will sling a few arrows into the arrangement.

Both Pat Ward who plays Sarah and Patrick Lynch who plays Sky do creditable jobs, although the romance between them never heats up to more than a slow simmer.

St. Dunstan's didn't stint on polished sets or great costumes for "Guys and Dolls." From the authentic Salvation Army uniforms to the teasing whimsy of pompos, strategically placed on dance costumes for Miss Adelaide and her troop, the costumes add to this light-hearted musical about tough guys who fall in love.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield has always loved theater. A former high-school English teacher, she works in public relations, advertising and as a freelance writer.

review

tunes and, as fun to watch as all the colorful characters are, maybe too many of them. (Nicely done by Woody Chaffee here, is Taco Tom really necessary though? Or Officer Kowalski, played by Rhea Perlman look-alike Debbie Polk?)

Nevertheless, "The Paradise" is entertaining, amusing, clever, touching, imaginative and great fun. Costumes and sets are attractive and well put together and always complement the musical. Other than that, not much can be said for "The Paradise." Except that it's exuberant and always full of life.

If there's anything negative about the play it may be that it's too much of a good thing. Too long, too many

Excalibur boasts American cuisine

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

Chef Marty Wilk of the Excalibur in Southfield describes the food he serves at the upscale restaurant as "an American cuisine."

The way Wilk looks at it, European or French cuisine isn't what he wants to copy. "They're following us more than we're following them now. We're setting the trends now," he said firmly.

On a recent afternoon at the Excalibur (28875 Franklin Road at Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile Road), the chef took a breather after the luncheon rush to talk about some of the menu offerings. Samples of many dishes at lunch proved this restaurant is serving some things that are extra special.

For starters there was a water-cress salad with dill and light vinaigrette dressing. Then followed pasta primavera with spinach fettuccine, a plate of swordfish, soft-shell crab and salmon, and veal chop medallion.

ESPECIALLY delightful was the

crunchy crab and the tasty veal chop in sauce full of delicate morel mushrooms.

Dessert was a tasting of several offerings. The Excalibur regularly serves cheesecake with strawberries, a Gold Brick sundae, chocolate mousse torte and that extravaganza, Baked Alaska.

Chef Wilk said fish and provincial meat are among the restaurant's most-wanted dishes. But there's a good variety of choices. "We touch on just about everything you can imagine," he said. "We prepare everything ourselves. We do a lot of catering and parties, too."

Wilk studied food preparation at Chassey High School in Detroit and also took courses at the Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y. He does presentations on veal and fish at the Great Lakes Food Show, presented through the Michigan Restaurant Association.

His restaurant background has included working at the London Chop House, as executive sous chef, for seven years at the Ramada Inn in Southfield, Doug's Body Shop and

table talk

for the last seven years, the Excalibur.

CATERING TO an upper-middle-class clientele, the Excalibur started off as a watering spot and then went to a full-service restaurant. It's gone from an emphasis on casual fare to more elegant, fine dining.

The restaurant opened in February 1978, and Chef Wilk arrived in August. "I came and got rid of Sindbad's," he said, referring to the informality.

The Excalibur, which used to have an example of the vintage luxury car parked out front, is planning to upgrade its menu and get rid of the cute names for the dishes. For example, the veal saute with zucchini, mushrooms and marsala is called "the Maserati" on the current menu. Interesting decorative touches at the restaurant include a front door from a castle in Germany and an 18th century bar with 20 stools surrounded by a large stand-up area.

The restaurant's decor is seasonal, changed four times yearly for an always-new look. At present, the dimly

lit smart interior is accented by pretty kites overhead.

Evenings, there's dancing and Top 40 entertainment Tuesday-Saturday.

ENTERTAINER Frank Sinatra, a friend of the restaurant's owner, Pat Archer, is one of the celebrity customers who has Chef Wilk send him orders of ribs. Said Wilk, "I send ribs to Rancho Mirage (Calif.) twice a year."

Will uses a Canadian back rib. He said the sauce is "not really hot, it's warm with spices. It's pretty interesting."

The Excalibur regularly serves two, four and seven-pound Maine lobsters. On a foray through the kitchen, the chef also showed off a big 15 pounder, awaiting its fate, in the live-lobster tank.

Bunny tales

The second Playboy Bunny Reunion will be Tuesday, June 10, at Nicky's at the Top of Troy building. Bunnies, husbands and friends will gather to swap stories and eat a buffet supper at 7 p.m. in the banquet room.

Last year, 25 Bunnies attended. This year, 35 are expected. The event, which is open to the public, recalls the early '60s, the heyday of the Playboy Clubs with their big-bosomed, cotton-tailed waitresses. For more information, call Nicky's at 362-1252.

Contest finalists

Three area chefs were finalists in the second annual "All-Michigan Meal" contest. They are Leopold R. Schaeff of the Machus Red Fox in Birmingham, Heinz Mengener of the Drake Restaurant in West Bloomfield and Miles Chelka of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield.

Winning chef was Joseph Miller of the recently opened Darby's Restaurant in Utica.

The statewide competition kicked off Michigan Week festivities. Sixty contest entrants and six finalists all served their own "All-Michigan Meal" during Michigan week (Saturday, May 17, to Saturday, May 24).

American food

More restaurant news was made during Michigan Week by Stuart Anderson's American Grill. The California chain opened an American Grill in Livonia on Tuesday, May 20. Another American Grill had opened in Troy in April; one more will open in Southfield in mid-June.

The menu emphasizes American cooking, with dishes made from scratch. Steaks, prime rib, chicken, rabbit and fish are among choices on the dinner menu, with grilling and roasting as favored methods of preparation. Prime rib is \$9.25 for a regular cut, \$12.95 for a hearty cut, bone-in.

Wine is available by the glass, the bottle or from a 16-bottle cruet set. Richard Rydin is general manager and Vincenzo Camuglia is executive chef in Troy at 1555 E. Maple. Fred Roberto of Canton is general manager and Hal Caswell is executive chef in Livonia at 17050 S. Laurel Park Drive. The Southfield eatery will be at 27522 Northwestern Highway.

A feature of each restaurant is an open cooking area where chefs prepare orders over live fuel and a giant rotisserie. The restaurants have a warm contemporary decor and an entertainment lounge where a disc jockey spins all kinds of American music.

**Windsor-Riverside
Lions Club**

**- LAS VEGAS -
Casino**

Th. & Fri., June 5 & 6 p.m.-1 a.m.
Sat., June 7 3 p.m.-1 a.m.
Sun., June 8 3 p.m.-Midnight

**CLEARY AUDITORIUM
201 Riverside Drive W.
Windsor, Ontario**

• Black Jack Tables
• Wheel of Fortune
• Admission: \$1.00

• Win a Free Trip for 2 to Las Vegas
• 2 Free Chips with this Ad
• Proceeds to "Riverside Lions Club"
50% ON U.S. FUNDS

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
2400 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. 332-0241
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

STARS WEEKLY **STARS WEEKLY**
INVASION FROM MARS **SPACECAP**
COBRA **SWEET LIBERTY**

POLTERGEIST II
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
7405 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6722
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

STARS WEEKLY **STARS WEEKLY**
RAW DEAL **JO JO DANCER**
TOP GUN **DEMONS**

JAKE SPEED **BEAR CAT**
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
10000 W. LEBANON RD. 338-1111
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

STARS WEEKLY **STARS WEEKLY**
CRITTERS **MONEY PIT**

BACK TO THE FUTURE
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

Songs are joyous in 'The Paradise'

Performances of the musical "The Paradise" continue Fridays-Sundays, June 6-8 and 10-12, at Trinity House in Livonia. For ticket information, call 464-6302.

By Victoria Diaz
special writer

If you haven't been inspired lately to leave a theater burning the tunes of the musical production you've just seen, your time may have just come with "The Paradise," a sparkling little gem of a musical now being performed at the Trinity House in Livonia.

If there's anything negative about the play it may be that it's too much of a good thing. Too long, too many

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN

good tastes
Enjoy the many good tastes of the Mon Jin Lau

DISTINCTIVE CUISINE OF ALL CHINA - EXOTIC SPIRITS
Share our good tastes with a friend

Mon Jin Lau
1501 EAST MAPLE RD. • TROY
689-2332



munity • The pulse of yo

SALE
Sterling Silver and Gold
Thousands of estate and out-of-pawn items in stock.

NOW OPEN EVENING HOURS!
Wednesdays & Thursdays 11:30 P.M.
BIRMINGHAM STAMPS & COINS, INC.
1287 S. Woodward • Birmingham
642-1234
8 Dba. N. of 14 Mile • E. side of Woodward
New Hours: Mon., Tues., Fri. & Sat. 10-6
Wed. & Thurs. 10-4
"Buying or Selling... We Can Help You"

■ CRUMPETS ■
New Orleans French Toast and Crumpets
Breast of Capon Francaise and Crumpets
Veal Marsala and Crumpets • New York
Cheese Cake and Crumpets • (or simply
tea and Crumpets) • From 6 AM-11 PM.

**Inside the world of
The Somerset Inn**
2601 W. Big Beaver Rd.
(east of Cadillac) Troy, Michigan
643-7800

**IN THE GOOD OLE SUMMERTIME
FOUR BEARS**
Water Park and Recreation Area

CALL 739-5860
FOR GROUP RATES & PICNIC RATES
3000 AUBURN RD.

HOURS:
Sun.-Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Here's what you get with a full admission ticket
All-day admission to the following:
• 15-acre man-made lake and white sandy beach
(beach closes at 6:00 p.m.)
• Kiddie rides (closed at dusk)
• Amusement golf
• Bumper cars
Additional Attractions:
• Can Am Cars
• Soft serve ice cream (refrigerated required)
• Sailing cages (refrigerated required)
Additional facilities:
• Restrooms • Food & Soda
• Gift Shop • Coin-Operated Games

NEW \$5.95 NIGHTTIME FULL ADMISSION PRICE
Sun.-Thurs. 10 p.m. - Fri. & Sat. 11 p.m.
5 p.m. to Closing

Buy ONE FULL ADMISSION \$10.95
Monday-Friday ONLY
GET ONE FREE
OAE Expires 6/30/85

Buy ONE MINIATURE GOLF \$3.00
GET ONE FREE
after 5:00 p.m.
OAE Expires 6/30/85

Buy ONE CAN AM RACE CAR RIDE \$3.00
GET ONE FREE
after 5:00 p.m.
OAE Expires 6/30/85