

Spotlight on refurbished Marquis

Continued from Page 1

quate and is complemented by an orchestra pit, a factor that is essential to the success of musical theater.

Acoustics are good and — as the saying goes — "There isn't a bad seat in the house."

The Zaytlls received an award from the Northville Beautification Commission following the restoration.

Many types of entertainment have been featured since the theater was reopened in 1978. At first, Zaytll offered mostly movies with

two live shows a year. She scrapped the movies because she found them unprofitable.

Since 1984, Zaytll has concentrated on stage shows, children's performances, concerts and former Broadway hits such as "Camelot," "Brigadoon," "Man of La Mancha" and "Carousel."

SHE IS PLEASED with the audience response this season.

Her production earlier this year of "Peter Pan," for instance, was a great success. Expenses were high, she noted, because the show featured the same flying mechanism

that was used in the Broadway production.

Because of the professionals who perform in the shows, Zaytll considers her productions to be a notch or two above community-theater-type shows and only slightly below those produced, for instance, at the Birmingham Theater.

"The talent is really coming out," she added. "All these things make a good show. If people want to have live theater, they will have to support it. How it's going to go, I don't know."

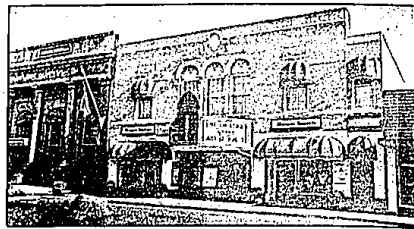
Zaytll's production of "Gypsy" is playing through Aug. 3. Performances are held Friday and Saturday evening, and Sunday afternoons. Prices are \$9 for Friday shows, \$12 for Saturdays and \$8 for the Sunday matinee.

Fall productions will be "A Little Night Music," and "Shenandoah." The hit show, "Annie," will be featured during December.

In addition, children's show of "Hansel and Gretel" and "The Golden Pheasant" will be offered during August. Price is \$3.50.

For ticket information or schedules, call 349-8110 or 349-0868.

—Marie McGee contributed to this story.



BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

The restored theater building adds to the historic flavor of downtown Northville.

Directing calls for diplomacy

Continued from Page 1

HE ALSO HAS conducted the Dearborn Summer Festival Orchestra, the Oakway Symphony Orchestra, the Allen Park Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham String Ensemble.

Schedules are tight. The new Michigan Lyric Opera Company puts together each production in four weeks, including rehearsals and staging. Then, the company performs five or six times over two weekends.

"We work mostly at night," Morrison said. "How we do it, I don't know."

Morrison's many career responsibilities demand a flexible style that is both exacting and diplomatic. Some of the groups are composed of highly trained musicians, while others use untrained but enthusiastic amateurs.

Some players can sing but can't act well and vice versa.

The stereotype of the flamboyant, wild-haired temperamental maestro is largely a thing of the past, Morrison said.

With the untrained performer, "you have to be demanding (but) in a more gentle way."

"In your ear, you hear perfection," he said. "You have to keep building them up and you have to have the patience of Job. You can be as demanding as the group will allow you to be."

Morrison sees himself as the leader who must take charge of 65 to 80 musicians "who all think they know better than you do or have their own ideas."

"YOU HAVE TO convince a lot of people that your way is the way to go," he said.

While Morrison revels in his music, he finds the tremendous competition for jobs and lack of upward mobility discouraging. Morrison said he became involved in the

founding of the lyric opera theater because "When people aren't offering you jobs, you have to make your own."

Morrison's wife, Sandra, gives him moral support in his desire to continue conducting.

She is a graduate of Bishop Borgess High School in Redford and a telecommunications specialist for EDS division

of General Motors.

Sometimes their careers mean wearing different hats. In the current musical production of "Gypsy" at the Marquis, for instance, the couple have minor acting roles. Actually, the program notes, Morrison has many acting credits to his name.

"You have to aim, whether it will come about. I don't know,"

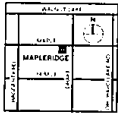
Morrison said. "I want to make a living. To be famous would be nice, but I don't need it. It isn't just me. There are a lot of conductors who are waiting to go to that next level."

Meanwhile, Morrison recently found himself touted as an inspiration and role model when he returned to Holt and conducted the high school band.

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