

# Sondheim presentation is delightful

By Mary Jane Doerr  
special writer

**S**OMETHING inviting, something exciting are not just lyrics, they describe the Light Opera of Michigan's production of "Side by Side by Sondheim" now playing at the Marquis Theatre in Northville.

## review

routines and Andrew Sisters imitations.

**EXCERPTS ARE** from "West Side Story," "Company," "Sunday in the Park with George," "Follies," "Sweeney Todd" and "A Little Night Music."

Their male counterparts, Mark Vondrak, Michael Pavelich, and David Pulice, complement the women's attire with black tuxedos, pink bow ties and cummerbunds.

This show, regarded as a low-budget production, was created by Sondheim to showcase himself as a composer/lyricist.

Director David Pulice turned to this show and to this group of local professionals to recover from the company's outstanding but poorly attended "Barber of

Seville" last September. The experts don't necessarily have to come from out of town. This group underscores this point dramatically.

Rochelle Rosenthal gave a memorable performance as the Beggar Woman in Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "Sweeney Todd" a few years ago. In this show, she shows she can split out Sondheim's "Another Hundred People" lyrics just as clearly and do many types of characters. Her "Losing My Mind" was penetrating. "The Boy From" was funny.

The usually classical Maria Cimarelli was just as versatile — emotional in "A Boy Like That," honky in "Broadway Girl," and sad in the rendition of "Green Finch." Cimarelli took her top notes easily and gently, not harshly.

**THE THREE MEN**, are all experienced revue singers. Pavelich's high notes were beautiful in

"Finishing the Hat." Vondrak's lyric high baritone was never out of his range. Pulice is well aware of his powerfully dramatic lower voice especially in "Never Could I Leave You" and his ability to deliver out the fast and furious Sondheim lyrics.

Rosemary DiDomizio, a good actress, was humorously appealing in "I Never Do Anything Twice."

Pulice's directing put the singers in the limelight, using few props. His direction was simple and effective. Accompanists David Wilson and Beverly Labuta share the responsibility for the show's success.

The French idea of musical revues is seldom carried out with this much continuity. This is good entertainment, folks.

It continues this weekend with performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 349-8110 or 349-8568.



artifacts  
**David Messing**

## Contest winners announced

**O**VER THE PAST few weeks I have "Honey-Baked," "Herbseyed," "Godiva'd" and "egg nogged" myself into a new wardrobe.

**BEFORE I GET** into the New Year's goals, I have some old business to clear up from the 1986 Christmas Card Contest.

I would like to congratulate our first-prize winner in the adult category: Patricia Hilton Wilbur. Patricia and her husband recently moved to Michigan and read about the contest in the Farmington Observer.

Her beautiful card entry is a nice combination of good concept and excellent technical ability: a dove of peace sitting on a snow covered bow upon which is hung a single Christmas bulb. On the bulb are continents symbolizing the earth. The image of the dove is reflected on the bulb and

adds a nice touch as it represents "Peace on Earth."

Pat said her drafting table is getting old and wobbly so she will enjoy her prize of a new drafting table.

First prize in the 10-to-14 year age category went to Jeff Wild. Jeff simply drew a wreath. It had a nice loose look to it and was an easy first choice.

**THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL** entry went to Tim Jacek. His entry was a beautiful snow scene full of good thought and excellent technical skill.

Other winners were: Lesley Carmichael of Plymouth; Steve Grotzick of Livonia; Cheryl Gluzel of Westland; Mike Benck of Livonia; Honorable mention: Jean Warner of Farmington Hills; Dorothy Harmon of Detroit; Eric Kohler of Livonia.

# She wins short story contest — twice

By Corinne Abatt  
staff writer

**F**OR THE second year in a row, Barbara Cassani of Livonia won the \$1,000 first prize in the Detroit Auto Dealers Association short story contest.

son High School with a master's in film studies from Wayne State University, works for Henry Ford and other area hospitals as a medical editor.

"My (creative) writing is totally unrelated to what I do for a living," she said.

Her background in film helps explain the subtle references to "The

Wizard of Oz," "Casablanca" and "Dracula" in her award-winning short story, "My Mother's Shoes." She received her \$1,000 check at a luncheon at the Westin Hotel given by DADA to honor the three adult and three high school contest winners and preview the Detroit Auto show which begins its nine-day Cobo Hall run Saturday, Jan. 10.

CASSANI, WHO said, "I'm an old movie fan," looked like she could have been in one of those films she likes to watch. Her long red hair and bright red, spike heel pumps made a dramatic contrast to her winter white outfit and soft hazel eyes. The equally subtle literary references in her story confirm her statement that she reads constantly.

"I had one creative writing class at Wayne. Hal Youngblood was my teacher. He and his assistant, Chuck Dapora, gave me a lot of help and confidence."

Incidentally, Cassani has been invited to be a guest on Youngblood's evening radio talk show Friday.

when she's not editing medical material or reading (for her own pleasure) she's writing or going through the intake process that leads to writing. "I write whenever I have the chance," she said.

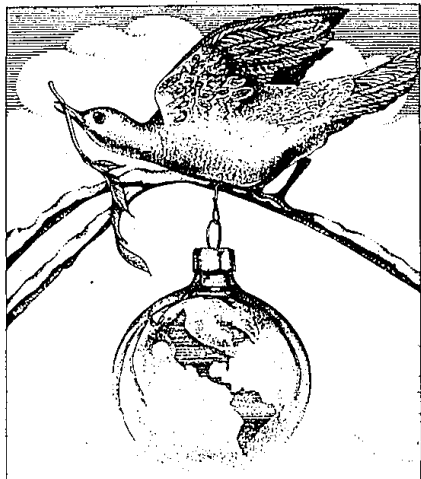
"I work more on an observation level. I have to take in a lot of things

**Meridian's most recent project was to act as a support crew in a documentary about the recently completed Great Peace March in which 600 Americans walked across the country.**

and formulate them in my mind. 'My Mother's Shoes' was a culmination of a year's experience. I wrote the story on a Saturday night. I go on instinct on a lot of things. The story has to be in your mind first — if you push at it, it weakens. This story is dedicated to my mother who died in August."

Cassani who won in 1986 for her story, "Under the Waxie, Dixie Moon," said she wasn't certain if this one, describing her feelings about her mother's death, would appeal to the judges because it was so subjective, but it was one she felt compelled to write and enter in the contest. She's now at work on a more extensive project.

"My Mother's Shoes" will be published in the Detroit Auto Show program.



Patricia Hilton Wilbur of Farmington was the first-place winner.



Barbara Cassani's prize-winning story is featured in the Detroit Auto Show magazine. The Livonia resident took top honors last year in open competition as well.

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