



Barbara Michals

Lives of 8 sisters makes good show

Performances of "The Octette Bridge Club" continue through Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Farmington Players Barn Theatre in Farmington Hills. For ticket information call 626-5061.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

Pleasing performances mark the Farmington Players production of "The Octette Bridge Club," a warm-hearted chronicle of family life that combines comedy and drama.

Eight sisters, Irish-American Catholics, meet twice a month to play bridge and exchange gossip. As the action unfolds, they are being photographed for a local newspaper story on the club's third anniversary.

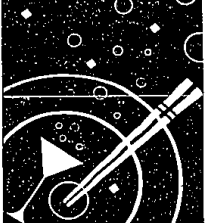
On the surface, all the sisters are in good-natured harmony. Yet for all the talk, there is little communication. When one of the women desperately wants to discuss her marital problems with her sisters, all they can offer her is the suggestion she speak to a nun. The first act leaves enough wires exposed to set the sparks flying in the second.

Kathleen Monticello does a very fine job with the juicy role of Martha, the widowed eldest sister. She is prudish, rigid, domineering and at times downright mean. Towards later she is still bitter about not getting her own way in a dispute over what time of day the sisters should visit their parents' graves.

IT COMES AS NO surprise that Martha's favorite pecking post is the youngest sister, Betsy (Meg Katze).

CELEBRATE!

4685
CHINESE NEW YEAR
With Authentic Entertainment
• Lion Dance • Music • Fireworks



SPECIAL DINNER MENU
JANUARY 28, 29 & 30

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

Mon Jin Lau
Restaurant
1515 EAST MAPLE RD. • TROY
689-2332

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

BARGAIN DAY EVERY TUESDAY
ALL SEATS ALL DAY \$2.50
SUNDAY \$3.50 (NO REFUND FOR
SUNDAY SEATING)

BARGAIN TIMES DAILY - \$2.50
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
CON. SHOWS SAT. SUN. & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
2400 50 TELEGRAPH RD. 332-0241

OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

CRITICAL CONDITION (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

STAR TREK IV (G)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
2405 50 TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

THE STEPFATHER (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

PLATOON (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

THE GOLDEN CHILD (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
11111 HILLCREST AVE. 48069
RANG. MA. WED. FRI. SAT. SUN. \$2.50
CON. SHOWS SAT. SUN. & HOLIDAYS

CRIMES OF THE HEART (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE (R)
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

Kathleen Monticello does a very fine job with the juicy role of Martha, the widowed eldest sister.

visibly insecure and highly unstable. At 37, Betsy still rises when she speaks as if she were reciting in parochial school.

Katze does a convincing transformation from the mousey housewife of the first act to the self-assertive woman of the second. Her "Dance of the Seven Veils," is a dismal failure, though. Intending to shock her sisters by her skimpy costume and suggestive movements, Katze provides neither, making Martha's outrage seem ludicrous.

As Mary, the unmarried sister, Irene Lawson ably handles her character's transformation from a confident career woman to an invalid bravely struggling to maintain her dignity.

Mary Ellen Quesada is very effective as Connie, the wisecracker who always speaks her mind. Marge Ryan is bubbly as Lil, the songbird who always finds a cheery number to cover up an awkward moment. Patricia Niehaus is good as ever-cheerful Ann, who never lets her own marital problems ruin her sunny disposition. Emily McSweeney and Mary Ellen Carroway are competent as Nora and Alice, middle sisters whose personalities are never quite as fully developed as the others. Kirk Hunley is ingratiating as the friendly young reporter.

Barbara Michals teaches high school English and Journalism in Southfield. A theater critic for the last 12 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

St. D's spoofs '60s, '70s, '80s

Continued from Page 6

THE SHOW is comprised of skits, and song and dance.

"Some are blackouts and quickies, some mini-plays, satirizing or spoofing our generation," Everson said.

Contrasting the subjects spoofed in '68, '78 and '87 gives a feeling for many changes that have occurred in American society over the last two decades. In 1967, for example, several numbers deal with yuppies.

Going back over the playbills for the previous two shows, Everson noted, "In 1978, it was more like hippies," and in the earlier show, "The Peace Corps-type dedicated youth" was satirized.

On political issues, in 1987 "Anxieties" views international politics. There's a Ballet Russe Pas de Deux American, between Reagan and Gorbachev. In 1978, it was more like the politics, with a number called "Political Rock."

"In 1968, the numbers dealt with LBJ — Johnson's Great Society. It was upbeat. How everything would be wonderful," he said.

Music in the current show includes a song, "Birmingham, Birmingham," similar to a Liza Minnelli approach to "New York, New York."

"It's having fun with chic shopping," Everson said.

In 1978, there was a skit about frustrated songwriters trying to write songs associated with Detroit that would have the same grab as "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" or "Chicago," he said.

ON THE SOCIAL scene, this year's show has spoofs on the mingling singles-bar scene, the health club and dining out. In 1978, it was mostly the at-home entertaining scene, and in 1968, the monster cocktail party.

"Love and the eternal triangle is in all three shows," Everson said. As for sex, "We're far more direct today with references to sex than in 1978," and there was even less in the first show.

"In 1968 it was cute jokes, 1978 was a tongue-in-cheek, doctor's sex lecture, and in 1987, Dr. Ruth is telling it like it is," he declared.

Everson said that in 1987, there's more about business, work and ca-

reer. "In 1968, we hardly covered it. It was more the home, family and social scene."

The current references to business are reflective of women working, he said.

Looking at the media side, TV talk shows and monologues about overachievers are spoofed in the new show. A TV talk show also was the subject of comedy in 1978, but going back to 1968, a newspaper advice column and radio disc jockeys were the topic of humor.

Several of the St. Dunstan's members working on the show have ties to the advertising industry.

Everson is with D'Arcy, Masius, Benton and Bowles in Bloomfield Hills, where he started as a writer and now is in account management. Chuck Campbell is with McCann-Erickson and Joe Dabbs is in advertising, as it relates to cable television. Gary Walker is an attorney who used to be an ad man.

SONGS IN the show give a hint of the entertainment that's in store. "Anxieties" opens and closes with a song called "Anxiety Blues." A choreo sings, "Thank, God, It's Fri-

day." There's a song and dance number in a singles bar, "You Got to Have Everything." Love songs include "Have We Met?" and "Did He Notice Me?"

"Birmingham, Birmingham" is a solo number sung by Dianne Rydland of Bloomfield Hills. A big gospel number in the show is "No Bad News," written by Barbara Brown, a member of St. Dunstan's board, who was not on the writing committee.

A production number, which Everson described as a rhythm thing, has the song "Yuppie Rap." A whole segment on music through the years goes from a sweet duet for kids, "Love in My Music," to "The Big Band Sound," and a Modernaires-type, close-harmony "I Can't Forget You," with a switch in rhythm to rock 'n' roll.

"There's a big one toward the end I wrote about the lottery, 'If I Win a Million,'" Everson said.

The show has a revolving set, to keep it fast-moving. So far, the set hasn't been revolving the way it should. One more anxiety — to be taken care of by opening night.

Lark restaurant really is extra-special

Continued from Page 6

the cold appetizers. The soup, cream of chanterelle mushroom, was sweet and delicious, but it was too strongly flavored with a salty beef stock. The pasta had mushrooms, pine nuts and Stilton cheese. At first, this dish seemed too mild — almost without flavor. But gradually, the flavor of the pine nuts became more and more evident, giving the pasta an unusual and quite enjoyable taste.

The sorbet, served before the entree, had crystallized and become too icy, perhaps indicating that it was not freshly made. Taken as a whole, however, the dishes served before the entree were diverse enough to whet the appetite without dulling it. Before the Entree — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 15.

The veal chop with wild grape and honey sauce (\$19) provided our only real disappointment of the meal. The veal chop was both overcooked and tough. In addition, the sauce was so

subtle that we could not taste the grape flavor. Squab with green peppercorn sauce (\$45), one of the evening's specials, was served medium rare as promised, but we could not detect any hint of the green peppercorn taste in the sauce. Finally, the rack of lamb Genghis Khan (\$39.50) was cooked exactly as ordered and was the best of our entrees. One nice touch was that our waiter asked how many lamb chops we would like served in the portion. Of special note were the outstanding garnishes — glazed carrots, potatoes au gratin and Chinese pea pods.

A choice of dinner salads is served after the entrees, and both the hearts of palm salad and the romaine lettuce salad were unusual and refreshing. The salads, too, are attractive in their appearance as well as their tastes. Entree, Vegetables and Garnishes — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 25.

For the finale, a dessert cart filled with a variety of choices tempts you to eat just a little bit more. You can select some of everything or lots of anything at a cost of \$8.50 per person. Each of the desserts was a winner. In particular, the raspberry cheesecake was very light and not overly cheesy. The lemon charlotte was just wonderful if you are planning an extra-special night out or want to celebrate a happy occasion. You can expect to receive — and pay for — the luxury of top service and food, and you should not be disappointed.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric communities. Write to D. Gustibus, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

noted above. With this in mind, the restaurant is expensive but, in our opinion, worth the price for a three-hour evening dining event. Price, Value — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 14.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 93. The Lark is not the place to choose for a light, quick meal. However, it is just wonderful if you are planning an extra-special night out or want to celebrate a happy occasion. You can expect to receive — and pay for — the luxury of top service and food, and you should not be disappointed.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric communities. Write to D. Gustibus, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

Dine at
La Rotisserie
and half your meal is
on the house



But only until February 7th.

We'd like to invite you to discover one of Dearborn's treasures. A romantic dining experience you'll want to share with someone special.

To tempt you we're offering a 50% reduction in our food prices, for two weeks only. Whether you're a regular customer, or whether you'll be enjoying our gourmet food for the first time, we hope you'll take advantage of this one-time offer to have a memorable dinner at La Rotisserie.

You'll experience superb service in an elegant setting, and enjoy the music of harpist Onita Sanders. Our chef is the renowned James Dalton, and from his kitchen you will delight in choices like duck a l'orange, veal with lobster, loin of spring lamb, tris of smoked game or salmon en file. We always have fresh seafood on the menu as well as a delicious broiled fillet mignon. We believe our dessert souffles and French pastries to be the city's best. Both are made on the premises. And ask about membership in The Duck Club, exclusive to La Rotisserie.

La Rotisserie

HALF OFF COUPON

Offer good with coupon only.
Offer expires February 7th, 1987.

Bring this coupon to La Rotisserie at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn and we will reduce the bill for your meal(s) by 50%. This does not apply to alcoholic beverages, tax or gratuities.

For reservations call 593-1234.
Jacket and tie requested.

La Rotisserie
HYATT REGENCY DEARBORN

Stylish Evenings At The HAYMARKET

Treat yourself to an enjoyable experience at the Haymarket on Sunday evening. Fine food and wines are expertly served in plush surroundings.

The Haymarket is a perfect beginning or fitting conclusion to a memorable evening with style. Call (313) 583-9000 for reservations.



Troy Hilton Inn

1155 Stephenson Highway, Troy, Michigan 48064