



Winning singer

Karen Newman of Bloomfield Hills was the winner last week on "Music Machine," a nationally syndicated talent show that originates from WDIV-TV, Channel 4. The singer returns to face challengers and vie for "Entertainer of the Year" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Newman is lead singer with a band called Reflections. She is a graduate of Oakland University, with a bachelor of arts degree in commercial music.



second runs

Louise Okrutsky

Settle down with 'Smooth Talk'

Shot in colors evocative of a steamy Midwestern summer, its pace is almost as slow as a hot July day.

Ah, spring! Early barbecues, mild weather and daylight-saving time almost make it a crime to sit by the electronic glow of the tube. But after the sun goes down and spring chill sets in, it's easy to backslide into some of those wicked winter ways.

There are even a few promising items on the tube this month to entice us. Joyce Carol Oates' view of awakening adolescent sexuality is the basis for "Smooth Talk."

Winner of the 1986 U.S. Film Festival's Grand Prize, the movie stars Laura Dern, 19-year-old daughter of actors Bruce Dern and Diane Ladd. Dern turns in an unsettling performance as the dreamy 15-year-old daughter of an average Midwestern family. As Connie, she fantasizes about a bad boy from the other side of the tracks, played by Treat Williams.

He's the sort of guy who'd make any parent of any 15-year-old cringe. Decked out in pegged jeans, driving a slogan-covered convertible, Williams isn't exactly your basic Prince Charming. Twice as old as Connie, he appears out of the blue knowing her name, her friends and one other important fact — she's home alone.

Williams' psychotic lover is by turns sweet talking and threatening. He dominates the scenes. Shot in colors evocative of a steamy Midwestern summer, its pace is almost as slow as a hot July day.

From a possible four stars, it merits three. For those with Cinemasax, "Smooth Talk" airs Saturday and also Friday, April 24, and Wednesday, April 22.

ON A MUCH LIGHTER note, there's the claymation version of "The Adventures of Mark Twain." Twain, Becky, Huck and Tom are clay figures taking an intergalactic

Journey through time, space, heaven and hell.

Now, I'll admit this premise is enough to make you wish there was an erase option on your cable box. But give this one a chance.

First of all, the claymation, a stop-action technique using clay figures, is exceptionally well done. It's the same technique used in the old Gumby and Pokey series, as well as Davey and Goliath.

You won't forget you're watching little clay puppets, but if you observe them long enough you're bound to become fascinated by the smoothness of the action. Objects change shapes, grow, shrink.

The dialogue is made of chunks lifted from Twain's "Diary of Adam and Eve." As a sampler of some of Twain's best lines, I give this one a 2½. There's no substitute for the real thing, but watching this is bound to propel you to reach for the book. It's on the Disney Channel on Tuesday.

BRINGING A PLAY to the screen is like turning a novel into a screenplay. It's not a venture bound to please everyone. In fact, it seems designed to offend many. Even when plays are given a straightforward presentation on television, many lose the vitality they had on stage.

So when such an effort receives

admiring reviews, one feels compelled to tune in. Broadway on Showtime's "Long Day's Journey into Night" is the sort of television that makes owning a set worthwhile. Jack Lemmon is out and out wonder-

ful in the role of has-been actor James Tyrone.

To see this slightly shortened version of Eugene O'Neill's play, turn to Showtime on Saturday or on Thursday, April 23, or Tuesday, April 28.

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