

Community theaters offer varied schedules

By Victoria Diaz
special writer

The curtain is going up on the local community theater scene for the 1987-88 season.

Mark your calendars and prepare for weekend entertainment geared toward almost every taste, from now until next May. The price is right, the theaters are just around the corner, and where else can you see your next-door neighbor in a Neil Simon play, or watch your favorite uncle star in a Stephen Sondheim musical?

Here's what players in the Livonia, Redford, Plymouth and Wayne-Westland areas can look forward to this year. Curtain times are at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Spotlight Players began its season last weekend with performances of Harry Segall's comedy, "Heaven Can Wait," which continues its run Friday and Saturday at John Glenn High School Auditorium in Westland. Other productions coming up include "Alone Together," a contemporary comedy-drama centering on an older married couple whose children have left home, and who are looking forward to some time "alone together" after many years of family togetherness. Then, the fun — and the surprises — begin. "Alone Together" is

scheduled tentatively for Feb. 5-6, 12-13.

Scheduled to conclude the Spotlight Players 1987-88 season on April 29-30 and May 6-7 is the popular "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

According to publicist Karen Mosti, Spotlight Players also may offer an evening of one-acts sometime in March. For further information, call 459-7672.

Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will kick off its 34th season on Friday, with John Ford Noonan's "A Couple White Chickens Sitting Around Talking," a kitchen comedy centering on the tany relationship between two women — Maud, a contemporary suburbanite from Westchester County, N.Y. and the other, her new neighbor, just in from the Lone Star State, who won't get out of her house. Performances continue Saturday and Oct. 9-10, 16-17.

Beginning Friday, Nov. 20, the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will offer Stephen Sondheim's Tony-award-winning "A Little Night Music." Action of the musical, set in the 19th century, takes place over a weekend in the country. The plot deals with the escapades of a middle-aged lawyer, his teenaged bride, his mistress, his mistress' lover, and his mistress' memorable mother,

one Mme. Armfelt. "A Little Night Music" will be presented Nov. 20-21, 27-29, and Dec. 4-6.

"Getting Out," a drama by young playwright Marsha Norman, is planned for the TGLR stage in February. "Getting Out," a critically acclaimed off-Broadway production, was Norman's first play. It probes the mind and emotions of a woman just released from prison, who is trying to make a life for herself in normal society. Playdates are Feb. 12-13, 19-20, 26-27.

Concluding the season on April 22-23, 29-30 and May 6-7 will be Jonathan Reynolds' "Geniuses." Described by the New York Times as "an insidious act of movie criticism (that) skewers deal-makers, agents, and all the other satraps who overdo on self-importance," the contemporary farce takes place in and around a remote movie set in a Philippine jungle.

All performances will be at the TGLR playhouse, 15138 Beech-Daily Road. For reservations, call 522-8057.

At Livonia's relatively new Trinity House Theatre (Six Mile Road and I-275), the season opens Friday with an offering of three one-act plays. Gary Brad's "One More

Show Before You Go," a drama centering on a young, star-struck girl and her reaction to the untimely death of Marilyn Monroe, is scheduled to start that evening, followed by Harold Pinter's well-known British story, "Dumbwaiter," and Ann Gerstenberg's comedy of manners, "Overtones." Performances are scheduled for Oct. 9-10, 16-18, 23-25.

If you don't think there are any possibilities for humor in the story of Job, go and see "God's Favorite," Neil Simon's comedy based on that seemingly unlikely subject. It will debut Nov. 20 at Trinity House and continue Nov. 21, 27-29, and Dec. 4-6, 11-12.

Susan Brown's child-centered drama, "Speak No Evil," is scheduled for Feb. 26-27 and March 4-6, 11-13. The season will conclude with Paul Patton's upbeat, nostalgic musical, "Junior High," with performances on April 22-23, 29-30 and May 1, 6-7, 13-15, 20-21.

Sunday matinees are at 3 (no evening performances on Sundays). Call 464-6302.

Coming up at the Plymouth Theatre Guild is "Second Time Around," which will start the season for that group Nov. 6, with addi-

tional performances Nov. 7, 20-21. A comedy by Henry Denker, "Second Time Around" is the story of two elderly lovers who move in together to save on their Social Security and soon find that not everybody — especially their children — approves the idea.

An old-fashioned melodrama, "The Sound of Murder," will be the PTG offering Feb. 5-6, 12-13. Written by William Fairchild, "The Sound of Murder" revolves around a writer of children's stories (who happens to be a sadist in his spare time), his love-starved wife, her lover and their foolproof plan to do away with the writer.

"Dining Room" will conclude the

PTG season May 6-7, 13-14. Set in present-day dining room, the play is actually a mosaic of scenes which combine to create a portrait of the upper middle-class. Individual actors portray a variety of characters. All performances are at Plymouth Central Middle School, Church and Main streets. For ticket information, call 453-7505.

(Garden City Civic Theatre has suspended production for the 1987-88 season. According to former publicist Marie Mack, the group has no plans for reorganization.)



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The 12th annual walk will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. It be-

gins and ends at Focus: Hope Industry Mall, 1409 Oakman Blvd., Detroit. Registration and pre-walk festivities begin at noon.

A demonstration of commitment to human rights and integration, the walk brings together thousands of people, from city and suburbs, black

and white, young and old. Cultural and musical groups will perform along the way, during the walk. A post-walk party offers hot food and entertainment.

Walkers are being invited to come early and tour Industry Mall, where Focus: Hope has moved beyond only

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