

## review

# Actresses excel performing in play 'A Coupla White Chicks'

Performances of "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking" continue Fridays-Saturdays through Oct. 17 at the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford playhouse in Redford. For ticket information call 522-8057.

By Lisa M. Nowell  
special writer

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford invites us into the prim-and-proper, perfect suburban kitchen of Maude Mix in "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking" by John Ford Noonan.

Mix's outlandish next-door neighbor, Hannah Mae, newly arrived from Texas, is never formally invited in. She just makes herself at home. That's why the friendship that

evolves is so much fun to watch.

This two-character play is superbly performed by actresses who bring a lot of talent and experience to the stage. Maude is played by Lane Sabourin. Her every move in crisp Lands-End-style clothes is precise and specific. The character, Maude, is controlled and focused, as is Sabourin.

Her contrasting foil, Hannah Mae, is played by Cynthia Betje with appropriate style and flair. She invades Maude's kitchen with her sincere, believably executed desire to have coffee klatches and be friends. About Betje, we can safely say she came, she saw, she conquered.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS of the play are handled well. Standouts are the Better Homes and Gardens

kitchen table and chairs, set decoration and props. Costumes are just right throughout. We wonder what gossip Hannah Mae will wear next. Music complements the action and keeps things moving between scenes. This all happens under the guidance of director Mattie Wolf. She has a list of credits as long as your arm. Here is another she'll proudly add to her list.

Only weakness to be mentioned is the second act. It doesn't soar quite as high as it could. By then both characters have become "people of passion" and go on a semi-daring excursion to New York City. It would be even more fun for us to see them more joyously and exuberantly wallow in their delight. Perhaps this will come with a few more performances.

## Big sapphire sparkles at gem, mineral show

The Michigan Mineralogical Society will hold its 37th annual Greater Detroit Gem & Mineral Show at the Detroit Light Guard Armory, 4400 East Eight Mile Road, Detroit, Friday through Sunday.

A special feature of the show this year is an exhibit by the Smithsonian Institution of the famous Ononagon Copper Boulder in honor of Michigan's Sesquicentennial. This is only the second time the boulder has ever left the museum since it arrived in Washington.

It was loaned to the Society for the first time in 1976 for the Bicentennial, and was such a hit that they requested a return visit for Michigan's special year.

The legendary copper boulder was worshipped by the Indians and wanted by Michigan settlers and businessmen. In 1843 the Department of War seized the 3,000 pound mass from Julius Eldred, the man who finally succeeded in getting the boulder to Detroit, where he paraded it down Woodward Avenue.

At this point, Eldred was confronted by an order from the Secretary of War, directing that the copper boulder be seized for transportation to Washington. After much debate, it was agreed to allow Eldred to exhibit the boulder. On Oct. 11, 1843, it was placed on public exhibition in Cadillac Square for a fee of 25 cents.

The Smithsonian is also exhibiting a large display of costly and perfect sapphires, faceted and natural, and uncut crystals. The main display's main focus will be the fantastic Logan Sapphire, the largest known faceted gem, quality deep, blue sapphire. It weighs 423 carats and was found in Sri Lanka and donated to the Smithsonian in 1960 by Mrs. John A. (Polly) Logan.

The American Museum of Natural History is providing an exhibit of natural beryl crystals together with the faceted emeralds and aquamarines.

The Royal Ontario Museum is sending a display of rare fluorite from around the world. Harvard University Museum is displaying a collection of rare calcites from Michigan copper mines. The A.E. Seaman Museum is showing minerals of the copper and iron mining districts.

Cranbrook Institute of Science is exhibiting a case in the Michigan Sesquicentennial row of specimens from a collection put together by a Cornish mine captain in the Keweenaw around the turn of the century.

Many local artists and jewelry stores will be exhibiting at the show. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

## Michigan Duo expands its schedule of activities

"Come Dream with Us" is the theme of the first National Dollhouse and Miniature Week, Oct. 10-17. The Miniature Makers' Workshop, 4515 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, will be celebrating all week and is hosting the annual Wee Bees' Miniature Show Oct. 16-18. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 4 on Sunday.

Included in the exhibition are dollhouses, furnished with scaled miniatures, room boxes with both contemporary and traditional themes, collectible miniatures, hand

crafted by recognized artists and dolls made to scale.

An imaginative room setting, in which the artist, Beale Robinson of Birmingham, has placed hand sculpted, dressed and painted clowns; a collection of miniature horses, with intricately tooled leather bridles, pulling sleighs or carriages; and an old time miniature traveling puppet theater are among the treasures on display.

Twelve-year-old Melissa Welter has several pieces of needlepoint and plastic canvas furniture she made in

the show. Her mother, Sue, is a charter member of the Wee Bees.

The Wee Bees, a local chapter of N.A.M.E. (National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts), is a non-profit organization. The admission charge is \$1.50.

A portion of the money collected will go to the club's 1987 philanthropic endeavor, the Adam Walsh Fund. In addition, the Wee Bees offer their services to various museums and institutions, using their expertise to refurbish dollhouses and displays. For information, call 549-0653.

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