



Barbara Michals
special writer

Nancy Gurwin, talented cast sparkle in 'Gypsy' at JCC

Performances of "Gypsy," presented by Nancy Gurwin Productions and the Jewish Community Center, continue through Sunday, Oct. 25, at the center in West Bloomfield. For reservations call 661-1000.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

True to its theme song "Let Me Entertain You," the Nancy Gurwin production of "Gypsy" at the Jewish Community Center is a highly entertaining show, filled with talented performers and great songs. The Julie Stein-Stephen Sondheim musical is the biography of famed striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee (Alison Mould) and her domineering stage mother, Rose (Nancy Gurwin). Gypsy, originally known as Louise, grew up in vaudeville, playing the front end of a dancing cow in her sister, June's, second-rate act. June (Lisa Andres), with her long, blond ringlets, is the one Mama is determined to make into a star, while Gypsy, originally known as Louise, grows up in vaudeville, playing the front end of a dancing cow in her sister, June's, second-rate act. June (Lisa Andres), with her long, blond ringlets, is the one Mama is determined to make into a star, while Gypsy, originally known as Louise, grows up in vaudeville, playing the front end of a dancing cow in her sister, June's, second-rate act.

"Gypsy" is the kind of old-fashioned musical where nearly every song is memorable and humable. With her usual enormous vitality, Gurwin belts out "Some People," "You'll Never Get Away from Me," "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Together Wherever We Go" and softens for a pleasing rendition of "Small World."

GURWIN'S MAMA Rose is in the classic stage-mother mold: loud, pushy, obnoxious. Yet her endless pluckiness is endearing as she holds her raging vaudeville act together against countless setbacks.

As Gypsy, Mould is a delight. She is touching as the awkward, neglected teenager, then blossoms into a poised star. Her strong, clear voice solos on the plaintive "Little Lamb," belts out "Let Me Entertain You" and holds its own in several ensemble numbers.

Andres is a perky June, patiently enduring her mother's attempts to keep her a juvenile forever. Like Mould, she demonstrates good song and dance skills throughout, especially in the amusing duet "If Mama Were Married."

Gary Lee Temple is effective as

Herbie, the family's booking agent and Mama's perpetually forbearing boyfriend. Temple makes good use of his expressive face as well as his accomplished vocal skills.

Several supporting players do exceptionally fine work. Danny Gurwin, one of the chorus boys in the vaudeville act, does a very polished song-and-dance routine in "All I Need Is the Girl." Young Alicia Holbrook has a strong stage presence, a dazzling smile and good tapping skills as Baby June, while young Sara Denawetz is appropriately winsome and awkward as Baby Louise.

Jean Garringer as Tessie Tura and Rita Jury as Mameza are amusingly convincing and dynamic.

UNDEI DIRECTOR Edgar A. Guss III, musical director Barbara Anne Gowan and choreographer Valerie Mould, "Gypsy" showcases its talented cast to maximum advantage.

Barbara Michals teaches high school English and journalism in Southfield. A theater critic for the last 13 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

By Frank Hursley
special writer

Avon Players has launched its 40th season with a promising staging of the zany, musical comedy, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

A touch of additional polish is needed to enhance the start of the group's "ruby" year. No doubt this will come about as the players gain the benefit of additional performances.

Regardless, it is evident that the performers have a rattling good time romping through the play's antic humor. What with the chance encounters, mistaken identities and witty quips, the comedy becomes more suggestive of a Feydeau farce than the presentation of a typical Roman day 200 years before the bashing of the Christians.

The book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart combines with catchy music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim, to unleash a host of outlandish situations staffed by an array of bizarre characters. Joyce Contrucci's direction allows the players to take advantage of the comedy's style, for a grand, humorous spree



Frank Hursley

suggesting that perhaps the Romans were not so somber after all.

Largely, the characters are a siphoned mixture endowed with singular conceits and devices bouncing off one another's aspirations and resulting in a merry carnival of occurrences. Central to them all is the lovable slave, Pseudolus. It is his masterminding of a scheme to free himself from bondage that sets off a lively whirlwind.

JERRY MCCRAY's colorful, rousing portrayal is a study in the art of facial contortions and swift verbiage reciting to the complications of checkered predicaments. That is what has made Pseudolus one of the treasured characters of musical comedy.

An array of other talent is displayed by Jon Katz (Hysterium), Judy Privacky (Domina) and Kim Monterosso (Miles), as well as Dave Parker (Lyceus), Jarvis Lamb (Erronius) and Hay Contrucci (Senex).

John Stageman as Hero and Eileen Kent as Prillia provide a bit of romance and sing a touching duet. The stage is also endowed with an assortment of bewitching courtisans.

Facades of houses on a well-conceived Roman street were designed by George Gyde, and music is under the direction of Paula D'Ambrosio.

Frank Hursley of Birmingham, a sales engineer by profession, is a longtime theater buff.

"Espress" Yourself

Express your good taste with an ESPRESSO CAPPUCCINO MAKER

ON SALE NOW

KRUPS ESPRESSO NOVO #964
SAVE 50 \$229.99 Reg. 279.99

ROTEL ESPRESSO MAKER
524 \$189.99 A SPECIAL VALUE

KRUPS "MINI ESPRESSO" #144 LIMITED WARRANTY
SAVE 40 \$79.99 Reg. 119.99

GET 4 LB OF SELECTED BLENDS COFFEE WITH PURCHASE OF MR. MOKA 3-12 CUP ESPRESSO MAKER

FREE!



the coffee beanery, ltd.

Twelve Oaks Mall • Eastland Mall
Westland Mall • Meadowbrook Mall
Greenbelt Valley Mall • Lakeside Mall
Renaissance Center • Ten-Twelve Mall
Waterstreet Pavilion • Woodland Mall

WE WERE THERE!
READ ABOUT IT TODAY
ON 1-A

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

"Memories in Art"

Fine Arts & Quality Crafts

One Day Art Show featuring over 100 Artists

• 18K Gold Jewelry in Folded Design • Salt Fired Stoneware
• Bronze & Glass Sculptures • On the Spot Portraits

1.50 Admission Royalty House of Warren
1.00 w/this ad 13 Mile & Van Dyke
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18



WATERFRONT RESTAURANT

142 E. Walled Lake Dr.
Walled Lake

Enjoy the Spirit of the Caribbean Year-Round
In a Unique Waterfront Setting - Serving Extraordinary Entrees
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 669-1441
Fine Weekend Jazz Entertainment

WE ROAST SLOWLY AND CARVE THICK.

Prime Rib Dinner \$9.95

Our 12-14 pound choice prime ribs of beef are seasoned, seared and slowly roasted. We'll carve a thick juicy slice exactly to your order and serve with homemade soup or salad, a baked potato and fresh baked whole wheat bread.

Prime rib is just one of the many good reasons why you should visit us soon.

Stuart Anderson's



Reservations Accepted

17050 Laurel Park Dr. S.
Livonia, 591-4145

27522 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, 350-3452

1555 East Maple Rd.
Troy, 689-8060

2 Great Broadway Musicals

produced by

Michigan Opera Theatre

David DiChiera, General Director



Man of La Mancha
October 23-
November 14
4 weeks only!

One of the great musical experiences! Journey with Everyman's hero, Don Quixote, in his quest to dream "The Impossible Dream." Featuring television and opera stars Richard Fredricks and Chris Callen.



November 20-December 6
3 weeks only!

Enter into the exotic and sensuous world of the Arabian nights, complete with harem girls who will entice you with their special charms! The opulent splendor on stage is accentuated by some of the world's most beautiful music, including "Stranger in Paradise" and "Baubles, Bangles and Beads." Starring Broadway artists Beverly Lambert and David Chaney.



At the Fisher Theatre. Tickets from \$10 to \$40.

Call (313) 874-SING TODAY!

or contact any Ticketmaster location including

Hudson's and AAA outlets at 432-6666.

For great discounts on group tickets call Nikki at 874-7878.