

'Pajama Game' cast excels with tuneful hits

Birmingham Village Players perform the musical "The Pajama Game" at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday in its playhouse in Birmingham. For ticket information call 644-2075 anytime.

Wonderful songs presented with skill and panache make the Birmingham Village Players production of "The Pajama Game" great fun. Jim Masters strikes just the right pompous note as Hasler, skinflint company president at the Sleep-Tite pajama factory in a small Midwestern town in the mid-1950s. Labor unrest is brewing, and the union threatens to strike over its demand for a raise of seven-and-a-half cents an hour.

Pat Lynch is extremely likeable as Sid, the new factory superintendent, who falls head-over-heels for the one-woman grievance committee (Marla Kahn). He exudes warmth and sincerity, and his robust baritone always delights. His rendition of "Hey There" is especially superb.

As Babe, the spunky union stalwart, Kahn sparkles with enthusiasm. Her strong vocal skills are well-matched to Lynch's in their several duets, and she radiates charm and integrity.

LAURA RAISCH is adorable as Gladys, his perky secretary. She performs pleasing versions of "Hernando's Hideaway" and "Steam Heat." Skip Pobst is well-cast as Hines, the company's efficiency expert and Gladys' madly jealous boyfriend.

He's marvelously buoyant in the satiric "Think of the Time I Save," and he vows "I'll Never Be Jealous Again" in a comic duet with Mabel, Sid's secretary, played by bubbly Betsy Todd.

Don Brown is amusing as Prez, the union's womanizing president. Brown uses his expansive face to maximum advantage in "Her Is" sung first to Gladys and later to Mae, played by lively Jean Dohanyos with just a little too much mugging. In supporting roles, Vince Dunn is very effective as Max, the harassed pajama salesman, and Chuck Himel-

hoch is convincing as Babe's father, a railroad man trying to keep her romance from being permanently derailed.

Director Isabel Himelhoch does a fine job of having the players use exaggerated body English to maximize

characterization. Aided by music director Frisella Benson, the chorus is always spirited, especially on the rousing "Once a Year Day" number.

Overlooking very pedestrian sets and costumes and a few small lighting mishaps, the bottom line is that this "Pajama Game" is tops.

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.

table talk

New restaurant

Keith Famie, chef for six years at the Cuzi Rhapsody in Novi, has resigned his position as of Feb. 1, to open his dream restaurant, Les Auteurs, an American Bistro, in Royal Oak. The new restaurant is in the renovated Washington Square Plaza, a 60-year-old historical six-story

building. Les Auteurs means the authors and represents a collection of culinary lore from Chef Famie's travels and experiences in the food industry. The collection will be showcased in the restaurant.

Kaplan's Cafe

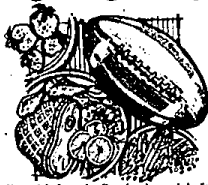
Livonia resident David Kaplan has

opened Kaplan's Cafe, a restaurant in Ann Arbor. Kaplan has added some original touches to standard deli fare, such as a baked potato bar where you choose your own toppings — hot or cold. Kaplan is a 1978 graduate of Clarenceville High School and a 1983 graduate of the College of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management at Michigan State University.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

Brunch so good,
you might forget the game.



Enjoy Detroit's favorite Sunday brunch before the Lions' game, then catch our Express Bus to the Silverdome. Call for reservations.



Kingsley Inn

Woodward at Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills • 642-0100

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR KIDS

The "Adventures of Frosty" Show

Take a break from the hectic holiday pace to enjoy an afternoon of family fun. Children and parents will delight in a great luncheon buffet, participate and sing along to the great "Adventures of Frosty" Show, followed by a special guest appearance by Santa Claus. Bring your camera! Saturday, Dec. 12th 11:30. Reserve now for seating. Tickets at the door. Adults \$8.50, 12-6 year olds \$6.95, Kids 5 and under \$3.95.



Kingsley Inn

Woodward at Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills, MI
313-644-1400 • Toll Free 1-800-KI-HOTEL

1987 NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA!

Celebrate With Us

Singles and Couples!

DINNER (your choice of Prime Rib or Lobster Tail)

DANCING (Live Band) 9:00 p.m.

BRUNCH in Sassy's New Year's Day

Package also includes: • Deluxe Sleeping Room • Complimentary Champagne • Toast at Midnight • Use of Hildene Recreational Area

\$126.00 - 1 Adult

\$186.00 - 2 Adults

3:00 p.m. Check-out

New Year's Day

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ONLY!

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. • Pool closing 11 p.m.

Reservations

(313) 353-7700

Holiday Inn of Southfield

26555 Telegraph Road
Southfield, MI

SMOKERS: TAKE A BREATH!

Have you ever wondered what shape your lungs are in? Here's your chance to find

out. If you're between 35 and 59, call the Lung Health Study Center at Henry Ford Hospital to arrange for a free lung function test. The tests are offered at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and seven convenient suburban sites.

FREE!

You may even be invited to join in a national lung research program. And

you may be offered a free program to help you stop smoking. You might even breathe a little easier.

The Lung Health Study
8 convenient locations

Call today: 876-1900

The Lung Health Study is sponsored by The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Celebrate New Year's In An Embassy.

It's The "International" Event of the Year.

This New Year's Eve, raise a toast to your home country. At Southfield's Embassy.

It's Metro-Detroit's preeminent New Year's rendezvous. At Embassy Suites Hotel® Detroit-Southfield.

Our two New Year's packages each include a luxurious two-room suite, manager's cocktail reception from 5:00 p.m. late check-out time, and a made-to-order breakfast in the morning.

Our BALLROOM NEW YEAR'S PACKAGE is a World Class Event that includes reception, cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres to please a worldly palate, and a gala five-course dinner served in grand dining fashion. Plus a cash bar and champagne toast at midnight.

And dancing to the international sounds of THE DETROIT MUSIC COMPANY, a nine-piece big band ensemble. All for just

\$199

per couple
plus tax
Black & optional

Our WELLINGTON'S NEW YEAR'S PACKAGE is a more intimate affair. The centerpiece meal at Wellington's features masterfully-prepared Prime Rib or Duck à L'Orange.

And a reserved table and dancing awaits you at LaSalle's Drinkery. Champagne is provided at midnight. All for just

\$125

per couple
plus tax

Make your reservations now for Embassy's New Year's extravaganza. You won't want to spend the EVE anywhere else.

EMBASSY
SUITES
HOTEL

28100 Franklin Road • Southfield • 350-2000