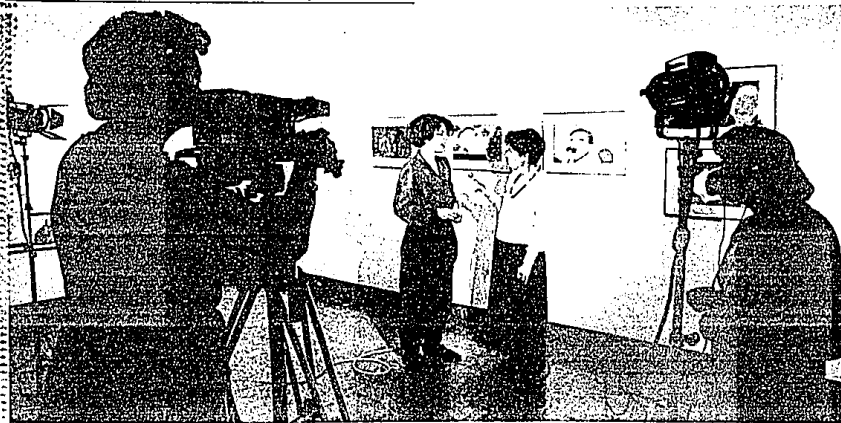




Artist Mary King (left) and Edna Weinberg are on camera, talking about the exhibition. The TV program will be cablecast sometime this winter.

'Artalk' goes on shoot to museum

Continued from Page 7

general art interest including one on art appreciation and another on docents.

A year and a half ago the group formed Thalia Productions and has already produced 15 tapes of the show "Artalk." Filming on location is done at museums such as Cranbrook, the University of Windsor, and Muskegon, as well as at the Detroit Institute of Art. Some shows are taped at galleries. Whenever

possible, artists are interviewed to give the show a balance between looking at art and meeting the engaging and sometimes offbeat personalities who create it.

Topics span the range of art "from ancient to modern and everything in between," says Allen. Thalia has done shows focusing on "Women Artists through the Ages" as well as on "Artists of the Constitution." "We haven't even tapped the depth yet," says Allen with enthusiasm. "It's endless."

Next to the indispensable camera and lights, the telephone is probably Thalia's most important piece of equipment. Once an idea has taken root as a likely theme for a show, members of Thalia get on the phone to check its feasibility, to arrange dates and times for filming and to contact artists to schedule interviews.

They put all the minuscule behind-the-scenes details for the show into place. Then they shoot on location, edit the footage back at the studio

and research, write and film beginning and ending segments that tie the show together.

When "Artalk" airs on cable networks, 87,000 cable subscribers can hear Allen and Weinberg's bright commentary on art. Thanks to corporate grants, seniors don't have to brave traffic snarls and icy sidewalks to go to museums. VCR tapes of "Artalk" bring the works of art to the comfort of senior center around the state.

Comic ballerinas return to Music Hall

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to the Music Hall Center in Detroit for four performances. The satiric troupe of male dancers will appear at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, on New Year's Eve, and Friday-Sunday, Jan. 1-3. Tickets at \$22-\$18

are available at the Music Hall Box Office and all Ticketmaster, AAA and Hudson's outlets or by phone at 423-6666 using a charge card.

The Music Hall box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on per-

formance days. Group rates may be arranged by calling the box office at 955-7822.

The engagement will debut two world premiere pieces — "Four Seasons" and "Gambol." Also on the program will be the "Dying Swan"

and "Yes, Virginia, Another Piano Ballet."

The troupe presents spoofs of both classic and modern ballet. Featured performers include Svetlana Loftova, Karina Grudj, Adam Baum and Talina Youbetyabotskaya.

review

Holiday revue a spirited one

Final performers of "The Christmas Musical Treat" will be at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday at the Novi Hilton. Tickets are priced for show only, or for show and dinner. A Red and Broadway package is also available. For more information, call the Novi Hilton at 348-4600.

By Rob McCabe
special writer

The Christmas spirit comes to life in "The Christmas Musical Treat," a holiday songfest presented by T.A.P. (Theatre Arts Productions) at the Novi Hilton.

Directed by T.A.P.'s founder, Michael J. Koller, this production is the last show of the 1987 season. The four performers are enthusiastic and full of energy despite the fact that they have two shows an evening and each show runs approximately one and one-half hours.

Vocalists Nancy Koltin, Nick Bear, and Mary K. Nigehosian are amateur performers in their own right. From the opening number, "We Need A Little Christmas" from the musical "Mame," their energy level is consistent and never wavers.

Nancy Koltin's contralto voice possesses a belt that would make Ethel Merman run and take cover for fear that her place would be taken by Koltin in the world of American musical theater. Koltin sings "How Lucky Can You Get," originally written for La Strainand for the show "Funny Lady." Koltin's sultry voice raises the blood pressure of male audience members, leaving them to shift to-and-fro in their seats.

MARY NIGEHOSIAN's soft soprano voice rings clear as a bell and is sure to please anyone who loves the sound of lyrical beauty. When singing the John Lennon song "Imagine," she appears to grow introspective, showing her ability as an actress as well as an experienced chanteuse.

Nick Beasanski's baritone-tenor voice is rich in tone and full of gusto as he sings old holiday favorites like "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Deck the Halls," but when singing ballads like Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song" or "I Want to Be Alone with You and Lorna," Beasanski evokes memories of love and Christmases long past.

Pianist "Rebecca" is, as usual, excellent in her interpretation of the music she plays accompanying her fellow performers. She is an accomplished artist in her own right, and without her, the show would not be what it is: a joyous invocation to the holiday spirit.

Besides singing and performing on the 12-by-30-foot stage, the performers venture forth into the audience, engaging the crowd in song competitions, and a Name-That-Tune game, where the actors sing the unknown intros to well-known songs.

The food, as a precursor to the evening's entertainment, is excellent. As a diner, one has the choice of prime rib or swordfish, along with a salad and dessert. The service is fast and the dining area, the Orchard Cafe, is adjacent to the auditorium. Weekend Sales Manager Bill Fenech is preparing for a new season to begin early next year, and if next season promises to be anything like this year's, no one should be disappointed.

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