

'Daring' 1960s live again in 'Promises, Promises'

Performances of the Birmingham Theatre production of "Promises, Promises" continue through Sunday, Jan. 31. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3533.

By Cathie Breidenbach
special writer

The Birmingham Theatre cheerfully revives midskirt and '60s-style romantic dalliance in "Promises, Promises," the musical favorite based on the movie "The Apartment."

"Promises" recreates the year 1968 when women looked like overgrown little girls in skirts that showed off their legs — good and bad legs in the bargain. At the Birmingham, "Promises" comes off as a lively bit of musical nostalgia — certainly a good evening's entertainment, if not the year's most remarkable show.

With book by Neil Simon, music by Barry Bacharach and lyrics by Hal David, the luminaries of Broadway conspired for success on "Promises." It was the first time the team of Bacharach and David worked together. Songs "What Do You Get When You Fall in Love" and "Promises, Promises" bring back memories.

In 1968 when the poignant humor in "The Apartment" (starring Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine) was the *Academy* Award for the male secretary, it was more than it's done now, after more than two decades of sex, revolution and women's lib. Then again, some things never change. Humor has it that corporate wolves still prey on sweet secretaries.

Barry Williams as "Brady Bunch" star Chuck Baxter, the ambitious junior executive who lends the key to his bachelor apartment to win points and promotions from flattering superiors, who need a place to daily, while his looks, especially his blue eyes and handsome looks, will make it hard to believe his complaints that he bats zero with women.

It's almost too good looking to play a come-leading man — until he puts on a hat in Act II that makes his ears stick out. That one wonderful flaw enhances his come credibility. Instantly he becomes funnier and more lovable, especially in the scenes at a local bar when he gets playfully potted because his apartment is "in use" and can't go in.

Alison Bechdel is delightful as the bonkers lady in the bar wearing a ludicrous coat made of owl feathers and on the lookout for "companionship."

Sarah Combs plays the object of Chuck Baxter's affections, dressed as a confection in innocent pink. She sings wonderfully and recreates the magic of songs in the imitable Dionne Warwick style that made them famous. Her perpetually pink costumes are a bit much, however.



Barry Williams is Chuck Baxter and Sarah Combs is Fran Kubelik in the musical hit "Promises, Promises" at the Birmingham Theatre.

review

She wears short dresses with ruffles, and she ties cute bows in her Tricia Nixon blond locks. It's claying even for the '60s to believe a Manhattan woman would be so fond of Gothic locks. She can't help the miniskirt. It was the uniform of the time, but pink ruffles overdo the fairytale innocence on a woman who already sounds like Little Red Riding Hood when she believes the promises fed her by a lecherous wolf in corporate gray.

Mark Jacoby plays the wolf with appropriate callousness. He's brittle and cold just as an inveterate cad ought to be. Four middle-aged executives with roving eyes, played by Tim Ewling, James Hindman, Robert Lyndard and Bill Tatum, caper around the stage to hilarious effect.

The hands-down prize for best character actor goes to Bernard Granville who plays Dr. Dreyfus, Chuck's next-door neighbor. With sounds of champagne corks popping, beat strings bouncing and amorous noises coming from Chuck's apartment, Dr. Dreyfus and his never-sleeping wife, Mrs. Dreyfus, are a bit of a handful, and they blame all the activity on Chuck. The good doctor's pithy comments on the goings-on provide the best laugh lines in the play.



Hibachi Sirloin or Chicken Dinner, your choice includes entree, shrimp appetizer, rice, salad, soup, vegetables, tea and complimentary glass of champagne. Offer good for dinner only until 1/31/88, excluding Saturday. DEARBORN (At Fairlane Center) 593-3200 TROY (West Big Beaver Road) 649-6340 REN CEN (Adjacent to the Westin Hotel) 567-9600

MON JIN LAU

1210 EAST MAPLE RD. TROY
685-2332

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

CALL THEATRES FOR SHOW TIMES

BARGAIN DAY EVERY DAY ALL SEATS
ALL DAY \$2.25 (1-10A) \$2.50 (11M-1A)

BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.25
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY

CONTINUOUS SHOWS SATURDAY & HOLIDAY
EVENING SHOWS

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
2400 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 332-0241

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

BROADCAST
NEWS
THREE MEN
A BABY
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50
CONT SHOWS SAT. SUN & HOLIDAYS
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 334-6777

EDDIE MURPHY
RAW
WALL
STREET
THROW
DOWN
PINOCCHIO
IN THE
NIGHT

PLANE, TRAIN &
AUTOMOBILE
DADY LUHUN
DADY LUHUN
OVERBOARDED
EMPIRE OF THE SUN

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
3450 S. TELEGRAPH RD. 33