

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, January 7, 1988 O&E

(O)7D

Shows draw theatergoers to Broadway

By Rob McCabe
special writer

Theater can be found anywhere in the world from the smallest town to larger metropolitan cities, yet there is no place in the United States that holds such a mystique for the play-going public as Broadway.

For more than half a century, people have flocked to the mecca of creativity. For me, the theater has always been an intrinsic force in my life. As a child living in Riverdale, N.Y., a suburb just outside Manhattan, it wasn't unusual for my family to go to the theater. I was a theater child — and I was weaned on classics like Angela Lansbury in "Mame," Pearl Bailey in the first all-black production of "Hello Dolly!" and Anthony Perkins in "Equus."

The 1987-88 theatrical season offers quite a selection. The best way to purchase tickets is to call the theater's box office (see the New York Times for phone numbers) and reserve seats well in advance of your arrival.

Shows like the revival of Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" and Stephen Sondheim's theatrical extravaganza "Into the Woods" are practically sold out well into this year, but one never knows unless one tries.

ANOTHER WAY to go about purchasing hard-to-find tickets is to choose a day when you want to see a certain show, and stand in line at the

A new, easy way to order tickets to Broadway, Off-Broadway and Off-Off Broadway shows is with the recently launched 24-hour computerized telephone information service, NYC/ON STAGE.

Offered by the Theatre Development Fund, the service is reached by calling 1-800-722-4389 (1-800-STAGE NY) on any touchtone phone. Then, you receive instructions to push other phone buttons until you get the information on the show of your choice — where it's playing, performance dates and times, tickets prices and even a brief rundown of what the show is about and who's in the cast.

The next step gives you a phone number to call for ordering tickets.

box office. Many times there are last-minute cancellations, which then go on sale to the public. It's risky, but it does happen.

The new season is a promising one, especially with the wonderfully staged revival of "Anything Goes," starring the incomparable Patti LuPone in the title role of Reno Sweeney, and "Into the Woods," featuring Bernadette Peters as the Witch.

The revival of "Cabaret" starring Joel Grey in a reprise of his role as the Emcee, garnered excellent national reviews. But I found it quite disappointing. The acting is poor, and the show is an overall shoddy production with weak staging, chore-



Bernadette Peters is transformed from a grotesque witch into a vision of loveliness in Stephen Sondheim's musical fairy tale, "Into the Woods." The show is at the Martin Beck Theatre on

ography and costume design.

It's sad to know that Patricia Ziprodt, who designed the costumes for this revival, won a Tony Award for the original production's costumes.

A relatively new musical, "Teddy and Alice," focuses on the close relationship between President Teddy Roosevelt and his outspoken daughter Alice, known to most modern Americans as Alice Roosevelt Long-

worth. Len Carlou and Alice Hume star in the title roles.

BRILLIANTLY STAGED, and with music by march king John Philip Sousa, "Teddy and Alice" is thoroughly enjoyable to watch because of its theatricality.

Plays like "Burn This," "Fences" and "Breaking the Code" appear to be doing quite well.

For the more adventurous theater-



Broadway. Tickets go for \$30 to \$47.50, depending upon performance.

goer, Off-Broadway offers more unusual fare. Shows like "Psycho Beach Party" and "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" have been selling out their extremely small houses to enthusiastic crowds. Satirizing '60s beach movies, "Psycho Beach Party" has all the campiness inherent in that genre of films. "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" consists of two farces: "Sleeping Beauty of Carna" and the title show. Utilizing minimal scenery

and very little in the way of costumes, these shows leave the audience in stitches.

All in all, New York City and Broadway have quite a selection of shows. Whether your tastes lie more in musicals, experimental pieces or plays, there is no place where thespians can find such diversity than in the cradle of the American theater known as the Great White Way.

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 35012.

NEW SINGER

Singer/piano player Kathy Morrow is now appearing at the Kingsley Inn bar in Bloomfield Hills. Monday through Saturday nights. Morrow recently completed a six-

month stay at the Grand Hotel's Grand Stand on Mackinac Island.

JEWISH FILMS

"Jewish Immigration, a Film Experience" is the theme of the sixth annual Adat Shalom Jewish Film Series on Sundays, Jan. 10, 17 and 24, at the synagogue in Farmington Hills. The series opens Sunday with "Exodus." Film critic Dan Greenberg, who reviews movies for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, will introduce the film. Admission is free. For more information, call 851-5100.

SUBURBAN COMMENT

Alan Ayckbourn's "Absent Friends," a play that looks at the manners and morals of modern suburbia, takes the stage at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills from Thursday, Feb. 25, through Sunday, March 20. The play replaces the previously announced "Benefactors." Non-subscribers who purchased tickets for "Benefactors" may use them for "Absent Friends."

or return them for a refund. Tickets are available by calling 377-3300.

AUTORAMA STARS

Captain Kirk of "Star Trek," who also is known as actor-director William Shatner, is one of the stars of the 35th annual Autorama Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 7-10, at Cobo Hall in Detroit. Another star appearing is matinee idol Billy Warlock, nomi-

nated for an Emmy for his role as Frankie in NBC's soap opera "Days of Our Lives." Hours for Autorama are Thursday, Jan. 7, 5-11 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 8, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 9, noon to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 10, noon to 11 p.m. Admission is \$7 with children's tickets \$2.

The Management & Staff of Key Largo would like to thank the groups and parties that celebrated the holiday season with us.



RESTAURANT
Featuring Tropical Cuisine
Reservations Suggested 669-1441
142 E. Walled Lake Dr. • Walled Lake

M is for Michigan and...
Join us in January for
Medallion's Michigan "Feast"ival
Taste & Drink a Toast to the Marvels of Michigan
We will feature creative American cuisine
all prepared with fresh Michigan products
We will also feature special Michigan
wines and beverages

COME CELEBRATE THE YEAR
MICHIGAN STATE & MICHIGAN JOINED FORCES IN VICTORY
Join us for a special victory party Fri. and Sat., Jan. 15th & 16th. Show your colors, shout
your cheers & dance the night away to Detroit's own Harvey Thompson and friends.

Located in the new Crosswinds Mall at Orchard Lake &
Lone Pine Rd. (formerly Jack McCarthy's Aristocrat)
West Bloomfield 851-5540

Pearl's Garden
Serving the Finest in
Chinese & American Cuisine

Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders
Szechuan and Mandarin
Open 7 days a Week

Mon.-Thurs. 11 AM-10 PM • Friday 11 AM-11 PM
Sat. 12-11 PM • Sunday 12-10 PM

469 S. Woodward • Birmingham
644-2913

Marriott's Two For Breakfast Weekend
Nationally
From \$59 per night
that per person

It's winter. And the living is easy. Especially when you get away to Marriott — for our Two For Breakfast Weekend. Depending on location, our rates start as low as \$59 per night. Friday or Saturday nights. With a hearty breakfast for two included. Breakfast for kids is just \$1.99.

Whether you're traveling on vacation, want to get away for a quiet weekend, get together with friends or relatives or celebrate a special occasion, our Marriott people will help you make the most of your winter. This great getaway is available at over 125 of our U.S. hotels. It's not offered at some resorts or the New York Marriott Marquis, and is not applicable to groups.

Availability is limited and we require reservations. So call the Marriott of your choice or call toll-free:

1-800-USA-WKND
We're ready with special offers and information to help make your weekend unforgettable.
Marriott People know how.

ANN ARBOR Marriott.
3600 Plymouth Road,
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
(313) 769-9900

5 GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD EAT AT TRINI & CARMENS

1. Independent and family owned.
2. Centuries of knowledge and culture.
3. Serving this area for 25 years. We are now serving the children and grandchildren of our earliest customers.
4. We were the first with our own stylo Nacho - and copied by many.
5. We serve quality food!

ANN ARBOR
TRINI & CARMENS
1715 N. Telegraph Rd.
332-6851

LA FAMILIA Martinez
848 Woodward Ave.
338-8477

Portrait of the Great American Investor

She's never in one place for long. Wherever the story takes her, she'll go. She invests her time in her work and her money in U.S. Savings Bonds.

People everywhere are discovering that Bonds have changed. When held five years or more, Bonds pay competitive rates, like money market accounts. They're also free from state and local income tax. Find out more, call 1-800-US-BONDS.

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
THE GREAT AMERICAN INVESTMENT

Bonds held less than five years earn a lower rate. A public service of this publication.