



Several area residents are among the troupe of 12 in *Movin' Theatre*, Wayne State University's touring program of theatrical dance. They include Nicole Hakim of Birmingham (top, center); Laura Ballard of Livonia (sec-

ond row from bottom, center), and Randy Bonser of Livonia (bottom row, right). The show illustrates dance and movement throughout history.



Barbara Michals

Trio sings songs of love in stylish musical revue

Performances of "Starting Here, Starting Now," presented by Nancy Gurwin Productions and the Jewish Community Center, continue through Saturday, Feb. 6, at the center in West Bloomfield. For ticket information call 354-6545.

"Starting Here, Starting Now" is a frothy musical pastiche loosely built around the theme of love. The Nancy Gurwin production at the Jewish Community Center is stylishly performed by a talented, very winning trio.

Ginger Freers and Rita Jury are both powerhouse singers with impressive range and lots of pizzazz. Danny Gurwin has a polished stage presence, fluid movements and a fine voice heard to best advantage when he solos.

Twenty-seven songs by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire make up the musical revue. The most memorable numbers are comic and allow for some character development.

In "A Little Bit Off" Freers is so topsy-turvy in love that she inadvertently crumples the photograph of her new heartthrob, then tries to smooth out her mistake.

"We Can Talk to Each Other" features a frustrated Greer unable to get a word in edgewise while boyfriend Gurwin boorishly monopolizes the conversation, singing the praises of the couple's communicative skills.

THE CLEVEREST wordplay is in "Crossword Puzzle" where a forlorn Jury laments that her beau has run

away with another gal because he tired of her supplying all the answers to his Sunday crossword. Now she's left holding the puzzle for company.

Parodying department store makeup specialists, Freers boasts "I'm Going to Make You Beautiful" while doing a slapstick bit with bowls of loose face powder.

Martin Burwell provides excellent piano accompaniment for the vocalists, and Nancy Brassert has directed with maximum dramatic flair.

While the costumes are smartly sophisticated, the paltry strips of glittery fabric are ineffectual stage adornment. Better to have left the stage bare. The skilled performers and good lighting can carry it off.

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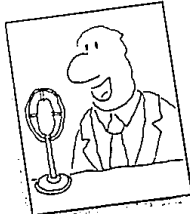
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