

Songs by Noel Coward receive good attention



Helen Zucker

"Oh Coward!" directed by David Pulce at the comfortable Smith Theatre is a pleasing arrangement of 22 Noel Coward songs.

The show is presented by Opera Life in association with the theater on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

It is whimsically divided into two acts and deftly sung by Betsy Bronson, Morgan Rice and Pulce, seasoned troupsers all. There's not much that can go wrong. And nothing much does.

The performers are all in admirable voice, and if several of the songs seem to come from an era fast fading into the past, the fault lies with Coward's lyrics, not with the thoroughly professional production.

The era of bowler hats, canes and eccentric relations who swim away to become missionaries "among the heathens" seems to have dropped into whatever realm Jeeves and the Admirable Crichton now inhabit.

BUT COWARD's ballads are alive and well. Betsy Bronson's clear, beautiful rendition of "If Love Were All" is a show stopper. And "Mad About the Boy" still smolders. Sitting on a barstool in a pink, shimmering dress, her head tilted into the light, Bronson is in her element — blending sweetness and hopeless passion... a figure out of "Casablanca."

Beverly Labuta deserves double credit. Her work as music director is elegant. And her piano playing deserves special mention. Labuta plays with grace, polish and elan.

Morgan Rice and David Pulce are amusing, charming and satirical, displaying considerable acting talent as the revue goes on. Their voices have bite, wit and precision and do

Justice to "The Stately Homes of England," "A Marvellous Party," "Nina," "Mrs. Worthington" and "Mad Dogs and Englishmen" — the last two songs I never thought I would hear again in this life. Both singers manage to throw a bit of Benny Hill into their numbers.

Dale Anderson on string bass and Nick Bakos on percussion lend weight to the happy sounds.

Most of these performers will show up at the Smith Theatre to do "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday.

Kyoto opens another restaurant sushi bar

KyotoSushi in Dearborn will celebrate its grand opening from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday.

All guests may participate in the special service.

The event will feature artfully displayed sushi and Japanese rice wine. Guests will receive complimentary, fingered chopsticks as a memento. A Shinto priest will perform a traditional blessing ceremony at 6 p.m.

This is the third location in the Detroit area for Asian Restaurants International Inc. The others are in Troy and Detroit's Renaissance Center. A fourth restaurant is scheduled for Novi later this year.



Established 1967

BLACKBIRD TRADING Co.

434 W. Main • Brighton
2 Long Biks W.
of Grand River
Mon. - Fri. 10-5:30
Sat. 10-5

Largest Permanent Display East of the Pecos

• Authentic Kachina Dolls • Indian Jewelry
• Navajo Rugs • Western & Indian Art
All items Guaranteed Authentic
• Hopi • Zuni • Navajo

313-227-9522

SUNDAY BRUNCH

- Everything you expect... Wellington's masterfully-prepared entrees include ham, turkey or chicken dishes. And a wide variety of breakfast items, including omelettes made-to-order.
- And more meat... Because Wellington's Sunday Brunch also features chef-carved roast beef.
- Fresher fruit and salads... A sampling of delicious fruits and an incredible array of garden crisp vegetables make our salad bar a feast in itself.
- Lots of hot items... There are home-made soups, hot vegetable side dishes, rice, potatoes, fresh-baked beans...you name it!
- Just desserts, too... One whole table is devoted exclusively to satisfying your wildest sweet tooth. With fresh pastries, muffins, croissants, cakes, pies...
- And champagne from 12 p.m.... Our beautiful atrium restaurant is the perfect setting for an elegant Sunday repast. Champagne and other beverages are included and limited.
- All at a delicious price... Wellington's Sunday Brunch is a tasteful way to cap your weekend. All at such a tasty price! Just...

\$11.95 \$5.95
ADULTS 12 & UNDER

plus tax and gratuity

Every Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm
Reservations recommended.

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

28100 Franklin Road, Southfield 350-2000

Frank Hursley

Mystery is a pleasure in hands of Avon Players

A murder-mystery drama usually assures top-notch entertainment, and this is just what the Avon Players provides in its production of Evelyn Williams' "Night Must Fall."

A comfortable, period household parlor set amidst an English shire, with a host of characters milling about for briefly explained reasons, are the traditional ingredients of a British tale of murder about to happen.

"Night Must Fall" largely fits the formula, although in Williams' play so much is allotted to presenting the quirks of the various characters that ultimately little effort is saved for sustaining an element of suspense.

In this sense the play becomes tame and the horror that a murderer has struck and must strike again becomes dissipated until the final act where some anguished moments do surface.

WITH A WOMAN missing from the local hotel it is assumed murder has been committed, but all this seems remote and distant from a certain Mrs. Bramson's household until the body is found on her premises. Largely, the play revolves around Mrs. Bramson and her manipulation of others from her wheelchair.

As director, Dick McGowan has employed the material to the benefit of his cast, which is well chosen, and some excellent portrayals result. Jackie Sitek excels as Mrs. Bramson, an inescapable invalid demanding attention from a wheelchair, although her zeal can lead to heights of shrillness.

Olivia, who submits to her aunt's caustic abuse, is played by Kathy Mainier as a demure spinster type with a quiet inner strength.

Hubert, a typical befuddled Englishman pursuing Olivia's hand, is ably played by John Hollingsworth. Kevin Roehl, new to the Avon stage, is a young, talented actor who should be signed for future productions before he becomes drafted elsewhere.

WITH HIS FLAIR for an English dialect and a trunk full of facial reactions to match any mood demanded, Roehl presents an interesting stage presence that highlights the entire production. He tempers his role as Dan with an air of mystery tinged with a devilish comedy from the moment he enters.

Roehl is a good find for the players.

Jill Rolan plays Dora, a rather shallow maid-type who had let her guard down during an amorous tryst with the enigmatic Dan. Cohen Merte displays a flair for brittle comedy in her role of Mrs. Terence, another member of the household staff. Also attending to Mrs. Bramson's affliction is Nurse Libby, played by Nancy Humphreys.

Complementing the production is Bill MacNeill's well-appointed set depicting a 1935 English sitting room.

Brush Street. Valet and parking structure parking are available.

Jacobs, a Farmington Hills resident, has been entertaining metropolitan Detroiters for 20 years. He has played for presidents and superstars, corporations and charities.

"I've always been grateful to my mother for giving me music lessons," Jacobs said.

Red Garter Band plays for Dixieland brunch

Doug Jacobs, his banjo and the Dixieland music of the Red Garter Band will entertain for brunch at the Omni International Hotel in the 333 East Restaurant on Sundays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7.

The brunch, a regular Sunday event in downtown Detroit, is \$15.95 for adults and \$6.95 for children under 12. The Omni is in the Millender Center on E. Jefferson Avenue and

Call 642-3131 for Valentine's Day dinner reservations.

30100 Telegraph Road (N. of 12 Mile)

Jacques

Valentine's Day...
the time for romance
and elegance...the
time to dine
at Jacques.

Call 642-3131 for Valentine's Day dinner reservations.
30100 Telegraph Road (N. of 12 Mile)

NOW FEATURING PRIME RIB

8 oz. Key West Cut \$11.95
20 oz. Key Largo Cut \$20.95
(If this doesn't fill you up, seconds are on us)

PRIVATE PARTY BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE

REYAGO RESTAURANT
Featuring Winter Dinners
Reservations Suggested 689-1441
142 E. Walled Lake Dr. • Walled Lake

Dine at the Kingsley and let someone else pay.

To introduce you to the fine quality dining at the Kingsley Inn, we'll honor any "Dinner Club" card from any restaurant...when you dine with us Sunday through Thursday until 11 p.m. during February. It's a great way to sample our restaurant...rated the finest for hotel dining in the area by "Detroit Monthly" magazine. Jacket/reservations required.

Kingsley Inn
Woodward at Long Lake Road • Bloomfield Hills • 642-0100
*One complimentary dinner provided when one of equal or greater value is purchased.
** Excludes Valentine's Day Sun, Feb. 14

Twice a week is better! ☺

"CHASE THE DRAGON!"

To Mon Jin Lau's Chinese New Year Celebration
It's the year of the Dragon
at Mon Jin Lau!

A Special Six Course Dinner:
• Traditional Dragon Dance • Firecrackers • Chinese Candy • Chinese Dessert • Magic • Free Gift

Mon Jin Lau Restaurant
1515 EAST MAPLE RD. • TROY
689-2332

Experience Professional Musical Theatre in YOUR COMMUNITY as the

SMITH PERFORMING ARTS THEATRE presents

Jacques Brel is Alive & Well & Living in Paris

Friday, January 29 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

PHONE THE SMITH THEATRE BOX OFFICE AT
471-7700

SPECIAL—FRIDAY, JANUARY 29
Free T-shirts at the door
ALL STUDENTS \$4.00 FRIDAY ONLY

The Smith Theatre is located on the campus of
Oakland Community College
27055 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48018
I-696 and Orchard Lake Road

TICKETS
\$8.00 &
\$10.00

Senior Student Group Discounts Available