

A winning production about losers

Performances of the Theater Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "Getting Out" continue through Saturday, Feb. 27, at the playhouse in Redford. For ticket information call 522-8057.

The Theater Guild of Livonia-Redford's latest production is "Getting Out," a play about losers. The play itself, however, as presented by the innovative TGLR, is anything but a loser. Especially in the categories of acting and directing, this version of "Getting Out" is a real winner.

Written by Norman ("Night, Mother" and "Third and Oak"), "Getting Out" shows Arlie/Arlene Holsclaw at two stages in her life: as an abused and abusive adolescent, and as a young woman recently paroled, trying to escape the prison of her past so that she can make a new life for herself. There's



Victoria Diaz

nothing new or original, of course, about the story itself. What sets "Getting Out" apart are its hard-to-forget characters.

Chris (Pistra) Drogosch will nail you to your seat with her portrayal of the imprisoned teenager Arlie. Arlie is like a sick animal, caged and badly treated — vicious, hurtful, instinctively lashing out at anyone who dares to stick a hand in the cage. It's not easy to make such a belligerent character a sympathetic one, but Drogosch, with some astute direc-

tion from Rebecca Smith, manages to carry it off throughout.

As Arlene, Colleen Hackney faces a similar challenge. Colorless and frail in appearance, living in hardscrabble poverty and almost constantly put upon by those who won't forget her past and won't let her forget it, either, the character treads an intensely fine line between poignant and merely pitiable. But Hackney's Arlene, imbued, as Norman intended, with just the right amount of dignity and grit, never crosses the line. In the last act, during a disturbing scene in which she reveals how Arlie "died," Hackney is at her heart-stopping best.

OTHER MEMBERS of the well-directed cast include an appealing

David Kelley as Bennie, the lonely prison guard who comes to care for Arlie; Cynthia Bellej as the hard-bitten, beleaguered mother of Arlie; Arlene, and Nancy Matejak as the unpretentious Ruby, who eventually befriends Arlene. Looking mean enough to kick a sick puppy around, the darkly handsome Alan Madeleine does an admirable job as Arlene's manipulative boyfriend, Carl.

As to peripherals, some awkward sound effects detract slightly from the overall quality of the production. (The recording of prison doors clanging shut — heard several times throughout the play — always sounds like a recording of prison doors clanging shut, and background music played simultaneously with a spoken announcement over a p.a. system at the prison is distracting.)

Costumes are nicely done but, in the make-up department, some of the prison guards appear to have gotten a little heavy-handed.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelancer, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

'Kiss and Tell'

(Above) Michael W. Kelley of Dearborn is Private Earhart and Lisa Andres of Livonia is Corliss Archer in "Kiss and Tell," on stage through Saturday, March 19, at the Henry Ford Museum Theater at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. (Below) In another scene from the comedy, Hildy Corbett of Royal Oak (left) is Janet Archer, Vicki Cravens of Westland is Dorothy Pringle and Erik Siabasu of New Boston is Dorothy's son, Raymond. For ticket information, call the Reservations Center at 271-1820.



Auto firms fund art for People Mover

Irene Walt, chairwoman, Art in the Stations, recently announced that gifts of \$50,000 each from the Ford Motor Co. Fund and the General Motors Foundation have been given for the artwork in the Cobo Hall Station of the Detroit People Mover.

The 105-by-10-foot mural, execut-

ed in Venetian glass mosaic, will depict seven life size antique automobiles. The mural was designed by Larry Ebel and Linda Clancielo Scarlett and will be fabricated by Costante Crovatto of Crovatto Mosaic.

Michael Hall giving lecture

Michael Hall, head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art sculpture department and artist-in-residence, will give a lecture at 7 p.m. Monday in the de Salle Auditorium of Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. Admission is free.

The program will be in conjunction with the publication of his new book, "Stereoscopic Perspectives: Reflections on American Fine and Folk Art." A book signing will follow the talk. For information, call 645-3324.

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Series hosts orchestra

Cranbrook P.M. will launch its Salon Series with a performance by the New American Chamber Orchestra at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28 in Cranbrook House Library, 380 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Recently returned from a European tour, the New American Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Misha Rachlevsky, will perform compositions from countries it has visited. Included is the selection "The Four Seasons" by Italian master, Vivaldi.

The New American Chamber Orchestra also has performed extensively throughout Europe as well as here.

Fee of \$30 (\$10 tax-deductible) includes a buffet served in the elegant Cranbrook House Oak Room.

Since reservations are limited, early inquiry is suggested by calling Cranbrook P.M. at 645-3555.

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