

# These gamblers are a sure bet

Nancy Gurwin Productions' presentation of "Guys & Dolls" continues at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, May 12-19 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays, May 14, in the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6800 W. Maple, West Bloomfield.

"Guys & Dolls" is one of the best musicals ever written. Frank Loesser's golden songs get better every year. Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows book, based on Damon Runyon's stylized Broadway characters, has become a classic.

Nancy Gurwin's production of "Guys & Dolls" conveys the humor, charm and zing of the script. Nancy Brassert's jazzy energetic direction keeps the large cast on its toes.

Edgar A. Guest III, playing Nathan Detroit, sounds uncannily like the Wizard of Oz. Guest's laugh is a dead ringer for Frank Morgan's. Guest puckers his face like the Wiz-

ard caught by Toto behind the curtain and stammers wonderfully at his girlfriend of 14 years who wants to get married and at the highrollers who've come to town expecting Nathan to provide action.

Guest scurries to and fro, moving from the Biltmore garage to the sewers to the Hot Box nightclub trying to meet everyone's demands. From the bemused look on his face, the assorted gamblers may as well be asking him for a heart, a brain and courage. Guest is pro and his ingenious Nathan helps glue the show together.

Gurwin is a pro, too. She belts out "Adelaide's Lament" with all the pent up fervor of a girl who's been waiting around for 14 years. Gurwin has great legs and she and the pretty Hot Box Dolls do a good job on "Take Back Your Mink."

She's at her best reading Nathan the letters she has written to her mother for 12 years. We don't even



**Helen Zucker**

ask why Mom has never come down to see her "six grandchildren" or why she praises Nathan "the good, hard working son-in-law." Mothers from Rhode Island don't belong in "Guys & Dolls" and Gurwin believably plays Adelaide as half-Broadway and half-Rhode Island.

David Sikkelee steals the show as Sky Masterson. Not only does he have a wonderful voice, he's the only player whose face conveys subtle emotion. Sikkelee plays a smart fundamentalist whose journey through the big towns of America takes him back to his roots. It's a remarkable portrayal.

"My Time of Day," the beautiful number about New York at 4 a.m., is the best number in the show. Sikkelee's rendition makes the song new. When he sings it, we know Sky has fallen in love with Sarah.

Suzi Goode Friedman is completely alive as Sarah Brown, the "mission doll," who goes to Havana with Sky. Friedman moves believably from the proper girl who wants a man with a pipe in "I'll Know" to the uninhibited girl who sings "If I were a Bell" and "I've Never Been in Love Before." Friedman's intelligence, her mobile face and her ringing voice add immeasurably.

Gary Lee Temple does very nicely

as Nicely-Nicely Johnson. He does justice to "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat," the rousing number sung at the Save-A-Soul Mission. Jon Katz as Benny Southstreet is hilarious. So is Carl Dumas as Big Julie. Sally Gentella as Arvida Abernathy does a solid job. Don Apel is funny as Society Max; so is James Fuller as Lt. Brannigan and Mel Stumacher as Harry the Horse. Ditto Todd Noonan as Rusty Charlie and Mary Kassabian as Gen. Cartwright. George Spelvin as Joey Biltmore, Alicia Holbrook as a mission helper, Lynn Apel, Alycia Hutchison and Lori Monson as the Hot Box Dolls.

Martin Burwell in a gangster suit and hat plays mean piano and Paul Dzenzel is a spirited percussionist. Directed by Burwell the musicians manage to convey the raucous and sweet sounds of Broadway in 1950.

Helen Zucker has many years experience reviewing for newspapers and magazines in Michigan, New York and Massachusetts.

## table talk

### Taste of West Bloomfield

Kyoto Japanese Steakhouse of Troy, Dearborn and the Renaissance Center is among restaurants participating in the sampling that's part of the "Taste of West Bloomfield" and Michigan Week celebration.

Restaurants from the West Bloomfield area offer samples of their specialties from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Henry Ford Hospital, Maple Road. Kyoto intends to feature Kyotouushi and teppanyaki demonstrations.

The event is sponsored by the West Bloomfield Land Conservancy, the West Bloomfield Township Chamber of Commerce and the West Bloomfield Families in Action. Proceeds from the sampling will be distributed between the three sponsors. About 500 tickets have been made available for the event. For details call the West Bloomfield Township Chamber of Commerce, 626-3636.

### Culinary reception

The third in a series of five culinary receptions hosted by the 1988 Michigan Culinary Team takes place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 6, in the Somerset Inn, Troy. The team will meet during the

day to practice the pieces they will enter in the October World Culinary Art Salon in Frankfurt, Germany. The chefs will display their creations at the reception and talk to guests about their work and the contest. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are \$30 per person and are tax deductible. To buy tickets call Reid Ashton at the Golden Mushroom, 458-4280 or call the Somerset Inn, 643-7800.

### More blue skies

She Interior Designs Inc. of West Bloomfield has been selected to design Al Mitchell's second Blue Sky restaurant, the Blue Sky East, 2464 Woodward at 12 1/2 Mile, Royal Oak.

Mitchell is a former producer of Ted Koppel's Night Line news show. He opened the first Blue Sky last year at 19471 West 19 Mile, Southfield. Like the song said, there's been nothing but blue skies ever since. The restaurant specializes in mesquite grilling.

### Seafood fest

There's something delightfully fishy about the goings on at the Hilton International Windsor, 277 Riverside Drive West. The hotel's third annual Maritime Seafood Festival continues 6-10:30 p.m. daily through June 5. Salmon, scallops, sea scallops and shrimp are on the line, here.

## Trio struts its stuff

Continued from Page 5

mal glitches. The backup band hidden behind the curtain once or twice missed cues, but even glitches can be entertaining when three such veteran performers show their skill at smoothing rough spots. With Porter's sensuous rhythms, Brul's passion and humor and Dylan's idealism, the music strikes a pleasing balance.

So does the elegant dinner theater menu offered by Sebastian's Restaurant. Theatergoers dine upstairs at Sebastian's which offers a choice of entrees including beef wellington, roast duck, broiled whitefish with a choice of three possible sauces, pro-

vimil veal, and a low-cal marinated chicken breast. Dinner includes a Michigan theme salad with a splendidly light dressing and dried cherries to surprise the taste buds. Assorted breads and rolls, a medley of vegetables cooked to al dente perfection, dauphine potatoes, an elegant selection of dessert pastries plus tea and coffee complete the sumptuous meal.

After dining, theatergoers move to the mall's lower-level cabaret theater where they may buy drinks before the show begins.

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