

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, September 22, 1988 O&E

(O&E)



Georgia Engel is a bubbly sweetheart as dance-hall hostess Charity Hope Valentine in the Bob Fosse musical "Sweet Charity" at the Birmingham Theatre.



Barbara Michals

## 'Sweet Charity' hums along nicely

Performances of the Birmingham Theatre production of "Sweet Charity" continue through Sunday, Oct. 16. For ticket information, call the box office at 644-3533.

Full of bounce and brass, "Sweet Charity" at the Birmingham Theatre is a joyous musical that guarantees the audience will be humming as it exits.

With a book by Neil Simon, music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Dorothy Fields, "Sweet Charity" is a paean to optimism presented as a

musical that guarantees the audience will be humming as it exits.

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By Helen Zucker  
special writer

**I**F YOU'RE TIRED of cocooning (staying home with Lean Cuisine and the VCR), there's a wealth of live, affordable theater a few miles from home.

Oakland County is rich in community theater, and the 1988-89 season is already underway. Ticket prices range from \$5 to no higher than \$8, and the players are often experienced enough and talented enough to give out-of-town companies and professional theaters stiff competition.

The Birmingham Village Players kicks off its 68th season with Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple." Directed by Bernie Greenberg, the cast includes Tom D'Agostino as Oscar Madison, Kim Fox as Felix Ungar, Paul Becker as Murray, Keri Sterns and Laurie Shea as the Pigeons, and John Miller, Phil Whelan and Jerry Weiner as Roy, Vinnie and Speed. Dee Dwelly designed the set. All these names are familiar to local theatergoers. "Odd Couple" opens Friday and continues Saturday-Sunday and Friday-Saturday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. except for Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Village Players' second offering, Paul Osborne's moving "Morning's at Seven," directed by Sid Britton, opens Friday, Nov. 18, and runs through Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 19-20, and Friday-Saturday, Nov. 25-26.

Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" lights up the theater after the snows of winter descend. Directed by Betsy Todd and Priscilla Benson, this bright musical is slated for Jan. 20-22, 27-29, and Feb. 2-4.

**THE AMBITIOUS** agenda includes "Guest in the House," March 17-19 and 24-25. "The Foreigner," directed by Kim Cooke, is the fifth and final offering of the season. It runs May 12-14 and 19-20.

Tickets are \$7, \$8 for "Anything Goes." Student prices are a dollar less. For tickets, call 644-2075. Birmingham Village Players is at 752 Chestnut near Hunter. Call Helen Parrish at 646-4650 or 644-5832 for information about fund-raising performances.

If you'd like to see Larry Shue's engaging comedy, "The Foreigner," this fall, the Farmington Players, a 37-year-old, fine-tuned troupe opens



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

The Birmingham Village Players production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" features Laurie Shea as Cicely (left) and Keri Sterns as

Gwenn — the Pigeon Sisters, who get together with Felix and Oscar.

its season with Ralph Rosati as Charley, the Englishman who pretends to be a foreigner at a resort in Georgia.

Jim Soldeman plays Froggy and Mary Ellen Cassada plays Betty in this down-home romp directed by Ellie Jorgensen. "The Foreigner" opens Friday, Oct. 28, for a four-week run ending Saturday, Nov. 19.

All tickets are \$8. For group rates, call 538-1870-1. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday nights, 7 p.m. Sundays. The same price, as well as curtain times and a four-week run, holds good throughout the season.

**"THE BUTLER DID IT"** directed by Judie Rosati, opens Jan. 27 and runs through Feb. 18. "Pack of Lies," an absorbing mystery directed by Bill Salisbury, opens April 21 and closes May 13. This experienced group has delivered solid theater consistently. The Farmington Players Barn is at 32332 W. 12 Mile

Road, Farmington Hills. Ridgedale Players opened its 57th season with "Aloft Together," directed by Susie Skibicki. This timely, hilarious comedy about young adults who come home continues Friday-Sunday.

Hart and Kaufman's funny play about the world's best critic and worst houseguest, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," runs Friday-Sundays, Nov. 11-13 and 18-20. Ridgedale Players third offering "Sugar," a musical based on the award-winning movie, "Some Like It Hot," with songs by Julie Styne and Bob Merrill, opens Jan. 13 and plays for a three-week run, closing Jan. 29.

"Pack of Lies," a mystery based

on fact, opens March 10 for a two-week run, closing March 19. And "The Dining Room," a challenging play for six actors (three men, three women), who play all the generations who inhabit the dining room, closes the season, May 5-7 and 12-14. Tickets are \$6, \$7 for "Sugar." Group rates are available. Call Donna Backus at 644-8328 for tickets. For season tickets, a bargain at \$25, call Harry Henry at 542-0427.

This group, despite several moves, has kept its cohesive feel. The group also has kept the pleasant tradition of serving sandwiches and coffee after the play. Ridgedale Players is at

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