## 'Blithe Spirit' captures style of Noel Coward

: Performances of "Blithe Spirit" prosented by the Troy Players, continue through Saturday at the Troy Community Center. For ticket information, call the box office at 1879 1285.

"The Troy Players production of "Blithe Spirit" captures the essence of Noel Coward's wicked, Britishesse of humor. The cast of seven, under Philomena Somers' swift, knowing direction, performs with grace and style. Somers is a director who fully understands not only the play but the genre she and her cast is working with.

If the rest of the season is on a par with the quality of "Blithe Spirit," then Troy Players has taken a quantum leap forward in the quality of its productions.

Spirit Fulle wonderful as intelligent Ruth Condomine. Her diction is Securate, her expressions of wifely Concern and jealous exasperation are bilarious and touching. Subs a mature wife, a worman of the world who finds berself in an impossible situation. Rowell manages to convey all the nunness the Catch-22 role calls for.

Ruth Caswell is equally fine as

calls for.

Ruth Caswell is equally fine as sturdy Madame Arcadt, the medium who blikes everywhere. Caswell conjures up an era when people dabbled in seances, autosuggestion, hypnosis — a giddy time when people talked about psychiatry and the afterille as if they were parlor games one could



Helen Zucker

engage in at will.

WHEN CASWELL breathes deeply and waxes ecstatic at the ectopiasmic manifestion she has called up, all the eccentric Madams Arcals who populated British fiction calls who populated British fiction of the property of the

wit matters more than high ideals in
the Condomine living room.
The wonderfully masty, witty peopie who populate Noel Coward's universe are helped by Pat Morrow as
Mrs. Bradman (Morrow looks wonderful in flowery English garb and
preposterous habs). Tom Tighe as the
sensible Dr. Bradman and Tania Velinsky as Edith, the "natural" medium and slow-witted maid who seems
to be at the bottom of the airy troubles the play deals in.
Jim Miller, Philomena Somers,
Tom Tighe and Connie Patrick have
creating the illusion of a garden and
adding french doors that allow for
make us think we are indeed in a livling room in Kent, England, in the
1940s. Kudos to Cora Rector for
props and to the production staff for
wardrobe and lights.

Hielen Zucker has many years'

Helen Zucker has many years' experience reviewing for news-papers and magazines in Michi-gan, New York and Massachu-setts.

# STUNNING SCALE PROVOCATIVE CONTENT

thetown



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#### upcoming

things to do

from the theater program. First program of the series will be at 11 a.m. Nov. 14. An at 10 a.m. Nov. 14. An at 10 a.m. Nov. 14. An 11:30 a.m. Nov. 14, program will be added if demand warrants. The Nov. 14 programs are part of the Concerts-for-Youth Series presented by the Center for the Arts. Tickets for all shows are \$4. Group rates are available. For details, call the Center for the Arts box office at 370-3013.

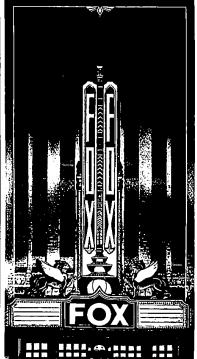
• IN 'BABY' ! Birmingham residents Jan Bender

and Patty Ward star in the Royal
Oak Stagecrafters production of the
upbeat, contemporary musical,
Baby. The show runs at 8 p.m.
Thursdays-Saturdays, Nov. 10-12, 1719, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, and 7
p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the historte Baldwin Theatre. Thursday, Nov.
17, offers general admission scaling
at a discount ticket price of \$7. Expectant mothers can attend Thursday and Sunday shows for half price.
Call 541-6430 for tickets. Jan Bendcr, who recently moved to Birmingham, and Jim Overholt of Clinton

Township play couple number two
— Pam and Nick. The third couple is
played by Gary Dirda of Southfield
and Cecella Mac-Smith of Huntington Woods. Tickets are \$10 and can
be picked up at the Baldwin box office, or call for reservations at \$416430.

COMEDY HIT
 The off-Broadway comedy hit,
 "The Dining Room," begins Friday,
Dec. 2, at the Smith Theatre on the
Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland
Community College.

# Curtains



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