

Show for charity rewards players

By Bob Weibel
special writer

W RITING AND producing an original musical comedy has to rank right up there with the most challenging ways to raise money for charity.

"But it's also one of the most rewarding," said Marcia Myers of Northville, representing the Redford Suburban League Theatre Guild, which will present its 32nd annual original musical comedy this weekend.

"We experience not only applause and the warmth of the spotlight for a moment or two, but a continuing 'feel good' glow," Myers said. "We are able to donate \$3,000-\$4,000 annually for causes that need and deserve community support."

These include Special Olympics, Boys Club and a variety of Western Wayne County organizations for the mentally retarded.

THE SHOW, "Hardly Hollywood" (with a subtitle of "They Don't Shoot Stars Do They?"), is a spoof of the classic tale about a young woman who wins a screen test and goes to La-la land in search of fame and fortune. Markie Rupp of Livonia has the lead role of Irma Horschack, and as you might suspect, our heroine meets up with a variety of interesting characters and bizarre situations.

"Hardly Hollywood" will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday at Redford Union High School. Tickets at \$8 (\$5 seniors and students on Sunday) will be available at the door. For ticket information, call 934-1447.

Myers' association with the theater guild goes back a long way. Her mother, Roberta Ramsey, who helped found the guild in 1957, appeared in more than 25 productions (including the first, "Around the World in 80 Minutes").

Myers is a relative newcomer. This is her fifth show. And, as with many in the cast of 35, she is a dancer and bit player.

There are six dance lines. "We've been rehearsing at Missa Harriette's Dance Studio in Livonia two or three times a week since mid-January," she said. Two of her favorite routines are the opening jazz number

West Bloomfield Police Chief Al McGhee, appears as gangster 'Al Capon' (any connection to an unenriched rooster is, of course, purely coincidental).

and a hot Conga dance featuring men dressed as women. Carmen Miranda would love it.

MYERS SAID the audience will get a kick out of seeing their friends and neighbors in unusual roles. For example, West Bloomfield Police Chief Al McGhee, appears as gangster "Al Capon" (any connection to an unenriched rooster is, of course, purely coincidental). As an extra added attraction he belts out a stirring rendition of "Razle Dazle."

Music is performed by an orchestra under the baton of professional Tom Aquino and features Broadway show tunes with new lyrics.

The writing started in September. Director Jackie Galaska of Livonia cast the show in January — and now three months later it's all coming together for opening night.

One of the biggest jobs has been costumes. \$1,500 was budgeted to give the show that splashy, flashy Hollywood look. Costume head Audrey Malboer and producer Diane Bateman, both of Redford, have been overseeing the fitting and cutting and predict the last few stitches will be completed about 15 minutes before curtain.

"We not only want to sell a lot of tickets," said Myers, "but we're always looking for new members (women and men over 21), so we can do an even better job next year." For membership information, call 937-9121.

Local community interest organizations which would like to be considered for financial support by the Redford Suburban League Theatre Guild can inquire by writing Diane Galaska, 11324 Beech Daly, Redford 48233.

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

● **ACADEMY SINGERS**
"Swing Into Spring" with the Academy Singers, a group of 45 junior and senior high school singers and dancers from the Academy of Popular Vocal Arts, will present their 11th annual Spring Concert at 7 p.m. Friday, April 7, at Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for senior citizens, children and students. Tickets will be available at the door, or they can be purchased in advance by calling the academy at 625-7057.

● **KITTY DONOHUE**
The Pecos Corner Traditional Music Association will present Kitty Donohue and Lake of the Lake at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at Upland Hills Farm in Oxford. This concert is a part of the Pecos Corner Coffee House Series at Upland Hills Farm. Pecos Corner Traditional Music Association is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and presentation of traditional music and dance. Tickets are \$7. For more information or reservations, call 628-1611 or 625-1227.

● **SHOW DELAYED**
The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "I'm Not Rappaport" will open the weekend of Friday-Saturday, April 7-8, instead of April 14-15, due to a cast change. Performances will continue Friday-Saturday, May 5-6 and 12-13. Performances are at 8 p.m. For tickets at \$8 call 538-5678.

● **HOLLYWOOD SCREENWRITER**
"Screenwriters Workshop" presented by Century Productions West and taught by Hollywood screenwriter Michael Raschella ("Ron LeFlore Story") will be held Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9, at the

Holiday Inn in Southfield. For more information, 1-800-999-7070.

● **CABARET EVENING**
"Evening of Cabaret" starring chanteuse Sheri Nichols and pianist Richard Berent will be presented at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 9 at the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. Performing cabaret style, Nichols and Berent will offer several songs from Broadway hits and popular musicals. Their specialties include scores by Stephen Sondheim, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin. For tickets at \$10 per person, call 477-8404.

● **CAMBRIDGE BUSKERS**
The Cambridge Buskers will appear at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at Varner Recital Hall at Oakland University Center for the Arts on campus in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$12 general admission; \$5 seniors, students and children, and \$5 for OU students. Call 370-3013 for more information.

● **WINE EVENTS**
The Sonoma County Wineries Association will present "Sonoma Springtime," a wine-tasting benefit for Center for Creative Studies-Institute of Music and Dance and the Oakland University Center for the Arts on Friday-Saturday, April 14-15. Two gala events will feature fine wine from Sonoma County, one of the nation's most fertile wine producing regions, which is just north of San Francisco. The "Sonoma Springtime Grand Tasting" will be held 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 14, at the Somerset Inn in Troy.



Barry Louis Polisar, children's author, singer, storyteller, will perform at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Birmingham Theatre in a benefit for Baldwin Public Library. For tickets at \$12, call 647-1700.

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