

Nerdy guy brings laughter

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James Doerf remains credibility by not over-exaggerating his straight-faced reactions to the indignities Rick heaps upon him.

Mary Stout as Mrs. Waldgrave matches Benjamin in perfect comic timing and delivery. Overwrought from coping with her husband and her bratty son Thor, as well as the ever-obnoxious Rick, Stout escapes into nirvana by smashing dishes with the small hammer she carries in her handbag.

As Thor, young Ian Reed Kester

(who alternates in the role with Sean Patrick Jonaitis) is delightfully impudent, though a bit slow in his timing. Axel pronounces him an ideal "poster child for Planned Parenthood."

Director David Bell achieves maximum laughs-per-minute right up to the conclusion's surprise twist, which somehow fails to achieve the impact it should.

Compared to "The Foreigner," Shue's other very successful comedy, "The Nerd" is not as inherently clever and its characters are not as in-

teresting or unique. Logically, then, it shouldn't be as funny, but it is. With "The Foreigner" having just ended a run down the road at the Birmingham Village Players, for the one weekend these plays overlapped Birmingham sported a great "pair of Shoes."

Barbara Michaels teaches high school English in Southfield. A theater critic for the last 15 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

upcoming things to do

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the door. Reserved seating is available with advance purchase at \$12. Tickets are available at the Troy Hilton and all Ticketmaster locations. A limited menu will be offered as well as complimentary hors d'oeuvres 5-6:30 p.m. For additional information, call 583-9000.

TOURING COMPANY

The Michigan Shakespeare Festival Touring Company will present a free performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" at 9:45 a.m. Monday, June 5, at the Studio Theatre, Varner Hall, at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Carolyn Gillespie, associate professor of theater at the University of Michigan-Flint, will direct. Although seating is free, reservations are suggested by calling 870-3023. The Michigan Shakespeare Festival is sponsored by the University of Michigan-Flint Theatre Department and Office of Extension and Continuing Education, Buckham Alley Theatre and McCree Theatre.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Tickets are on sale for WDET's 10th annual Music Festival on Sun-

day, May 28, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival site at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. This year, three performance areas will showcase more than a dozen top-name performers. Festivities begin at noon and conclude at 7 p.m. Headliners are South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela; mandolin virtuoso David Grisman and his quartet; UZZB, Canada's top jazz/funk band, and from Chicago, the Kinsey Report featuring Big Daddy Kasey. This year's traditional Music Tent will feature continuous bluegrass, blues and folk music, in addition to dancing. The festival also includes a Family Area full of special performance and hands-on demonstrations for children and grown-ups. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and the Meadow Brook box office, as well as

other locations. To charge tickets by phone, call 377-2010.

MOUNTAIN JACK'S

Joe Tackett performs from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Thursdays-Saturdays through July 1 at Mountain Jack's in Bloomfield Hills. For more information call 334-4894.

OUTDOOR SERIES

Each Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., the City of Birmingham and voluntary community support presents a free program of family entertainment in Sala Park in downtown Birmingham. The 14-week series featuring music, song and dance runs June 8 through Sept. 7. Parkgoers can bring lawn chairs or blankets and sit on the lawn. Call 644-1807 after 5 p.m. for recorded information.

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BAND SCHEDULES:

JAZZ TO THE HILT

Wednesdays/An Early Evening

June 7	Spyro Gyra
June 14	Ramsey Lewis
June 21	Lionel Hampton
June 28	Chic Corea
July 5	Steps Ahead
July 12	Fatburger
July 19	Herbie Mann
July 26	Norma Jean Bell
August 2	Angela Bofield
August 9	Oliver Gillespie
August 16	Alexander Zonjic & Kirk Whalum
August 23	Shadowfax
August 30	Grand Finale—An Entertainment Spectacular** (Surcharge Applies)

Wednesdays, 5 to 10 p.m.

Performances at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

\$10 general admission in advance

\$12 general admission at door

\$12 reserved table seating in advance

\$15 reserved table seating at door

Complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Proper attire required

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS

Fridays/Party To The Max

June 2	The Originals of Country
June 9	Diego Melendez/Guinevere McChie
June 16	Teen Angels
June 23	Intrigue
June 30	Rumplestiltskin
July 7	Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band
July 14	Danger Brothers
July 21	Just Us & Crosswinds
July 28	Rumplestiltskin
August 4	Regular Boys
August 11	Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band
August 18	1964: As The Beatles
August 25	Teen Angels
September 1	Grand Finale—An Entertainment Spectacular** featuring David Clayton Thomas with Blood, Sweat & Tears (Surcharge Applies)

Fridays, 5 to 1 a.m.

Continuous entertainment throughout the evening

\$2 cover 5 to 8 p.m.

\$7 after 8 p.m.

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Snappy casual attire

Table patrons are indulged with the ultimate in presentation and waitress service, a limited menu and a choice of champagnes and wines for purchase. Major credit cards are accepted in this reserved section only. Tickets for both evenings can be purchased in advance at the Troy Hilton, or at the door. Advance reservations for Jazz to the Hilt on Wednesdays can also be obtained through all Ticketmaster* locations.

Join us for the fun and music at these midsummer nights dreams.

*Price does not include \$2.00 Ticketmaster convenience charge.

**Present this ad at either Grand Finale event and receive 2 for 1 general admission.

TICKETMASTER
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