

Fantasy breathes life into two romances

Performances of "Romance, Romance" continue through Sunday, March 18, at the Birmingham Theatre. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3333.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

Double your pleasure with a double dose of romance in the Birmingham Theatre production of the delightful twin musicals "Romance, Romance." The two separate one-act plays share the same excellent four-member cast, and both are dedicated to the proposition that fantasy is a strong aid to romance.

The opening musical, set in Vienna in the turn of the century, is like a Viennese cream pastry — not much substance, but absolutely delicious.

Both Noone and Mitzman have wonderful voices and give their respective characters loads of charm and vitality.

Peter Noone and Marcia Mitzman play aristocrats who become bored with the high life of their class and pose as working class folk to seek true love. By chance they find each other, but they also discover that the charms of poverty fade quickly.

Both the story and the musical numbers are very suggestive of old-fashioned operettas, a point clearly made by Noone's character at the end. Barry Harman's lyrics range

from funny ("Goodbye, Emil," "A Rustic Country Inn") to joyous ("I'll Always Remember the Song," "Yes, It's Love"), to poignant ("The Night It Had to End"), to go with Keith Hermann's very melodic, hummable music.

Both Noone and Mitzman have wonderful voices and give their respective characters loads of charm and vitality. Mitzman looks gorgeous in Steven Jones' luscious Art Nouveau gowns, and Noone retains the boyish good looks that made him so endearing as "Herman" in the very popular British rock group Herman's Hermits in the '60s.

THE LEADS are ably supported by Sheri Cowart and John DeLuca as graceful waiters who parallel the main lovers in pantomime. They also

double as other minor characters.

In the second musical two modern couples share a summer rental home in the Hamptons. Barb and Lenny (Mitzman and DeLuca) and Monica and Sam (Cowart and Noone) are all close friends, both couples happily married for a long time. Barb and Sam who have stayed best friends since college, now discover a new attraction to each other. The play asks if a man and woman can really stay platonic friends, or is the fantasy of wondering about a love affair even better than the reality?

Here Coward and DeLuca get to display their fine vocal skills in larger parts, while Mitzman and Noone have a chance to bring more depth to their roles.

Musical numbers range from soft rock (a reprise of the previous act's



Barbara Michals

"It's Not Too Late" that takes on a different meaning) to pleasing ballads ("Words He Doesn't Say," "Moonlight Passing Through a Window.") It's ironic when Noone's character briefly pretends to be a rock star.

In addition to writing the lyrics and the book for both the musicals, Harman also directs this production, as he did the original Broadway one. The results are every bit as pleasing. Steven Rubin's fine sets and Pamela

Sousa's very good choreography are also identical to their Broadway originals.

Valentine's Day may be past, but it's never too late to enjoy "Romance, Romance."

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

On the Town
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

A DETROIT CLASSIC FOR OVER 40 YEARS
Close to the Fox, Fisher & Hubbery. Five minutes from Tiger Stadium, Joe Louis Arena & Cobo Hall.
The Finest in Northern Italian Cuisine
Specializing in:
"Provin" Veal, Chateaubriand & Prime Lamb Chops
Tableside Cooking
VALET PARKING
BANQUET FACILITIES
Call For Reservations
833-9425
4222 Second Ave. • Detroit
(between Willis & Canfield)
M-Th 11:30-11, Fri 11:30-12
Sat 4-12, Sun 2-11

THE PHANTOM of the OPERA
DIRECTED BY HAROLD PRINCE
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
TURNS TO TONIGHT
CALL 353-3740
CANAM TRAVEL
3000 TOWN CENTER • SOUTHFIELD

LEARN CPR, PLEASE.
American Red Cross

5 GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD EAT AT TRINI & CARMENS
1. Serving this area for 25 years. We are now serving the children and grandchildren of our earliest customers.
2. Knowledgeable people who know Mexican food eat here.
3. We were the first with our own style Nacho — and copied by many.
4. Independent and family owned.
5. We have recently remodeled and expanded and added more items to our menu.
TRINI & CARMENS
ANN ARBOR
50 N. Territorial
665-3967
WATERFORD
1715 Telegraph
332-6851

Pearl's Garden
Serving the Finest in Chinese & American Cuisine
Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders
Szechuan and Mandarin
Open 7 days a Week
Mon.-Thurs. 11 AM-10 PM • Friday 11 AM-11 PM
Sat. 12-11 PM • Sunday 12-10 PM
469 S. Woodward • Birmingham
644-2913

SHOWCASE CINEMAS
CALL THEATERS FOR SHOW TIMES
BARGAIN MATINEE \$3.50
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 1:00 PM
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW SUN. & HOL.
COURAGE MOUNTAIN (G)
24 Hour Telephone 313-373-2560
SHOWCASE CINEMAS AUBURN HILLS
1-1-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14
2150 NORTH OGDEN ROAD
BIRMINGHAM 35244
24 Hour Telephone 313-373-2560
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
BLOOD OF HEROES
MIN DON'T LEAVE
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
MADHOUSE
BASKETCASE 2
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
DRIVING MISS DAISY
REVENGE
NIGHTBREED
COURAGE MOUNTAIN (G)
HARD TO KILL
GLORY
TANQO & CASH
MY LEFT FOOT
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
BORN ON THE 21ST
FOUR ON JULY
LOOK WHO'S TALKING
THE WAR OF THE ROSES
THE LITTLE MERMAID (G)
PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
1400 S. HILLCREST RD. 332-0241
NIGHTBREED
MIN DON'T LEAVE
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
BLOOD OF HEROES
HARD TO KILL
BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY
PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
2405 S. HILLCREST RD. 334-6777
GLORY
STELLA
REVENGE
MADHOUSE
DRIVING MISS DAISY
SUMMIT PLACE 882-5546
N. TELEGRAPH & BUSH LANE RD.
BARGAIN MATINEE 1:00 PM SAT 11:30 AM
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS
CONTINUOUS SHOW DAILY
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
BASKETCASE 2
INTERNAL AFFAIRS
STARTS FRIDAY 7:30 PM
COURAGE MOUNTAIN
THE LITTLE MERMAID (G)

Win A Vacation To Disneyland's 35th Anniversary Celebration With FM 104/WOMC!

Disneyland Park is celebrating its 35th Anniversary with the biggest party in our history! You can join in the fun just by entering to win a Disneyland family vacation. At Disneyland, you'll see the brand new Party Gras Parade, with mammoth 45-foot Disney Character balloons towering overhead. You may even win one of over 400,000 prizes our dazzling Dream Machine is giving away, including a brand new GEO or truck everyday! 104/WOMC is sending 10 lucky families to Disneyland for all the festivities, plus over 55 world-favorite attractions, too. Lucky winners will fly on Delta Air Lines, the Official Airline of Disneyland. And you'll stay for five days and four nights at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers. Keep listening to 104/WOMC for complete details to win a trip that's Disneyland BIG!

Disneyland
35 YEARS OF MAGIC

College and You The Right Combination
A public service announcement of this newspaper and Wayne State University.

THE ANAHEIM HILTON AND Towers
FM 104/WOMC
DELTA
The Official Airline Of Disneyland and Walt Disney World.