

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor 644-1100



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(O7C)



STAFF PHOTO

Dike Dwelley of Bloomfield Hills is Cardinal Wolsey, Diana McClain of Royal Oak is Anne Boleyn (center) and Gail Saunoy of Bloomfield Hills appear in the Birmingham Village Players production of "Anne of the Thousand Days," opening Friday, March 23.

upcoming things to do

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Oakland University Center for the Arts on campus in Rochester Hills. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, and 25 and April 1, in Varner Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$4 for senior citizens and students and \$3 for OU students. For more information call the box office at 370-3013.

● **'Last Resort'** Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "The Last Resort," a contemporary comedy about mother and son by Detroit playwright Kitty Dublin, through Sunday, April 1, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$12-\$17.50; previews, \$10. Tickets and information are available at 788-2900 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

● **Readers Theater** First performance of the Spring Series of Readers Theater will be at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 18, in the DeJoy Theater at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. A complimentary wine bar will open at 3:15 p.m.

The program will feature Shirley Benvas, Elizabeth Elkin Weiss, Rubie Weiss and Paul Winter and will present works by Sam Wohl, Michael Frank, Herb Gold and Alfred Kazin. Allan Gelfond will serve as host of the program. Tickets are available at the door beginning at 3 p.m. There is an admission charge. For information call Readers Theater at 567-4030.

● **TV auction** Detroit TV news personality and media consultant Kathy Adams has been named celebrity chairperson for the 22nd annual Channel 56 Auction. She will direct her efforts to secure members of the press, radio and television as auctioneers and master of ceremonies for the auction, to be televised Friday, April 20, to Sunday, April 22, on Channel 56. Adams also will solicit donations of such auction "dreamboard" items as lunches with celebrities and behind-the-scenes visits at radio and TV shows. Formerly a news anchor at WJBK-TV, Detroit, Adams currently owns and operates Katherine Inc., a Southfield-based media consulting firm, which opened last November.

Hamlet's mother

Laurie Logan is back at the Attic

By Victor E. Swanson
special writer

EVERY THIRD YEAR is the charm for actress Laurie V. Logan's appearances at the Attic Theatre in Detroit. "This is the third show that I've done for the Attic. I seem to do one every three years," she said, in an interview at her Bloomfield Hills house. She is cast in Shakespeare's "Hamlet," opening Friday. (Her previous shows were "Watch on the Rhine" and "Top Girls.")

"She has a dreadful choice, the choice that I think any — I was going to say 'any woman' — I think any person who has any sense of family would dread the most, to choose between a lover and a child. And that's essentially the choice she's faced with, because Hamlet is distraught at her having remarried."

SHE ADDED, "And he (Hamlet) says, 'How can you have married someone else other than my father?'" That line has much more meaning when a person considers Gertrude's new husband is Hamlet's uncle, and when a person considers how Hamlet's father dies.

"It's a very interesting role to me, to figure this woman out and figure out where she is at what point in the play." Over the past few years, several debates in England and the United States have tried to answer the question of whether William Shakespeare wrote all the plays that are credited to him. Logan declared, "Whoever wrote the plays had a marvelous understanding of human behavior."

"... The people are real! They're on a large scale, but they're real-bonest-to-God human beings, who have legitimate actions and reactions."

Logan expressed some disappointment with her character, however. "The only comment that I would make is that I wish Mr. Shakespeare had written more (for Gertrude), because there's a lot from an audience point of view that is not explained. It would be nice if it were a little more fully explained."

"FOR INSTANCE," Logan said, "she comes back to report on watching Ophelia's death. Why didn't she do anything about it? We don't know why she didn't do anything about it. I have to choose, so that I know why

'I am playing Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. The thing that makes it appealing to me is the relationship between the queen and her son and the queen and the wife (Ophelia).'

— Laurie V. Logan

she didn't do anything about it. But the audience can never know that, and someone watching the play might say, 'Well, why is she telling us all this? What did she do? Did she just sit there and watch this girl drown? What did she do?' So there are areas in which I think she could be more fully developed."

Logan considered when the play was written. "But that wasn't necessarily the tradition for the female character. And I think the tradition was to flesh out the male characters more than the female characters at that time."

She said this production of "Hamlet" is "not being done in the quote-unquote traditional manner."

"I think the approach is a new and risky, very exciting approach. I don't mean that it's way out physically. It isn't. It's just that the attitude is not the traditional one."

The Attic production of "Hamlet" is directed by Gordon Reinhardt. "The man who's playing Hamlet is Roger Bechtel. He comes from New York. He's wonderful," Logan said. "The man playing Claudius is Richard Clauson, who's worked for the Attic before. He's a professor of theater at the University of Michigan."

Some of the other players are Eric Kramer, Tom Mehnd, David Parker, Robert Grossman and Cheryl Williams, the latter two Logan has worked with before. "I worked with Cheryl at the Cherry County Playhouse a couple of summers ago. We did a show called 'Weekend Comedy' with Pat Paulsen and 'Last of the Red-Hot Lovers' with Don Knotts," she said.

LOGAN ALSO DOES radio and television commercial work, industrial films and other films. She said jokingly, "I got started 150 years ago."

She started with community theater as a child. As a junior in college, she worked on a radio soap opera, "When a Girl Marries," during the summer.

Logan's father is Irving Vendig, a former radio and television writer,



DOUGLAS SUSALLA

Laurie V. Logan of Bloomfield Hills relaxes at home, discussing her role as Gertrude in Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at the Attic Theatre.

who worked on several soaps. For instance, he created "The Edge of Night." The "V" in Logan's stage name comes from Vendig.

Her first husband died in 1973, and she married attorney Cal Hudson about nine years ago. Hudson had been married before, and both brought children of their own to the marriage. They met when one of Logan's daughters and one of Hudson's daughters were graduating from Western Michigan University, where the girls had been roommates.

The children from Logan's first marriage are Allison Logan, an actress who lives and works in Los Angeles; Jay, a banker who lives in Florida; and Bret, who is in communications. Hudson's children are Holly, an interior designer, and Heather, an attorney in Grand Rapids, who gave birth to her first child about five months ago.

FOR FUN, Logan loves to read, and enjoys works by Andrew Davies,

Langston Hughes and Carl Sandburg. "I go hiking. I go cross-country skiing. I'm scared to death of downhill skiing. I mean, I like it. I go up on the hill, and I'm quaking in my boots, and I do most of my skiing three points, but it's fun."

And she enjoys horseback riding and tennis. "There's just not enough time to do things, as far as I'm concerned," Logan said.

"I'm very pleased to be doing this role and to be doing it at the Attic. I enjoy working there — a good supportive energetic theater."

Preview performances of "Hamlet" continue Thursday (March 15) at the Attic. On opening night Friday, there will be an afterglow in the lobby where audience members can meet the cast. The play runs through April 8, with performances Wednesdays-Sundays. Tickets are priced from \$10-\$20. For more information call the box office at 875-5284.

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