



obert Wagner and Stephanie Powers, onetime TV co-stars, re paired again in the play "Love Letters."

Heart-to-heart, a strong drama

"Love Letters" by A. R. Gurney continues through Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Fisher Theatre in De-troit To order tickets by phone, call 645-6666, or call 872-1000 for more information.

By Ethel Simmons stall writer

stall writer.

Seated side by side, with their veripts on the library table in front of them. Robert Wagner and of them. Robert Wagner and stephanie Powers bring alive the friendship — and love — over a life-time between two WASPS of very different personalities.

The high Fisher Theatre stage dwarfs the two actors, who perform throughout the two-act production of Love Letters' without moving from the other Schap their volces, facial the distribution of the stage of the stage of the power words, but adult friends who pals to adult friends then for a time lowers, and have again to love in firends.

school pass to source recens, source, at time lower, and back again to loving friends.

In real life, Wagner and Powers love developed followings of their cook, through their movie and television roles and os costars of TV's Hart to Hart's ophisticated conicidy waystry series.

Wagner atfill retains his hoyish charm and "cook," Powers her par-

review

ticularly teminine manner and wom-anly warnth. These characteristics, along with their good looks, serve them well in their portrayals of the two friends who seek happiness in their private lives and careers.

DOWERS HAS perhaps the most challenging role, appearing as a cubral femile, daughter of wealthy parents but neglected She struggles to find her way, and fails. Two broken marriages, drinking and mental problems plague her but she maintains a bold, mascheving and mental problems plague her but she maintains a bold, mascheving and mental problems plague her but she maintains a bold, mascheving style. The entire play is presented with the across roading the exchange of letters they send, mostly to each other, through the years.

While Powers as Melissa Gardner gues from oute to antice. Wagner as Andrew Makepease Ladd III attends Value serves with the Navy and then the structure of the serves with the Navy and then the process of the serves with the property which he could be preserve in the Carlotte of the condition of the serves with the Navy and then bends to preserve high resident and political career. Wagner hersiles all aspects of this scharacterization the humor, the seriousness with

Bitter Friends' is fascinating

Performances of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre production of "Bitter Friends" continue through Sunday, March 3, at the Auron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Sish Committy Center in West Bloomfield. For tickets, call JET 41 788-2800, visit any Ticketmas-ter outlet or call 643-6666

By Barbara Michals special writer

Asserting that "the questions are more important than the answers." the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's production of "Bitter Friends" is a highly provocative, compelling drama that leaves the audlence somewhat stunned by all the questions it raises. Gordon Rayfield's play is a fictional work loosely based on the 1987 Jonathan Jay Pollard spy case. Pollard was a United States naval intelligence analyst sentenced to life imprisonment for griving Israel classified information on Iraq's chemical weapons buildup.

In "Bitter Friends," the real protagonst is the activist rabbi Arthur Schaefer (Rubert Grossman), who seeks to untample the truth, about seeks to untample the truth, about its the young klein just a misguided idealist, trying to be a hero, or is he a pawn of the convoluted political proteins." Was Klein himself to olame or as sanforder by the Israelis, Why did American Jews turn their backs on him, offering no protein.

review

test to his harsh sentence?

Such somber political issues are
presented here without undue talkiness or polemies. The author claims
to give a fair representation to all
sides without attempting to resolve
the issues. However, in actuality the
brach government comes off looking even more heartless than the
anti-Semitic State Department.

His face conveys the intensity of the questions tearing at him, yet the actor is equally effective delivering sardonic one-liners like a would-be Jackie Mason.

Justice Department's very WASPah Wingder Whitney, more annoyed at being disturted at his private clab-than at the hapless Fox's difficult highet Andrew Dunn is also very be-inevable as Congressman Frank Fitzgerald, a theral with sharp in-sight into political realities. Henricht Herinchin is relly patri-cian as Klein's widowed mother, resentful that all she holds dear has been sacrificed for the good of Isra-el.

el
As Rachel, Klem's devoted wife,
Stacic Passon borders on melodramatic in her confrontations with
her inother-in-law but does much
better trying to be the voice of reason to her reculeitrant husband
Director Randall Forte does a fine

job of sustaining the dramatic



pact throughout T. Andrew Aston's lighting and scenic design also con-tribute, the latter, a map of the Mid-dle. East that sprawls across the walls and floor of the stage as a stunning remaider of the show's interrelationship with the current Mideast war.





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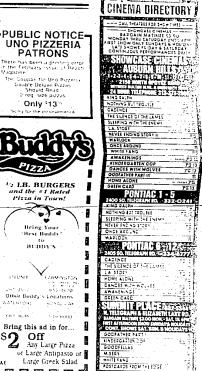
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