

Actors glide in lovers' waltz

Performances of the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "Talley's Folly" continue through Oct. 28 at the Theatre Guild playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, Redford. For ticket information call the box office at 538-5678.

The Theatre Guild opened their '91-'92 season with a charming, and humorous, look at romance in an engaging production of "Talley's Folly."

It's about two not-so-young lovers who waltz around the task of overcoming fears and consummating their relationship. Director Debi Bayley does a fine job with Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

THE SETTING is a Victorian bathhouse on the state's Tally Farm near Lebanon, Mo. It's a hot summer night in 1944. Crickets are chirping, frogs are croaking, a full moon casts soft shadows on the banks of the river. Perfect for a romantic interlude, right? Well, maybe not.

Leading the waltz is Matt Friedman, a 42-year-old Jewish accountant from St. Louis, by way of war-torn Europe, whose family has been tortured and killed. Following not too willingly is Sally Talley, a 31-year-old nurse's aide who is fast approaching spinsterhood.



Fred Buchalter and Susan Reno play Matt and Sally in the Theatre Guild production of "Talley's Folly."



Bob Weibel

Fred Buchalter, as Matt, captures the very essence of a man whose outwardly teasing, playful humor masks a more serious and sensitive personality. Buchalter is especially adept at moving from witty moments to telling scenes without obvious dramatics. It is a very smooth performance from beginning to end.

SUSAN RENO is very good as Sally Talley, an attractive woman from a prominent family who is not married. Matt, she fears, is not the answer. Her reactionary family would never accept him. They are from different worlds; marriage would never work.

This conflict between heart and mind isn't always all that it might be. Perhaps-if Reno-played-Sally with more warmth, or in a little less strident fashion, we would feel more of the desire Sally really has for Matt.

A waltz of words and evasive actions continues between the two fragile lovers. They are like eggs, afraid to rub against each other lest they crack their shells. They must maintain their integrity, their privacy, to survive.

Bob Weibel of Westland is a free-lance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN SENATE
FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Defendant.

ONE 1989 FORD ESCORT, VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION #1FAPP1K1W11111, Defendant.

RICHARD THOMPSON (P) (11)
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
1200 North Telegraph Road
Warren, Michigan 48091
(313) 464-4644

ORDER OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF PROCESS

At a session of said Court held at the Courtroom to the City of Pontiac, State of Michigan, County of Oakland, on this 23rd day of September, 1991.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that service of process upon Defendant Earl Henry Gildart be deemed proper and adequate service of process as required by statute and the rules of the Court after the following has been carried out:

1. That a copy of this Order be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks in an Oakland County newspaper;
2. That the last (third) publication of the Order occur no later than October 18, 1991;
3. That, prior to the date of the last publication, a copy of this Order of Substituted Service of Process, the Statutes and the Complaint be sent to Earl Henry Gildart at his last known address, to be verified mail, return receipt requested, and (3) by regular first class mail.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant Earl Henry Gildart shall have twenty-eight (28) days to answer or take other lawful action from the date of the last publication of this Order.

HONORABLE BARRY L. HOWARD
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Approved as to form and content:
GARY L. THOMPSON
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Publish: October 18, 17 and 21, 1991.

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Trinity production needs work:

Performances of the Trinity House Theatre production of "The Trip To Bountiful" continue through Nov. 2 at Trinity House, 35840 W. 24th Mile Road in Livonia. For ticket information call 464-8302.

Though it has some things going for it, Trinity House Theatre's recent production of "The Trip To Bountiful," directed by Peter Senkbeil, ultimately misses the mark.

Horton Foote's play, though telling a simple story, is also a challenging piece of work. It focuses on Carrie Watts, a kindhearted/lonely/hymn-singing/nature-loving/elderly woman, played by Angella Kobane) who, before she dies, yearns to escape the smothering urban environment in which she lives to her pastoral beginnings in East Texas.

HOW do you stage something like that without having it lapse into something all trite and overly sentimental?

Foote's story, though simple, is peopled with some highly complex, subtly wrought characters who, when convincingly portrayed, not only ensure against triteness, but make this play soar.

In the main cast at Trinity House, Guy Snyder is Carrie's ineffectual son, Ludie. Sarah Heden plays self-centered, thwarted daughter-in-law, Jessie Mae.

The trouble here is that these vital, three-dimensional characters are less than convincingly portrayed. Consequently, the play never quite leaves the ground. Sometimes it threatens to just sit there, still as a concrete fence post.

IN THIS case, though some performances are better than others, the cast, as a whole, seems to come up short. A certain self-consciousness, not usually seen in the Trinity House players, a certain tendency toward over-acting keeps rearing its ugly head here.

A smile turns into a peculiar leer, a facial expression becomes so exaggerated it seems faintly ludicrous and altogether inappropriate. Some performers can't seem to think of what to do with their hands, other appear to be straining at their roles.

Now and then the exaggeration and overacting gives way to one of those spells of flatness or woodenness on the part of some of the actors. None of this distracts or detracts quite so much as the fact that, very often, the performances don't seem to be listening or responding to each other at all, but simply anticipating their own upcoming lines. Perhaps rehearsal time was short?

SET, SOUND, and lighting are imaginative and carefully done. Make-up and costumes are first-rate too, although some costumes look a bit more 1981 vintage than 1951, the year in which the play is set.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonian-based freelance, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

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INVITATION TO BID
Farmington Public Schools will accept sealed bids for Air Conditioning at the District Media Center and Emergency Lighting at Ten Mile Administrative Annex until 3:00 P.M., Monday, October 28, 1991 at the Lewis Schulman Administration Center, 32500 Shawwassee, Farmington, Michigan 48336, addressed to Beverly Hausman. They will be publicly opened and read at the Board of Education meeting at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities therein; or for reasons of establishing uniformity, to award the contract to other than the low bidder. A bid bond or certified check for 5% of the bid must accompany our bid proposal form which may be obtained from our purchasing department. There will be a mandatory prebid meeting at Ten Mile Administrative Annex on Monday, October 14, 1991, at 10:00 A.M. at 32189 West Ten Mile, Farmington, Michigan 48336.
CATHLEEN N. WEBB, Secretary
Board of Education
Publish: October 18 and 19, 1991

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