

## 'Social Security' fun, fast paced

Performances of "Social Security", presented by SRO Productions, continue through Oct. 27 at Southfield's historic center, The Burgh, on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road. Tickets at the Southfield Senior Adult Center or call 354-0962.

The SRO Productions' presentation of "Social Security," written by Andrew Bergman, is played with enthusiasm and warmth by all on stage, but different acting styles within the cast create an uneven production as a whole.

Judie Rosati's direction leads the cast of actors to work against one another. Although the cast is well prepared, acting styles range from quite broad to sedate.

**SET** IN a trendy apartment on the East Side of Manhattan, Barbara and David Kahn are art dealers whose mother is "dropped off like a package from Spiegler's" by Barbara's sister and brother-in-law, Barbara Kahn, played by Maggie Savage, faces caring for her sometimes



## Sally Dubats

eccentric mother. Savage creates a witty and believable character, but sometimes exhausts rubber facial expressions, a comic style that is too broad in contrast to the others on the stage.

Joel Grossman portrays well the outspoken and successful David Kahn who is caught in the middle. Grossman's style is more accomplished. For the most part, Grossman offers a more relaxed manner as his character confronts relatives, creating a more believable and less caustic personality while remaining very funny.

DOLAN AND Nancy Slevart portray less sophisticated relatives Martin and Trudy Heyman. The

Heymans deliver their mother to David and Barbara Kahn, but not without the certain comedy that comes with relatives who clash on every issue. Dolan Slevert's portrayal of Martin is an adorable mix of naivete and piousness.

Nancy Slevert delivers Trudy's lines with a wonderful sense of serious comedic timing. The Heymans' 18-year-old daughter (an off-stage character) is experiencing newfound freedom at college with relish, and Trudy blames it on her sister, Barbara, saying, "You took her to see that filthy Picasso show," and

Joyce Moore is Sophie Greengrass, the irksome mother who appreciates nothing and wants everything. The

eccentric Sophie is pushed from one daughter to the other, spitting a trail of half-eaten sour balls in her path. Moore plays the odd persona of Sophie with conviction and understanding, and delivers droll lines with bull's-eye accuracy. Sophie finds her own death notices, "...in the recipe box...under 'Casseroles.'"

THE SHOW is fun and fast paced, with each character adding sparkle. Dick Cole renders a performance of note with his portrayal of Maurice Koenig, the 93-year-old painter visiting the Kahns. Cole, however, does not look (nor act) 93, and this lessens

The show is produced in the Southfield's historic center, "The Burgh," which is renovated church. Bill Mandt has created a very modern set quite befitting the trendiness of the Kahn's New York apartment. The atmosphere is quaint, but there is almost no room to produce a show without forethought of space. Problems in the blocking occur which are augmented by a too-large table placed downstage in a premium playing area. This forces the actors to play strictly stage left with no freedom to move.

The SRO presentation of "Social Security" has pieces that work wonderfully in and of themselves, and these pieces can be enjoyed to their fullest extent in this respect.

Sally Dubatz of Southfield is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area. She is artistic director of West End Productions headquartered in Southfield.

It's not too early to reserve tickets for the Christmas Madrigal Dinner to be held at Waterman Center Dec. 12, 13, and 14, 7:30-11 p.m. Event proceeds help fund culinary arts and music scholarships.

**THE MADRIGAL** Singers will enter the hall in full costume to present the Wassail and toast the Christmas season. Each course of the year's Prime Rib Feast will be presented to the court with trumpet fanfare and ceremony, including the presentation of the Boar's Head.

Tickets are \$25 per person; tables seat eight. Make your check or money order out to Schoolcraft College and indicate a first and second choice of the night you wish to attend. Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are also accepted.

Mail your check or money order with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Madrigal Dinner, c/o Institutional Advancement, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152-2696. For information, call 462-4417.

Food and entertainment are on the menu at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The college opens its 1991-92 dinner theater season 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, with Lucille Fletcher's mystery "Night Watch."

On Dec. 12, 13, and 14, the music and culinary arts departments will recreate a 16th century English feast for the 15th annual Christmas Madrigal Dinners.

"NIGHT WATCH" is a suspense thriller about Elaine Wheeler, a woman troubled by unsettling memories and vague fears. Upon seeing (or believing she sees) the dead body of a man in the window of an abandoned tenement across from her townhouse, she calls the police, but they find nothing but an empty chair.

Another incident occurs involving another dead body; this time a woman's, the police turn skeptical. After pleas to her husband and the police that her visions are real, they claim she is hysterical and heavily drugged.

A woman psychiatrist is called and suggests that Elaine be committed to a Swiss sanitarium for treatment. But the plot moves quickly.

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Wislá Polish Song and Dance Ensemble members (left to right starting back row): Adam Palencik, James Buda, Joe Gondoly of Canton, Gerald Graczyk, (middle row left to right) Dorothy Paskowski, Kim Rucinski, Nancy Campbell of Farmington, Laura Ceranowski, Linda Zajec of Rochester Hills, and Lori Grynewicz, (front) David Gondoly of Canton and Tim Zajec of Livonia. The ensemble will perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, during the Old World Market at the Southfield Civic Center.

Market showcases ethnic crafts, food, entertainment

What started out in 1926 as a fair where immigrants could sell their crafts has grown into the annual Old World Market, which features ethnic food, crafts and entertain-

The market kicks off at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, with a swearing-in ceremony of newly naturalized American citizens in the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, on Ever-

Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20.

Tickets are \$2 adults, \$1 children and senior citizens. Call 871-8600 or 354-4854 for more information.



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