

# Plymouth Theatre Guild scores hit with audiences

Performances of the Plymouth Theatre Guild production of "Steel Magnolias" continue through Nov. 9 at the Water Tower Theatre on the campus of Northville Regional Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road. For ticket information call 349-7110.

By Sally Dubats  
special writer

After 45 years of an almost nomadic existence, the Plymouth Theatre Guild, a non-profit organization, has finally found what seems to be a permanent home at the Water Tower Theatre.

The full facility theater belongs to the Northville State Regional Psychiatric Hospital. The Guild is celebrating their 45th season this year, and has performed for the last three years at the Water Tower.

"WE HAVE a nice working relationship with Northville Hospital," said Nancy Schuster, a Guild member.

For six years who is an actress. The Guild now has room for costumes and props which, until space was available at the Water Tower theatre, were stored sporadically in trailers and wherever space available.

A home base has also been good for ticket sales — they've tripled since the Guild moved to the Water Tower. There are over 3,000 Guild patrons on the mailing list.

The 45th season promises a variety of entertainment with popular shows such as "Steel Magnolias," "Camelot," "On Golden Pond" and "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

OF THE upcoming "Steel Magnolias," which opens 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, Schuster said, "We are as professional as possible, but we are still community theater; we still have our day jobs."

The Guild selects plays that are targeted with wide appeal in mind. Said Guild vice president Kathleen Lietz, "We tend to stick with plays that have been on Broadway, and have been a success and liked by the general public."

A play committee reads new plays

and makes recommendations to the board, but any Guild member can make suggestions. Last year, an audience survey was taken to provide ideas from the community.

LIETZ ALSO implies a responsibility to the public. She said plays "...have to mean something. They have to have something that the audience will relate to; whether it be a drama, comedy or musical."

Other considerations when selecting a play include multiple sets within a play which would prohibit production, and the ratio of men to women. There are more female Guild members than male.

This year, the Guild is offering members a full range of programs including an actor's workshop, an audience workshop, and a director's workshop. They are also considering a lighting workshop.

"THE PURPOSE of these workshops is that a lot of members work very hard behind the scenes, but there are not a lot of programs in community theater designated to enhance an actor or a person who would like to learn to act. This year, our purpose is to build the actors,"



Jill Snowden (left) dishes out advice as Trudy, the owner of the beauty shop, to Elizabeth Bacer of Plymouth (center) and Lisa Brando in the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "Steel Magnolias".

said Lietz, whose many hats include workshop committee chairman.

The acting workshop in progress culminates in a Nov. 17 performance of contemporary scenes and monologues, with a reception afterward.

The Guild is asking those attending to bring canned goods that will be donated to local kitchens and groups in need.

The 45th season also includes an active search for corporate sponsor-

ship. "We're looking for a company that will either finance part or all of a show," said Lietz. The publicity which a given show generates would also be publicity for the corporation sponsoring the show.

The Guild is a survivor, having had various homes to include Plymouth's Central High School, the P & A Theatre (now destroyed by fire), the Plymouth Cultural Center and the Plymouth Hilton.

For information regarding the Plymouth Theatre Guild's 45th season, programs available, membership or sponsorship, call 349-7110.

Sally Dubats 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.

## Community band scares up fun at mall

The Farmington Community Band begins its 25th season 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31, at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi with "Spooktacular" a

Halloween concert. The band will perform in Center Court. Children are invited to trick-or-treat at stores in the mall before and

during the concert. Special guest, Count Dracula will lead a costume parade.

Adorned in costumes, the band members will play selections that are sure to please ghosts and goblins of all ages. The program will include spine tingling music for the occasion.

Twelve Oaks mall is at I-96 and Novi Road. Free admission.

In February, the band will host a Valentines Dinner Dance at Vladimir's in Farmington. The event in-

cludes dinner, and dancing to the Farmington Community Band Jazz Band.

This year's band roster boasts more than 60 members from 20 area communities. Some are professional musicians; many are not.

All interested adults are welcome to join the band, and high school students are admitted by audition. The only requirement is a little talent, and love of music.

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