Teens get in the act in 'First is Supper'

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"This is one of the saddest plays—we all cry every time we go through it, but for every sad thing there's lots of comic relief," said 13-year-old Jaime Newman, describing the Jew-ish Ensemble Theatre's upcoming production of "First Is Supper." in which she plays a retarded girl.

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"I DON'T cry. I consider this play a comedy, a comedy is anything that makes me laugh," said 13-year-old Daniel Kahn, who plays Newman's brother in the show.
"You don't cry because you're a boy! Trust me, you'll be in tears, Newman confided confidently," "First is Supper" marks the second professional acting appearance for both teens, who also both made their professional debuts in the Jew-ish Eusemble Theatre's "A Rosen by Any Other Name" last season.
Newman and Kahn are Farmington Hills residents and eighthgraders at their respective schools, Hille Day School and Roeper City and Country School.

Hillel Day School and Roeper City and Country School.
"First Is Supper," a first play by actor/comedian Shelley Berman, is a bittersweet family drama that explores the strengths, folibles, and resilience of an immigrant family in Cheago in 1919. While the play is not autobiographical, it is loosely modeted on the author's maternal grandparents.

ered on the author a machine.

"THIS FAMILY'S not ready for that's in store for them." Nowman said. "The father hathree channels of the said of the sa

"THAT'S GOING to take real act-ing!" laughed Marcia Kahn, Daniel's mother, who dropped him off for re-hearsal at the theater in the Jewish

Community Center. Kahn said he has always liked act-

ing, perhaps in part due to his mothers' involvement with community theater. At five he played the Wizard of Or in preschool, and has appeared in other school plays.

His first appearance before a large audience was when he read posens in a talent show at a Wisconsin resort where his family was vacamis to the school plays. It is the school with the school plays in the school which was the school plays and the school with the school prought him to the attention of Evelyn Orbach, the Jewish Ensemble Theatr's artistic director.

Kahn has studled at Crashrook's summer theater school and intends to return there next summer or perhaps attend interlochen. He said be might continue with his acting in high school to would not consider it as a career. "Too risky," he said. "I want to be a lawyer."

NEWMAN ON the other hand, is

NEWMAN ON the other band, is NEWMAN ON the other hand, is determined to pursue acting as a career. "My dream is Hollywood," she said, "I want to go to UCLA or Northwestern and major in film. I want television and movie work more than theater."

Her interest in acting began just two years ago while watching the

Academy Awards. "I loved it so much I decided I wanted to be part of it," she said. The next summer she studied at Actors Alliance Conservatory, then attended interlochen last summer, where she plans to return. "I have a lot more to learn, especially considering how good the other people are in this play," she added. Both must adapt their lives to include rehearsals that run 4-10 p.m. shows a week. "I comp moment, and it is not be a summer of the property of

in school, after rehearsals, and gets up early. He has had to curtail sports practices as well. He plays soccer, basketball, and baseball, likes recre-

basketball, and baseball, likes recre-ational swimming, and loves sking. Sounding very much like a typical teenager, Newman said most of all she likes talking on the phone, and going to the mall. She also likes gymnastics, baseball and art, and has traveled abroad extensively with

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a novel.

"I HAVE about 150 pages done, but I haven't had time to work on it for a while," she said.

Newman stressed that while her parents are supportive of her acting ambitions, "they are not stage parents at all. They told me from the start. There are two people in this family who have a job, and you're not one of them." I have to find my own jobs, my own rides. They want me to still have a normal childhood; they don't want me skipping from 13 to 25.

"They believe education come ifirst, but if you have a dream, then go for it."

Barbara Michals is a retired Southfield English teacher. A the-ater critic for the last 17 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who







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