

Entertainment

Keely Wygonik editor/953-2105



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18A(O)(B,F-15A)

Young actor makes debut at the Attic

"Thursday's Child" will be performed at Detroit's Attic Theatre, 7339 Third at West Grand Boulevard, through Jan. 5. To order tickets, or for more information, call 875-8284.

By M.B. Dillon
staff writer

AN ACTING career just might be in David Bourke's future.

The 15-year-old Birmingham resident is making his professional debut in the Attic Theatre production "Thursday's Child," a provocative comedy by Julie Jensen about parenting in the 1990's.

Theater-goers will receive two tickets for the price of one with every donation of at least two items of canned or packaged food. Contributions will go to the Detroit/Wayne County Union of the Homeless.

David plays Kenny Bradshaw, a skinny, gawky character of 15, a shrewd negotiator of his allowance, and an inexhaustible eating machine with a penchant for Tombstone pizzas, ice cream, and bagels with ketchup and onions.

THE PLAY is a slice of the lives of Kenny, his sisters Kenna Lou, (Jamie Moyer) 16, and Marcel, 8, (Dana Acheson) mom, George Ann, (Lavinia Moyer) and Dad, Ken (Jim Porterfield). It's Jensen's view of middle age from a woman's perspective, covering everything from the tensions of raising teenagers to a surprise pregnancy, including the pranks of an 8-year-old whose latest thing is filling the washing machine with water and fish for a "fish without light" experiment.

Kenny and David share some similarities, says Dinah Lynch, who is directing the play and has taught David at the Actor's Alliance Conservatory in Southfield for three years.

"David loves rock and roll, the Doors in particular, and he has very much of a poetic, Renaissance-type heart," said Lynch, who cast David in a major role in an Alliance production last summer of Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Buried Child."

"He plays the bass guitar, and is also taking karate, so he has many interests," added Lynch.

"In the play, his character is a hood. David himself wears a black leather jacket, even in the heat of summer. His character wears a black leather jacket, so it's pretty comical."

So far, David is getting high marks.

"DAVID IS very perceptive," Lynch said. "He does a lot of analy-

sis on the text, and works very hard. I think if he is persistent and if he wants it (an acting career) he will have it. I've always felt David is a very talented person.

"He has a theatrical style and a sense that changes depending on the different gender of the play, which is very exquisite. It's intuitive, and yet he started his training at such a young age that I'm sure if he continues, he will have a nice career. He's very strong-willed, which should help him."

Lavinia Moyer, the Attic's artistic director, plays the mother in "Thursday's Child." Moyer met David when he was doing scene work at the Actors' Alliance.

"I was very impressed then with his maturity and the boldness with which he tackled the characterizations," she said. "The role of Kenny in the Bradshaw family is both a sensitive role, and one that shows the rebellious side of being a 15-year-old in the 1990s. I think David has done a beautiful job playing both aspects of that character."

In one scene, Moyer's character talks with her son about the commitment she is making to go through with an unwanted pregnancy.

"David, with very few words, is able to convey his character's sensitivity and understanding. Then he goes into the house to clean the kitchen up for his Mom. I think it's one of his finest moments on stage."

TRUDY KIESEWETTER, the Attic's marketing director, said, "David is absolutely delightful. His role is that of a charmer, and he plays it to a T." Kieseewetter added that thus far, response to the Attic's food drive has been overwhelming.

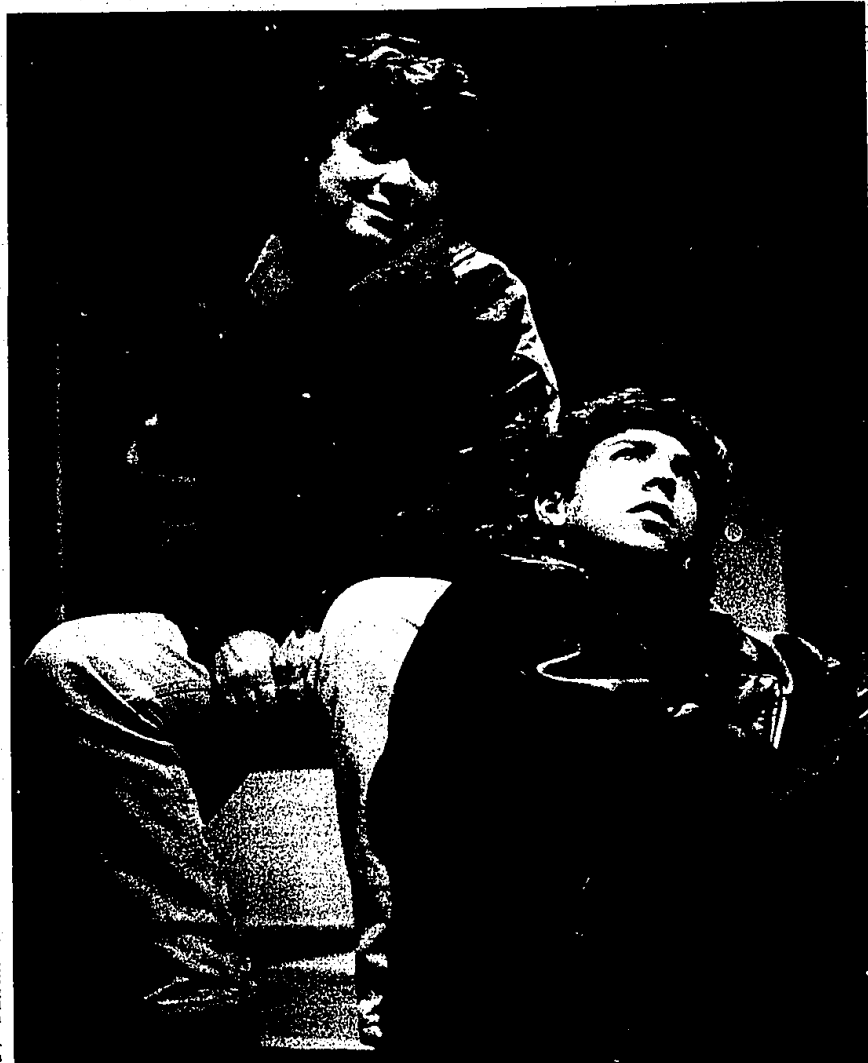
David, a freshman at the Birmingham Public Schools' alternative high school, is having a great time on stage.

"I really enjoy doing the play a lot," he said. "It's one of the best experiences of my life."

Would he consider acting as a profession?

"I see me acting, and also having a different job to pay the bills," said David, who landed his first acting role by beating out his sister and other older kids auditioning for a church play several years ago.

"What I'm really scared of is getting trapped in a dead-end job that's monotonous and has no excitement in it. I don't see acting as that at all. There will always be excitement and fun in this business, and it's what I love doing."



Lavinia Moyer (left) and David Bourke exchange sentiments as mother and son in a tender scene of "Thursday's Child" at Detroit's Attic Theatre.

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