

ON THE  
MARQUEE

Theatre Guild

For the second time in their newly formed alliance, students from Livonia Public School's Creative and Performing Arts Program, will perform on the stage of the Theatre Guild in Nell Simon's comedy "Rumors" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 25, 26, 27, and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 28 and April 7 at the playhouse, 400 Lons Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 644-5678. For tickets, call 638-5678.

St. Dunstan's Guild

St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook will present "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 25, 26, 27, and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 28 and April 7 at the playhouse, 400 Lons Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 644-5627 for tickets.

Spring concert

The Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library will sponsor a spring concert by the Rochester Community Chorus 8 p.m. Saturday, March 27 to benefit the new Rochester Hills Library. For ticket information, call 650-7179.

World beat

The Rooper School Fine Arts Department will present a World Beat Concert featuring the Grammy Award-winning Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band and local world beat band Gangster Fun, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28 in Handelman Hall at Temple Beth El on the northeast corner of Telegraph and 14 Mile Road. Tickets \$8 adults, \$5 students. For information, call 642-1600.

Musica Viva

Musica Viva International Concert Series presents "From China to Michigan" with Opera Stars Xiaolu Wu, soprano; Yalun Zhang, baritone; and Wang Yang piano, 8 p.m. Friday, March 26 in the Smith Performing Arts Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, Orchard Lake Road at I-696 in Farmington Hills. For tickets, call 473-2228.

Community band

Enjoy a March concert of marches performed by the Farmington Community Band, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28 in the Harrison High School auditorium, 29995 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Tickets available at the door — \$3 adults, \$2 students, senior citizens free. For information, call 476-5014 or 489-3412.

Oakland University

Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will feature the Vocal Jazz Ensemble in a concert "Fabric of Jazz" 8 p.m. Thursday, March 25 in the Varner Recital Hall on the Campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Tickets are \$5 general, \$4 senior citizens, and free for all students. For information, call 370-3013.

'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' entertaining

Performances of the Birmingham Village Players production of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" continue through April 13 at the playhouse on the corner of Hunter Boulevard and Chestnut Street in Birmingham. This show is for mature audiences, not children. For ticket information call the box office at 644-2076 anytime.



VICTORIA DIAZ

Though their season may be waning, the Birmingham Village Players are still operating in high gear. Proof is in their latest ambitious production, Christopher Hampton's "Les Liaisons Dangereuses." Taken from de Lacroix's sensational 18th-Century novel, the play is about such interesting vices as vengeance, greed, deceit, and vanity. But it is mostly about the games people play, especially the age-old war games between the sexes.

Despite more than a dozen scene changes and a running time of almost three hours, the comedy-drama, directed by Bob Overmyer, manages to remain briskly paced, sharply focused, and entertaining throughout most of the evening.

Veteran actress Holly Helsten turns in a well-sustained performance as the aristocratic Frenchwoman scored, Merteuil. With just a touch of world-weariness, Helsten's lily controlled, imperious Merteuil commands attention. She seems not so much to walk as to glide about the stage, like a well-groomed, malevolent machine, scheming and calculating, thrusting and parrying, and making her efficient moves against her opponent.



Comedy-drama: Steve Tadevic and Holly Helsten in a scene from the Birmingham Village Players production of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses."

As Valmont, her debauched, "partner-in-crime," Steve Tadevic is appropriately raffish, roguish, and rakish. Though his ego and his arrogance may be of monstrous proportions, Tadevic's Valmont is no monster, himself, however. His Valmont appears to be having a breathlessly wonderful time seducing just about every other woman he meets (one of the "stars" of this production is a large, sumptuous bed).

When he falls in love with one of his "conquests," needless to say, his style is cramped and then some. Much wailing and gnashing of teeth follow, and there's even a duel fought on a dark December morning with a cullow fellow named Danceny (played appealingly by Paul J. Wilson).

As Mme De Tourvel (Valmont's love interest), Lynne De Forest Marthey seems slightly miscast (or misdirected?). An attractive actress, she nevertheless is unconvincing as a plausible object of Valmont's affection. It's nearly impossible to believe that the notorious libertine would find such a hand-wringing, almost-cringing, guilt-and-fear-ridden creature irresistible and, unfortunately, Marthey never quite succeeds in causing suspension of this disbelief. Somehow you want her De Tourvel to seem warmer and softer, instead of looking so rigid and brittle as if she were fighting to ward off a terrible chill much of the time.

The able supporting cast includes Diane DiAgostino as the less-than-

pure Mme De Valonges; Deborah Cohen as the blossoming, convent-bred Cecile; Brian Cloutier as Valmont's pal, Azolan; Maureen Cook as the older, wiser Mme De Rosemonde; and R. Eric Long, Ellie Pierce, and Tom Kolodziej as faithful servants.

Christine Tobia as the voluptuous Emille is a standout. Her "love scene" with Valmont in the first act is one of the highlights of the evening. Against a dark and shadowy backdrop, the attractive, pearl-escintoned costumes, sparked by just a touch of glitter here and there, make for a production that is visually arresting.

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

Dr. Jekyll tells tale in new version of classic

The Meadow Brook Theatre production of "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will continue through April 11 on the campus of Oakland University. For ticket information, call 377-3300.



HUGH GALLAGHER

The pre-to-change transformation of handsome, respectable Dr. Jekyll into his deformed alter-ego Mr. Hyde has been a grabber on stage and screen since shortly after Robert Louis Stevenson wrote his famous novella. John Barrymore, Fredric March and Spencer Tracy have all done the trick.

It all works in Charles Nolte's new retelling, but this new version is an awkward, flaccid, plodding exposition.

The trouble, as Nolte notes in the program, begins with the book. It is more a philosophical treatise on good and evil done up as a story. Most of

Hyde's horrors are suggested rather than dramatized. The story is from the viewpoint of Jekyll's solicitor, who gives us Jekyll's misguided dualist view through a prism of Victorian respectability. Hyde's sins, except for a fatal caning, are not spelled out.

Nolte has added the seductive sex (off-stage of course) that is only suggested in the "lewd crimes" of the book.

But he errs in having Jekyll tell the story, which creates a problem of logic at the end. It also never allows us to see the good Dr. Jekyll that shields the evil Mr. Hyde.

Nolte also has Jekyll lecture to the audience about the reasons for his experiment, a device that grows more tedious with each repetition.

The script contains some peculiar Victorian notions. Physical deformity is linked to mental and moral deformity. Evil is reduced to sexual sadism. Is this only in Jekyll's mind?

To enliven the story, Nolte, who

also directs this production, has added expressionistic slides and a set that also suggests expressionism in its distorted doors and creaky stairs. It doesn't substitute for a well told tale.

Peter Gregory Thomson does well in the difficult lead. He is matinee idol handsome as Jekyll and a buck-toothed, hunched, hairy, disheveled Hyde and he does it all before our eyes. He is saddled with those speeches that never ring true. The Jekyll of the script is never a nice man. He is ill-tempered and almost childish rather than tortured.

Liz Zweiler gives a touching performance as Hyde's chosen victim. If she had more to do in a livelier musical setting, we would have more empathy for her fate.

The slides are more distraction than enhancement. Joseph LoDucca's incidental music, however, does suggest the gloomy theme.



Title roles: Peter Gregory Thomson plays the dual title roles in "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

**Wotsford Inn**  
28000 Grand River at 8 Mile  
Farmington Hills (313) 474-4800  
**SIRLOIN STEAK**  
**DINNER...\$8.95**  
Includes Garden Fresh Relish Tray.  
Choice of Potato or Vegetable.  
\*Valid Mon. thru Wed. 4-10 PM.  
\*Cash Caters for Parties Table  
\*Not Valid With Any Other Offers or Promotions

**Movie Madness Packages**  
• Overnight Guest Room • Dinner for Two  
• 2 Movie Tickets to AMC/Laurel Park 10  
• Continental Breakfast for 2 the following morning  
**ALL FOR...\$89** plus tax per night  
Friday, Saturday or Sunday Nights Only  
LIVONIA **Marriott**  
462-3100 17100 Laurel Park Drive  
Attached to the Laurel Park Mall

**\$5 OFF** METRO DETROIT'S FAVORITE DEEP-DISH PIZZA  
Kids, Our Spectacular  
**3-D KIDDIE MENU IS HERE!**  
Don't Forget to Bring Mom & Dad  
**Shield's**  
RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA  
SOUTHFIELD: 10 MI. Grand River, East of Novi Rd. 356-2720  
NOVI: 349-9110  
TROY: 637-3131  
STERLING HEIGHTS: 679-9270  
ROYAL OAK: 643-3780

**INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS HOME FLOWER FURNITURE SHOW**  
**75th ANNUAL**  
March 20 - 28  
**LARGEST HOME SHOW IN THE WORLD AT COBO**  
SEE THE LATEST Technology, Products & Services for...  
• Kitchens & Baths  
• Doors & Windows  
• Yard & Garden  
• Remodeling  
• Heating & Cooling  
• Pools & Spas  
• Home Electronics  
• Decorative Accessories  
• Appliances  
• Arts & Crafts  
• Financing  
• Decks & Landscaping  
**CLOSES SUNDAY**  
Flower Auction at 6:00 on Sunday  
Don't Miss Thousand of Ideas for your Home & Garden  
• Parade of Homes  
• NASA's Space Station  
• Expert Demonstrations  
• Entertainment  
• Contests  
• Cooking Tips  
Adults - \$5.75  
Seniors & Children 6-12 - \$3.50  
Children under 6 admitted free  
Special Family Ticket includes 2 adults and all the children, \$8.00 available at Farmer Jack and A&P  
2 for 1 Ticket available at all MetroCall locations  
MetroCall