

Troy actress stars in comedy

By KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

As an actress, Kathryn Cherasaro of Troy has played 16-year-olds and even 15-year-olds, but never a 6-year-old, until now. She has been getting rave reviews as Lucy, the 6-year-old little sister of 12-year-old Edna Arkline (Kate Peckham) in Lynne Barry's delightful comedy about coming of age in the early 1960s, "The Good Times are Killing Me," at the Attic's New Center Theatre.

"Good Times" is about two girls, one black and one white, who become friends.

Narrated by Edna, "Good Times" remembers best friends, peer pressure, neighborhood toughs, crazy relatives and the agony of younger siblings, all accompanied by the songs of the era — from Paul Anka to James Brown, and the whole range in between, said director Annette Madala.

"It's funny because you have adults playing children, yet it's very insightful," said Madala. "It pokes fun at race relations, wacky relatives, and sibling relationships."

"I love playing a 6-year-old. I can do anything I want," said Cherasaro, 24, a graduate of Troy Athens High School and the University of Detroit.

Some of her other roles include Mary Brenham in "Our Country's Good" at the Attic and Ida in "First Is Supper" at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

"THE GOOD TIMES ARE KILLING ME"

Theater Attic's New Center Theatre, 7339 Third at West Grand Boulevard, Detroit.
Closes: Sunday, June 27
Curtain times: Shows 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 6 and 9 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays.
Tickets: Range \$14 to \$19, Fridays and Saturdays, \$19 to \$24. Student and senior citizen discounts available.
"Student Rush Tix" 1/2 price available 1/2 hour prior to performance with student ID. Ticketmaster, 645-6666 or the box office 875-8284.

"The story takes place in a subdivision, and (tells) what happens when the first black family moves in. First it's about leaving them it's about prejudice."

"Lucy is like the unwanted little sister who wants to have fun," said Cherasaro. "They're always saying 'Now Lucy, now no, I even have a little temper tantrum.'"

If there's any lesson to be learned, Cherasaro said, it's about the loss of innocence. Edna becomes best friends during the summer with the black girl, Donna (Rashida McElvene), who moves in across the street. When they return to school in the fall, where both are in seventh grade, they're forced apart by peer pressure along racial lines.

During a matinee attended by students from different parts of the metro area, Cherasaro said you could feel the tension in different areas of the theater where there were black and white students.

"Everything is learned. We still see a problem going on," she said. "The show is about what it's like to be black, and white, and growing up. In many ways everyone has a part of their life they see in the show."

Although it's a comedy, Cherasaro said she's seen people cry. When that happens, she said, "we know we've done our job."

In addition to Cherasaro and Peckham, "Good Times" features Rashida McElvene, Marilyn Mays, Harry Wetzel, Augustus Williamson, Michael Chenover and Lance Retallick.

Talk-back sessions with the cast and director take place every Thursday after the performance.



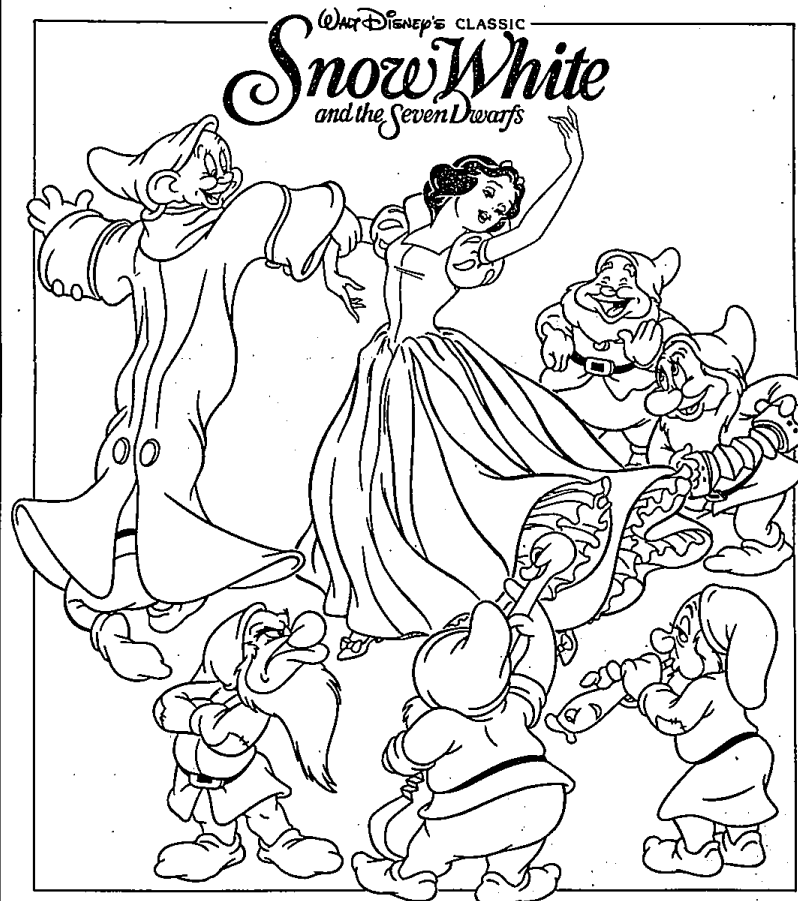
Good Times: Kate Peckham (left) Kathryn Cherasaro and Marilyn Mays star in "The Good Times are Killing Me," at the Attic Theatre.

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Send items to be considered for publication in What's Cooking to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment editor, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 35251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our Fax number is 591-7279.

■ CAFE CORTINA

Cafe Cortina's courtyard is now open for lunches Tuesday through Friday. To compliment their cooking a new, carefully selected wine list is offered. Also, every Sunday through September, the chef will be grilling entrees such as veal chops, filet mignon, scallop, tuna, salmon, swordfish and other summer delights on the patio creating a genuine Italian ambience. Call 474-3033 for reservations, the restaurant is at 30716 W. 10 Mile, Farmington Hills.

■ PAPA ROMANO'S

A new Papa Romano's store will open on June 10 at 6888 Orchard Lake Road at Maple Road. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to

11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and midnight to 10 p.m. Sunday.

■ GOLDEN MUSHROOM

The Golden Mushroom and Cloverleaf Market are hosting a special dinner featuring 1990 Bordeaux releases Tuesday, June 22. Cost is \$75 per person. Reception 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Call 559-4230 for reservations.

■ MITCHELL & MAX TOO GO

Mitchell & Max TooGo, recently opened its doors at 28901 Southfield, Lathrup Village, 589. TOO GO, fax, 557-4229. This new carryout specializes in barbecue ribs and chicken, pizza, pasta and more. Husband and wife team, Darryl Date and Lucy Mitchell offer a full service carryout with seating available for the business lunch crowd. Hours are: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturdays, 4-9 p.m. Sundays.

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