Wonderful singing, cast delivers laughs in 'Baby'



Avon Players'
1993-94 season
is ambitious, including four very
diverse musicals
and a comedy.
Their first musical of the season, "Baby"
(book by Sybille
Poularts by David Shire,
non tyrics by Richard Matthy, Jr.)
is pecular tale about the reproductive process, and its probable
said product (a baby) resulting in
changed lives and relationships.
The musical concentrates on
fire couples in very different sitditations who are either with or
without child. Although this main
message sometimes becomes too
Acc.

monotonous, to director/chorcographer Jamie Richards' credit, very distinct characters make the show slightly more interesting.
"Buby" begins with a funny carton-style silds show of the reproductive process, and progresses from there to introduce the three couples.
Lizzie Field, played by Kristen Bergstrom, is a young, unmarried colleges student baffled by the con-

Lizzie Field, played by Kristen Bergatom. is a young, unmarried college student befiled by the consequences of her unexpected pregnancy. Twist in plot — her boyfriend Danny, played by Ken Grider, is the one who wants to merry and be responsible.

Bergatom is well cost as Lizzie and evokes sympathy and compassion for her character, but she is cometimes difficult to hear or understand. At the close of Act I,

"BABY"
Theater: Avon Players Guild, at the playhouse on Tienken Road at Runyon Road, east of Rochester Road in Rochester Hills

REVIEW

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the brass in the band overpowers her charming voice during "The Story Goes On." Ken Grider as Danny Hooper (Lizzie's college boyfriend) is funy as Danny tries to convince Lizzie to marry him, saying, "This is not a ring. It's a bracelet that goes on your finger!"

In the 30-something arena are Nick and Pam Sakarian, played

Curtain timo: Shows 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 9. Tickets: \$10, senior citizen and group discounts available. Call 375-1390.

by Kevin Edwards and Jeanne DeLong. A terrific due for Avon, Edwards and DeLong compli-ment one another's strong perfor-mances.

ment one another's strong perior-mances.

Another twist in tradition, tom-boyish Pam hopes that their baby will have Nick's cooking genes. Edwards and DoLong deliver ap-preciated humor during "Baby, Baby, Baby," a song which de-picts the love a couple share in anticipation of their new arrival.

Skipping another decade are

the 40-something couple. Arlene and Alan MacNally's children have fled the next. Tani Ann Mough is marveloue as Arlene, a 43-year-old woman conflicted in the decision to either have or abort her child, all the while coping with her relationship to her busband. Her rendition of "Fatterns" is favloss and heartfelt.

James M. Andres turns in a laudable performance as Alan, a years of marrioge have been based on the children. Vocally, Americal craftsmanship combined with motion.

emotion.

The chorus provides ample room for fun and frivolity, and have a polished funny-bone as various women in comical cos-

Notwithstanding some wonder-Notwithstanding some wonder, ful musical performances from the cast, and a warm interpretation by music director Leg George, the music, lyrics and book to "Baby" tend to be too specific and geared toward a highly specialized audience — women, who have had or want to have bables.

Although some universal appeal is apparent when relationship issues are being threshed out, and there is some wonderful acting and singing, "Baby" for cuses too narrowly on pregnant women with similar tunes for each song driving the message home even further.

UPCOMING THINGS TO DO

Deadline for the Upcoming entertainment calendar is three steeks shead of publication. Seeks shead of publication to considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, the Observar & Eccentific Newspapers, 36251 School-traft, Livonia 48150. Our fax publicate is 591-7279, 1904 on Lone Pine Road just west of Cranbrook will present "Steel Magnolies," 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, Oct. 29-30, Nov. 5-6. Call 644-0527 for tickets.

DETROIT ORATORIO SOCIETY
Detroit Oratorio Society, a classic choral ensemble will hold audicnoral ensemble will hold audi-tions Monday, Sept. 27. Call 573-3739 for information.

THEATER

AUDITIONS

Totalish Ensemble Theatre pre-pages "len't It Romantle" through 1972 2 at the Aaron DeRoy The-1978, Javish Community Center, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Call 788-2900 week-Bloya IO am. to 5 p.m. or Ticket-paster anytime 645-6666.

St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook

m PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS

■ PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS

"Babes in Toyland" will be presented by Paper Bag Productions,
Saturdaya and Sundays, Sept. 25
through Dec. 19 at the Players
Club, 3321 East Jefferson, Detroit. Lunch served at noon Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays, followed by
the show. Tickets \$5.60 per person, including lunch. Call 1.800
824-8314 for reservations.

■ COMMON GROUND THEATER ENSEMBLE

ENSEMBLE
"Workin' for a Living" premieres
8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23 through
2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26 at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater in Ann
Arbor, Friday and Saturday
shows 8 p.m. Features music by
local and national labor singers and songwriters. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call 763-6395.

MARQUIS THEATRE

:Wine tasting benefits MDA

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, the Michi-ram Star Clipper Dinner Train of Melled Lake and WQRIS-FM are presenting a wine tasting extrava-ladiza to benefit the Muscular Institution Association. Tickets laft \$100 per person, a portion of which is tax deductible. Call 960-1940 for reservations, Visa, Mast-creard, American Express and Discover are accepted.

Guesta will be served a myriad of exquisite European wines and

Valet Parking - Banquet Facilities

an outstanding four course dinner while being entertained by a caba-ret musical on board elegant fine

The dinner train will be leaving the depot at 7 p.m., boarding up to 45 minutes prior, and will travel to Wixom and then to the West Bloomfield state and federally protected bird sanctuary and wetlends, stopping briefly at Woodpecker Leke.

Marquis Light Opera, will make its official stage debut 8 p.m. Fri-day, Oct. 1, in "An Evening With Gilbert and Sullivan," at the Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main Stree, Nortwille. Call 349-8100 for show times, ticket informa-

M ATTIC THEATRE

** ATTIC THEATRE
"Pump Boys and Dinenettes" at
the Strand Theatre, 12 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, thorough Oct. 10.
Call 335-8100 or Ticketmaster,
645-6666 for times and tickets.

m STAGECRAFTERS
"Guys and Dolls" 3 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, through Oct. 10 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Call 541-6430, 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fridays for tickets.

CONCERTS

III LYRIC CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

ELYRIC CHAMEER ENSEMBLE
"Northern Exposure," a concert
celebrating the 150th birthday of
composer Edvard Grieg, 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 26, in the Grosse
Pointe War Memorial ballroom,
32 Lake Shore Read, Grosse
Pointe Farms. Tickets \$16 adults,
\$14 students and seniors. Call
357-1111.

M ROCHESTER SYMPHONY
Rochester Symphony opens its
33rd season 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8
at Varner hall on the campus of

Oakland University in Rochester. Tickets \$12, children under 12, \$8, available at the door or Janet Varner's, Main Street in Roches-ter, or the CD Warehouse, North-hill Shopping Plaza. Call 651-4181 for ticket and season ticket information.

DINNER THEATER

THE WHITNEY

"Whitney Madness" a musical Whitney Manness a museri-madcap mystery opens 7 p.m. Fri-day, Sept. 24 at the Whitney Res-taurant in Detroit. Tickets \$39.95 per person dinner and show, not inclusive of tax, gratuity or alco-hol. Call 832-5700 for reserva-

**B DINNER TRAIN

"All Aboard! It's Broadway," ongoing peformances on the Star
Clipper Dinner Train leaving the
Coe Rail Station on Pontiae Train
in Walled Lake, 7 p.m. Fidays
and Saturdays, 5 p.m. Sundays.
"Murder on the Star Clipper Express" ongoing Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Call
960-9440.

■ GENITTI'S HOLE-IN-THE WALL "The Soap Opera Murders," con-tinue 7 p.m. Fridays, 6:30 p.m. Saturdays, at Genitti's Hole-in-the Wall, 108 E. Main, Northville. Call 349-0522.

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■ GOLDEN MUSHROOM
"The Wild Mushroom Revue" a
musical evening of entertainment
opens Saturday, Oct. 9 at the

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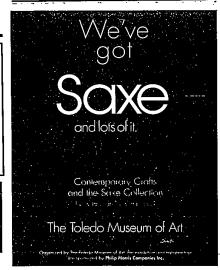
local favorite TOM ALTENBURG Golden Mushroom in Southfield with performances through No-vember. Call 559-4230 for information.

M ALLEN PARK MOTOR LODGE "Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii" featuring David Howeli of Redford, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through Oct. 23, at the Allen Park Motor Lodge, 14487 Southfield, Allen Park. Tickets \$19.95 per person includes dinner, show, tax and coffee or tea. Show only \$10, Call 386.6900 for reservations, 562-3865 for information.

Ballet companies to hold auditions

Midwest Dance Theatre and Michigan Ballet Theatre will be holding auditions for dencers. Midwest Dance Theatre is holding auditions for company membership Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Stonecrest Building, 207 at the Stonecrest Building, 207 at the Stonecrest Building, 207 at the Dance Academy, 1160 Welch, Walled Lake, Junior Company ages 10 to 12, audition at 2 p.m., senior compandation of the stone of the





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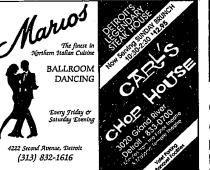
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