

Talented cast in 'Night Music'



SALLY DUBATS

Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance currently offers an interesting high-brow musical comedy with a somber undertone in Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," (book by Hugh Wheeler.)

Despite being slighted by critics during its original Broadway opening, "Night Music" endures because of its haunting style, grace and humor. Director Karen Sheridan uses an intelligent eye which suits the show's poise and wit, and musical director Suzanne Acton pulls the best out of a talented cast and orchestra.

At the hub of "A Little Night Music," and perhaps the most successful aspect of the show, is a talented quintet including Aaron Talley, Kimberly Windeler, Debbie Goody, Nicholas Bean and Lisa Agazzi. The quintet is an incessantly eerie quality to the show and represents the minds and memories of the main characters.

The minds of the main characters are on illicit affairs. Our man of mischief, Fredrik Egerman, is played with consideration by Corey Seaggs. Fighting age, Fredrik has married spoiled Anne, 18 (Carrie Slade) who has remained virginal despite 11 months of marriage.

Slade gives a creditable performance as Anne, especially while singing, but the petulant edge in Slade's interpretation sometimes becomes too frequent to appreciate the other funny aspects of the character.

Henrik, heir to the Egerman illid, is portrayed with distinction by Paul Moran whose wide range is evidenced in his acting and singing.

The "one and only" Desirée Armfeldt is a roaming and popular actress with whom Fredrik is in love. Desirée, portrayed by Stephanie L. Woodman, is also the character which softly ruses

ON STAGE

"A Little Night Music"

*Theater: Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance in the Warner Studio Theatre on Rochester.

*Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through April 2.

*Tickets: General \$10, senior citizens \$8, students \$5. Call (810) 370-3013.

REVIEW

the show's most well-known song, "Send in the Clowns." Her rendition is simply beautiful.

Fredrik is not the only man in love with Desirée. Count Carl Magnus Malcom, an overbearing dragon, played with marvellously manipulative facial expressions by Philip Cowlishaw.

Countess Charlotte Malcom is not named by the libretto, and Angel Maclean's interpretation of a powerful woman scorned is none other than sublime.

Certainly no bedroom comedy musical would be complete without the promiscuous maid to complicate matters and provide sport for the audience. Denise Greenman is terrific as Petra. "The Miller's Son" accentuates the skill of Greenman's full voice.

Janice Hauxwell (Madame Armfeldt) and Melanie Grund (Fredrika Armfeldt) also turn in respectable performances as Desirée's mother and daughter.

Costumes by Ann Kessler are terrific, as are set and lights by Susan Barrett. Smooth choreography by Gregory A. Patterson accentuates the hypnotic mood of the show. "A Little Night Music" is an intriguing mood of comedy, romance and eeriness that is staged with care.

Sally Dubats of Royal Oak is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area.

Curtain Call lists upcoming theater performances and special events. Send items to be considered for publication to: Kelly Wygonik, Entertainment editor, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 591-7279.

COMMUNITY

VILLAGE PLAYERS

"Alone Together," by Lawrence Roman opens 8 p.m. Friday, March 25, and continues week-ends through April 2 at the playhouse in Birmingham. Call 644-2075 for Tickets.

*"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" Royal Oak Stagecrafters, 415 South Lafayette Avenue, 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, March 25-26, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 27. Shows 8 p.m. Thursday March 31 and April 7, and weekends through April 17. Sunday show times vary. Call (810) 641-6430.

CHILDREN

RIDGE DALE PLAYERS

"Easter in Dogpatch" a musical children's Easter play, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 27. Tickets \$5.50 includes breakfast or lunch with Bunny. Call (810) 642-1322 or 288-0799 for reservations.

MARQUIS THEATRE

Musical adaptation of "Char-

lotte's Web" continues 2:30 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays, through April 10 at the theater, 135 E. Main, Northville. Tickets \$6.50, call (313) 349-8110.

PROFESSIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

"The NOT Mikado" continues through April 24 at the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Birmingham, Call 644-3533.

*"Sight Unseen" by Donald Margulies opens for previews April 6 and continues through May 1 in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield. Tickets range from \$8 to \$19.50. Call 788-2900 or Ticketmaster 645-6666.

*"Dancing at Lughnasa," through April 17 at the Strand Theatre in Pontiac. Call 335-9100.

Concert features quintet

Kaleidoscope Concerts begins its "Collaboration 1994" series to benefit Hospice of Southeastern Michigan and the Rosa Hill Center 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 27, with a concert at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Call (810) 855-9299, (810) 855-0458 or (313) 833-3700 for tickets.

The concert will feature the Quintet of the Americas, a combined ensemble with Detroit Symphony Orchestra principals. The quintet has gained international renown for its distinctive programs championing the music of North and South America. They delight audiences with Latin-American tangos and merengue, Native American ceremonial music and American favorites such as Bernstein.

Sunday's concert will feature the world premiere of James Cava's "Sonata" for two flutes and piano.

Future concert dates include Sunday, April 17, at the Gem Theatre, and Friday, May 27, at St. Hugo of the Hills.

Also of note: Detroit Chamber Winds Classic to Neo-classic, 8 p.m. Friday, March 25, Lila Jones-Johnson Theatre, Royal Oak. Call 362-2522. Nightnotes Classical reunion, 8 p.m. Friday, April 1. Call 362-2622.



Wind quintet: Quintet of the Americas featuring some of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's finest principal wind players will perform on Sunday at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

*Group DuJour, Farmington Area Philharmonic, Horne-A-Plenty, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 10 at Harrison High School. Call 478-2075 or 478-6897.

*Southfield Symphony, 7 p.m. Sunday, April 10 at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion. Call (810) 354-4717 or (810) 851-7408

Programs entertain kids

Emmy Award-winning Professor Ed U. Gator brings his puppetry to Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre 11 a.m. Saturday, March 26.

He will be performing "Pierre and the Alligator," a Cajun version of "Peter and the Wolf." Tickets are \$6. Call (810) 377-3300.

For more than 21 years, Profes-

or Ed U. Gator (John Byrne) has been dedicated to bringing his special style of educational entertainment to adult and children's audiences all over the world.

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