

Play from page 1B

the plot without "giving away" the surprises that pervade it.

"Deathtrap" is a play within a play, or a play that is writing itself on stage. With that mechanism at work anything can happen, and it does.

Dereniak's portrayal of Brühl with a grossly exaggerated New England dialect and outrageously pompous demeanor work to add a bit to the moments of dry humor, but they become tedious quickly. Dereniak is consistent in his character, and his many credits in the performing arts are evident in his ease on the stage.

Hachem's character is on a turbo-charged psychological roller-coaster as the plot twists and dives around her. The veteran actress handles the chaos well, considering the time compression in the script doesn't allow for "realistic" responses to events.

Unfortunately, Dereniak's fluidity and Hachem's emotion serve to amplify the woodenness of some of the younger, less experienced performers. Bradd Szonye, 23, making his debut with the Guild, is effective in his portrayal of Clifford Anderson, but he never seems to be fully "in character."

The cast is completed by Wayne State University theater graduate Adam Carey, and University of Michigan junior Kristin Curle. Carey plays Brühl's attorney, Porter Milgrim, in a change of casting from the original program. Carey may not, have had time to adequately prepare for the role, but he does seem a bit stiff — even for an attorney.



"Deathtrap"

► THEATERS Plymouth Theatre Guild, Water Tower Theatre, campus of Northwest Regional Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville, (west of I-275, between Haggerty and Northville Roads)

► CURTAIN TIMES 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., May 5-6, 12-13; 6 p.m. Sun., May 7.

► TICKETS \$8 adults, \$7 senior citizens, youth. Call (810) 349-7110.

Curle, on the other hand, is as loose as the Gypsy parb she wears in her portrayal of the psychic neighbor Helga Tendrop. What Curle lacks in technical skill on the stage she more than makes up for in zeal.

List Brando's manipulation of actors is very good. They are crossing the stage, switching positions in relation to one another. This not only takes advantage of the set design, it illustrates the constant reversals of plot and the character's psychosis.

Matthew Delezene of Canton is a freelance writer who specializes in theater and entertainment.

Tel-Twelve Mall hosts music week celebration

"Music Gives Value to Life" is the theme of the 72nd annual observance of National Music Week, sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs Inc.

Birmingham Musicale and Farmington Musicale will jointly celebrate National Music Week, Sun., May 7 to Thurs., May 11 at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield.

There will be late morning, afternoon and evening concerts. All performances are free and open to the public. Highlights include: 9: Gentleman Songsters of Detroit — Oakland Chapter, 7:45 p.m.

Marquee from page 1B

This year's program "Melodies of Love," will feature WJR's Mike DeJa. The public is invited, there is no charge. Homemade refreshments will be served. The program will be repeated 8 p.m. Monday, May 8, at South Lyon High School. Call (810) 476-6014 or (810) 489-3412 for information.

► There's still time to get tickets for Livonia Symphony Orchestra's "Jazz with Class," 8 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the James P.

Carli Auditorium, Churchill High School, Newburgh Road south of Joy Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$8 senior citizens, \$5 students. Tickets available at the door, Hammett Music in Livonia, Jacobson's at Laurel Park Place, Madonna University, and Livonia Civic Center Library. For more information, call (313) 421-1111.

James Depogny's Chicago Jazz Band are the featured guest artists. They will be joined for the

symphony, under the direction of Francesco DiBlasi for "On the Road," and "Berlin Medley," and also present several selections of their own.

► The PRCUA Syrena Pollak Folk Dance Ensemble is looking for alumni from 1975 to 1994 to participate in its 20th anniversary recital — "Melodies of Love" — 8 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Henry Ford Community College, Adrey Auditorium, 6101 Ever-

green, Dearborn. They are also planning a 20th reunion in October. For information, call Darlene Radowick (313) 565-9885.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Let's Go! sections of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 983-2105, fax 981-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

Musical from page 1B

a dancing chorus guy, he's a laser-bright spot, making it all look breezily effortless.

Debbie Nymshack, a brown-haired gal who plays a stereotypical dumb blonde, goes about as far as she can with such a musty role. Who knows what she aimed for? But her Hedy Laue comes out somewhere between Marilyn Monroe and Peg Bundy.

Jan Forhan as Rosemary, the

girl who's smitten with Finch and looks forward mistily to the day when she can stay home and keep his dinner warm, sings sweetly, but she's overburdened with the white-gloved, tritely-perky character she plays.

The remainder of the large supporting cast usually succeeds, although some voices struggle. Moments to remember: Biggley and Finch having a ripping good

time with the rousing "Grand Old Ivy," a hilarious paean to Biggley's alma mater. About a half-dozen cast members cracking up the audience with the song, graciously costumed "Pineapple Dance," an (almost) all-male chorus creating what is perhaps the show's most genuinely funny moment with the toe-tapping "Brotherhood of Man."

And finally, the grand finale,

performed by the entire company with energy, enthusiasm and style, is truly grand.

Regrets: a set that could have been a lot more fun, plus some odd lighting quirks and glitches in off-stage sound.

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

Local songsters present concerts

PREVIEW

Livonia Civic Chorus will present its 30th annual spring concert "Shakin' the Blues Away," May 5-6, at Clarenceville High School, Livonia.

This year you'll be entering an unusual medical clinic where there's a medical cure for whatever ails you. Did you say you've had your tonsils removed and then your appendix? Well, why not take "All of Me?"

Need a better outlook on life? Then you'd better "Accentuate the Positive." Problems with your love life? Try "Love Potion No. 9."

Chorus members promise the evening will be fun filled with song and dance for everyone.

Advance tickets are available at the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department, Five Mile Road, at Farmington Road, (313) 261-2260. Tickets

will also be on sale at the door.

► The Music Department of St. James' Presbyterian Church, 23350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford, is presenting a musical "Made in the U.S.A." 6:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat., May 12-13. The show includes jazz, blues, barbershop, country, Micky Mouse, the Harmon High School Jazz Band, and more. A dinner at 6:30 p.m., which is included in the price of the ticket, will precede the show. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Call (313) 534-7730.

► Farmington Community Chorus, over 80 voices strong, presents its 15th anniversary concert, "As Time Goes By," 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, at Harrison High School, Farmington Hills.



Rehearsing: Livonia Civic Chorus members Ann Van Ess and Linda Rainford are ready to "Shake the Blues Away!"

The chorus, under the direction of Steven SeGraves, accompanied by Susan Carr, will sing songs from the last six decades including "As Time Goes By," "Rock-A-Round the Clock," and "42nd Street."

Several soloists and small ensembles will also perform, and there will be some comical numbers too.

Get your tickets early, they

sold out last year. Advance tickets are available from any chorus member, and at the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, 31600 11 Mile Road. For more information, call chorus manager, Kathy Hall, (810) 471-4516.

Farmington Community Chorus is sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills, Dept. of Special Services.

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Time: May 16th, 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.
Location: 32255 Northwestern Hwy., Farmington Hills, MI

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