

THEATER

'Comin' of Age' is a sparkling reflection of life

"Comin' of Age," Attic Theater, Third at West Grand Boulevard, New Center Area, Detroit. Shows 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday to July 16, matinee 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets \$19-24. Call (313) 875-8284 or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6668.

By TAMI TABACCHI
SPECIAL WRITER

What do you get when you take a cast and crew of theater professionals who have been seasoned worldwide in the arts? Don't look much further than your own backyard, and you may just come up with the dynamic new musical comedy "Comin' of Age," by Carole Caplan of Bloomfield Hills.

Whether you're old, young, single or married, comfortable or restless, "Comin' of Age" now playing at the Attic Theater in Detroit, is a sparkling reflection of life.

Caplan is not only a musical playwright, but a wife, mother, grandmother, and interior designer who turned her design studio into a music room. Working with Wayne State University jazz professor Matt Michaels, and pianist

Bernie Katz, Caplan has devoted the last seven years to "Comin' of Age" — an experience that has obviously reaped many rewards.

Director Daniel Yurgaitis has made this production a joy to see. "Chip" is our narrator who feels slighted by life's hardships and dreams that seem to be taking a long time in coming true. One by one, he introduces the audience to the other main characters. His father Fred gave him a rather "simplified" version of adulthood. Aunt Carolyn and Uncle Frank are upbeat relatives who have a curiously "too perfect" relationship. Emily is the neighbor looking for love after finding out her husband had an affair.

The voice of Emily (Nina Karcher) is lovely, particularly during her solo "I Just Want to Love Again." The performances of Chip (Brian Schulz) and his father Fred (Mike Evans) show obvious signs of hard work, and years of dedication to the theater. While this story does have a rather touching overtone, it is definitely the music and comedy that

beckons the audience captivated.

Lili Kaufmann and Paul Hopper are a blast to watch as Aunt Carolyn and Uncle Fred. Their satirical lines and catchy musical numbers such as "Make a New Friend Again," and "Headlights," "Allrights" are show stealers. Laurie Mecker of Redford also deserves honorable mention for playing various characters throughout the play, notably as Carolyn and Fred's daughter, Suzie during the hilarious musical number "Sandwich, Sandwich."

With book, music and lyrics all written by Caplan, one might have suspected some slower moments in the play, but not with "Comin' of Age." Each area has been carefully constructed to captivate and facilitate the audience's imagination.

The plot seems fairly simple, yet it hits home in a special way by addressing issues that we all eventually deal with. "Comin' of age" is a play that may be seeing for many years to come. Tami Tabacchi of Dearborn is a free-lance writer who specializes in theater.



Talented cast: The Generation Gap shrinks when the cast of "Comin' of Age" sings and dances in the Attic Theatre production written by Carole Caplan. Left to right (top row) Mike Evans, Laurie Mecker (Redford), Brian Schulz and Lily Kaufmann with (bottom row) Paul Hopper and Nina Karcher.

Tour some of Detroit's historical landmarks

Tour some of Detroit's historic landmarks on Saturday, July 8.

The tours — the African American Heritage Tour, The Mansions of Ferry Avenue, and the Magnificence on Woodward Avenue. The Hecker Smiley Mansion center around life in Detroit from the late 1800s through the 1950s.

For more information about any of the tours, call (313) 222-0321. ■ "The African American Heri-

itage Tour" begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 8, at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Sites visited on the 2½-hour walking tour include Detroit's first African American hospital Dunbar Memorial, the Lewis College of Business and the Omega Psi Phi Alumni House, all of which Preservation Wayne calls "a vital part of the community created by Detroit's African Americans in response to the seg-

regation in housing, employment and basic services of the era."

"The Mansions of Ferry Avenue" focuses on two major renovation projects on Ferry Avenue.

The \$4 million rehabilitation of the shingle-style Proer House and the multi-building \$4.5 million Founders Inn bed and breakfast. The 10 a.m. tour starts at the Detroit Historical Museum audi-

torium with a brief slide overview about the area, a former countryside that became a fashionable neighborhood in the late Victorian era.

The Hecker-Smiley Mansion is one of the most striking sights on Woodward Avenue. The home, built by wealthy industrialist Col. Frank Hecker, was once the headquarters for Smiley Brother's Pianos. The 100-year-old Gilded Age mansion now houses the law

firm Charfoos and Christensen. Sweeping staircases, rich stained glass windows and intricately carved woods are the hallmarks of the home featured on the "Magnificence on Woodward Avenue." The Hecker-Smiley Mansion tour. A brief slide show of the house will be shown at 11 a.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Tickets are \$8 for each tour for Preservation Wayne, Detroit His-

torical Society and Detroit-Area Art Deco Society Members, and \$10 for non-members.

■ On Saturday, July 15, Preservation Wayne is offering its own tour of Detroit's Historic Theatre District. The three-hour guided walking tour will give visitors anecdotal and architectural history of the cinemas and theaters in the area. Tickets for that tour are \$10 for members, and \$15 for non members.

DSO festival showcases Baroque Era

One of the richest periods in musical history — the Baroque Era — which produced some of the great musical geniuses of all time, including Bach, Handel and Vivaldi, will be showcased July 7-8 during this year's summer Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Festival — "Go For Baroque!" Tickets range from \$9 to \$40. Call (313) 833-3700.

The festival features guest conductor Dmitri Sitkovetsky in concert of Baroque repertoire 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 7-8 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Concertgoers are invited to come early each night to enjoy Baroque entertainment in Orchestra Park Place, adjacent to Orchestra Hall, and visit the expousing bar, ice cream cart and other vendors. Mingle with "royalty" in their Baroque finery and hear the sounds of the talented Baroque consort composed of Rochester residents Anne and Bob Burns as they perform familiar

Baroque melodies on Baroque flute and hammered dulcimer. Pre-concert activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. each night and last through intermission on Friday. Friday night's concert will feature a full program of music by

Johann Sebastian Bach. Performing Bach's Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor, will be violinist Dmitri Sitkovetsky who also conducts the Festival program, and DSO principal oboe Donald Baker.

Saturday night's concert includes "Chacony" by Purcell. Written, an excerpt from the First Suite of Symphonies by Mouret, Handel's Water Music Suite and Vivaldi's hugely popular "The Four Seasons."

DON PEDRO'S

24386 Grand River
(3 blocks W. of Telegraph)
OPEN 7 DAYS 837-1480

Contrary To What Has Been Reported The Last Few Weeks, Wing Hong Restaurant Continues To Serve Authentic Oriental Cuisine.

LUNCH AND DINNER BUFFET ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT NOW BEING SERVED EVERYDAY

LUNCH 11:30 TO 2:30 DINNER 5 TO 9

CHINESE AND JAPANESE FOOD

CHINESE	JAPANESE
• CHICKEN WITH BLACK BEAN SAUCE	• CALIFORNIA ROLLS
• HONG KONG STEAK	• FUTOMAKI
• BEEF TENDERLOIN CHINESE STYLE	• CUCUMBER ROLLS
• MIXED SEAFOOD WITH VEGETABLES	• JAPANESE SALAD
• HONG KONG FISH	• MIXED SEAFOOD ROLLS
• STEAMED SHRIMP	• TUNA ROLL
• GENERAL TAO CHICKEN	
• SZECHUAN BEEF & CHICKEN	
• BBQ RIB WITH HONEY SAUCE	

Regular Menu Also Available AND MORE Selections Subject To Change

ALL AVAILABLE ON OUR BIG 60-FOOT BUFFET TABLE!

LUNCH PRICES	DINNER PRICES
\$6.25 Adults	\$11.25 Adults
\$4.25 12 and Under	\$6.50 12 and Under

Maine Live Lobster Dinners **\$14.95**
Lobster Pot (Lobster, Shrimp, Mussell, Clams) **\$22.95**

10% OFF YOUR NEXT MEAL
Excludes Buffet and Holidays. Expires 7-12-95

WING HONG

ORCHARD LAKE ROAD AND 14 MILE ROAD • Farmington Hills

TOKYO JAPANESE STEAM HOUSE 831-8800	CANTONESE & NORTHERN CUISINE 831-7400	WING HONG EXPRESS UNION LAKE-CARRY OUT 363-3331
--	--	---

Farmington Hills Beef House and Family Restaurant
(313) 477-5815

JULY SPECIALS:

- Roast Turkey, Potato, Salad, Vegetable & Roll
- Roast Beef, Potato, Salad, Vegetable & Roll

\$4.95 each (tax & tip extra)

29275 Grand River • Between 8 Mile & Middlebelt
Farmington Hills

MITCH HOUSEY'S

Open 11 A.M. Businessmen's Lunches **DINNERS from \$6.95**

WORLD'S FINEST PRIME RIB with bone in \$10.95 (Dinner includes salad, bread, butter, vegetables, hot and cold sauce)

NOW APPEARING...LIVE THE SHOWCASEMEN WEDNESDAY thru SATURDAY

COCKTAIL HOUR MON. THRU FRI. 4-7 P.M. DAILY

NOW BOOKING BANQUETS

28500 Schoolcraft • Opposite Ladbroke DBC • LIVONIA
AMPHIBIOUS LIGHTED PARKING OPEN DAILY MON-SAT. at 11:00 a.m.

425-5520

10th Anniversary Summer Celebration

All Summer Long...Now thru Labor Day!

Nintendo Games 99¢ 2 nights

ALL GAMES \$1.99 2 nights

ALL CARTOONS 99¢ 3 nights

Register to Win a **VIDEOJACK** 10th Anniversary T-SHIRT (\$11 value) (One per Visit All)

Livonia 36400 Five Mile (Across from) St. Mary Hospital 464-7733

Farmington Hills 34785 Grand River (2 blocks east of Drake Road) 473-1124

RED ROBIN

Pastas • Salads
Ribs • Chicken & More

50% OFF

Buy One Meal at Regular Price GET SECOND MEAL EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE HALF THE PRICE

• 1634 West Maple Street (between) 3109 932-1827 (Out East of Orchard Lake Rd.)

• 1228 Casswell Blvd., West 3119 349-3229 (On the West Town Center)