Weekend Comedy' lacks in the laugh department

at The Purple Rose Theatre Com-pany's Garage Theatre in Chelora through August 20. Call (313) 475-7902 for ticheta.

By Dawn Needham Special Writer

One of the worst things a comedy can do is forget its primary goal — to make people laugh — and insert drama into the plot or, even worse, attempt to impert a

message.
Unfortunately, "Weekend Comcoly," the laiest production of The
Purple Rose Thesire Company in
Chalsas, falls into both of these
treps. The comedic plot is not remarkably original, but it holds
promise. Two couples have mistakenly rented the same remote
vacation cabin for Memorial Day
weekend. The first couple we
meet, long-married middle-aged

El The actors do deceat jobs with the material thoy're given, but their characters are too su-der-developed to become really interesting.

REVIEW

Through a fairly implausible sequence of events, both couples agree to share the cabin for the weekend. Frank immediately resents Tony's money, looks and youth, and goads the younger Frank and Pegry, are escaping suburbis (Frank is doing so reluctantly, and Pegry hopes to renew the spark into their marriage.) Things are off to a promising start for those two when they are surprised by the arrival of Tony and Jill, young, affluent and cate-brating their third year of living together.

man into a foot race, a comparison of their salaries and, ultimately, a recital by each man of
the other's flaws. Attempts by
Frank to one-up Tony and Tony
revealing his own successes
promise humor, but ultimately
fail to deliver.

The actors do decent jobs with
the material they're given, but
their characters are too under-developed to become really interesting. Peter Bellancs (a Detroittorrey offistage) does a good job as
the grumpy Frank. His resentorrey offistage) does a good job as
the grumpy Frank. His resenment of Tony is largely add, and
this provides some of the laughs
in the play. "I hate young people!

I hate young people!" he chants, marching on top of a table.
Carolyn Younger, as Peggy, ian't given the opportunity to present more to her character than the long-suffering, suburban housevife. Several of her funny comments get swallowed by enother character's line. She joins jill and Tony in poking fun at Frunk, which could be funny but instead comes off as mean. Jill (Eden Cooper Stage) has even leas personality, existing only to support Tony (John Lepard) and ultimately, provide the dramathat reelly drags the plot down. She is given a few good lines ("He had a terrible childhood," she explains of Tony, "His parmat gave the way for her demands in the second act.
Lepard does well as the spoiled

Lenard does well as the spoiled

Tooy, but unfortunately the suthers decided he needed to be reformed at the end of the play. He also is given the test of position into words what the actors should be also listently, which is telling us are actly what Frank's problem is in the most click way possible.

The best performance in "Weekend Comedy" came from the part of the play. If that character's side to the most click way possible.

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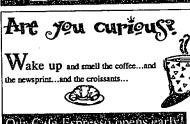
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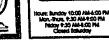
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