

SPECIAL EVENTS

Walk down the aisle with 'Father of the Bride'

Troy Players presents "Father of the Bride" 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, Nov. 10-11; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, Troy Community Center, 520 W. Big Beaver, Troy. Tickets \$2, students (under 18) and senior adults \$8. Call (810) 879-1285.

BY HELEN ZUCKER
SPECIAL WRITER

The Troy Players production of "Father of the Bride" directed by Andrea Wills and Rick Stanley, is amusing. The large cast works well together, and their sense of enjoyment spills over into their roles. This old chestnut is about the joys and sor-

rows involved in planning a wedding still plays.

Doug Noel is especially good as the distraught father, Mr. Banks. Noel grows wilder as the evening progresses and Mr. Banks fears he will go broke. But his love for his daughter and his wife carry him through. Cecelia Reuter Leaser as Mrs. Banks, is very believable as the suburban mother who has to invite her garden club to the reception. Mrs. Banks seems extremely frazzled for a woman who does no housework, and has no job other than forgetting to see to the laundry, but Leaser is so likable that no one minds if

she spends her days in a tizzy. She looks great at the finale.

Michelle Reuter is a spunky Kay Banks, the bride. Reuter rides her roller-coaster moods, cries out in her high voice often, weeps when the groom wants a small wedding, and runs around in sneakers under her gown. Rob Chrenko as the bower groom, Buckley, is wonderful even when he turns up after an all-night drive. Reuter and Chrenko are well matched.

Casey Conlon & Ben Banks is a loving, solid older brother. Fifth grader Michael Gutter as 11-year-old Tommy Banks steals

the show. Gutter is natural, exuberant, and funny even when he's reciting lines we've all heard. His lights up the stage. His sister, eight grader, Veronica Gutter, is equally at home as Beth, a best friend.

Mikki Malatesta is elegant as Delilah, the housekeeper/maid. Malatesta has the accent and the efficiency to run the Detroit Institute of Arts. Mary Hyde is funny as Miss Bellamy, secretary to Mr. Banks. Though no one believed Hyde had been a secretary for 22 years, or that the 40-year-old Mr. Banks had an office at 18.

Zarkhin Trio debuts at Birmingham Temple

The Vivace Series of Birmingham Temple will feature the Zarkhin Trio 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. There is an afterglow following the concert with an opportunity to meet the performers. Admission \$14 general, \$12 senior citizens/students.

Call (810) 647-4632 or (810) 288-3953 for information. The Birmingham Temple is at 2501 W. 12 Mile Road (between Lakeside and Middelbelt) in Farmington Hills.

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Don't miss First Theater Guild's 'Oliver!'

First Theater Guild presents "Oliver!" 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday, Nov. 10-11; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, 1605 W. Maple, Birmingham. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 students/senior citizens. Call (810) 644-0715 or (810) 616-5568.

BY TAMI TABACCHI
SPECIAL WRITER

The First Theater Guild at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham is celebrating their 25th year of quality productions. Starting out in 1970 with "A Christmas Carol," they are ending their silver anniversary with Lionel

Bart's classic tale "Oliver!"

First Theater Guild also performed "Oliver!" in 1981, and although I did not see it, I'm sure the 1995 production would have been hard to beat.

Who has not seen this classic tale of Oliver Twist, the blond-haired orphan boy who dared to ask for more? Throughout the performance, you will find yourself recognizing songs, tapping your toes, and singing along. This upbeat cast, ranging in ages from 7 to adult, gives an energetic performance that invites the audience into the production by including them.

Throughout the play, the little

thieves run through the audience, pretending to steal your coat your play program. When members of the cast "walk along city streets" they are actually walking up and down the aisles, singing, playing, and dancing. This interactive style is popular with the First Theater Guild, and it's no wonder. They have found a popular medium that is fun for all.

Director, Barbara Ann Gowans, had some rather creative situations to work out with this performance. "Oliver!" calls for many different designs, but they were

cleverly reproduced by set designer Ed Krebs. The costumes were also an obviously well-organized effort by costumeur, Bev Keast.

You can also expect to see some rather good performances. You'll meet when you see the adorable blond-haired boy who plays Oliver. Nathan Keen may be a big star someday considering Oliver Twist is his theatrical debut with First Theater Guild. The entire cast of thieves (there are over 10 of them) are a delight as you watch them sing and dance.

ORGANIST, FREDERICK HOHMAN appearing in Concert
Highlighting Selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Opus 71a
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - 8:00 P.M.
Metropolitan United Methodist Church
8000 Woodward at Chandler, Detroit
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PARKING - FREE, well-lit, convenient & supervised.
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