

THEATER

Touching 'Eleemosynary' will lift your spirits



Apollo Theater
Productions presents "Eleemosynary," 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 24-25. **Rooper Theatre, Bremerton Campus**
Adams-Bremerton
Maple and Big Bower Roads. Tickets \$9 adults, \$6 students, available at the door or by reservation, (810) 489-8445.

Early on in this contemporary, one-act drama, its central character explains the unusual title word. "Eleemosynary" means "charitable," she says. And then, because she is an individual who enjoys a kind of love affair with words, she strings all of its luscious syllables together again and adds, "It's like a small song."

Here is the girlish, slightly hare-brained Dorothea, so full of life that she has plans for herself after she's dead. Here is Artie, the troubled, middle-aged scientist who is her daughter. And here is Artie's almost-grown daughter, Echo, fresh-faced and ambitious, and considering her

heritage and way with words, very aptly timed.

As the play opens, Dorothea has just suffered a massive stroke that has left her unable to communicate, and much of the story is told in flashbacks. Soon, we begin to see that the mother and the daughters in this little group have been hard-pressed to communicate for most of their lives. Sometimes, words can't be found. Sometimes, words have been inadequate. Sometimes, words have simply gotten in the way of these highly complex relationships.

Veteran actress Laurie V.

Logan is a fine, animated Dorothea, seemingly warm and caring, then subtly exasperating, but always practically giddy with life.

She adds just the right touch of off-handed humor, too, especially as she's telling of her "visits" with James Monroe and King Solomon or trying to teach her daughter to fly with some wings she's created.

Miriam Yeznick turns in a sensitive performance of Artie, who more than once turns her back on the so-human dependencies of her mother and daughter in order to salvage her own piece of

life. Despite these choices, Yeznick puts her close to our hearts, somehow. Looking always like someone who is trying to look relaxed when they are feeling sick-to-death tense, and also seeming so close-to-bone familiar, Yeznick is almost painful to watch and to listen to at times.

Although her Artie is shy about physical touch, she is perhaps the most emotionally touching of the three women.

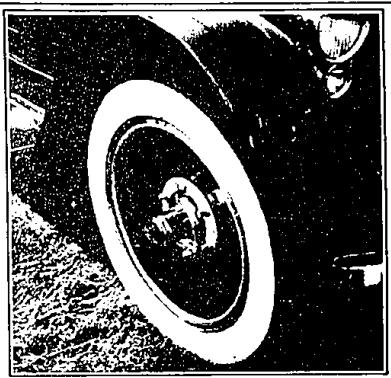
Finally, Jamie Newman (who also produced this play) brings it all together with her enchanting portrayal of the youngest mem-

ber of the trio, Echo. With her singular stage presence and a kind of luminescent appearance, she just nails the role of this glowing-with-hope, confident girl.

In flashback scenes, the 18-year-old also gives a convincing performance as Echo in infancy and as a thumb-sucking toddler, too.

Award-winning director Mary Bremer sees to it that "Eleemosynary" is crispily-paced from first line to last, and peripherals such as lighting, make-up, set, and costuming are all first-rate stuff.

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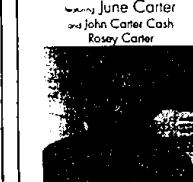
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Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

'Social Security' is deft, funny



Jewell Ensemble Theatre presents "Social Security" through June 9, Aaron DeRoy Theatre (inside the Jewish Community Center), 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Call JET (810) 788-2900 or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666 for ticket information.

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6:30 p.m.

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Saturday, May 25th
12:00 Noon - 5 p.m.

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Tell us how Cosby has inspired you

Bill Cosby will be appearing at Chene Park in Detroit on 8 p.m. Friday, June 14, and we're offering readers a chance to win a pair of tickets in the VIP section, directly in front of the stage.

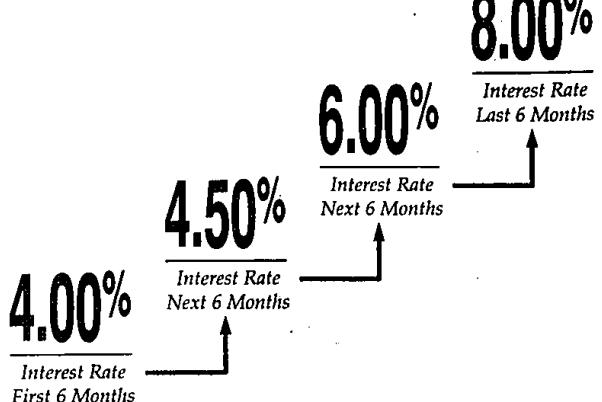
Simply tell us how Bill Cosby made an inspirational or humorous impression on your life.

Limit stories to no more than 250 words. Three pairs of VIP tickets will be awarded.

Send, or fax entries, by Friday, June 7 to: Keely Wagonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax entries, call (313) 481-7279.

The winning three essays will be printed in the June 13 edition of Arts & Entertainment.

Tickets are \$34.50, \$29.50 and \$24.50 available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling (810) 645-6666.



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