

THEATER

Hartlande presents entertaining evening of one-acts

By BARBARA MICHALS
SPECIAL WRITER

Love and loneliness, aspirations and frustrations are the themes running through the presentation of eight 10-minute plays, part of the Hartlande Theatre Company's "Playscape '97," at Oakland University's Studio Theatre.

All eight of the short plays are entertaining, some of them humorous, some touching, some highly unusual. Director Mary Locker does a fine job with all eight plays, each by a different author, and the acting is consistently pleasing.

In William Borden's very amusing "Muse," a frustrated young writer (Matt Talbot) pleads for some help from his

Playscape '97

Where: Varner Hall on the Oakland University campus, Rochester.

When: Through Sunday, June 22

Tickets: Range from \$5 to \$12.50, with discounts for seniors and students. Call (810) 433-1233 for information.

Schedule

■ Mainstage
"An Evening of Short Plays" - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, (\$12.50); 7 p.m. Sunday June 22 (\$10).

■ First Stage Reading
"The Agent," by Maggie Patton - 8 p.m. Thursday, June 19, (\$5).

muse. He is quite taken aback by the arrival of a gay male (David Podulka) to fill the role. Though he would much prefer a female muse, the writer finally concedes that this muse is better than no muse at all.

A diner late at night is the set-

ting for Jim Leach's "Two Coffees Black" where the lone waitress (Phyllis Lewis) overhears two young men (Matt Troyer, Steve Ombrowski) talking suicide. Though frightened by the mention of guns, the waitress decides to intervene and try to save the

two from themselves.

In John Patrick's "Next Door Down," a young apartment dweller (Jan Waldron) fears that her elderly next-door neighbor has been dead for several days. She fights an uphill battle to enlist the aid of her other neighbor (Troyer), who takes the very urban view that it's none of their business.

Act I ends with "Labor Day" by Milan Stitt. A woman on the terrace of her high-rise apartment (Kim Arnaout) is so starved for intelligent conversation that she uses her telescope to spy on the man waiting below at a bus stop (Troyer). She keeps ringing him at the nearby pay phone until she finally arouses his interest. Though the play tries to deal

with some profundities, it never completely rings true.

Act II opens with the very wacky "Clown Wives," by Kim Carney. Ever wondered about the difficulties of being married to a professional clown? Probably not, but it's fun to hear the complaints of the young wife (Mary E. Rychlewski) married to Blinky as she seeks the advice of the long-married wife (Lewis) of Shleppo.

Ronald Jay's "The Pitch" examines the interaction between a man on the street (Dembrowski) begging that he "will work for food" and the failed corporate executive (Podulka) who tries to befriend him but cannot recognize his own shortcomings.

In Kitty Dublin's "Mystical

Body," Rychlewski is moving as the aerobic instructor who must park up and inspire her fangile students despite the crushing pain of her own broken heart.

The concluding piece is Vincent J. Cardinal's "Date @liffa.com." Set in a coffee house, a seminary student (Troyer) who has tried to find sex through the Internet is befriended and advised by the young lady (Waldron) he has approached in a case of mistaken identity.

Stage manager Donald Robert Fox and his crew cleverly manipulate the simple sets to fit all eight plays. Hopefully, the good word will spread about "Playscape '97" and the players will get a larger audience than the sparse one they had this past Saturday night.

Charity event brings Wings fans together Meadow Brook offers festive season of plays

By CHRISTINA FUCCO
STAFF WRITER

Red Wings fans have been gathering at William Beaumont Hospital and the site of the crash that critically injured defenseman Vladimir Kostaninokov and masseur Sergei Mnatsakanov as a form of group therapy to deal with the tragedy.

Concerned fans will have an opportunity to come together at Joe Louis Arena at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 22, for the "NHL and Celebrity All-Star Hockey Game" and to sign a banner encouraging the recovery of Kostaninokov and Mnatsakanov. "We're looking at it as a way for people to escape the tough times of the situation, but in addition to that we will address the injured Red Wings, and we will be placing a large banner in Joe Louis for people to sign," said Kathleen Kennedy, public relations manager for Olympia Arena.

"When there's a tragedy like this, people want to be together. This is a good opportunity."

The scheduled appearances of Steve Yzerman, Darren McCarty, and Joey Kocur are now tenta-

tive but the event, sponsored by The Coulter Foundation, is still on.

Former local residents Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers and comedian Dave Coulier will be joined on the ice by Coulier's former "Full House" co-stars Bob Saget and John Stamos, along with Tim Allen of "Home Improvement," Dave Thomas of "Grace Under Fire," Cameron Bancroft formerly of "Beverly Hills 90210," Matt Frewer also known as Max Headroom, and George Wendt of "Cheers."

Athletes Mark Howe, Kirk Gibson, and the Montreal Canadiens' Valeri Bure, and ESPN's Barry Melrose and John Saunders are also expected to lace up.

"I hear he plays in a league," Coulier said of Gibson. "He's gotta be huge."

Tickets range in price from \$10-\$250 and are available at Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices and all Ticketmaster locations. For more information, call (313) 983-6506.

Comedian Dave Coulier is hoping to raise more than \$500,000

for his foundation which will then distribute the funds to St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center and Children's Hospital of Michigan's cancer research fund.

"We're hoping to draw a lot (from the Stanley Cup). Last year we barely made any money after we paid for airfare and hotels, and even so, I would love to make \$500,000 a year from these events," Coulier said.

The event is close to Coulier, a St. Clair Shores native. He started the foundation as a way to remember his sister Sharon who died of cancer.

"This is my way of keeping her alive," said Coulier who recently wrapped up the pilot "Local Zeroes" for CBS.

Coulier and teammate Chad Smith, a Birmingham native and drummer for the rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers, were in town Thursday, June 5-Sunday, June 8, to promote the event and skate with children from St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center at the City Sports Center in Detroit.

"It's a real deal for them. They don't get a chance to skate at a

rink like this," said Smith about the children from St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. "It's inspirational to me to watch them."

The Chili Peppers' Smith played hockey through high school until "the pucks started comin' a little harder. I decided to stick with drums."

"It's fun to get out here and play. I'm so excited to play with the people I grew up watching like Gordie Howe."

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are writing music for its follow-up to "One Hot Minute."

The Coulter Foundation is hosting two other fund-raising events. The "Celebrity and Sponsor Skins Golf Tournament" Monday, June 23, at Red Run Golf Club, and the fifth annual Dave Coulier Celebrity Golf Classic Tuesday, June 24, at Indian Creek. Coulier will be in the four-day fundraising series. A previously scheduled "Summer Heat Party" has been canceled.

For further information about the golf outings, contact The Coulter Foundation at (888) 300-0151.

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claims that in the first year of business, 3 million patrons (and conversely 200,000 pounds of popcorn) will be served at the theater. Expect standard Star amenities like rocking chair seats, cup holders, and extra leg room in the auditorium, which range in size from 98 to 502.

Each of the theaters is

equipped with THX, the state-of-the-art sound system developed by "Star Wars" creator George Lucas.

While the decade has seen significant theater projects in the Main and Birmingham, the new Star Southfield is the best their video stores a rest and start heading back to the movies.

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