THEATER

Village Players serve up a superb 'Dining Room'

The Village Players production of A. R. Gurney's "The Dining Room," continues 8 p.m. Thursday Saturday and 2 p.m. Sanday at the Playhouse, 752 Chestnut St., Birmingham, Adult tickets are \$12, students \$10, available at the door or by calling (249)644-200.6EB BY HELEN ZUCKER BY CHELEN ZUCKER

The Village Players production of A.R. Gurney's "The Dining Room," directed by Jane Pfeifer and Joan Reddy, is superb. The talented cast of six lob Gurney's funny, poignant lines across the 1898 "Made in Virginin" table with an intense sense of theatre. Linda Hammell is marvelous. She opens the play as a bright real estate agent and quickly dissolves into a proper mother, agirl who'd rather see "Saint Joan" with her maiden nunt than go to debutante parties, a

go to debutante parties, a palsied, but still-with-it maid, a child at a birthday party and four other women living through various stages in the lives of



The Dining Room: Village Players cast members, left toright, Eric Kent Franz of Beverly Hills, Linda Hammell of Lathrup Village, Jeanine Matlow of Farmington Hills, Pete DiGiorgio of Birmingham, Maureen Cook of Birmingham and Gary Sekerak of

upper middle class WASPs.
Hammell brings great energy,
grace and a sense of comedy to

the walls, the lover Ted, and eight men who move from the 1900s to the present. Sckerak is moving as the son who nods and watches finches as his pompous father tells him, Polonius fashion, how to "do" his funeral.

Eric Kent Franz is very light on his feet and turns in strong performances as various children, the zippy architect, the nephew from Amherst who photographs his aunt and her fineprowl for or an anthropology project at Amherst, Standish, the clubman and others.

Jeanine Matlow glows whether she's playing an Irish maid who leaves for a factory, a child at a birthdap party, a teen who doesn't drink; she's especially fine as an clderly mother who's lost her memory and as a trouble daughter who wants to come home but can't.

Maureen Cook exudes radiant

can't.

Maureen Cook exudes radiant intelligence as a rattled mother, the aunt who knows about fingerbowls, china and glassware, a cook who can make butterballs and a woman who perpetually

needs a drink. Cook has a restraint about her, as though she had reserves to call on. She seems to be upholding WASP traditions quite on her own-Cook has a large gift.

Pietro DiGiorgio is an immensely lively father, and many others. He's especially fine as the grandfather who bought the dining room table, the self-made man who tells his grandson. You can go to St. Luke, your brother can have a car, your sister can go to Europe, but an Irish or Jewish gentleman will be where I am, and your grandchildren will be back at the plow. DiGiorgio brings rest to the role of the father who writee his funeral service, delight to every role he plays.

David Hoff and Stone Tadouice.

David Hoff and Steve Todevic's set is marvelous. Kudos to the construction crew and to props. Julie McGee's costumes were clever. Producers Andrea M. and Vicki Kaptur and Ellie Pierce did a bangup job. Tickets are 1/2 price on Thursday, Fcb. 26.

MUSIC

Band works hard to make their CDs worth the price



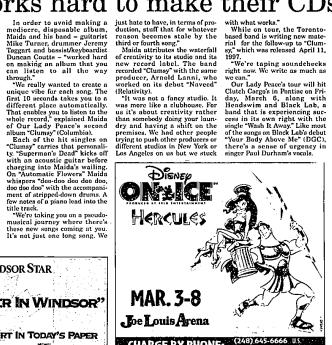
An avid music fan, Our Lady Peace singer Raine Maida is tirred of paying S18 for a CD and then finding out that there's only a few good songs on it.

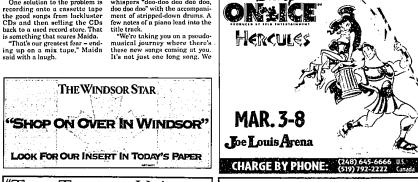
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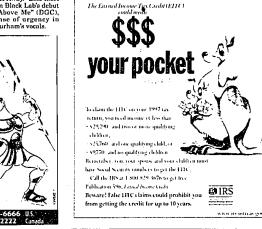
One solution to the problem is

The characters in my songs are immersed in trying to find some redemption, usually from the experience of loss, he explained. They are trying to find some meaning in it, find resolution and transcendence sometimes succeeding, sometimes failing.

Our Lady Peace, Black Lab and Headswim perform Friday, March 6, at Clusch Cargo, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac Doors open at 7











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