



Tea & Company: Evelyn Orbach (left to right), Arthur J. Beer, Mary Bremer, and Carolyn Younger in "The Cemetery Club," at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

Veteran JET cast makes 'Cemetery Club' warm, funny

Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "The Cemetery Club," through Sunday, May 24, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 8600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, and 2 p.m. Wednesdays, May 13. Tickets \$13-\$23, with seniors, students and group discounts available, call (248) 788-2900.

BY BARBARA MICHALS
SPECIAL WRITER

With its superb cast and fine material, warmth and humor prevail over the rather grim title of "The Cemetery Club," the current presentation by the Jewish Ensemble Theatre.

In Ivan Menchell's gentle comedy, three widows meet once a month to visit their respective husbands' graves and chat with their departed loved ones. Now one of the widows thinks that this ritual has gone on long enough, one thinks it should never stop and one wavers in between.

Lucille (Evelyn Orbach) is the radical. Widowed two years ago, she firmly believes it is time to get on with her life by "playing

the field" i.e. flirting boldly with every man she encounters, and always claiming they can't take their eyes off of her.

Eventually, Lucille admits what drives her dynamo, and she learns what was sauce for the gander isn't necessarily for the goose.

On the other end of the spectrum, Doris (Mary Bremer) has been widowed for four years, and can't even imagine herself ever wanting the company of another man. All her energies go into meticulous care of her late husband's grave site, and keeping him abreast of all the latest neighborhood news.

In the middle there's Ida (Carolyn Younger), widowed for three years. Although she has always enjoyed talking to her departed husband, she begins to think Lucille may have a point about getting on with their lives. When that opportunity presents itself in Sam (Arthur Beer), a friendly neighborhood butcher who's a widower, Ida is willing to let a new relationship develop. Unfortunately, her well-meaning friends Doris and Lucille come close to messing it all up.

Under the excellent direction of Susan Arnold, the comic pacing is perfect, and each of the principal players appears to fit their role effortlessly.

Area theatergoers will recognize the names Bremer and Beer (married in real life) from lots of outstanding and award-winning performances at the University of Detroit, Meadow Brook, and the Attie theaters. They're the sort that could recite the phone book and make it memorable.

Orbach, founding artistic director of JET, is also a name that can be counted on. She's done a lot of work as both a performer and director. Younger, a newcomer to Michigan, skillfully holds her own with these veteran favorites and does a wonderful job of making Ida's transition totally believable.

At last Sunday's opening, there were a surprising number of minor line slips from the actresses (mostly confusing the names of their dead husbands). But they had the aplomb to glide over them with performances so strong one could forgive them anything.

ART BEAT

PICASSO PAINTING STOLEN

Late last week, Southfield Police reported that a 1932 painting by Pablo Picasso was stolen from Parkwest Galleries in Southfield.

According to police, a picture frame that held the painting was not removed. The frame was being examined for possible clues.

Estimated value of the painting is \$50,000. At press time, the name of the painting was not available.

ART GRANTS AVAILABLE

Project grants up to \$2000 are available through the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Migrant Program, administered by the Oakland County Office of Arts, Culture & Film.

A June 5 application deadline is set for projects scheduled for October 1998-January 1999. Any Oakland County nonprofit organization, institution, school,

association or local government agency may apply.

Grants will not be awarded to individuals. Organizers of specific arts projects, however, are eligible.

Call (248) 858-0415 for information and applications.

CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY LINES UP '98-99 SEASON

The following is next season's schedule for the Chamber Music Society of Detroit.

■ Julliard String Quartet - 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, Orchestra Hall

■ Muir String Quartet - 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, Orchestra Hall

■ Lanier Trio - 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Orchestra Hall

■ Ying Quartet - 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, DeSalle Auditorium, Cranbrook Art Museum

■ Grigory Sokolov - 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, Orchestra Hall

■ Vermeer String Quartet - 8

p.m. Saturday, April 10, Lella Jones-Hanson Theater, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak.

■ Brentano String Quartet - 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 11

For information, (248) 737-9990.

BOTSFORD AWARDS GRANT TO MICH CLASSIC BALLET

Botsford General Hospital has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Michigan Classical Ballet Company. The grant is targeted to underwrite the 1998 Regional Dance American/Mid-States Festival.

Michigan Classic Ballet will host the festival May 22-23 at the Power Center on the University of Michigan campus. Performances on each night begin at 8 p.m.

Twelve dance companies and more than 500 dancers will attend master classes and seminars with a performers and teachers from around the country.

Travelers from page C1

sonist of Franklin, and Kim Kaloyanides, violinist from Ann Arbor and a new member in the Orchestra, were watching my flute bag during my absence. They knew of my ticket loss, so I offered them two granola bars from my bag. But Vicki was quick to inform me that her silence could not be bought so cheaply and would take at least a good box of chocolates from next duty-free store or she would tell all.

When Group Two landed in Manchester, we were happy to get on solid ground. Our comfort zone quickly vanished, though, when our bus hit the first roundabout and we realized we were on the wrong side of the road.

Our hotel in Manchester is a historic structure, built around 1910. From across the square, it looks somewhat like a parliamentary building, an elegant stone structure with towers and turrets. We've been told that Mr. Rolls and Mr. Royce met here to form their famous partnership and that one of the suites is named after Mr. Royce.

After unpacking, many orches-

tra members decided to stroll around the surrounding area to look for restaurants and enjoy the local architecture which is quite striking. There are many beautiful buildings of stone and brick, in various shades of rose pink, soft orange, as well as the traditional gray. A stroll at this time was also helpful in keeping us awake until evening, so we could adjust to the new time zone.

When Susan and I returned from our walk, there were many orchestra members mulling around the hotel lobby. John Thurman, cellist from Troy, was also in the lobby, sporting a distinctive straw hat which made him look even taller than his normal towering physique. Members of Group One applauded his distinctive hat, saying that they were able to use it as a beacon and follow him through the maze of hallways and large crowds at Heathrow airport.

Randy Hawes, trombonist from Bloomfield Hills, stopped by to tell me that he had discovered a quaint pub next to the Piccadilly Train Station called

"Monroe's." I vowed to find it the next day and take photos.

Day Three, April 29 The orchestra is well rested and anxious to get to work. Bridgewater Hall is only two blocks from our hotel, but we are not allowed into the facility until 4 p.m.. We have a warm-up rehearsal 5:30-7 p.m. and only a half hour break before the actual concert, which begins at 7:30. The management has arranged for box lunches to be brought in so the musicians can get something to eat before the concert. There's barely time to devour the cheese and tomato sandwich before it's time to go back on stage.

Bridgewater Hall is a new, modern building with three tiers of balconies on each side and two large sloping balconies at the front of the hall opposite the stage. The hall's acoustics do not compare with Orchestra Hall in Detroit, but this is no surprise, as few halls do. The crowd was very receptive and we played two encores. Maestro Järvi dedicated the second encore to Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer who (to our delight) was in the audience.

BIRMINGHAM



Saturday May 9, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday May 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mother's Day Weekend

In downtown Birmingham, Shain park and adjacent streets. Three hundred artists, from all over the United States and Canada exhibit fine art and fine crafts.

Performances of classical, jazz, choral and musical theater

High Schol Student Art Show Children's Art Activities

Sponsored by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, and Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce

THE
Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Photo credit: Glen Triest, Lustreware Ceramic Bowl by Richard Cohen

**CHRYSLER
FUND**



Loraine S. has reasons to
\$160,000 SMILE

Loraine's winning smile is courtesy of the \$160,000 jackpot she won playing a Double Diamond slot machine at Casino Windsor™.

For a winning smile of your own, come to Casino Windsor™ and the Northern Belle Casino™ and experience the excitement of Vegas-style gaming at its best.

For more information call Casino Marketing at 1-800-991-7777.

**CASINO
WINDSOR™**

**MILLIONS
OF REASONS TO SMILE!**

Must be 19 years of age