

## SPECIAL EVENTS

## Stagecrafters' sister theater group to present farce

The Company of Ten from St. Albans, England will present Alan Ayckbourn's, "How the Other Half Loves," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 7-8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9 at the historic Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. All tickets are \$8, reserved, call (248) 541-6450.

"How the Other Half Loves" tells an unusually probably story (for a farce) of three suburban couples enmeshed in logical but hilarious misunderstandings, real and imaginary, infidelities and office politics.

All of the roles will be played by members of The Company of Ten from St. Albans, England, Stagecrafters' sister theater. "This is our 15th year," said Cate Foltin. "We were introduced by the American Association of Community Theaters. This is their first visit since 1989, we went over there in 1991."

What started out as a common interest in community theater, has blossomed into something more. "This is their third visit, we've been there twice," said Foltin. "Several friendships have developed between members. It's taken a year of planning to work out the logistics for this visit."

Stagecrafters is planning a visit to England in the year 2000, and is looking forward to

visiting with their friends, and watching them perform.

"How the Other Half Loves" begins with a new twist on the situation that has been a classic of farces, the situation of people trying to conceal a naughty caper from furiously jealous spouses.

The essence of the fun in "How the Other Half Loves," is that Tony Johnson (Frank) as the deceived husband isn't at all jealous of Jean Kendall (Fiona) as his wife, despite her having been rather inexplicably away from home one night until near dawn. He merely asks where dear Fiona was the night before, and when she gives a vague explanation, he accepts it until it suddenly falls apart. Then he must be duped with another explanation.

Carole Williams (Teresa) will be seen as Mr. Johnson's (Frank) opposite number - a wife whose husband is giving her a fishy explanation of where he was on a night when he rolled home barely before dawn. She is not so easily placated by his evasions. "Stephen Vaughan (Bob) is playing the part of her husband who, in a flash of inspiration, improvises a plausible explanation: he had been out drinking with another fellow from his office, William Featherstone, consoling



him because William's wife is having an affair.

Thus the plot, after waltzing between the home of the deceived husband and his erring wife, and the home of the delinquent husband and his partially deceived wife, gets complicated as the unsuspecting Feather-

stones (Philip Eastburn and Margie Stone) are drawn in. They are invited to dinner on successive evenings to the successive households to have their non-existent rift healed by couples who can't heal their own.

With these misunderstandings

as a base, "How the Other Half Loves," takes off into one mad farcical situation after another.

Often the two couples are simultaneously trying to straighten out their complications in their separate homes, and occasionally telephoning each other across a distance of

six feet. The dinner parties for the Featherstones, on two successive evenings in the separate homes, take place simultaneously, so that Einstein's theory of relativity and ideas of the tele-scope of distance and time are seen as the essence of slapstick comedy.

The cast: Members of "The Company of Ten" from St. Albans, England will be performing the Alan Ayckbourn comedy farce, "How the Other Half Loves," at the Stagecrafters' historic Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak.

## Children's entertainer has positive outlook on life

"Accentuate the Positive" this is what children's entertainer Geri Green encourages her audiences to do.

"All my songs make people feel good," said Green who will be performing 7-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16, at Civic Center Park on Five Mile Road (at Farmington Road) in Livonia. "I was a cheerleader in high school and college, and have a cheerleader disposition. It's just a natural thing with me."

As a performer, Green cheers her audiences on, encouraging them to feel the beat and get moving. They might not feel comfortable singing, but once they start moving to the music, the

singing comes naturally.

Green seems to have a gift for helping people "Listen to the Music," that's playing in their hearts. "I emphasize that every person is valuable, and that there's no right way to do something. I teach people to do their own thing. Folk music is an extension of yourself, just be yourself, don't try to compete with your neighbor."

As a musician, Green, who wrote songs but could only play three chords on the guitar, auditioned for Barry Gordy. Some of her songs were published, but never recorded, by Jobete, the song-writing division of Motown

Records. She was also singing at guitar masses at St. Timothy's in Trenton. When parishioners asked her to teach them to play guitar she did and later accepted an invitation to teach guitar at adult education classes all over Down River.

Green who says she "played very mediocre guitar," and knew enough to only teach a 10-week course, started taking guitar lessons. When her teacher couldn't play a gig at a local restaurant, she filled in. That led to other jobs singing and playing guitar at local restaurants and Holiday Inns and Ramada Inns, she said.

After remarrying in the 1990s, Green didn't want to work nights anymore so she enrolled in the child development program at Schoolcraft College with the thought of opening her own day care center.

"I saw a need for quality children's entertainment," she said. Teachers told Green her music was wonderful, and got her jobs. In addition to performing, Green leads teacher training workshops in music and movement for her young children. In the summer she presents family con-

certs throughout the metro Detroit area, including Redford, Beverly Hills, Westland, and Rochester. The rest of the year she performs at elementary schools, community events, and for senior citizen groups.

Kevin Devine, the master of musical antics and madcap shenanigans presents a participatory children's concert 6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7 at Birmingham City Hall, 151 Martin St. The concert will be moved to the Community House, 380 S. Bates

in case of rain. Call (248) 588-2914 for more information.

Originally from Birmingham, Devine is winner of the Boston Parents' Paper "Entertainer of the Year" award. His shows are full of upbeat songs, old favorites and songs from many lands. His zany hats, gags and humor leave children giddy with laughter. He is also a recording artist and songwriter for network and PBS TV shows including "Barney and Friends." He is a board member of the Children's Entertainment Association.

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