

Show highlights local talent

The Players Guild of Dearborn presents the adult comedy "Don't Dress for Dinner," written by Marc Camoletti, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 26-27, at the Guild playhouse, 21730 Madison, near Monroe and Outer Drive in Dearborn. Tickets are \$11, all seats are reserved. Senior and student rates are available. To purchase tickets, call (313) 561-TKTS. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

When a husband uses his best friend as an alibi for a weekend with his mistress, trouble ensues when his wife decides to stay at home and renew her affair with the best friend. The best friend, who is hiding both infidelities, then mistakes the caterer for the mistress, setting the stage for subterfuge and silliness.

Kirk Haas, who directed the Guild's comic delight "Moon Over Buffalo" last year, has assembled a talented ensemble worthy of the clever script and capable of delivering it with a crucial combination of talent and breakneck speed.

Joe Donovan of Farmington Hills is clever and acerbic as Bernard, the philandering husband whose plans for a relaxing weekend turn into a chaotic yet hysterically funny romp. Donovan is the master of understatement, and can bring down the house with laughter with a well-aimed look or his physical comedy. He not only caught the seltzer in the pants, he wore the main course of the intended dinner party. Kudos to the costume committee for supplying numer-

Cindy Gonko of Canton ... brings her own flair and energy to the equation, and is an enthusiastic and self-assured addition to the ensemble.

ous changes of clothing.

To intensify the comic treat, Joe is paired with his real life wife Kim Donovan, who plays his stage wife Jacqueline. The two make a dynamic duo from a comedy standpoint, and have delighted Guild audiences in the past as the couple in "Move Over Mrs. Markham" and in numerous other roles.

Kim Donovan exudes class and stage presence while keeping a light enough touch to keep the show funny and moving along at a brisk pace. She was able to switch from passionate to sisterly with the bat of an eye.

Ron Williams of Redford shows he can play the debonair bachelor Robert as well as the troubled teen he portrayed so well in last season's "Blood Brothers." He has the right blond of teddy bear cuddliness and sophisticated conniving to be both convincing and likable.

As he must concoct more lies and convince more people to go along with them, he invokes gales of laughter from the appreciative house. He also deserves a commendation for memorizing an extremely long, funny and complicated speech that attempts to finally catalog every lie, subterfuge and mistaken

identity.

Cindy Gonko of Canton, who plays the cook, is mistaken by Robert as the mistress. She brings her own flair and energy to the equation, and is an enthusiastic and self-assured addition to the ensemble.

Gonko has fun with the role, and is probably the only cast member who eventually understands the entire equation. Her ability to wear a waitress skirt like a strapless designer original gown is a very funny part of the comic romp. Her composure in the face of chaos gives the character the ability to inspire even more laughter.

Maria Kovac of Royal Oak is the perfect mistress, oozing the glamour and sophisticated wit to which a man like Bernard would be attracted. She makes her character likable and sympathetic, avoiding the stereotypical flakiness associated with the mistress role and bringing the right mixture of coy charm and naughty poise to the role.

Hank Bennett of Farmington Hills completes the ensemble as George, the cook's understandably confused and indignant husband who stumbles into the mess at the height of the action.

Haas designed a set as worthy of praise as the cast he assembled. Ceiling beams lend a permanence to the nicely decorated farmhouse, which is well-appointed. Costumer Marsha Barnett-Krause dressed the cast with an elegant sophistication and deserves combat pay for the constant costume clean-ups demanded by Bernard's ongoing encounters with spray bottles and errant food.

The WYR 1310 AM
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Story of 'Truth' told at EMU

Eastern Michigan University's Theatre of the Young presents "A Woman Called Truth," 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4 at Quirk Theatre, on EMU's Ypsilanti campus. Tickets are \$13. Call the box office at (734) 487-1221 for tickets and information.

"A Woman Called Truth," written by Sandra Fenichel Asher, is a celebration of the life, courage and wit of Sojourner Truth, a woman who was sold as a slave and taken away from her family as a young girl.

The story follows her historic fight for freedom and emergence

as a respected speaker on the abolition of slavery and importance of women's rights. Truth continued fighting for those causes until her death in 1883 in her Battle Creek home.

Directed by Patricia Moore Zimmer, the play is appropriate for ages 11 and older.

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