

'Cactus Flower' delivers laughs Orchestra from page E1

Schoolcraft College's Theatre Department presents "Cactus Flower" through Saturday, April 8. Show is sold out, but you can be placed on a waiting list for available tickets, call (734) 462-4596.

BY ROBERT WEIR
SPECIAL WRITER

Beginning with a lie isn't the way to begin a relationship. Unless, of course, the object is a screwball, comic farce. Which is just what the Schoolcraft College production of "Cactus Flower" delivers. Playwright and librettist, Abe Burrows, ("Guys and Dolls," "Can-Can," "How to Succeed in Business") and famed "play

doctor" used his fertile bag of theatrical tricks to fill "Cactus Flower" with funny lines and situations. Brian Taylor (Dr. Julian Winston) turns in his usual solid performance as a swinging bachelor dentist with a Park Avenue clientele. His little black book would rival Hugh Hefner's. He's adept at covering one lie with another, then saying, "Thank God I still have something left, my integrity." Jerri Doll, is stunningly funny as his ditty, main squeeze (Toni Simmons) with her New Yorker accent. She likes honest men, and is attracted to Julian, because he admits he is married with three kids when they meet. That, of course, is an

artful dodge, to juggle his many girlfriends. When Julian breaks a date, Toni fails in a suicide attempt (It's their first anniversary). In a pun to prove his love, Julian promises to divorce his wife. The fun begins when Toni demands to see the wife and kids to soothe her guilty conscience for breaking up a home.

Brenda Lane is splendid as the dentist's spinsterly nurse (Stephanie) and substitute wife, who blossoms after the boss pays attention to her. Christopher Curd (Igor) is very good as Toni's neighbor who saves her from suicide, and ultimately wins her love. Timothy McKernan (Harvey) gives a nice performance as

Julian's buddy who assists in the elaborate plans to deceive Toni. The most definitive character of the evening is created by Benjamin Karl as (Senor Arturo Sanchez) a would-be Latin lover. Colleen Greenwell has the look of a Park Avenue lady of means in several elegant costumes. John Abair, Jr., Ryan-Ivor Klann, Tiffany Byars and Trish Kero round out the cast in fine fashion.

Scenic designer, Katy Monthei's, settings enhanced the show. Thanks to director, James Hartman's fast scene changes with lively music, the 15 scene changes never slowed the fast-paced show.

solos on the "Fantasy" based on "Summertime."

"In China, 'Dance of the Yoo People' is as popular as Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' is here," said Washburn. "We're also doing 'Los Voladores' by Alice Gomez. I'm a big fan of her work and with the Gomez we got to feature our own percussion section. There's Latin percussion happening and a little Native American sound in this piece."

Even though Washburn's working hard to present a fascinating, multi-cultural program for the dinner/auction, she's also busy working out details for next season.

Washburn, who's in her first season with the orchestra, is excited about the music the Plymouth Symphony will perform in 2000-2001. This fall, look for more composers to talk about their work before concerts in which their compositions are presented.

Which brings Washburn back to the topic of money. The dinner/auction is vital if the orchestra is to raise the \$220,000 operating budget needed to deliver the new programs. In addition to revenue from ticket sales and donations from individuals and corporations, fund-raisers like the dinner/auction help bring music into the community. So instead of spending another boring Saturday night at home, get out and have some fun. Enjoy yourself and support the orchestra all at the same time. The Ply-

'Spring Fling: Dance & Romance'

What: The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra's annual Pops Dinner Concert and Auction to raise funds for the orchestra.
When: 6 p.m. Friday, April 7
Where: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia
Tickets: \$45, \$25 for children through grade 12. Reservations required, call (734) 451-2112

mouth Symphony League already has. The fund-raising arm of the orchestra recently presented Washburn with a check for the \$25,000 they raised by holding card parties and a Holiday Home Walk.

"This year we had big successes with jazz and our March 18 concert featuring accordionist Peter Soave was sold out," said Washburn. "Certain pieces people love to hear. We brought in a composer into town and the audience loved hearing her talk about what went into the piece. We're also building the orchestra so we get better and better. We're working with repertoire to expand the orchestra's skill. Doing the Duke Ellington was a stretch but went over well with the audience. We're excited about the new season."

El Dorado from page E1

He's sort of the smartest character in the film.

The smartest character and the one which most closely reflects the logic of the audience in unraveling the story.

A shining example

Culotta said it takes patience, craftsmanship, acting ability and an observant eye to become an

animator. It can take as long as four years to complete one animated film from the spark of the idea to the time it hits theaters. Animators don't begin working until a story is roughly worked out and production has begun.

Culotta finally saw the completed version of the film about two weeks ago and enjoyed it,

"It's interesting," he said. "When you work on a film, usually you can see only the faults." Once the story, animation and background music come together, what seemed to be lacking works out in the end.

The film features music by the Oscar-winning team of "The Lion King" Elton John, Tim Rice and composer Hans Zimmer, who col-

laborated with John Powell on the score.

Though "The Road to El Dorado" opens in metro Detroit movie theaters Friday, March 31, Culotta is already working on his next project with Dreamworks. What began with one sleeping beauty has led down a long road for the animator, a road that seems to be paved in gold.

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST

SPORTS CARD SHOW

MARCH 31, APRIL 1-2

FRI 12-9 • SAT 10-9 • SUN 10-6

BUY TRADE SELL

COPIES & MORE!

ADMISSION ONLY \$2.00 PER CARLOAD!

FORMER DETROIT STAR & BASEBALL HALL OF FAMER

GEORGE KELL

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST
2:00PM - 4:00PM
\$10.00 BALL / FLAT
\$15.00 ALL OTHER ITEMS

HOCKEY HALL OF FAMER

ALLAN STANLEY

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST
12:00PM - 2:00PM
\$8.00 ANY ITEM

BASEBALL HALL OF FAMER

ROBIN ROBERTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND • 1PM - 3PM
\$12.50 BALL / FLAT • \$17.50 OVERSIZE
\$22.50 BAT / JERSEY

Gibraltar
TRADE CENTER, INC.
1-75 & EUREKA RD. (EXIT 36) TAYLOR
734-287-2000
VISIT US ON THE WEB: GIBRALTARTRADE.COM

FREE FRIDAY ADMISSION
WITH THIS COUPON
FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST ONLY

APRIL 1st
8:00 PM

the SPRING SWING

Big Band Swing Band of Saturday & Sunday

the Swing Shift Orchestra

Host the Party, Rejoice & Love

Redford Theatre

17300 Lahar Rd.
Detroit, MI 48219

(313) 537-2560

1 ticket \$90

HOUSEHOLD PROBLEMS?
Tune-In Bob Allison's

Bob Allison

(WJZK 690 AM - Mon-Fri. 9 am-11 am)

• How to Cook It
• How to Do It
• Where to Find It

www.boballison.com

Chamber Music Society
Presents


Jessye Norman
Soprano
in Recital

Saturday, April 29, 2000, 5 P.M.
Detroit Opera House

Fundraising Recital to Benefit the Chamber Music Society of Detroit
Co-Sponsored by:

CHASE Private Banking

Detroit Edison Foundation



"The immensity of her voice struck like a thunderbolt...It was like an eruption of primal power." "This is an amazing voice, a catalogue of all that is virtuous in singing."
--New York Times

Detroit Free Press **101.9 FM WDET**

Concert ticket prices \$30, \$60, \$115, \$135, \$165, and \$250. Tickets are available at the Detroit Opera House box office and all ~~www~~ ticket centers, including Hudson's and Harmony House stores. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

Ms. Norman will be the guest of honor at an afterglow fundraising reception and dinner at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to benefit the museum. Tickets for the afterglow reception and dinner are \$150 and \$250. For dinner reservations or additional afterglow information, call the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History at (313) 494-5854.

Chamber Music Society of Detroit
(248) 737-9980 • www.ComeHearCMSD.org

GET READY FOR

V98.7FM
Smooth Jazz

The Smoothest Summer Ever!

June 2-3-4, 2000

The Village Green / Southfield Civic Center



The hottest sound of the summer is back! And it's bigger and better than ever!

Tickets for Saturday & Sunday are \$30 per day and are on sale now at all TicketMaster locations — or charge by phone (248) 645-6666. Seating for Friday will be available soon, so keep returning to Smooth Jazz V98.7 for details!

presented by **LDML**