

JET takes 'Talley' to incredible new level

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre production of Lanford Wilson's 'Talley's Folly' continues through Dec. 30 with performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; 8 p.m. Saturdays. For information, call (248) 788-2900.

BY PAMELA JOY MCGOWAN
SPECIAL WRITER

One scene, two actors, 97 minutes. It seems like so little to work with, yet The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company brings the emotion of Talley's Folly to incredible levels.

Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer Prize winning play takes place solely at a boathouse in Lebanon, Mo., in 1944. The audience is immediately made a third party to the production when Matt Friedman (Thomas Hongland) saunters in out of nowhere and directly addresses his "now-found friends." His monologue is one part update and three parts philosophical rambling about war and bees and such. The eye contact Friedman makes with the audience puts them into the seat of the forthcoming roller coaster of emotions.

Matt has returned to the boathouse to see Sally Talley (Kelly Pino), with whom he had a brief affair one year ago. Sally's Southern-type family strongly disapproves of Matt because he is Jewish, this being the dominant conflict in their relationship. The play is spent exploring Matt's

past and Sally's dark secret, or cracking open the delicate shells of the eggs that people really are. Though the cast consists of only two actors, the families of both characters — especially Sally's — come to life by the detailed descriptions given.

Hongland does an excellent job growing his character from a humorous, nervous suitor to a confident, tender man in love. Though Wilson — who, incidentally, was not a Jew — has not included much Yiddish or Hebrew, if any, in the script, Hongland's accent is flawless. Pino performs impeccably as Sally, first appearing as defiant and independent, then vulnerable as she surrenders to love. Pino, in keeping with the almost constant complement to her partner, has mastered a Southern accent.

The tired, worn blues and grays of the boathouse set and the background noises of the river and crickets work together to bring the audience into the emotionally draining story. The folies in the architecture of the boathouse Sally believes was built just for her are as prominent as the folly she is living.

Director Evelyn Orbach and her crew have created 97 minutes of enjoyable and cathartic entertainment in their campaign to Stop Hate. The biggest folly would be to miss this production.

LIVE MUSIC

- AL HILL TRIO:** 8:30 p.m. Thursday, 336 Main, Plymouth. (734) 454-6500
- ALICIA KEYS:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, State Theatre, Detroit. \$35.75-\$43.25. (248) 645-6666
- BARENKAMP LADIES:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, Palace of Auburn Hills. \$35-\$47.50. (248) 645-6666
- BARRY MANILOW:** 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Feb. 15-16, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$17.50-\$67.50. (248) 645-6666
- B.B. KING:** With Bobby Blue Bland, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$30-\$37.50. (248) 433-1515
- BRIAN MCKNIGHT:** With Tyrae, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, Fox Theatre, Detroit. (248) 433-1515
- CHARLATANS UK:** With Starsailor, 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. \$15. (248) 645-6666
- THE CLIMAX DIVINE:** With Nice Device, Atalaya, 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, Magic Stick, Detroit. 18 and older. \$7. (313) 833-9700
- CREED:** The Weathered Tour, With Puddle of Mud, Monday, Feb. 11, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$36.50-\$42.50. (248) 645-6666
- CROSSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG:** Tour of America, 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 6, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$43-\$88.50. (248) 645-6666**
- DARK STAR ORCHESTRA:** 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, Royal Oak Theatre, Royal Oak. \$16-\$19. All ages. (248) 645-6666
- DETROIT COBRAS:** With Dirt Bombs, Ko & The Knockouts, 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, Magic Stick, Detroit. \$12. (313) 833-9700
- GORDON LIGHTFOOT:** 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27, Michigan Theatre, Ann Arbor. \$37.50-\$42.50. (248) 645-6666 or (734) 763-7475
- GREAT BIG SEA:** Saturday, March 15, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. \$25. (248) 645-6666
- GREG ALLMAN AND FRIENDS:** 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, Royal Oak Theatre, Royal Oak. \$28. (248) 645-6666
- HATEBRED:** With Martyr A.D., Poison the Well, Satan Enemy, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. All ages. \$12. (248) 645-6666
- HIP HOP SMACKDOWN:** Featuring Ja Rule, Jadakiss, Juvenile, Peety Pablo, Trick Daddy, Mister Cheeks, Eclipse and Ms. Tox, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, Cobb Hall, Detroit. \$29.50-\$39.50. (248) 645-6666
- ISLEY BROTHERS:** With The Dramatics, 9:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$47.50-\$102.50. (248) 645-6666

- JUDAS PRIEST:** With Anthrax, Iced Earth, tour is rescheduled to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$18.50-\$29.50. Tickets for the original date(s) will be honored if they are refunded at the point of purchase. (248) 645-6666
- LUTHER VANDROSS:** 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, Fox Theatre, Detroit. (248) 645-6666
- MARDUK:** With KataKlysm, Amon Amarth, Diabolic, 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, Shelter, Detroit. All ages. (248) 645-6666
- THE M-80s:** 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31, Royal Oak Theatre, Royal Oak. Tickets \$10 except New Year's Eve show, \$35 advance. 21 and older. (248) 645-6666
- MICHAEL QUEST:** 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, Jan. 5, Coyote Club, Pontiac, Mich. (248) 332-HOWL
- PENNYWISE:** 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, State Theatre, Detroit. All ages. \$13.75. (248) 645-6666
- PETER, PAUL AND MARY:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, Detroit Opera House, Detroit. \$42.50. (248) 645-6666
- THE SCENE CASUALTIES:** Featuring members of the Parka Kings, Telegraph, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. \$5. (248) 645-6666
- STUDENT RIGHTS:** With Showoff Tuesday, January 8, at the Shelter, 431 East Congress, Detroit.
- SUICIDE MACHINES:** With For Diro Life's Sake, Before I Go, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. All ages. \$10. (248) 645-6666
- SUPER DIAMOND:** Neil Diamond (tribute band), Thursday, Jan. 24, Royal Oak Music Theatre, Royal Oak. \$12-\$13. 21 and older. (248) 645-6666
- TANGERINE DREAM:** 9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, (248) 645-555. For information, call (313) 965-2222
- THE TEMPTATIONS REVIEW:** Featuring Dennis Edwards, The Coasters featuring Carl Gardner and The Contours, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, The Palace of Auburn Hills. \$14-\$29. (248) 645-6666
- 12 ANGRY STEPS:** Break up show, 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, Magic Stick, Detroit. 18 and older. \$7. (313) 833-9700

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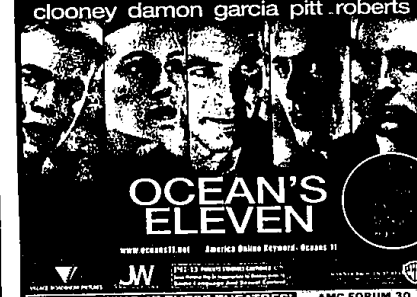
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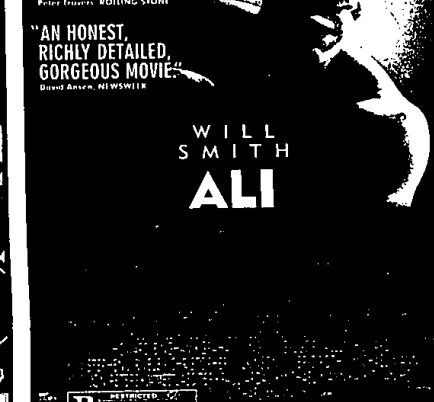
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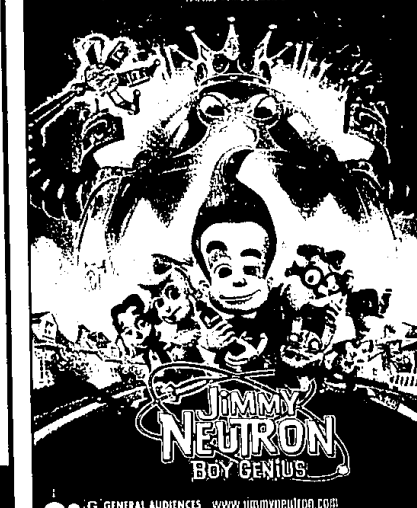
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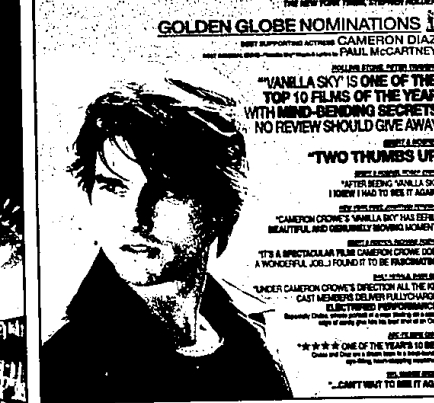


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