

WSU Offerings
Are Off-Beat
Entertainment

By TIM RICHARD

Two of the year's finest evenings of pure entertainment are waiting at the Wayne State University Theater, which rarely does an indifferent job and in these cases has exceeded itself.

The musical version of "Canterbury Tales" at the Bonstelle and "Trelawney of the Wells" at the Hilberry Classic are both off-beat enough to provide something different, traditional drama you see summerlimes at Greenfield Village, but a good deal slicker and better staged.

"Trelawney" is Miss Rose Trelawney, portrayed in a stand-out performance by Dianne Hill. Trelawney is the star actress at the Wells Theater, and in order to appreciate the company you have to get there in time to read the last page of the program notes for an explanation of the Victorian theater's rules and customs for actors.

There are two casts — "theatrical folk" and "non-theatrical folk." Miss Trelawney falls in love with, becomes engaged to, and leaves the company for a non-theatrical artist, Arthur Gower (Dennis Roper). He is an aristocrat with horribly stuffy guardians who constantly remind Trelawney that some action is "out of place." Young ladies always... Young ladies never...

In an earlier century, the broken romance would have been healed by the heroine's inheriting a vast fortune so that she can ascend to royalty. Arthur Wing Pinero's plot ends in exactly the opposite way: Arthur Gower becomes an actor.

Unlike most Hilberry offerings, this one is lavishly staged in addition to having the usual slick lighting and gorgeous costuming.

Miss Markowitz — hippy, buxom, saucy, gleaming of eye, quick as any theologian to select Bible passages that suit her robust tastes — is superb enough to stand out in a cast that is uniformly excellent.

Anita Greene might have done the role as well but instead gets to frolic as the heroine who surrender their virtue selectively in three of the tales.

THE BELLY-LAUGHS come at the Bonstelle, 3424 Woodward, in the modern translation of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" — a production done in the mood of ribald piety.

You don't have to wade through a lot of "forsooth" and "ye" in this show. Translated by Nevill Coghill, the script is in complex that preserve some of the more flavorful double-entendres. The Richard Hill and John Hawkins music is rock but easy on the ears.

Costumes and settings are like something from a tapestry, and the prologue of the Wife of Bath (Beverly Markowitz) is combined with the traditional narrative to tie together four stories—the Miller's Tale, the Steward's Tale, the Merchant's Tale, and the Wife of Bath's Tale.

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Al Hamacher as the soused miller, Robert Robb as the slow-witted carpenter, Paul J. Hustoles as one of the fast-talking lovers, Robert Quigley as the kissing master on the ladder outside a lady's chamber in a scene that would be raunchy if it weren't so gut-bustingly funny...It's hard to pick a favorite.

This is Chaucer the way prim and proper English teachers never dared to try to teach it. It will be repeated Dec. 3-4 and 10-12. If word gets

MAI KAI

Shirley MacLaine
Kenneth Mars
in
"DESPERATE CHARACTERS"

Camelot

Held Over

"THE FRENCH CONNECTION"

THE SCHOOLCRAFT CHORALE and Madrigal

Sherwood

IS CELEBRATING ITS
4th ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY, DEC. 5th 2 p.m. - 10 p.m.
MONDAY, DEC. 6th 5 p.m. - 12 p.m.

A FULL COURSE DINNER
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Choice of 4 items from menu

SPECIAL NIGHTS — SPECIAL DINNER PRICE
SPECIAL PRIZES! Could anything be more special?

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SHIRLEY DARYOW (left) of Southfield, a painter, and Kathryn Irwin of Farmington, who makes Sesame Street puppets, look over some of the art work which will be sold from Dec. 3 to 12 in the Tel-Twelve Mall, Southfield. The sale of art and handicrafts is being sponsored by the Society of Originalists, which seeks to encourage excellence in arts and crafts and to assist artists and craftsmen in finding outlets for their work.

But Not Boring
Nostalgic Musical Is Relaxing

"BABES IN ARMS" by Rodgers and Hart. Staged by the Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild. See Lawrence, producer; Hal Watter, director; Neale Stahl, musical director; E. J. Shobe, choreographer.

The Press Agent: Angus Wrigley
Tommy Thompson: Helen Rahaley
Gus Field: Paul C. Miller
Valentine White: Tom Miller
Sue Ward: Robin Bruce
Seymour Fleming: Tim O'Brien
Bunny Byron: Sharon Bruce
Lee Calhoun: J. Craig Collicott
Jennifer Owen: Sue Latham
Phyllis Owen: Joan Roth
Seven Edwards: Chip Gordon
Apprentices Hamilton Aldridge, Jr., Tanya Bone, Paula Bone, Paula Davis, Mike Murphy, Roy Palas, Bonnie Shuster, Debra Harris, Cal Dringhe.

For tickets, call Mrs. E. J. O'Connell, 29639 Roberts, Livonia; Mrs. D. I. Borovik, 34948 Grove, Livonia; or Mrs. A. C. Wrigley, 23403 Fennell, Detroit.

packed house Friday evening. This was opening night for the guild's annual musical. This year it's "Babes in Arms" by Rodgers and Hart. In a uniformly good and attractive cast, the stand-outs are comedians Helen Rahaley, Sharon Bruce and J. Craig Collicott (or is it Lee Calhoun?).

The Livonian making her stage debut is Franklin High School student Robin Shaw. Maybe the reason it all comes off so well is that the guild's choice cashes in on the current nostalgia craze and provides a most relaxing evening for jaded TV viewers and tax-payers.

By BETTY MASSON

Sparked by three fine comic talents and an impressive debut by a Livonia Theatre Guild provided a fine evening's entertainment for a

ENTIRELY IRRELEVANT (and lacking the occasional moments of boredom even the most relevant themes have often produced in this viewer), the musical appeals to all ages. It was voted even better than "The Partridge Family"

Singers (college students) under Bloom will be in concert on Saturday night. Their program includes "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Randall Thompson, madrigals, spirituals, and selections from "West Side Story."

The text of Thompson's score is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. It is a dramatic work written at the time when Hitler was in power in Germany. In two parts, the first deals with the prophecy of just punishment for the wicked. The second describes the peace and solemnity of the righteous.

Madrigals by French, German, and English composers will present texts based on love, celebrations and crickets.

The Choral is a choir of select Schoolcraft students and the Madrigal Singers are members of the Choral.

from the balcony

Films listed in this guide are showing at area theaters. Check the theater listings for the specific theater and time of showings.

MAN IN THE WILDERNESS—Richard Harris, after being mauled by a bear, is left for dead and has to fight his way alone out of the Northwest Territory (GP, none).

THE CHRISTIAN LEICORICE STORY—Sports heroes and their exploitation by fans and commercialism is the theme of this movie starring Dave Bridges and Maud Adams. (GP, none).

PLAY MISTY FOR ME—A suspense thriller in which Clint Eastwood plays a disc jockey, who becomes involved with one of his listeners. (R, none).

CARNAL KNOWLEDGE—A Jules-Felifer-Mike Nichols movie about two men's lives and feelings about women. With Jack Nicholson and Candice Bergen. (R, A-4).

KOTCH—Walter Matthau plays a delightfully eccentric old man who refuses to be computerized. Jack Lemmon's first directing venture comes off extremely well. (GP, A-3).

BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS—Bearing a resemblance to Mary Poppins, Angela Lansbury plays a woman who is taking a mail-order course in witchcraft. (G, A-1).

T.R. BASKIN—Candice Bergen plays a friendly small-town girl who heads for Chicago and keeps her illusions in spite of various adventures. (GP, A-3).

SOMETHING BIG—Dean Martin plays the tenderfoot from the East who wants to pull off a big robbery in the West. (GP, A-3).

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF—The movie, based on Broadway's longest-running musical, lives up to expectations with excellent photography and singing. (G, none).

THE FRENCH CONNECTION—An exciting and violent account of the war against narcotics smuggling, based on a set of actual case histories. (R, A-4).

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY—Strictly for the mature, this story of a man pursued by a homosexual doctor and a woman is a provocative film. (R, A-4).

Amusements
Schoolcraft Party
Is For Youngsters

Tickets are still available for "The Ostrich's Christmas Party" at Schoolcraft College this weekend and next. The special film and puppet program for elementary school age children is being presented by the Masque Players of the College.

The showings are at 10 a.m., and 1 and 3 p.m., Dec. 4 and 11, in the Liberal Arts Theatre, 18600 Haggerty Rd.

"The Pied Piper of Now" is an original film by the students, and stars a Livonia youth, Bryan Dumick, in the role of a boy who meets all kinds of animals in a search for a pet for himself. The all-puppet movie, "Dragon's Bread," is a story about brotherhood.

Tickets are available at the college bookstore, at the door or by calling Dr. Lawrence Rudick at the college. They are 50 cents each.

Looking for Work
Read Observer Classifieds

LA PARISIEN GA 1-0210
GARDEN CITY
MAT WED 1 SHOW 1 P.M.
ADULTS \$1.00

ALGIERIS Drive-In GA 5-4410
WESTLAND
3 BIG COLOR HITS
#1—PETER O'TOOLE
#2—MURPHY'S LAW (GP)
#3—SEAN CONNERY
#4—THE RED TENT (GP)
#5—LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH

STATE-WAYNE WA 1-2100
WAYNE KEIR DULLES PA 1-2100
"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY" (R)
ELVIS PRESLEY
"LIVE! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS" (GP)
SAT. & SUN. MAT.
"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM"
ALL STATE \$1.00 MON. THRU FRI.

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WESTLAND GA 5-7700 WESTLAND GA 5-7700

QUO VADIS I GA 5-7700
CLINT EASTWOOD
"PLAY MISTY FOR ME" (R)

PENTHOUSE I 251-8900
From the Producer of "JOE"
"CRY UNCLE" (R)

QUO VADIS II GA 5-7700
GENE HACKMAN
"THE FRENCH CONNECTION" (R)

PENTHOUSE II 251-8900
RICHARD HARRIS
"MAN IN THE WILDERNESS" (GP)

wild a.m. 1090

... nobody listens?

IF NOBODY LISTENS, WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO KEEP CALLING US? WE'RE PRETTY WELL CONVINCED THAT THEY'RE LISTENERS, BECAUSE THEY REQUEST SONGS, WIN CONTESTS, ANSWER QUESTIONS, SOME OF THEM CALL TO COMPLAIN, WE'LL ADMIT THAT, BUT A LOT OF THEM CALL JUST TO TELL US THEY LOVE US. SO IF NOBODY LISTENS... WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

wild a.m. ... more than you expected
1090

FAIRLANE
Fairlane & Co. of Television
561-7200
Alma Arlio Paula Prentiss
"CATCH 22" (R)
plus
AB McGraw Richard Benjamin
GOODYE COLUMBUS
Kid Mat. Sat. & Sun.
"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM"
2 complete shows 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Doors Open at 12:45 p.m.
AB Seats 75¢

TERRACE
3440 Plymouth Rd.
W. of Woodward
GA 7-1200 937-1717
WED. OVER BY POPULAR DEMAND
Water Mattress, Deborah Waters

"KOTCH"
GP RATED
plus
*Marie Thomas, Allen Aka
"JENNY"
MAT. WED. 1 SHOW 1 P.M.
SPECIAL KID MAT. OPEN 12:45
SAT. AND SUN. 10:00-11:00
"THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM"
2 COMPLETE SHOWS 1 and 3 p.m.

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