

Color Me...I'm Mary Poppins!



Mary Poppins is coming to Livonia.

Will she come on the east wind? Who knows? This much is certain—she is coming to the Terrace Theatre in Livonia.

The Terrace in cooperation with The Observer and Montgomery Ward's is sponsoring a contest in honor of the famous English Nanny.

Simply color the picture accompanying this article, clip it out and mail it to Mary Poppins, The Observer, 33050 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, Michigan.

Anyone between the ages of 4 and 12 may enter.

The person who does the best job coloring the picture will receive a bike from Montgomery Ward's. Two other valuable prizes will also be awarded.

Sound easy? It is. Why don't you try today?

Art Institute To Stage Musical 'Treasure Island'

One of the world's most colorful tales of adventure and intrigue, "Treasure Island" will come to Detroit as a hoisterous new musical play. It will be presented at The Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium from April 19 through 24, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily.

The Robert Louis Stevenson classic will be presented in modern Broadway musical format. Robust songs, colorful and dramatic staging and vigorous choreography will be combined to make "Treasure Island" not merely a show for children and teenagers, but also entertaining theatrical fare for adults.

Hallmark of this new version of "Treasure Island" produced by Spoglass Productions and Richard S. Mendelsohn, is the level of its approach. There is no talking down to children; the show is professionally produced and performed by a cast of 13 singers, actors and dancers.

Although performance times are intended to attract young audiences during Easter vacation, the producers hope to interest adult theatre-goers, most-likely for the familiar tale, which has inspired the imagination of several generations.

The book is by Joseph Caruso, Jr., music by George Llanasman, and lyrics by Ralph Falco.

Plymouth Symphony Performance Lauded

By W. ALLEN SCHAFFER

The Plymouth Symphony, under the capable leadership of conductor Wayne Dunlap, has done a first service to the Plymouth Community, in its presentation of Puccini's "La Boheme" last Saturday evening in the Plymouth High School auditorium-gym. It closed its nineteenth season on an especially happy note.

When one considers the amount of rehearsal time allotted to this performance—four Monday evenings for the orchestra and one run-through with the cast (on the afternoon of the performance)—one must certainly be amazed at the quality of the performance.

Under a rather astute and scrambling first act, the members of the orchestra settled down to do some fine ensemble playing, especially with the strings in the closing sextet of Act II and generally throughout acts III and IV. The brass and woodwinds played with real professionalism and the horns were particularly outstanding. But the violin section lacked in precision and intonation and could benefitfully use some long hours of drill.

For the most part the balance between singers and orchestra was good. Mr. Dunlap's tempi were always appropriate and his beat was firm yet flexible in the necessary places. In the main, the orchestra proved itself to be a worthy ensemble, and at times produced a wonderfully rich and sweeping tone. La Boheme is as much an orchestra's opera as it is a singer's.

But opera is after all primarily the singers and the Turman Opera Players can boast

of several very fine voices. Interest in almost any opera invariably centers around "the soprano" and Saturday evening's Mimì commanded respect and admiration from her audience.

Lorine Buffington sang the delicate role with a great deal of vocal ease and beauty and moved gracefully about the stage, except for her initial entrance-bent over and clutching a shawl around the shoulders which presented more a picture of an arthritic old lady than a consumptive and dying woman. When she got to her first act aria and thereafter (especially in her duet with Marcello in Act III) she seemed more the ideal Mimì, singing and acting in character. Her death in the final act was beautifully underplayed but still touching and, for many, gripping.

Eric Davis, at least in this performance, was a less than adequate Rodolfo. Reports were that he was under severe strain of a cold, and his singing ability could not be judged by his sound, which was nasal and small. His acting was wooden and lackluster, and he created no character with which the audience could sympathize.

Lucille Sullman's Musetta was expertly sung and acted. She was appropriately amusing and brassy in the second act but tender and sympathetic in the final scene. Theodore Lamberton sang the role of Marcello with ease and his acting was commendable.

In the minor role of Colline a very real talent was present in the person of Franklyn Summers. His is a large and resonant bass voice, but slightly covered. It commands respect and matches his power on the

stage as an actor. His movements were light and agile and his stage presence was outstanding. His little aria in the last act, sung in tender farewell to his overcoat, was moving.

In general, the performance was interesting and enjoyable. The fine English translation (Martin?) came across very

well, and was unobtrusive. The ensemble sound of the group was very thrilling at times and the voices were well matched. Bravo to the Turman Players and especially to Wayne Dunlap, his firm control held the performance together and kept it moving along briskly. The credit for success rests squarely upon his shoulders.

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'Little Foxes' Cast Announced

Kaye Britton will star as Regina, the sultry, vicious and ruthless heroine who pits brother against brother and drives her husband into the grave in the harrowing tragedy, "The Little Foxes," which The Farmington Players is presenting at the Barron Theatre for five performances beginning May 7.

Appearing as her brother, the other two "foxes" who connive evilly to gain wealth at the price of destruction of the Hubbard family are Don Craig as Ben and Stuart Orman as Oscar.

Stuart Orman will appear in the role of Horace, Regina's invalid husband who ultimately is killed. Norm Hosking and Caroline Stinson play, respectively, Len, Oscar's weak and villainous son and Alexandra, Billie's daughter. The pitiful and tortured Billie, wife of Oscar, will be portrayed by Mary Ann Perry.

Also appearing are Ted Budgen as Marshall, the Chicago industrialist.

Deborah Foxes in Double Trouble

You can't call it funny, because it was an accident. It was most unusual that last week two young ladies, Deborah Fox of Edgemoor in Farmington and Deborah Fox of Cass in Livonia, were both admitted as accident victims to St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Both of their fathers names are Willard — and each has a sister named Patricia. Both fathers earn their livelihood as supervisors.

Both Deborahs suffered lacerations on the face as a result of their car accidents.

Deborah of Farmington is 15 and Deborah of Livonia is 15. Oh yes, they both ended up in room 516 at St. Mary Hospital. Nurses report they were most compatible, and charming young ladies.

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State Highway Department Examines Use of Mirrors

LANSING—The State Highway and Conservation Departments are experimenting with mirrors in an effort to keep deer off highways to reduce car-deer accidents.

For a long time, game experts have known that a little light reflected into a deer's eyes makes him stand still.

The Highway Department will install mirrors on posts along an eight-mile section of US-27 between Jackson and Mason and on two miles of I-94 Business Loop at Bittle Creek.

The US-27 location was chosen because of its high deer-vehicle accident record—42 since 1960—and the Battle Creek highway because of its proximity to the Fort Custer Military Reservation, which has the highest concentration of deer anywhere in Michigan.

Last year, more deer were killed on Jackson County highways than on the entire Upper Peninsula highway network.

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