

MSU Players Production of 'Taming of The Shrew' Visits Area Tomorrow

Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" will be staged by the Michigan State University's Performing Arts Company at the Franklin High School Auditorium on Jan. 14.

Presented by the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford, two performances of the production are slated, one a matinee at 2:45 p.m. and an evening show at 8 p.m.

"The Taming of the Shrew" is one of Shakespeare's most robust comedies. It tells of the madcap Petruchio, played by Freddie De Santa and the various trickeries and techniques he uses to try to tame the untamed shrew, Katharine, portrayed by Chilton Cunningham.

Meeting their first explosive Petruchio subjects at the hands of Lucentio, played by Terry Williams, and Hortensio, portrayed by Vance Paul to win Katharine's demure sister, Bianca, played by Catherine Mann.

This popular play by Shakespeare is the main plot source for the musical "Kiss Me Kate." Dealing with a popular theme, that of a man's attempts to control his woman, audiences are greatly entertained by the antics to outwit Katharine in "The Taming of the Shrew."

Tickets, which are priced at \$1.50 and 75 cents for students, may be obtained by calling GA 2-4921.

CURTAIN GOING UP

By WALLY ROBERTS

In August, 1606, at the Hampton Court Palace of King James I of England the first performance of "Macbeth" was presented. Will Shakespeare wrote the play for England's Scottish king. King James had come to England after the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1603.

Many scholars believe the play was finished in haste since King James upped the opening on Bill by a couple of weeks. The young Bard ordered extra candles and goos to finish the drama in time.

Will Shakespeare knew that King James loved action and wasn't too long on philosophy. It was rumored that, when the actor playing his honor, the King, would settle back and take 40 in his regal chair. King James also had an aversion for long and over-elaborate language. Knowing all this, Bill fashioned "Macbeth" to move rapidly and have plenty of action.

Three hundred and sixty years later the Hillberry Classic Theatre produced their version of "Macbeth." Director Richard Spears added some new touches to this King James thriller for modern day Detroit audiences. Spectacular, colorful, beautiful incident music, and wonderful costumes gave sweep and grandeur to this spirited Shakespearian version.

"Macbeth" can be a most difficult play to produce because of the dichotomous nature of this ill-fated soldier. Is Macbeth a poet or is he a villain? He must be a warrior capable of killing Duncan and his servants. At the same time he must be a sensitive, imaginative man. His speeches are pure poetry. Some of the best that Shakespeare ever gave his characters.

In the Hillberry production that will be playing in the next six months the character of Macbeth as played by Alexander Pansa is not yet clearly defined. With a week or two under his actor's belt, Pansa will give us a more bold portrayal. Old Wally prefers the warrior approach. Of course, Mr. Pansa is a somewhat slight individual. He may have to go the poet's route.

The Hillberry "Macbeth" production will be joined rancorously by "Taming of the Shrew" this week. The two plays will alternate until a third production opens in two weeks. I use the term "rancorously" advisedly since Director Leone has warned everyone that his actors will make their first scene entrance on shiny red roaring motorcycles. "The Shrew" lends itself well to modern dress versions. We are looking forward to this motorized version as wheeled in by the Classic troupe.

Taking a closer look at the opening production of "Macbeth," you will be treated to some excellent acting. K. Lyne

David Rubinoff will play his famous Stradivarius violin at Botsford Inn this Friday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. His appearance is sponsored by the Kiwanis as a prelude to an evening performance in the Farmington Junior High School. Proceeds for the concert will be used for Kiwanis community services.

William Hezlep, David Menzies and Marshall Gordon, and John Criner give outstanding performances. Criner has three roles in the production and disposes of them with professional polish. Of course, Mr. Criner was not the only member of the company performing in a dual capacity. With the exception of the two lead roles everyone was quite busy changing make-up, costumes, and props for their other roles.

The appearances in "Macbeth" either plague a director of this tragedy or they delight him. Director Spears falls in the latter group. His concept of these supernatural events verged on the spectacular all evening. The cauldron is a steaming Mount Vesuvius. Banquo's Ghost drips with gore, and the original three witches are added and abetted by three symbolic Goddesses of Fate. Old Wally almost believed in witchcraft after being subjected to this demonic sight.

Not all was good in the opening production of "Macbeth." I would like to see Gertrude Crispin make more of an effort to feel my blood. At no time did I feel she was the evil, the brow with the hair of Macbeth. It was her ambition and driving desire that drives Macbeth to his doom. Miss Crispin has not yet made up her mind as to what direction her characterization should go.

Breaking the play into three parts has always irritated me. Stratford did this a few years ago when Christopher Plummer did the role. "Macbeth" is one of Shakespeare's shortest plays and to have two intermissions spoils the onrush of the action. My only plea would be to combine Act I and Act II. A small request for a production that offers the visitor to the Classic theatre a great number of surprises. I do want to plan to attend all the plays at the Classic theatre. They are well worth your attention.

Busy Schedule Faces David Rubinoff Friday

David Rubinoff, world famous violin virtuoso, will spend the day of Jan. 15 in Farmington. At 8:15 a.m. he will present a concert at the Farmington Junior High School. From there he will go to the Farmington Junior High School for a 9:30 a.m. performance.

A 10:30 appearance is scheduled for him at the East Junior High School.

After a luncheon with local Kiwanis and civic officers, he will appear at Our Lady of Sorrows High School at 12:45 p.m. From there he will go to the North Farmington High School for an assembly concert at 2:30 p.m.

At 7:30 Rubinoff will be honored by a Kiwanis reception at the Botsford Inn. At 8:15, he will present an evening concert at the Farmington Junior High School on Thomas Street.

Tickets for the evening concert will be available at the door. Proceeds from this concert will be used for Kiwanis community services.

During his day in Farmington Rubinoff will perform before more than 5,000 students.

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Pops Concert A Success

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestra opened its season with the third annual pops concert last weekend.

They played to a capacity house at Franklin High School. In fact, the audience was so large that the folding partitions were opened into the cafeteria to accommodate all the people.

Featured on the program was the Bentley High School Concert Choir under the direction of Jerry Smith.

Les Parkas is conductor of the Orchestra.

Following the symphony concert was served to the people at the third annual pops concert last weekend.

Mrs. R. Carney was in charge of this project and Mrs. R. L. Shirley and Mrs. J. Taylor poured.

Proceeds from the concert went to the Orchestra's general operating fund.

The Billboard

Fisher Theater - "DEAR MR. TOMEY IS FALLING." Last four days to see "Molly Goldberg" career comedian in a delightful show. Tickets on Sunday to make room for "THE SHADES" opening on Jan. 18.

Outback Theater - "CATCH A TRAIN" Broadway musical on view for the first time in the area. This off-Broadway drama continues to pack them in at the Hotel Windsor Theatre. Tickets are at \$1.50 per seat.

Marque Theater - "CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF" This Tennessee Williams drama continues to pack them in at the Hotel Windsor Theatre. Tickets are at \$1.50 per seat.

Jeffrey - "OVER THE TOP" Musical revue shown every night in the newest show. Musical performers are at a kid's in every evening.

Franklin High School Auditorium - "TAMING OF THE SHREW" Traveling troupe of Michigan State University Players will be giving their version of the Bard's fine show. Tickets on Sunday to make room for "THE SHADES" opening on Jan. 18.

Bill Auditorium - "THE SHADES" Broadway production coming into area for a one night stand on Jan. 20. Get your tickets now.

Fairway Farms Civic Association Slates Dance

The first annual Fairway Farms Civic Association Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, Jan. 23, at Roma Hall from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The menu will include roast beef, chicken, spaghetti, ravioli, meat balls, potato salad, tossed salad, and pizza. It will be buffet style, all you can eat. Refreshments will be available.

The music will be furnished by Tom Linderfeller and his trio. The cost is \$10 per couple. Everyone is welcome. For tickets or further information please contact Mary Lambert at 427-0651.

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