

See Detroit: Special Tour

Do you want to know your neighbors in this cosmopolitan community? The International Institute is starting a new series of visits to churches, temples and cultural centers of the many different ethnic groups which enrich the Detroit culture.

The Albanian Islamic Mosque at 1975 Harper, Harper Woods, will be the first stop on this tour. On Sunday, March 7, a group

will travel from the Institute, 111 East Kirby, enjoy a typical Albanian meal, and learn much about this religion and its background.

Transportation will be provided from the International Institute and return for those who prefer. Others will be driving their own cars.

Reservations must be made in advance no later than Wednesday, March 3. Dinner cost is \$3.25, or \$4.25 including transportation.

First scholastic requirements for athletes at Central Michigan University were set down in 1906 with an M+ average (equal to today's C+), necessary to participate.

COMING SOON POOLARAMA IN LIVONIA

NOW SHOWING

James Stewart in Dear Brigitte

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SATURDAY MATINEE, FEB. 27

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STARTING WED., MARCH 3

COLUMBIA PICTURES presents JERRY BRISLER production

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Livonia Thespian Gains Danny Thomas as Agent

At 42 years old is a Hollywood life about to begin for Arthur "Ace" Azar, 30018 West Chicago, Livonia?

"Ace" Azar has for the past twenty years been serving his apprenticeship for such a Hollywood break. His many community theater roles in musical comedy, straight drama, and hilarious melodrama have proven the versatility of this local thespian. Every performance as done by Ace was as professional and polished as any seen on the Hollywood screen.

Last week Ace jetted out to see his second cousin Danny Thomas. Years ago Danny Thomas lived with the Azar family. Ace's dad treated him as one of the family while Danny Thomas was getting his start in show business. Showing Danny Thomas all his clippings from the many show business productions convinced the producer of such TV favorites as "Gomer Pyle" and "The Joey Bishop Show" that his long-lost Detroit cousin should have a few doors opened. Ace and Danny spent the better part of a day together reminiscing and planning his new career.

When Ace asked who he should contact in Hollywood

for his agent, Danny countered with "Ace, let me handle you." That better agent could any person have!

Danny Thomas invited Ace to have lunch with Meridith Wilson and Dick Van Dyke at \$800 a week. Others filed a pilot TV program and the sponsors have rejected it. The truth is that Ace is waiting by the telephone for Danny to call him back. In an exclusive interview with the Observer Azar has indicated that no action will be taken on his new Hollywood career until the end of May. Right now all the TV films have finished for this season and will not start operation until the middle of May.

TIP TO MOTORISTS Don't expect the government to reduce highway traffic accidents—it's up to you.

Presented by the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford

The French Comedy "GIGI"

Friday, Feb. 26 - Saturday, Feb. 27

At Redford Union Auditorium, Kinloch at Curtis (North of Six Mile). Tickets at door. Donation \$1.50

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DASHING AND GALLANT most aptly describes Earl Harrison, who portrays Gaston in the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford production of "GIGI." Above he greets Madame Alvarez (portrayed by Louise Martin) in the continental manner. The comedy will be presented at the Redford Union Auditorium this weekend. Tickets may be obtained at Dunn's Pharmacy or by calling 422-8339 or KE 7-8109.

CURTAIN GOING UP

By WALLY ROBERTS

Three hundred years ago (1665) the first English newspaper, The London Gazette, appeared and the newspaper industry began. In 1833, The New York Sun as the first paper to be sold for one penny opened the way for mass circulation of newspapers.

All these communication events of importance may well be pushed into the background for the true star or top performer want to appear on stage until Feb. 28, 1949. The Livonian took center stage on that auspicious date and has held the rank of number one attraction in this area ever since.

Old Wally has been associated with the Observer chain for the past nine years. Over 400 columns and thousands of plays have been reviewed. On this silver anniversary date 1 am looking forward to sharing the golden anniversary of a newspaper that reflects the heartbeat of Western Wayne county.

A couple of weeks ago Old Wally attended the premiere of "Oedipus Rex" and "The Ridiculous Young Ladies," a double bill at the Hilberry Classic Theater. Space was at a premium — as it always is — and so we are catching up now.

Does modern man have to accept the vengefulness of nature of an unjust God? Do we bow our hapless heads and submit unwillingly to all catastrophes merely mumbling that this must be the will of God?

Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" as presented at the Hilberry Classic Theater poses these questions and answers them decisively and dramatically.

King Oedipus became involved in a sorry state of affairs before the play gets to the mid-way point. In fact, as the show opens we find the city in great disorder with the gods — a famine and plague has descended on Thebes.

"Oedipus" has been rated as one of the greatest of all Greek tragedies. As such most directors approach its revival with a sense of awe and reverence. Director Richard Spear is to be commended for his sensitive handling of so noble work through his theatrical heritage.

His movement patterns for the chorus add new vitality and meaning to a usually staid, immobile group of actors.

The staging of "Oedipus" was brilliant and rose to a crashing crescendo as the blinded King is led off at the finale. Old Wally could carp at only one minor point: the length of the piece. The total impact might have been more forcefully and more effectively made out in an hour's playing time, especially since another play was on the program.

James Barton Hill does a superb job as King Oedipus. His final scene with two of his children touches you and you truly feel the smallest of man as he tries to rise against the inexorable push of divine forces. K. Lyle O'Dell's short messenger scene has a masterful touch. It's a short, taut bit of powerful exposition.

The second half of the bill contains "The Ridiculous Young Ladies" which represents the Golden Age of France in the Hilberry Classic Theater's design to present dramas from all the great periods of the world's theater. Moliere wrote this long one-act play in 1659 and took fun at the absurd artificiality and the extent to which folks would go to gain social status. Three hundred years later most of Moliere's sly digs are as penetrating.

The Classic theater repertory company favors grandly doing its lightest bit of satire fluff. Too often

RU Students Cast and Direct Own Production of Comedy

Student members of Redford Union High School's players group, The Thespians, proved their ability beyond the shadow of a doubt this past week, when they presented the one-act comedy, "They Put on a Play," as the first part of the Thespian Family "A Grand Night of Comedy."

Under the direction of senior Judy Littleton, and with Russ Neel as assistant director, the students cast, rehearsed, and presented their very successful comedy. Capacity audiences filled the RU auditorium both Thursday and Saturday evenings to see the student production and the faculty melodrama which followed.

Performing in the student production were Lydia Crichton, Skip Kruse, Mandy Northrup, Kathy McCurry, Terri Sue Crabtree, Larry Blum, Diane Sucharski, Don Scarborough, Tim Kelly, and Pete Yori.

Mr. Robert Gregory, RU dramatics coach and sponsor of the Thespians, wasn't even able to witness the success of his students—he was "on stage" as one of the actors in the Dearborn Players production of "You Can't Take It With You" during the past week!

Wayne State University is leading eight other Presidents' Athletic Conference schools in the All-Sports trophy race with 18 points. Bethany and Eastern Michigan are second with 15.

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