MEET CAT BALLOU and her train-robbin' mob of amateurs. She's Jane Fonda in the title role of this comic, wild and wacky western. Starred with Jane are Dwayne Hickman, Michael Callan and Lee Marvin. Also appearing are Nat King Cole and Stubby Kay. The film starts Sept. 15 at the Terrace Theatre in Livonia.

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Classified Ads Bring Results

Wally Roberts GOING UP 'CURTAIN'

The 1965-66 community theater season is about to enter "stage left." Most of the community theaters in the area share two common problems. Number One: The theatrical groups in the area are literally too small. Number Two: Theater groups in the Observer circulation area need a definite home.

Examining these two problems is a semi-annual affair for old Wally. You might wonder, why bother, but to leave the problems untouched is another way of saying that the situation is wonderful. Who knows one of these days some bright, hard-working group of people may roll up their sleeves and do something constructive about the perplexing problem.

The Farmington Players, of course, are the only group that do not have the second of our two problems. They have an excellent home. Their theater is not the largest but it is away from academic, stifling air of the educational multipurpose room. You can actually smoke in the Farmington Barn Clubhouse and not worry about a janitor going into the principal in the morning to report the presence of a frayed butt cluttering up the gymnasium or desecrating the auditorium.

I'm sure all groups would be happy to double their present membership. Too often you hear the old complaint, "the same people get stuck with those same jobs." Little theater groups have always been tiny bands of dedicated, eager folk. For some reason or other, membership never mounts.

How do you build membership in a dramatic organization?

The Livonia and Plymouth branches of thespic activity thought they had the answer when they scheduled four and five plays, scads of meetings with fine, instructive programs, and elaborate parties. Membership declined. Elections for officers degenerated until it was hardly any honor to be President or Treasurer. In fact, most of the time the voting is so slight that a handful of people can change the results. So great amounts of activity seems not to be the answer.

Nankin Mills has reduced their yearly production schedule to almost one show. In fact, they have been squeezed out of the public school auditoriums for the coming year. You can't blame the public school officials for such a move. Their first responsibility is to book school productions.

Perhaps the homeless Nankin Mills group points up the dire need of local community groups to get busy and consolidate their activities. Rumor has it that the Nankin Mills thespians may end up using the Farmington Barn Theater on Twelve Mile Road. It's a long way from Nankin Township to the Farmington Barn Theater, but still it might start the ball rolling in the direction that old Wally has been pushing for lo these many years.

Let's hold a meeting of the Livonia Players Guild, the Farmington Players, the Nankin Mills, and the Plymouth Theater Guild executive officers in the Farmington Barn Theater. This theater location is presently the number one physical plant in the area for the production of dramas and comedies.

With the help and assistance of the other groups a larger building would be possible to build in the near future. The Farmington Players have indicated that their days on Twelve Mile Road are numbered. Their lease on the property has only a year or two to go before it expires.

It might be conceivable to move the present Barn Theater to a new location, add on to the existing building, provide storage rooms and a newly enlarged clubroom. The support of these other organizations, spiritually and materialistically, could catapult this project out of the dream stage.

One good community theater operating the year-round (naturally, the new building would be air-conditioned) makes more sense than these pale imitations presently making big sounds to ward off the specter of dwindling audiences and meandering memberships. It's time for the "little" theater movement to hitch up its belt and think cooperatively.

In all of Wayne County there is only one community theater group that does have their own clubhouse and theater. The Dearborn Players Guild Playhouse located at Madison and Monroe in Oryie's town is a shining example of what can be done if citizens get busy and work together.

Our thespians might do well to visit the Dearborn Playhouse or contact Harry Arnott, current president of the group, for consultant service on such a problem. Arnott is the Editor of the Dearborn Press and would welcome such a call.

Fisher Theater — "SKYSCRAPER." Julie Harris tries out her singing and dancing talents in this Broadway bound musical. Will play here for four weeks. Opens on Monday, Sept. 13.

Northland Playhouse — "WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLFE." Powerful drama by Edward Albee. Don't take Aunt Mabel to this show if she has little or no feeling for strong language. It's a rought, but the underlying message packs a powerful message. Opened on Sept. 7 and will stay till Sept. 12.

Variety Theater — "A STRANGER KNOCKS." Controversial film from Denmark re-opens the former Surf Theater. Mr. Al Dexel decided to re-christen this Detroit home of the foreign films. To live up to its new name, a variety of films from all over the world will be shown the new VARIETY theater located at 12615 Fenkell Ave. Drop over some evening. Al informs they serve coffee in their redecorated lounge. And it's "on the house"!

Orchestra Begins Rehearsals

The Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Junior Orchestra of Livonia will begin rehearsals for the 1965-66 concert season on Saturday, Sept. 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bentley High School in Livonia.

Talented young people of high school and junior high age who are interested in becoming a member of these orchestras can audition from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Sept. 11 and 18 at the Bentley High School.

There are a limited number of openings in both groups. Further information regarding the auditions may be obtained by calling Mrs. H. Redinger at GA 1-8236, Mr. L. Farkas at PA 1-8817, or Mr. R. Randall at GA 5-7165.

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TABOOS OF THE WORLD
with commentary by VINCENT PRICE
NEXT WEEK: "CAT BALLOU" plus "GENGHIS KHAN"

SOPHIA LOREN and Marcello Mastroianni star in the drama "Marriage-Italian Style" currently showing at the P&A Theatre in Plymouth. The Embassy Pictures release was filmed on location in Naples and Rome and was directed by Vittorio De Sica and produced by Carlo Ponti, with Joseph E. Levine as executive producer.

'Shenandoah' Is A Family Film

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

"Shenandoah" which rolled into the area last week with the mighty boom of cannons is billed as "family entertainment."

For once Hollywood is correct in assigning a label.

It's family entertainment—sentimental enough for grandma; lots of battle scenes for the kids; and not really strong or powerful enough to offend anyone.

Actually the film isn't as bad as some and James Stewart does a credible job as the well-meaning Father of the large Anderson brood.

Set in Virginia during the Civil War the film is unsatisfying from a dramatic point of view, however.

Example—the young slave, Gabriel, learns that he is now free. Off he goes down the road (to the tune of John Brown's Body no less) for some undetermined destination. Bons later he appears on the battlefield, in the uniform of a Union soldier (green?) to save his boyhood chum and playmate, the youngest of the Andersons.

Example Two — The above mentioned scene closes with young Squire Anderson laying in the bushes—far south of the old homestead—nursing a gunshot wound in the leg. Much, much later (the closing scene in fact) he hobbles into the local church service to rejoin the remnants of his family. Nothing is seen of him during the time lapse.

Maybe this is logical?

Why does family entertainment out of Hollywood so often insult one's intelligence? Certainly it is possible to film a moral film with a story that would provide entertainment and enjoyment for all age levels.

It has been done. Two examples that come readily to mind are "Mary Poppins" and "The Glen Miller Story."

Oh I know one of the aforementioned is a true story. The other certainly isn't.

However, as was stated earlier the film in question certainly isn't the worse thing (family entertainment or otherwise) to come down the pike.

If you like James Stewart (and I do) you can't really be too disappointed because he dominates the film.

Albee's Play Closes Season

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe?", Edward Albee's emotion-packed comedy-drama about two couples in a dusk-to-dawn, no-holds-barred binge, rings down the curtain on Northland Playhouse's tenth season.

The play, which will run to Sunday, Sept. 12, stars volatile stage, screen and TV actress Shelley Winters.

"Virginia Woolf" is the terrifying but also very funny play that ran for 19 months in New York, from the fall of 1962 to the spring of 1964, and won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award as the best play of the 1962-63 season.

Miss Winters and William Gibberson play a college professor and his discontented wife who are locked in a vicious marital infighting, whose tireless zest for trading wounding insults and indignities is revealed in a drinking party in the book-lined living room of their home on a small New England college campus.

Because of the rigorous demands imposed by the roles in the drama, which required two sets of actors on Broadway, one for matinee and another for evenings performances, the Saturday (Sept. 11) 6 p.m. show has been advanced to 2:30 p.m., Northland Producer Kenneth E. Schwartz has announced.

This will allow the cast sufficient rest before the Saturday 9:30 p.m. performance, Schwartz explained. Other performance times, nightly at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., remain unchanged.

Art Club Plans Demonstrations

Demonstrations of art and craft techniques will highlight the Three-Cities Art Club exhibit Sunday at the annual Fall Festival.

Linda Kate Edgerton will demonstrate spindle spinning and her mother Kate, will card and spin; Edna Herig, who works with tissue paper collage, will show her methods of working with this popular medium.

Wood and lino cut printing will be displayed by Ann Gentry and Jessie Hudson and Roy Peterson will show how to throw pots on a wheel.

The display will include the annual exhibit of ceramics and paintings of the artist members of the club. The exhibit will be from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday in Kellogg Park.

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U of D Theater Announces Plays

A trio of comedies and a prize-winning drama are scheduled for production during the 1965-66 season at the University of Detroit Theatre on the McNichols Road campus.

The hit Off-Broadway play "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad," by Arthur Kopit opens the season Oct. 8 followed Nov. 19 by "Tiger at the Gates" by Jean Giraudoux.

The two productions slated for the Spring semester are Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" Feb. 4 and "Servant of Two Masters" by Carlos Goldni March 18.

All four plays will be presented Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings for three weekends. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. in the University Theatre on the third floor of the U of D.

"Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad" won the Vernon Rice Award for Off-Broadway Theatre. The comedy was unanimously acclaimed by New York critics.

"Tiger at the Gates," a powerful drama of the Trojan War, has won numerous awards including the Critic's Circle Award as the best foreign play of the year.

Something of a modern classic, Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" relates the extraordinary adventures of an indestructible family which survives a thousand calamities.

The final presentation of the year, "Servant of Two Masters," is a zany Italian comedy of masks. The 18th century classic is being presented in English translation by Edward J. Dent.

For further information on the University of Detroit Theatre season call 342-1000, Ext. 207.

Casting Call

The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford will present "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off," the exciting Anthony Newley-Leslie Bricusse musical in the fall.

This will be the first community theater production of the show in the Detroit area. "What Kind of Fool am I" and "Gonna Build a Mountain" are among the many great songs from the award-winning musical score. There are roles for male and female singers and dancers and one male juvenile.

Open auditions will be held at the Newburgh Church Hall at Newburgh Road and Ann Arbor Trail Sunday, Sept. 12, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept. 14, and Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 8 p.m. For further information, Call GA 7-8073 or GA 5-3796 after 6 p.m.

Bridge Winners Announced

Ann and Paul Van Rokel are the La Paloma Bridge champions. They were the over all winners in the open pairs club championship game. Second place winners were Dr. Erich Nastl and Edd Putt. Dorothy Kelley and Fran Batur placed third. Other winners were Ernest Guy and Dr. Charles Patrick and Clyde and Janet Bone.

Regular weekly games are held at 5330 Middlebelt, Nankin Township, at 6 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Friday.

Ends Boot Training

Marine Pvt. William D. Babich, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Babich, 15604 Foch Ave., Livonia, has been graduated from Marine recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego, Calif.

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