EMU Schedules Day Long Meet on Children's Theatre

"Theatre: Child's Play" will be the theme of a children's theater conference workshop to be held on the Eastern Michigan University campus Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26. This is the first time the conference has been held at Eastern. Co-sponsors of the workshop are the drama department and the department of special education.

Representatives from Region 9 of the Children's Theater Conference, a division of the American Educational Theatre Association, will come from Ohio, Indiana, western Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Viola Spolin, guest artist, will introduce and illustrate the theme through two workshops which she will conduct in Quirk Theatre at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday. Both workshops will concern theatre games.

Dance is another activity which exemplifies the theme, "Theatre: Child's Play." Mrs. Jeanne Bostian, visiting lecturer in dance at EMU, will present a dance drama entitled "A Dance Is Something You Like to Do." Danced by Eastern students and choreographed by Mrs. Bostian, the performance will be given at 8 p.m. Friday in Warner Gymnasium.

Two formal theatre productions complete the program Saturday and offer further examples for extending the imaginative experience of children. At 10 a.m. the conference participants will attend a performance of "Pierre Pathelin" presented by the University of Michigan Children's Theatre at Trueblood Auditorium, Frieze Building in Ann Arbor. This original musical version of the French farce is directed by Margaret McKerrow, assistant professor in the U-M speech department. The play was adapted from the French by Michael Harrah, the book written by Miss McKerrow and Harrah, the music composed by Roger Wertenberger with lyrics by Harrah.

Advance registration must be made by mail by March 18 with the Director of University Conferences, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich. Only by pre-registration can places be assured for the Spolin workshops.

ONE OF THESE ladies could be the winner of a new Easter Outfit at the Terrace Theatre. Entering the contest are: (from left) Dorothy Archer of Plymouth and Mrs. James D. Wilson of Livonia. Contest winners will be announced at the lobby of the Theatre in Livonia March 29 at 8 p.m.

AT CLASSIC

'Skin' Is a Classic Smash

By WALLY ROBERTS

Thornton Wilder's "Skin of Our Teeth" already seen at Mercy College and University of Detroit slipped and slid successfully into the wide-open spaces of the Hilberry Classic Theater. Dancing mammoths, sobbing women in the audience, and a burlesque of singing telegrams to end all singing telegrams were wild touches that made this latest version of "Skin" even wilder than Wilder might have ever imagined.

Director Richard Spear chalks up a perfect record with this second hit of the current Classic Season. Four out of the five plays now in repertory are solid successes. Capacity audiences attest to the highly polished third season of the Hilberry Classic season.

The only discouraging note all evening comes when the second act bogs down slightly. Pat Criner's interpretation of the Fortune Teller lacks depth and meaning. Helen Scarlett's Sabiana in Act I and III is close to perfection, but Act II demands a sensual quality which was not projected. Her Act II costume did little to suggest a smouldering sex-pot.

Such a slight dip in excellence of "Skin's" fascinating display of pyrotechnical histrionics is easily forgiven. There's too much to admire so Old Wally wisely hid his critical scalpel.

Stephanie Haynes Patton gives a regal polished air to the Mrs. Antrobus role. Her magnificent playing of Everywoman is perfection itself. Ben Andrews as Henry packs the perfect emotional punch into everyone of his speeches. Marilyn Petroff's Gladys was superbly done. K. Lype O'Dell's Mr. Antrobus had depth and power. O'Dell's beard bothered me to the point that I had an urge all evening to whisk out a razor and do the Barber of Seville bit.

The entire Classic Repertory Company once again proved that ensemble playing is possible. Their coordination and cooperation was especially evident in the many crowd scenes that dot the landscape of this merry, satirical comic comment on life.

Wally Roberts

'CURTAIN UP' GOING

While the University of Detroit's bubbly, bouncy production of Goldini's "Servant of Two Masters" frolicked its way through three hilarious acts, my thoughts kept shifting occasionally to the thought: "how many masters can a person truly serve?"

Such philosophic pauses in the midst of all the zany, cuckoo concoctions so brilliantly staged by the able U of D actors and their accomplished director, James Rodgers is, indeed, quite unique. Perhaps it was the recent and abrupt removal by Vatican officials of Sister Marie Bernadette from the leading role of U of D's perfectly delightful Italian comic romp.

Having your administrative hands slapped at the zero hour (four days prior to opening) is not a pleasant sensation. Yet Emily Haggerty, who frantically replaced Sister in three days, gave a grand performance. You would never have suspected the agonizing hours of tense, frantic rehearsals by her calm, superb stage presence.

The entire U of D production is a compliment to their professional ability to meet a crisis and open the show without a flaw. The audience warms up quickly to the play and takes it to their hearts.

Dominic Missimi as the comic servant, cavorted, posed, and tickled the audience's funny-bone so expertly that the ancient Italian art of comedia del arte lived once again within the stifling confines of the tiny U of D theater. Perry Mallette and Annette Ciarmitaro added to the evening's gaiety.

With names like "Missimi, Mallette and Ciarmitaro" how could Director Rodgers go wrong with this revival of Italian comedy? Somewhere in sunny Italy the ancestors of these talented actors must be chortling pleasantly as they nod their approval.

The fast-paced direction was given additional push by the clever painted drops created by Albert Ronke. Scene shifts were instantaneous, as the colorful drops swung in from either stage right or left. An inventive and a perfectly fabulous solution for a multi-scene show.

The opulent wardrobe exhibited in this play fairly makes your eyes pop out. Nancy Dudka and Betty Warner have not spared their needle and thread budget for this production. Each costume blends well with the scenery and is a real joy to behold.

Let's not forget the choreography by Kaye Albert. The bits of dance that are interspersed give the over-all production a real lift. You catch the zest and bounce of life through her choreographic touches.

Well, it's too bad that Sister Marie could not have been out front to enjoy the adulation of the audience. For this production was truly great.

"Servant of Two Masters" is an uptempo, upheat, go-go show all the way and deserves your patronage.

Call DI 2-1000 for ticket information as the play is being repeated weekends through April 3.

DROPPED BY parachute into their native Norway, Richard Harris, left, and Kirk Douglas set out on skis in one of the most important sabotage acts of World War II, the setting for "The Heroes of Telemark." The film is currently showing at the P&A Theatre in Plymouth and Dearborn Drive-In.

Festival Slates Opening Fri.

The Kendallwood Kiwanians in Farmington Township hope to pack the house at their upcoming annual "Festival of Music" according to Publicity Chairman Bill Patterson.

Curtain time for the Festival is 8 p.m. March 26 at North Farmington High School.

This year's program includes one repeat from last year's show: the Kendallarks. One other adult group. The Showstoppers, will also be featured.

Groups from the Farmington Schools participating are: The Farmington High School Stage Band; the North Farmington High School Concert Band; The Farmington Junior High School Mixed Ensemble; and the Strengendos.

Bob Kull, president of the club, explained that the Festival has a dual purpose. The first is to provide an opportunity for young musical talent to demonstrate their abilities and secondly to raise funds for the Kiwanis youth projects in the community.

007 Outdoors

The General Cinema Corporation has announced that the Dearborn and Westside Drive-Ins will present the exclusive drive-in showing of the James Bond thriller "Thunderball" beginning April 6 for the Easter holiday.

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