

Observer
AMUSEMENTS
 MOVIES—DRAMA—RESTAURANTS
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Local Pupils Study Music

Local students are among the 126 from 52 Michigan communities who attended Eastern Michigan University's 14th annual summer session for high school musicians last week.

Participants included: Cheryl Westdale of 28845 E. Windemere, Farmington; and Rick Morrison of 1720 Silabier, Westland. Those from Plymouth were: Sharon Broussard, 1085 Fairground, Charlie Reinsewaber, 1199 Sheldon and Ann Wahmeyer, 1478 Maple.

Public performances by the students during the session included two concerts and two recitals. In addition to performing in their chosen fields and attending music theory classes, the students participated in a recreational program which included swimming and tennis.

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Karl Haas To Lead Seminar

World-renowned lecturer-recitalist Karl Haas will preview the music to be presented at the Meadow Brook Festival at Oakland University this summer in a program of eight sessions. The "Music Alive" series began June 29 and will be held on successive Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the new Matilda R. Wilson Hall on the University campus.

In addition to focusing attention on the particular program, Haas will present each week at the Meadow Brook Festival. Haas will emphasize the political, social, economic and cultural climate which influenced the specific compositions. To enhance this adventure in comparative cultural history, he will illustrate the sessions with recordings and his own "live" piano selections.

Director of Fine Arts for WJR Radio in Detroit, Karl is an internationally acclaimed authority on cultural affairs and an accomplished musician who studied under pianist Artur Schnabel in New York. He has spent a great deal of time abroad in connection with the duties under the Ford Foundation and has just returned from Europe where he conducted a special program for UNESCO. He has recently been appointed Special Consultant to The Meadow Brook Festival at Oakland University and is Chairman of the new State Council for the Arts.

For a brochure describing the series or for further information on cost and registration, please contact the Conference Department at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. It is possible to attend individual sessions if attendance at all eight sessions is not possible.

Junior Theatre Group Organized

A children's theatre group, known as the Parkway Junior Players, is under organization for the Wayne, Westland, Garden City and Livonia area. The Players will be a non-profit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

The organization will provide, under adult leadership, training and experience in the art of drama theatre and related activities.

Children will be divided into two groups. Ages six-11; dues are 75 cents per year. Ages 12-17, dues are \$1.25 per year. Anyone 18 years or older will serve as an adult coordinator and dues are \$2 per year.

The Juniors, ages six-17, will elect their own officers, who in turn will be supervised by a Senior Board member holding a like office.

Workshops will be held weekly for set construction, makeup etc. beginning in September. Further information will be given each child upon membership.

Anyone interested in membership may contact President, Joseph Rusch, GA 2-9365 or Producer-Director, Peg Knowles, 421-4800.



JAMES COBURN stars at Lt. Jody Christian, a rugged Infantry officer with an imagination that works overtime, in the World War II comedy, "What Did You Do In The War, Daddy?" Produced and directed by Blake Edwards, the United Artists release opens at the Terrace Theatre in Livonia, Wednesday, July 20.

Wally Roberts UP GOING CURTAIN

Middle of July heat can drive the hardest of us up north to the cooler breezes, the fragrant pines, and the wide-open spaces. If you do zip north or west via I-75 or I-94, let me remind you that several good summer theatres are in existence among the non-writing pines.

The Cherry County Playhouse, in downtown Traverse City features the star system or package plan with their summer line-up. Northland Playhouse in our area provides a similar service.

Julia Meade is coming to the Cherry County Playhouse starting July 19 for a week's run of that all-time favorite "Mary, Mary." This comedy about a marriage that's again-off-again is good at any time of the year. Jean Kerr wrote some classic comic lines for this witty commentary on our modern day marital woes.

Over Lake Michigan way the Red Barn summer theater in Saugatuck has been in business successfully for almost 20 years. They are doing the French farce, "Paloma Top" the week of Aug. 22. Also, you can once again catch "Catch Me If You Can" at the Red Barn on Aug. 1.

Closer to home you will want to spend "An Enchanted Evening" sometime during the week of July 26 at the air-conditioned Franklin High School Auditorium as Livonia's Summer Musical Theater presents the world-famous Rodgers-Hammerstein "South Pacific." Reserved seat tickets are now on sale at the Franklin High School (GA 5-1900) or at the special outdoor box office in the Wonderland shopping center.

"South Pacific" opens on Tuesday, July 26 for a six performance run. Special feature this year will be a Saturday matinee on July 30. All tickets have been set at the bargain price of 75 cents. If you enjoyed last year's "Music Man" production (and who didn't?) you'll want to be first in line for "South Pacific" tickets. My advice is don't delay since the Franklin High Summer productions sell out.

The Greenfield Village Players have opened their summer repertory season with "The Scarecrow" and will be adding "Shenandoah," the Civil War drama on this

Good Education, But Not Theatre

By WALLY ROBERTS
 "Oh, Zeus, King of the Gods, send us thy son, Apollo, God of Light, to curse Agamemnon. Forbid Agamemnon and Clytemnestra thine lover's bed even though Agamemnon's with Cassandra will provoke vengeance most horrendous."

This fervent plea was not written two thousand years ago by the Greek's number one playwright, Aeschylus. Old Wally assembled this bit of dialogue to give you a representative taste of the literary style in vogue at the opening of "The Oresteia" at the Ypsilanti Greek Theater on June 28.

In Cole Porter's "Kiss Me Kate" the audience was advised to "Brush Up Their Shakespeare" in a beguiling song-dance number. Similarly the main requirement for an enjoyable, understandable evening at the Greek Theater would be to return postage to your English 1 mythology book, blow the dust off, and do some preliminary reading.

"The Oresteia" is based on the myth which is centered in the house of Atreus. In case you've forgotten, Atreus and Thyestes are sons of Pelops, who murdered a dear old dad and thus the Atreus curse began.

If you are perplexed at this point, let this be a warning.

Read your mythology book before you go to the Greek Theater.

Technically, "The Oresteia" is exciting theater. Director Solomides did what he could with a Greek drama that is far too wordy and contains too little action on stage. Greek dramas are just built this way.

The Ypsilanti Greek Theater provides an excellent educational opportunity for anyone who has not had time to read this greatest of all Greek trilogies. "The Oresteia" from a strictly educational sense, rates "A Plus" on my "must see" list.

Is it theatrical? Is it good commercial theater?

Old Wally may be pursued eternally by the avenging Furies, but his verdict in true Grecian fashion is "thumbs down." The management of the Ypsilanti Greek Theater has already indicated via press releases, that they fully expect to have a first season deficit of \$400,000. "The Oresteia" will do little to change such a dire prediction.

If Judith Anderson had been given as much to do as the Chorus, it might have at least made the evening more bearable. Her infrequent moments on stage were too brief and the play as adapted for this English version gave her

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