

Oakland U. to Build Theater

Oakland University officials today announced plans for the establishment of an academy of dramatic art and a major professional theater company to be located on the Oakland campus and directed by the former head of England's famed Royal Academy of Art, John Fernald.

The announcement, made by Warren M. Huff, chairman of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees (which serves as the governing body for both MSU and Oakland), ended weeks of speculation about where Fernald planned to locate his academy and company, and instantly sent Michigan's cultural stock soaring.

Regarded as one of the world's most distinguished directors and theatrical teachers, Fernald had been sought by more than a dozen cities and educational institutions in the U.S. since resigning from the Royal Academy last December after ten years as its director. During his tenure there, he helped to shape the careers of such notable performers as Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney, Rosemarie Harris, and Tom Courtenay. Sir John Gielgud and the late Charles Laughton are among the long list of great actors and actresses who have trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

Fernald's company will be known as the John Fernald Company of the Meadow Brook Theater. It will probably stage its first production in December or January of next year. A minimum of 26 weeks of productions are planned, with approximately eight of those weeks set aside for a summer repertoire schedule.

The academy will be called the Oakland Academy of Dramatic Art, and will begin operations in the fall of 1967 with an initial enrollment of approximately 50 students, selected by competitive auditions from the most talented young actors and actresses in the country.

Speaking before the press representatives, University faculty, and more than 100 leading citizens of the Detroit area, board chairman Huff prefaced his announcement of Oakland's theatrical plans by citing statistics on America's "cultural boom" and the nation's commitment to the arts.

"Michigan is moving fast, and Oakland University is assuming a major role in the performing arts," Huff said. He pointed to the "almost unbelievable success" of Oakland's Meadow Brook Music Festival (where last week more than 30,000 persons heard Van Cliburn perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra), the expansion of Detroit's cultural center, and the establishment of a state arts council as evidence of Michigan's cultural progress.

A "blue ribbon citizen" committee of southeastern Michigan civic leaders is being formed to assist in the implementation of the theater plans. The committee will be headed by Charles F. Adams, 38, executive vice president of the MacLennans, John and Adams, Inc., advertising agency in Bloomfield Hills, and his wife, Ruth, Adams has been active in a vast variety of civic, cultural, and governmental undertakings, is the author of a best-selling book, "Common Sense in Advertising," and is currently Governor Romney-appointed chairman of a special commission on transportation for the State of Michigan.

Keith, manager of the Manufacturers' National Bank branch on Wayne Road near Cherry Hill, is also a past president of the Garden City Jaycees and three years ago won the club's Distinguished Service Award.

He is also a treasurer of the Northwestern Child Guidance Clinic and member of the Garden City Economics Commission and the Wayne Rotary Club.

Keith, Manufacturers' National officer since 1963, also holds pre-standard and standard certificates from the American Institute of Banking. He will get his graduate certificate this year.

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WILLIAM R. KEITH

Grad Course Completed by W. R. Keith

William R. Keith, Westland bank manager and Garden City Board of Education secretary, graduated recently from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Banking.

Keith, manager of the Manufacturers' National Bank branch on Wayne Road near Cherry Hill, is also a past president of the Garden City Jaycees and three years ago won the club's Distinguished Service Award.

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Accident Injures One at Flashing Light Crossing

A Birmingham youth was injured Friday night when he ran the flashing red light at the intersection of 13 Mile Rd. and Orchard Lake.

Injured was Edward J. Hannum, 17, while the driver of the other car, David Jerome Lubin, 18, of 2444 W. Wayne, Farmington, was not injured.

Lubin, who was going south on Orchard Lake, told police that he slowed for the intersection but that Hannum ran the light and hit him.

Hannum said that he slowed down and didn't think anyone was coming. The Birmingham resident, who was going east on 13 Mile Rd., was arrested by Township police for disobeying a red flashing light.

Two Livonia Frosh Visit Campus at WMU

KALAMAZOO—Most of the more than 2,400 freshmen and 1,200 transfer students who will enter Western Michigan University this Fall will know something of campus life, activities and landmarks when they arrive, thanks to the University's summer orientation program.

Students from The Observer area who have visited the WMU campus are: Kim Chaffee, 14333 Brentwood Dr., and Lynn J. Harmon, 16871 Fairfield, of Livonia.

The incoming students, often accompanied by their parents, are visiting the WMU campus this summer to map out future study programs, meet their counselors and learn their way around university buildings.

Under the direction of Norman Russell, director of orientation and a member of the Counseling Bureau, the students arrive in small groups daily through July 22. They remain on campus for a day and a half to get many of the preliminary requirements out of the way.

When WMU's Fall semester begins on August 29, the students need only check into living quarters on the opening Monday and begin classes on Tuesday, August 30.

Missing Stamp

The Secretary of State's office in Farmington has one dismantled validating stamp, but is not out anything else after the office was broken into over the weekend. Sometimes after the office and the Grace Insurance Agency was closed and reopened the next morning the building was entered by a rear window. After an inventory the only thing that was found disturbed was the validating stamp.

Farmington Woman Attends Seminar

Mary Allison, secretary of Farmington's District Library Board of Trustees, and First Vice Chairman, Trustee Section, Michigan Library Association is proud of the recent honor accorded her.

Miss Allison is spending the week of July 24 in Stratford, Ontario, attending the first session of the Sixth Annual Shakespeare Seminar. The seminar is conducted by the universities of Canada.

The seminars are designed to provide an authoritative center for the study of Shakespeare and his work by means of lectures, formal and informal discussions, and theatre and backstage tours, conducted by scholars and critics of Shakespeare. The Seminar participants will attend all plays, rehearsals and other cast activities.

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