

Coming to Livonia Cinema

The Royal Ballet, featuring performance also stars David Blais, Desmond Doyle, Julia Farron and Michael Somes. The film will be shown three times daily at 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at the boxoffice.

THE PENN THEATRE

Plymouth, Michigan
ONE WEEK—Wed., Thru Tues., Jan. 18-24

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BOB SEGER
PLUS
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MATINEE: SUNDAY, 1 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

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Wally Roberts UP! GOING CURTAIN

Amid great glitter and glory the premiere of the Meadowbrook Theatre's first resident professional theater group, was launched Jan. 4. A capacity audience (608) greeted "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" enthusiastically.

Oakland University officials, are to be complimented for the theatrical know-how shown in converting a static lecture hall into a most attractive and exciting theater. The intimate quality of the Meadowbrook Theatre affords perfect acoustics and flawless visibility from every one of the 600 comfortable seats.

The John Fernald Company of the Meadowbrook Theatre did not fare as well in old Wally's opinion. Though the surroundings were excellent, the crowd in a most responsive mood, the opening production lacked the luster of its festive surroundings.

It might be mere circum-stance to take a more charitable approach, but old Wally feels that the John Fernald Company prides itself on its professional status. Thus, they must be appraised as any Broadway company that comes to the Fisher Theatre.

Brecht's "Caucasian Chalk Circle" requires actors with great depth and experience. A couple of seasons ago the Lincoln Center company in New York tried Brecht and fell flat on their hispid faces. In short, "Chalk Circle" is no dramatic bed of roses.

The Guthrie Theatre Repertory Company waited until their third season before they tackled "Chalk Circle." Their production was the best of the three "Chalk Circles" old Wally has seen over the years.

Meadowbrook does not have a Zee Caldwell, a Tanya Meland, or the advantages of actors working together for two years to develop an ensemble acting takes at least a season and sometimes two.

However, Meadowbrook does have Eric Berry. His rollicking interpretation of Azdak put the second act of "Chalk Circle" into proper professional perspective.

Suddenly, the John Fernald Company radiated. The very presence of Eric Berry

UP! GOING CURTAIN

It would be the poetic thing to say that the moving picture act is so brilliant you forget the ponderous first act. As much as we would like to pass out accolades, we can't be that charitable.

Incidentally, the Meadowbrook version of "Chalk Circle" is played without the all-important Prologue. Director John Fernald states in the program it has little importance and adds nothing to the play.

The Prologue in this instance is more than a pre-amble. It is intended to represent Reality and the play proper is merely a fantasy showing in poetic terms the hell from which reality emerged. "Chalk Circle" must be seen in its entirety to gain the full impact of Brecht's dramatic power.

As a play, "Chalk Circle" is diverse, panoramic, melodramatic, comic, bizarre. It constantly reiterates the Brechtian sensitivity to man's inhumanity to man, the goodness of man, and the lack of justice in the world.

Later this season the Classic Theatre at Wayne State will try their hand at giving dramatic masterpiece some meaning. If you are a student of the arts, I can think of no finer exercise than the play that you can see several times.

Lines such as "The War is over, beware the peace." "You can buy Persian saddles from the soldiers." "Though some exchange them for crutches," and "The big shots on one side can win a war, but the soldiers on both sides lose it," pepper the script.

In light of the present Vietnam conflict, the present Meadowbrook presentation of "Chalk Circle" provides many thought-provoking lines. You have until Jan. 29th to see this latest addition to the Detroit cultural scene. He was graduated from "Love's Labour's Lost" in Garden City high school in next on the bill. It will open, 1965.

Christmas in Vietnam
Army Pfc. Douglas G. Anderson, 20 son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson, 29698 Elmwood, Garden City, participated in a Christmas party given by his unit, the 29th Transportation Company, in Nha Trang, Vietnam. He was graduated from "Love's Labour's Lost" in Garden City high school in next on the bill. It will open, 1965.

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