

Wally Roberts  
**GOING UP'  
CURTAIN**

Broadway and off-Broadway entertainment arrived in the form of a widely separated piece of entertainment. "George M", a new musical comedy, and "MacBird", a satirical farce, are both running at LBJ fresh from their year run off-Broadway.

"George M" overflowing with all the ragtime rhythms favored so expertly by George M. Cohan, is a veritable cornucopia of corn at the Fisher. The Yankee Doodle man waves his flag and tries to tap dance his way into your heart. But, to no avail.

Maybe as audience members we view the early vaudeville days as too artificial, too shallow, Vaudeville by its very nature depended on the quick short turn. The hoodlers knew you never over-loaded the act. If you had a solid 20 minutes of material, you always kept the act moving as fast as you could and you only gave them 10 minutes.

A vaudeville show had no theme, no plot—merely variety and plenty of sparkle. It was like cotton candy, pretty to look at, but not too good for a steady diet.

"GEORGE M" has the same cotton candy malady. The plot is almost non-existent. It merely exists as a thin thread on which to string the pretty bauble-like songs of Mr. Cohan.

Choreographer-Director Joe Layton manages to keep your mind off this deficiency occasionally with some clever staging of the dance numbers. Joel Grey in the lead does what he can, but his talent is not large enough. His minuscule physical size creates pity rather than the cockiness the part requires. The real Geminelli, radiated charm in that contagious smile of his. Joel Grey has to work too hard and ends up with a dour characterization that casts a pall on the entire production.

FOUR OR FIVE miles in an easterly direction from the Fisher Theater, a brighter piece of theatrical endeavor brightens up the east side of Detroit. The

**Folk Singer To Appear In Junior Town Hall Series**

Tom Glazer, popular singer of folk songs and ballads, will strum his guitar and take Detroit Junior Town Hall audiences through his entertaining repertoire of work songs, jail songs, songs of love, of the sea, and western trails, on Saturday, March 2. Children and adults know Glazer through his recordings—"Ballads for the Age of Science," "Tom Glazer's Concert for Children" and the recent hit record "On Top of Spacchetti."

GLAZER HAS made numerous concert, radio and television appearances. For the award-winning movie "Face in the Crowd," he composed the songs and background music and collaborated with Budd Schulberg on the lyrics.

**Painting Lecture Scheduled**

A lecture demonstration on painting at Mercy College will feature a wrecked automobile and several other projected images.

Ray F. Fleming, assistant professor of the Mercy Fine Arts Department, will conduct the demonstration Monday, Feb. 26.

The demonstration is intended to illustrate the artist's thinking in relation to the creative process, which in this instance is painting. Open to the public, the lecture will begin at 8 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Student-Conference Center, 8200 W. Outer Drive.

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**Erma Bombeck Stops For Coffee**

BY MARGARET MILLER  
Women's Editor

In her column, Erma Bombeck seems to be matter-of-factly suburban housewife with a terrific sense of humor who wish lived next door so she could drop in for coffee often.

Mrs. Bombeck, whose three-times-a-week column is syndicated in 135 daily newspapers, was speaker for the Livonia Town Hall Wednesday.

IN HER TALK at the Terrace Theater, and later answering questions at a Mayflower Meeting House celebrity luncheon, she kept the ladies chuckling and roaring with an oral version of the columns that have had women across the country laughing at themselves for three years.

She said she considered the American housewives "among the most overworked and loneliest people in history," but made it clear her antipathy for their troubles is humor. She showed how by dissecting her own situation and adding a liberal dose of humor. For example:

Her limitations—"I don't know how to stop the war in Vietnam."

When my husband told me Taylor was there, I wondered if Burton went along with her.

"And I'm no feminist. If someone asked me what I was doing for my sex I'd probably say my husband gives at the office."

HER HOME—"We live in a cheap house, and when I needed room to write I put a makeshift desk at the end of the bed. My files spill into the bathroom. And if you don't believe that, the Internal Revenue department didn't either."

Her husband—"He speaks six words a year, none to me, watches 163 football games, is attached to his car by an umbilical cord, and for Christmas gave me a gift certificate for a flu shot."

Her children—"My husband and I would have separated long ago but neither of us wanted custody of the kids."

"My daughter wanted to let her hair grow, but I didn't know she meant all of it in front of her face. Did you ever follow an eyeball around the house?"

"We got some sea-horses to give my younger son some sex information. But we didn't realize the male sea-horse bears the young. Boy, is that kid mixed up!"

"MY THEORY about boys' bedrooms is that if you use enough incense, you can hold your own with the board of health."

"It involves six depression cycles in a woman's year," she added. "They're two months long, which happily adds up to a year."

"I thought of putting in some sex, but didn't know how to handle it. I got my sex information by making chances to read the Faith Baldwin and Kathleen Norris books my mother used to get out of the library."

The columnist said she enjoyed her television appearance with Johnny Carson—"You talk about what he wants to talk about" and also a radio panel appearance in Denver.

The other panelists, she said, were a plastic surgeon, "I asked him if he made house calls," a psychiatrist—"he asked me why I lie about my age," and physical fitness expert Debbie Drake "who lies down on the floor and the rest of her stands at attention."

"Of course, I didn't get as many Christmas cards this year."

"I felt like Twigg's brother."



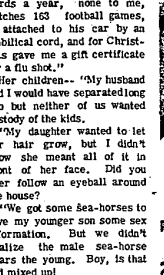
My children don't read the column. It's on the editorial page.



"My neighbors don't seem to recognize themselves."



"My theory about boys' bedrooms is that if you use enough incense, you can hold your own with the board of health."



"I felt like Twigg's brother."

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