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'CURTAIN UP'

"The Star-Spangled Girl" opened at the Fisher Theater last week and again proved that Neil Simon has a way with clever gags, adroit situations, and zany dialogue.

Even the wooden acting of Jimmy Boyd and George Hamilton did little to dilute the intoxicating quality of the Simon-pure laugh-lines.

Dean Martin's daughter, Deana, easily steals the show from these two refugees from TV and the silver screen, in her role as an Olympic swimmer, Deana sprints to the theatrical finish line far ahead of the two male members of the cast. Her coordinated thespic efforts have Hamilton and Boyd treading water, and gasping for breath for most of the play.

mon rolls out, the sunburnt bit replete with winking Noema the audience's funnybone. No comic visual sight gag is passed by in a Simon comedy.

The big problem in "Star-Spangled Girl" is that the plot has few, if any, complications; thus, the sight gags must fill in the blanks. The dialogue even gets a bit tedious in his attempt to fill in time until Simon can get Hamilton and Deana Martin together.

Opening audiences at the Fisher roared at the antics of Hamilton, Boyd and Martin. The merriment mounted act by act; by curtain time, everyone was convinced that "Star-Spangled Girl" was a most enjoyable evening.

SUCH CRITICISM is highly irrelevant. Even the lack of facial reaction by George Hamilton and Jimmy Boyd makes little difference because "Star-Spangled Girl" does make the audience chuckle, chuckle, and break into glorious belly laughs.

You have until June 9 to catch this frothy farce at the Fisher. On June 10 "Man of La Mancha" comes back for a return visit. If you missed this great musical last season, here's your chance to hear about Don Quixote and his impossible dream.

6 Broadway Musicals Scheduled

Six hit Broadway musicals will be staged by the Detroit Summer Theatre in July and August.

Professional casts will be featured in the one production, each show running seven performances in the air-conditioned auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"OKLAHOMA," July 10-14
"GUYS AND DOLLS," July 17-21
"FINIAN'S RAINBOW," July 24-28
"CAROUSEL," July 31-Aug. 4
"KISS ME KATE," Aug. 7-11
"BRIGADOON," Aug. 14-18

Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 2 and 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for individual performances will be on sale at Hudson's Ticket Office, Crispells, Sear's Customer Service Centers and at the Institute of Arts ticket office. The ticket office has price details.

OBSERVER

AMUSEMENTS

'Sweet Betsy' Changed To June 14

The Wayne State University Opera spring production, formerly scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, has been postponed until Friday, June 14.

"Sweet Betsy From Pike," a horse opera by Mark Bucci, will be presented at 8:30 p.m. in room 101 of the Music Building. Admission is free, and the public may attend.

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"STAR-SPANGLED Girl" is a fun show from beginning to end. Neil Simon serves quite competently a large bowl of assorted comic gimmicks.

The telephone-tape recorder bit of madness starts the laughs rolling in the first scene. The pancake-turner gag highlights the second scene.

By the third scene, Mr. Si-

SET DESIGNER Oliver Smith has provided the actors and director a duplex studio apartment that facilitates for continuous action so necessary to a farce.

A series of platforms and steps leading to a split level pair of bedrooms gave the actors endless opportunities to rush up, down, and all around.

Mr. Smith even gave Mr. S-

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