

'Charity' Chorus Is Scene-Stealer

SWEET CHARITY, produced by the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford. Directed by Arthur P. Rizzo, with Warren Reinacker, assistant director, and Jack Plonim, musical director, Marilyn Moore, producer.

Choir: Judy Dery, Helen, Shirley Carson, Oscar, Howard Egan, Vidal, Paul Duffell, Ursula, Randa Hoover, Herman, David Tucker, Duddy Bruback, Bill Drummonds, Assistant Mary Paskindas, Sam Jurgemann, Carmen, Beverly Gotsch, Roper, Karen Collins, Mary, Joan Roth, Mandy, Mary Paskindas, Girl Information Booth, Diane Cook, Marvin, Bill Drummonds, Charlie, Bill Drummonds, Spanish Young Man, Angus Wigley, Two Cops, Warren Reinacker, Frank DePatis.

Ice Cream Vendor: Odell Waller, Park Passes: Terry Bocher, Hazen Branch, Diane Cook, Dick Franklin, Dawn Gifford, Sam Jurgemann, Joel LaBe, Mary Paskindas, Gwen Rogers, Cio Vitale, Joe White, Fandango Customers: Frank DePatis, Bill Drummonds, Sam Jurgemann, Mary Paskindas, Cio Vitale, Odell Waller, Joe White, Angus Wigley, Drummond, Frank DePatis, Walter, Sam Jurgemann, "Y" Passes: Betty Bocher, Susan Chapman, Joan Roth, Diane Cook, Good Fairy.

Dance Hall Hostesses: Shirley Carson, Susan Chapman, Karen Collins, Beverly Gotsch, Debra Mims, Pamela Nelson, Joan Roth, Leslie Townsend.

Chorus: John Shober (solo tenor), Betty Bocher, Susan Chapman, Phil Mearns, Karen Collins, Frank DePatis, Bill Drummonds, Beverly Gotsch, Randa Hoover, Sam Jurgemann, Pamela Nelson, Mary Paskindas, Gwen Rogers, Leslie Townsend, David Tucker, Dancers: Linda Boer, Terry Bocher, Hazen Branch, Bill Drummonds, Dawn Gifford, Karen LaRocca, Pamela Nelson, Debra Mims, Cio Vitale, Joe White, Angus Wigley, Joan Roth.

Tickets for performances Dec. 15 and 16, at 8:30 p.m., and Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m., are available from Mrs. William Cowen, 7728 Lear Court, Westland, and Mrs. Cony Foster, 16772 County Club, Livonia.

By TIM RICHARD

Ever hear of a show where the chorus steals scenes from the principal characters?

I happens in "Sweet Charity," the musical offering for the season of the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild, and you have three chances this weekend to see it in Bentley High School, Five Mile at Hubbard in Livonia. Choreographer Bonnie McFarland has done a superb job with the chorus line of mostly suburban housewives, traditionally the butt of jokes in a community musical. "Big Spender" is topped later by "Rich Man's Frug," and then by "Rhythm of Life," a delightful multi-media presentation spoofing a drug store.

The chorus line, all have a delightful assortment of costumes (designed by Emma Galey and Warren Reinacker), legs, gestures and fun.

DEBRA MIMS, a Marygrove student who teaches dance, and Shirley

Amusements

Carson, a television production assistant, give strong support as Charity's best girlfriends among the dance hall hostesses. Howard Egan, one of the best actors in these parts, is a veteran singer like Paul Paul so that he ended a love song on a terrible clunker.

"Sweet Charity" is famous for its mild bawdiness, but

there was one obscenity in the opening night performance - the Bentley piano that was obviously, grossly out of tune. Why in hell the conductor didn't discontinue using the instrument, tell the pianist to play only left-handed or play the pianist to play an octave or two lower is quite beyond me.

THE ROLE of Charity is lengthy, demanding and a physical grind for even a female athlete. Roly - roly

Neil Simon's script contains a number of one-liners that can't be heeded, and weren't. Unfortunately, a lot of the small scenes were "soft" and punched. Only the big scenes and chorus lines prevented a dull evening.

THE STUDENT band was fair at its best, bad at times and occasionally a disaster. Many of Cio Coleman's melodies are as subtle and complex as Debussy's, which

and 3 p.m., they will see a Children's Theater production of "Fairy Tale Fantasia." Tickets are available in advance at the Community House, Bates and Townsend.

Holiday Show Is For Kids

BIRMINGHAM The Community House in Birmingham is offering a special holiday stage show, just for children, on Saturday, Dec. 16. At two performances, at 1

Judy Dery literally ran out of breath in "If My Friends Could See Me Now" and "I'm A Brass Band."

But in a community theater performance, one should think of the group, not the principals, and "Sweet Charity" has group scenes that are as good as one could ask for.

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