At Meadow Brook

'I Do, I Do!' closes season

ADRIENNE ANGEL

By GRAIG REYNOLDS

For its final presentation this season, the Meadow Brook Theatre has seized upon Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's paean to marriage entitled "I Do! I Do!" from the litany by Jan de Hartog called "The Fourposter."

Spending 50 years in the same bedroom with the same two people might prove a bit of a bore without the bright-eyed affection and misty romanticism of the authors' unassuming words and music. This same simple chemistry has made their magical "Fantasticks" the longest running show in New York.

Too, it helps to have the likes of Stephen Arlen and Adrienne Angel carry the entire evening on a wealth of talent and bemusement with considerable stamina.

To keep "I Do! I Do!" from bogging down in the slush of which it is preeminently capable, director Judith Haskell has harried the proceedings into a very glossy production, occasionally sliding over the acceptably unadorned sentiments of the play.

PERFORMED AS the diurnal battle of the sexes, "I Do! I Do!" speeds along through its 50 years of nuptial bliss, babies, male chauvinist pigism, threatened divorce, menopause and retirement bedded in the truism that no one ever wins or loses, but two can have one hell of a good time playing the game.

Arlen is commandeering throughout with his strong Welsh tenor and unshakable certitude of male superiority.

Miss Angel sometimes withers before Arlen's tactics but wins on her own time with the songs "Flaming Agnes" and "My Cup Runneth Over."

But as the two shuffle from the room for the last time with a final compromise between husband and wife, they leave the unshakable impression that both marriage and "I Do! I Do!" are worth the effort.

THOMAS ASTON'S single setting is both bright and workable, though his lighting is less accomplished.

An unnamed costar is Rachelle Dwaihy whose 50 years of costuming are packed into a two-hour show.

Marsha Whitaker manages the music with aplomb, but her musicians are unfortunately unnamed in the program.

Bands play spring concert

West Bloomfield High School's annual Spring Concert will be held at 8 p.m., Thursday (May 9) in the school's auditorium, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

The concert will feature light and serious popular and classicial music played by the high school's symphony and varsity bands. Tickets will be available at the door.

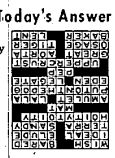
"Although this will not be a pop concert, it will have many features of one due to the wide variety of music," Richard Sevonty, varsity band director, said.

AMONG OTHER numbers the symphony band will perform are "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin, "Fanfare and "Allegro" by Clifton Williams and excerpts from "Li'l Abner" by Johnny Mercer and Gene DePaul.

The varsity band will perform excerpts from "Die Meistersinger" by 19th Century German composer Richard Wagner, selections from "Five Bagatelles" by Alexander Tcherepnin and "Fiddler on the Roof" by Jerry Bock.

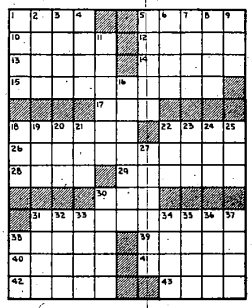
Both bands total approximately 100 students from the ninth through 12th grades.

Today's Answer



CROSS
1. Desire
5. Uncovered
7. Perfect
12. Baffle
13. —— firma
14. Gritty
15. Haughty (hyph. wd.)
17. Small rug
18. Lucky piece
22. Refrain in old songs
26. Go ritzy (4 wds.)
28. Paradise
29. Emissary
30. Vim
31. The smart set (2 wds.)
38. Eminent
39. Main artery
40. River in Kansas
41. Paper ——
42. Holmes' street
43. Penitential period

DOWN
1. —— it (keeping up)
2. Idea (comb. form)
3. Mexican Indian
4. Stag
5. Stupefy
6. Jai ——
7. Shrimp
8. Small whirlpool
9. Ottoman official
11. Those not of a profession
16. Talebearer
18. Primate
19. Malicious charges
20. Colorado Indian
21. —— Chaney
22. Give a ..... up
23. Girl's name
24. Destiny
25. Generation
27. Hipster's cousin
30. First pope
31. —— Major
32. Promontory
33. Knight's attendant
34. Irritate
35. Stimulate
36. British gun
37. Caustic
38. Sailor



"The entertainment hit of the season — bar none! — Paul Winter, WJR

Brel's explosive songs include a variety of moods, from cynical irony to warm compassion. They're lusty, abrasive, desperate, beautiful, wretching, salty, an emotional excesive that doesn't fall flat." — Pat Chargot, Det. Free Press

"It is a splendid production." — Shirl Harris, WQRS-FM

"Incredible, breathtaking energy and talent." — Jim Lawlor, WDET-FM

"Euser and his colleagues project Brel's lyrics and music with such skill and sensitivity that, in the end, you have the feeling that Brel also has dropped in to take the final bow with the cast. All in all an exciting evening . . ." — Frank Angelo, Det. Free Press

"The utmost musical integrity," — Bob Talbert, Det. Free Press

"I cried. No jive." — James Stanley, The South End

"Brel's music is deceptive . . . It has a way of sneaking up and then suddenly clobbering you with its powerful statements." — Molly Abraham, Det. News

"For the record, the show is super . . ." — Pete Waldmeir, Det. News

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