

Theater runs silent gamut

Reviewed by
CRAIG RETNOLDS

Expanding from its highly successful run of musical programs, the American Artists Series imported a different art for last Sunday's presentation by the Canadian Mime Theatre at Cranbrook.

The Mime Theatre itself was a most expansive group, playing the full defined range of its craft in 18 sketches of varying quality.

The two-hour program included some work that would look well on a television variety show, some that seemed inspired by Red Skelton, and often, some that touched the supreme whimsicality of which only pantomime is capable.

The capacity of burlesque was frequently stressed in predictable but consistently amusing skits like

"Painless Dentistry" and "Vic Tan-ny's."

ONE LENGTHY piece entitled "Western Narrative" served principally as a useful lesson in storytelling without words.

A very few selections balanced the program with the stark impact of one man's "Final Hour" and another's "Circular Dream."

The latter, containing images of killing and dying, needed clarification, while an earlier sketch about a pear falling from a tree made as good an argument for animism as any written tract.

This diversity in content and style, upheld by a willingness to experiment in the form, marks the Canadian Mime Theatre as a most worthy venture.

SUNDAY'S performance in the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum featured artistic director, Adrian Pecknold, and associate director, Harro Maskow, in addition to Robin Patterson, Ian McKay and Paulette Halllich.

An evenness of pantomimic mastery assisted for a most agreeable program, though a further winning point was seen in the opportunity each member had to dis-

play a special interest in the craft. Thus Pecknold generally took credit for the lighter, more comic skits, while McKay performed somewhat abstract works; Maskow delighted in a couple exotic tales, and Ms. Patterson played the part.

Altogether, the Canadian Mime Theatre supplied a sparkling afternoon investigating the gamut of human fancies and foibles without one word spoken.

At The Downunder

Vocalist Nina Kahle will be performing from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday in The Downunder at The Meeting Place on Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. Ms. Kahle has composed most of the material that she performs.

Cranbrook gardens to open

Bluer skies, warmer weather, the appearance of buds and flowers all herald May and the opening of the gardens and nature trails of Cranbrook.

The Cranbrook House gardens and grounds are now open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. daily.

Open are 50 acres of lake-rimmed forest trails and formal gardens in

rolling terrain dotted with sculptures by Carl Milles, Cranbrook Academy of Art students and other artists.

A visitors' program is conducted by the Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary, comprised of individuals and area garden clubs who help support and maintain the gardens with Cranbrook gardener Louis Borsheim. Group visits may be arranged weekdays, or

weekends with or without guides by telephoning 644-1600, Ext. 203.

THE INSTITUTE of Science is open in May from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Academy of Art Museum is open 1 to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

Entrance to the gardens is at 380 Lone Pine Road, across from Christ Church Cranbrook. The Institute of

Science and Academy of Art Museum can be reached at 500 Lone Pine Road.

"It is a pleasure to share the beauty of Cranbrook with nature lovers and to have the assistance of the Gardens Auxiliary," said Henry S. Booth, son of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Scripps Booth and a Cranbrook Educational Community board member.

Groves AFS hosting play

Groves High School chapter of American Field Service (AFS) is sponsoring a Village Players' performance of Irma La Douce at 8:30 p.m. Thursday (May 9).

Proceeds will support the AFS scholarship program at Groves. The group's goal is to bring two

foreign exchange students to the school for the 1974-75 school year.

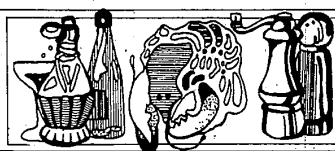
Tickets may be purchased from Mrs. Carl Tischler, 302 Hillboro, or Mrs. Edward Hufnagle, 7075 Meadowlake, both in Birmingham. An afterglow will follow the performance.

Dance group sets 'To Life'

Creative Dance Theatre will present "To Life" at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Birmingham Temple, 2881 W. Twelve Mile, Farmington. The service is based on songs

and dances from "Fiddler on the Roof."

The production will be staged in conjunction with the Birmingham Unitarian Church and will incorporate philosophy of both groups.



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