



'Play It Again, Sam' is evening of laughs

By JANET ODELL

Woody Allen, without Woody Allen, is still funny. "Play It Again, Sam," written by Woody Allen, is the second of Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre's spring and summer offerings. It opened to a full house Sunday.

Celia Merrill Turner, the director, casts her plays carefully and well. Kevin Murphy as the shy writer, Allan Felix, whose wife has just left him does well in the star part.

There is no doubt that he is copying Woody Allen, even to wearing white tennis shoes. But it doesn't seem to matter. He's funny and his amazingly mobile face is one of his assets.

The plot is neither complicated or heavy. Felix, tremendously upset by his wife's desertion, wants to find another girl. He puts on a different act with each one, trying to be interesting. In the process, this animated bundle of nerves enlists one's sympathy and the audience suffers with him.

But Felix also has his on-stage friends, Dick and Linda Christie, played by Tom Cattaneo and Jan Cable. On some nights, Sue Connor will play Linda. Cattaneo overacts. Cable does a smooth job.

Felix's other friend is Bogey, played by Hal Doyle. Obviously supposed to be Bogart, this character wanders in and out of the scenes, clad in the ubiquitous tan raincoat and a black hat pulled down over his eyes. Felix's alter ego, he eggs Felix on to do what he really wants to do with the girls, but is too frightened.

It is Linda, however, who finally gets through to Felix. In the course of lending her moral (and immoral) support during his inept ex-

periences, she convinces him that he is lovable and that "being natural" is the answer. Felix comes to accept this when he says, "The secret is not in being you. It's being me."

The girls who endure Felix's neurotic behavior are Paula Burkholder, Sharon Cohen, Charlotte Bailey, Debbie Moran, Marlene Loucks and Debra Cline. Boetta Collins is his wife, and handles the part with dramatic flare.

Because Will-O-Way has such limited stage area the director makes effective use of audience imagination. In these days of placid television viewing, this can be only a good device.

If you're caught up in the action of the play, it doesn't really matter that a scene in a rowboat, supposedly on the lake in Central Park, is played on a lounge chair and facing backward.

The sound effects in the first few minutes of the play are not handled well. They are blurred and they emerge too far away from the TV set.

Eileen T. Weiss who is now resident teacher at Will-O-Way is production manager of the play.

In spite of the heat — the theatre is not yet air conditioned — "Play It Again, Sam" offers summer theater goers an evening of laughs.

Casual dress is the norm for the whole atmosphere is a relaxed one. Witness: The Resident Cat took a curtain call with the cast Friday night. In fact, he scampered out first.

"Play It Again, Sam" will be presented July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, Aug. 1 and 2. Playtime is 8 p.m. The Merry Wives of Windsor" by Shakespeare starts Aug. 8.

3 get Hillsdale degrees

Three Farmington-area residents recently received degrees from Hillsdale College. Jane A. Blue, daughter of Mrs. Judith M. Blue, 2224 Violet Ave., received a BA in art. She is a Farmington High School graduate. Mary-Alice Menton, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. N. Menton of 2827 Forestbrook, received a BA in English. Also awarded a BA in English was Sheila A. Chamberlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don M. Chamberlin, 2475 Dohany. She is a Farmington High School graduate.

LaPorte wins vice presidency

Lawrence A. LaPorte Jr., agency manager for State Farm Insurance in Farmington, has been elected regional vice president of the Michigan State Association of Life Underwriters.

LaPorte is past president of the

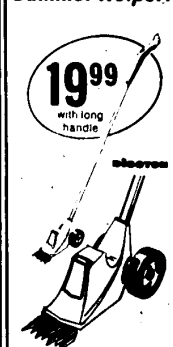
South Oakland Association of Life Underwriters. He is a member of St. Fabian Catholic Church, Rotary, Elks and the Farmington Chamber of Commerce. He lives in Farmington Hills with his wife and six children.

Apartment zone before planners

FARMINGTON HILLS—A request to rezone land from one-family residential to multiple at Drake Road and Freedom will be before the Farmington Hills planning commission July 17.

Also on the agenda for the 8 p.m. meeting is a rezoning request for 30840 Northwestern Highway, between Thirteen Mile and Valley Road. A change from one-family residential to office service has been requested.

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