

Mister Rogers tells of children's musical

Detroit became a greater neighborhood for children when Mister Rogers visited recently.

Mister Rogers, host of the popular television children's series "Mister Rogers Neighborhood," has agreed to perform at Detroit's Music Hall's announcement that it will produce and present an original children's stage musical which Rogers has written.

The show, entitled "SummerShow," will have its premiere at the nonprofit performing arts center June 11 and 12. It will be presented twice daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. through June 27. A national tour following the Detroit run of the show is being considered.

"SummerShow" will feature characters originally seen on "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" series, who will sing and dance "a very touching story for children." According to Rogers, his play program is seen by children in seven million houses each month in the United States and in Canada and American Samoa.

ROGERS, ON making his first official visit to Detroit, was introduced by Music Hall Board Chairman Ruth R. Glancy, who praised the consistently high quality of the show, which is considered one of the most requested features in American television and one of the most beloved by children.

Mrs. Glancy said Detroiters will take pride in the fact that Mister Rogers' first stage adaptation will be produced and presented here.

Rogers, speaking in the gentle voice that characterizes his popularity, expressed his desire to perform at a performing arts center that would undertake to produce an original children's musical.

"Too often these days young people seem to be overlooked by American theater," he said.

Rogers revealed that "SummerShow" is a "very special project for me."

His managing director, Marcel Levine, first approached him with the idea a year ago in Pittsburgh.

"MISTER ROGERS Neighborhood" is produced by Family Communications, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established by Rogers for the production of television and other communication vehicles for families with young children. The series is taped at WQED-TV in Pittsburgh where Rogers' wife and two sons make their home. Levine formerly directed Heinz Hall Performing Arts Center in that city.

Rogers commended Music Hall's initiative in seeking to have, whether for radio or television, a show that can't be any task, it requires both the courage and desire to do something that hasn't been done before," he said.

"SummerShow" is a stage adaptation of one of the children's series which Rogers presents periodically on his program. It is the story of people needing other people and stars two characters made famous by Rogers: Neighborhood host and his mother, Dorothy, and Lael, Elsie, Frischbecks.

Levine explained that the audience will play a very important part in "SummerShow," adding that "very special effects" will be used in the production. "That's the only way to know to get it to work," he said.

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Buffo's back

Buffo, who is a singer, a musician, an artist, a magician, a mime, has returned to the Raven Gallery in Southfield, where he was first booked as an experiment in entertainment. Buffo appears through Sunday. Buffo has played musical showcases from coast to coast since his original presentation at the Raven. A benefit performance will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday by the Children's Orthopedic Center. Proceeds will benefit emotionally impaired children.

ABBEY 1-2-3

1 "BAD NEWS BEARS" (PG)

1 "GEORGE SEAGAL
THE DUCHESS AND
THE DIRTWATER FOX"
(PG)

2 "DUMBO" (G)

2 "RODE A WILD PONY"
Call theatre for schedule

FAIRLANE

1 "BUTCH CASSIDY & THE SUNDANCE KID" (PG)

1 "W. W. & THE DIXIE DANCEKINGS"
Matinee Wed 1 show 1:00 p.m.

KINGSWOOD

1 "GOOD NEWS - HELD OVER!"

1 "ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS"
1 "W. W. & THE DIXIE DANCEKINGS" (PG)

1 "A LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL COMEDY"
1 "IT'S A WILDERNESS"

Matinee Wed 1 show 1:00 p.m.

NORTHLAND

1 "W. W. & THE DIXIE DANCEKINGS" (PG)

1 "ROBIN & MARIAN" (PG)

1 "MURKIN - AM. S.A. & S.Y."
Advance tickets on sale
for Fr. & Sat. Eves

Call theatre for schedule
559-3366

OLD ORCHARD

1 "OLD ORCHARD"
1 "W. W. & THE DIXIE DANCEKINGS" (PG)

1 "DUMBO" (G)

1 "RODE A WILD PONY"
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