

# Launce stars in 'Private Lives'

Guests who came to dinner — dinner the other, that is — include Launce, a West Bloomfield resident, who made his debut in Somerset Dinner Theatre on Sept. 26 in the starring role as Elyot in Noel Coward's comedy "Private Lives."

Radio listeners know Launce as host of the "Michigan Launce Show" from 10 to 11 a.m. to noon at 780 on the dial.

Besides his radio show, Launce has performed in theatrical productions starring as Don Juan in "Don Juan in Hell" and playing leading roles in "Harvey," "Outward Bound," "Death Trap," "Water," "Dial M for Murder," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Anastasia" and "Our Town."

Launce is past president of the Scottish

Bar Players and serves on the board of directors of American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Screen Actor's Guild. He also finds time for community charitable organizations.

"Private Lives" is a romantic comedy, and as the title would suggest, it's been drawn from anyone who has more than one tip down the aisle. The plot's about a honeymooner whose "et" shows up not only in the same city at the same time but at the same hotel with adjoining balconies and with a room mate.

The play is another Turgeon-Guest production, the third for Somerset's Dinner Theatre.

Pierre Turgeon of Farmington Hills is featured as Victor, an actor, director and producer who has been cast at Barney Chapman's in "Last of the Red Lovers," which opened the Somerset Dinner Theatre last January and played to a packed house for 18 weeks.

More recently, he directed the last Somerset's "Gas-Spotted Girl" which just opened after another 18-week run.

Turgeon has appeared in "Kiss Me Kate," "Cactus Flower," "Once Upon a Mattress" and numerous others. He is well known for his characteristics and has appeared on television, radio and in print. You'll probably recognize him from a new television commercial for a local restaurant chain, now being seen.

Marcia Benson appears in the role of Amanda. Her first public appearance was as a pageant queen, and she's still a star in her eyes ever since. Her most recent appearance was in "Plaza Suite" which played the Botsford Inn Theatre for several months.

Her versatility as an actress has won her frequent leads in "Private Lives," her female leads in "Private Laughter," and in "Gas-Spotted Girl," "Visit to a Small Planet" and countless others.

Sandra Sutherland is appearing in her third Turgeon Guest Production in the role of Sybil. She recently appeared as Muriel in "Plaza Suite" and was the star of the first production of "Last of the Red Lovers."

Another recent success was her role as the Amazon Queen in "Rape of the Bell."

Along with her acting talents, Ms. Sutherland is a writer.

The director of "Private Lives" is an amateur named Kathryn L. Sutton. She has directed such favorites as "Blythe Spirit," "Rape of the Bell" and numerous short plays. She also was the director for the road company of "Plaza Suite" for H.G. Productions. In "Last of the Red Lovers" Kathryn L. Sutton portrayed Elaine.

The Theater in the Somerset Mall auditorium will have gone through a real face lifting by opening night. There will be softly spotted earth-toned panels decorating the walls and stage. The panels will be tall and wide enough to be wall decor. All will be made more intimate by flickering candlelight. The room has seating for 150 patrons.

A buffet dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday with a 45 cent curtain. Reservations are necessary and tickets are available at Alfred's Restaurant or by calling 643-3865.

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