



Scrooge in season

When Scrooge arrives, you know that Christmas is just around the corner. The crochety old gentleman is portrayed by Bill Lucas, in nightcap, meeting Marley's Ghost, played by Walt Urban, in the Franklin Village Players production of "A Christmas Carol" to be presented Dec. 3-5. Larry Coe is Scrooge's nephew Fred, in top hat. The Dickens classic will be performed as family entertainment by a cast of 45 at the West Bloomfield High School auditorium at Orchard Lake Road just north of Walnut Lake Road. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Dec. 3-4 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 5. Tickets, priced for student and adults, are available at the box office on the day of the performance. Further information is available by calling 626-0505. (Staff photos by Tracy Baker)

Theater to open musical

"South Pacific" musical comedy by Rogers and Hammerstein will open Thanksgiving weekend at Will O'Way Repertory Theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills.

The play will be performed Friday and Saturdays and also Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11 and 17, 18 at 8:30 p.m.

Reservations may be made by phone: 644-4418. Two Sunday Holiday Matinees are planned for Dec. 12 and 19 at 3 p.m.

The action takes place on two islands of the South Pacific and the time is a full during the fighting in the war with Japan. The colorful characters are chiefly marines, nurses, sailors, and islanders.

The plot is formed of two romantic themes. Most important is the affair of Ensign Nellie Forbush (originally played by Mary Martin), being played by Eileen Weiss of Bloomfield Hills; the charming and high-spirited young nurse from Little Rock, Ark. and the gallant middle-aged French planter, Emile DeLacque (originally played by the great Elio Pina), being played at Will O'Way by baritone Jack Cortes of Detroit.

The secondary romantic theme is that of the likeable American marine Lt. Joseph Cable, played by Andy Hurley of Sterling Heights, and the lovely Tonkinese girl, Liat, Paula Burkholder of Lake Orion.

Surrounding them are such fascinating characters as Bloody Mary, Liat's shrewd and avuncular mother, played by Mary Verguson of Birmingham; Luther Billis, done by Hal Doyle of Southfield, a knowing and earthy Sea-see who plays a wonderfully comic role in the amateur entertainment provided by the temporary residents of the island.

Musical direction for the production, is under Marlene Loucks of Bloomfield Hills, teacher at Ford High School in Detroit. Celia Merrill Turner directs the production for Will O'Way. For reservations call: 644-4418. Dinner theatre is available for parties of 50-75.

Paradoxes in satire 'Lovely War'

Army generals dressed as clowns, a music hall dance band juxtaposed with soldier trenches—these are just a few of the paradoxes that will greet audience members when The Great University of Michigan Professional Theatre Program presents its Guest Artist Series production of "Oh, What a Lovely War" on Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 8 p.m. in the Lower Center for the Performing Arts, Ann Arbor.

This British musical satire is being directed by Nicholas Pennell, himself a Briton, who has returned to the U.M. for a third season as guest artist-in-

residence. Pennell played the title role in "Fences" in 1974 and directed last year's "As You Like It."

"Oh, What a Lovely War" was created by Joan Littlewood and the Theatre Workshop, a group she founded in London. Using such sources as newspaper accounts, personal letters and popular songs of the World War I era, they recreated in musical revue form some of the important and revealing events that caused and surrounded the "Great War."

WITH THE BLOW of a whistle by the master of ceremonies, the company, dressed in Pierrot-style clown costumes,

Entertainment

always theatrical look at the fables of war. The men who made it.

The songs interspersed within the sketches, include such favorites as "How, How, How," "Pack Up Your Troubles in an Old Kit Bag," "There's a Long, Long Trail," "Hithe-Koo" and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary."

Tickets for "Oh, What a Lovely War" are available at the PTP Ticket Office in the lobby of the Mendelssohn Theatre, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

Tickets are also available at all Hudson Ticket Outlets and at Central Travel and Ticket in Toledo.

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