



At dinner theater

# 'Mary, Mary' good show

By ETHEL SIMMONS

The Jean Kerr comedy "Mary, Mary" was a good vehicle for the recent debut of Sutter Productions, a new dinner theater company.

The cast of five gave smooth performances on the two evenings (March 25-26) when the show was presented as a benefit for Detroit Country Day School in Birmingham.

Dinner-theater-goers, were seated at round tables, with pink tablecloths and centerpieces of flowers and candles, to enjoy a tasteful dinner.

Bottles of white wine on the tables allowed guests to serve themselves before the sit-down dinner. The meal, prepared by the kitchen staff and served by students, went off with ease and efficiency—being offered in the room where students regularly dine and wait on table.

## Many roles

Evelyn Orbach of Bloomfield Hills is director and key performer in the third act of "Plaza Suite" for dinner's first dinner theater, at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Woodhaven. Ms. Orbach also works on publicity, programs and tickets. All seven members of the co-operative theater venture comprise The Company, and each performs as an actor as well as behind the scenes. "Plaza Suite" is in the fifth weekend of its eight-week run.

A DELICIOUS entree of buttery Chicken Kiev was accompanied by Rice Pilaf, Broccoli Provençal, Caesar Salad and hot loaves of homemade bread. Sherbert and a macaron were served for dessert.

Members of the cast were all seemingly relaxed and deserve commendations for the poise they displayed. Joan Reifsnnyder was a fresh and striking "Mary, Mary" or Mary McKellaway, the ex-wife who develops savoir faire. A windup of fashionable classics were beautifully worn on her tall figure.

Ms. Reifsnnyder, a Spanish teacher

at Detroit Country Day School, gracefully handled her role. Movements and mannerisms were all natural to the character, of a once-awkward young wife now coping well with life's problems.

Only drawback was in her delivery of the comedy lines, which were brightly stated but lacked the hard-voiced cynicism they needed for real punch.

Ronnie D. Clemmer, English teacher, drama club coach and co-producer of the show, co-starred as Bob McKellaway, Mary's ex-husband.

He came across as a nice, easy-going guy, whom you as a theatergoer liked but perhaps didn't really react strongly to. A little more force would have added depth.

DON CRAIG, who handles public relations at Detroit Country Day School and is co-producer of "Mary, Mary," was nicely cast as the friend and tax adviser to McKellaway. His perform-

ance was thorough and expert. Sandy Dittrich, who is a professional model, was stunning in appearance as McKellaway's girlfriend Tiffany Richards. She portrayed a spoiled rich girl who was surprising, practical.

Bob Thomas as Dirk Winston, the movie star who is romantically interested in Mary, combined enthusiasm with subtlety for a good interpretation of a vain yet realistic actor.

Sanity Productions hopes to move this dinner-theater show to other surroundings for additional performances, perhaps using facilities of a community theater.

It's hoped that a setting as attractive as the one at Detroit Country Day School may be found. The entire evening—including the sit-down dinner, instead of the usual dinner-theater buffet, and the tables all with good views of the stage—made a pretty package.

## Lily Tomlin will perform

Lily Tomlin, comedy star, will bring her one-woman show to Detroit to top off the NOW National Conference.

Preceding Lily Tomlin on the weekend will be a variety show headlined by Ivy Bottini, a California-based comedienne. The Deadly Nightshade, feminist rock group; Lori Jacobs, local folk-

singer; and Ursella Walker, a jazz and ballad singer.

Ms. Tomlin will appear April 24 at 7:30 p.m. The variety show is scheduled for April 22 at 8:30 p.m. Both shows are at Cobo Hall Ballroom and are open to the public. Tickets are on sale at all Hudson's for the variety show and for the Lily Tomlin show.

Thursday, April 7, 1977

(7-7D-13A,F,R-11A) (O) 8D

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