

Emotional moments highlight 'Sticks and Bones'

Thursday, July 27, 1978

(Wb-9D,T-13A,S-F-15A,Re-4B)(O)11D

By GEORGIA KUX

Review

A well-rounded interpretation of David Rabe's searing drama "Sticks and Bones" is the current Studio Production at Stagecrafters in Clawson. Rabe wrote the first draft of "Sticks and Bones" while he was still in his 20s and just barely removed from his own experiences as a low-ranking soldier with the U.S. forces in Vietnam. "Sticks and Bones" is the story of an American family unable to cope with a tormented, war-blinded son whose presence rips apart their placid daily life.

In this production, under the direction of Gordon Ostrowski, the audience is not always made fully aware of the fine shadings of Rabe's poetic work or, sometimes, of the deep, sobbing darkness of a man's soul. THERE ARE, nevertheless, many poignant, emotional moments from Mark Sawson as the soldier and from Hal Robinson and Helen Frizzo as his bewildered parents.

Rabe places not too lightly on these parents the somewhat accusatory mantle of the television sitcom family, comfortable, dull and untouched by events in the world outside their living room.

Dad is Ozzie, reminiscing about his jolly, non-combatant role in World War II, fondly recalling his older son's all-American childhood, complete with family picnic and the fall from the tree, with his parents nearby to catch him.

Mom is Harriet, dutifully religious, ever-smiling beneath her bouffant hair-do, sweetly solicitous of her menfolk. Helen Frizzo gives Harriet a fatuous, comedic touch, happily warbling a TV commercial jingle.

The at-home son is Rick, a breezy lad with cute front teeth. This tender teen's emotional cocoon consists of equal amounts of Mom, Dad, comic books, his guitar and his camera.

His sole means of sustenance seems to be ice cream and Mom's good fudge. Later in the play, Rick (Peter Oplivy) breaks image by bringing to Dad an easy, but easy, sexual conquest.

Dad's eyes bulge with approval, as long as it wasn't with a decent girl.

THE ELDER son is David. His homecoming is joyless, bringing with it the first winds of fear. A barking sergeant major (Dave Hubbard) bursts in on Ozzie and Harriet and unceremoniously dumps the blind boy. The sound of trucks is heard and there is the chilling suggestion that the sergeant is a sort of lord high deliverer of all the dead and wounded to their pre-war doorsteps.

Polish Night dinner slated

Wicker Works at the Northfield Hilton Inn, Troy, will present its third international cuisine by celebrating Polish Night, Friday Aug. 4: Smaczny Polski Obiad (A Savory Polish Dinner).

Wicker Works chefs are creating two popular Polish entrees, Nadziewane Kurczak Duszone and Perch Filets a la Polonaise. Other authentic Polish embellishments such as Salata Mizerja (cucumber and sour cream salad) and Barszcz Polski (cold beet soup) will be presented and prepared in true Polish style.

International night menu is enhanced with native wines, beer, cordials and cocktails. Overseas Hilton hotels, local cultural groups and consular offices are assisting with decorating and information on each country.

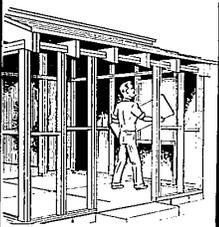
The Polish Feast will include choice of entree, salad, potato, vegetable and dessert. It will be served 6-10 p.m.

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