

# 'Gypsy' strips family style

By NANCY MAZZARA

## Review

Opening night at Avon Players' production of Arthur Laurents' "Gypsy," the life of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, proved that the story of a stripper can appeal to everyone. The audience included parents with children, high school students and older couples.

Susan Powell plays Louise, the young girl who becomes Gypsy Rose Lee. She is a fine dramatic actress and her voice is sweet, though at times hard to hear even from the second row. "Little Lamb" is her lament, addressed to her birthday present, about being a child actress and growing up too soon.

Ms. Powell gives a good performance as the awkward older sister who must always play a boy in the family vaudeville act so as not to upstage her sister, the star. But she truly comes into her own as the older Gypsy in Act Two. We see clearly her disgust and fear before her first striptease, and watch her develop into a statuesque and dignified beauty, the Queen of the Burlesque.

Act One is not Gypsy's story, but that of her mother Rose and her sister Baby June. Anne Lynn is powerful as the stage mother who discovers, too late, that she did it all for herself, not for her children, and wishes that she herself had been onstage instead.

Lisa Nelson's Baby June nearly steals the show, alternately tap-dancing energetically, and singing "Let Me Entertain You" while turning cartwheels.

THE YOUNG BOYS in the act are Pat Atkinson, Chris Church, Charlie Holmes and Tom Glaser. Their older counterparts are Brad Burke, Rick Gebbie, Tom Hasselwander, Dan Koch and Chuck Thompson. All are competent dancers, though their tap-dancing is not always in time with the music.

One particularly well-done number is a patriotic act with Baby June twirling batons and singing "The Stars and Stripes Forever," while the boys march around dressed in various military uniforms. Then there is a clever age transition in which the young group marches offstage and the older group comes back on dressed in the same costumes.

Two other scenes in Act One were also excellent. Madame Rose, accompanied by her young daughters and the boys, sings a hilarious thank-you to

Mr. Goldstone who has hired them for the Orpheum Circuit, considered the big time.

A later scene is creatively staged to show the cast-within-a-cast traveling from Seattle to Los Angeles. The actors walk along holding a mock car between themselves and the audience, while signs reading 300 Miles, 750 Miles, and so on are held up from the orchestra pit.

There are several well-known songs in the show, namely "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Together" and "Small World, Isn't It?"

MARY COPENHAGEN'S COSTUMES are inventive. An ensemble for one of the strippers is bright pink with long tassels. The outfit lights up like a Christmas tree. Rose's outfits are done in authentic-looking 1930s style. Gypsy's stripper costumes are in good taste, similar to one-piece swimsuits, with matching capes, sequins and feathers.

At last—an orchestra that doesn't hide the singers' voices! It is directed by Dick Bourze, who also plays the piano, and includes two trumpets, a reed player, bass and percussion. Though thinly orchestrated, the group was always in tune.

The set is simple—the stage with a red velvet curtain and a runway, complete with footlights, extending 10 feet into the audience. Props such as tables, chairs and a dressing table are used to suggest locations rather than show them. Marcia McHattie is in charge of props and the set carpenter is Len Parker. The lighting is well done, except for some missed cues because of faulty wiring and is supervised by Gary Swanson.

"Gypsy" is directed and choreographed by the talented hand of Margie Monross. Her cast ranges from grade schoolers to senior citizens, and she does an excellent job with each one of them. Stage manager Jan Lawson and her assistant Get Lanna contribute to the show's success.

The cast are real trouper and the audience, also covering a wide age range, was appreciative. "Gypsy" is a delightful show and good entertainment for all ages.

"Gypsy" continues Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 22, and Oct. 26-28. Performances are at 8:30 p.m., except on Sundays, when they are at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

## Arts council plans benefit

The Arts Council Triangle will present a benefit performance of St. Dunstan's "Barefoot in the Park" at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Following the performance, a Gala Afterglow will feature wine and hor

d'oeuvres in the theater's Green Room.

Ticket information for the benefit may be obtained by telephoning telephoning 646-6258.

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# New radio show uses psychology

Dr. Sonya K. Friedman of West Bloomfield is hosting a new telephone talk program on WXYZ radio from 1-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Dr. Friedman, a private clinical practitioner in the Detroit area for 11 years, has offices in Bloomfield Hills.

On the program, Dr. Friedman shares her professional knowledge with listeners. The program does not provide, or replace, personal therapy, however, a station spokesperson said.



SONYA FRIEDMAN

# English director's film to be shown

"Joseph Andrews," a 1977 film from English director Tony Richardson, will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 by the Detroit Film Theatre (DFT) in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Starring Ann-Margaret, John Gielgud and Peter Firth, the film is Richardson's second adaptation of a Fielding novel. The first was "Tom Jones."

Of this second effort, the New York Times film critic has said "the year's most cheerful movie, probably the most neglected movie of the decade."

At 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, DFT will show Max Ophüls' "Lola," a 1932 adaptation of Arthur

It serves as an introduction to community resources and heightens awareness of personal human potential.

THE NEWEST psychological information and research data is discussed with listeners looking for ways to cope with changes in their life styles and personal problems.

Dr. Friedman is already familiar to many Detroit TV viewers, having appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," "AM Detroit," "Kelly & Company" and the syndicated "Mike Douglas Show."

She has been a special correspondent for ABC Evening News since 1976 and hosted her own award-winning syndicated program "For a Better Life." From 1974-76 she authored a column in the Birmingham Eccentric titled, "Speaking of You."

Dr. Friedman earned her master's degree and doctorate at Wayne State University in 1967. Since then, she has participated in numerous post-doctoral programs including a Masters and Johnsons workshop in human sexuality.

Dr. Friedman also is a consultant to Bloomfield Hills Schools and Rochester Community Schools.

Schmitzer's love play, rarely exhibited in this country during the last 40 years.

Federico Fellini's "8 1/2," released in 1963 and starring Marcello Mastroianni, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Critic Stanley Kauffmann commented on the work "I cannot remember a more brilliant film... We see a wizard at the height of his wizardry."

General admission tickets and 10 ticket discount books are on sale in advance at the Art Institute ticket office and at the door. For information and a complete DFT schedule call 832-2700.

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