Meadow Brook rings a winner

Michael Tylo and Patricia Reilly make an enchanting pair of costars (or, possibly, trio, since he plays twins) in the Meadow Brook produc-tion of Anouilh's "Ring Round the

tion of Anouill's "King rooms une Moon."

Tails fantasy, artfully directed by Terence Kilburn, has a strong cast in all its supporting roles, including Poily Rowles as the young brothers' aurt.

Sets by Donald Beckman and costumes by Mary Lym Bornell are purposefully exaggerated, enhancing the polic's larger-than-life presentation.

Action takes place in the Winter Carden of a country chateau in pre-Model War 1 Pracace. The spring blooms in full "grance. The spring blooms in full grance. The spring blooms in full grance from are startlingly huge and exclusing mostly male.

THE MEN'S dress is mostly realistic, in strange contrast to the women's costumes, especially some evening dresses of stuming impact that caricative high feating.

ture high fashion.

As the twins, Hugo, an insolent rake, and Frederic, a sensitive soul, Michael Tylo displays as atonishing versatility in the dual role.

Both twins are appealing in their

Review

separate ways. Tylo strides onstage manfully as the bold, conniving brother, and truly seems a different person when he assumes the mannersms of the sty, kindly brother. He is also a fair and handsome young fellow, as attractive a leading man as we could hope for, which lends more charm to the story's fairy-tale-like theme.

Tiny, slight Patricia Reilly has regal quality and large-eyed allure as the ballet dancer Isabelle, hired to impersonate a guest's cousin who will attend the ball at the chateau that evening.

evening.
There is a hypnotic quality about
Ms. Reilly's characterization that
makes the innocent dancer both vulnerable and charismatic.

POLLY ROWLES has perfect dic-tion and a way of making each line full of humorous treasures, portraying the wealthy, jaded but immensely prac-tical Madame Desmortes, the aunt in a wheelchair.

Ms. Rowles and Mary Benson as Capulet, her companion to these many years, have a hilarious scene to which the audience responds with warmth: The ever-romantic Capulet goestje and labbies on, pulling herself back periodically with, "I've said too much!"
Eric Tawarts as Patrice Bombelles, seeking and the millionaire Measurement and George Canania as Lady India, and George Canania as Lady India, and George Canania as Lady India, and George Capulation and Lady Lady and the decidedly wicked in the daring red hallgown and headdress.

They dance a wild tange that is a conned scene with dialogue, too. Leigh Burch is the young dancer's mother, a music teacher who would happily push her daughter into the arms of a wealthy, well-born man, She is funny, brazen and just what you might expect of a "stage mother."

Throughout the play, the lives and feelings of the moneyed class is contrasted with that of such humble folks the paid companion, the ordinary girl (vs. the rich girl), and the obsequious butler.

THE RICH do not come off too well in this story, and money is even flung about and torn up in the Winter Gar-

den. Money, it seems, does not buy happiness, but neither does poverty, and the message skates wittily across this line.

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Martha Gaylord, a statuesque brunette beauty, very nearly overwhelms her role ast the rich girl. Diana Messerschmann, who is engaged to the modest Frederic.

She displays all those snobbish qualities we love to hate, and it is easy to believe she is the pampered, willful daughter who always gets her way.

Jerry Jarrett is Diana's father, a gutsy millionaire and self-made man. He's vigorous in his stylization (and almost makes us gasp when he tears up the money). up the money).

The fantasy has our heroine of strong backbone stand up to these rich, misguided souls. She is a treat to behold in the elegant white ballgown of her choice, and more than a match for any of those to the manor born.

French playwright Jean Anoulih's "Ring Round the Moon" was adapted for the English-speaking audience by Christopher Fry. Performances con-tinue through Dec. 31 at Meadow Brook on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

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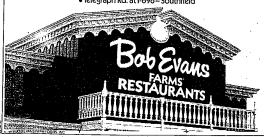
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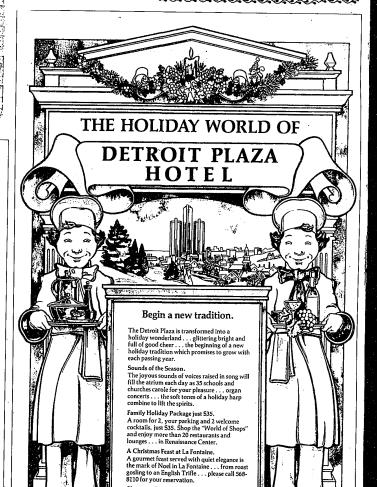
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