

# 'Sweet Charity' Bounces But Not High

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Shirley MacLaine bounces her way through "Sweet Charity," but somehow the action remains one of a "head" rubber ball that has lost its bounce. The musical opened last week in Livonia's Terrace Theatre in the film's first showing in neighborhood theaters.

"SWEET CHARITY" tells the story of a soft-headed and slightly soft-headed dance hall hostess in New York City and her search for her Prince Charming in order to change her life.

The Prince Charming is played by John McMartin, but he falls off his white horse by the end of the film.

This is a musical in the Fred Astaire - Ginger Rogers tradition. In other words, the costumes are lavish, the dances well done, the songs hummable, and the story line light.

The best musical number in the entire show reflects some modern trends. That's the song about the "Rhythm of Life" featuring Sammy Davis Jr. as the slightly hipster of the off-beat religion.

THE BEST TIME in the show

is the same scene when McMartin tells Miss MacLaine that he found the religion because he's on a "Church-of-the-Month mailing list."

Conversely the other notable musical number features Shubby Kaye as the dance-hall manager and is the song "I Love To Cry At Weddings."

Somehow the film never really comes across, maybe that's because it belongs to the era of froth on the screen and that seems to be a day of the past.

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With a red, white and blue motif, the show's rapid action covers the pilgrim landing, the story behind our national anthem, the Pony Express era, and the cavalcade of the Gold Rush.

Americans, as well as major historical events are presented by a high-stepping trio of performers, backed by a score that combines traditional melodies and original music.

Maximillion Productions of New York will bring this show to Detroit Youth Theatre's Jr. Town Hall series for two performances at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$1.25 at the Art Institute ticket office.

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