

'The Glass Menagerie' doesn't move smoothly

Authentic antique costumes will heighten the sense of history in the Farmington Players' production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" during its Feb. 16 through March 3 run. The play, by Oscar Wilde, is set in the 1890s, at the height of Victorian England.

Review

Not all the costumes in "Earnest" are antiques. The striped dress worn by

Gwendolyn Fairfax (Sandra Sutherland) was made by Perle Briggs and was first worn in "Strange Bedfellows." And many of the men's clothing — especially the formal wear — was donated by the Town Toggery in Farmington.

The players have one of the finest collections of period costumes among Detroit-area community theater groups. Many of the costumes have been collected by Hope Nahstoll, a charter member of the 26-year-old group.

Mrs. Nahstoll's Farmington home is filled with antique furniture, and her passion for antiques helped her discover many of the costumes worn in Farmington Players' productions.

She found a hand-embroidered white linen suit, which is worn in "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Lady Bracknell (played by Anne Burton), in an antique shop in New York State.

The skirt was complete but the jacket was in pieces. Mrs. Nahstoll figured out the puzzle and sewed the jacket together, and the suit was first worn in the players' 1969 production of "Strange Bedfellows."

MANY OF THE Farmington Players' antique costumes have been donated by members of the community. The dress worn by Cecily Cardew (Barby Nixon) was donated by Mrs. William Sloum, daughter of Fred M. Warner, Michigan's governor from 1905-1910. The pink dress was made in approximately 1910, and the exquisite hand embroidery is typical of the care lavished on details in days gone by.

Ingenuity has created many of the players' costumes out of bits and pieces of clothing. A hand-made ivory lace stole lined with pink fabric turns into a jacket for Lady Bracknell to match a lace-covered skirt.

A pair of embroidered cuffs from a trunkful of miscellaneous pieces were attached to the blouse worn by Miss Prism (Kathleen Monticello). The fabric for that blouse was scrounged from a box of cast-offs found in an alley.



Nurse Ratched (Adele Carragher) and Randle P. McMurphy (Darrell Zink) confront one another in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Avon Players present third production 'Cuckoo's Nest'

Avon Players community theater will open its third production of the 1978-79 season, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," on Friday at the group's playhouse, 1185 Washington, Avon Township.

Following an 8:30 p.m. performance, the audience will be invited to join members of the cast and crew for the traditional opening night "Afterglow," hosted by Bill and Helen Morgan of Rochester.

Performances also will be held Feb. 10, 11, 16-18, 23 and 24. Certain time on Fridays and Saturdays is at 8:30 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m. A special performance sponsored by the Rochester Board of Realtors will be given Thursday, Feb. 15, at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets may be reserved by calling 693-7410.

A powerful drama that combines elements of both comedy and tragedy, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is

the story of Randle Patrick McMurphy (played by Darrell Zink of Rochester) and his efforts to bring new meaning into the lives of the patients at a state mental hospital.

BUT McMURPHY, a fighter and a gambler who is transferred to the hospital from a prison work farm for observation, takes on the toughest fight of his life in the form of Nurse Ratched, played by Adele Carragher, also of Rochester.

The play revolves around these two characters and their struggle to establish their own, very different kinds of authority on the hospital ward.

McMurphy's "new buddies" on the ward include the catatonic Chief Bronden (Jon Volkenborn); young Billy Bibbit (Frank Liese); the erudite Harding (John Nolan); Martini (John Stouffer), who constantly hallucinates; the paranoid Scanlon (Jerry Anderson); the in-

secure Cheswick (Dick McGowan); and the helpless Ruckly (Bill MacNeill).

Lining up on Nurse Ratched's side are Aides Warren and Williams (Tom Beaman and Dave Monaghan); Nurse Finlay (Becky Wilson); Dr. Spivey (George Hotz); and the shock therapy technician (Derrick Pinnak).

Other members of the cast include night-watchman Turkle (Bill Doehring) and Candy and Sandy (Michele Poulin and Linda Held), who are the life of a party thrown on the ward by McMurphy.

DIRECTED BY Vic Zink of Rochester, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is based on the novel by Ken Kesey. Dale Wasserman wrote the play, which was first performed on Broadway in 1963 and starred Kirk Douglas as McMurphy.

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