



Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

An unfunny thing happened to comics

It was no laughing matter when a group of Detroit-area comedians decided to go on strike last week. The entertainers planned to picket before a scheduled Friday night (Aug. 10) performance at the Comedy Castle, at Friday's Olde World Cafe in West Bloomfield. But Thursday night (Aug. 9) an agreement was reached between the comedians, who had organized into the Detroit Comedy Society, and Comedy Castle manager Mark Ridley, who supplies the comedians performing at the Olde World Cafe. "Everybody's happy again," Ridley said, in a phone interview Monday. "We worked it out last Thursday night. It's the kind of agreement that can benefit everyone."

RIDLEY STARTED the Comedy Castle about eight months ago, as a showcase for Detroit-area and out-of-town comics. The Comedy Castle was first presented at the Meeting Place in Orchard Lake, where 90 patrons could be seated in the downstairs lounge. Recently, Comedy Castle moved to the Olde World Cafe. "Showcases" like the Comedy Castle have helped metropolitan Detroit comedians gain exposure. Ridley and his group were at odds over just how much "showcasing" a performer needs before deserving a paycheck and just how much that paycheck should be. At the Comedy Castle, Ridley will give the Detroit Comedy Society comedians choice of a Friday or Saturday first show, from which the entire cover charge will be split.

The cover charge will be held for one month, and the average divided among comedians performing there during that month (to offset a low attendance night). The headliner, who usually does two shows, will receive another percentage for doing the second show, Cassell said. "Not everybody was happy," he said. "But they (the individual comedians) thought whatever the group decided, they would go along with it."

RIDLEY STRESSED that the new agreement "will create competition." He claims the former salary scale was designed to "protect the mediocre." By increasing the rates paid to the local comics, Ridley said he will "put on stronger acts." He plans to book the better comics now

to do three-four shows a week, where before they were doing one or two.

Ridley said no shows were performed Wednesday or Thursday (Aug. 8-9), the nights when anyone from the audience, as well as new comedians and the more experienced who want to try out new material, all perform without payment. On Friday and Saturday nights (Aug. 10-11), the shows went on, with comics being paid at the increased rates.

Last week Stu Cassell of Oak Park, one of the metropolitan Detroit comics who has appeared at the Comedy Castle, called the offices of the Eccentric in Birmingham to talk about the just-organized Detroit Comedy Society.

"IT WAS FORMED Monday (Aug. 6) with 12 members," said the newly-elected president. Eighteen comics were present when the group met formally Tuesday (Aug. 7), prior to performing at Roberto's in Berkeley.

By Wednesday (Aug. 8), 45 comics had joined in person, or given written support, for the Detroit Comedy Society, Cassell said. "We had calls from another 50."

Cassell said the Detroit Comedy Society has no complaints about Roberto's where owner Robbie Baker splits the cover charge among the comics who perform there.

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Jazz quartet swings

The Archie Shepp Quartet will perform at the Detroit Institute of Arts Kresge Court on Thursday, Aug. 23. Two concerts will be given, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., as part of the "Jazz at the Institute" series. Saxophonist Shepp was born in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in 1934, and was raised in Philadelphia. A member of the New York Contemporary Five, whose members included Don Cherry, Shepp was also associated with John Coltrane. In the 70s, Shepp led his own group, as well as teaching at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Reserved table seating is provided for the concert when tickets are purchased in advance. Wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks will be available at low cost.

Tickets may be reserved through the ticket office (832-2730), and may be purchased, on an availability basis, at the door. Entrance for the concert will be through the museum's John R. marquee doors.

For a complete schedule of "Jazz at the Institute" concerts through Sept. 27, call 832-2730.

Stations airing jazz concerts

Broadcasts of the Detroit Institute of Arts "Jazz at the Institute" concerts are being heard on four Michigan public radio stations this summer.

Running through Sept. 29, a 13-week series of taped concerts is being aired.

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BERNARD HONORADO GELBER, piano
BEETHOVEN Leonore Concerto No. 3
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 8
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5

Thurs., Oct. 11
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
KYUNG-WHA CHUNG, violin
Overture to "The Starlight" Medea's Dance of Vengeance
STRAVINSKY Violin Concerto
SIBELIUS Symphony No. 2

Thurs., Oct. 25
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
STRAUSS RAVEL
BARTOK Helen's Awakening
Rhapsodie Espagnole
Concerto for Orchestra

Thurs., Jan. 3
HERBERT BLOMSTEDT, conductor
GARY GRAFFMAN, piano
WAGNER Prelude to "Die Meistersinger"
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 2
NIELSEN Symphony No. 5

Thurs., Jan. 17
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
NATHAN GORDON, viola
BEETHOVEN Overture to "Egmont"
Three Pieces, Opus 6
Händel in Italy

Thurs., Feb. 7
GARY BEITLIN, conductor
YOSHIDA MIYU, cello
Tchaikovsky's "Soleil" Suite No. 2
Cello Concerto No. 1
Symphonie Fantastique

Thurs., Mar. 6
JAMES LOUGHRAN, conductor
YEHUDI MENDELSON, violin
BARTOK Elizabeth Suite
ELGAR Violin Concerto
WALTON Symphony No. 1

Thurs., April 3
MATTHIAS BAMERT, conductor
ALEXIA DELAROCHE, piano
SCHUBERT Symphony No. 1 (Spring)
Brahms Concerto in E-flat, Op. 482
Tchaikovsky's "Pavane"
Good Friday, Act I Interlude

Thurs., May 8
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
HORACIO GUTIERREZ, piano
PROKOFIEV Three Concertos No. 3
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 5

Thurs., May 29
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
HAYDN MOZART
BEETHOVEN Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro"
Symphony No. 41 ("Fidelio")
Symphony No. 5

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10 SATURDAY EVENING CONCERTS "B" or
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Saturday Evening Concerts "B"
Sat., Sept. 22
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
BERLIOZ Overture to "Bevernato Cellini"
DWORKIN Symphony No. 7
SCHUBERT Opus of Fantasy

Sat., Oct. 6
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
ANDRÉ WEISZ, piano
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1
TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 4

Fri., Oct. 20
ANTAL DORATI, conductor
STRAUSS RAVEL
BARTOK Helen's Awakening
Rhapsodie Espagnole
Concerto for Orchestra

Sat., Jan. 5
HERBERT BLOMSTEDT, conductor
GARY GRAFFMAN, piano
WAGNER Prelude to "Die Meistersinger"
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 2
NIELSEN Symphony No. 5

Sat., Jan. 19
ANDREW DAVIS, conductor
NATHAN GORDON, viola
BEETHOVEN Overture to "Egmont"
BERG Three Pieces, Opus 6
BERLIOZ Händel in Italy

Sat., Feb. 16
GARY BEITLIN, conductor
SUSAN DAVENNY WYND, soprano
MIRA ZARAI mezzo-soprano
MICHAEL COUSINS, tenor
ANA BERBERIAN, bass
KENNETH HULL CHORALE
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Sat., Mar. 8
JAMES LOUGHRAN, conductor
YEHUDI MENDELSON, violin
BARTOK Elizabeth Suite
ELGAR Violin Concerto
WALTON Symphony No. 1

Sat., Mar. 22
MATTHIAS BAMERT, conductor
RADU LUPULI, piano
KELTERBORN Remembrance on Orpheus
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HINDEMITH "Mists of Miller" Symphony
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