

One-man show recreates Hem's final days

Ernest Hemingway — author, sportsman and fierce friend — will be recreated for Black Sheep Repertory Theater audiences in "Hem: An Interview," an original one-man show by Robert Beaupre, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 16, 17 and 18, in Manchester.

The research and work behind "Hem: An Interview" began in August 1977. After spending a year-and-a-half reading, writing, rewriting and rehearsing, Beaupre premiered his show in February 1979 at the Black Sheep Theater. Since that time, Beaupre has taken his show to theaters throughout the Midwest.

months before Hemingway's suicide. The fictional premise behind "Hem: An Interview" is that Hemingway finally grants one press interview — except that no questions shall be asked.

Instead, he will tell, in his own gruff, rambling way, stories about his friends and writings — with no interruptions.

Beaupre returned to the Black Sheep Company this fall in "Same Time, Next Year." An original company member, he was granted time away to travel to New York City, where he appeared in the American premier of "Provincial Anecdotes."

The setting for the show is Cuba, six Beaupre spent two years at Wayne

State University before leaving for Paris, where he studied mime under Etienne Decroux and Jacques LeCoq and theater with Bernadette Lange. He finished his studies in fine arts performance at the University of Detroit.

"Hem: An Interview" will play only one weekend in November. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:15 p.m., and the Sunday matinee time is 4 p.m. Reservations may be made by phoning 428-9280.

Band playing in 'ballroom'

Ballroom dancing is back. Waterford Oaks Activities Center in Pontiac will offer an evening of ballroom dancing from 8 to 11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

Dancers will swing to the "oldies and goodies" sounds of Clare Crawford's Band from Pontiac.

The event is sponsored by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission. There is an admission charge.

Waterford Oaks Activities Center is located at 2800 Watkins Lake Road in Pontiac. For further information contact Tom Jackson at 858-0913.



I love a mystery

Murder mystery writer Crane Hammond (Betty Hancock of Northville) takes a vacation to a New England farmhouse to find herself in a hilarious search for diamonds and a series of bodies in closets, in addition to being surprised by her husband Richard Hammond (George Martin of West Bloomfield), who gets hit on the head. The play is "Exit the Body" by Fred Carmichael, directed by Colin Merrill Turner, continuing through Nov. 17 at Will-O-Way Repertory Theater, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call 644-4418.

'The Babes in Toyland' looks anew at classic

During Thanksgiving week, Detroit's Music Hall Center turns into a magical kingdom as Victor Herbert's enchanting classic comes to life in a new musical extravaganza, "The Babes in Toyland."

Featuring giant-sized toy characters, actors, singers and dancers, "The Babes" will be presented in 12 shows from Nov. 20-25.

In an updated version of "Babes in Toyland," Sid and Marty Krofft (creators of "Donny and Marie Show," "H.R. Pufnstuf" and others) have produced a multi-media spectacular with elaborate sets, costumes and special effects.

THE BABES MEET everyone from Mother Goose and the Evil Barnaby to Jack and Jill and Peter Pumpkin Eater. They are entertained by an animal orchestra and the Bo Peep Ballet Company of dancing sheep.

The Babes also find themselves surrounded by the mystery of The Dark Forest, with its gigantic living trees and the chilling sounds of Barnaby's ghostly coo.

Producers of "The Babes" have designed what they call "a cross between the classical music of The Nutcracker Ballet" and the contemporary musical look of "The Wiz."

Evening performances of this family show are at 8 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, and 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Matinees are scheduled for Thursday (Thanksgiving Day) at noon, Friday and Saturday at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Music Hall box office, 350 Madison, Detroit, or by calling 963-7680. Box office hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For group rates, call Joan Heidt, 963-7622.

Their interest in the park (and in Mary, the attractive granddaughter of the Master Toymaker) brings about a series of events that reawakens the magic of Toyland with its amazing living toys.

Musical drama joins showcase

Albion Productions Inc. of Southfield is one of 16 companies from the United States and Canada selected to perform at the National Showcase of Performing Arts for Young People — "Showcase '80" — planned for March 21 and 22 at the Civic Center in Syracuse, N.Y.

Albion Productions will present a new musical drama, "A Place to Be Me," by Kay Britten, to nearly 400 sponsors of young people's series from cities across the country.

Showcase '80 is a program of the Professional Children's Theater Presenters and Producers of the Children's Theater Association of America, a division of the American Theater Association.

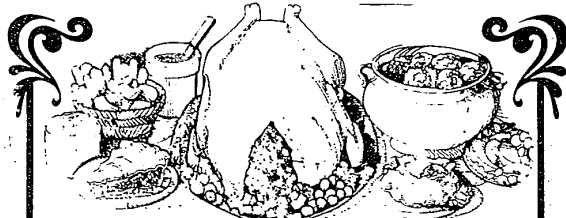
The first national showcase was held in March 1979 at the National College of Education in Evanston, Ill. More than 50 companies applied to be showcased in this national event for children's programming. The showcase committee is composed of nine producers and presenters of Children's programs from various sections of the country. These include Mickey Miners, Detroit Youththeatre, Carole Huggins, John F. Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; and Carol T. Jeschke, Civic Center, Syracuse, N.Y.

According to Ms. Jeschke, chairman of the Professional Children's Theater Presenters and Producers, "the showcase has attracted national and international public attention as a first major step in developing series of performing arts activities for young people in cities of every size."

"We believe that this kind of activity is the basis for healthy audience development for performing arts in the years to come — getting the best programs available to young audiences now."

Bids have been accepted to hold this annual event in three other American cities through 1983. The Birmingham Civic Center in Birmingham, Ala., will host Showcase '81; Showcase '82 will be held at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Inquiries about Showcase '80 may be directed to Carol T. Jeschke, CRC/Civic Center, 411 Montgomery St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13202, phone (315) 425-2155.



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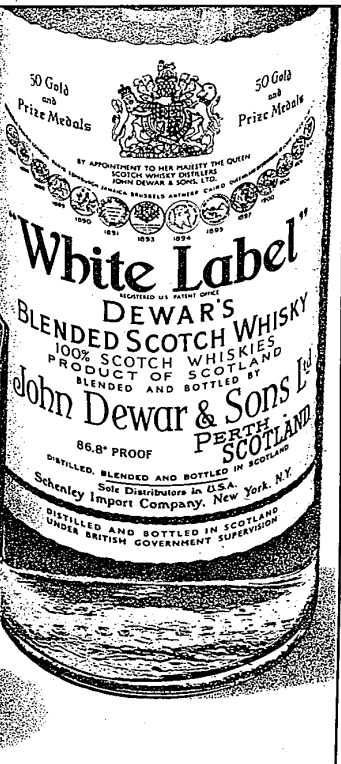
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