

Dolores Shevlin

Actress has opening night jitters and high hopes

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A Farmington Hills woman, an associate of Nancy Gurwin Productions since it started, is now doing double duty in the dinner theater company.

Dolores Shevlin takes the role of Dorothy Cleves in "Any Wednesday," starring Vic Caputo at Paradise Cafe for the summer, while carrying on as publicist.

"But that is not unusual," she said. "In any theater company, you have to have people who know there is nothing going on that is below you or above you."

"And that may even be truer in Nancy's company. She surrounds herself with people who do everything, and do it well."

Mrs. Shevlin has two children, two cats, two cars, a house to maintain and with two jobs this time around, says, "It somehow all gets done, but it's probably why I weigh 165 pounds."

Groundwork for her penchant to theater work was laid in classes at Rutgers University in her native state of New Jersey, but she says her ability to function in all facets of theater came through her affiliation with Farmington Community Players.

Local play-goers will remember her in the community theatre's productions of "Plaza Suite" and "George Washington Slept Here."

HER FIRST venture into professional dinner theatre was a role in "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," at Somerset, which is where she met Mrs. Gurwin.

"It has always been comedies for me because of my New York agent," she said. "And especially Neil Simon comedies. He writes specifically for people with big city, or eastern, accents, so it was an easy thing for me. I fell right into those parts."

"Any Wednesday" was written by Muriel Resnik, "but it's in the same vein," she said. "It is a delightfully funny play. Vic Caputo is enjoyable to work with, and I can't say enough good about the rest of the cast."

Kay Gitsmer and Joe Lannen, both residents of Livonia, round out the four-member cast of the sophisticated comedy about a spoiled millionaire

who maintains an executive suite and a mistress.

Mrs. Shevlin takes the part of the unsuspicious wife.

Edgar A. Guest III is the company's resident director.

"Any Wednesday" is the sixth major Broadway production staged by Nancy Gurwin Productions, some of which have run simultaneously in Detroit and the suburbs.

On the day of final dress rehearsals, Mrs. Shevlin admitted to having opening night jitters that were combined with high optimism for the show's success.

"BUT BOTH are endemic to theater," she said. "You wouldn't be in theater and not go into a production without an upbeat attitude. It just wouldn't happen."

"We are definitely optimistic people, whether we are putting on a back yard play or a \$20-million Broadway production. Everybody gives their best, if for no other reason than that they don't want to appear foolish before an audience."

"Any Wednesday" is booked for performances every Friday and Saturday night through Labor Day at the Detroit restaurant, which has been owned by Dan and Marcella Moody for about 40 years and recently added dinner theater for Nancy Gurwin Productions.

Meanwhile, rehearsals are in full swing for "Penny Girl," which will open there, starring Mrs. Gurwin, on Sept. 14.

Mrs. Shevlin says her affiliation with the theater company and her home life with her husband, Bob, 12-year-old Chris and 10-year-old Sarah in a wooded area in Farmington Hills gives her "the best of two worlds."

Bob Shevlin, a flutist for many years with Scandinavian Symphony Orchestra, is well versed in the ways of the demands of rehearsals.

Her children enjoy saying "My mother is an actress."

Reservations for the show, which takes place in the Mediterranean Room of Paradise, can be had by calling the restaurant, 889-3988.

Dinner is served from 7 p.m. Show time is 8:30 p.m.



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Farmington Observer Suburban Life

(F)18

Farmington Garden Club closes year with 5 awards

Farmington Garden Club received five awards, given the members at the end of the season, during the annual meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan.

Phyllis Welch, spokeswoman for the club, said, "It

isn't often that one club out of about 300 in the state can win five awards."

The big win was the highly coveted National Purple Rosette, a national honor bestowed for the most outstanding flower show in the state this

year, which was called "From Adam's Rib to Women's Lib."

For the same show, the members took a state award for "Best Flower Show Schedule."

For the club's work in plantings in public parks, and at Farmington Com-

munity Center, it received the Sear's Award and the Community Service Award, both state awards.

In addition, it was given a certificate of appreciation for the club's annual year book of events.

Six members of the 47-year-old garden club attended the annual meeting in Kalamazoo.

Mrs. William Blake, the club's 33rd president, accepted the honors on behalf of the members.

'Smile, Darn Ya,' is designed to make you do just that

The Kendallarks bring their fun music to the Summer in the Park series with "Smile, Darn Ya, Smile" at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 24, in the outdoor amphitheater on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

The Farmington Hills-based women's chorus has carried the "Smile, Darn Ya, Smile," theme throughout the year with the show's line up "calculated to make you do just that," said Ben Scaglione, spokesman for the 25 voices that make up the Kendallarks.

Summer in the Park is made possible through a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts, in cooperation with Farmington Area Arts Commission.

Admission is free. There is no curtain on the stage of the campus amphitheater, where all concerts within the series are held.

Show-goers who come early can get a good seat, for starters, then watch the sort of activity that usually goes on behind the curtain.

As for the finale, that is time before the mos-



Norma Niblett (at left) and Olga Miller team up at the piano to work on a score for the Kendallarks. Both are former presidents of the group which has been bringing fun music to the area for the past 22 years.

quitos come out. A lawn chair, or boat cushion, and a sweater in case it turns chilly, are suggested.

THE CHORUS under the direction of Jim Whitten, and accompanied by Susan Carr, has prepared a completely new show for the summer season, holding over only one audience favorite from last year's repertoire.

Included in "Smile, Darn Ya, Smile," are specialty numbers, and some old favorite tunes by an all-new barbershop quartet.

Soprano Joyce Messing sings "I Can't Smile Without You."

The "Orphan Annie" sing a medley from the hit show "Annie." Romantic music comes from Whitten and his wife, Terese, and the chorus does a dance to "Open a New Window," from "Mame," choreographed by Carol Cushing and Shirley Jaynt.

Chorus membership consists of students, career women, and housewives, and some are all three, whose age range from 17 to past retirement.

"The Kendallarks always has room for new members," said President Sara Woolard.

"Five of our featured performers have joined us within the past year. We're thrilled to have them and we'd like about a dozen more."

The singers are available for hire for luncheons, banquets, and other special occasions.

"Talk to any of us after the performance, or call us," said Mrs. Woolard about potential newcomers.

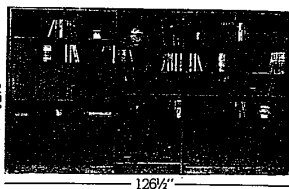
Mrs. Woolard can be reached at 553-0182.

THE KENDALLARKS was formed in 1957 by eight residents who lived in Kendallwood subdivision, then Farmington Township.

The group has been singing ever since, widening its reputation for bringing fun and spirited music in performances for social clubs, church groups, retirement homes, hospitals and special community occasions.

OCC's Orchard Ridge campus is south of Twelve Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

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