

at your leisure

SHOW TIME

Don Juan in Hell drama by George Bernard Shaw through Jan. 25 at Meadow Brook Theatre on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. Ticket information at box office, 377-3350.

Brer' Rabbit musical adaptation of well-known chase with fox, bear and rabbit, presented by Rag-A-Muffin Players at 2 and 3 p.m. Saturday at The Community House, Bates and Townsend, Birmingham.

Lively Arts for Little Ones presents Other Things & Company from Oakland University at 1 p.m. Sunday at Southfield Civic Center Auditorium, and 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Somerset Mall, Troy. Ticket information at 642-1452.

LUNCH, DINNER, CABARET, LOUNGE THEATER

Genza Theatre musical satire about Detroit presented by Southfield Repertory Theatre in Stouffer's Showcase on Fridays-Saturdays at Stouffer's Northland Inn, Southfield. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. show at 9 p.m. Further information at 559-4700.

Sailor Beware cabaret theatre production presented by Metropolitan Repertory Company in new After Nine Room at The Cooper's Arms, Rochester. Performances Fridays-Saturdays; dinner from regular menu, before or during show. Further information or reservations at 651-2266.

Play It Again, Sam Woody Allen comedy presented by Theatre of the Arts Saturdays-Sundays at "Rudy's" in Rochester. Saturday's show at 6 p.m., dinner-follies; Sunday's dinner at 3 p.m. and show at 4. Further information or dinner theatre reservations at 288-0450 or 652-7333.

CONCERTS

American Artists Series presents Joann

Freeman, piano; Bogos Morthikian, violin; Paul Silver, viola; and John Thurman, cello, at 3 p.m. Sunday at Kingswood School Auditorium in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets available only during week prior to concert by calling 647-2230.

Avant Concert Associates and Baldwin Library co-sponsor Brío Trio concert, featuring soprano Roma Riddell, at 8 p.m. Monday in second floor Jeanne Lloyd Room of library in Birmingham. Tickets priced for general admission and for students and seniors; call 647-1700 for more information.

Concert a la Carte presents David Wilson, harpsichord, at 9 p.m. Monday at Twenty's in Birmingham. Dinner reservations accepted as late as 7:30 p.m. Dinner and concert priced separately. Reservations at 644-0050.

NIGHTLIFE

Archibald's presents Alexander Zonjic, jazz flutist, and his quartet Tuesdays-Saturdays, in Birmingham.

Cafe Fior presents "Jam" with Gary Shunk, piano; Danny Jordan, bass; Larry Bell, drums; and George "Sax" Benson, saxophone, at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at Franklin Plaza in Southfield.

Charles's Crab presents Bob Seeley playing boogie piano in the bar, alternating evenings with ragtime pianist Linda Milne, from 4:30-11:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Fridays, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturdays and 6-9:30 p.m. Sundays, in Troy.

Comedy Castle presents Michael Rapoport, from the Los Angeles Comedy Store, at 9 p.m. Thursday, 8:30 and 11 p.m. (two shows) Friday-Saturday at Stafford's in Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield. New talent and Castle regulars at 9 p.m. Wednesday. Further information at 545-2576, anytime.

Cripple Creek Coffee House presents Ginger Brandy, duo performing

traditional Irish and American music on dulcimers (hammered and lap), guitar and autoharp, with vocals at 8 p.m. Sunday at Common Ground in Birmingham. Further information at 645-1173.

Delta Queen Lounge presents Kenny Davis at the piano bar, playing for sing-along and dancing, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, Happy Hour Mondays-Fridays 4-8 p.m. through January, at Sheraton Inn Bloomfield Hills.

Dewey's presents Saxony, six-member band featuring vocalist Alice Morgan, performing Top 40 music for the dancing crowd, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. through Saturday in Michigan Inn, Southfield. Further information at 559-6500.

Diggers presents Bob and Linda Milne alternating at the ragtime piano 5:30-10 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 6-11 p.m. Saturdays, in Farmington.

Eden Glen Joe Grande Trio plays for listening and dancing 7:30-11:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays and 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays at restaurant in Troy. Doug Jacobs and the Red Garter Band plays for Dixieland Brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Further information at 649-1880.

Farmington Holiday Inn presents Strider, instrumental-vocal ensemble, Tuesdays-Saturdays.

Mountain Jacks presents The Ron Co-ed Show on Wednesdays-Saturdays, in Troy. Further information at 689-7920.

Piper's Alley Troy presents the Charles Green Band every Saturday night. For more information call 649-3480.

Roma's of Bloomfield presents the return of big band sounds from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturdays in Bloomfield Township. For more information call 332-9237.

Somerset Inn pianist Terry Alan plays at restaurant L'Auberge in Troy from 6-11 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and for brunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

ON FILM

Merrie Melodie Theatre presents "It Came from Outer Space" in 3-D, starring Richard Carlson and Barbara Rush, at Meadowbrook Mall in Avon Township. Special glasses furnished. Through Jan. 22. Showtime information at 375-0011, anytime.

Travel Film Series presents "Rare Jewels of the Mediterranean" narrated by Bill Madson at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at The Community House in Birmingham. Ticket information at 644-5832.

Cranbrook Institute of Science presents "Of Time, Tombs and Treasure," exploring tomb of King Tutankhamun, at 2:45 and 3:45 p.m. Saturday, at museum in Bloomfield Hills. Half-hour film free with museum admission. For more information call 645-3210.



Barbara Berge (left), Donald Ewer, George Gitto and Michael Lipton comprise the cast of "Don Juan in Hell" at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Performance lacks fire

(Continued from Page 13C)

Field's wryness. Ewer's voice went into that wonderful off-glide at the end of a short speech now and then. More of that kind of satiric undercutting would have lit the stage.

Ewer hints at the lovable fellow The Statue must have been when he was alive, and the actor should have pulled out all the stops as Shaw did when writing the part.

The Statue is a vain liar, proud of his fencing, his conquests, a man who likes to be comfortable. Ewer recedes into propriety too often, and we wonder why he is doing that in Hell of all places.

George Gitto is a suave Devil. His arguments in favor of Hell, the place that worships beauty, is more convincing than Don Juan's arguments in favor of Heaven, the home of "life force worshippers."

GITTO LOOKS the very soul of a gentleman; he is vexed, rather than troubled, that Mozart has defected to Heaven. Nothing really troubles the Devil; that's what makes him a devil and Hell a boring place to real thinkers.

The Devil should understand that this is the basic conflict in the play. Gitto plays the Devil with so little a touch that he lets this essential matter slip through his grasp.

He makes Hell a very attractive place, but he does it without putting up a real fight, the kind of fight Don Juan needs.

Michael Lipton, a very handsome Don Juan, has the toughest role. Juan is an echo of John Tanner, the hero who ends "Man and Superman," dissecting, analyzing and "talking" as feverishly as possible about his impending marriage and how dreadful every thing is, while his bird-to-be, Ann Whitefield, looks on fondly.

In Hell, Tanner, transformed into Don Juan, is Shaw's voice, calling for "Life's incessant aspiration to higher organization; wider, deeper, intenser self-consciousness, and clearer self-understanding."

JUAN BELIEVES the brain is evolving in Darwinian fashion as our bodies did — into a finer tool. He is the life and soul of Shaw's love of a good argument along with the beautifully wrought phrase.

Lipton is very good at delivering gaspingly long speeches in clear diction, but the impetuous fire behind the flood of verbiage is not quite there. When Lipton says women's flaws turn him off, we don't believe him, and the frustration that makes him depart to Heaven in search of the unattainable, the unbeatable, the "real masters of happiness" is not nearly high enough.

Still, the production is worth seeing for the sheer brilliance of Shaw's unkillable wit.

Ms. Berge's velvet gown is just right, and the tuxedos are elegant and somehow professional. Designer Mary Lynn Bonnell's costumes are usually fine. Lighting by Larry A. Reed, (mostly red and white) was good; too.

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