

'Picnic' opens at Will-O-Way

"Picnic" by William Inge opens Friday for a four-weekend run at Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre in Bloomfield Township.

Performances begin at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through May 16 at the theater, 775 W. Long Lake Road, between Telegraph and Lahser roads. All seats are \$5. Call 644-4418 for ticket reservations and theater party information.

Action takes place in a small Kansas town during the early '50s. A drifter drops by for a reunion with an old college buddy and steals his girl, a prize beauty.

Will-O-Way's production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is directed by Artistic Director Celia Merrill Turner. Featured in leading roles are Gary Clason of Berkeley as the steady wanderer Hal Carter and Eileen Weiss of Bloomfield Hills as the striking Madge Owens.

AN ACTOR new to Will-O-Way, Clason studied theater at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., and the University of Michigan.

Miss Weiss has performed in nightclubs and locally produced films and commercials, as well as played leading roles in many Will-O-Way productions. She teaches at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre, the acting school within the repertory theater.

As Alan Seymour, Madge's boyfriend, is Birmingham resident Timothy Hall. Most recently, Hall appeared as the lead, Nikos, in Will-O-Way's "Zorba" and as the Master of Ceremonies in "Cabaret." Hall designed the set for "Picnic."

Madge's mother, Flo Owens, is portrayed by Elaine Keimert of Waterford. Birmingham resident Anita Barone is cast as Millie, Madge's precocious sister. Bonnie Weintrob of Oak Park plays Helen Potts, the Owens' neighbor.

second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

WHAT'S IT WORTH?
A ratings guide to the movies

Bad \$1
Fair \$2
Good \$3
Excellent \$4

southern town, attempt to come to grips with the specter of a retarded individual and observe from the fringes the rape trial of a black man. Gregory Peck won an Oscar for his portrayal of

the defense attorney, but Mary Badham, Philip Alford and John Megna, as the children, own this film. Robert Duvall appears in one of his first movie roles. Rating: \$3.80.

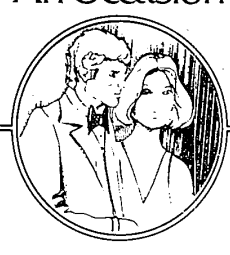
"Von Ryan's Express" (1965), 11:45 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 7. Originally 117 minutes.

Frank Sinatra won an Academy Award for "From Here to Eternity" in 1954 (see Wednesday, 8 p.m.), but he made his best films in the '60s. "Manchurian Candidate," "Express" and "The Naked Runner" are all as good, if not better, than "Eternity," which itself won an Oscar. Sinatra the actor had matured by 1960, when he was 45, and his later films reflect that maturity. Contrastingly, Sinatra was over the hill cinematically by 1970, and he made his worst films during that decade. "Von Ryan's Express" is a good World War II adventure story. Trevor Howard also stars. Rating: \$3.05.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962), 1 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 50. Originally 129 minutes.

Perhaps the most literary film of the '60s ("A Man for All Seasons" wasn't nearly so entertaining), "Mockingbird" manages to capture perfectly the point of view of three Depression Era youngsters as they experience life in a small,

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