entertainment

Musical makes waves with trendiest story

By Mary Doerr special writer

Del Howison of Birmingham looked

Del Howison of Birmingham looked up with a serious expression on his face. "This show is hot," he said. He was talking about the musical comedy, "An Evening at the Paradise, A Nu Wave Love Story," now showing midnights on weekends through May at the Attic Theatre in Detroit's Greek-town.

the Attle Theatre in Detroit's Greek-town.

Howison, public relations director of the Attle Theatre, plays the part of Lou Sleef, a rising new-wave rock singer, in the production.

George Goulson of Bloomfield Hills, well known in the Birmingham area because of his connection with Palladi-um, Sllverbell Ski Resort and Some-thing Different, is producing the rock musical, his first theatrical undertak-ing.

"THIS IS one theatrical vacquire that

"THIS IS one theatrical venture that

ent." The 90-minute nontraditional new wave musical is the conception of Jonathon Round, another resident of Brimingham, who was formerly associated with the Raven Gallery. He wrote the play and composed its 11 tunes.

The story revolves around a bar

'What the show is saving is - isn't the world funny and let's laugh at ourselves.'

- Del Howison Attic Theatre

called the Paradise, run by Mo Ther-love, who decides to teach three feud-ing friends a lesson. Conflicts are re-solved in surprising ways, utilizing sa-tirical characters, gaudy costumes and outrageous antics. The sole purpose of the show is entertainment.

"It is the kind of show you go to when your wife is dying, your house has just burned down, and you lost your job," Howison said. "It makes you forget ev-erything."

Both Goulson and Howison believe the appeal of the show lies in its satiri-cal humor and characters that fall short of offending anyone.

"IT SATIRIZES the moral majority as well as the liberals," continued Howison who is limined? a graduate of the conservative John Brown University. He once intended to be a minister. "Even Reagan would enjoy it," Goulson commented.

Howison was quick to add, "What the show is saying is — isn't the world funny and let's laugh a tourslees."
"An Evening at the Paradise" first appeared at the Attic Theatre last October for 30 performances. It was then taken down and reworked. The characterizations were changed, tunes were added and the script was tightened.

ened.
It opened at the end of April again at the Attic Theatre in the midnight slot, where it will be playing until the end of May on Friday and Saturday evenings.
"It think we have the stage production up to the quality of the sound track," Goulson said referring to the

sound track presently in the making by Fiddlers Music Co. of Grosse Pointe.

NOT ONLY is the sound track nearly complete, but Goulson has already engoliated the sale of the world-wide rights for cable, pay TV and commercial television with American Jade Network Productions.

After It is taken down at the Attic Theatre, "Paradise" moves immediately to the Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms where the filming will be done in July.

Grosse Pointe Farms where the tim-ing will be done in July.

That video film will first be aired in October in Europe and probably in the United States a month later.

Both and Howison admit that the show is not a trend-setter because the new wave trend has already been set.

But they think that the time is perfect for this musical to become a hit in the midst of the new fad.

"We intend to ride this trend up with this show," said Goulson, who also is making plans for a road company. "It is a slick enough show for Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and certainly for off-Broadway."

THIS NEWEST trend in rock music THIS NEWEST trend in rock music called new wave is a combination of punk, rock, pop and reggae music. Howison describes it as a style that is reverting back to the feel of the early 1950s laced with the electric advance-

"You might say that it is whatever you want to do at the time with a nice beat," Howison said with a laugh.

Goulson's and Howison's positive at-titude might be summed up with the words of Howison's T-shirt, which read "Turn on the San." So certain are they of the future success of their produc-tion they have already been consider-ing a sequel called "Return to Para-dise."

All this creativity has been generated in Birmingham, a town Goulson refers to as the new "Motown."



Patti Raven and Del Howison appear in "An Evening at the Paradise, A Nu Wave Love Story," at the Attic Theatre.

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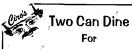
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