Are Simon's Characters Sterotypes Or Real?

Can the ultra-conservative find true happiness with the new left?

That might sound like a modern day version of the classic soap opera, but it is also the surface situation of the Neil Simon comedy, "Star Spangled Girl."

The Farmington Players will produce "Girl" as the final production of the season. Opening night of a seven-performance run is May 8 in the Players Barn.

Ticket reservations for the three weekends of performances are now being taken by Noral McNeely at 476-2749.

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BRIEFLY, the Simon comedy tells the story of an All-American girl and two representatives of the new left in a classic triangular relationship.

The girl, Sophie Rauschmeyer is a southern belle whose greatest achievement was the winning of a berth on the U.S. Swimming team competing in the world olympics.

On the male side of the cast is the entire staff of the underground magazine, Fall-Out, which seeks to save the world from its destiny.

Andy Hobart is the magazine's business and financial man, while Norman Cornell is the brilliant political theoretician who writes the magazine's copy.

Cast in the Farmington production are: Carol Long as Sophie; Dennis Broadhead as Andy; and Pete Turgeon as Norman.

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WHAT DO THE actors and Director Joel Hepher think about the play and the characters?

"Sophie is believable," asserts Carol Long. "She reminds me of someone at the southern boarding school I attended. I don't know, but she is believable because Sophie is typical of the conservative southern girl."

Carol came to the Farmington Players from Atlanta, Ga. so it is reasonable to assume that she is making her analysis on the basis of personal experience.

The males in the cast don't agree.

"Sophie is inhibited," says Dennis Broadhead and he adds that she is also "as ideal as apple pie all wrapped up in the flag."

Pete Turgeon believes that Sophie is "a put on of the overemphasized picture of the southern girl. Nobody is so all-American," Turgeon asserts.

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HOW ABOUT the representatives of the new left?

Broadhead says that he believes "Andy is a stereotype" and this is proven because I have all the pressures as the adult male in the play. Andy is the straight man for the other two characters," he added, "and because of this it's a tough role to play with a straight face."

Andy's counterpart on the magazine, Norman, is, in the words of Turgeon, "a definite comic schizophrenic." Because of this Norman is a "fun part" according to Turgeon.

The director, Hepner, agrees that all the characters in the play are stereotype of both the right and left wings of American political philosophy.

"Simon's reality, however, is that the characters are also believable," Hepner says. "They are believable not in the stereotypes, but in their human qualities.

"Every person in the audience has been extremely conservative at one time and then extremely to the left at another," he explained.

"Simon shows the imbalance between the characters in the play, but, by the end the three are close – not philosophically but as persons," Hepner concluded.

Amusements

- ZANY TRIANGLE -- Pete Turgeon, Carol Long and Dennis Broadhead are the cast members in the Farmington Players production of Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl." (Evert photo)

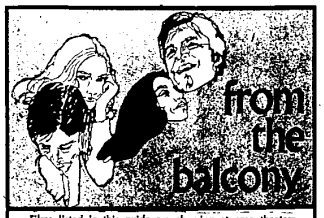
Sir Graves Brings Ghosts To Terrace

Sir Graves Ghastly and his Haunted House Stage Show Revue have scheduled live stage shows at 1 p.m. April 25 and 26 in the Terrace Theatre, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, Livonia. Tickets are now on sale at the theater box office.

Produced by Burt Levy, the show features: Ghost of the Mummy; The Wolfman; Dr. Sebastian Blood; the Hunchback of Notre Dame; Frankenstein; and Sir Graves Ghastly.

Feeds 2 People

A properly planned garden 20 feet by 50 feet in size should provide most of the table needs for two people, according to Michigan State University horticulturists.



Films listed in this guide are showing at area theaters. Check the theater listings for the specific theater and time of showings.

FILM	Industry Rating	Catholic Rating
The Adventurers	R	B
Airport	G	A-3
Ben Hur	G	A-1
Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice	R	B
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	GP	A-2
Cactus Flower	GP	A-3
Funny Girl	G	A-2
Hello Dolly	G	A-1
Loving	R	B
M*A*S*H	R	A-4
Midnight Cowboy	X	A-4
The Undefeated	G	A-1
What Do You Say to a Naked Lady?	X	C
Z	none	A-2
Zabriskie Point	R	B

Industry ratings
G—suggested for general audiences. GP—suggested for mature audiences (parental discretion advised). R—restricted—persons under 17 not admitted, unless accompanied by parent or adult guardian. X—persons under 18 not admitted . . . age restrictions may be higher . . . check theater
A-1 Morally unobjectionable—for general patronage.
A-2 Morally unobjectionable—for adults, adolescents.
A-3 Morally unobjectionable—for adults.
A-4 Morally unobjectionable for adults with reservations.
B-Morally objectionable in part for all. C—Condemned.

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