

Attractions include mystery, musical

'The Hollow'

Performances of the Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre production of 'The Hollow' by Agatha Christie continue at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 4:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 12 at 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Township. For ticket information call the box office at 844-4418.

By Mary Jane Doerr
Special Writer

'The Hollow,' a mystery by Agatha Christie, at Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre is a well-acted, evenly cast show that is quite engaging.

The plot takes place in the garden room of Sir Henry Angkatell's home, a part played by Sir Henry Angkatell himself, through the use of makeup Kevin Brady, Sir Henry and Lady Angkatell (Shirley Brewer) greet their weekend guests as they arrive one Friday afternoon in September for a visit.

While Brady portrays the English gentleman with a sense of dignity and mild-mannered charm that makes everyone like him, Lady Angkatell is showing signs of senility in her conversation and actions.

Brewer has just the right combination of confusion and awareness in her expressions and lines to give the entire play a buoyant humor.

HENRIETTA ANGKATELL, played by a stunningly attractive Cynthia Betty, is living with the Angkatells. She is a talented sculptor who is widely known for her work. While she is beautiful enough to attract the attention of the rudely appealing John Crislow and the handsome Edward Angkatell, played by Tom Chapman, Henrietta is no fool.

Not only is Betty well cast as her

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appearance, but she carries the part to perfection.

John Crislow (Dan Dunich) and his wife, Gerda Crislow (Eileen Weiss), are the odd couple. Crislow is the epitome of arrogance and rudeness. His wife is the homely, unsure, nervous unhappy counterpart that marries such as these always produce.

Dan Dunich is an excellent actor. Not particularly handsome with his messy black hair and thick glasses, he plays the part of both a brilliant doctor and a womanizer, though we are never quite sure why he has the appeal he does.

He doesn't love anyone, though there is a question about his true feelings toward his wife and the women in his two other relationships.

BOTH DUNICH and Weiss have the most dramatic acting jobs. As Gerda Crislow, Weiss is effective. She is frightened all the time, nervous continually, awkward in everything she says — all characteristics that give the image of stupidity.

As Lady Angkatell says, 'Gerda could not have committed the murder. She probably would have missed her shot.' But is she really stupid, or just degraded by her egocentric husband?

Midge Harvey (Francine Hachen) is the poor relative who has to work in a dress shop to support herself, though her rich relative, Edward Angkatell (Tom Chapman), never understood why. Since Edward is in love with Henrietta, Midge doesn't have a chance with him. Both of these actors are good, but Francine Hachen looks older than Chapman, which makes their pairing rather unacceptable.

'Charlie Brown'

The musical 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown,' presented by St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, continues at 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday and Nov. 4-5 at the pavilion on Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills. For ticket information call 844-6377.

By Barbara Milechals
Special Writer

Despite some fine individual performances, the St. Dunstan's Guild production of 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' has all the snap, crackle and pop of soggy cereal.

What should be a fast-paced musical romp with the 'Peanuts' gang turns into a sluggish evening. There are innumerable long curtains, slow light cues and interminably long scenes changes despite very minimal scenery and no costume changes. The long orchestrations used to fill the voids just don't do it.

'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' features six of the popular 'Peanuts' characters created by cartoonist Charles Schulz. In a series of blackouts and musical vignettes, the gang recounts some of the joys and tribulations of childhood. The book by John Gordon and music and lyrics by Clark Gable are all well, even for an ardent 'Peanuts' fan like me.

With his ingratiating grin, Jim Andres is a convincing Charlie Brown, the affable bungler for whom nothing ever goes quite right. Andres ably projects Charlie Brown's charm and resilience, and his clear singing voice is also pleasing.

BONNIE COOK's Snoopy is an audience favorite throughout the show. Using facial and vocal expressions to full advantage, Cook captures the waggish

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humor of the precocious beagle.

Cook's excellent singing voice shows to best advantage in 'Supper Time,' when Snoopy insists on making a big production out of his daily feeding.

Felicia Nowak Shirk portrays crabby, know-it-all Lucy to perfection, and her facial pouts are hilarious. While Lucy's voice is meant to be strident, Shirk sometimes overdoes the shrillness.

Tom Christopher makes a fine Linus, Lucy's insecure but intellectually superior little brother. Christopher's intensity and wide-eyed amazement are delightfully funny when Lucy pedantically teaches Linus some hopelessly garbled facts.

Thomas Peterson's Schroeder and Debi Green's Patty are both spunky and engaging. Schroeder stoically endures Lucy's crush on him, while perpetually smiling Patty is a foil to her crabby friend Lucy.

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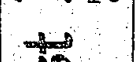
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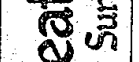
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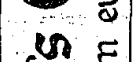
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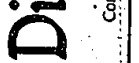
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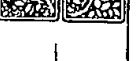
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