

'Luv' Enjoyable At Will-O-Way

By DAN McCOSH

A "Luv" triangle, portrayed by three members of the Will-O-Way Repertory Company and directed by Hal Youngblood, makes for an enjoyable evening in the tiny theater on Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills.

Murray Schisgal's play focuses on an improbable attempt by a stiff-necked scrounger, named Milt Mannville (played by Chuck Neal) to foist off his wife on an unemployed, neurotically blocked poet named Harry Berlin (played by Marty Colbeck).

Mannville's wife, Ellen (Ellen Worcester), complicates the transfer of affections by her own aims as an arch-feminist who can recall the entire light record of Sugar Ray Robinson without blinking behind her granny glasses.

IT'S ONE THING to tell a joke to an audience. It's another to keep a sense of timing when the audience is nearly on the stage.

The Will-O-Way apprentice theater has an uncommonly big stage playing to a living room-sized audience, and the result can be a strain on an actor.

But when it works, the result is a terrific feeling of intimacy with the play, almost like sitting in the sixth row at a Cinema movie.

Neal is stiff and shrill as Mannville, killing funny as a kind of Scrooge with feelings of inadequacy.

MISS WORCESTER plays the mildly schizophrenic Ellen inside this PhD in a motherly seeming to get out artfully, as she is seduced, then disgusted, by the artsy-craftsy, Volkswagon life-style offered by Berlin that ends with him

sucking his thumb in a fetal position, attacked by imaginary dogs.

Colbeck, in turn, puts across a dopey, ineffectual Harry who can't do anything right, including being a murder victim or a suicide.

On the whole, it was more than adequate performance a play that treats the fine line between satire and cynicism.

Amusements

Tryouts Set At Eastern

Tryouts for the Eastern Michigan University Summer Theater production of "Barefoot in the Park" will be held Sunday, June 21, from 7 to 10 p.m., and Monday, June 22, from 9 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 10 p.m. The tryouts will be held in Room 131, Quirk Auditorium, Forest and Hoyt, Ypsilanti.

Paris are available for four men and two women to take the roles of the newlyweds, Corie and Paul Bratter; the telephone repair man and the delivery man; Corie's mother, Mrs. Banks; and the gourmet, Victor Velasco. Anyone interested may try out.

A Neil Simon comedy that has enjoyed a long Broadway run, "Barefoot in the Park" has also ranked high in the movie theater box offices as well.

The comedy will be presented at EMU July 23, 24 and 25.

Ticket information may be obtained at the box office from 12:45 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or by calling 487-1220 during box office hours.

Groups Get Discounts

More than 3,000 tickets have been sold to civic, social and business organizations for Oakland University's Meadow Brook Music Festival.

It will open its eight-week season Thursday, June 25, at 8:30 p.m., with Sixteen Ehrling and the Detroit Symphony and special guest pianist Gary Graffman.

Groups of 20 or more persons from all over the state and Canada have made reservations for one or more of Meadow Brook's forthcoming 32 evening concerts.

The group sales office offers a 20% discount for groups of 20 or more, arranges box lunches for picnics before the concerts, suggests bus service and will make overnight reservations for groups traveling a long distance in dormitories on the Oakland University campus.

Group sales information may be obtained by writing Mrs. E.W. Misher, Meadow Brook Festival, Oakland University, Rochester, 48063. Tickets are now on sale in the Detroit area at Hudson's, Grinnell's and the Festival Box Office.



HOW NOW -- Mrs. William F. Lancaster of Farmington puts one of her pupils, Kristine Graham, 11, through her paces. Mrs. Lancaster is 89 and has been teaching "expression" almost 70 years. Kristine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Graham of Birmingham, is learning to recite "Casey of the Bat," as well as how to say "how now brown cow" with rounded "ows."

Students Travel Far For Lessons

By BETTY MASSON

Where are the little girls who used to wear pink hair ribbons and recite stirring patriotic poems at July 4 festivities?

Where are the boys with slicked-down hair and blue serge suits who used to recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade" at women's meetings?

They used to be around and they used to be taught "expression or elocution" by the wife of the local minister or lawyer, who had gone to college and taken oratory.

According to the teachers, elocution has moved out of the parlor and into the schools. It now calls itself public speaking, forensics, debating, theater arts or sometimes interpretation.

THE TEACHERS are not entirely happy with its place in the schools.

According to one speech teacher, "It isn't moving in quickly enough. More should be done in junior high schools," says Mrs. Frank Branson of Plymouth.

These are group projects. Are the days of the private expression teacher gone forever?

They may be. . . convince Margaret Daisy Sifer-Lancaster of Farmington that expression is dead. You can't convince the parents who bring their children to her every week from Birmingham, Northville, Detroit and Southfield, as well as Farmington, that it isn't important.

WHATEVER, YOU call it's going strong in her living room on Grand River Avenue. Mrs. Lancaster is 89 years old, and she's deaf, but she still teaches some 20 pupils each week. She regards her deafness as a bit of an asset, since her pupils have to speak clearly to make her understand.

Mrs. Lancaster teaches "expression." According to her, "The word elocution is obsolete. It is a showy branch of oratory."

"Expression is a better word, and it has a deeper meaning. Expression embraces the movement of every muscle of the body—it is a living portrait. You must have it and feel it—or you cannot print it in the minds of others."

Mrs. Lancaster's heroes are Bishop Sheen, Winston Churchill, William Jennings Bryant, and Austin Grant. According to her, "all had eloquence."

So does Mrs. Lancaster.

HER CAREER in expression spans more than 70 years. Her biggest audience was 10,000. She recited "The Holy City" with a musical background before 10,000 people in Memorial Day Services in San Antonio, Texas.

She gave performances on the Chattanooga Circuit, reciting Tennyson's "Enoch Arden."

Asked which she preferred, solo performances or taking part in plays, her eyes sparkled as she said, "Solo, definitely."

Her recitals have taken her all over the country.

She was born on a farm April 18, 1881, at Bunker Hill, Ill., near St. Louis. She first

took lessons in expression from the wife of the Episcopal minister when she was in her teens.

In 1900, she went to Marion, Ind., to study under Mrs. C. W. Boucher at Marion College. In two years, she received a bachelor of oratory degree and was made the teacher's assistant.

IN 1905, she married William F. Lancaster and for a short time lived on his farm near her home. They moved to Carrizo Springs, Texas, where Mrs. Lancaster started a garden and sold mail order vegetables, besides teaching and giving recitals.

She has also lived in Alton, Ill., where she directed contest work for the state's W.C.T.U.

Mr. and Mrs. Lancaster moved to Farmington in 1942 to be near their son, Richard. Mr. Lancaster died last year.

It wasn't long before she had a sign in her window, reading "Speech Lessons." An ex-teacher was among those who saw it when he was en route to Lansing where he attended Eastern Michigan. He arranged to commute every week to take lessons in the hope it would give him more self-confidence.

He is one of several long-distance students Mrs. Lancaster has taught.

One minister, though, found it too far to commute from Colorado to Illinois. This didn't stop the indomitable teacher. She gave him mail-order lessons and he went on to win several contests.

She has also formed companies to put on plays for various events.

HER TEACHINGS include other things besides reciting verses, good enunciation, modulation, proper dress, and how to make a good appearance. If her students are working on a special project in school, she keeps an eye out for materials which will be helpful to them.

She has a set course of lessons, although students are given some latitude in picking the "pieces" they will recite. At the end of the 10th grade in school, they become eligible for her graduation certificate.

She has been able to help not only those with speech defects, but also retarded children who have difficulty in making themselves understood.

She spends her spare time growing roses and studying the Bible, but her major interest and concern is in her pupils past and present.

Her home is filled with pictures of them, and scrapbooks record their careers. "I could tell you of so many distinguished men and women who have taken from me," she says. Many Farmington residents support this.

"A good pupil is a tonic to me. I've lived to help the children," she says.

EVERY FEW months, she holds recitals in the nearby First United Methodist Church, featuring recitations and skits. Some of them she writes herself.

4 Boy Named Charlie Brown

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DICK BENSEK

Baked beans lovers—this recipe is for you! It's Carol Channing's favorite. Using cans of pork and beans, add 1/2 cup catsup, 1/2 cup molasses, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 cup grated raw potato for each can. Stir thoroughly and turn into buttered baking dish which has been sprinkled with cracker crumbs. Bake in 300° F. oven for two hours. If you like a bit of nip, add 1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce to the beans. For a crusty top, sprinkle before baking with brown sugar. You'll find everyone asking for seconds!

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