Bawdy humor marks comedy

Ticket stubs litter the floor, and gaudy lights flicker inside the funhouse where we meet three sleazy characters and hear about a dozen more.

where we meet three sleary characters and hear about a dozen more.

THERE'S HANNA, a woman trapped in a holding pattern of repeated mistakes. Vears ago, she hooked up with the wrong man, had a ktd, lost the man, farmed the kid out for adoption and started the fiasco all over again with the wrong man. Ell new trong man. Ell new trong man. Ell new trong man. Ell new trong man will never the stock look is an engaging Hanna. Ell new trong the stock look is an engaging Hanna silfe. The Hanna role stock to the stock of the st

THE PLAY IS a lively, raunchy, funny freak show, a sad commentary on the riffraff of the world. Lonely and

sometimes nasty little human beings parade before us like welrdes on the midway.

The freaklest character by far is Hanna's sister, Sophie, the bald Avon lady, Casting John Puchaski as Sophie was a brilliant decision by director Annette Madias. This down hulk in yellow chiffon and platinum curis is a bonafile sideshow attraction.

Puchaiski is low key and wonderfully absurd as the bilmp of a lady with scarlett fingernalis and a voracous appetite for young boys.:

As usual with Actors Alliance productions every detail is cheech by

iet ingernaits and a voracous appetite for young boys.:

As usual with Actors Alliance productions, every detail is cleverly integrated to support the mood. The music backup is sometimes inspired, as when the theme from "Charlots of Fire" plays for the false musice man, Arizona, who aspires to nothing and never will.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" backs the ponderous entrance of the thoroughly unspiritual Sophie. The fundouse set uses a trapeze, a tilted runway and a swing to vary the levels of the zany action.

swing to vary the levels of the zany action.

In play is well crafted, though
hardly traditional. Instead of working
toward a climax, it deliberately goes
around in circles, repeating stories and
speeches, just as the characters go
round in circles, sinck in stupid patterns that layer bound to repeat. It's
at the land in the ribad humor and
mass the pathos until later. We look at
the characters in the play the way we
look at ourselves in the way in house
mirror. We can laugh uproariously at
the freakish distortions because we
know, of course, that people aren't re-

table talk

For valentines

For valentines
You and your valentine can get together at a romantic dinner for two
on Tuesday, Feb. 14, St. Valentine's
Day, at the Clarkston Cafe, 18 S.
Main, Clarkston. Choice of entree is
Chateaubriand for two with bernaise
sauce, or rack of lamb for two with
beurre rouge sauce, plus soup, caesar
salad, herb potato, carrot fian and
cheoclate bombe dessert. Dinner for
two is \$130. Other specialties on the
regular menu at the Clarkston Cafe
include seafood, frog legs in garlie
butter, veal Marsala with letfucine
carbonnara and other disbes from
Provini veal Hours are 11 a.m. to
midnight Mondays-Thursdays and until 1 a.m. Fridays-Saturdays.

Oysters, pearls

incredible The Edible's Reakfasts - Lunches - Dinners

> BOB SPRINGFIELD "...singer/guitarist/storyteller..."
> Highly recommonded, Bub Talbert

During the week of Volentine's Day, D. Dennison's Seafood Tavern in Farmington Hills will offer a free pearl oyster to each of the first 150 couples who buys a regular order of raw-bar oysters or clams. The special will run from 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, until Friday, Feb. 17, or until the supply of pearl oysters is exhausted.

Every pearl oyster is being guaranteed to contain a cultured pearl of gem quality, and some of the oysters may have double pearls. D. Dennison's is at the Orchard Twelve Shopping Plaza at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

To your sweetie

TO YOUR SWEETE

Jacques Pallsseries, with three locations including one in Blingham
Farms, has prepared two aixes of wicker baskets filled with delectables for Valentine's Day. The \$3 size, a wicker potato basket, includes preserves, candies and cheeses. The \$15 size has candy, sparking cider, cheeses, bon bons, lea, a tea infuser, preserves and Valentine cookies. The baskets are 'tied with hearts and ribbons. Jacques Patlsserie is the only pastry shop to take the Gold Medal for pastries in the last Great Lakes Food Show at Cobo Hall.

It's Choices

Cholces of Birmingham, a new res-taurant, will open the week of March 12 in the Birmingham Place building at 395 S. Woodward. Owner of the res-

taurant is Birmingham resident Ruth Probst, who formerly owned Noah's Down Under sandwich shop in town. Kathi Sheridan, who is preparing some of the desserts for Choices, said the crataurant will be "a glorified coffee shop with a unique menu and light dinners." Sheridan operates Something Chocolatey, She will make four kind of tortes for Choices: Chocolate almond, almond crunch and chocolate, termon crunch and peanut butter chocolate.

Working women

Lunches for the busy working wom-an are a new feature at Benjle's Pish and Seafood Restaurant and Wine Bar at 2550 Orchard Lake Road in Sylvan Lake. Low-calories dishes and fast service are promised for the working women. The menu features 10 varie-ties of brolled, char-brolled or sauteed fish (which owner Benjle Featiman claims is the largest selec-tion in Oakiand County), as well as alads, sandwiches and homemade bread and soup. Benjle's also has a new wine bar, which utilizes a nitro-gen system and can offer 30 bottles of

wine by the glass, at one time, with-out losing the drink's quality. Restau-rant hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. dal-ly, except Sunday till 9 p.m.

Cards honored.

During February, the Kingaley Inn in Bloomifeld Hills is honoring "diner club" cards (without punching or devaluing the card). Brothers Gabe and Sam Zawideh, who own the Kingaley Charles (Sam Zawideh, Walley Charles (Sam Zawideh, Walley Charles (Sam Zawideh, Walley Charles (Sam Zawideh) (Sam

Regional dinner

The Meating Place in Orchard Lake is offering "The Foods of Scan-dinavia" as February's regional din-ner, every Wednesday.

Band members show their faces

Mark Gridley teaches psychology at John Carroll University in Ohio and plays the flute. "Music has been his great leve," Mrs. Gridley says, "and he's had an intense desire to have everybody involved with jazz — especially his mother."

MARLOWE'S, the wonderfully deco-rated new jazz room at 29110 Franklin Road, Southfield, is a visual experience

Road, Southfree, 15 a visual applies of all.

The mirrored, art-dece and neon-lit room is plush, and General Manager Bob Carmichael says he wanted to create a unique room.

"I wanted Marlowe's to be a center for entertainment," Carmichael says, and I wanted it to be right for listen-ing and for showing off a musician's skill."

skill.

Orange Lake Drive inaugurated the room Dec. 7 and was followed in January by flutist Alexander Zonjic. Starting in February, drummer J.C. Heard of Troy will bring in a big band on Monday nights.

*From then on. *says Carmichael, *it will be big bands on Monday nights at Marlowes.*

Marlowe's."

The Top-40 group Airwave plays through Saturday, and Carmichael promises Chicago's popular musician Judy Roberts in April.



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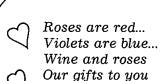
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