



George Bloomfield of Southfield wields a sword as the Lord High Executioner in the St. Bede Players production of "The Mikado." Dorian Kaminski of Lathrup Village, the show's producer, has his head on the block, while Dr. Eugeno Perrin of Huntington Woods lends a hand.

upcoming things to do

● FORTUNE THEATRE

The atmosphere of an Elizabethan Fortune Theatre will be revived for the Oakland University production of "The Taming of the Shrew," Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 15, on campus near Rochester. The Studio Theatre in Varner Hall has been transformed into a replica of the 16th century stage to evoke a feel for the comedy as it would have been presented in Shakespeare's day. Incidental music chosen from the Elizabethan era will be performed by Anne and Rob Burns of Rochester, who will play reproductions of period instruments. Among cast members are William J. O'Connor of Troy as Hortensio and Tom Smith Jr. of Troy as Gremio, both playing suitors of Bianca. For tickets at \$4 general admission, \$3 students and older persons, call the Center for the Arts box office at 377-3013 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. All seats are \$1.50 for Sunday matinees.

● PIANO RECITAL

The Schoolcraft College Music Department will host the 12th annual Piano Honors Recital in the Liberal Arts Theater at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1. There is no admission charge. Among those performing from Oakland County are Julianne Gade of Birmingham, Paul Wu of Birmingham, Yumi Yoshida of West Bloomfield, Yolanda Wu of Farmington Hills, Vivian Chang of Troy, Christine Chang of Troy, Negin Mohtadi of Farmington Hills, Rebecca Indenbaum of Franklin and Alex Novacek of Southfield. From Wayne County are Rachel Folland of Canton, Judy Tse of Canton, Elisea Fallon of Livonia, Brian Fallon of Livonia, Lorene Horton of Canton, Soo Jin Kwon of Plymouth and David Perampala of Livonia.

● TALENT SHOW

The Association for Retarded Citizens/Oakland County will present the annual Michigan Performing Arts Talent Show for persons with mental retardation at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus near Troy. All areas of the performance arts will be represented, including vocal acts, dance routines and instrumental numbers. Admission charge is \$1. For further information, call 646-4522.

● DESSERT THEATER

The Franklin Players spring dessert theater production, "You, the Jury," will be performed Fridays-Saturdays, April 6-7 and 13-14, in the Franklin School gymnasium. The production is directed by Franklin Village residents Rose Galley, a Franklin police clerk, and Dr. Dave Roberts, a Wallied Lake veterinarian, with Councilwoman Karen Katz as co-producer. The play is a three-act courtroom drama of a woman accused of murdering her employer. When the prosecution rests its case, the audience must render a verdict. Alternate endings are offered at the end of Act III. Tickets at \$4 may be reserved by calling Phyllis Young at 851-0498, or bought at the door.

● AT MARLOWE'S

Judy Roberts will begin a four-week engagement on Tuesday, April 3, at Marlowe's nightclub at the Vineyards dining/entertainment complex at 29110 Franklin Road, just north of Northwestern Highway, in Southfield. Roberts will play five sets Tuesday-Saturday through April 28. This is the 20th year of her appearances in almost 450 songs for the Chicago-based Roberts, a popular choice in the 1984 Playboy Music Poll in both

female vocalist and keyboard categories. The Judy Roberts Band performs a wide range of musical styles from traditional jazz to pop, Latin and fusion.

● MUSICAL OASIS

Mustard's Retreat, a folk duo, will perform some original songs along with many folk standards at the Sunday Afternoon Thing from 3-6 p.m. Sunday at the Musical Oasis, 1810 S. Woodward, two blocks north of 14 Mile Road, Birmingham. Just Friends, a four-piece, all-female group featuring dulcimer, banjo, bass and guitar, will perform April 15 at the Sunday Afternoon Thing. For more information, call 540-4155.

● 'THE MIKADO'

St. Bede Players of Southfield will present its annual Gilbert and Sullivan operetta — this year "The Mikado" — at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, April 6-7, 13-14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 8, at the Mercy College Auditorium, Southfield at Outer Drive, Detroit. George Bloomfield of Southfield will play Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner. Dr. Richard Kelso of Birmingham plays the Mikado, Joan Renaud of Southfield is Katisha. For ticket information regarding special presale prices, call 537-7275. Tickets at the door are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and older persons.

● WAGON WHEEL

Cliff Erickson offers light pop music Sundays during April at the Wagon Wheel, Rochester Road at Big Beaver, Troy. Tom Powers is solo pianist doing originals and light pop rock Thursdays-Saturdays, April 6-7 and 12-14. Stuart Mitchell mixes comedy and light folk rock music Thursdays-Saturdays, April 19-21 and 26-28.

● SUNDAY CONCERTS

Orchella Barnes sings, with Jimmy Dowall at the piano, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in a free concert at Somerset Mall, Big Beaver and Coolidge roads, Troy. Other concerts in the series include the Asbury Brass Quintet, Rochester. All areas of the performance arts will be represented, including vocal acts, dance routines and instrumental numbers. Admission charge is \$1. For further information, call 646-4522.

● AT MAXWELL'S

Sashay with vocalist Debbie Owen entertains at 9 nightly through Saturday, March 31, at Maxwell's at the Holiday Inn, 10 Mile Road and Grand River Avenue in Farmington Hills. The group plays easy-listening and Top 40 music for dancing.

● 'HELLO, DOLLY!'

The Macomb Community College Music Theater production of "Hello, Dolly!" continues at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 31, at the Macomb College Center for the Performing Arts in Mt. Clemens. The cast includes Randall Stowell of Rochester as Cornelius Hackl and William Wilson of Troy. Tickets are available by phone at 255-2222, at the center's box office or at the door.

● 'GLASS MENAGERIE'

St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook will present Tennessee Williams' "Glass Menagerie" Friday-Saturday, March 30-31, and Thursday-Friday, April 5-6, at the playhouse in Bloomfield Hills. A cast of four will perform the classic play. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for students. For ticket information call 644-0527.

'Annie Get Your Gun' hits bullseye

Performances of the Birmingham Village Players production of Irving Berlin's musical "Annie Get Your Gun" continue at 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 30-31 and April 6-7, at the playhouse at the corner of Hunter Boulevard and Chestnut Street, south of Maple Road, Birmingham. For ticket information call 644-2075 anytime.

By Barbara Michaels
special writer

With 13 delightful Irving Berlin songs worth humming, a superb performance by Sara Makowski in the title role and excellent staging overall, the Birmingham Village Players has a palpable hit in its production of "Annie Get Your Gun."

The effervescent musical traces the career of Annie Oakley from backwoods sharpshooter to world-famous star of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

Annie first comes to prominence by beating Buffalo Bill's star marksman, Frank Butler (Gary R. Clason) in a challenge match. Winning a spot in the show, she also wins Butler's heart, but Butler is a chauvinist who can't accept Annie's continuing on-ship.

After a painful period of separation, Annie learns from a wise old Indian, Sitting Bull (Ben Benson), that being second best is the way to win her man and it's more important to make her match than to win it.

MAKOWSKI HAS a vibrant, enormously pleasing voice. She also projects heaps of personality, capturing Annie's naivete, candor and spunk. Facial expressions are well-utilized, including Makowski's dazzling smile.

Her vocal talents show to full advantage in such great Berlin songs as "Doin' What Comes Naturally," "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun," "Moonshine Lullaby," "I'm an Indian Too," "Lost in His Arms" and "I Got the Sun in the Morning." Clason is both appealing and believable as the womanizing Frank Butler, a mixture of swagger and boyish charm. His singing voice has an unusual timbre that doesn't seem to benefit from the extra miking, but it grows on you.

He struts through the amusing "I'm a Bad, Bad Man," protests "My Defenses are Down" and wistfully envisions "The Girl That I Marry." Clason teams with Makowski for effective duets of "They Say It's Wonderful," "Old Fashioned Wedding" and "Anything You Can Do," plus the rousing ensemble

review

number "There's No Business Like Show Business."

Kim Cooke is buoyant as Charlie Davenport, the advance man and all-around hustler for Buffalo Bill's show. Cooke's well-scrubbed All-American looks are an amusing contrast to his con-man's flashy checked suit.

LIZ WALTERS is a brassy, flamboyant Dolly Tate, Butler's long-time assistant who is openly jealous of Annie and tries to sabotage her shooting. Benson's Sitting Bull is not the most convincing

Indian, but his understated style gets maximum comic effect, especially when he waxes of the tribal dancing and collapses in exhaustion.

Jim Masters is a dignified, believable Buffalo Bill. Vince Dunn is amusing as the beleaguered hotel owner and Kyle Forrest impresses with his Indian dances.

Choreographer Kathy Cooke and her eight dancers do excellent work, especially given the limits of the small stage. In fact, it seems miraculous that director Gene Ewald gets the 37-member cast through multiple entrances and exits without undue congestion or noticeable pile-ups. Everything else about the show seems just as well-paced.

The nine-piece orchestra, under musical director Barbara Anne Gowan, sounds fine, and thankfully never drowns out the show's marvelous lyrics.

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