

Will-O-Way grasps play's message

Thursday, April 12, 1984 G&E

(R0-110X0)13C

Performances of the Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre production of Tennessee Williams' "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" continue at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through April 14 at 775 W. Long Lake Road between Telegraph and Lahser roads in Bloomfield Township. For reservations call 644-4418.

By Debi Barsamian
special writer

Director Celia Merrill Turner and the Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre company have grasped

the patios of the circumstances in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and expressed them with empathy and insight. Tennessee Williams' potent, modern drama depicts a vulnerable family struggling with the oppressiveness of the human condition. Each character must cope with the unrelenting pressures of social standards, interpersonal relationships and private guilt. Turner has cast this show well. Each cast member is sincerely believable and sympathetic. Truly, the most outstanding characteristic of

this production is the talented and well-rounded cast. Special mention must be made of those who portray Brick, Big Mama and Sister-Women. KEVIN BRADY gives an intelligent and sensitive portrayal of Brick, an alcoholic, former football star. He is a subtle performer but still is successful in communicating his character's motivations. In three acts, he believably develops from a quiet, bitter drunk to a man releasing intense resentment to a mature individual tentatively ac-

cepting a new worldview. Elaine Kelnert as Big Mama and Eileen Weiss as Sister-Women are simply wonderful. They have created likeable, three-dimensional characters that add zest and gusto to this production. Neither actress overpowers the other performers but their idiosyncratic characters are so enjoyable. It's hard to keep your eyes off them. Everyone in the cast is really quite good. They contribute equally to the final product and really seem to enjoy interacting with each other. It is such



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a pleasure to watch them that one can begin to accept a questionable age difference between Brick and Maggie and a Big Daddy that sounds more like he hails from Southern Czechoslovakia. The blocking is outstanding. One's focus is always where it should be. Turner has created some striking images. The set and set dressing is very effective. Wicker furniture and chandeliers attest to Southern affluence. Those involved in set construction have created a pretty environment for the action of the play.

al. In celebration of Big Daddy's birthday, fireworks are supposed to set off out-of-doors. The effect is quite believable. When Sister-Women tells Big Daddy that the field hands are singing to him, one hears recorded music offstage. It is somewhat incongruous to hear canned music in the middle of spontaneous action. In general, however, the technical aspects of

this production are quite good. Costumes are appropriate. Make-up is not noticeable. Really, Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre has accomplished much in presenting this play. It is a difficult, poignant drama that has been analyzed, understood and communicated with insight. A wonderful cast of characters presents an evening of quality theater that you'll enjoy.

2 bands give benefit concert

The first Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps and the Windsor Police Pipe Band will perform a benefit concert Sunday, April 29, at Cobo

Arena in Detroit. The concert is for the Detroit Public Library's Keep the Doors Open Campaign, which is raising funds to keep 14

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