



Barbara Michals

Production of 'Applause' lacks all-important magic

Performances of the Farmington Players production of "Applause" continue Thursday-Saturday, May 2-4 and 9-12, and Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18, at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills. For ticket information call 626-5061.

"Welcome to the theater — to the magic and the fun," exclaims the main character in the musical "Applause," current offering of the Farmington Players. This production is at times fun, but it fails to deliver the very magic it celebrates.

Many weak vocalists plus some unusually tacky costumes and sets do not rate much applause. On the plus side, though, are many fine characterizations and the outstanding voice of Barbara Haag, who plays the ingenious but double-dealing Eve Harrington.

Passing herself off as a devoted fan, Eve wheedles her way into the employ of Margo Channing (Sandra Sutherland), an aging Broadway star. Soon Margo finds both her career and her personal life threatened by the treacherous Eve.

Based on the award-winning film "All About Eve," the musical has lots of bouncy tunes by Charles Strouse, but Lee Adams' lyrics are generally forgettable aside from the title song.

HAAG IS TOTALLY convincing, both as the saccarine Eve and as the no-holds-barred tigress sleeping her way to the top. Haag's lovely rich voice sounds like a trained professional, while most of the other cast members just manage to get by in the musical numbers.

As Margo, Sutherland has an easy-going charm that works fine everywhere except her drunk scene, she's just too likable to turn believably



Bob Batistoni (left), Sandra Sutherland and Joe Haynes appear in a scene from the Farmington Players production of "Applause."

bitchy. Instead Sutherland excels by showing Margo's vulnerability.

Mark MacCagnone is credible as Margo's director and romantic interest, a younger man who chides her about her insecurities and obsession with age.

Ralph and Judie Rosati give strong performances as playwright Buzz Richards and his wife Karen. Rosati elicits pathos as he foolishly stumbles into Eve's clutches, while his vivacious wife uses facial expressions to great advantage.

Joe Haynes is enormously likeable as Duane, Margo's hairdresser and former confidante. Haynes' drool delivery gets lots of laughs without overdoing the homosexual mannerisms.

JOHANNA MCKEEVER is a perky Bonnie, leader of the "gypsy" chorus dancers who befriend Eve and are eventually snubbed by her. McKeever's singing and dancing are a cut above the rest, and she does a nice job with the title number.

As producer Howard Benedict, Jim Saldeman often lacks sufficient authority. Bob Myers' infectious grin seems absurdly out of place in his role as an acidic gossip columnist.

The three-piece band under the direction of Nanette Shelton works nicely. The stage crew labors valiantly through numerous cumbersome set changes, but the long delays become tedious, especially given the disappointing sets.

Oakway's closing concert isn't up to usual standard

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

Although the program was interesting, Sunday afternoon's concert at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills was not one of Oakway Symphony Orchestra's better performances.

The final concert in this year's subscription series featured Bach's Concertos for Two, Three, and Four Pianos and Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

One of the best things Havel did for the music world was to orchestrate Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," which was originally composed for the piano in 1874. The 1922 orchestrated version, commissioned by Koussevitzky for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, has the gorgeous coloring in the instrumentation to make vivid the images of the painting exhibition of Moussorgsky's friend Hartmann.

It was this arrangement that was performed by the Oakway Symphony, conducted by Francesco Di Biasi. The brass and woodwind sections did not perform for the first half of the program. They were prepared with a solid performance of the difficult number and achieved a good sound, especially for the final exulting melody.

THE STRING sections, although they managed a good finale in the Moussorgsky number, had trouble with their pitch during the afternoon. It was most noticeable during the usually beautiful "Air on the G String" from "Arioso from Cantata No. 156" by Bach.

This is the 300th anniversary of Bach's birth (born March 21, 1785). As many musical organizations are celebrating, so is the OSO with three of Bach's piano concertos.

Of course, Bach did not compose for the piano as it had not been invented in its present form between 1729 and 1733 when Bach composed these three concertos. They were composed for the clavichord.

Bach's Concerto No. 3 in C Minor for Two Pianos was performed by Alexander Hanway, sales manager at Arnold



Mary Jane Doerr

Williams Music Co. and master's degree graduate of the University of Michigan, and Donald Morelock, coordinator of the piano program at Schoolcraft College. Their technique was one of clarity, little or no pedal and rolled chords, a most acceptable manner of performing Bach's works on the piano. The two were precise in their timing

and accurate in their playing.

The clavier concertos were never intended by Bach for public performance and were instead used for his pupils' study. They were composed in his early years at Leipzig and were overshadowed by his tremendous amount of religious music during that period.

SIGN OF THE BEEFCARVER

11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
(1 Guest Check Please)
Copee Good
Now thru May 15, 1985
Not Accepted After This Date

COUPON

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

SAVE 15%

On Baked Fish, Sea Food, Chowder, Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken or Roast Beef, etc. Present this coupon to our cashier. Complete meal about \$3.95.

• Allen Park
• Bloomfield/Pontiac
• Dearborn
• Eastland Shop, Ctr.
• Mt. Clemens
• Oakland Mall
• Royal Oak
• Detroit, W. & Mile
• Southland Shop, Ctr.
• Warren
• West Bloomfield
• Westland Shop, Ctr.

SIGN OF THE BEEFCARVER

11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
(1 Guest Check Please)
Copee Good
Now thru May 29, 1985
Not Accepted After This Date

COUPON

MEMORIAL DAY SPECIAL

SAVE 15%

On Baked Fish, Sea Food, Chowder, Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken or Roast Beef, etc. Present this coupon to our cashier. Complete meal about \$3.95.

• Allen Park
• Bloomfield/Pontiac
• Dearborn
• Eastland Shop, Ctr.
• Mt. Clemens
• Oakland Mall
• Royal Oak
• Detroit, W. & Mile
• Southland Shop, Ctr.
• Warren
• West Bloomfield
• Westland Shop, Ctr.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ON THE TOWN

THE NEW DUFFY'S ON THE LAKE

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Prime Rib Dinner \$14.95 For 2

Enjoy Dancing
Wed.-Sat. with
The Jerry Libby Trio
Reservations Required

Banquet & Party Facilities 8635 Cooley Lake Rd. Union Lake • 363-9489 10 Minutes from Maple & Orchard Lk.

Fresh Seafood.
If you enjoy seafood, you'll love ours. Fresh seafood and exquisite Chinese delicacies, quickly and carefully prepared, then whisked to your table still hot and fragrant so you'll enjoy every morsel.

Join Us For Mother's Day!

MCN HILL

Chinese Food & Spirits
E. Maple at Stephenson
Troy • 689-2332

FREE WWW FREE

106.7 FM WELCOMES

★ **Budweiser** ★

THIRD ANNUAL

Charley Pride
Great Local Acts!!!

DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN

The Marshall Tucker Band
Glen Campbell

★ **BEGINNING AT NOON EACH DAY** ★

MAY 10, 11, 12

FREE Entertainment Live at Hart Plaza!

★ Charley Pride ★ Glen Campbell ★ The Marshall Tucker Band ★
★ Earl Thomas Conley ★ John Anderson ★ Ronnie McDowell ★
★ Reba McEntire ★ Shelly West ★ Pinkard and Bowden ★
★ Company Store ★ Joy Fleming with Pride & Joy ★ The Stone Country Band ★
★ Stillwater ★ Denny Armstrong & Cane Creek ★ Clinton River Road ★
★ Free & Easy ★ Branded ★

Bluegrass: ★ Home Grown Bluegrass ★ Sugar Cured ★ Short Crik Flat Pickers
Cloggers: ★ Sweet City Cloggers ★ Bob & Judy's Country Kickers ★ Main Street Cloggers

Also brought to you in part by:

Ford **Pepsi** **Go! Detroit** **Budweiser**

For more concert info: 259-9659

Schuler's

Sunday's Best Brunch

Sundays 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Waffles, Bacon & Sausage, Bar-B-Q Beef Ribs, Peel Your Own Shrimp, Assorted Pastries, Apple, Cherry or Blueberry Crisps, a never ending Salad Bar, Assorted Fresh Fruit and Much, Much More!

All for **\$8.95** Children **\$4.95**

TABLESIDE MAGIC To Entertain the Entire Family!
Reservations Please!

WE ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

(313) 851-8880
6066 West Maple Rd. • West Bloomfield

AFTER 5 YEARS AND 100,000 LOBSTERS WE'RE STILL SELLING OUT...

The Fresh Flown Friday Fish Feast

All the lobster and other seafood delicacies you can eat. Friday evenings at the Haymarket.

Reservations required
\$24.95, all ages.

Troy Hilton Inn
Maple Road at Stephenson Hwy.
Call (313) 563-9000

THERE MUST BE A REASON!

Mother's Day Fashion Show & Brunch

Fashionable Brunch

in the "Southfield Hilton's Grand Ballroom with Fashionique... of Birmingham

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Treat Mom and the family to such specialties as hard Shell Shrimp, Caramel Buns of Beef, Beet Bourbon, Breast of Turkey, a complete salad bar, all of your favorite breakfast items, plus a sweet table. Enjoy a showing of Spring & Summer apparel by Fashionique Ltd. Call Now!

\$6.50 for seniors & kids under 10 only **\$11.75** for adults kids under 5 eat FREE

Call for reservations now! 557-4800

SOUTHFIELD HILTON
17017 West Nine Mile Road
Southfield/Detroit, MI 48075