

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(OJSC)

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## Broadway Playbills recall hit shows

By Victoria Diaz  
special writer

**T**HE THREE-BEDROOM house on Newburgh Road in Westland doesn't look very much like a museum and, in actuality, it isn't.

But nevertheless, tucked away inside it is an impressive little history of off-Broadway and Broadway productions in the form of illustrated programs and playbills dating back to the late 1940s. Put together by 71-year-old Florence Petris, an inveterate playgoer for more than 40 years, the collection is something that would tickle the fancy of any aficionado of American theater and warm the hearts of all nostalgia buffs.

Petris, a former school secretary and IRS clerk, saw her first Broadway show, "Carmen Jones," on Sept. 9, 1942, when she and husband Robert traveled to New York City on a vacation trip shortly after they were married.

Four days later, the couple bought tickets to a performance of "Anna Lucasta," and three days after that, as the houselights dimmed at the Shubert Theatre, they were on hand for a memorable production of "Catherine Was Great," starring the inimitable Mae West.

AFTER THAT whirlwind week, Petris was hooked on New York theater. Eventually, she and her husband, a 3M Co. foreman, would carefully save up their money and make regular twice-yearly treks to New York to take in as many plays as they could manage in their three-or-four-day stays. If it happened that her husband couldn't make it, Florence sometimes went alone, usually checking in at the New York Hilton and walking 10 blocks to the theater district to buy



THOMAS ARNETT

Florence Petris of Westland looks at her favorite souvenir program, from "I Had a Ball," starring Buddy Hackett and Richard Kiley in 1965.

tickets and see the shows on her own.

Each time she saw a play, she brought home either a playbill or program from that production. Now, she has more than 150 of those souvenirs, and would have even more — including that first one from "Carmen Jones" — had she not given several of them away to friends over the years.

Some of her special favorites include those from "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd," staged at the Shubert Theatre in 1965, and starring Anthony Newley; "Hello, Dolly!" at the Palace, with Carol Channing (fresh from its debut at the Fisher in 1963); "An Evening With Bette Davis," circa 1951, marking one of Davis' rare stage appearances, and

"Take Me Along," starring Jackie Gleason (also making a rare stage appearance), at the Shubert in 1960.

A CLOSE LOOK at photos inside some of the souvenirs reveal a young Dianna Carroll making her debut on Broadway in "No Strings"; Mickey Rooney's father, Pat, in an early production of "Guys and Dolls"; an unrecognizable Hal Linden of TV's "Barney Miller"; playing opposite Judy Holliday in "Belts Are Ringing"; a youthful, fresh-faced Bob Fosse, working as a choreographer in the same show; and a smiling red-head named Shirley MacLaine, in the supporting cast of "Sweet Charity."

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Florence Petris' collection of Broadway theater programs and playbills covers a time span of some 40 years. She and her husband saw their first Broadway show, "Carmen Jones," in 1942. Pictured here are programs and playbills from older as well as more recent shows.

### table talk

#### Wine tasting

An opportunity to sample eight different domestic and imported wines will be offered when the Community House in Birmingham hosts a professional sit-down wine tasting at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The tasting will be conducted by Will Viviano of Viviano Wines. Tickets at \$15 per person are available at Albani's Bottle and Basket in Birmingham and Bloomfield Township, at Birmingham Drug, Market Square and the Community House. For more information, call Joanne Heimstadt at the Community House, 644-5832.

#### Olga's doubles

More Olga's restaurants are on the way. Olga's Kitchen Inc. has announced plans to expand its Michigan restaurants to double their present number. The downtown Birmingham and Renaissance Center sites will be relocated and renovated, and two new restaurants will be opened in Wonderland and Macomb malls. Birmingham's Olga's will move from the Continental Market, one block north to 138 S. Woodward, in December. The company is negotiating for eight new locations in metropolitan Detroit.

#### New Beaujolais

The Beaujolais is coming. Hotel St. Regis in Detroit will be among the first metropolitan area eateries to receive a shipment of Beaujolais-Villages Nouveau by Georges Dubouff, the premier burgundy wine to be made from the 1987 crop. In honor of the new wine, the restaurant

will offer selections throughout the day, Thursday, Nov. 19, with a special menu featuring the wine. A Beaujolais Nouveau wine-tasting party will be 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. For \$15, guests will have an opportunity to participate in a blind-tasting of six Nouveau wines. For reservations, call Bob Seely at 873-3000.

#### Third Thursday

The third Thursday of each year

marks the introduction of Beaujolais Nouveau. Before lunch Thursday.

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Saffron Rice	Creamed Herring	Pumpkin Pie
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Sweet Corn	Salad	Apple Strudel
Sage Dressing	Alsacienne Meat Salad	Cookies
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