



Crew members who designed and built the set for "The Telephone Hour" are (from left) Alka Jain, Jennifer Cook, Crystal Caruana, Ramona Mullan, Laura Smith, Colleen Wright, Valerie Byrne, Tanisha Johnson and Amy Radabaugh.

Bye Bye Birdie

Students stage rock and roll spoof

A 71-member cast backed by a crew of 45 will come to Mercy High School from 17 surrounding communities to produce the musical rock and roll spoof of the '60s, "Bye Bye Birdie."

Showtime is 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and at 3 p.m. Sunday in the school, on the corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt Road.

"The show was set in 1960 but we pushed it up to 1963," said Roberta Campion, who has been producer, director and choreographer for the high school's spring musicals for the past five years. "That way we could include the twist, the monkey and the jerk. We have a cha-cha number, some jazz and a lot of rock and roll."

Remembered show tunes from the musical are "A Lot of Livin' To Do," "Put on a Happy Face," and "Kids." The show's biggest production number is "The Telephone Hour."

"This show is by far the all-time favorite of high school casts everywhere," Campion said. "The musical has extremely wide audience appeal to people of all ages."

Campion's co-producers are Larry Teevens, vocal director, and Ron Sill, the technical director. Vincle Misura is the production stage manager and June Williams is the accompanist. The Matt Michaels Quintette will be in the orchestra pit with Teevens.

Kelly Hemmerling, a student at Mercy High, takes the role of Rosie Alvarez. Paul Bozymowski, from Southfield Christian High School, plays Albert Peterson, and Bob Bonnell, from Detroit Country Day School takes the role of Conrad Birdie.

The Macafee family, which welcomes Birdie to their town of Sweet Apple, is played by Jennifer Strimel and Michels Hillen, both from Mercy. Chris McDonald, who attends Catholic Central High, and Pat Campion who attends Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School.

All seats are reserved. Advance tickets can be purchased from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the school's ticket box office, or they can be purchased at the door. Tickets are \$5, or \$4 for seniors and students, or \$2 for those under 12.

Volunteers are called

Common Ground, Oakland County's 24-hour Crisis Center needs volunteers to provide telephone and face-to-face crisis intervention during daytime and early evening hours. Screening required, but previous experience is not necessary.

Interested individuals are invited to attend an orientation session at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, or 10 a.m. Thursday, April 7, in Common Ground, 1090 S. Adams in Birmingham.

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Romantic lead players in the show are Paul Bozymowski and Kelly Hemmerling.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

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Conrad Birdie sings to the town of Sweet Apple that he is "Honestly Sincere." The title role is played by Bob Bonnell.



The singing sextet is made up of Gina Hager, Mark Copland, Nicky Kostecki and Adam (from left) Tony Yaquinto, Jennifer Strimel, Lewin.

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