He's not like characters he portrays

Continued from Page 7

The actor, who was born in Brooklyn and went to school at Brown University, said he knows, 'I look like a blue-collar worker. Hemember. Joe (of "Rhoda") used to demolish buildings.

More recently, other TV roles Groh played include an art dealer in the movie "A Broken Vow, and some guest whos. He also did for the worker of the state of the stat

Actors can't save playwright's script

Performances of "Philemon" by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt continue through Satur-day at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield. For ticket information, call 469-7548 during business hours.

The Main Stage Theatre Guild production of "Philemon," directed by C.J. Nodus, is well-intentioned by C.J. Nodus, is well-intentioned. But the script is such a sorry affair that no amount of good intentions can pull this play out of the fire.

It's diffi' alt to believe that "Philomen" was written by Tom Jones and Harvey Sch midt, the duo who gave us the chartming "Fantasticks" and "I Do! I Do!" Jones and Schmidt should put on their ruby red silippers, clap their feet together three times, and return home to the 20th century. In "Philemon," Jones and Schmidt have meandered back in time to ancient Rome to recreate the Passion of Cinct. This recreate the Passion of Cinct. This recreation of the story based (very lossely) on the legend of Philo Judaeus, a philosopher



from Alexandria, circa 30 B.C., lacks credibility as well as passion.
The flat acript gives us a street clown named Cockian who practices pimping, extertion and protection rackets as a siddine. Cockian is despairingly played by Mel Janney. In justice, I fall to see how clse Janney could have played Cockian. A thug who turns into a lit man and then into Jesus Christ is an impossible role.

I COULD SEE the transformation coming before Conrad Humphrey, as commander of the Roman legions, asks Cockian to go to jail as a "spe-cial prisoner" to find the leaders of the new Christian movement. Hum-

phrey is a good-looking, tall, young man with a nice voice. I hope he is better cast in his next venture.

Christopher McKenna, a healthy, carnest young lad, plays his heart out as Andos, the 18-year-old believer who has sons or a pregant wife at varying times. Andos is starved and beaten as Philemon's assistant, and it's difficult to look at McKenna, a Norman Rockwell picture of health and think about suffering martyrs. Andos is responsible for Cockdan transformation into Christ single martyrs. Andos is responsible for Cockdan transformation into Christ single martyrs. Andos is responsible for Cockdan of the modern son hinds. Cockdan of the modern son hinds. The songs are so prosy that it's difficult to know why pretty Anne Dwyer throws herself into the part

of Kiki, the whore/ctown, or why Sarah Poretta wastes her sweet voice on the part of Marsyas, the sexy cellmate, or why Claudia Rog-ers reads maudlin letters as the Wife

crs' reads maudiln letters as the Wife of anyone, apparently).

And I confess I groaned when Ed Boner, playing Servillus, says seriously as he whips Cocklan and then knifes him to death: "I was just doing my job."

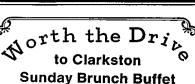
The only thing I learned was that Boner's line went back to 30 B.C. II thought we'd heard it too often), Linda Jaynes' Interesting collection of

May the Main Stage Theatre Guild, who gave us a smashing "The Gin Game" this season, give us the productions they're capable of, next

table talk

Stephen A. Girard, Jr., president of Girard Winery in California's Napa Valley, chatted individually with guests during the Winemakers Dinner on Tuesday at Sebastian's Restaurant/Raw Bar in Somerset Mall, Troy, Girard provided all the wines, with the exception of the desert wine. Girard produces some 18,000 caes of wine a year, in the 312 price range. Courses at the gourmet dinner included Peanut Barbeeued Chicken with Jerusalem Artichoke Cakes; Asparagus and Carrot Timbates with Roasted Red Pepper, Herb Mayonnaise and Marinated Vegetables; Cornneal Billist with Smoked Sturgeon and Caviar, Grilled Breast of Duck with Leg Confit served with Wild Mushrooms and Peach Glaze; St. Andree, Brie and Triple Bleu cheeses served with Fresh Fruits; and Plum Napoleon with Sabayon.

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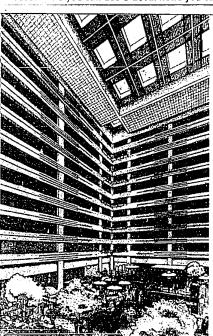


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