

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, November 10, 1988 O&E

(O7D)



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dike Dwelley (left), Howard Beer and Dee Dwelley star in the Birmingham Village Players production of "Mornings at Seven."

upcoming things to do

● VILLAGE PLAYERS

The Village Players of Birmingham presents "Mornings at Seven," a play by Paul Osborn, which tells the story of four sisters who live in a small American town more than 50 years ago. Show dates are Friday-Sunday, Nov. 18-20, and Friday-Saturday, Nov. 25-26. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. Nov. 20 is a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. only. Tickets are available at the door, but reservations are recommended. Adult tickets are \$7; students tickets are \$5. Reservations may be made by calling 644-2075 anytime.

● AT FOLKTOWN

Folktown Coffeehouse will present two Canadian performers, London-based Allister Brown and Jeff McClintock, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Southfield Civic Center. Brown and McClintock are two of the talents in the Canadian group

Friends of Fiddlers Green. They create an evening of entertainment, with a Scottish focus. Combining button accordion, concertina, harmonica and keyboards with vocals, they are appearing for the first time in a metro-Detroit concert. Admission is \$8. For further information, call 855-9848 6-9 p.m.

● 'FOLK TALES'

A series of theater presentations of folk tales from around the world begins Saturday, Nov. 12, and Monday, Nov. 14, at the Oakland University Center for the Arts. The series, aptly called "Folk Tales," opens with a collection of stories from Canada. Michael Gillespie, head of the theater program in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, directs the Folk Tales Players, whose members include students

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Close to home Singer-actress in MOT production

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

MARY CALLAGHAN LYNCH describes her life with the adage "An apple doesn't fall far from the tree." "Hitch your wagon to a star" might be more germane. She has done 10 productions for Michigan Opera Theatre in the last 12 years. Six weeks ago, David DiChiera cast her again. This time she has the leading role of Mabel in MOT's main stage production of "The Pirates of Penzance," opening at 8 p.m. Friday at Detroit's Fisher Theatre. Performances continue through Sunday, Nov. 20.

"This is going to be the best show of the fall season," the enthusiastic Birmingham resident said, as she sipped tea at a local restaurant. "I have been blessed with the opportunities offered by MOT."

A year ago last summer, Lynch was in New York and saw "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Glimmerglass Opera. Little did she realize that she would be singing the part of Mabel in front of those same sets with Broadway director and choreographer Lara Teeter, Gary Sandy of television's "WKRP in Cincinnati" and Mel Brooks movie veteran Zale Kessler.

LYNCH CALLS Teeter's directing campy.

"The production is a cross between D'Oyly Carte and Joe Papp," Lynch said. "They are adding the trio number 'It Really Doesn't Matter' from 'Ruddigore' and considered adding 'Sorry My Kat' for me to sing. They have dropped that idea. The overture will be staged. That is Teeter's idea."

D'Oyly Carte is the traditional English version as it was sung when the operetta opened in New York in 1879. The Joe Papp version is the one used recently on Broadway with Linda Ronstadt.



Mary Callaghan Lynch of Birmingham didn't have to move out of her hometown to find stardom on stage. She has performed in many local productions, as well as traveled to do other shows.

The very funny G&S specialist, Englishwoman Jocelyn Wilkes, is the "rather plain (ugly)" Ruth. Since she last appeared in Detroit in MOT's "Orpheus in the Underworld" as Juno, she has lost 100 pounds.

The effusive Lynch draws attention as she marks a few of the vocal lines in her lyric coloratura role. Around us, others cannot help but be interested in the conversation.

"Mabel is no wimp, and I am no lyric soprano," Lynch said. "The part requires a strong vocal technique and tends toward opera."

(When the show first opened in 1879, the orchestra threatened to strike because it thought the music was opera and the musicians should have extra money for performing it. Sullivan told them he would ship an English orchestra over to play, and that ended the strike.)

THE DARK-HAIRED Lynch has become a familiar face from her now-running F&M Drug Store commercial and other TV commercials. Recently she played the role of Tiger owner Tom Monaghan's wife in a San Diego production. She talks with pride of her Musetta in the Toledo Opera's production of "La Boheme."

Apples do not fall far from the tree, and Lynch now lives in the city where she was born (Birmingham) near the 25-room Tudor where she and her 17 brothers and sisters were raised.

"My twin brother and I were Christmas babies — Joseph and Mary," she said, waiting for a reaction. "Now he lives in Lansing where he is an accounting professor."

Lynch attended Holy Name School and met her husband, Patrick E. Lynch, singing at a funeral at the Birmingham-based family-owned operation Lynch & Sons. The couple now has two children, Caitlin, 8, and Paddy, 4.

On Sundays, she is the cantor at the Holy Name Church where her father, John F. Callaghan, is the organist. Six of her brothers and sisters sing in the choir.

Her parents attended Syracuse University on musical scholarships and now teach piano and organ. Lynch's brother sings with the Southfield Madrigal Choral and another brother is a Ulster organist. All the children put themselves through college. Thirteen of them earned master's degree and five earned doctoral degrees. Lynch holds a bachelor's of fine arts degree in acting from Marygrove College in Detroit. In April the family will welcome its 53rd grandchild. Her sisters and brothers now range in age from 27 to 50.

"One year we had to rent a hall so we could all get together for Christmas," Lynch said.

Turn-of-century

Cranbrook P.M. "Innovations in 'Americans in Good Taste' will present a Turn-of-the-Century Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Kitchen Studio in Sylvan Lake. Judith Asphar, formerly executive chef to the Rockefeller and a Cordon Bleu

cook, will demonstrate and serve a full course dinner using an AGA stove. The evening is \$25 per person, including all beverages. For more information or reservations, call 645-3535.

Holiday buffet

The Novi Hilton will offer a

Thanksgiving Day Buffet from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for groups of four or less, to be seated in the Orchard Cafe, and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for groups of five or more, to be seated in the Grand Ballroom. Dinner is \$16.95 for adults, \$7.95 for children. For more information, call the Orchard Cafe at 349-4000.

table talk




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