



Barbara Michals

Annie Oakley show hits the bull's-eye

Performances of "Annie Get Your Gun," presented by Nancy Gurwin Productions, continue through Saturday, May 13, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. For ticket information call 681-1000.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

With "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Jewish Community Center, Nancy Gurwin Productions has a gem of a show, combining a fine cast and solid direction with the irresistible lilting melodies of Irving Berlin.

The vibrant, jaunty Gurwin is an ideal Annie Oakley, the backwoods sharpshooter who gained international renown touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Smitten with rival marksman Frank Butler (Norris Anderson), Annie has to learn some basic feminine wiles while she laments "You Can't Get a Man with a Gun."

As Butler, Anderson's mellow, rich voice fills every cranny of the small theater, and his strong stage presence as the swaggering lady-killer works well with Gurwin's effervescence.

Virtually every song in the show stays with one for days afterwards, including such classics as "Doin' What Comes Naturally," "The Girl That I Married," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "They Say It's Wonderful," "I Got the Sun in the Morning" and "Anything You Can Do."

WHILE GURWIN'S musical productions have always had excellent

leads, this year she has assembled stronger supporting casts and greatly improved choreography, costumes and scenery.

The very talented Gary Lee Temple is delightful as Charlie, Buffalo Bill's hard-working manager and promoter. Barbara Vorves makes Butler's devoted assistant Dolly amusingly obnoxious. Tom Spriggs as Buffalo Bill and Frank Cosenza as his show-business rival Fawcett Bill both look convincing, and Phil Jakey is a likeable Chief Sitting Bull despite his outlandish flowered costume.

Annie's young siblings, played by Robyn Clark, Alicia Holbrook, Bryan Eder and Kimberly Eder, are all remarkably poised and polished. Director Nancy Brassart has filled the lively production with many pleasing touches, from the special staging of Annie's surprise shooting trick to small nuances of characterization among some chorus members.

Choreographer Kathi Bush adapts her numbers nicely to the size of the stage and has her dancers well rehearsed. Music director Lee George sees that the pleasant four-piece combo never overpowers the singers.

Everything about this charming production scores a bull's-eye except for a sluggish spotlight that fails to be on target at all times.

Barbara Michals teaches high school English in Southfield. Her theater critic for the last 15 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

Performances of the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Murder at the Vicarage" continue through Sunday, May 21, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call 377-3300.

By Cathie Breidenbach
special writer

Like a crossword puzzle, Meadow Brook Theatre's "Murder at the Vicarage" by Agatha Christie teases the brain with multiple "whodunit" possibilities.

Of the 14 characters in the play, all have plausible motives to commit murder — except for the corpse, of course, and the ineffectual policeman assigned the case. At intermission, people debate red herrings and argue motives — a sure sign that director Terence Kilburn has done well by the puzzle of Dame Agatha's classic mystery.

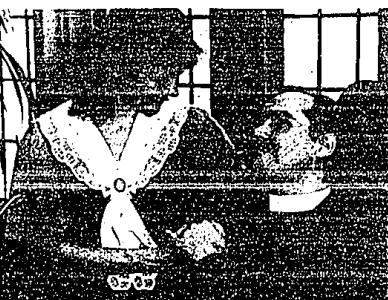
Paddy Croft plays the amateur detective, Miss Marple, with just the right combination of sagacity, naivete and eccentric English preoccupation with her beloved garden. With her burly voice, tweedy tailored suits, and clunky, sensible shoes, she's no sweet little old spinster sleuth but an imposing center for the play.

Miss Marple insists she solves mysteries by thinking more about human nature than about facts but, make no mistake, the paper doll characters in Christie's play are no match for Chekhov's, and despite Miss Marple's claims that she delves into human nature, character takes a back seat in "Murder at the Vicarage."

STEREOTYPES AROUND. There's the "good" vicar, his flibbertigibbet wife who can scarcely boil water for tea, a young sexpot greedy for men and money, an autocratic maven dubbed the memsahib for her years in India, and a profligate artist who wears the expected ascot. Classic murder mysteries often revolve around stereotypical characters and the Meadow Brook produc-



Cathie Breidenbach



Leslie Lynn Meeker in Griselda Clement and Cap Blood is the Rev. Leonard Clement in Agatha Christie's "Murder at the Vicarage" at Meadow Brook Theatre.

tion takes Christie's stereotypes and plays them to their entertaining hilt.

In a departure from the tradition of the English butler who shares suspicion and answers the door with chilling disdain, people in "Murder" drift in and out the french doors opening onto the vicar's garden, without benefit of butler.

Somebody sneaks in to kill rich, cantankerous Colonel Prothero as he

sits at the vicar's desk. While he sits slumped in death, characters wander around the vicar's study chattering about his murder as though it were nothing more upsetting than an infestation of bugs on the raspberries bushes. Peculiar folk, Dame Agatha's English.

The Rev. Clement (Cap Blood) presides over the chaos of his household and of his busybody congregation

with gracious, milk-toast equilibrium. His wife, played by Leslie Lynn Meeker, exudes a dizzy, loving charm. Even though she's supposed to be a war veteran, she can't manage the inept maid, Mary Jenkins, a redhead with crimped hair, a volatile spirit and a boyfriend who poaches game. Eileen Connolly wrings humor from Mary's lines.

JILLIAN LINDIG as Mrs. Price Ridley exudes the willfulness of an upper-class maven accustomed to having her way.

Shirley Ann Kaladjian shines as the spoiled scamp who feels no grief when her father is murdered. Carl Pasberg as the nephew, Mary Worth as the cool aristocrat surprised by love, Geoffrey Beauchamp as the artist who draws women literally and figuratively, Donald Ever as the village doctor and Richard Eastley as the inspector play their roles with skill.

Scene designer Peter Hicks celebrates English ambience, in the set with high ceilings, mahogany book cases, Oriental rugs, a wing back chair beside the fireplace and even a tea trolley. The set, the costumes and the characters offer a sociological microcosm of an English village just after World War II.

Dame Agatha and Meadow Brook Theatre create an evening's lightweight entertainment in "Murder at the Vicarage," a mystery written when times were really kinder and gentler and when blood, gore, violence, swearing and nudity weren't considered necessary accoutrements to the cerebral puzzle of a murder mystery.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.

THERE'S A BARGAIN
WAITING FOR YOU IN
TODAY'S CLASSIFIEDS

OCEANIA INN OF ROCHESTER

Cordially invites you to come and enjoy an elegant dinner in our newly remodeled dining room.

Upon request, OCEANIA INN and its newest location: THE PANDA, in West Bloomfield will be featuring an exclusive 10 COURSE GOURMET DINNER, accompanied with a Wine Sampling treat of fine house wines.

Under the direction of our new gourmet chef, SAM YEE from H.K., will be featuring the following menu:

Appetizers: Wor Tip, Spring Rolls
Soup: Shark Fin Soup

Entrees:
DOUBLE STYLE SHRIMP: Pan fried Shrimp stir fried with garden fresh Chinese vegetables.

STUFFED MUSHROOM DELIGHT: Lusciously thick Black Chinese Mushrooms stuffed with Crab Meat over Snow White Wine Sauce.

HONG KONG LOBSTER: A whole Lobster (in shell) prepared with special wines and green onions.

CRISPY DUCK: Chinese style B.B.Q. Duck on a bed of stir fry vegetables.

SEIZING CHICKEN: Slices of Chicken Breast sautéed with Cashews & spicy sauce over Rice Pilaf on hot plate.

CAPTAIN YEE'S NOODLE: Chinese Egg Noodles with assortment of vegetables.

PINEAPPLE BOAT: Finely cut strips of marinated Steak in a Lemon Sauce in a fresh Pineapple.

DESSERT: Finishing with a refreshing Sherbert Ice Cream and house baked Almond Cookies.

FOR THIS ROYAL DINNER (MINIMUM 6 PERSONS; \$17.50 PER PERSON)

RESERVATIONS ONLY

Serving The Finest in Chinese Cuisine & Spirits

NOW TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!!

ROCHESTER HILLS

Oceania Inn

Meadowbrook Village Mall

68 N. Adams

PH: 375-9200

Corner Walton & Adams

WEST BLOOMFIELD

The Panda

Drake Summit Shopping Center

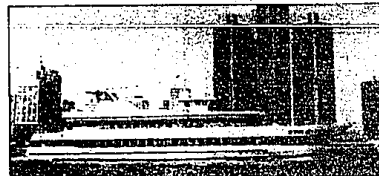
5586 Drake Rd.

PH: 661-1503

Corner of Walnut Lake Rd.

• The pulse of your community • The pulse of you!

The Star is Back!



Welcome aboard for another exciting and spectacular season on the Star of Detroit.

The Captain and crew invite you to cruise the Detroit River and experience the excitement of Cruise/Dining. Enjoy imaginative and inviting buffets, the fresh breezes of open observation decks, a friendly service staff, live entertainment and spectacular skylines — This is an experience to treasure.

Each cruise is a celebration when you dine aboard the Star!

1989 Cruise Schedule

Cruising May—Mid-October

Monday-Thursday

Lunch 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Moonlight 11:30 pm-2:00 am

Friday

Lunch 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Moonlight 11:30 pm-2:00 am

Saturday

Brunch 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

Moonlight 11:30 pm-2:00 am

Sunday

Brunch 11:00 am-1:30 pm

Early Dinner 3:00 pm-5:30 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm-10:00 pm

For more information and reservations call
(313) 259-9161

Groups (25 or more) call
(313) 259-9160

* Major credit cards accepted.

Gift certificates are always available.
Reservations accepted year-round.

THE STAR OF DETROIT
Experience the City Like Never Before

table talk

Chili Cook-off

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's 10th annual Great Chili Cook-Off will be held Saturday, Sunday at the Saline Farm Council Grounds. The family event follows 80 cooks Saturday and 40 cooks Sunday runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. It is the largest sanctioned cook-off in the Midwest. Tickets at the gate are \$5 for adults, \$1 for children under 12.

Divorce Party

"Ain't Nethin' But a Divorce Party" is held 4-8 p.m. Sundays at the Rhinoceros in Detroit's Riverfront. The party, around the theme of the newly divorced, includes live entertainment, a special food and beverage menu, and a palmist. The menu, changing weekly, includes offerings such as Departure Stew, Melancholy

Soup and Good-Bye Pie. A featured drink is called Love on the Rocks.

Carry Out

R.I.K.'s Carry Out has opened, connected to R.I.K.'s, the Restaurant, at Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield. The carry-out stocks specially food items inspired by the new restaurant, as well as favorites from R.I.K.'s Total Cuisine Center in Bloomfield Township. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays.

L.A. Express

L.A. Express is scheduled to open in June, next to Keith Farnie's restaurant, Les Auteurs, an American Bistro. Chef Farnie will feature ready-to-eat meals, a wide range of baked goods, pizzas, sandwiches, rotisserie chicken, imported beer and wine, and house-made ice cream on a daily changing menu.



A Suite Weekend

REG. \$79
LESS \$10 SPECIAL DISCOUNT
\$69

Celebrate the opening of Jacques Deneux Restaurant & Lounge with our special May Weekend Rate. A luxurious two-room suite complete with living room, private bedroom and wet bar with refrigerator. Two hour manager's reception each evening. Free breakfast cooked-to-order every morning in our beautiful atrium.



You don't have to be a fat cat to enjoy The Suite Life.™

DETROIT—SOUTHFIELD

28100 Franklin Rd.

(313) 350-2000

*Available Friday or Saturday. Price is per suite, per night, per couple. Suite at the price subject to availability. Subject to state and local laws. Owned & Operated by The Management Group, Inc.

Mother's Day

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1989

join us for a glorious

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Dinner served from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m.

featuring

WONDERFUL MOTHER'S DAY MENU

plus

A Special Menu Just for Children

COME — BRING THE FAMILY!!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

CALL 642-3131



Jacques Restaurant
30100 Telegraph in Birmingham