Entertainment



O&F: Thursday, October 5, 1989







Dana Powers Acheson (far left) and Laura Buono (center), along with another girl, allernate in the role of Little Cosette in "Les Miserables" at the Fisher Theatre. The three girls also alternate as Little Epinone. Joe Denawet; (right) alternates with another boy as Gavroche, the street urchin. Dana attends school in Bloomfield Hills, Laura lives in Oakland Township and Joe lives in West Bloomfield.

Right at home

Performers from area in musical 'Les Miserables'

OR DANIEL COONEY, who lives in New York, being "on the road" with "Les Miz' is something he hasn't experienced, yet, even though he is appearing in the ensemble of the show at the Fisher Theatre.

show at the Fisher Theatre.

Cooney auditioned for the smashhit musical in New York, rehearsed
in Chicago and joined the national
company when it opened last month
in Detroit. But since he is originally
from Westland, the 21-year-old performer has rented a house, near his
parents' home there, and is comfortably staying right around home during the run of "Icas Mir" in Detroit.

Several whiteen is the story when

ing the run of "Les Mix" in Detroit.

Several children in the show also get to go home at night, to their permanent homes, since they auditioned in Detroit and were chosen just to appear in "Les Mix" during the show's local stay.

They are Joe Denawetz, 11, of West Bloomfield, and two nine-year-old girls — Laura Buono of Oakland Township and Dana Powers Acheson, who lives in Detroit and attends Roeper City and Country School in Bloomfield Hills.

ON TUESDAY MORNING Dan Cooney had just returned from a fishing trip taken on his day off, Monday. In a phone interview, he sounded sleep, as he talked about catching perch in Lake Erie, in Michigan waters. In "Les Miz." he said, "the main character i play is Joly, one of the students. He does most of his wor on the barriedets — the revolution and fighting scene." Cooney said his character has a few spoken 'lines' (actually all 'lines' in the show arough. 'Joly is basically a happy gay. You can tell that by his name," he sump. 'Joly test hat, I do close to 10 other characters. There are some pretty fast costumer changes." He appears variously as one of the factory workers, farmers, and people in the lan, or har-room.

The lour started two wears ago in

tory workers, farmers, and people in the inn, or bar-room.

The lour started two years ago in Boston and is expected to run for another five to seven years, travellag throughout the United States. None of the original principals is still with the show. "Everyone in principal roles, now, started in the ensemble," he explained.

Cooney may get a chance to move up, but it's not likely he will progress to the role of the main character,

Jean Valjean. "The youngest Valjean is 33," he said. "In the near future, I'm right for Marius" (who falls in love with the grown-up Cosette).

COONEY WAS BORN in WestIndow with the grown-up Cosette).

COONEY WAS BORN in WestIndo, where he graduated from John
Glenn High School. A few weeks ago,
he visited an advanced drama class
at the school, talking about his career and "Les Miz." After high
school, he spent a semester at Henry
Ford Community College in Dearborn, then decided college was not
for him.

As a high school student, he had
appeared in several musical productions at John Glenn. A community
theater production for the Dearborn
Players Guld eventually led him to
Florids, where the guld's director
went to do dinner theater.

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college." Joining the national communities who appear in "Les Miz."
For the children from local communities who appear in "Les Miz."

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munities who appear in "Les Miz," it's an experience on which they agree, "It's fun. I love it." Each of the youngsters, in separate phone in-

Royal Oak 3310 N. Woodward 549-3044

terviews Monday, came up with the identical, enthusiastic comment in response to the question asking how they liked being in the show.

response to the question assing now they liked being in the show.

JOE DENAWETZ plays Garroche, the street urchin, Without hestaation, he eserthee his character as
a straight, somey stud." Joe declared. "I just love the role."

He has given several newspaper
interviews and has appeared on radio and television. Talking about
Gavroche is something he has gotten
used to. His davorite scene in which
he appears in the show is the one
where he gets to elimb all over the
barricades, and later dies.

Joe said he knows everybody in
the show. "The actors are real nice.
They're nicer than most shows." He
had figured they were rich, and that
they might be stuck-up or mean, he
said.
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outside the stage door. He pointed out that he wasn't playing Gavroche in Chicago. "They said, Who cares! You're Gavroche. We want your autorgraph," he said.

Joe thinks he is well-suited to the part because he has been told that, in person, "You look and sound like Gavroche." He admitts, however, he docan't have the personality of the felsty character. "It wouldn't have any friends if I did," he declared.

any friends if I did," he declared.

LAURA BUONO and her family just moved to Oakland Township from Sterling Heights and she would attend Hugger Elementary School for the first lime, the next day. Sha alternates with Dana Powers Acheson and another girl, who travels with the show, in the roles of Young Cosette and Young Epinone. She likes playing Cosette, who is "an abused little girl. Her mom dies. She likes playing Cosette, who is "an abused little girl. Her mom dies. Vallean comes to take care of her."

Of the character Epinone, "She hard; y does anything. She makes fun of Cosette. She's the innkeeper's daughter."

ter."
Laura had an unexpected experience onstage when "Thenardier (the
innkeeper) drops me. I rolled off his
lap and my foot went into the orchestra pit."

The youngster heard about auditions for the show from her Uncle Joe, who plays French horn in the orchestra for "Les Miz" at the Fisher. She is an experienced performer, who started dancing at age two and had her first stage role at five.

two and mach...

"I met a lot of new friends. We have fun. I get along with the kids very well. We sleep over at one another's house," she said.

DANA POWERS ACHESON en-joys the role of Cosette because, "I get to sing more stuft." She also said, "Usually when I'm in a play they say, Smille, Dana, smile." With "Les Miz." "You usually can't smile very much. In this show you don't smile unless Jean Valjean picks you up."

smile unless Jean Valjean picks you
"P" why doesn't she like to keep smillng? "I'm not th cutesy kind of person. Your mouth starts hurting." she
said.

Dana wants to continue her showbusiness career until she grows unThen she would like to become an
archeologist. However, the entercaliment field may yet win out.
"When I grow up I want to try out
for the part of Epinone." she said. "I
like the songs she sings."



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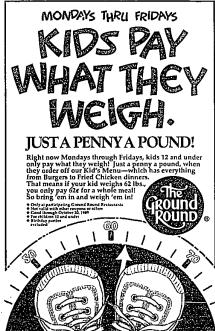
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