Entertainment

'Kip Synatra' is their claim to fame

HE NEW MUSICAL "Kip Synatra's Mobile Musical (A Memorial)" is a moving tribute to the greatest undiscovered songwriter of the last four decades.

musical is being fully mounted for the first time, opening Friday, June 22. The articulate Vigilant asys, "We are obsessed with making a success out of our songwriting team." His creative partners, Gerry Castle, and Castle's brother Dan, a Troy resident, who is director of the show, are just as fervent.

A land surveyor by day, a graduate journalist by choice, Vigilant has teamed with Blue Cross employee Gerry Castle since 1992. Together they have produced "Folied Again! Two Musical Melodramas" published by Samuel French Inc.

No one has ever heard of Kip
Synatra, but then compaser Gerald
V. Castle of Harper Woods and playwright-lyricist Michael C. Vigilant of
at least not yet. Castle and Vigilant want that to change.
The two men are seated casually
around the director's table, beneath
the newly renovated stage at the
Birmingham Village Players playhouse, where their newly created

Mike Vigitant (left) wrote the book and lyrics and Jerry Castle the music for "Kip Synatra's Mobile Musical (A Memorial)," which will be staged for the first time at the Birmingham Vil-lage Players.

Service this year. Tim Kelly, the most published playwright in America, has hired the team to set to music his farce "Phantom of the Op'ry."
"Kip" is one of only eight musicals listed in the Samuel French International catalog this year out of 2,000 submissions.

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submissions.

The idea of "Kip" germinated in
Vigilant's mind as a magazine artitice. Dan Castle jokingly calls it the
product of Mike and Gerry's adolescent minds and warped aller egos.

"It is a metaphor for the babe
Kip's muscal journey starts in the
1959s. In an alextream trailer (created by set designer Jim Baimer). Kip
travels with his bands, the
Wetsports, the Gnat Pack, Francisco
Bizzarro, the Lost Conquistadors,
and the Band of Itinerands. His therapits, his first date, his three exwives and his parents tell his story.

The 12 actors never leave the
stage as they travel across America,
make a sea-slekening journey to Africes and a disappointing trip to Hawaii, and choreograph a nuclear
holocoust for the tail time show of
the 50th annual Grange Bowl. Kip's
Hard of Center at temps to hit the big
time never quite succeed.

"HE IS ALWAYS a step behind.

time never quite succeed.

"IIE IS ALWAYS a step behind, never quite in synch," adds the quiet Gerry Castle. On stage in the musical, Castle is literally the leader of the band, the guitarist.

Musically, the show runs the gamut of American pop music—rock, big band, swing, ran, folk, punk-abilly, calypso and show tunes.
"As children we all hated diseo so we left it out," said Dan Castle. Gerry Castle has composed 19 tuneful pieces that are not easily forgotten. The melodies can stand alone as do Vigllant's lyrics, but Castle's accentuated musical style promotes Vigilant's clever wit in such songs as "You Can't Sick to a Girl with a Teflon-Coated Heart," "Opposites Attack" and "Fetal Position."

Most striking is the mini-musical which takes place in Act II. Vigllant describes it as a "iouched view of

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ADVERTISING



Chris Gerback (left), Tim Reinman and Mar-jorie Gluckman rehearse scene for "Kip Syna-tra's Mobile Musical." The show has been add-ed to the 1989-90 season as a fund-raiser to benefit the Birmingham Village Players Build-ing Fund. Performances will be at 8:30 p.m. Fri-

day-Saturday, June 22-23, 29-30 (tickets \$8). In place of the customary preview night show, the musical will be presented Wednesday, June 20, as a benefit for the Attic Theatre (tickets \$15). For ticket information call 644-2075.

hard and Ed Guay's powerful voices and emotional interpretations drive home the love story about a couple of the country of th

"HOW DO YOU stage a new show? Obviously, you can't rent a video at Blockbury, you can't rent a video at Blockbury, and to home and the stage of the

Hate Peas, Lima Beans and Cream Corn." Four slide shows provide a travelogue.

"For security reasons I can't tell you why the piece is called a mobile or give away the surprise ending," said Dan Castle. (Vigllant is part of the action when the secret is re-vealed.)

The show is co-produced by Lind-say Balmer and Bill Haycook, Vil-iage Players member fielen Balmer, who is the wife of the set director, Jim Balmer, and mother of Lindsay Balmer, couldn't help but add, "This team is going to be famous.' I just feel it. The show is beautiful."

table talk

East, West

Master Chef Jeff Gabriel who Master Chef Jeff Gabriel, who teaches in the culinary arts program at Schoolcraft. College in Livonia, will cook an "East Meets West" dinner at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Keith Famic's Les Auteurs in Royal Oak. Cost is 33:50 per person. A wine package, selected by Maitre D' Michael Marrisette, is offered at \$14.50 per person. For reservations call 544-2887.

Tea adventure

The Mad Hatter, Allee and the March Hare will re-enact Lewis Carroll's famous tea from 3-5 p.m. Monday, June 25, at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Several of the guests will be invited to Join the characters at a special tea tuble. After the tea, Allee will give children instruction it ea etiquette. The family tea is \$21.50 per person. For reservations call Pauline Palazollo at 642-7900.



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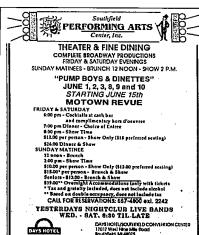
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