On all counts, show's a winner

Avon Players' staging of Hobert Harling's Sixed Magnolius' is aimateur theater at its finest. The play one of the best of the 1990s, is pougnant, very funny and extremely well crafted. The Avon production is of professional quality and is tall abotter than the movie with which many of us are familiar. The story set in a Louisian beauty slop, highlights the lives, loves, trainingly, and trials of six Southern women. There is, losts of broad comedy, counterpointed masterfully be human tragedy at the play's climax. Mychelic Multron policys. Truy, the owner of the hearity shop and anchor of the play At first her character seems, lose braves and her accenting the stage of the players and her accenting the stage of the playing her provided in the players.

LISA JESSWEIN is Annelle, Tra-viv assistant She plays the mixed-up and voluerable Annelle as a lost poppy dog. Winning pennine sympa-thy for her pottette character When She vice up fundamentalist Caris-tiants is seen entering that she atmost ratios one forget about Jim Balker an Libiumy Swaggert Laston, played by Ginny dek.

Parco's

INLIMA DIRECTORY

INDEFGÁFIEN COF

Testurmances of the Acon Players production of "Steel Magnoliss" continue through Saturation, Feb. 16, at the playbouse in Station Books for Something useful to do such herself indicates thill. For the test information will the boar office at 375-1600.

By Mark S, Carluy spaced acuter Axion. By Mark S, Carluy spaced acuter Axion Players Staging of Hobert Harling's "Steel Magnolias" is amateur theater at its firest.

The plays one of the best of the Dines, is pognant, very fining and streamly well crafted. The Axon pool of the processor of the play and professional quality and body of the play Mark S, Carluy spaced by the professional quality and body of the play and trails of six Southern Testory, set in a Louisander. The plays of trails of the play and trails of six Southern of the play At first het character with a sense of the disagree of the beauty shop and anchor of the play At first het character with a sense of with ance to the easy and her accent accelotate, but she defaultely grows any one and winds up playing her proceedings and vider after Annelle, Tray's assistant She plays the mixed upon device of the processor of the processor of the play At first her character. When she will be proved to the play and the p

It's hilarious but out of whack

Performances of the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "A Mulsiaming Night's Dream" con-tinue through Sunday, Feb 24, or the Onkland University campus in Rochester Hills For tacket in-formation, call the box office at 377-3300

By Cathie Breidenbach special writer

By Cathio Brotononaen special writer and special writer writer and special writer writer and special writer

fairy elixir.

GONE IS THE dream mague of theseus and Hippolyta's world in a mystical wooded kingdom populated by fairies.

The fairies have been bamshed Peaseblosson, Colwech, Moth, Muscardseed and other unnamed sprite-who traditionally fit about the woodland in "A Midsummer Night-bream" have been replaced by two macabre, black-robed, monked creatures carrying wind cliented in the property of t

review

AS BOTH Theseus and Oberon, that smothers the delicate, dream mage of the fairnes and overpowers the play's graceful poetry.

Gone is a musing wonderment at the mysterious non-logic of love Instead Ulmer delivers ample famy patting and busty groping, enough to make the audience wonder whether the flower potton dropped into sleeping lovers' eyes might be distilled hormones rather than a fairly elaxif.

as notif theseus and Oberon, James Anthony leads the line cast.

His in-charge voice seems born to rule whether his subjects be Athenians, fairties of his own queen (Rathryn Grant) He keeps his dignity yet projects a playful sense of fun in his dual rule.

Joseph Reed is especially fine as Figure Hermas exasperated father.

The young lovers, Lysander 'R Ward Duffy, Dometrus (Richard A Serot, Herma (Mary Proctor) and Helenia size, Kenny, are comely and full of youthful rebellion and lusty energy.

full of youthful rebellion and justy-energy.

In the Meadow Brook production, hey wear Edwardian costumes rather than Athenian, a palatable change that brings the romance of petiticats and lace, hourglass silhomettes, and dapper genileman's wear into the mysteries of love.

AS USUAL, Nick Bottom steals the show Eric Tavares as Bottom rapitatizes on the plum role and milks it for laughs with all the skill of a consummate comedian. His donkey head may make him look, more like Harvey, the giant rabbit, than an ass, and his overgrown teeth may garble his speech, but he uses everything — teeth, knees, feet, elbows and hoof-like hands to humorous advantage. His simpleton chums Francis

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Serving the Emest in Charles & American Cusine Flute (Randall Godwin), Tom Snout (Roy Dennison), Snug (LeRoy Mitch-ell Jr.), Robin Starveling (Thomas D. Mahard) and Peter Quince (Perry B.

Mahard) and Peter Quince (Perry B. Stewart) play bimbling, sh, bilariously funny characters. But what of the inexplicable madness of love, the delicate mystery of dreams, and the magic of midsummer's night? They hade in the shadows, overwhemed by the sound of rancous laughty.

Cathie Bredenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writ-ing classes and works as a freelance writer



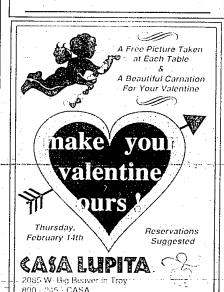
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