

Stratford's 'Our Town' flawless in presentation

"Our Town" continues in repertory through Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Avon Theatre at the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is a promotional sponsor for the festival's 39th season. For ticket information call 964-6668 in metropolitan Detroit.



Ethel Simmons

"Our Town," the American classic by Thornton Wilder, is a jewel of a production in the hands of the Stratford Festival in Canada.

Combining gentle humor and dramatic punches, the play stars Douglas Rain as the Stage Manager, or narrator, of the story of life in small-town Grover's Corners, N.H., in the early 1900s. A seasoned pro, Rain manages to extract every bit of meaning from subtle lines that could just slip past you with a less able actor.

"Touching" and "warm" are words that describe the low-key action, directed by Vivian Matalon, which builds to a stunning climax in Act 3. One of the most powerful, and incredibly sad scenes, I've ever seen on stage is this funeral sequence,

where mourners and the dead are present after the death of the young heroine, Emily, in childbirth.

Staging and lighting throughout the play are magnificent, especially in the funeral scene where the dead, dressed in iridescent grey, are stark contrast to the mourners, all in black with umbrellas.

THE MESSAGE of "Our Town," as pointed out to the audience, is that the living are all blind, and don't appreciate death. "It (life) goes so fast," the deceased Emily says.

Ann Bagley gives a strong performance as a vibrant Emily Webb, and Andrew Dolba is appropriately pensive, and confused as George Gibbs, the next-door neighbor who becomes her boyfriend when they

are teenagers.

One of the play's most amusing scenes is where actor Rain, taking the role of the drugstore owner, pan-tomimes making ice cream sodas for the young couple.

The first act concerns the couple's growing up in Grover's Corners. Good performances all are those by William Dunlop and Roberta Maxwell as George's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs; Claire Rankin as George's younger sister, Rebecca; Peter Donaldson and Susan Wright as Mr. and Mrs. Webb, and Sam Dinicoll as Emily's brother, little Wally Webb.

In Act 2, George and Emily are married, and then the action jumps back to their teenage "romance" where he buys her an expensive, ice cream soda.



Douglas Rain (right) is the Stage Manager in the American drama of small-town life, "Our Town," at the Stratford (Ontario) Festival.

spotlight individuals, further heightening the drama.

Brian Perchaluk, who designed the set; John Pennoyer, the costumes, and Michael J. Whitfield, the lighting, all made worthy contributions.

upcoming things to do

Continued from Page 5

"King" Cole will be presented at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 14, at the New Pine Knob near Clarkston. Comedian George Carlin with special guest America appears at Pine Knob at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 25. Country stars K.T. Oslin and Exile with special guest the Desert Rose Band perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Yes will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 30. The Doodle Brothers with special guest Joe Walsh appear at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 31. Operation Rock and Roll featuring Alice Cooper and Judas Priest with special guests Dangerous Toys, Motor Head and Metal Church appears at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. The Lollapalooza Festival, featuring Jane's Addiction, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Living Colour, Nine Inch Nails, Ice-T, the Butthole Surfers and the Rollins Band, is presented at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4. Grammy winner Bonnie Raitt with special guest Chris Isaak

performs at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. Tickets are on sale at the Palace box office and all Ticketmaster centers. Tickets may also be charged by calling 645-6666.

OUTDOOR SERIES

The country-folk duo of Pat and Bill Truitt is featured at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 11, as the free outdoor summer music series continues at the Novi Civic Center. The Truitts, a husband and wife team from Lyons, Mich., perform American folk music, both contemporary and traditional, original and story songs, and songs of Michigan. Picnic-style food is available beginning at 6:30 p.m. In the event of rain the concert will be moved inside the Civic Center. Call 3470400 for more information.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Stagecrafters Youth Theatre will present its summer production, "The Sleeping Beauty," at 7 p.m. Thurs-



Bob James appears at Meadow Brook on Friday, July 12.

day-Friday, July 11-12; 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, July 13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, July 14. The shows will be presented on the main stage of the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak. Written by R. Eugene Jackson, this must-

cal adaptation has the emphasis on comedy. General admission tickets are \$4. For information, call 541-6430.

Mama Mia

DINNER FOR 2

Choice of
Tenderloin Steak
Broiled Boston Scrod
Veal Parmesan
Pasta Primavera

\$10.99

And \$7 more for each person for this selection
includes unlimited Soda, House Salad, Bread and
Fresh Fruit. Excludes Party Packages. Party
With Coupons, July 31, 1991

Banquet Facilities Available
2175 Plymouth
Livonia, Michigan 48150
427-1000 427-0740

ALL DAY SUNDAY BUFFET

ALL YOU CAN EAT BRUNCH

9:30-4 **\$7.95**

DINNER

4:00-9 **\$8.95**

BANQUET FACILITIES and CATERING SERVICE AVAILABLE!

Leather Bottle Inn

20300 Farmington Road
(Just S. of 8 Mile)
Livonia 426-8680

MITCH HOUSEY'S

Open 11 A.M.

LUNCHEONS \$3.95

from
DINNER FROM \$7.95
LOBSTER TAIL DINNER
Sautéed Hot Potatoes \$15.95
Baked Potato

FASHION SHOW

12 NOON TO 2 P.M.
EVERY THURSDAY
Presented by TOUCH OF CLASS

COCKTAIL HOUR

4-7 P.M.
EVERY WEDNESDAY
COCKTAIL HOUR 4 P.M. CLOSING

NOW APPEARING... THE SHOWCASEMEN

NOW BOOKING BANQUETS
(Dinner or Lunch)
RESERVE NOW FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES

28500 Schoolcraft
(Opposite Ladbroke DRG)
LIVONIA • 425-5520

AMPLE LIGHTED PARKING

DAILY MON-SAT. at 11:00 a.m.
NOW OPEN SUN. 4:00 p.m.
OPEN JULY 4th at 4:00 p.m.

On the Town

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

O&E Sports—more than just the scores

SUMMER FARE LIGHTER FARE

This Summer, We're Taking A Lighter Approach To Fine Dining.

- Linguine Primavera, garnished with sun-dried tomatoes and grated walnuts (\$5.75)
- Grilled Turkey Breast with Grilled Vegetables (\$9.75)
- Pasta Pesca-Brased Scrod with Whole Wheat Linguine, fresh tomatoes and pea pods (\$12.00)
- Grilled Salmon and Vegetables in Tomato Basil Braise (\$14.50)

charley's crab

5498 Crooks Rd.
Troy, MI
At the Northfield Mall
(313) 879-2060

The American Express® Card is always welcome

CINEMA DIRECTORY

CALL THEATERS FOR SHOWTIMES

SHOWCASE CINEMAS AUBURN HILLS

2150 NORTH OPDYKE ROAD
METRO CENTER DR. & OPDYKE RD.
24 HOUR TELEPHONE 313-373-2660

PONTIAC 1-5

2405 10 MILE RD. 332-0241

PONTIAC 6-12

2405 10 MILE RD. 334-6777

REGARDING HENRY

NOI DALLAMONIS

TERMINATOR 2

PROBLEM CHILD 2

THE ROCKETER

CITY SUCKERS

THINK & LOUISE

BACEDRAFT

SUMMIT PLACE 682-5544

14000 WILLOW & ELMHURST AVE RD
SOUTHFIELD MICH 48034
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS
CINEMA SHOWS SAT. SUN. & HOLIDAYS

JUNIOR REVER

SOAPBOX

WHAT ABOUT BOB?

DISTINCT CHINESE

Lunch • Dinner • Late Night Dining • Take Out

1515 EAST MAPLE RD., TROY • (313) 689-2332

Al Hirt & Pete Fountain

at the
Grand Manor of Fairlane - Dearborn

JULY 28 & 29, 1991

\$32.50 Cabaret Style • \$45 Dinner & Show

Limited Seats Available

CALL: CORPORATE TRAVEL - (313) 565-8888

T.S. MARTIN'S

Restaurant & Tavern

Come In And Try Our
CHICAGO STYLE RIBS
The Best In Town!

27189 GRAND RIVER (Just E. of Inkster Rd.)
(313) 537-6610

SUNDAY BRUNCH

SOUTHFIELD'S FINEST BRUNCH
FEATURES A CARVING STATION WITH
ROAST TURKEY AND HENDERSON
WAFLE, OMELETTE AND PASTA
STATIONS, LOX AND SMOKED FISH
DISPLAY, AN ARRAY OF HOT ENTREES
AND SALADS, DESSERT TABLE AS WELL
AS A SPECIAL KIDNIE SECTION!

11:30 AM - 3 PM

EMBASSY SUITES

350 2000

24100 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S Meadow Brook

Observer & Eccentric

NEWSPAPERS

Joy 97

"Some Enchanted Evening"

music & lyrics by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

Sketch Henderson, conductor
Meadow Brook Festival Orchestra
Patti Wileman, soprano
Lothar Bergeest, baritone

Saturday, July 13

Pavilion \$20, \$17 Lawn \$12.50

CKLW AM 1200

Patti Page Pat Boone

with full orchestra

Friday, July 19

Pavilion \$22.50, \$18.50 Lawn \$12.50

Joy 97 and CML

"Broadway Blockbusters"

Charles Greenwell, conductor
Meadow Brook Festival Orchestra
featuring selections from Phantom of the Opera
and Les Miserables

Saturday, July 27

Pavilion \$20, \$17 Lawn \$12.50

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL

Concerts start at 8:00 p.m.

TICKETMASTER

CONCERTS INCLUDING HUNDREDS OF HARMONY HOUSE AND
SOUND WAREHOUSE STORES OR CALL MEADOW BROOK
MUSIC FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE
(313) 377-2010

Meadow Brook Music Festival