

'Rehearsal for Murder' good, needs faster pace

Performances of the Troy Players production of "Rehearsal for Murder" are 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, and 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Troy Community Center. For ticket information call 879-1285.

The Troy Players' production of "Rehearsal for Murder," by D.D. Brooke, has many elements of a good modern mystery, but the current staging needs more sparkle and quicker pace.

John White is appropriate for the role of playwright Alex Denison who pens a script based on his actress/fiance's last night alive. The play-within-a-play is supposedly written to weed out suspects in Alex's fiance's death. While, howev-

er, needs to broaden his character's range (especially to include urgency) for this complex role, and he is certainly capable of doing so. As many of the characters on-stage wonder of Alex's sanity, so too must the audience. This would be one more way to add tension.

Beautiful Monica Wells (Elizabeth DeWilde), the murdered actress/fiance, reappears to read scenes from Alex's play with various characters who are suspects. These "scenes" are actually flashbacks and serve to tell the story of the night of Monica's death. DeWilde, new to the Troy Players, is an impressive actress with stage presence, and is a definite asset to the show.

A common misinterpretation in many mystery or suspense dramas is



Sally Dubats

to deliver extremely informative lines (which illustrate events leading to the murder in question) as though explaining procedures to putting together a bicycle. This is particularly evident in "Rehearsal for Murder" because of the flashback writing style of D.D. Brooke's adaptation. Thom Griffin, as Frank Heller, does splendidly while in the "past," or during scenes involving interaction, but when recounting past events

without "living" them, the bicycle procedure delivery of dialogue returns.

The actors/suspects invited to the reading of Alex's new play (within the play) are cast well. On the whole, however, the cast needs to pick up their lines to pick up the pace in Act 1. Act II did bring more intrigue as the story unfolded and more action was presented. Lori Jacobs repro-

sented comedic relief as the character of Bella Lamb. Jacobs would have fared better, however, if she delivered her funny and stinging remarks to the intended targets on-stage, rather than to the audience.

New Troy Players member Karin Lyons shows promise as ingenue Karen Daniels. Lyons delivers her lines with self-assurance and is a good match for her partner in crime, Bob Zawideh, who plays Leo Gibbs with enthusiasm.

Handsome Dane Lawicki is also new to the stage as David Matthews, and conveys quite well the typical leading man ambience required of his role. Don Hagerty renders a credible performance in his portrayal of Lloyd Andrews, the Broadway director who is also a suspect of sorts.

Two fun characters are portrayed by Tom Tighe and Carrie Angiewicz. Tighe is likable as the theater techie (technical person) who has been at the theatre forever, and Angiewicz plays Alex's quirky, perky secretary with spunk.

"Director" Philoena Somers gives us a respectable production of "Rehearsal for Murder" which could improve with a more creative staging and a faster pace.

Sally Dubats of Southfield is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area. She is artistic director of West End Productions headquartered in Southfield.

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming entertainment calendar is three weeks ahead of publication. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wagoner, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

One of the most unusual cars ever built, the 1938 Phantom Corsair, an automobile that is so futuristic it qualifies as the auto embodiment of Star Wars' Darth Vader, will lead a field of one of the grandest collections of Corvairs ever assembled in one place at one time at the Concours d'Elegance at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall, Sunday, Aug. 4. The 25 legendary Corvairs will be joined by 200 more vintage automobiles at the world-famous event in Rochester 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking at this year's Concours is greatly improved, according to event organizers. Unlimited easy-access parking is available to everyone. Shuttle buses and trolleys will transport visitors from parking areas to the Concours field. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Call 370-3140 for information.

HALL AND OATES

Popular recording artists Daryl Hall and John Oates and rocker Pat Benatar will perform 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 7 at the Meadow Brook Music Festival. Tickets, \$22.50, \$22 and \$12.50. Concerts are held in the Baldwin Pavilion, with the grounds opening at 6 p.m. Entrances to Meadow Brook are on Walton Boulevard and Adams Road. For ticket information, call 377-2010.

JAZZ SOUNDS

Jazz performances at Max & Erma's Restaurants, 31205 Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington Hills, 9:30 p.m.-midnight (Sundays) are: Aug. 4, The Lunar Octet; Aug. 11, The Brian Krinke Band; Aug. 16, Larry Barris & Friends; Aug. 25, Bugs Beddow

Band; Sept. 1, Separate Checks; Sept. 8, Rapa House Jazz Band; Sept. 15, Larry Barris & Friends; Sept. 22, Bugs Beddow Band; and Sept. 29, the Brian Krinke Band.

PLAYERS PRESENT

The Troy Players present "Rehearsal for Murder," a mystery directed by Philoena Somers, 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Troy Community Center, 520 W. Big Beaver Road (at I-75). Tickets: \$8 adults, \$5 senior citizens and students. Tickets are available at the door. For more information call 879-1285.

ONE-ACT PLAYS

The Cranbrook Theatre School's senior division will present a one-act play, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3 in the outdoor Greek Theatre. Tickets are \$4 and available at the gate, or by calling 644-9666.

AUDITIONS

The Jewish Community Center is holding open auditions for singers, dancers, and actors for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I," which opens 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 in the Aron DeRoy Studio Theatre at the Jewish Community Center. All roles available. Auditions at the Jewish Community Center (West Bloomfield Branch) for children only, 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4; adults, 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 5; adults, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. For more information and an audition appointment, call Nancy Gurwin, 354-0545, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DIRECTORS NEEDED

Bloomfield Players, a community theater group sponsored by the Bloomfield Hills Schools Recreation Department, is accepting applications for directors for its 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons which will feature "The Wizard of Oz" in October, "Fiddler on the Roof" in March, "Annie Get Your Gun" in October 1992, and "Oliver" in March 1993. Send resume to Bloomfield Players, 4174

Dublin Drive, Bloomfield Hills 48302 or call 433-0885.

PINE KNOB

Comedians Alan King and Paula Poundstone perform at The New Pine Knob 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7. Country stars Ronnie Milsap, Eddie Rabbit and Don Williams with special guest Rob Crosby appear 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10. The Moody Blues perform 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8. The Harry Blackstone Magic Show appears 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12. Lynrd Skynrd with special guest the Jeff Healey Band will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13. George Thorogood and The Destroyers perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster centers. Tickets may also be charged by calling 645-6666. For more information, call 377-0100.

THEATRE SERIES

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield will present four major plays during the 1991-92 season. Subscriptions are available for the season. Theater goes can save as much as 25 percent over single ticket prices by buying a subscription to the series. Subscribers are also invited to a Festival of Staged Readings of new plays in March. The season opens Sept. 11 with "Crossing Delancey." Other plays include "Flight" in February and short plays by Murray Schisgal. Subscription tickets range from \$25 to \$59 for the four plays, a savings of \$7 to \$15 over the single-ticket price. For tickets or information, call the Jewish Ensemble Theatre at 788-2900 or Ticketmaster at 645-6666.

PALACE EVENTS

At 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2, MTV Live will feature Bell Biv DeVoe, C&C Music Factory, Tony! Toni! Toné!, Gerardo, Tara Kemp and Col- or Me Badi. Tickets are \$21.50. Reserved advance, \$24.50, day of show, \$27.50. Quiet Room will be open. Pro Boxing - Fight Night at The Palace will be 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13. Card to be

announced. Tickets are \$20, \$15 and \$10, plus cabaret and ringside seating available.

OUTDOOR THEATER

Outdoor theater continues at Stony Creek Metropark. Summer Shakespeare 1991 is presenting Porter's charming musical version of "The Taming of the Shrew" "Kiss Me Kate." Performances begin 8 p.m. and will be presented every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through August 11. Show dates are August 2, 3 and 4, 9, 10 and 11. Tickets are \$8 for seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at Stony Creek Visitors Center. Information is available by calling 1-800-47-PARKS.

AUDITIONS

Henry Ford Museum Theater will hold auditions for "Night of January 16th," a 1935 courtroom drama, by Ayn Rand. The director will be Rebecca Smith. Fifteen performances will be given, beginning Oct. 4, and running through Nov. 16; Friday and Saturday evenings, with one Sunday matinee on Nov. 10. All roles are salaried. Auditions will be 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, with theater doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Bring a photo and resume. No appointment is necessary, and readings will be from the script.

CHILDREN'S CLASSIC

The Marquis Theatre in Northville presents "Charlotte's Web" Aug. 10-31. Performances are 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 13, 20 and 27; Wednesdays, Aug. 14, 21 and 28; Thursdays, Aug. 15, 22 and 29; Fridays, Aug. 16, 23 and 30; and 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31. All tickets are \$5. Purchase advance tickets at all Ticketmaster outlets or at the Marquis Theatre Box Office. Tickets are also available at the door. Reserved seating is available for 20 or more. No children under 4 years old age will be admitted. Call 349-8110 for information.



Daryl Hall and John Oates are appearing at Meadow Brook Music Festival, Wednesday, Aug. 7, on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

STATE FAIR

The State of Michigan will soon turn its attention to the traditional end-of-summer extravaganza: the 143rd Annual Michigan State Fair. Running Aug. 23 through Sept. 2, a number of entertainment acts will be new to this year's Fair. The Kroger Chinese Acrobats will perform at the Woodward Avenue Midway for all 11 days of the Fair. Two new children's theater troupes will perform throughout the Fairgrounds as will a variety of familiar strolling artists and magicians. Headline entertainment at the Music Shell will be supplied by a number of national and international acts including Sheena Easton, Freddie Jackson, Rickey Van Shelton and Lee Greenwood.

PINE KNOB

Robert Palmer performs at The New Pine Knob Thursday, Aug. 15, at 8 p.m. Country music legend Johnny Cash & Family will appear Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. Bobby Vinton performs Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 8 p.m. Sing with special guest Special Beat play Wednesday, Aug.

28, at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale at The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers, including Hudson's, Harmond House and Great Stuff! stores. Tickets may also be charged by phone to American Express, Visa or Mastercard by calling (313) 645-6666. For more information, call (313) 377-0100.

JAZZ FLUTIST

Jazz flutist Alexander Zornig will perform at the Bud Light River Sight and Sound Concerts Friday, Aug. 2. Other performers in the series include Bobby Lewis and the Crackerjack Band, Aug. 9; Charles & Gwen Scales, Aug. 16; Teen Angels, Aug. 23; and the Countours, Aug. 24. The concerts, held at the Clinton River Gazebo in downtown Mount Clemens, begin at 7:30 p.m. Bring blankets or lawn chairs to sit on the banks of the Clinton River. Parking is available at the County Parking Structure, corner of Groat and Market. The free concerts are sponsored by Pettipiece Inc., local distributor of Bud Light, in cooperation with the City of Mount Clemens.

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