Some good performances in 'How the Other Half Loves'

Performances of the Troy Players production of "How the Other Half Loves" continue through Nov. 23 at the Troy Com-niunity Center, Big Beaver at I-725. For ticket information, call [374,1225.

"Pairce presents one of theater's Hold difficult problems. When done will be most ridiculous situations on the presentation appears effortiess. In a good farce the play character's hever know that they are funny. The more they are in deadly earnest, the more upvoarious the scene. The actors playing the characters and the play's director, however, do

and rulk it for maximum laughs.

This unfortunately, is where Troy
Player's current production of Alan
Ayckbourn's "How the Other Half
Lover fails. What should be a bilarious play never manages to raise
more than a few giggles from its audience. Director George Valente and
his cast just don't seem to know
when it's supposed to be funny.

For the most part, "How the Other Half Loves" is a typical British sex farce, with a young junior executive carrying on an affair with the boss's wife. Through the usual cases of mis-taken identity, a third, very timid



THIS THIRD couple, the Detwellers, are definitely the most convincing of the three. As William, Ted Krolikoski is the typical mid-level executive slug. His confusion at

the real and implied extramarital abenanigans is convincing and funny. Colleen Kane-Mohan, as Mary Detweller, delivers the best performance of the night. She is a meek, saickly wailflower, but her personality starts to change when she gets out from under the shadow of her domineering husband.

Michele Millirons, as the high soci-tey floory Floor Foster, is also good. Her striking costumes and aristo-cratic air work well, Joe Urkhus, as her cucholded husband Frank is like-she. However, he is supposed to be a rather: befuddled old fool. That doesn't come across at all, and is one point where a lot of the comedy is

lost.

Dane Lawicki and Shirely Biggs are miscast as the Phillips. Bob Phillips (Lawicki) is the show's most difficult role. As Flona's illicit lover he needs to be both obnozious and amusing. Lawicki has trouble

achieving that mix. Biggs plays his wife, Theresa at such a shrill level that it is hard to muster up much sympathy for her.

The set is supposed to highlight the difference between the bome of a wealthy, tasteful executive and that of a struggling young couple. Here it is hard to tell which home is which.

Mark S. Carley is active in local community theater, both onstage and behind the scenes. He is a member of the Birmingham Vu-lage Players and Ridgedale Play-ers in Troy.

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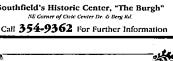
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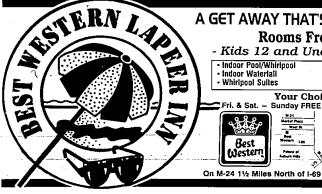
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