

Cast entertains in 'Oh Coward!'

Performances of the Theatre Guild production of "Oh Coward!" continue through Dec. 14 at the Theatre Guild playhouse, 15138 Beech Daly, just south of 5 Mile in Redford. For ticket information call the box office at 538-5678.

The Theatre Guild's musical comedy revue "Oh Coward!" celebrates the achievements of Noel Coward, certainly one of theater's great personalities. He once observed in his typically dry, understated English manner that, "the most he had was a talent to amuse."

But oh my, how this word wizard could entertain with wit, charm, and sarcasm. The Guild brings his sophisticated words and music to life once again with a talented cast and stylish production.

A double-headed caricature of Noel Coward (one with a faint smile, the other a bit sour-faced) in the style of a comedy-tragedy mask dominates the stage.

The two columns give the effect of a grand ballroom or fashionable upper East Side New York apartment. The performers dressed in formal attire seem to be entertaining at a non-stop party (which was



Bob Welbel

typically Coward). As the affair bubbles along the caricature is replaced by sliding panels depicting different scenes.

The show consists of songs, one-liners, bits of dialogue, and silly patter from Coward's plays and musicals. The opening seems a bit disjointed and uneven. Perhaps that's because one must listen carefully to Coward's clever and intricate verses to get the full flavor of his humor.

For example, from "Why Do We Wrong People Travel" He says: "Personally I've yet to find that longitude and latitude can educate those scores of monumental bores. There isn't a rock between Bangkok and the beaches of Hispaniola that doesn't recoil from stunton oil, and the gurgles of Coca-Cola."

Director/choreographer, Jim Posante, has fashioned the cast of Warren Reinacker, Sandy Martin, Colleen Hackney and Stephen Ta-



Appearing in the Theatre Guild's production of "Oh Coward!" (left to right) are Colleen Hackney (Livonia), Steven Tadevic, Warren Reinacker and Sandy Martin.

devine into a most entertaining ensemble.

Reinacker is outstanding as Coward. He has Coward's sly mannerisms and droll delivery down pat. He is sometimes mischievous, often impudent, always bemused. Sandy Martin has many funny

moments. Perhaps her best is as a nervous woman on her way to Buckingham Palace with a bizarre headress in "Three White Feathers."

Colleen Hackney scores with "Mad About The Boy" and Steve Tadevic is a howl in "Nina."

New eatery features Southwestern cuisine

Cocina del Sol (Cuisine of the Sun), featuring a Southwestern-style menu, opened Nov. 26.

The new Southfield eatery, the second restaurant venture by Michael Ilitch and Jimmy Schmidt, is at 28563 Northwestern Highway in Southfield. Schmidt, noted as "a Great Chef of the West" for his culinary creations while working in Denver, has developed a modern approach to southwestern-style cuisine for Cocina del Sol.

Highlights from his new menu include baked oysters with caper-citrus butter, and crunchy tortilla crust; Norwegian salmon glazed with red chile honey, served with corn spoon bread; and "The Brujo" — chocolate velvet ice cream in spicy coca dust, served with butter-milk-tequila sauce.

"The modern southwestern-influenced menu reflects the flavors of a sunny climate — bright, clean, flavorful dishes centering around grilling. The food is made much lighter with olive and canola oils, rather than with the traditional lard," said Schmidt.

The moderately priced menu offers appetizers from \$2.95 to \$7.95; soups and salads from \$1.95 to \$4.95; pizzas and pastas from \$6.95 to \$8.95; sandwiches from \$4.95 to \$5.95; main courses from \$7.95 to \$13.95, and desserts in the \$4 range.

TO COMPLEMENT the food, Co-

cina del Sol designer John Buffone (vice president of design at Little Caesar Enterprises) has designed an atmosphere like no other in the Detroit area.

"Jimmy has done a fantastic job of creating a unique menu, and John has designed a knockout setting for a wonderful dining experience," said Ilitch, chairman of the board and president of Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc. "We hope metro Detroiters enjoy our newest collaboration."

The restaurant's vivid Santa Fe theme features bold colors of turquoise, purple, blue, green and yellow. Customers also can gaze into a reflecting pool or one of the restaurant's fountains. Cocina del Sol also features custom-made, hand-painted furniture; aged hardwood floors; decorative tile patterns; and painted tapestries in the dining rooms. In addition, original art and decorative items have been hand-selected for display in the restaurant from an artists' community in the state of Michoacan in Mexico.

"The Spanish-influenced architecture and colorful furnishings give the terrific feeling of being in the sunny Southwest," Schmidt added.

Cocina del Sol is open for lunch Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and for dinner Tuesday through Thursday 5:30-10 p.m., on Friday and Saturday 5 p.m. to midnight, and on Sunday 4-9 p.m.

Meadow Brook Christmas walk opens Dec. 1

Discover "The Magic of Christmas" Sunday, Dec. 1, through Sunday, Dec. 15, at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester.

Over three dozen floral designers and display artists will donate their talent and materials to help create a fairytale world inside the former home of Alfred G. and Matilda Dodge Wilson, founders of Oakland University.

All major rooms in the 100-room Tudor-style auto baron mansion will be dressed in holiday finery, each conceived by a different artist to express the theme — "Magic of Christmas." Dolls and trains, trees and lights, music and greens, poinsettias and mistletoe, bells, heather and hol-

ly, will be used in countless ways throughout the hall.

Santa Claus will make his home in Knole Cottage, a six-room mini-mansion playhouse. Food service is available.

"The Magic of Christmas" opens 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1. Hours for the rest of the event are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15. Knole Cottage is open until 5 p.m. all days, along with the Meadow Brook Greenhouse, which also offers tours and plants for sale.

Event proceeds go toward the maintenance and preservation of Meadow Brook Hall. General admission is \$6 on weekdays, \$8 on Saturdays and Sundays. Children under 13 are \$4 all days. Knole Cottage and Greenhouse tours are \$1 all days, all ages. There is no charge for parking. For information, call 370-3140.

On Dec. 2, 6-9 p.m. the City of Rochester is planning an evening of holiday events. Shops will be decorated in holiday greens, there will be horse drawn carriage rides, 6:30-9:30 p.m.,

a tree lighting ceremony 7-7:30 p.m. and Santa will visit the Main Street Plaza, 414 Main Street, 8-9 p.m.

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