

By WALLY ROBERTS

# 'CURTAIN GOING UP'

Back for a second visit to "Maggie Flynn," the pre-Broadway musical at the Fisher Theatre, to see if all the repair work will make this new musical into a New York smash hit.

At first glance four weeks ago this Civil War musical tale had all the ingredients of a rousing good show, but somehow or other the right combination just wasn't present. We waxed enthusiastically about Jack Cassidy and Shirley Jones who did their level best to make the show a success.

The second act at our initial session was by far the better of the two. Well, have they repaired the first act? Is "Maggie Flynn" going to

open on Broadway next week to the ringing praise of the critics?

A SECOND LOOK at "Maggie Flynn" gave old Wally adequate time to analyze what truly ails this bright, beautiful musical. Yes, Mr. DaCosta, the musical's hard-working director, has shortened the first act. No, the Broadway critics are not going to like the show in its present form.

Seeing the show again made me realize the inherent weakness of the book. The authors want you to believe that Maggie's original yearning for marriage to Phineas, the clown, have been overwhelmingly frustrating. Yet in the musical there



ALL IN STEP—The dance line of the "Expanding Image" is all ready for this Saturday's pop concert in Mercy High School. The choral group headlines the concert with Dan Newark. Concert time is 8:30 p.m. Tickets to the performance, priced at \$1.75, may be purchased at all Grinnells stores or at the door the night of the performance.

## Art Series Stars Greats By Garbo

Films, silent and sound, starring the legendary Greta Garbo, will be shown once a month from October through May in the Film as an Art Series at the Detroit Institute of Arts this season.

Showings are sponsored by the Theatre Arts department and are open to the public without charge. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

On Oct. 22 the series opens with "Conquest" (1922). Personality of the Napoleonic era makes a glamorous background for the romantic tale of the Emperor's liaison with Madame Marie Walewska. Charles Boyer plays Napoleon.

Nov. 19 -- "The Kiss" (1929) is Garbo's and MGM's last silent film, co-starring Conrad

Nagel and Lew Ayres. Drama of a young wife, amused by a college boy's infatuation for her, lets him kiss her; then fatally shoots her husband, who stop him from killing the youth.

Dec. 17 -- "Anna Christie" (1930) -- Garbo's first speaking role which proved to the world that her talent was not merely visual. She is a tortured woman haunted by her past in this screen version of the Eugene O'Neill play. Co-starring Charles Bickford and Marie Dressler.

Other films in the Garbo series will be "Grand Hotel" (Jan. 21), "Queen Christina" (Feb. 18), "The Joyless Street" (March 18), "Camille" (April 22) and "Ninotchka" (May 20).

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In "Maggie Flynn" the songs are more than adequate. In its present state some of the dancing has been eliminated and two new songs have been added. A new song brings the first act to a more dramatic conclusion.

EVEN WITH this new material going for it "Maggie Flynn" still has story problems. Mainly the sub-plot about the men in the tavern being reluctant to sign up for the Civil War... is not basically intertwined with the love story of Maggie and Phineas. You always have the feeling that they are dragging this part of the show in by its heels. It has little impact and you feel no involvement since the main characters are sobusy patching up their lives.

Director DaCosta and his team of three scriptwriters may still be able to work a minor miracle, but the time is getting too close for that Broadway opening. What old Wally saw on his second visit was not as encouraging as when viewed the first time around.

## Field Trip Planned By Society

The Detroit Audubon Society has scheduled a field trip to Point Pelee National Park, Ontario, for Sunday, Oct. 27. The trip will start from the parking lot on the east shore near the end of the point at 8 a.m.

Of interest at this famous migration point are the late hawk flights and shorebird concentrations. The beach at Kingsville and the shoreline along Highway 18 -- a A usually has colonies of shore and marsh birds.

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