

Musical takes you back to high school

By BOB WEIBEL
SPECIAL WRITER

Jeffery Kindley's charming little musical, "Is There Life After High School?" brings to mind that old saying, "What was hard to endure is sweet to recall."

Of life's rocky roads, perhaps none are more memorable than those mostly carefree, but often traumatic, "coming of age" high school days. They seem like almost yesterday in this entertaining Theatre Guild production.

The show is memorable in another important aspect. "Is There Life After High School?" is a joint venture between The Theatre Guild and Livonia's Creative and Performing Arts program. The partnership allows good audiences to see tomorrow's professionals — while giving talented high school CAPA students the opportunity to perfect their craft in a different stage setting.

Of life's rocky roads, perhaps none are more memorable than those mostly carefree, but often traumatic, "coming of age" high school days. They seem like almost yesterday in this entertaining Theatre Guild production.

The 11-student ensemble includes — Kevin Barton, Michelle Camilleri, Renee Carriere, Michael Deming, Bree Doody, Mary Jo Fletcher, Jeremy Leland, Gretchen McFadyen, Patrick O'Reilly, Carole Smith and Ray Stakenas.

For the most part, director, Steven Kosinski's cast meet the formidable challenge of performing materials written for adults. The leads sing well and the comedic timing is good. They are students, however, and some have yet to

master an accomplished stage presence and deliver lines with authority.

"Is There Life After High School?" recalls in songs, monologues and sketches life's little moments that seemed so important at the time — the prom, dating, varsity letters, yearbooks, the "in" and "out" crowd — and yes, even grades.

And who can forget three subjects covered in the best musical numbers — "Nothing Really Happened" (about young love), a

rousing "Beer" ditty (recounting a rite of manhood) and "Diary of a Homecoming Queen" (noting that one's life may not turn out glamorous).

Before the evening is over, it's all put into context — including life's little disappointments. For example, "I believed trigonometry would be useful someday." Did anyone really believe that one?

CAPA students also handled most technical elements of the show, which were well done — especially the many costume changes. The dim follow spot, however, detracted from the show. Perhaps fixed area lighting would work better.

Bob Weibel of Westland is a freelance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.



High school memories: The cast of "Is There Life After High School?" bottom row: Gretchen Rae, Michelle Camilleri, second row: Carole Renee Smith, Jeremy Leland, Bree Doody, third row: Kevin Barton, Mary Jo Fletcher, Patrick O'Reilly, Renee Carriere, Ray Stakenas, and Mike Deming take a break from rehearsal.

Dancers showcase talents in LSO presentation of 'Nutcracker'

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra will present a concert of holiday music featuring soprano Nancy Villanueva 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 at Livonia Mall, located on Middlebelt at Seven Mile.

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Mischiefous mice and wind-up dolls danced their way into the audiences' heart Dec. 4 when the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and Contemporary Civic Ballet Company took to the stage to present

Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker." LSO music director/conductor, Francesco DiBlasi teamed with Rose Marie Floyd, artistic director of the Royal Oak dance company, to lead the ensemble in a sold out, two-hour family treat that has become a holiday tradition.

The "Nutcracker's" many solo parts afforded company dancers the opportunity to showcase their individual talents. Employing high energy and humor, Melissa Miller played the roles of Mouse

King and Chinese soloist to perfection.

Sarah Maggetti as Clara exorcised great concentration, staying in character, even when she was outside the spotlight.

Clad in a black cape with one eye covered by a patch, Horace Floyd of Troy kept his annual tradition of playing the eccentric uncle, Herr Drosselmeyer. Floyd alighted mysteriously across the stage and scolded the children with style.

After intermission and a series of colorful dances, Kathleen Tra-

cey and Jeffrey Edwards of the New York City Ballet joined the performance as Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier.

A strong dancer, Edwards seemed to fly through the air with ease as he executed the high, sustained grand jets across the stage.

Tracey's performance, however, left a lot to be desired. It was marred by the stiffness of her arm, hand positions and movements. Classical ballet demands grace-

fulness. Tracey destroyed the ethereal, entrancing melody of Tchaikovsky's music and the pure beauty of movement in the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."

She desperately needs to attend to the carriage of her arms, to develop fluid movement in these areas by working in front of a mirror.

Behind me, the mother of a young ballet student unable to put her finger on the exact problem remarked — "I've never seen a ballerina with such skinny arms," but lack of body mass was not Tracey's problem. Her arms and hands were anything but graceful. They were downright distracting as she danced the part the audience had waited for all evening.

Next year the Livonia Symphony will add a second performance of the "Nutcracker," on Saturday night, said LSO president Ken Kelsey of Farmington Hills. Perhaps next year, the Contemporary Civic Ballet Company should think about using a Sugar Plum Fairy from its ranks since many of its soloists danced with flowing movement much greater than Tracey, the imported star.

Linda Chomin of Plymouth is a free-lance writer who specializes in the arts and classical music.

Kids get in the act in 'You're A Good Man Charlie Brown'

The Lunch Bunch Players will present the family musical

"You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26

and 27, and Jan. 3 and 9 at the Henry Ford Centennial Library

on Michigan Avenue at Greenfield in Dearborn.

Laurel Manor
Presents ...
NEW YEAR'S EVE 1992
DINNER DANCE
Includes • Hors D'Oeuvres • Family Style Dinner
Band DJ • Door Prizes
Call For Info **462-0770** Tickets Now on Sale
35000 Schoolcraft (1/2 Mile W. of Nowburgh)

DON PEDRO'S
24366 Grand River
(3 Mile W. of Telegraph)
537-1450

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CUISINE
MEXICAN SAMPLER FOR TWO
\$9.95
Dine-In Only • With Coupon
Expires 12-31-92 • Not Valid With Any Other Offer
\$3.29 LUNCH SPECIALS
Make your reservations
NOW for holiday parties, banquets, etc.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION at

BUTON MANOR
27777 Schoolcraft
(1 Mile West of Inkster Rd.)
Livonia
Lavish Gourmet Buffet at both locations featuring...
PRIME RIB in Herb Blanket, Premium Bag (Pkg. 6)
Continuous Entertainment
NIGHT'S CREED & PRELUDE
Black Tie Optional
All Reserved Seating
\$100 Per Couple
if purchased by 12-31-92
After 12-31-92 \$125 per couple
(This must be 21 & over to attend)
427-9110

ROMA'S
of Garden City
32550 Cherry Hill
Garden City
Live R&B and DJ Entertainment
Black Tie Optional
All Reserved Seating
\$80 Per Couple
if purchased by 12-31-92
After 12-31-92 \$105 per couple
(This must be 21 & over to attend)
425-1430

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
On the Town

Fonte D'Amore
Dinner Special
\$5.95 MON.-THURS.
3PM - 7PM
CHOICE OF ANY ONE ITEM:
LASAGNA, FETTUCCINI, ALFREDO,
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS,
VEAL PARMIGIANA, BAKED SCROD
SICILIAN
INCLUDES: SALAD, COFFEE
and DESSERT
EXPIRES 12-24-92
32030 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia • 422-0770

\$2.00 OFF WITH THIS AD
Make it a special Christmas...
and a drive in the country.
• Free Belgium Horse Wagon Ride
• Santa Claus & Elves Tunnel
• Hot Beverages & Food
• Ground Wood Burning Stove
• Fragrant Wreaths
• Arts & Crafts • Live Potted Plants
• Hand Saws Provided
80,000 Christmas Trees
Open 9 to 6
SKYHORSE STATION
11000 Roberts Road,
Stockbridge
For information and
Directions
call
517-851-7017

Mama Mia
Dinner for 2
Choice of
Tenderloin Steak
Braised Boston Scrod
Chicken Scallopine
Lasagna (Vegetarian Available)
\$11.99
All prices include tax, tip, bread and
butter. Fresh Fruit, Soft Drink or Water
with Coupon • This Deal, 12/12/92
HOLIDAYS EXCLUDED
Dinner Portions Available
27726 Plymouth
Livonia • 422-1000
RED FORD
537-0740

CARRY-OUT SERVICE AND DINNER
Bei and Jessie's
FISH & CHIPS
27200 GRAND RIVER
COURT FARMINGTON HILLS
534-5550
TRY OUR JUICY FRIG. LEGS!
EVERYDAY SPECIAL!
1/2 LB. HALIBUT
\$5.05 Fries & Roll
8 Pieces Chicken
Veggies \$2.99 Fries & Roll
3 LARGE PIECES
OF FISH
Fries, Tartar Sauce & Roll
10.25 \$3.99
As Mentioned in Bob Talbot's Column
Food with Coupon Thru 12/31/92

MR. STEAK HOUSE
537-5600
25321 Five Mile Rd. (Corner of Industrial)
OPEN SUNDAY

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS
DAILY 3-6 P.M.
\$4.50

**MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S
EVE RESERVATIONS
NOW \$30.00**
PER PERSON

MONDAY - EUCRE TOURNAMENT & PSYCHIC NIGHT
TUESDAY - KARAOKE & PSYCHIC NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY - NU MATIX
WEDNESDAY LUNCH - PSYCHIC SHOW - NOON

MITCH HOUSEY'S
Open 11 A.M.
Businessmen's Lunches
ALL NEW FASHION SHOW
Thursday 12 Noon to 2 p.m.
WORLD'S FINEST PRIME RIB
with bone in
dinner
\$10.95
28500 Schoolcraft, Opposite Ladbroke DR. • LIVONIA
425-5520
Ample Lighted Parking • Daily Mon.-Sat. at 11:30 a.m. • Closed Sunday

**CRUISE INTO THE 1993 NEW YEAR
WITH THE EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL-LIVONIA**

The Celebration Includes:
• 2 Room Suite Overnight Accommodations
• 3:00 p.m. Check-in
• Dinner Served at 7:30 p.m.
• Hosted Manager's Reception
• Gala Balloon Drop
• Champagne Toast at Midnight
• Party Favors
• Big Screen Televisions
• Dancing in Atrium with "10 A.M."
(back-up Band for the Temptations)
• DJ, Entertainment in Pahrums, Nightclub
• "Morning After" Breakfast Buffet
• Drawing for a free 7 day Royal Caribbean Cruise at Midnight
• Additional Two Night Package available
for Friday and Saturday from \$129-\$169.

**\$275.00 per couple
\$215.00 per person**
Price includes all taxes and gratuity. *Subject to state and local laws.
EMBASSY SUITES™
19525 VICTOR PARKWAY
LIVONIA, MI 48152
313-462-6000 ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Owned and Operated
by Bob Herc & Family
28976 Grand River
between 5 & 6 Mile Road
Farmington Hills
537-5600
Sunday-Thursday 11 am-8 pm
Friday & Saturday 11 am-9 pm
**10% OFF
TOTAL BILL**
Not valid with any other
coupon or promotion • 10% Coupon
Expires 12-31-92 • One Coupon Per Visit
**Daily
Lunch Specials**

The American Inn
...taste the experience of GREEK DINING at one of the only Greek restaurants in the suburban area.
An Authentic Greek Restaurant...owner of Dimitri's of Farmington.

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE • FULL LINE OF BEER, WINE, LIQUOR & COCKTAILS

HOMEMADE DAILY SPECIALS

Lunch	Dinner
\$3.25-\$5.00	\$5.95-\$7.95

SUNDAY SPECIAL
Complete Family Dinner
12 Noon-10:00 p.m.
Including Soup, Salad, Main Course, Roasts, Dessert and
Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink
• Fresh Roast Turkey with Stuffing
• Baked Bone-in Ham with Raisin Sauce
• Roast Leg of Lamb
• Fresh Roast 1/2 Chicken with Stuffing
\$7.95
\$8.95

SENIOR CITIZENS
10% DISCOUNT - AFTER 3 P.M.
15800 MIDDLEBELT (Between 5 & 6 Mile Rds.) LIVONIA • 522-5600

Bring in the New Year with US!
New Year's Eve Specials:
• Prime Rib, au jus \$16.95
• 8 oz. Filet Mignon w/shrimp \$16.95
• Grilled Chicken Breast Peppercorn w/shrimp \$14.95
• Grilled Lemonade w/strawberries \$12.95
• Fresh Broiled Whitefish \$13.95
OUR SUPER GREEK COMBO \$16.95
2 Lamb Chops, 2 Stuffed Greek Leaves
and Spinach Cheese Pie
AND MORE!
All Dinners include Soup of the Day, Salad, Pot
to, Vegetable, Homemade Rice Pudding or Ice
Cream, Coffee, Tea or Soft Drink.
MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!
522-5600

—OPEN 7 DAYS!
Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Fri. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Sat. 12 p.m.-12 a.m.
CHRISTMAS EVE
11 a.m.-9 p.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE
4 PM-2 AM

Tavern
on the GREEN
Restaurant
36000 Seven Mile
Livonia • 442-2228
DAILY SPECIALS
— Call for Details —
**NEW YEAR'S EVE
Party**
\$30 a couple
Starts at 9:00 p.m.
FREE HORS D'OEUVRES
Party Favors
Continental Breakfast
— LIVE ENTERTAINMENT —
CASH BAR • DANCING •

Sunday Brunch 9:30-2:00 \$7.45	Friday Fish Fry 5-9 p.m. Slow & Easy \$6.95
--	--