

ON THE MARQUEE

Zany 'Nonsense' habit forming

"Nonsense II... the Second Coming" opens Feb. 9, and runs through March 14, at the Birmingham Theatre. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3533.



BARBARA MICHALS

For playwright Dan Goggin, "Nonsense" is indeed habit-forming. Goggin began with a line of greeting cards featuring nuns, which led to the creation of "Nonsense," the highly successful musical comedy that is still going strong. Now "Nonsense II," subtitled "The Second Coming," will have its world premiere at the Birmingham Theatre Feb. 9 to March 14.

In a recent interview, Goggin explained that "Nonsense II" is more a continuation than a sequel. The same five wacky Little Sisters of Hoboken are giving a "thank you" show six weeks after their previous fund-raising variety show. This time the nuns see themselves as more sophisticated, "full of show business savvy now that they've been bitten by the theater flea."

Goggin said viewers will enjoy the new show even if they didn't see the original "Nonsense."

Both productions use a variety show format. "Some numbers could even be switched between shows," Goggin said.

In this TV age, 'Nonsense' helps people realize that live theater is different. There is no laugh track. The audience is part of the whole performance, and the more they participate the more fun it is.

Dan Goggin
Playwright and director



New production: Dan Goggin author of "Nonsense," and the sequel, will direct the show which is having its World Premiere at the Birmingham Theatre.

This show has been laughter from the moment rehearsals started. I think people will come to the show ready to have a good time.

Barbara Michals is a retired Southfield English teacher. A theater critic for the last 19 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

Meadow Brook

Nell Simon's comedy "Plaza Suite" opens 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, for a four-week run at the Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. For times and tickets, call 377-3300, or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

Village Players

Birmingham Village Players present "The Price" by Arthur Miller, Feb. 11, 12 and 13 at the playhouse on the corner of Chestnut and Hunter in Birmingham. Call 644-2075 for ticket information.

Plymouth Symphony

Plymouth Symphony concert featuring the premiere of "Concerto for Organ and Orchestra" by Thomas Feleen, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 at the Novi High School Auditorium, 24062 Taft Road (at 10 Mile). After glow at the Novi Hilton. For ticket information, call 461-2112. Tickets available at the auditorium 30 minutes before the concert.

Dinner dance

Farmington Community Band's annual Valentine Dinner Dance will be 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13 at Vladimir's of Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$27 per person. Call 476-5014 or 489-3412 for tickets and information.

Valentine concert

Schoolcraft College's Women's Resource Center will host a free Valentine Concert and Crafts for parents and children, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, in the college's Waterman Campus Center. Reservations required; children ages 2 to 13; must be accompanied by an adult. For information, call 462-4443.

BBSO benefit concert

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra Sweetheart at their benefit concert 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 at Handlman Hall in Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph roads. The supper created by Mark of Excellence will be served at 5:30 p.m., Valentine Pops Concert follows at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$75 to \$50 for supper and concert to \$15 for concert only. Call 645-BBSO for ticket information.

Dinner theater

Dinner Theater package featuring "Love, Sex and the IRS," a comedy by Ronald Otulakowski Productions, begins Saturday, Feb. 13 and runs through May 29 at the Kingsley Inn, 1475 N. Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Full-course dinner served at 7:30 p.m., followed by show. Tickets \$23.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity. For reservations, call 642-0100.

Musical cabaret

Songs for Love, a musical cabaret to benefit the HIV/AIDS Advocacy Program (HAAR), will be performed at 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at PUNCHINELLO'S, 184 Pierce, Birmingham. Tickets are \$10. For information, call 473-2990.

So many more of the same, given the traditional poor success of theater sequels.

"So theaters request to bring 'Nonsense' back year after year," he said. "I have a formula that works. It was easy to write because I already knew the characters so well, and all of the scenes in the new show have already played their characters in earlier productions."

A note of Alma, Mich., Goggin said Nonsense II is premiering at the Birmingham Theatre because the original and two very successful runs in New York, and a half year in Philadelphia and seven in Boston, plus multiple national and international touring companies, Goggin has some definite ideas on the show's continued popularity.

First the enormous appeal of the

nuns interacting with their audiences. "In this TV age, 'Nonsense' helps people realize that live theater is different," Goggin said. "There is no laugh track. The audience is part of the whole performance, and the more they participate the more fun it is."

Goggin feels that another plus is that the show features an atmosphere of "real time." "TV has lost all spontaneity except for things like live sports broadcasts. In a play like 'Nonsense' anything that happens can be incorporated into the show. If a set falls down or an actress spills something we can instantly make that part of the script; there is no such thing as a catastrophe that we can't turn into a laugh."

Citing his own parochial school background, Goggin said there is "the mystery of the headgear." "It was much funnier to see one of the sisters playing baseball with the kids than if a lay teacher did it," he said.

Like its predecessor, "Nonsense II" has been designed "to raise your spirits no matter how down you may feel," Goggin said. "Everything about

Concerts to feature exceptional quartets

Musica Viva International Concert Series, and the Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Series, are presenting two very talented string quartets at concerts on Feb. 12 and 16.

The Vogler String Quartet of Berlin, will make their Michigan debut as part of their 1993 American Tour, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. A champagne reception will follow the concert. Tickets \$15, and \$7.50 for students, are available at the door, or in advance, 751-2435.

Vogler String Quartet will feature the music of Mozart (Quartet in D minor, K. 421), Janacek (Quartet No. 1 "Kreutzer"), and Brahms (Quartet in A minor, Op. 51, No. 2).

They won first prize in the 1990 International Competition in Evian, France. Concertizing extensively throughout Germany, Italy, Holland, Ireland, Spain, Israel, England, Eastern Europe, and North America, the

Vogler String Quartet records for BBC RA-Victor.

In residence at Eastman School of Music, the University of Rochester in New York for three years, the Vogler Quartet have appeared at the Aspen and Tanglewood music festivals, and at concerts across the United States and abroad.

The Yng Quartet, composed of three brothers and their sister, will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Cranbrook Music Guild Chamber Concert Series in the library of Cranbrook House on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. A champagne reception will follow the concert. Tickets \$15, and \$7.50 for students, are available at the door, or in advance, 751-2435.

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Yng Quartet: The Yng Quartet, three brothers and their sister, will perform at the Feb. 16 Cranbrook Music Guild chamber series concert.

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