

ON THE MARQUEE

Ridgedale Players

Ridgedale Players will be presenting "70 Girls '70" a delightful musical, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays, March 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27, and 3 p.m. Sundays, March 14, 21 and 28, at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road in Troy. Tickets \$10, senior citizens \$9 at Sunday shows. Call 644-8328 for reservations.

Irish celebration

An Irish Celebration to benefit the Christ Child House featuring soprano Mary Callaghan Lynch who performs regularly with the Michigan Opera Theater, tenor Patrick Lynch, and poets Tom Lynch and Matthew Sweeney, 4 p.m. Sunday, March 14 at Holy Name Church, 646 Woodland, Birmingham. The concert is free, voluntary contributions to Christ Child House will be welcomed.

Benefit concert

Mercy High School presents a Lifetime of Jazz featuring Lionel Hampton and the Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra, 3 p.m. Sunday, March 14 in the Rosemary Clooney Auditorium at Mercy High School, 29300 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$50 per person for premier seating and an afterglow featuring Judge Myron Wahls, a Michigan Court of Appeals judge and jazz musician, and the Mercys. Concert only \$20 per person, general seating. For tickets, call 476-9270 or 476-8922.

Luncheon concert

Irish folk singer Will Derry will present a lunch-time concert noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Center Court at Laurel Park Place, 37700 West Six Mile, Livonia. Pianist Gloria McBeth will perform Irish favorites during an evening concert 6-8 p.m.

Meadow Brook Theatre

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will premiere in a new adaptation by Charles Nolte at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18. Shows Tuesdays through Sundays until April 11. For tickets, call 377-3300 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

La Casa

Richard Dobson and State of the Heart, and Pinto Bennett perform 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 19, at the La Casa Music series at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward at Lone Pine Road in Birmingham. Tickets \$10 in advance. Call 645-4950.

Excellence thread that binds 'Quilters'

Performances of the Trinity House Theatre production of "Quilters" continue through April 3 at Trinity House, 38240 W. Six Mile, Livonia. For ticket information, call 464-6302.



MARK S. CARLEY

There are no big production numbers, no goo-eyed love songs. "Quilters" would more accurately be described as a tapestry of stories told with drama, pantomime, narrative, song and dance.

This bold and original play, written by Barbara Damaschuk and Molly Newman, explores the lives of the women who settled the American west. Their lives recorded in the quilts they design and sew, these sturdy pioneers take us through the trials, tragedies and triumphs of frontier life.

The seven cast members, all women, take on many parts including those of men, animals and wagons. For the most part, however, they are the mothers, daughters and sisters who shared the agony, exhilaration and heartbreak of being the backbone of America's westward expansion. The Trinity House production features seven excellent actresses and a fine director in Laura Gumina. This



Patchwork drama: Debra Jackson-Slater (from left), Sarah Hedeem, Tamara Jex, Beth Temple and Renee Bartusch in a scene from the Trinity House Theatre production of "Quilters."

show's pace is always lively, never mawkish, even during the most gutwrenching scenes. Susan VanderBrink's interpretive choreography and the haunting vocal harmonies created by the cast make the production complete and full.

Mary L. Petrus, as the pioneer family matriarch, anchors the show with strength and wit. Her "daughters" come in a variety of shapes, sizes and ages. They take us through almost every imaginable experience of a lifetime, including birth, baptism, schooling, marriage, childbirth, abortion, friendship, loneliness and death. Through it all, they survive blizzards, tornadoes, fires and droughts. All of the performers deserve praise

for their work. Debra Slater is warm, funny and touching. Renee Bartusch brings an unusual empathy and intensity to her characters. Sarah Hedeem has a long-suffering quiet strength. Tamara Jex brings youth and a needed touch of cynicism. Elizabeth Kilbourne is strong and vibrant. Beth Temple is eloquent and honest.

The entire cast sings and harmonizes beautifully, no doubt with the assistance of music director Diane Lord.

"Quilters" is an entertainment and a history lesson, but at its core it is more than that. It is a quiet, eloquent statement of feminism. It celebrates the courage, resourcefulness and in-

dependence of our female forebears. It begins to settle the score for a shamefully forgotten group within American history.

Michael Flores of Bloomfield Hills quilted all the quilt blocks used in "Quilters," and the legacy quilt that the play is built around. There is a display of quilts, fashioned from traditional designs, in the theater for the audience to enjoy, and a silent auction of the legacy quilt used in the play.

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

Troy Players shine in 'South Pacific'

Performances of the Troy Players production of "South Pacific" continue through March 20 at the Troy Community Center, 620 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. For ticket information, call 879-1235.



MARY JANE DOERR

Musicals must be this thespian group's "thing." Last year they came up with a highly successful "Fiddler on the Roof," directed by Bill Hellebuyck, the same director who has put this show together.

Casting his actors from a group

of attractive singles that would make up a fantastic dating service, Hellebuyck has a quality production. Voices are natural, though untrained. They are perfectly placed in their musical roles by music director Margaret Wunsch who accompanied them with a live five piece ensemble in the pit.

"South Pacific" is extraordinarily popular this season with community companies. It is no wonder when amateur groups like Troy Players can cast actors who Hellebuyck says are making their stage debut and turn their performances into a heavy dose of delightful entertainment.

The surroundings are not atmospheric but Joe Urkshus' brightly painted sets are, with their warm, sunny, aqua colored impressions of the southern Pacific Ocean. There are simple touches too, such as Roosevelt's picture on the Captain's office

wall, and the "Join the Navy" poster in the radio reception room to give this "time capsule" its 1940s feel.

Joseph LoGuidice sings nicely "Some Enchanted Evening" though he seems bit awkward like most Emilis. A bright-eyed, optimistic Julie Thomerson is knaueshtlehead Nellie with the resonance in her fine singing voice to belt "Honey Bun" and dance with unlimited energy.

Usually Lt. Joseph Cable is a stiff character, but that is not how Michael J. Aumock played this role. Aumock is a real Marine, one with guts and personality, who would take on a dangerous mission. A natural singer, Aumock also has to be appreciated for his even sound in "You have to be Carefully Taught," and "Younger than Springtime."

Humorous with little touches such as dog tags on her costume, Donna Kussad excelled as the of-

ten character cast Bloody Mary. She added a lot of humor to the show, although Doug Noel as Captain George Brackett missed time in the office scene where vocal shading would have added impact.

Lucky is the person who gets to be Seabee Luther Billis. Bob Zawidek had his stomach tattooed with a blue and white tall ship for the part and, if you can, take your eyes off of it, his is charming actor to watch. A good production of "South Pacific" has to have a solid men's chorus. The six men in this chorus do a sensational "There is Nothing like a Dame," a song that hardly fits the mode of the 1990s.

With these men singing, it fits any mode.

Mary Jane Doerr of Troy is a fulltime teacher and freelance writer who specializes in opera and musical theater.

Buddy's PIZZA

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WED. March 17th Wear Green and Receive 1/2 Off Large Pizza

LIVONIA 32605 Plymouth Rd. (West of Farmington Hwy) 261-3550

Other Buddy's Locations

DEARBORN 15140 Dearborn Hwy. (at E. 12 Mile) 852-4800

ROYAL OAK 4241 W. Woodward (East of I-75) 549-3000 (Party Out Only)

BLOOMFIELD 3877 Bloomfield (East of I-75) 645-0300 (Party Out Only)

Bring this ad in for... \$2 Off Any Large Pizza or Large Antipasto or Large Greek Salad

ENTER YOUR TAX REFUND AMOUNT HERE.

Double the value of your tax refund when you save 20% to 60% off retail on top-quality previously leased brand-name furniture from Cort. We'll throw in \$30 in Cort Cash with purchase* to turn even a modest refund into a comfortable kickback.

Headboards from \$10
Coffee and End Tables from \$10
Dinette from \$30
Sofas With Matching Chairs from \$149

CORT FURNITURE RENTAL CLEARANCE CENTER

28220 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48033 (Interstate under and overpass)
3021 Rochester Road, Troy, MI 48063
Slow Motion, More Fun, One Day Open, Sat. 10a.m. - 5p.m.
Offer expires April 30, 1993. *Cashback may vary by location. *Minimum \$75 purchase applies. *Closed for comparison on new furniture at other retailers. *Maximum \$75 purchase applies.

Marriott. When you're counting on having a special weekend together.

Escape to Marriott for a Two For Breakfast* Weekend. Our low rates are per night, not per person. When you pay for your stay with the American Express® Card you'll also enjoy late (4 p.m.) Sunday check-out, room service breakfast, and 25% savings on dinner. For reservations, call the hotel of your choice directly, your travel agent, or call toll free: 1-800-USA-WKND.

And enjoy a special bonus when you use the American Express® Card.

Don't Leave Home Without It!

Marriott HOTELS-RESORTS-SUITES

PROPERTIES	RATE 1993M
MICHIGAN The Dearborn Inn 313/271-2700	\$85
Detroit Metro Airport 313/941-9400	\$79
Livonia 313/452-3100	\$69
Romulus 313/729-7555	\$59
Southfield 313/356-7400	\$69

*Lowest available. *Reservations must be made through 3/31/93. *Offering night requires a Friday night stay. *Breakfast is included. Rates are subject to change and may vary. Some facilities may apply. Rates are not applicable to groups. *Filing deadline is limited to one deposit per person for a party of two people and is not applicable to group reservations. *For late Sunday check-out, you must arrive the first night by 11 p.m. Saturday. ©1993 Marriott Corporation.