Avon Players superb in 'A Chorus Line'



Avon Players pools its finest talent for its most recent yield, "A Chorus Line," a concept m u s i c a l conceived by Michael Bennett through tape.

through tape-recorded conver-sations with

bullars sations with dancers (actual book by Kirkwood and Dante, music by Marvin Hamilisch, lyrics by Edward Kleban).

This show requires a variety of effective personalities to make it work, and the Avon Players' production pipointed this necessary ingredient. Unlike many musicals which depend heavily upon either the music, book or dance directives the control of the control of

"A CHORUS LINE"
Theater: Avon Players, Tienken Road at Washington, one mile east of Rochester Road, Rochester Road, Rochester Seniors and students, Thursday and Sunday performances
Curtain times: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday.
Tickets: \$10, call 376-1390.

tors, "A Chorus Line" is truly a mix of the best of each directoral ability.

The efforts of Director Linda Shepherd and music/ovcal director Lec George are truly rewarding for audiences. Through their guidance, the funny and sad stories are told of gypsies — dancers

reaming from show to show hoping to be singled out for stardorn, all the while trying to blend in with the chorus.

Dance directors Chuck Thompson and Kevin Edwards also offer their best, producing a polished and well-executed chorus in this ensemble production.

"A Chorus Line" is an audition for chorus members of a show about to be mounted on Broadway, and weaves song, dance, comedy and drama into a memorable event.

comedy and drama into a memorable event.

The Avon Players' production is no exception. Although the opening few moments are low-volume and tenuous, the two-hour show glides by as though it were

passion.

Jeanne De Long is superb as
Sheils, the wise-cracking comicrelief of the show who is about to turn 30 and is "real glad." De Long's vocal talent combined with terrific comedic delivery cre-ate a strong character who is a joy

ate a strong character who is a joy to watch.

Jennifer Combs portrays Cassie. Almost a star, Cassie wants to cuturn to the chorus, and is the past love-interest of the director casting the show. Combs' singing is strong, and a definite highlight of the show is her performance of "The Music and the Mirror." Chuck Thompson (dance director) also fills the role of Paul, whose monologue expressed depsorrow at his parents' inability to accept that he is gay. Thompson's delivery of the monologue is sucching, but the technique of lowering his head to convey pain deprives the audience of full impact.

deprives the audience of full impact.

Kristen Ross as Kristine (with partner Steve Lucev as Al) reveals with adorable verve the timid Energizer Rabbit of a dancer who can't sing.

Sally Dubats of Madison Heights is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area. She is artistic director of West End Productions headquartered in Livonia.

Symphony presents $Mother's\ Day\ concert$

Guest conductor Valery Leo-nov and virtuoso violinist Reliko Watanabo will headline a special Mother's Day concert by the Southfield Symphony Orchestra at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 9, in the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion, 26000 Ever-green.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and Tickets are 39 for adults and 86 for students and senior adults, and are available from the City of Southfield's Cultur-al Arts Division at the Mary Thompson Cultural Center, 25360 Evergeen Road just south of the Southfield Civic Center, or by calling 354-4717

Center, or by calling 384-4717
Leonov, currently chief conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Byelorusian Radio and Television, and the leading conductor of the Byelorussian Opera and Ballet Theatre, also is a professor of a special opera-symphony class at the Byelorussia National Conservation

He has been the leading conductor of the Symphony Or-chestra of the Ukraine Philhar-monic Society and the chief conductor of Novosibirek Op-era and Ballet Theatre.

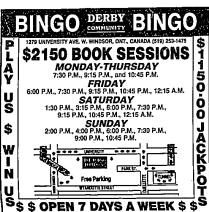
watanabe, internationally acclaimed for her brilliant technique and expression, was the youngest grand prize winner in the history of the All-Japan Music Competition at the age of 14. Since then, she acamed top honors at the Paganini, G.B. Vlotti and Joseph Gingold Competitions and twice won major concerto competitions at Juilliard.

She has performed with the

competitions at Juniard.

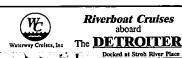
She has performed with the Juilliard Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall and debuted with the Philhannonia Orchestra in London under Neemi Jarvi. She also has performed with the Syracuse Symphony in New York. Japan's NHK Symphony and dustria.











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