

# 'Noises Off' outrageously fun

BY KRIS SPENCER  
SPECIAL WRITER

In "Noises Off," the Plymouth Theatre Guild definitely saved the best for last. This British farce by Michael Frayn is the height of hilarity. Get ready for a ride.

The physical comedy which drives this PTG production is the secret to the plays success. From prat falls to mock British manners, the cast pulls in its audience with constant activity and cartoonish energy.

As a play within a play, "Noises Off" benefits greatly from this treatment. With "the director" among them, the audience watches the cast fumble through a dress rehearsal, then two performances of "Nothing On," a situation comedy.

Thanks to a newly built revolving stage (courtesy of PTG member John Jordan), we see "Nothing On" from both sides of the stage.

In Act 1, a dress rehearsal, the cast bumbles both script and choreography, causing "the director" much anxiety.

Act 2 offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse during which the characters recklessly juggle a performance and backstage shenanigans. In a mostly non-verbal manner, the PTG cast pulls off physical comedy at its finest.

## "NOISES OFF"

Theater: Plymouth Theatre Guild, at the Water Tower Theatre on the campus of Northville Regional Hospital, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road.

Closes: Saturday, May 22. Curtain times: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 14-16, May 21-22 and 6 p.m. Sunday, May 16.

Tickets: Adults \$8 at the door, \$7 advance, seniors and children \$7 at the door, \$5 advance. Call 349-7100.

As if there were any stops left to pull, the cast returns for Act 3, with a vengeance. In yet another performance of "Nothing On," this time from stage-side, each character contributes to a totally chaotic performance complete with hilarious ed libs and outrageous stunts.

If it sounds like an amusement park ride, then you're right on target. The PTG delivers the laughs.

Bobbi Judd turns in an astonishingly surreal performance as the forgetful housekeeper/backstage Pandora.

Larry Pelliccioni comes through loud and clear as the ego-tist director/backstage Casanova.

Ernie Nolan, a sophomore at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School, comes on strong as the conniving real estate agent/backstage jealous lover.

Deborah Kander is absolutely charming as the witless bombshell playing a witless bombshell.

Sally Dubata, co-director of the PTG production with Francine Jo Hachem, gives an ironic turn as the frazzled stage manager/jilted lover.

James W. Dorenjak is a siffch as the aristocratic neurotic playing a tax-evading, neurotic aristocrat.

Lisa Brandow's jaded veteran of stage and boulevard is sharp as nails and just as funny.

Mark Minken's turn as the over-worked, out-of-his-head stagehand is straight out of Tex Avery.

And last, but certainly not least, is Val Sisto's boozey actor as a slothlike, philosophizing bungler. Sisto gives the most eccentric and engaging performance seen on the PTG stage this season.

Through three decisive acts, the PTG cast takes you on a ride as memorable as it is thrilling. It's a season closer rivaling the best metro area has to offer.

Kris Spencer of Birmingham is a freelance writer who specializes in arts and entertainment.

## Delightful operetta



Chorus: Members of the chorus in St. Bede Players production of "Naughty Marietta," front row (left to right) Will Yeats, Teresa Walczyk and Sheldon Jones, back row, Tom Dumon, Kevin Smith, Dave Snyder, and Todd Fadoir take a break from rehearsal. The show continues at Southfield High School, 10 Mile Road at Evergreen, Southfield, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 14-15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16. Call 540-6943 or 557-7245 for tickets.

# Local youngsters cast in show

The Cotton Candy Theatre Kids of Northville's historic Marquis Theatre at 136 E. Main Street, will be entertaining young audiences with the presentation of "Raggedy Ann and Andy," by Patricia Thackray, May 15 through June 10.

Performance dates and times are 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays May 15, 22, 29 and June 5, 12 & 19, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays May 16 and 23, 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5. For ticket information call 349-8110. To arrange for special school performance times and rates, call 349-8110. Children under the age of

3½ will not be admitted.

America's most beloved folk dolls come to life in this fun-filled story. Babette, a French porcelain doll has been kidnapped from the playroom by the Loolesel Babette is Marcelle's surprise birthday present and she must be returned. To search for her, Raggedy Ann & Andy venture bravely into Loolesland.

"Raggedy Ann and Andy" is directed by Jeffrey Welner of Farmington Hills, and Cindy Zeitz of Canton. Featured in the cast Carla Freshwater (Raggedy Ann) and Cindy Gontko of Can-

ton; Meghan Nisch and Robyn Ellison of Plymouth, Ed Lendrum, Emily Liddell, Julia Scliano, Anna Bonde, Allison Johnson and Erin Martell of Livonia; and Kelli Fortune of Farmington Hills.

The Marquis Theatre is also offering professional theater training at their summer day camps, for children ages 5-16.

Classes will be taught in acting, voice, movement and audition technique.

Two week sessions will be held June 21 through August 20. Call 349-8110 for information.

## WHAT'S COOKING

Send items to be considered for publication in What's Cooking to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our Fax number is 591-7279.

**CAJUN CAFE**  
John Hamilton of Livonia recently opened Crawdad's Cajun Cafe at 1641 Middlebelt in Inkster, 729-8980. All of the dishes are authentic Louisiana cuisine. The seafood is flown in daily from Louisiana.

**CHEF'S FEST**  
The 12th annual Chef's Fest featuring the Birmingham Restaurant Collection's culinary creations will be 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 21 at the Community House, 380 Bates Street. Tickets are \$12 per person for Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce members and \$16 per person for non members. The fest is a fund-raiser for the chamber.

**SEBASTIAN'S GRILL**  
Check out Executive Chef Michael Messing's new spring menu at Sebastian's Grill in Troy's

Sommerset Collection. Dishes include sauteed pork loin with pecan crust and plum mustard sauce, sea scallops with orange, basil, asparagus tips and saffron butter sauce, and wild mushroom ravioli with quad-color pasta.

**RUBY TUESDAY**  
Ruby Tuesday opened a new restaurant May 12 in Southfield at 121 Twelve Mile, 28654 Telegraph Road. The restaurant features a full menu of sandwiches, appetizers and specialties such as fajitas, ribs, chicken and beef entrees.

# American Jewish Committee hosts film viewing

The American Jewish Committee, Detroit Chapter, and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany will host a special viewing of a Rainer Werner Fassbinder film — "Fear Eats the Soul — Ali" 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 3 at the AMC Moplo Theater in Bloomfield Hills.

The film produced in the 1970s and awarded the International Film Critics Prize tells how

"Errol, a late 50's German chromosomal and widow, falls in love and marries Ali, a young, virile Moroccan who has come to Germany to earn a living as a garage mechanic..." The film explores the subsequent ostracism and multi-ethnic prejudices.

A talkback with Professor Hans Fabian of the University of Michigan and a reception will immediately follow the film.

Tickets may be reserved at the

door or by mailing a check for \$5 to the American Jewish Committee office, 6735 Telegraph, Suite 320, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.50.

The film includes English subtitles and is part of a continuing cooperation between the American Jewish Committee and the German Consulate General's offices.

The Farmington Community Band will continue its traditional summer concert series by performing three concerts this summer in Heritage Park, Farmington Hills.

Opening the season will be a light hearted musical treat featuring the band Concert Band 8 p.m. Thursday, May 20.

At 8 p.m. Thursday, June 24, the Farmington Community Band Jazz/Dance Band will perform many jazz favorites for a warm summer evening.

Concluding its summer season,

the Concert Band will perform at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 22. Directed by founder/conductor Paul Barber, the Community Band consists of more than 60

musicians from 20 communities in the area. Heritage Park is off Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile. For more information call 476-5014 or 489-3412.

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