

ON THE MARQUEE

Don't miss 'Broadway Bound'

Cheers farewell

Say goodbye to all your buddies from "Cheers." Matt Brady's, 38123 West 10 Mile Road in the Holiday Inn of Farmington Hills, and Oldies 104.3 WOMC will be hosting a "Last Call Party," 7 p.m. Thursday, May 20 to celebrate the final episode of "Cheers." Events will include "Cheers" trivia, classic oldies, great food and drink specials with a "Cheers" look-alike contest. For information, call 478-7780.

Pine Knob

The 2 Iguanas from Earth, Renae Bernard of Livonia, rhythm guitarist, singer and composer, and Nancy Douglas of Farmington, lead guitarist, will open for Edna Money at the Pine Knob, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 21. Tickets \$12.50 pavilion, \$5.05 lawn, available at the Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers. To charge tickets, call 377-0100 or 645-6666.

Trinity House

Trinity House Theatre presents "The Liar," by Carlo Goldoni, one of the masters of 17th century Italian comedy, beginning 8 p.m. Friday, May 21. Shows weekends through June 19, Trinity House, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia, 464-6302.

Readers Theater

The final performance of the 1993 Spring Series of Readers Theater will be at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23, in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre of the Jewish Community Center, 76500 Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets \$6, IRP members \$5. The production will be preceded by complimentary refreshments at 3 p.m. For information, call 661-1000, Ext. 345.

Flute festival

Musica Viva International Concert Series presents the Michigan Flute Festival, Gala Concert — A Salute to Ervin Monroe, 25 years as principal flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Alexander Zonjic, master of ceremonies, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23 at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Concert will feature various flute ensembles, the Michigan Flute Orchestra, and mass flute choirs with over 300 participants from all around Michigan. Tickets range from \$10 to \$35 per person, call 833-3700.

Glenn Miller

The Glenn Miller Orchestra swings 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 25 at Livonia Mall, Seven Mills at Middlebelt in Livonia, on the stage in front of Crowlees.

Kids Koncert

Hip Squeak Productions presents "Odd Bodkins," an innovative puppet program 1:30-2:15 p.m. Saturday, May 22 in Room 115 of the Parks and Recreation Building, 2600 Evergreen, Southfield. Tickets \$3, call 354-4717 for information.



VICTORIA DIAZ

To close out their 70th season, the Birmingham Village Players are performing Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound." Don't miss it.

"Broadway Bound," here directed by Steven Todorovic, represents the conclusion of a trilogy of autobiographical comedy-dramas written by Simon. (Its predecessors are "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Biloxi Blues.") In it, the Jerome Brothers, Eugene and Stanley, launch — from their home in Brooklyn — their careers as comedy writers.

At heart, though, "Broadway Bound" is not a story about the Jerome Brothers, but a story about their mother, Kate. As the play opens, she is, in more ways than one, losing her place in an ever-changing world.

We've all known a Kate Jerome. A telling line in the first act sums her up pretty well — "If she can't make dinner for someone, her life is over."

Linda Hammett, as Kate Jerome, makes the portrayal of this highly-complex character look simple and easy. Her Kate is warm and funny and spirited at the same time that she is deeply pained and, in a sense, losing her life. She seems to have no touch of guile about her, to be one of those totally irrealistic people who are simply without self-consciousness.

The scene in which she recalls dancing, in her youth, at the Primrose Ballroom with the oily-haired George Raft is alone worth the price you'll pay to see this play. (It's interesting

"BROADWAY BOUND"
Theater: Birmingham Village Players, 762 Chestnut, corner of Hunter, south of Maple, Birmingham.

Closes: Saturday, May 29
Curtain times: Shows 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 29; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 23; 8 p.m. Thursday, May 27.
Tickets: Friday, Saturday, Sunday evening performances \$10 per person, Sunday matinee and Thursday evening, \$8 per person. May 27 student night, tickets \$4 with student ID. Call 644-2075.

to note that this scene from her past is the one in which she appears most alive.)

Other cast members also turn in commendable performances.

In another complicated role, Tom D'Agostino does an admirable job as the boys' decent, but slightly deceitful father, Jack Jerome. As the older brother, Stanley Jerome, Dave Springer strikes a nice balance between ambitious and appealing.

In a supporting role, Phil Whelan seems perfectly cast as the Jerome Brothers' sometimes confused, sometimes insightful, always leftist grandfather. And Mary Lou Johnstone, playing the exasperated but loving Aunt Blanche (apologizing for her good fortune, her mink coat, and her Cadillac) leaves a distinct impression, though she appears in only one scene.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Comedy-drama: Mary Lou Johnstone as Aunt Blanche and Ryan Martin as Eugene in the Birmingham Village Players presentation of Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound."

In the role of Eugene (Neil Simon), who narrates the play with frequent asides to the audience, mop-haired Ryan Martin is not only amusing, but touching as well.

Piccolo Archie Andrews with family problems, turned slightly intellectual, and living in Brighton Beach circa 1949, and you begin to fix on Martin's Eugene. Martin has walked in the shoes of this character before (in the Players' 1991 production of "Brighton Beach Memoirs"), and it shows. He seems familiar and comfortable with the role of the fresh-

faced, younger brother, who at the end of this play, finds himself Broadway bound.

Generally, peripherals like lighting, costumes, and make-up work well, although some props, sound effects and "background music" are sometimes so unusable they tend to distract, rather than to enhance the mood.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelance, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

Couple 'Get A Kick Out Of' working together

By KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge share a passion for theater. But she prefers to be backstage; he likes to perform.

You'll have a chance to see him on stage, as the result of her choreography and directing in Cole Porter's razzle-dazzle song and dance sensation "Anything Goes," which runs through June 20 at the Birmingham Theatre.

Milgrom Dodge, a 1973 graduate of Southfield Lathrop High School, will choreograph and direct the show. Her husband, a 1971 graduate of Redford High School is the assistant director and portrays Lord Evelyn Oakleigh.

"They live in Manhattan, and spend their time traveling throughout the United States and Canada choreographing musical theater for regional theaters."

"I was the big mouth in the back row of the chorus. I never wanted to perform. I was never at home on stage. I wanted to be the one creating, making the action come to life," said Milgrom Dodge.

The couple met in Ann Arbor in 1976 doing a production of "Camelot." He played "King Arthur," she

"ANYTHING GOES"
Theater: Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

Classes: Sunday, June 20
Curtain times: Shows 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 7 p.m. Sundays; 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays.
Tickets: Range \$18 to \$32.50 at the box office, 644-3533 or Ticketmaster outlets, 645-6666.
Discounts: Senior citizen discount for those 60 years of age and older, Tuesday and Wednesday evening shows.

was the choreographer. They've been a team on and off the stage ever since. In 1980 they got married.

"I Get A Kick Out of You" could be their song. "He has eyes I trust," said Milgrom Dodge. "We have an easy collaboration, it's very rewarding to work together behind the scenes," Dodge said.

The original show opened in 1934. "We're doing the new Lincoln Center revival," said Dodge. "It's a better version, it's a smarter, more elegant production. The Cole Porter score is really sensational. You can't help but leave the theater humming the songs. Some people will come to the theater humming the songs."

That's part of the challenge of the show — it's so familiar. You might not be familiar with the show, but you've heard the songs — "Anything Goes," "Blow Gabriel, Blow," "Friendship," and "It's De-Lovely."

The sappy story with its collection of outlandish characters is strictly for laughs and fun. Reno Sweeney is a brassy nightclub singer and Moonface Mullins is Public Enemy No. 13. There's a beautiful debutante, (Hope Harcourt) her mother (Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt), her flaky English fiancé, (Lord Evelyn Oakleigh) and (Billy Crocker) the young man who adores her from afar. He stows away on an ocean liner heading from New York to England, and they're all singing, dancing and acting all the way.

Milgrom Dodge said she worked to come up with really ways to do fresh, entertaining interpretations of

routines people already know.

"I tried to evoke a sense of the 1930s Hollywood musicals," she said. "There's a terrific cast of 21 from New York. They're some of the best dancers and singers I've ever worked with. The audience is in for a real treat. I think it will be one of the most beautiful productions they've seen — the scenery, lighting, props and costumes are wonderful. John Scherer who plays Billy is one of the best song and dance men in the business. He sings like a bird."

Dodge, who portrayed Billy in "Anything Goes," in the 1970s for the Westminster Theater Company in Detroit, said he's looking forward to doing the show at the Birmingham. This is the first time he's performed in the metro Detroit area since the 1970s.

His character, Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, is engaged to marry Hope Harcourt. She's marrying him for his money, but is in love with Billy Crocker.

Dodge describes Oakleigh as a silly, but lovable Englishman. He's the comic foil who people make fun of.

PREVIEW

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Saturday, May 29 12 NOON - 5:00 P.M. "Sparks of Fire Band"
5:00 - 8:00 P.M. "Hazzard Dancers"
6:30 - 11:30 P.M. "Dave Stacy & The Appalachian Band"
Sunday, May 30 12 NOON - 5:00 P.M. "Wall Clerk & The Antebellum Band"
5:00 - 8:00 P.M. "Terry Dancers"
6:30 - 11:30 P.M. "Morris And De Sharts"
Monday, May 31 12 NOON - 5:00 P.M. & 4:30 - 8:00 P.M.
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Saturday, May 29, and Sunday, May 30, from 12 noon until 11:30 p.m.
Monday, May 31, from 12 noon until 10:30 p.m.
Mass - Saturday, May 29, at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 30, at 11:00 a.m.