

Lots of 'Heart' in war drama

BY KEELY WYOMNIK
STAFF WRITER

They're called the invisible veterans, the women who served in Vietnam. They weren't sent into combat, but it was all around them.

Their story will be told by the newly formed Heartlands Theatre Company in "A Piece of My Heart," by Shirley Lauro. The play, based on a book by Keith Walker of the same title, is a compilation of vignettes that capture the indomitable spirit of the women who served in Vietnam.

The play will be presented May 21 through June 5 at the Hillberry Theatre in Detroit.

From her tiny office in Birmingham, not much bigger than a walk-in closet, Jan Radcliff, a Birmingham resident for 13 years, makes phone calls trying to impress on people the importance of this play.

"I've believed in this play for so long," she said. "I've seen all three productions, and kept track of the rights."

Radcliff worked tenaciously for six years to win sole rights to produce "A Piece of My Heart," and said she "pounced on them," when they became available.

"For women, the war was the worst of times, the best of times

"A PIECE OF MY HEART"

Theater: Heartlands Theatre Company, at the Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass at Himecock, Detroit
Closes: Saturday, June 5
Curtain times: Matinees, 10:30 a.m. Thursdays, May 27, June 3; 8 p.m. Fridays, May 21, May 28 and June 4; 8 p.m. Saturdays, May 22, May 29 and June 5; 8:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23. Matinees will be followed by talk-back sessions with women who served in Vietnam

Tickets: Range \$10 to \$14. May 29 and June 5, \$30. Call 577-2972.

Discounts: Group discounts available for parties of 20 and more. Special discounts available for veterans and school groups. For information, call 493-1233.

PREVIEW

— extreme pain, and joy. They experienced a spectrum of human emotions," said Radcliff.
The production of "A Piece of My Heart," was strategically



War drama: Kim Arnaut (left), Dinah Lynch (with guitar), Mary Rychlewski, Sandra Marquez and Mar Riehl in a scene from "A Piece of My Heart."

planned to coincide with the 25th anniversary year of the Tet Offensive; the dedication of the Women's Memorial Project in Washington, D.C.; and the unveiling of the design selection for our state's monument by the Vietnam Memorial Commission of Michigan.

Matinee performances on May 27 and June 3 will be followed by talk-back sessions with women who served in Vietnam. These will be moderated by scholars and women veterans involved as both forum participants and consultants to the actors.

There will also be a photo display of photographs of and by women veterans in the lobby of the Hillberry during the run of the

production.

"This story is not about war; it is about six women who went to Vietnam," said Radcliff. "Their stories remind us that in any war lives are irrevocably changed and lost not in increments of a thousand, but one by one. In a world that seems to have forgotten the value of a single human life, we think this is worth remembering."

Cast members are Mar Riehl, Mary Rychlewski and Sandra Marquez as Army nurses, Kim Arnaut as a Red Cross volunteer, Sakunah Delaney as an Army officer, Diana Lynch as the guitar-playing USO singer, and John Seibert in a series of minor male roles.

RSO ends season on rousing note

BY THOMAS BLUE
SPECIAL WRITER

The season finale of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra was some enlivened evening.

The orchestra, under the direction of James Hohmeyer, is to be commended for its strong performances throughout this concert season.

The orchestra has grown musically in performances of many great standards of orchestral literature. An example of this growth in musical excellence was the May 14 concert.

The RSO opened with a movement from J.S. Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5." Each of the six Brandenburg concerti were written for various ensembles of instruments. The "Brandenburg Concerto No. 5" features solo harpsichord, flute and violin accompanied by strings.

The orchestra's performance highlighted the outstanding Baroque stylings of the soloists. The orchestra provided light and airy accompaniment that supported the tutti sections of the piece and displayed the orchestra's ability to grasp Baroque music with fine precision and style.

An underlying theme of the concert was dance. From the courtly dances of the Grand Duke of Brandenburg to the ballet of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. The RSO continued the program with Sergei Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet (Excerpts for the Ballet)."

Evidence of Prokofiev's simplification in the Romantic style is heard in the suite. It is interesting to note that the premiere of this ballet was not in Russia, but in Brunn, Czechoslovakia in 1938.

The ballet was unsuccessful because of its tragic theme rather than the highly expressive music. The RSO's display of heavy Russian romanticism was evident in the full orchestral sections of the suite. The orchestra provided the listener with several moments of dramatic contrasts between the tragic intensities of Prokofiev's climactic crescendos and the tenderness of his melodic themes. The piece featured solos from several principal players of the orchestra.

One could not help but be drawn to the tragic story through the orchestra's musical painting of several scenes of Prokofiev's Shakespeare.

The audience was treated to yet another dance form, American jazz. George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," began his "serious music" career on Feb. 12, 1924 at New York's Aeolian Hall with Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra for a concert of symphonic jazz. Gershwin composed this rhapsody in three weeks.

Guest pianist was Nell Eisenstein, a former student of the famed Detroit pianist Misha Kottler.

It was wonderful to hear Eisenstein's interpretation of Gershwin's famed piece. It was as if the piano was dancing as fast as it could with graceful dexterity and emotional contrasts. The orchestra and soloist provided a nice conversation of Gershwin's various stylings. The performance was extremely pleasing to the ear and to the audience who responded with an enthusiastic standing ovation.

The final piece was a return to ballet. The RSO favored the audience with a taste of French Impressionism as composed by Maurice Ravel.

Julius Chajes concert features violinist, pianist

The Julius Chajes Concert Series will close its 1992-93 season with a duo recital featuring violinist, Paul Kantor and pianist,

Virginia Weckstrom, 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23 in the Janice Charach Epstein Museum/Gallery at the Jewish Community

Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Concert tickets are \$10, senior citizens and students \$8, and are

available through the Jewish Community Center and all Ticketmaster outlets. For information call 661-1000, Extension 352.

Kantor and Weckstrom will present a program featuring the music of Stravinsky, Kuusisto, Chajes and Schubert.

Appearing with Kantor is his wife, pianist Virginia Weckstrom.

There will be a guided pre-concert tour of the Gallery exhibit, "Works on Paper," at 2:30 p.m. for those attending the concert.

Exchange George Burns tickets

If you have tickets for shows at the George Burns Theatre, which closed in mid-April, you can exchange them — one for one — for tickets to select shows at Pine Knob this season, and all kids shows excluding Raffi.

Tickets may be exchanged at the Palace Box Office, 2 Champi-

onship Drive, Auburn Hills. For information, call 377-0100. Here are the shows George Burns Theatre ticket holders can choose from:
• Carole King, June 4.
• Dennis Miller/Rita Rudner, June 14.
• Michael Feinstein, June 22.

• Harry Belafonte, June 27.
• Henri Mancini, July 6.
• Engelbert Humperdinck, July 22.
• Paul Anka, July 25.
• Smokey Robinson, August 24.
• Air Supply, August 30.
• Anne Murray, September 2.
• Kenny Loggins, September 3.

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