

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1993

(F7B)

ON THE MARQUEE

'Square Root of Three' genuinely funny

La Casa

Mark Germino returns to La Casa with special guest Cadillac Holmes 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 11 at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 661 N. Woodward. Advance tickets \$10 each, tickets at the door, \$12. For information, call 648-4950.

Authors read works

Detroit Women Writers and Friends of the Detroit Public Library are hosting a Spring Evening of Reading, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, in the Friends Auditorium, Main Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit. Short stories to be read include excerpt from "MacKinnon's Machine," by S.K. Wolf of Livonia, and "Looking for Paul Newman," by Gay Rubin of Bloomfield Hills. Refreshments will be served. There is no charge for this program, but reservations are needed, call 833-4048.

Jazz festival

Mark your calendars, the Community House in Birmingham is presenting "Jazfest 1993" a three-day indoor/outdoor jazz festival in downtown Birmingham, Thursday, July 29, to Saturday, July 31. Festival passes are \$20 per person, call 644-5832.

Kids Concert

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Division will present Maureen Schiffman and her mischievous puppet partner the kazoo-playing Coco, 1:30-2:15 p.m. Saturday, June 12 in Room 115 of the Parks and Recreation Building, 2600 Evergreen, Southfield. Admission, \$3 per person, \$2.50 for groups of 10 or more. Call 354-4717.

Java Coffeehouse

Car the jazzy sounds of the New World Order Jazzet 8:30-11:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at Java Coffeehouse, 307 N. Main Street, downtown Rochester. Java Coffeehouse offers an assortment of select flavored coffees, cappuccinos, espressos, teas and freshly baked goods. Admission is free, for information, call 874-4394 or 650-3344.

Oldies dance

Dance to all your favorites at the Saturday Night Oldies dance 8 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at Roma's Garden City on Cherry Hill east of Venoy. Fred "Boogie" Brian of Honey Radio is master of ceremonies. Admission \$5, doors open 8 p.m. For information, call 662-3170.

Youth theater

Mama Mia Restaurant and Lounge, 9361 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce Township, with Teed E. Bear Productions (a subsidiary of Nancy Gurwin Productions) announces a new lunch theater with the Youth Theatre Production of the musical "Beauty and the Beast," Saturdays through June 26. Lunch served at noon followed by show at 1 p.m. Tickets \$12.50 a person. Call 363-1635.



CATHIE BREIDENBACH

When Grandma Rita returns from a week's vacation in Florida with a new husband, she compounds family chaos in Michael Golder's delightful comedy "The Square Root of Three," playing at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, Jewish Community Center. Her new husband, Lucky Mankiewitz, is a many-times-married gentleman whose 94 years of loving haven't diminished his enthusiasm. Ninety-four years, however, have taken their physical toll — relegating him to a wheelchair and making him prone to abrupt lapses in consciousness which call into humorous question whether the old gent is still alive. Lucky's mind also slips now and then and he mistakenly calls his wife Rita, "Frieda." She corrects him in a microsecond, and the "Frieda/Rita" refrain exemplifies the superb timing of veteran actors Sylvia Kauders as Rita and Elliot Levine as Lucky.

Kauders recreates on the Jewish Ensemble Theatre stage the role she first played off-Broadway of the outrageous grandma who speaks her mind and paints nude self-portraits that embarrass her 60-year-old son, Levine, also a Broadway and off-Broadway veteran, shines as the inimitably lovable Lucky.

In the hands of Director Morton Zieve, Rita and Lucky are a pair to remember because they avoid becoming stereotypes. They're feisty individuals, always charismatic and charming. Naturally they wear purple, the color that proclaims the right of the silver haired to be outspoken and fluent conversation.

Lucky wears plaid purple pants that quarrel with his bright print purple shirt but are in total accord with his independent spirit. Costume designer Edith Leavis Bookstein cleverly uses color as a declaration of independence.

Elliot, Rita's car salesman son;



Madcap comedy: Marty Smith (left) as Elliot Atlas and Elliot Levine as Lucky Mankiewitz in the Jewish Ensemble Theatre production of "The Square Root of Three," through June 27.

REVIEW

Pauline, Elliot's beautiful wife; and Danny, their 28-year-old son, round out the three generations in this play about living with zest.

Rita and Lucky know how to seize the day, unlike Pauline and Elliot, who founder in frustrating lives and a boring marriage, and Danny, who is petrified by life.

Danny, a college graduate, has never had a "real" romantic relationship and can't keep a "real" job, so he lives with Mom, Dad, and Grandma and scavenges for returnable bottles to make beer money.

Mary Lou Zieve plays a capable Pauline, but she's too smoothly sophisticated to be entirely believable

as a woman who plucks eyebrows for a living and searches for secular salvation in a book titled "O is for Organism."

Timothy Alvaro, the able actor who plays Danny, is just too handsome to look like the nerdy loser Danny's supposed to be. But, overall, Golder's play is genuinely funny, and the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's production overflows with the hilarious, chaotic, absurd confusion of life.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a free-lance writer.

"THE SQUARE ROOT OF THREE"

Theater: Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield.

Closes: Sunday, June 27  
Curtain times: Shows 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, June 16-17, 20, 23-24, 27; 9 p.m. Saturdays, June 12, 19 and 26; 2 p.m. Sundays, June 13, 20, 27.

Tickets: Range \$12 to \$19.50. Senior citizen and student discounts available. Ticketmaster outlets, 645-6666 or the box office 788-2900 weekdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Music, food, fun at Meadow Brook Festival

In June, a delightful summer will begin at Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills with the notes of the first concert on June 18. This year's festival will also include a food festival July 16-18, and a magic show June 23-24.

Kicking off the 1993 season will be The Who on Friday, June 18 and comedian Elaine Bosler on Saturday, June 19. Other performances include: Pat Metheny on Sunday, June 20; "The Mad Mad World of Magic" featuring Landis & Company, June 23-24; Lyle Lovette and His Large

Band, Friday, June 25; and Warner Brothers presents Bugs Bunny on Broadway," with a live orchestra, Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27.

Doors will open 6 p.m. with shows starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Fox Theatre box office, the Joe Louis and Cobo Arena box offices, and all Ticketmaster locations. To charge tickets, call 645-6666. For more information, call the Events Hotline at 396-7600.

Here's a list of upcoming concerts:

- July 2 — James Brown.
- July 3 — Oldies show featuring the Drifters, the Coasters, and the Platters, with fireworks display.
- July 4 — The Temptations and Four Tops with fireworks display.
- July 9-10 — Roger Whittaker.
- July 16-18 — "Michigan's Best Menu," a Taste of Michigan's Finest Foods.
- July 23 — Electric Light Orchestra.
- July 24 — Michael Franks.

- Aug. 6 — The Everly Brothers and Dion.
- Aug. 7 — Natalie Cole.
- Aug. 13 — Dwight Yoakam with special guest Sney Bogguss.
- Aug. 14 — WDET Summer Fest, Nanci Griffith with special guest John Prine.
- Aug. 15 — Shari Lewis.
- Aug. 20 — Peter, Paul & Mary.
- Aug. 27-28 — Laser Spectacular, featuring themes from Broadway blockbusters.

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