

ENTERTAINMENT

6B(F)

ON THE MARQUEE

Benefit cabaret

Join the cast of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" in the fight against AIDS. At 11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, a cabaret, performed by the cast, will be presented at Punchedel's, 184 Pierce St. Birmingham. Tickets, \$10 at the door. All proceeds to benefit the Liz Taylor AIDS Foundation for Research and Development and AFAR.

One-character play

Mark McPherson presents "Immodestly Yours 'G.B.S.'," a one-character play about George Bernard Shaw, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 Woodward, at Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$10 per person, at the door. Call 682-5530 or 676-6692 for information.

SRO Productions

Comedry/drama "Mass Appeal" opens 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, and runs for three weekends at white 1854 Church in the City of Southfield's historic park "The Burch" on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph. Shows 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets \$7, seniors and children under 12, \$6. Call 827-0700.

Golden Mushroom

Adinner and entertainment package will be offered at the lower level of the Golden Mushroom, 18100 West 10 Mile Road, Southfield, every Saturday evening from Oct. 9 to Nov. 27. Called Fungus Follies, the evening includes a four-course dinner, and upbeat musical review. Tickets \$45 per person, call 559-4230 for reservations.

Folk concert

Vlance opens its 17th season 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9 with a concert by singer, composer, Claudia Schmitt at the Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. For tickets call, 647-4632 or 288-3953.

Media extravaganza

Millennium Theatre Center announces the world premiere of "Life Is A Beach," a multi-media comedy integrating videos and your favorite 1960s tunes, opening for preview Oct. 15-24 at the center, 16600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Theater-goers will be able to plunk themselves into sand if they choose the lounge chairs in Beach Seating. Opening night is Oct. 27, with shows through Dec. 5. For tickets, information, call 552-7000 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Nightnotes concert series features guitarist Michele Rame on Oct. 22 at Hagopian World of Rugs in Birmingham.
- Movie critic John Monaghan reviews "Demolition Man."

■ Three veteran conductors who have guided the Pontiac Oakland Symphony since its inception 40 years ago, share the podium on Oct. 15.



The Pontiac Oakland Symphony opens its 40th season 8:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15 at the Strand Theatre, 12 North Saginaw, downtown Pontiac. Tickets are \$10, students and seniors \$5. Call 334-6024 for individual and season tickets.

To celebrate this important milestone, the three individuals that have guided the orchestra's musical development during four decades will share conducting responsibilities at the gala opening concert.

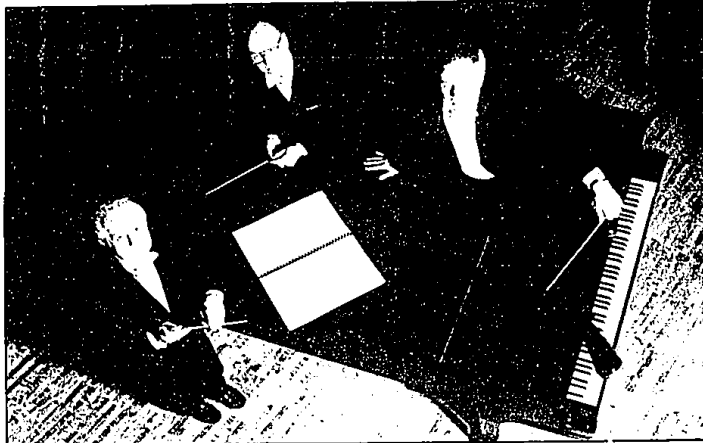
Joining David Daniels, music director since 1977, will be Felix Resnick, director of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, and Francesco DiBlasi, director of the Livonia Symphony.

Director of the BBS since its inception in 1975, Resnick conducted the POS from 1961 to 1976. Di Blasi, presently a member of the Madonna University music faculty, and director of the LSO since it was founded as the Oakway Symphony in 1973, served as the then named Pontiac Symphony as its first conductor from 1954 to 1960.

The three will share the baton for Gabrielle's "Canzona noni toni."

DiBlasi will lead the Prelude to "Die Meistersinger."

Tchaltkovsky's ballet suite from "Roméo and Juliet" will be conducted by Resnick.



Important milestone: Frank DiBlasi (left), Felix Resnick and David Daniels have guided the Pontiac Oakland Symphony's development over the past 40 years.

PREVIEW

Daniels will lead John Corigliano's "The Belles of Ravello," and a new symphony by Texas composer Samuel Jones inspired by the beauty of the Palo Duro Canyon.

The season continues Dec. 3 with a

tribute to Michigan composer and Oakland University faculty member Stanley Hollingsworth. Guest artists will include pianist Flavio Varant of Birmingham, the Oakland Choral, and narrator Carolyn Gillespie.

The orchestra's annual cabaret concert on Jan. 22 will brighten a winter evening with music and sup-

per on the lighter side. The Young Artists Concert on Feb. 20 will showcase student composers and soloists — winners of the annual Oakland University Concerto Auditions.

Pontiac's own Patricia Dell'Ortona will sing arias by Charpentier, Stravinsky, and Massenet at the season finale on April 1.

Cast makes best of bland 'Foreigner'

By HUGH GALLAGHER

Larry Shue's "The Foreigner" is a sit-com for stage. It's broad, artificial, illogically plotted and tagged with a moral to give it "weight." It's the typical summer stock fare that gives employment to soap opera actors and former sit-com stars.

The Meadow Brook Theatre production has its fair share of laughs, drawing on the acting of a competent cast and Shue's ability to agitate a comic scene. All the noise and sputter don't amount to much, but after a tediously slow start the production role pleasantly along.

The setting is a backwoods Georgia fishing lodge to which a shy, insecure British proofer is brought by his more outgoing British military friend. The shy proofer wants to be left alone and divorce himself from having to converse with others, so his

friend tells the easily gullible hicks that his friend is a "foreigner" who can't speak English.

On that frail premise Shue whips up a story about finding one's place by helping others and throws in the Ku Klux Klan as convenient if over-worked villains.

All of the characters are clichés from the grandmotherly owner of the dilapidated lodge whom actress Linda Hayden obviously based on Granny Clampett to the smarter than you think "halfwit." The actors seem to have fun with these overblown caricatures but it all seems so calculated that audiences might not be as indulgent.

Will Love takes the title role with his usual exuberance but the trans-

"THE FOREIGNER"

Theater: Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University, in Wilson Hall, Auburn Hills.

Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 7-8, 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10. Shows through Oct. 24, call theater for additional performance times. Tickets: Range from \$18 for 2 p.m. Wednesday matinee to \$24.50 for 8 p.m. Friday evening. Student, senior and group rates available. Call 377-3300 for tickets.

formation from repressed Brit to outgoing hero is too transparently false. Still he gets howls when he tells a tale in a gloriously invented language and clever physical gyrations.

Standing out in this cast are James Anthony and Alexander Webb. Anthony has the thankless task of playing a redneck Georgia cracker full of vile complete with huntin' outfit. He does a fine job of making the character believable as well as menacing.

Webb just about steals the show as the "halfwit" brother who shows more understanding and intelligence than those around him. Webb is hilarious in both a breakfast pantomime routine with the skillful Love and in his drill timing in responses to others.

The notes say this is one of director Carl Shurr's favorite plays. It's hard to see why it would be anyone's favorite play. But Shurr and his cast make the best of a bland situation (comedy that is).

Hugh Gallagher is production editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc.

AGT Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Mainstage Productions
Rodgers & Hammerstein's
OKLAHOMA!
Music by RICHARD RODGERS
Book & lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II
Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs"
Original Dances by Agnes de Mille
Directed by Conrad Mawin • Music Direction by Ben Cohen
Choreography by Gregory George
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre - October 6-9, 1993
Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Call 971-1462 for ticket reservations • beginning October 4, call 763-1085

Authentic THAI CUISINE
Traditional
There is simply no other taste in the world that comes close to Thai cooking.
From chilled duck to deep curries, your senses will be delighted.
All served with spectacular presentation in a thoughtfully elegant atmosphere.
"Best of Detroit"
1993 Detroit Monthly
We Never Use MSG • Daily Lunch Specials
Catering Available
BANGKOK CLUB
Southfield Road between 12 and 13 Mile Roads
Southfield Commons 569-1400

Buddy's PIZZA
JOIN LIVONIA'S MUG CLUB
Call Manager for Details
Groups 15-100
Package Rates Available for Wedding Rehearsals and Road Races.
Call for Details
LIVONIA
33605 Plymouth Rd.
(West of Farmington Rd.)
261-3550
Other Buddy's Locations
FARMINGTON 5444 Northpark Drive (Corner of Northpark) 683-3638
ROYAL OAK 14000 Woodward (East of 13 Mile) 545-9006
BLOOMFIELD 40000 E. 13 Mile (East of 13 Mile) 645-0100
Bring this ad in for...
\$2 Off
Any Large Pizza or Large Antipasto or Large Greek Salad

Together Time
When you use the American Express® Card for a Two For Breakfast® Weekend, you'll enjoy these special bonuses.
Escape to a Marriott and enjoy a fabulous weekend together. You'll relax over BREAKFAST IN BED.
Plus you'll also get 25% OFF DINNER.
And you'll be able to enjoy the weekend longer with LATE SUNDAY CHECK-OUT.
Don't Leave Home Without It!
Marriott
HOTELS-RESORTS-SUITES
WE MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR YOU.
Two For Breakfast® Weekend rates are available at over 100 participating locations.
From **\$49**
PROPERTY RATE
MICHIGAN
The Dearborn Inn
Across from Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.
313/271-2700 \$85
Detroit Metro Airport
Located in Detroit Metro.
313/941-9400 \$79
Livonia
Attached to Laurel Park Plaza.
313/462-3100 \$74
Romana
Minutes from the Detroit Airport.
313/729-7555 \$19
Southfield
Close to the heart of Detroit.
313/356-7400 \$19
Troy
Near the Pontiac Silverdome.
313/660-9797 \$79
Call your travel agent for reservations or 1-800-USA-WKND