Steel Magnolias' beauty of a show



Capturing all of the bittersweet emotions of "Steel Magnolias," the
current St. Dunstan Theatre
Guild production is extraordinarily
well-acted and
directed. Robert Harldrama takes place

ing's comedy-drama takes place in a small-town Louislana beauty shop. The Saturday morning "regulars" visit for more than just a new hairdo; they share their joys and sorrows, and offer each other

support.
Under the direction of Edgar A.
Guest, each of the six-woman cast
gives a strong characterization.
The actresses also do a remarkably consistent job with their Southern accents. Comic timing and overall pacing are very good

throughout. Truvy (Lizabeth Brooks), the

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS" "STEEL MAGNOLIAS"
Theater: St. Dunstan's Guild
of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine
Road, two miles west of Woodward, Bloomfield Hills.
Curtain time: 8 p.m. Friday
and Saturday, Nov. 5-6
Tickets: \$10 general, \$8 students and seniors, call 6440527.

owner of the shop, is a buoyant personality, full of good cheer and homespun wisdom. Her motto is — "there's no such thing as natural beauty." With her children grown, and her spouse a confirmed couch potato, Truy assurages her ioneliness by "adopting" her new employee Annelle (Julie Yolles).

The shy and awkward Annelle is in emotional turmoll, not sure if she is even legally married to the man who has just deserted her. With Truvy's encouragement,

REVIEW

Annelle gains poise and sheds her ugly duckling image.

Nancy Brassert gives a powerful performance as M'Lynn, the magnolis whose steel is most severely tested. Married to an eccentric who terrifies the neighborstrong daughter with diabetes, M'Lynn maintains her cheerful facade even when she is worried

As Shelby, M'Lynn's willful daughter, Laura Jerrell is con-vincing and likeable. An irrepres-sible optimist, Shelby insists on taking risks with her delleate health because she'd "rather have a half-hour of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special."

Clairee (Sally Garrison), widow of the late mayor, finds herself adrift, her life suddenly barren of

the many social obligations she enjoyed. On a suggestion from Shelby, she seizes an opportunity to begin a new career and give her life purpose again. Garrison shows a smooth comic flair in her character's self-deprecating re-marks.

shows a smooth comic flair in her character's self-deprecating remarks.

Fran Hayes is absolute perfection as Ouiser, the local curmudgen. Her auperh facial capressions, timing and sardonic delivery add bite to the comedy.

Bill Everson's realistic sworks well, and under the tutelage of hair consultant Josh Dawson the ladies' hair really does get washed and set on stage. The women of "Steel Magnoliass' speculate on what mon must hink goes on in a beauty shop. The answer is a lot of bonding, cameraderie, and shoring up of flagging spirits.

Barborn Michaels is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

Marquee from page 2C

The recital is followed by a reception in the Oak Room where patrons meet the artist. For ticket information, cell 761-2435.

Jeanette Karamedjian of Orchard Lake and other members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council are busy planning a Gala Benefit featuring world-renowned sograno Dame Kir Te Kanawa on Thursday, Northern 18. Tickets for the gala range in price from \$350 for benefactors to \$150 for benefactors to

for the concert. At 8 p.m., the DSO will perform with legendary artist Dame Kirl Te Kenawa. New Zealand born, internationally-acclaimed star of the operatic world, as a solicist. This will be her only performance in Detroit.

After the concert, transportation will be provided to a law-ish attergion at the Whitney where Dame Kiri will be present.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Entertainment sections of the Observer & Ec-centric Newpopers. She wel-comes your ealls and com-ments, 953-2105, fax 91-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc. 36251 School-eraft, Livonia, MI 48160.

CLASSICS

Classicalists upcoming classical music concerts. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livenia 48150. Our fax number is 591-7279.

COLLEGE

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Concert band performs 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5 in Varner Recital Hall. Call 370-3013.

M SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Music Club presents mezzo Music Club presents mezzo soprano Louren Wagner, noon to 1 p.m. Wendesdey, Nov. 10 in the Forum Building Recital Hell, F. 530. The concert is free an open to the public. Verdi Open Theatro Night, 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 in the liberal arts theater on campus, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Show tunes, light opera, wine and cheese afterglow. Tickets \$25 per person, call 462-4417.

ddys

PLAN YOUR

HOILDAY PARTIES

at BUDDY"S

Groups 15-100:
Pacuage Rates Audiose for Weatang
Renerosa's and Road Rates

LIVONIA

1605 Plymouth Rd. Vest of Farmengton Rd.) 261-3550

Other Buddy's Locations

Bring this ad in for...

BR3-3636

COMMONE I

645-0300

FARMINGTON

BENEFITS

R PIANIST

R PIANIST
Troy Community Coalition presents planist Laura Spitzer in a benefit concert for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse, 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at The Somerset Collection Rotunda, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy. Admission includes afterglow of international coffees and desserts. Tickets \$20 per person, patron tickets \$50 per person. Call 740-0431.

RECITALS

B DETROIT MUSICIANS LEAGUE

Adult recital 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at Hammell's Steinway Hall, 15630 Middlebelt, Livonia Twelve planists and one singer will participate. There is no adwill participate. There is no ad-mission charge. Pianist Dady Mehta will present a master class 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 22 at Evola Music in Bloomfield Hills. Call 689-3459.

COMMUNITY

M BRSO

■ BBSO
Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, "Inside the BBSO" 7:30
p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at Temple
Beth El, 14 Mile at Telegraph,
Birmingham. Call 645-BBSO for

■ RACKHAM SYMPHONY CHOIR Jonnes Brahms' "A German Re-quiem" will be presented by the SS-voice Rackham Symphony Choir directed by G. Kevin Dowey of Farmington Hills, 2 p.m. Sun-day, Nov. 7 in the Cathedral of V. Blowed 1994 the Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$10, call 885-8692.

F PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY "An Orchestra Safari" 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 at Novi High School. Call 451-2112 for tickets.

SERIES

■ CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK Evensong for All Saints to be pre-

sented by the 45-voice parish sented by the 40-voice parish choir 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7 at the church on the corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine roads in Bloom-field Hills. The public is welcome. Call 644-5210 for information.

VIVACE

Mezzo soprano Irina Lekhtman at Birmingham Temple, 28611 West 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14. Pia-nist Zina Astrakahn will accom-pany her. Call 647-4632 or 544-8350.

CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN

Ervin Monroe and Patty Masri-Fletcher of the Detroit Symphony Fletcher of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra who recently recorded "After a Dream," leaturing melodies from opera and ballet perform in Southfield's Concerts in the Garden Series, Sunday, Nov. 4t. Continental breakfast served 10:30 a.m. followed by concert at 1 a.m. at the Prudential Town Center, 2000 building. Call 354-4717 for tickets.

Fine showmanship in 'Annie Get Your Gun'



South as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Falling in Love is Wonderful," "The Girl that I Marry," and

"Falling in Love is Wonderful," "The Girl that I Marry," and "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better" take on a life of their own outside the musical that spawned so many wonderful songs deserves a revival. The Bloomfield Players revival of "Annie Get Your Gun" is feisty and fine, filled with Irving Berlin's marvelous music and the superb singing of leads Judy Zorn and Paul Beck fine music, the Bloomfield Players under the direction of R. Dean Acheson, fill the Lahaer High School stage with all the spectacle of cowboys in buckskins, Indians dancing, and shooting contests. When the Bloomfield Players and the superb singing contests. When the West Show hype. They really do have Reg Petithone, a champion Winnebago Indian dancer and his company, One very tiny American Indian girl steals the limitight from the growmap despite their full feathered regalis.

Annie of the title is, of course, the legendary Annie Oakley, a sharpshoeter from Ohio will yolined Buffalo Bill Cody's Will yolined Buffalo Bill Cody's Will Yest Show and became on intra decays and the stage of the property of the property of the stage of

trick aboot and knock off clay pigeons better than any man she challenged.

Judy Zorn plays Annie as tough and spunky with a tender heart.

Zorn can belt out a song like "You Can" Get a Man with a Gun" but can also sing a lyric duet like "Folling in Love" in a pure and melting soprano.

After one took into his hand-arms blue week Annie falls in love

some blue eyes, Annie falls in love with Frank Butler, the famous

Û

"ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"
Theater: Bloomfield Players at the Lahser High School theater 3456 Lahser Road, Bloomfield

Hills.
Curtain time: 8 p.m. Friday
and Saturday, Nov. 5-6; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 7.
Tickots: Adults \$8, students
and seniors age 60 and older, \$7.
Call 433-0885.

sharpshooter who likes his wom-

sharpshooter who likes his women to wear pink satin and have soft submissive personalities to match their ladylike clothes. Annie doesn't meet his specifications for a wite; she's a strong, opelinionated, modern woman and what wounds Frank's ego most she's a better shot than he is.

Paul Beek plays a fine Frank Butler, who may have been a hero in the old West, but doesn't qualify as a 1990s hero because he can't accept a woman as his equal. And Annie also loses points as role model for the 1990s because she stoops to hiding her talents to win her man. Annie and Frank are backed by an energetic community cast of over fifty led by young players Luke W. Capizzos Little Jake, Elizabeth Hawley as Nellie, Alliacon S. Brown as Jessie, and Alyssa Schefman at Minnie. W. Gerald McCray plays a robust Bill Cody, Donna Kussad, a meddlesome Delly Tate, Garry Quick, a believable Pawnee Bill, Alan C. Johlin is Charille Davenport, and Mark Bello is Chief Sitting Bull.

Aside from a few city slicker cowboys whose whips won't crack and look more like lethargie ribhons than rawhide, the Bloom field Players' "Annie Get Your Cur" prosents the story of a heroine of the old West with energy and fine showmanship.

Cathie Breidenbach of West

Cathic Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.

Birmingham Musicale hosts dinner theater

The Birmingham Musicale is sponsoring a dinner theater per-formance of "Once Upon a Ma-tress" 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Bir-

mingham.

Tickets \$25 per person, includes dinner and theater, patron tickets \$40. All proceeds go to the support of the scholarship fund. Call 548-6340 for information.

This musical comedic spoof of the fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea" will be performed by the Wing & A Prayer Players directed by Pam Dundas and music by Joan Bowes.

The Lyric Chamber Ensemble presents

"SINGIN' IN THE RAIN" at the Gem Theatre

A brunch concert of music from the movies

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1993

Sasha Burshstein, piano David Wilson, piano

Light brunch at 10:45 a.m. Concert at 11:15 a.m. Valerie Yova, soprano David Troiano, tenor

CALL 357-1111 FOR TICKETS NOW!

(Visa & Mastercard accepted)

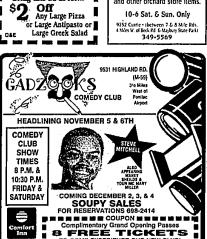
Songs from Foctor Zhiyago, Singing in the Rain, Casablanca, Shall We Dance, The Wizard of Oz, Top Hat, Aladdin and morel

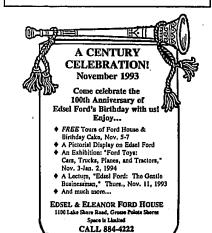


OBSTBAUM ORCHARDS & CIDER MILL

Large Variety of Apples Cider, Donuts, Jellies, and other orchard store items.

10-6 Sat. & Sun. Only 9252 Currie • (between 7 & 8 Mile Rds. 4 Miles W. of Beck Rd & Maybury State Park) 349-5569





AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER



Authentic THAI CUISINE

Try a new taste sensation, it's a little bit of everything sweet, sour, hot and spicy From lemon shrimp soup to peanut chicken. Your senses will be described.

Huge Lunch Buffet \$695 "Best of Detroit"

1993 Detroit Monthly

BANGKOK CLUB