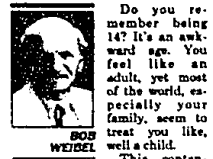


# Theatre Guild's opener is splendid



Do you remember being 14? It's an awkward age. You feel like an adult, yet most of the world, especially your family, seem to treat you like well a child.

This contentious "coming of age" is the subject of the Theatre Guild's first show of the season, "What I Did Last Summer." Director, Joseph Haynes, and his talented cast do a splendid job of balancing the comedic and dramatic elements of the play.

David Aaron Rose is especially good as Charlie around whom the play revolves. As we meet him, the family has arrived at a cottage on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie. The year is 1945.

Despite the war, and his father being on a destroyer in the Pacific, it should be a time for summertime fun and games.

But something is stirring in Charlie. He's beginning to question his life of sailing regattas and country club dances. And much to his mother's displeasure, he begins doing odd jobs for a free-spirited, unconventional woman.

Anna, played superbly by Blanche Graham, gives Charlie art lessons and allows him to ex-

**ON-STAGE**

**"What I Did Last Summer"**

► THEATRE: The Theatre Guild, 15108 Beech Day, one block south of Five Mile, Redford.

► CURTAIN TIME: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, through Nov. 19.

► TICKETS: \$8 or \$6 senior citizens and students. Call (313) 531-0654.



Drama: Ted (Greg Mundie of Redford, left) and Elsie (Emily Haase of Livonia, right) absorb the wisdom of Anna (Blanche Graham) in "What I Did Last Summer."

## REVIEW

Consider the tomato. "I allow it to grow in whatever direction they want to grow. They all bear fruit."

Pulling Charlie in the direction of the conventional life is his mother, Grace. P.J. Jenkinson's varied stage experience serves her well as she expertly creates a mother in crisis. She, of course, is appalled by Charlie's behavior.

"What does she give you that is more valuable than money?" The answer, of course, is that Anna

has liberated Charlie's spirit and opened his eyes to new visions. For Charlie it was playwrighting. He is A.R. Gurney who wrote "What I Did Last Summer."

Strong performances were also turned in by those in supporting roles. Emily Haase is vibrant as Elsie, Charlie's older sister who treats him like a nerd. Robyn Lipnicki is delightful as a spirited, Bonnie, with whom Charlie has his first date. And Greg Mundie,

as his Canadian friend, Ted, brings a youthful vigor to the stage.

Lights, sound and staging were also well done — not an easy task since the play is performed in a series of vignettes on three stage areas.

Bob Weibel of Westland is a freelance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.

# Marquee from page 1B

outh. A freewill offering will be taken. Call (313) 665-7271 for information.

■ "Consider yourself part of the family." The invitation extended by the Artful Dodger to the young orphan is offered to you as Huron Civic Theatre presents Lionel Bart's musical "Oliver." From his first plea for "more food, please," through his search for love and family, Oliver (Brandon Gauvin, of Canton) is sure to win your heart. The play runs 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, at the theater, 32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston. Tickets are \$9, senior citizens and students, \$8. Call (313) 782-5380.

■ Ballet, Electric Regional Dance Company, will present a winter concert 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 at Clarenceville High School Auditorium (Middlebelt between 7 and 8 Mile Road). The program

will feature the second act of "The Nutcracker," as well as dances to "Gershwin" and "Vivaldi." Guest performers are the Jazz Connection. Tickets are \$6 adults, senior citizens and students \$6. Call (313) 477-3830.

■ The Barbeque Man, 25413 Five Mile Road in Redford (313) 531-8522, is also offering turkey dinners to go — pick-up or delivery. Package 1 for \$48.95 includes a 12-14 pound fully cooked fresh turkey with fixings. Package 2, \$67.51 includes an 18-20 pound cooked fresh turkey with fixings.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Let's Got sections of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 953-3105, fax 691-7279. E-Mail keely@oconline.com or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

# Series features bluegrass band

Cultural Arts Division of Southfield Parks and Recreation presents the Clear Fork Bluegrass Band as part of its Concerts in the Garden Series 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20 in the Atrium of the 2000 building of the Prudential Town Center.

Tickets which include the concert and a continental breakfast at 10:30 a.m. are \$7.50. Tickets are available for the concert and coffee only at \$4. Call (810) 354-

4717. Clear Fork is one of the Great Lakes Region's premier Bluegrass bands. They have performed on Garrison Kellora's "American Radio Company." The band is made up of Denny Jones (fiddle and mandolin), Paul Kovac (guitar), Don Shean (banjo) and Bill Watts (bass).

The series continues Dec. 11 with a concert featuring Josh White Jr.

# Coffeehouses from page 1B

cup of coffee in a comfortable, unpretentious environment, try Cafe Bravo. Located below Goldsmith Galleries, this simple, quiet coffeehouse is a great place to read the paper or study. If coffee is not your cup of tea, try an Italian soda or frozen yogurt drink. Bravo also offers Granelli, a slushy drink in natural fruit flavors. There's folk music and classical guitar on weekends. No smoking. Handicapper accessible.

■ Grand Cafe, 33316 Grand River Ave., Farmington (810) 615-9181. Farmington's Grand Cafe combines simple, artful decor with quality food and coffee. Located on the basement level of the historic Cook building downtown, the Grand Cafe has an extensive menu of sandwiches, soups, pastries and muffins. The upper walls display various coffee-oriented slogans such as "No man is lonely while drinking coffee with his friends." They also display art, like Janine Larsen's renditions of classical American paintings redone with a coffee motif.

Live acoustic guitar music or jazz on weekends. No smoking. No handicapper accessible.

■ Starbucks Cafe in the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 6575 Telegraph, Bloomfield Township, (810) 540-4202. A good place for shoppers. Enjoy coffee with your new book or periodical. This little cafe brews up a fine cup of espresso or cappuccino, along with plenty of non-coffee drinks: hot milks, sodas, bottled water and juices. Try a cup of organically grown "Republic of Tea" or pastries from local bakers. No smoking. Barnes and Noble wants you to buy, not borrow, books and magazines before bringing them to the cafe.

■ The Coffee Exchange, 112 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham (810) 642-5560. Owners Namir Nadhir and Ed Miri must be doing something right. With a large selection of delicious specialty coffee and non-coffee drinks, Coffee Exchange stores have spread to West Bloomfield, Rochester Hills and, soon, Royal Oak. You can enjoy friendly, con-

sistent service and a clean, pleasant atmosphere. The Coffee Exchange offers a wide selection of soups, pastas, sandwiches and salads. Want a bean or a blend custom-roast? The Micro Roaster is right in front. For a boost, try the "Mother's Little Helper," a potent blend of three shots of espresso, blended with cocoa and steamed milk. No entertainment and no smoking.

■ Lonestar Cafe, 207 S. Woodward, Birmingham, (810) 642-CAFE. If you have trouble finding this little gem, look for the cylindrical Plexiglas door handles filled with coffee beans. Opened in February, the Lonestar offers quality coffee drinks in a comfortable, jazzy environment. Warmly decorated with mahogany and cherry wood, the Lonestar is set up almost like a private study or old library. There is live music Thursday to Sunday, including jazz, R&B and folk. No rock. No cover. Try the peanut hot chocolate or a glass of fresh cider from the Franklin Cider Mill. Smoking until 6 p.m.

■ Brazil, 305 S. Main St., Royal Oak, (810) 399-7200. For decor, Brazil stands out. Luxurious, white sofas line the large main wall that has murals of pastoral scenes of Brazil. Opposite the wall, a cement bar — custom poured and designed — serves an eclectic clientele, from businessmen in suits to punks in black leather. Grandmothers and teenagers sit smoking together, reading the paper, chatting or just enjoying the coffee. Brazil's atmosphere, delicious coffee and sandwiches and friendly service have made it popular in the area. Brazil offers a variety of live jazz, folk and classical entertainment. Psychic readings on Tuesdays for a small fee. Smoking.

■ Java Coffeehouse, 517 S. Washington, Royal Oak, (810) 547-9500. For an unpretentious, no-frills cafe, try Java. Modest and quiet, Java is an ideal place to read or study. Its many regular customers like the modest comfortable atmosphere and good coffee. Its new, larger downtown lo-

cation makes room for poetry readings, music and gallery openings. Seating outside. Smoking.

■ Gloria Jean's Coffee Bean, Fairlane Town Center, midlevel near Sak's Fifth Avenue, (313) 271-4955. Fairlane's well-known coffee house is a java-fanatic's paradise. Almost every kind of coffee paraphernalia is here, including coffee makers, mugs and mops. An "information video" that runs continuously tells the history of espresso and offers preparation tips. Formerly a beanery, Gloria Jean's offers upwards of 70 different beans in addition to its regular coffee menu. Special deals for regulars. No smoking.

■ Borders Espresso Bar, 5601 Mercury Drive, Dearborn, (313) 271-4441. Border's invites you to sip coffee, nibble on baklava as you decide whether or not to buy that book, magazine or newspaper. In this respect, Borders is unique among bookstore-cafes. Others require people to purchase books before sitting down with a

cup of coffee to peruse them. The cafe, which fits perfectly inside the bookstore, offers a decent coffee, non-coffee and pastry menu. President Clinton had a single cappuccino during his recent visit. Book signings and poetry readings but no smoking.

■ The Mad Hatter, 1024 Monroe, Dearborn, (313) 274-0000. With a variety of coffee drinks and Middle-Eastern/American food, the Mad Hatter is quickly establishing itself as Dearborn's coffee and food house. The crowd here is young, especially in the evenings when there is usually live entertainment. Unfortunately, there is often a cover charge for the music. In addition to regular hours, The Mad Hatter is open 1-4 a.m. for coffee drinkers 18 and older. The service is friendly and helpful. Weekly psychic readings. Sunday brunch available. Smoking. The bathrooms alone make a visit worthwhile.

Mark Fish is a metro-Detroit based free-lance writer.

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