

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater



Let's go Dining



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Let's go listen to Music



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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1995

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Martha Reeves will be 'Dancing' at Mercy High

Martha Reeves was in Farmington Hills Tuesday to rehearse with Mercy High School's Mercyralses for a benefit concert 2 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at Mercy's Rosemary Clooney Auditorium. A recent Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Reeves is best known for her classic Motown hit "Dancing in the Streets."

She will be joined in this special concert by the Honorable Myron H. Walls and his trio, and "Dr. Beans" Bonies who will direct the New Greystones Jazz Orchestra. The Mercyralses will join Martha, "Beans," and the jazz orchestra to musically salute Mercy High School's 50th anniversary.

Patron tickets, which include reserved seating and champagne afterglow are \$50 per person; reserved concert seating \$20 per person; general seating, \$10 per person. Call (810) 476-3270.

Farmington senior citizens will be honored as guests by the Farmington Community Band at a concert 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at Harrison High School, 12 Mile Road, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

"We feel it is our responsibility to share our talents and to provide a service to residents of neighboring nursing homes to enjoy a day out," said band business manager Ginny McDonald. "Nursing home residents are bused to the concert and given refreshments before and after the concert."

The annual event is a joint effort of many Farmington community groups, including the Farmington Area Arts Commission, public schools, and service groups working together to honor and transport senior citizens and disabled individuals to the concert.

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SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Corporate types: Erik Carlson (Gatch, left), Bob Smitham (Jenkins), and George Monticello (Finch, center) in a scene from "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

MUSICAL HAS SKYROCKET-BRIGHT MOMENTS

Moments to remember

Biggley and Finch having a ripping good time with the rousing "Grand Old Ivy," a hilarious paean to Biggley's alma mater. About a half-dozen cast members cracking up the audience with the zany, crazily costumed "Pirate Dance," an (almost) all-male chorus croaking what is perhaps the show's most genuinely funny moment with the toe-tapping "Brotherhood of Men." And finally, the grand finale, performed by the entire company with energy, enthusiasm and style is truly grand.

BY VICTORIA DIAZ
SPECIAL WRITER

Farmington Players are currently staging the Frank Loesser-Abe Burrows musical, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." The play, about a clever window washer who slithers his way to the top of the heap, was about as slick and splashy as they come when it debuted on Broadway in the early 1960s.

Thirty-plus years later, on stage at this relatively small theater, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" though not exactly dazzling, still has its skyrocket-bright moments.

As that ambitious window washer, J. Pierrepont Finch, the blue-eyed, carrot-topped George Monticello is a real charmer. He carries a large chunk of this production on his shoulders from curtain to curtain. Ultimately, it's not his spotty vocal or acting talents that see him through; rather, something like an innate sense of

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fun does the trick. Picture the devil cute, and you have a good idea of his scheming, conniving Finch. A sort of idiot's-delight smile he turns on the audience at certain moments is about the craziest thing you ever saw. But it never fails to work its goofy magic on playgoers.

Ralph Rosati makes his mark as the pretentious-but-wimpy J.B. Biggley, always suckered in by Finch's fast talk, and oily charm. Tim Belanger does a commendable job as the dorky Bud Frump, the nephew who's advancing his career by way of nepotism. (Nephew, nepotism — get it? This is about as sophisticated as the comedy gets in this aging musical.)

Cast in a minor role, Chick Fisher Twimble makes an important, fun-to-watch contribution. As

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ON-STAGE



"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"

Theater: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, (between Farmington Road and Orchard Lake Road), Farmington Hills.

Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thurs. Fri. & Sat., May 4-6; 7 p.m. Sun., May 7. Show closes May 20.

Tickets: \$10, call (810) 553-2955

Now showing

Dining
DePalma's in Livonia offers fine Italian cuisine and entertainment.

Theater
Check out Entertaining Choices to find out what's on stage in your community.

Movies
Don't hold your breath for Rudy Ray Moore and Jeff Jackson to apologize for their often controversial work.

Travel
Readers share "Wish You Were Here" pictures, and memories of vacations to places near and far away.

Music
Berley 80 when they formed eight years ago, members of Ned's Atomic Dustbin are just getting to know each other.

Looking ahead

What's on stage in your community.

John Monaghan returns home.

Attractive set, slick performances in thriller

BY MATTHEW DELEZENNE
SPECIAL WRITER

Plymouth Theatre Guild opened its production of Ira Levin's classic two-act thriller "Deathtrap" last weekend at the Water Tower Theatre in Northville, where an attractive set and some slick performances managed to carry a slightly inconsistent effort.

Set in 1946, the action takes place in the study of Sidney Bruhl's home in Westport, Conn., which is

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beautifully decorated in the period, lending an aesthetic quality throughout the play. Bruhl, played by James Dereniak, is a middle-aged author of murder mysteries for the stage who hasn't had a hit for years. He sustains himself with seminars and his wife's slowly depleting bank account — until he receives a script entitled "Deathtrap" from a young writer seeking his suggestions. Bruhl complains to his wife, Myra, that the script is a sure commercial success, something he wishes desperately to have himself. So desperately, in fact, that he wonders if he could kill for it.

Francis de Hachem, as Myra, seems able to convince Bruhl to collaborate with the aspiring playwright instead. The young man, Clifford Anderson is invited to the Bruhl home to discuss his play. From that point it is impossible to describe



Thriller: Sidney Bruhl (James W. Dereniak, left) examines a script written by Clifford Anderson (Bradd W. Szonye) in "Deathtrap."

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