Veteran players steal show in funny '70, Girls, 70'

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild presents "70, Girls, 70," 8 pm. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22, St. Dunstan's Theatre on Lone Pine Road (near Cranbrook Road), Bloomfield Hills Compli-mentary parking at Christ Church Cranbrook, shuttle ser-vice to theater. Tickets: \$15, stu-dents under 18 and seniors over 65, \$12; call (248) 644-0527.

BY BARBARA MICHALS

derella," the Kander and Ebb musical "70 Girls, 70" has a bejeweled fairy godmother turn a cranky group of senior citizens into a lively gang of fur thieves. The current production by St. Dunatan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook allows many veteran players to shine.

Cranbrook allows many veteran players to shine.

Ida (Fran Hayes), dripping fur and jowelry, returns to her old pals at a dowdy senior apartment building in Manhattan.
Having learned of a serious illness sometime back, she decided

to live her remaining life to the fullest and sort of foll into shoplifting. She proposes her friends join her in an expended operation, not only to enrich their own lives, but also to spift up the apartment building anopen it to homeless seniors.

While the show offers rich conic roles, the musical numbers are siller than the plet. Half the numbers have little or nothing to do with the story, and even the ones that do are not memorable

ones that do are not memorable despite the excellent skills of the

performers.
Hayee is full of gusto as Ida, so are co-stars William Everson as Harry, Barbara Brown as Gert, Margery Brooks as Eunice, and Don Schore as Walter. All are wonderfully funny and sing and dance with zest.

Also adding to the fun are Also adding to the tun are other senior players in support-ing roles - Lillian Hitchcock, Keith Lepard, Susic Raisch, Bet-sic Robinson. Al Rosic, Amolia Duke, Robert Raisch, and Irving

Ruben.

Among the younger generation, Krystyn Irvine and Kimberly Brown sing up a storm as the friendly cafe wnitresses who also join the gang of thieves. Pamela Richards, artificially gad as a grandmether, is a comic treat whenever sho's on stage, and Jeff Drewno is very likable as the accommodating doorman Eddie.

THEATER

Together they're a knock-out in "Go Visit Your Grandmother," with Richards' lively dancing enhancing Drewno's outstanding

voice.
Undoubtedly, the funniest scene is when the gang decides to "play old" when questioned by

ing antica vory recognizably true-to-life.

Music director Barbara Anne Gowana, stage director Laura Raisch and her assistant John Irvine, and chreegrapher Roberta Campion assisted by Victoria Costantini cannot be faulted; they do the most with essentially weak material.

Unfortunately, at last Saturday night's performance the age of the star players was made all too believable by the many line fluba. A few missed lighting cues and a loud snoke alarm set off by a very small on-stage explosion also showed a need for more polish.

Minimum donation: 85 Mon-Thurs. 87 Fri.-Sun.

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Millennium to present 'Fantastick' show

The Millennium Centre opens its 1997-98 season Friday, Nov. 21 with "The Fantasticks," which continues through Nov. 23. Chris Guyotte, artistic director at The Millennium Centre said "The Fantasticks is a fabulous show, it's the longest running production in the history of theater. Now in its 37th year at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York City, "The Fantasticks" offers an evening of music,

New York City, The Fantasticks-offers an evening of music, drama and laughter. Guyotte said the story has appeal for everyone. "It's the story of parents wondering how their children turned out so dif-ferent from their expectations, to children trying to make their

ΨTh.

"The Fantasticks"
When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23.
Where: At the Millennium Centre, 15600 J.L. Hudsen Drive, Suntifield.
Tickets: Reserved tickets \$10 and \$12, groups of 20 or more can purchase tickets at \$9. Dinner and show ticket available from The Millennium Centre box office for \$20. Patrons will enjoy a family style buffet at the Stockyard Restaurant, and then see The Fantasticks' at the Millennium Centre. Call the box office (248) 552-1225 or Ticketmøster (248) 645-6866. For information, call (248) 552-7000.

own mark on the world, and neighbors working together to cachieve their goals."

"It's a beautiful story, and so word for young people," said

Guyotte.
Upcoming events include the
Gemini Heliday Family Concerts
11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday,
Dec. 6 and "The Brementown
Musicians" in March.

On Jan. 16 the Millennium Centre will hold open auditions for youthe ages 13-18 to join 'Tho New Millennium,' a resi-dent youth theatre company ded-icated to exposing area youth to all elements of theater and the arts from technical to perfor-mance.'

mance."
"If you start exposing young-sters to theater now, we will have an educated audience later on," said Guyotte.

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Troy Players introduce audiences to 'The Foreigner'

Troy Players presents "The Foreigner" 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22 and 2 p.m. Sudday, Nov. 32 at the Hunter Community Center, 509 Fisher Ct.
(east of Livernois) in Clawson.
Tickets are \$8 general, \$7 for
senior citizens and children.
Information: (248) 879-1285.
BY JON KAT.
SPECIAL WAITER

Charlie has a terminal case of shyness. By pretending not to be able to speak English, he doesn't have to talk. But oh, the things he hears!

he hears!

And with that, with Larry
Shue's popular comedy, the Foreigner, Troy Players kicks off a
new season in a new, temporary new season in a new, temporary tome. Theatergoers loyal to the Troy group are urged to continue their support by driving two miles south to Clawson's Hunter Community Center.

A small crowd encouraged the cast through opening night, which included an actor's unscripted tantrum that we'll get to later.

unserpted taurum that we get to later.

But first, back to the very strenge plot. Good old Charlie has accompanied his buddy, a British Staff Sorgeant nicknamed "Froggy," to the backwoods of Gorgia. There, Froggy, a munitions expert, is participating in some army moneuver that we didn't quite get, but it really

doesn't matter. While Proggy's off blowing things up. Charlie's stuck at a bed and breakfast with an assortment of Southern disconforts.

Charlie, as noted, is unable to deal with people (Tve often wondered how does one acquire a personality?). By passing himself off as The Foreigner, maybe he can survive the three-day ordeal except that there-day ordeal except

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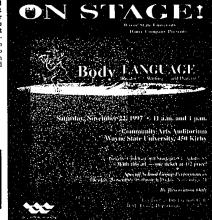
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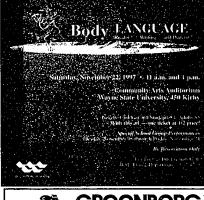
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he "gits" his due. Kerry Plague's Reverend David shrieks a let, and we're not sure why Mary Hyde's Catherine is so ornery. Maybe it's the shricking.

That tentrum we mentioned was thrown by Jason Groh, as Froggy. Fearing off his stage mustache for no reason apparent to the audience, he preclaimed in character "I hate these things" and proceeded to ad lib about it twice more before picking the mustache up off the floor and exiting. It wasn't funny. It wasn't clever. And it threw off the other actors. On the one hand, that's live theater: the actors are out there on the edge, and every performance is different. On the other hand, director Rob Chrenko has hopefully taken this actor out to the woodshed for a Southern-style talking-to.

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