

THEATER

Talented cast keeps 'A Delicate Balance'

Editor's Note: "A Delicate Balance," was presented March 13-14 and March 20-21 at St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild. St. Dunstan's next production is "Into the Woods" music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by James Lapine. Performances are 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, June 5-6, and 12-13; and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 7 in the outdoor Greek theater on the grounds of Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 644-0527. BY BARBARA MICHAELS SPECIAL WRITER

According to playwright Edward Albee, each of us journeys through life with our own baggage—fears and secrets that force us into a struggle to maintain "a delicate balance" that will preserve our sanity and ability to function in relationships. That's the gist of "A Delicate Balance," presented by St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook. Their highly talented cast did a fine job of holding the audience's interest through a very difficult and talky drama.

Joyce Morehouse gives depth

to Agnes, the middle-aged wife fascinated by the question of how will she know if she tips into insanity. Worn out by the demands of keeping up a pretense of family normalcy, Agnes decides it's time for her husband Tobias (Ed Guest) to rise to the current family crisis.

That crisis revolves around daughter Julie (Kathryn Brech-Raft) returning home after the failure of her fourth short-term marriage while close family friends Edna (Marlene Loucks) and Harry (Francis Loud) have just moved in uninvited. Add to that Agnes's rapidly deteriorating relationship with her alcoholic sister Clair (Marcia Kahn) for a portrait of a very dysfunctional family.

As Tobias, Guest is convincing as the laid-back, smiling husband of the opening scene progresses to a helpless, stuttering rage, then finally does assert himself. That stutter is performed so adeptly that it could initially be mistaken for line flubs.

Likewise, Brech-Raft is totally believable in the hysterical,

sobbing rage her difficult role requires. Loucks and Loud are also highly credible as the two lost souls who suddenly flee their own home because of some nameless, all-encompassing fear. Louks' Edna is so meek that it is startling when she does speak out.

Kahn is excellent as Claire, the perpetual sideline observer who gets a good portion of Albee's witty lines. Despite her booziness, she's the character with the clearest insight into herself and the others.

Under the able direction of Paul Gillin and his assistant Laura Diane Jorrell, the St. Dunstan's players bring their characters to life and shine some light on typical Albee murkiness.

With all the prop alcohol consumed on stage, the two intermissions benefit the actors as well as breaking the heavy dramatic load into more digestible pieces for viewers. Dressing the props people in maid uniforms in a nice touch, and Tom Peterson's good light cues also enhance.

Players erase 'Hands of Time'

The Heart of the Hills Players will be having their initial get together in connection with the spring follies, "Hands of Time" 10 a.m. Monday, March 23 and 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 at the Older Persons Center, 312 Woodward Street, Rochester.

All seniors are welcome. If you are interested in joining an enjoyable activity that keeps you young then take advantage of this opportunity to become part of the Heart of the Hills Players. No one will be turned away. There is an ongoing need for

new members to be on stage, or working in the construction or setting of the stage. Also needed are a piano player, drummer and costume makers. "Hands of Time" will be performed in early May. For more information, call (810) 371-4334.

ART BEAT

NEW YORK AUCTION AT TOWNSEND HOTEL

Dyansen and Merrill Chase Galleries of New York City will conduct a fine-art auction in Birmingham 6:30, Friday, April 3 at the Townsend Hotel.

Among the pieces of art to be auctioned will be works by Robert Kipnis, Harold Altman, Thomas McKnight and prints by Miro, Chagall, Picasso, Lautree and Dalí.

The Townsend Hotel is located

at 100 Townsend Street, downtown Birmingham. For auction catalog, call (800) 234-3504.

MUSEUM SPACE AVAILABLE

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Pontiac will make available its gallery space to any artist for its upcoming "Documenta USA" exhibit, billed as a moment of "World fame."

The gallery has invited artists to exhibit a single work in any medium on a walk-in basis.

MCA is located at 23 W. Lawrence Street, Pontiac, (248) 334-6038.

DIRECTORY OF MICHIGAN ARTISTS

An updated 1998 listing of artists is now being compiled. Prerequisites included artists who have work in museums, permanent collections, galleries, juried art shows, or art competition award winners. The 1997 edition, "Directory of Michigan Artists," is available at libraries or call (517) 544-2455. Cost \$25



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Medicare Blue Educational Seminars

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Thursday, March 26
Thursday, April 9
2 p.m. at Bill Knapp's
3900 Telegraph Rd.
Farmington Hills
Thursday, April 2
9:30 a.m. at Bill Knapp's
36650 Grand River Ave.
Thursday, April 2 – 2 p.m.
at Bill Knapp's
27925 Orchard Lk. Rd.

Livonia
Wednesday, April 1
9:30 a.m. at Bill Knapp's
16995 S. Laurel Park Dr.

Rochester Hills
Wednesday, March 25
Wednesday, April 8
2 p.m. at Bill Knapp's
3010 W. Walton Blvd.

Southfield
Wednesday, March 25
9:30 a.m. at Big Boy's
25555 Grodan

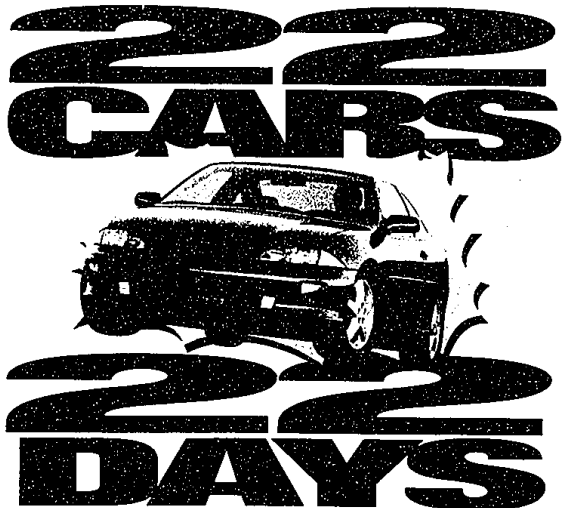
South Livonia
Wednesday, April 1
2 p.m. at Bill Knapp's
32955 Plymouth Rd.

Troy
Wednesday, March 25
Wednesday, April 8
9:30 a.m. at Bill Knapp's
2078 E. Big Beaver Rd.



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