# Meadow Brook's obsession with playing it safe

"Dangerous Obsession," a psy-chological thriller runs through Su. day, Jan. 30 at Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland Univer-sity cumpus, Rochester Hills Per-formances Wednesday-Sunday, curtain times vary, Tichets \$19.50-35, call (248) 377-3300, or Ticketmaster (248) 646-6668.

### BY FRANK PROVENZANO STAFF WRITER

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The most telling feature of 'Dangerous Obsession' at Mead-aw Brook Theatre is that the on-stage drama doesn't attract the slightest interest until the unin-vited house guest pulls out a

handgun. He points it to force confessions and to demand nothing less than the truth from his unsuspecting hosts — or clse. (No need to point the gun at a critic.)

That gun-toting premise, by the way, can be found in easy formulas for television dramas and insipid scap operas. Need a boost of dramatic urgency? Point a gun. Not exactly an original idea. And unfortunately, that bit of dramatic trickery comes at the end of the interminable first act, whereby the only anticipation is how many alcoholic draints can be imbibed by the cast before intermission.

Once it's clear that the visitor,

### REVIEW

John Barrett (Robert Morgan).

John Barrett (Robert Morgan), has arrived with a mission to confront the couple who he and his wife met at a business conference, the road a head is painfully predictable.

Barrett is an annoying inquisitor searching for answers about the relationship between Mark Driscoll (John Biedenbach) and his own wife. The screet utma as it's revealed that Barrett's wife was in a "tragic" car accident. Who's to blame? Where's justice to be found? And for that matter, where was Mark Driscoll on that

fateful night?

Darrett has his own ideas. He has arrived carrying a briefcase filled with bits of evidence to prove his case. Of course, he enforces his right to make a case by shooting off his gun every now and then and holding the Driscolls hostage to his plan. Barrett's intention straddles the line between an obsension and self-rightousness, but is never altogether believable.

Meanwhile, Mark and Sally Driscoll (Tracey Copeland) are coaxed into discussing their own tenuous bonds of marriage. And soon, it's their own relationship that's on trial. The notion of

mutual trust has long been discarded.

But can the truth save them or bring on their demise? Never mind any statement about love, suspicion and the human condition. This play's resolution is something borrowed from a poll taken at a dinner theater production.

Dressed up as a domestic play about revenge and a psychological thriller, ultimately "Dangerous Obsession" suffers from a lack of plaubibility.

The problems aren't with the production or the acting, but with N.J. Crisp's script filled with one too many cute and

## from page E1

Lisa Andres of Livonia plays
Rose Alvares, the leading female
role, while her daughter, Brooke,
is cast as Kim MecAfee. Stephen
Sell of West Bloomfield stars as
Kimis dad, Harry MacAfee.
Stephanie Travis of Southfield
is in the teen chorus. Children's
chorus members include Kandace Carr, Tabetha Tybercza and
Darlene Vangel of Redford, and
Kelsey Stewart of Westland.

"Bye, Bye Birdic" opened on
Broadway on April 14, 1960. The
music was written by Charles
Strouse. Lyrics are by Lee
Adama, the book is by Michael
Stowart. The show ran for 607
performances on Broadway.

Here are some other family
shows that are now playing at
roctro Detroit theaters:
"Annie Jr." is presented by
Tinderbox Productions, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jon. 15, 22, 29, and 2
plm. Sunday, Jan. 16, 23, 30, at the
Spottish Rite Cathedral Theater.

M 'Bye, Bye Birdie' opened on Broadway on April 14, 1960. The music was written by Charles Strouse, Lyrics are by Lee Adams, the book is by Michael Stewart. The show ran

Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. Tickets are \$5. Cali (313) 535-8962.

for 607 performances on Broadway

ues at the Marquis Theatre, 135
E. Main, downtown Northville,
through Sunday, Jan. 16. Tickets
are \$7. Call (248) 349-8110 for
show times.

# Good or bad, art is always in the eye of the beholder You've heard the expression, and maybe even used it. "I may not know every-thing about art, but I know what I like."



Traditionally.

it has been uttered as a

Ann politic way to the total as a politic way to suggest that a particular work is unappealing and devoid from earing. In recent years, the expression seems to have evolved a bit. Now it's more like: "Get that worthless piece of trash out here." Diplomacy and -ivility just may be a vanishing art. That's why "Art, "Aremina Reca's Tony Award winning comody, is a play for the times. The clash between modern art and old-fashioned friendship is so contentious that it presents a

challinge to the actors to preserve the story's comedic intent. The current production, which runs through Jan. 30 at the Fisher Theatre, stars Judd Hirsch, Cotter Smith and Jack Willis. The furor in "Art: is over the value of an expensive piece of modern art that Hirsch considers just a waste of white on canvas. If that backdrap seems a bit tepid for such heat between the two, remember how Detroit got so piqued about pella dotb.

In the next edition of Detroit Public TVB BACKSTAGE PASS, airing at 7:30 pm. Sunday, Jon. 16, aeries producer Mark Nathanson provides a behind-he-acenes look at the production with Cotter Smith and Jack Willis.

Debate

The value of art is rarely a consensus, whether it's exhibited in a museum, gallery, or on a Detroit Public TV arts series.

Even though some of the Detroit area's most knowledgeable observers of the arts scene help select the attractions to be featured on BACKSTAGE PASS, there's often what I like to call a healthy debate about the segments used.

I'm sure there was a time when purists questioned the value of photographs as an art form. The new techniques and powerful works of photographers throughout the 1900s squelched that notion.

Among them is Sandy Skoglund, featured in Life magazine as one of the world's top 100 photographers. The fact that she is also internationally known for her sculptures, installation pieces, and work in alternative media is further evidence of her stunning versatility in creative expression. Skoglund's work is being exhibited through Fab. 4 at the Elsine L. Jacob Gallery on the campus of Wayne State Uni-

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