

'Zoo Story' Is Well Told

By BETTY MASSON

Wallace F. Smith's Jerry in Edward Albee's macabre little piece, "The Zoo Story," received an enthusiastic ovation in his opening night performance Friday at Oakland Community College.

"The Zoo Story" is one of three one-act plays being played every Friday evening through Aug. 6 at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington.

Labeled "An Encounter in Communication," the one-acts also include "Sarah and the Sax" and "Interview."

SMITH was ably supported in his portrayal of a paranoiac youth by Mack Palmer as Peter, the staid, older man, whose security is so threatened by the unloved and unlovely Peter.

A much more human and humane drama is "Sarah and the Sax," the way tender, often-humorous story of an encounter between a lonely Jewish mother and a Negro orphan. Beverly Markowitz, who portrays Sarah, turns in a

credible performance, as does Raymond Adams as the Sax, although Adams sometimes speaks a little too quickly to be clearly understood.

THIS TOO WAS a problem with the first play "Interview," by Jean-Claude van Itallie. Although the timing in this weird little expose on an employment office was excellent, the speeches were sometimes delivered too quickly to be understood.

Appearing in this play were OCC students Fran Goldberg, James Wideman, Mary Shoemaker, Guy Verzyer, Laurie Thurlow, Thom Millman, Brian Krist, and Mike Sutherland.

If you can find your way there, we recommend the three one-acts at OCC. Performances are given in Room 303, J Building (up one flight), at 8:30 each Friday evening.

The way might be marked a little better, and the chairs could use a little more padding, but you do meet some interesting characters in these three plays.



WALLACE SMITH plays the part of Jerry, the mixed-up youth, in Edward Albee's play "The Zoo Story," currently being staged at Farmington's Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. Friday night performances are set through Aug. 8. (Evert photo)

Livonia Girls Study Ballet At Conference

Four Livonia girls are participating in the Cecchetti Ballet Conference being held at Michigan State University through July 17.

Deborah Endicott, Elizabeth Ferguson, LaDonna Riddington, and Karen Steadman are attending the conference.

A total of 170 students from 10 states and Washington, D.C., are receiving instruction from a roster of outstanding ballet teachers from three nations. Fredbjorn Bjornsson and Kirsten Ralov of the Royal Danish Ballet from Copenhagen, and Patricia Hardy of London are among the teachers.

The conference and an accompanying seminar for ballet teachers are sponsored by the Cecchetti Council of America and the MSU College of Education and Continuing Education Service.

Stages Comedy

The Macomb Theatre at-the-Barn will present Norman Kraska's "Sunday In New York" at 8 p.m. July 16, 17, and 18 and again July 23, 24, and 25 as its second production of the 1971 summer comedy season.

The theatre is located at Hall Road (M-59) at Garfield, west of the Utica exit off I-94.

Hilberry Players Open 'Man For All Seasons'

"A Man For All Seasons," Robert Bolt's prize-winning drama and long-run London-New York success, opens the evening repertory schedule at the Hilberry Summer Theatre Festival on Wednesday, July 14, at 8:30.

Performed by the Hilberry's graduate repertory company, "A Man For All Seasons" will play nightly during the first week, July 14 through 17, at 8:30. On July 21 it will be joined by Tom Stoppard's comedy, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead." The two will alternate Wednesday through Saturday evenings through Aug. 14, at the theatre, located at Cass and Hancock.

"A Man For All Seasons" was first presented at the Globe Theatre, London, July 1, 1960, with Paul Scofield in the leading role of Sir Thomas More. Long runs followed in both London and New York, and the play was later made into a film, also with Scofield.

THE PLAY DEALS with More's years as Lord Chancellor of England and his conflict with Henry VIII over the King's defiance of the Pope and creation of the Church of England under his own spiritual leadership.

The Hilberry cast is headed by Howard Jensen as Sir Thomas More. Jensen has played a number of prominent roles here, including Cassius in "Julius Caesar," de Guiche in "Cyrano de Bergerac," Peter Stockmann in "An Enemy of the People" and Sparkish in "The Country Wife."

Other principal roles are played by Thomas B. Hill, Michael Andrew Miner, John H. Napierla, Mary Benson, Barbara Ball, James S. Newell, James Corrigan and David F. MacEnully.

THE PRODUCTION is directed by Don Blakely, who directed the Hilberry

productions of "The Unknown Soldier and His Wife" and "An Enemy of the People." Scenic design is by Russell Paquette, costumes by Vic Leverett and lighting by Gary M. Witt.

The festival also includes 130 children's matinees of the Festival Black Theatre Company's production of "How the Snake Got His Rattles" and the Hilberry Repertory Company's production of "Androcles and the Lion," alternating Tuesdays through Fridays through Aug. 6.

Tickets are on sale at the theatre Box Office in the Hilberry lobby, and at J.L. Hudson ticket offices.

At Kansas Music Camp

Four local students are among the 552 high school youths from 39 states attending the music division of the Midwestern Music and Art Camp at the University of Kansas until July 25.

Michael Beale, of Farmington is playing the French horn in the Blue Band and Concert Orchestra. Also from Farmington, Mary Stenberg is playing violin in the symphony orchestra and singing alto in the chamber choir.

Charles Wells is playing the string bass in the symphony. He is from Plymouth.

The students auditioned to place in the training sessions for band, orchestra and choir.

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