

Gala Opening Of Power Center Set For Oct. 5

ANN ARBOR The inaugural attraction of the new Power Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Michigan will be a production of the world premiere of a new musical, "The Grass Harp."

Mail orders for the event are now being taken at the Professional Theatre Program ticket office in Mendelssohn Theatre lobby.

Based on Truman Capote's novel, "Harp" will be staged by the Professional Theatre Program.

Broadway stars Celeste Holm, Barbara Cook, Muriel Smith and Ruth Ford head the cast, under the direction of Ellis Rabb. Max Showalter, Wesley Addy and Russ Thacker will also appear in major roles.

On Opening night, Oct. 5, U.M. President Robben W. Fleming will officially dedicate the \$3.5 million theatre which seats 1,420.

Honorary degrees will be conferred upon a roster of distinguished drama, music and dance leaders prior to the premiere.

Following the Ann Arbor opening, "The Grass Harp" is due at the Martin Beck Theatre on Broadway.

Music for the production is being created by Claire Richardson, book and lyrics by Kenward Elmslie, setting and lighting by James Tilton, costumes by Nancy Potts.

dances by Rhoda Levine, orchestration by William VerPlanck, conducted by Theodore Saldenberg.

CELESTE HOLM came to fame in "Oklahoma" and recently starred in "Mame" in Detroit's Fisher Theatre.

Barbara Cook made her Broadway starring debut opposite Robert Preston in "The Music Man." Muriel Smith created the original "Carmen Jones" on Broadway and has since been singing in major European opera houses. Ruth Ford is one of Broadway's most versatile leading ladies.

Ellis Rabb, artistic director of the APA, created such memorable hits as "You Can't Take It With You," "Harvey," "Private Lives" and others which proceeded successfully from Ann Arbor to New York, as "The Grass Harp" is expected to do.

The Power Center was launched with a \$3 million gift from the family of Eugene B. Power, chairman of the board of University Microfilms, a Xerox division. The new playhouse will have an advanced lighting system and its stage is convertible from proscenium to thrust, new "thrust" staging style. Its promenade lobby is faced with reflecting glass which mirrors Felch Park and features twin glass-enclosed spiral staircases.

Casting Call

Auditions for the Wayne Civic Player's production of "Flowers for Algernon" will be held at 8 p.m., Sept. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 and 10 at 1330-40 Harvey Street, Westland. The play will be performed in October.

THE MACOMB THEATRE At-the-Barn of Macomb Community College will hold auditions for its fall drama production Sept. 1 and 2 from 7 to 10 p.m.

The auditions for the 1959 Pulitzer prize-winning play, "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish, will be held in the Barn Theatre, Hall Rd. (M-59) at Garfield, five minutes west of the Utica exit from I-94. Performances are scheduled for the first two weekends in October.



BEHIND THE SCENES of the cultural events at Schoolcraft College are students and faculty members including Linda Trujillo, president of the Student Activities Board, and Patrick Newman, chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee and Student activities advisor. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Programmers Measure Success By Efficiency

By KATHY MORAN

IT'S NEWMAN'S business to see that the cultural affairs planned for the college come off smoothly and that basic concerns, such as ordering the tickets, aren't forgotten.

He heads both of the groups that bring programs to the college.

The cultural and public affairs committee, consisting of faculty and students, develops a program of concerts, films, and discussions with the intention of scheduling "something for everybody" during the year.

The Student Activities Board also attempts to bring in a variety of entertainment.

And the total process of programming is considered highly educational from where Newman looks at it.

"THE PROCESS develops some abilities and talents in students and trains community leaders in terms of many other things," Newman said.

After all, the students learn to work with agencies, plan programs with more than their own age group in mind, and live within a tight budget.

And the planning has to include the finer points such as making sure the speaker or entertainer has transportation to the college and accommodations for the night if necessary.

"Those students are engaged in something totally different," Newman said about the programming. "If they do it well or make mistakes they are benefiting by the experience."

A timetable drawn up by Newman includes all the facets of scheduling the room, date, ticket prices, tickets and advertising besides getting the act.

The checklist also includes the easily-forgotten post-performance thank-yous and final accounting plus an optional "take 10 days to Tahiti to recover."

NEWMAN'S PRIOR experience at Lorain College in Lorain, Ohio, before joining Schoolcraft last fall prepared him for the quick eye and conniving mind that has helped Schoolcraft get such top-rate entertainment as the rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Newman knew the group was going to be in the state and made its managers a low offer if they wanted to give an extra performance between higher paying bookings.

The wheels started grinding and chaffed led to luck and Schoolcraft ended up as one of the few colleges to book the opera before it was stopped by a court injunction.

Cooking for the coming school year is a four-day symposium on sex with Dr. Earl Marsh, noted gynecologist, obstetrician, and psychiatrist.

Variety is the word for such appearances as Robert Morman, former associate of Timothy Leary; Michael Lorimer, classical guitarist; Sen. John Tower (R-Texas); astronomer Sir Bernard Lovell; and star maestro Debut planned for the coming year.

And with Newman at the helm, the performances should be without a snag.

Amusements

Film Course To Be Offered At OCC

"Theater 190: Introduction to the Film" is the title of a new course being offered this fall at the Orchard Ridge Theatre Department of Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington.

The film course will be offered on Thursday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m., as well as Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. It will be taught by Dr. Dan Greenberg, chairman of the department.

The course may also be elected for humanities credit as Humanities 190.

THE CLASS WILL deal with major film types, silent comedy, western, spectacle, mystery, spy, musical and drama, as well as considering the film as an art form.

It will include lectures and screening of feature films as the basis for class discussion of motion picture techniques, principles, esthetic values and history.

FILMS TO BE shown include Eisenstein's "Potemkin," Charlie Chaplin in "The Gold Rush," Ingrid Bergman in "Spellbound" and Lon Chaney in the 1922 classic production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The fall semester of the Orchard Ridge Campus of OCC begins Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 8 a.m. Registration for this course as well as for hundreds of others being offered this fall begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31, and runs until 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 3. Evening registration is from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 31, Sept. 1 and Sept. 2.

Entries Sought For Dog Show

Entries close Sept. 7, at 8 p.m., for the annual specialty (German shepherds only) obedience trial to be held Sunday, Sept. 19. The trial will be held at 3175 Grand River Farmington, under the auspices of the Detroit German Shepherd Dog Obedience Club, Inc.

Entries must be made with Mrs. Thelma L. Gothan, 12293 Ward, Detroit, 48227.

For premium lists, contact Mrs. Graham.

The club has held obedience training classes in Farmington for the past 10 years.

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MURPHY'S WAR — Peter O'Toole stars in English-made old-style adventure of one man's war. (GP, none).

CARNAL KNOWLEDGE — A Jules Feiffer - Mike Nichols movie about two men's lives and feelings about women. With Jack Nicholson and Candice Bergen. (R, none).

VANISHING POINT — Barry Newman and his car try to outrun the police of three states, meeting some interesting characters en route. Good direction. (GP, B).

ON ANY SUNDAY — This film deals with people who race motorcycles on Sunday afternoons. Tells of two participants and their travels. (GP, none).

KLUTE — An adult mystery, with Donald Sutherland as a detective and Jane Fonda as a call girl. (G, none).

SUMMER OF '42 — A nostalgic recollection by a grown man of the summer he was 15. Gary Grimes, Jerry Houser and Oliver Conant play boyhood pals at the Cape. (R, A-4).

BILLY JACK — Produced by the National Student Film Corp., the film deals with the mistreated American Indians and troubled youths. (GP, B).

THE RED TENT — An Italo-Russian film about the ill-fated expedition to the Arctic in a dirigible in 1928. (G, None).

HOUSE OF DARK SHADOWS — The gory horror movie deals with a family of vampires and with a man seeking his long lost bride. (GP, A-3).

BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID — Paul Newman plays the legendary Butch Cassidy in a humorous account of his exploits. (GP, A-3).

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"KLUTE" (R)