



THE WAYNE-WESTLAND Civic Theater will take part in the Detroit Community Theater Association Festival March 13-18. Appearing in the cast of the comedy "Adaptation" are (from

left, back row) Al LaCroix, Marilyn Moorehead, Larry Lawrence and Ed Moorehead. Director Rosemary Moorehead is seated in front with cast member Russ Vogel.

## He'll Get 2 Chances To Win

By BETTY MASSON

George Peppard and Julie Harris will not be acting in the 1972 Metropolitan Detroit Community Theater Festival this week, but a few years ago they might have been, according to festival chairman Shirley Harbin.

Peppard once acted with the Dearborn Players and Miss Harris with the Grosse Pointe Theater.

With two theater groups competing, Observerland has many possibilities for acting honors. It also has one actor who will be competing twice.

RUSS VOGEL of Livonia is appearing in the Wayne-Westland Civic Theater's production of the comedy, "Adaptation," Saturday evening (March 18). In it, he plays "The Contestant in a 'this-is-your-life' type of show. Vogel describes it as a play "which pokes fun at everything and everybody."

March 16, he dons another hat and another personality, when he appears as King Henry II's favorite but rather dull son, John, in the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild's dramatic comedy, "The Lion in Winter."

Vogel, who graduated from Franklin High School last year, is a multi-talented youth who is planning a career in front of the footlights and behind a camera.



RUSS VOGEL of Livonia will be competing twice in the 1972 Metropolitan Detroit Community Theater Festival.

With help and encouragement from his stepfather, he's been laying the foundations for the future, including doing some acting on local television and writing a play. Unlike many parents, who would have some qualms about a stage career, Vogel's family is heartily in favor of it.

Maybe this is because Vogel's stepfather is band-leader Lennie Schick, a long-

time favorite in night clubs. VOGEL'S PLANS for the immediate future include mounting his original children's play, "Guess Who We're Having for Dinner?" and touring it in local schools. According to Vogel, the play is a "free-wheeling" fantasy, loosely based on the story of Hansel and Gretel. He also hopes to get it produced on television.

Vogel wants to study cinematography, and eventually produce children's shows for network television. He'd like to aim them at what he calls "a neglected group," children between the ages of eight and 14. According to him, small children have "Sesame Street," and the over-15s can watch adult programs, but there's nothing for this age group.

As far as his acting career is concerned, he would "rather do stage than TV. I like playing around with audiences, especially audiences at children's shows."

He most recently appeared in the Wayne-Westland production of the children's play "Many Moons," and two years ago, he was in the LRTG's "Sleeping Beauty."

Some time this year, Vogel is planning to go to New York City. Whether or not he comes home from the festival with an award, his Detroit experience should be a help when he starts his tour of casting offices.

And maybe in 10 years the festival chairman will announce "Russ Vogel will not be acting in this year's festival, but a few years ago he was..."

## In Theater Festival They'll Try For \$1,600

Two Observerland theater groups are putting finishing touches on productions this week, hoping to bring home some \$1,600 in prize money from Detroit.

Both the Wayne-Westland Civic Theater and the Livonia-Redford Theater Guild will be in the Metropolitan Detroit Community Theater Festival running March 13-18 in the Detroit Institute of Arts Auditorium, 5200 Woodward. Twelve metropolitan area theater groups will compete, two each evening beginning at 7:30.

Both will be eligible for a \$1,000 prize for the best production, \$200 for the best director, \$200 for the best supporting performance and \$200 for the best lead. However, neither will be eligible for a \$500 prize for the best original play.

THE LRTG will present scenes from its hit production of "The Lion in Winter," on Thursday, March 16, with Moya Taormina and Howard Egan in starring roles. High hopes are riding on Egan as Henry II. In 1961 he was chosen best actor in the 1961 Detroit-Windsor Theater Council Contest, the last competition of this sort until now. Also in the cast are Kati Beddow, Warren Reinecker, Russ Vogel, J. Craig Collicott and Hamilton Aldridge Jr. Mary Ann Vosgerchian is the director.

The Wayne-Westland group is presenting "Adaptation," a one-act comedy by Elaine May on Saturday, March 18. Directed by Rosemary Moorehead, the cast includes Ed Moorehead, Russ Vogel, Carol Katz, Al LaCroix, Larry

Lawrence and Marilyn Moorehead.

Tickets may be purchased at the institute ticket office, Hudson's or from representatives of performing theaters. They are \$2.50 or \$3.50 per performance or \$15 for the series. The LRTG has hired a bus to take its fans to the performance of "Lion." A few places are still available, and the bus leaves from the Livonia Mall parking lot Northwest corner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. For reservations call Mrs. E. J. O'Connell, 29639 Robert, Livonia.

THE SCHEDULE for the contest is as follows:  
Monday, March 13—Scenes

from "Oliver," The Moving Company (Troy and Northern suburbs, "Play It Again Sam," Southgate Community Theater.

Tuesday, March 14—"Death Rehearsal," Drama Outlet, Detroit. "I'll Be Home for Christmas," Wyandotte Community Theater.

Wednesday, March 15—"A Thin Line," Players Guild of Dearborn. One act from "Plaza Suite," Stagecrafters, Clawson.

Thursday, March 16—"A Walk in a Dark Place," Warren Theater Guild. Scenes from "A Lion in Winter," LRTG.

Friday, March 17—"Sermon of Man," Peddy's Players, Detroit. Scenes from "Light Up the Sky," Grosse Pointe Theater.

Saturday, March 18—"Duett," Robert Riley's Theater in the Black. "Adaptation," Wayne-Westland Civic Theater.

## amusements



MOYA TAORMINA plays a leading role in the Livonia - Redford Theater Guild's entry in the competition. She's shown with her three stage sons (from left) - J. Craig Collicott, Russ Vogel and Warren Reinecker.

## Art Sale Is Planned

An exhibition and sale of original art prints will be sponsored by Madonna College, 3600 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Tuesday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Original etchings, woodcuts and lithographs by contemporary artists will be available at reasonable prices. Among the artists represented are Picasso, Goya, Baskin, Anuszkiewicz, Daumier, Kollwitz and many more. Sister Angeline is in charge of arrangements, and a representative of the Ferdinand Roten Galleries will be at the exhibit.

## Women Artists Have Exhibit

Several Observerland artists have their paintings on exhibit in the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Their works are part of the 67th annual exhibition of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, running through March 17. The artists include Mrs. Dorothy Preston of Farmington, and Mrs. Alexandra Beauregard - Bazou, Mrs. Joyce Robinson and Mrs. Sylvia Chover of Southfield.

The society is the oldest painting and sculpture group in the Midwest. In the past 25 years, it has given scholarships to 30 women art students at Wayne State University.

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DICK BENSEK

Unable to attend cooking school in Boston, Fannie Merritt Farmer, a truly great cook, thumbed through cookbooks and tried her hand at recipe creation, wheeling her invalid's chair from one side of the kitchen to the other. She made accurate measurements in standard sized cups for the first time in cooking history. She adapted recipes from the master cooks and did away with expressions such as "one heaping teaspoonful." No one before Fannie Farmer had succeeded in making recipes so foolproof for the novice. Before her death, Fannie Farmer's cookbook had gone into twenty-one editions.

Truly great food can be found at DANISH INN, 32305 Grand River Ave., 476-5320. Four of our favorite entrees are: Dover Sole with Almondine, Viking Sword, Prime Rib of Beef and Danish Inn Special, Frikadeller. We also feature a number of other Danish Dishes as well as a complete regular menu. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. with dinners during the week until 10 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. until 1 a.m.

HELPFUL HINT: When defrosting your refrigerator, fill it with big pans of hot water after turning the current off; it'll get the job done faster!

## Tsar's Family Life Is Subject Of 'Nicholas'

By KATHY MORAN

Had he been strong and understanding, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia could have changed the fate of the country he loved.

The reason he didn't change that fate are the subject of the film "Nicholas and Alexandra."

The film concentrates on the personal lives of "Nicky" and his German wife "Sonny" and especially the cruel illness of their only son and heir which dominates them. Tsarevich Alexis was born with hemophilia.

THE FAMILY'S desperate efforts to keep Alexis alive lead to episodes with the monk Gregory Rasputin and to Nicholas' obliviousness of the revolution that builds around him.

The movie misses its chance for excellence by never getting into the revolution and the heart of events that culminated in the deaths of millions and a new tide in history.

It also underplays the influence of Rasputin, who had a heavy hand in the fall of the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty.

Because Sonny believes Rasputin can keep her son alive, she becomes dominated

by the monk and in turn influences her weak-willed husband. Before long, all Rasputin's idiotic friends are in powerful positions, and Nicholas' autocracy crumbles below him with hardly a whimper.

NICHOLAS  
AND  
ALEXANDRA  
now showing at  
Towne  
Rating: GP

THE HUMAN SIDE of history is explored in "Nicholas and Alexandra" and the viewer sees a tender, devoted husband and father that history texts fail to reveal.

But it would have much more significance if the viewer were given more than just a glimpse of men like Kerensky, Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin and events like the massacre outside the Winter Palace which were the pulse of the time.

Despite its shortcomings, the movie is interesting and easy to follow and reveals the "other side" of the man and his family who are murdered in the end.

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