

IN FARMINGTON Slow Pace Marks Opening Production

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The Farmington Players enjoy a richly deserved reputation as one of the best community theatre groups in the area.

They opened the current season last week with a production of the "comical mystery 'Ladies in Retirement.' I wish I could say they roared into the new year, but they simply lapsed.

Some excellent moments of theater were to be had from the evening, but overall the production ended up on the deficit side of the ledger.

Why? That's hard to answer. Dorothy Miller, as competent as Ellen Creed, and at times Jerry Eddy and Joyce Fisk stole the show as the two sisters, Emily and Lou.

Don Craig, as the only male member of the cast (Albert Feather), more than held his own and Diane Brown was the right mixture of sweetness and severity as the maid, Lucy.

Merle Piccini in Lavinia as the kind of woman of the world, Lenora Fish and Kathryn Kormesser—also adequate as Sister Theresa.

The cast was polished. The play itself is so so, but that wasn't the problem. What was it?

The evening literally limped along. At times the audience reacted almost physically to its along.

The pace was horrid.

First of all the total time of the production was too long—almost three hours. It was 11:10 p.m. when the curtain came down on the last act. Even considering two intermissions, which welcome relief, this is too long.

Not enough physical activity by the actors, not enough of a blue pencil on the script and the actor's pace was too slow, were the main drawbacks to the production.

A comparison is the recent Dearborn Players production of the Inane play "Never Too Late" by the end of the first scene, however, both the audience and the actors were breathless.

The difference was not due to the play, but to the direction. Slow measured reactions are valid, at times, on the stage, but the normal reaction time is faster than what took place last weekend in Farmington Township.



NINE YEAR OLD Michele Drew received her prize in the Terrace Theatre's "Win a Puppy Contest" last weekend. She holds the newest member of the family while her brother and sisters examine it. In the front row sit Lynn, 5, and Michael, 6, while Kim, 8, sits next to Michele. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Drew, 8877 Denne, Livonia. In addition to the puppy, donated by the Michigan Humane Society, Michele won six months supply of Gaines Dog Food, a bed, dish, leash, and toys from the ADA Bird and Pet Store at Wonderland and a year of medical and preventive care at the Cardno Animal Hospital in Garden City.

'The Physicists' Opens Friday at Bonstelle

Playgoers will get a mixture of realism and fantasy, comedy and tragedy in Friedrich Duerrenmatt's compelling satire, "The Physicists," which opens at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre Friday night, Nov. 12.

Additional performances are scheduled Saturday, Nov. 13, and Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 18-21. All performances will begin at 8:30 p.m. with the exception of Sunday's 2:30 matinee.

Written by the author of "The Visit," the play focuses on three nuclear physicists, inmates in a madhouse, and makes some enlightening comments on the morality and personal responsibility of modern man.

A modern play in the Brecht tradition, "The Physicists" first appeared in 1962 and is one of three Continental plays on the Bonstelle's six-play schedule this year. The WSU Theatre opened last month with the Brecht-Weill musical, "The Threepenny Opera."

Playing principal roles will be Andre Latschewsky as Einstein, Michael Bradley as Mobius, Gerald Kammann as Newton, Phillip Gauthier as the Inspector, and Karen Cutler as Dr. Van Zandt.

The play is being directed by Dr. Richard P. Brown of the WSU Theatre staff. The costumes are being designed by Janice Snodgrass and the sets are by Katherine and Russell Paquette.

Tickets may be purchased at the WSU Ticket Office, Cass and Putnam, or reservations may be made by calling 833-1400, Ext. 263 (833-7386 after 5 p.m.).

Wally Roberts UP' GOING 'CURTAIN'

Picture, if you will, a group of interested thespians watching a series of colored slides and listening to a tape recorder. As the dialogue from the tape recorder breaks the silence of the room, the small audience reacts with laughter exactly as the 300 roared their approval via the tape.

Ten minutes later after and seen slides still another visual sight greeted their tired eyes—an opaque projector filled the screen with a director's copy of his prompt book. The audience now saw the bare mechanics and "bones" of the scene reproduced via slide and tape recorder.

The Nankin Mills Players were given this unusual presentation at a special critique meeting last week. Director Bob Wall from the Dearborn Players Guild had been asked by the group to prepare a critique of their opening production, "Pillow Talk."

The Dearborn production of "Never Too Late" was used at the meeting to illustrate the highly technical job the director faces. His hours of research, planning, sweating out the proper blocking patterns, and thinking through every aspect of the production were stressed and restressed by Wall.

Bette Davis Film Set for Sunday

Bette Davis won her second movie picture Academy Award for her role in the picture "Jezebel," which will be featured in the Famous Early Movies Series at Henry Ford Museum Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 14. Performances are scheduled at 2 and 4 p.m.

Directed by William Wyler, "Jezebel" was filmed in 1938. It marked the first picture in which Bette Davis was cast in a costume role. Other actors of note in the film are Henry Fonda and George Brent.

Now in its 14th season, the Famous Early Movies Series at Henry Ford Museum affords present-day audiences an opportunity to see outstanding motion pictures of the past, both silent and sound. The early films are included in the regular admission charge to the Museum.

Returns to Port

Redman L/C Donald W. Barker, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford C. Barker of 3740 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, is scheduled to return to San Diego, Calif. aboard the destroyer USS Hanson, after a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific with the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

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DOROTHY AND THE SCARECROW loosen the rusted joints of the Tin Woodman in this scene from the Reed Marionette Production of "The Wizard of Oz." The show will be performed in Livonia on Nov. 20. Two performances, at 1:30 and at 2:30 p.m., are scheduled for the Franklin High School Auditorium. The group's visit to the area is sponsored by the Children's Entertainment Guild. Tickets for the performances may be obtained from the Livonia Library or by contacting Mrs. James McCann at GA 5-2527.

"Rockhound" Exhibit at Fairgrounds

The eager baying of "rockhounds" as they pursue the lure of their hobby will descend upon the Michigan State Fairgrounds at Detroit this coming week-end as the "Gems, Minerals and Earth Science Exhibit," sponsored by the Michigan Mineralogical Society, moves into the Community Arts Building.

According to Gerald Irvine, 11375 Hemmingway, Redford Township, general show chairman, the show is being presented not only in the interest of the many avid rockhounds in the state but also as a community service to acquaint the general public with the many fascinating and educational benefits of the mineral hobby. The show will feature many unusual displays of gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary work, jewelry, carvings and other crafts.

Nicholas and Marjorie Quirk, 14111 Cavell, Livonia will display their unusual doublets to six plays to be performed in that third dimension effect with the addition of a quartz capping. Some of the designs and colors of these polished pieces are truly remarkable.

Members of the metropolitan mineral clubs—as well as several from out-state—are combining their efforts in bringing to Detroit this huge display of mineral wealth. Among these are the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Dearborn and also the Rock Exchange Club of Dearborn Heights.

In addition to the many exhibits of mineral club members, both the public and parochial schools of metropolitan Detroit have been invited to participate and many have prepared science exhibits for the show.

Hours of the show are from 10 to 10 on Saturday, Nov. 6, and from 10 to 6 on Sunday, Nov. 7.

Science Fair winners from last spring's Science Fair will also be on hand with their prize winning displays. Bradford Fishery, 26645 W. Six Mile Rd. and Jane Elliott, 28873 Lemington, Farmington will be among these exhibitors.

Those interested in purchasing mineral specimens or slabs for polishing—or even equipment—will find a number of "rock shop" dealers on hand to take care of their needs.

Joint Concert Slated Nov. 14 at Marygrove

More than 130 voices will soar together at Marygrove College on Sunday, Nov. 14 as two college Glee Clubs present a program of classical, modern and semi-popular music.

Participants in the concert will be the Marygrove College Chorus, under the direction of Sister Marie Constantine, and the St. Joseph's College Glee Club, from Rensselaer, Ind., under the direction of John B. Egan. The concert is the first joint presentation by the two groups.

The two clubs will sing selections from "Brigadoon" together. The St. Joseph's Glee Club, with 40 male voices, will sing "The Navy Hymn" by Dykes and Whiting, Egan's "Ave Maria," and selections arranged by Copland, Cain, Work, and Carroll.

The Marygrove Chorus, consisting of 90 female voices, will sing Bach's "Suscepit Israel," Handel's "How Excellent Thy Name, Halleluiah," and "Hymnus Angelorum" by C. A. Pelouquin. The chorus will also perform "Love, Look Away" by Rogers and Hammerstein, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and works by Lasso and Oldroyd.

Tickets and reservations can be obtained at the Student Services Office, Marygrove College, or by calling UN 2-8800. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. in the college auditorium.

AAUW Supports School Proposals

The members of the Farmington branch of the American Association of University Women have announced their support of all three of the school proposals that will be presented at the special election on Nov. 15.

4th FINAL WEEK! NOW A TAUT, TINGLING FILM! Shown Daily 12:10 - 2:05 4:05 - 6:00 8:00 - 10:00 MICHAEL CAINE SUE LLOYD THE IPCRESS FILE TECHNICOLOR WED. & THURS. 2 DAYS ONLY NOV. 17th and 18th AN EVENING WITH THE ROYAL BALLET

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