Wally Roberts

'CURTAIN GOING UP'

"Funny Girl," the long-awaited Broadway musical comedy that pushed Barbara Streisand to stardom, has settled into the Fisher for a month's run. Anything said about the musical will do little to discourage attendance. The management happily reports that the sell-out sign is being dusted off.

New York critics literally bombed this show two years ago. Yet "Funny Girl" went on to be a financial hit. Miss Streisand has accumulated tons of money in the bank. Right now she is resting before heading for London where she will open in the British version of the Fanny Brice musical. Mimi Hines carries on in the current Broadway version.

Marilyn Michaels does the choice Fanny Brice in a low-key manner in the Detroit version of "Funny Girl". Lillian Roth plays the mother in this company. What a relief to see Lillian up there belting out her numbers. She is the one redeemable quality of this grade "B" version of a show that was not too good to begin with.

"Funny Girl's troubles stem from a weak story-line and a true dearth of songs that have melody. "People" is the only song that you can hum. The rest of the songs will never be heard on anyone's hit parade. Of course, after the recent disasterous "Pousse Cafe" at the Fisher many of the songs almost sound pleasant.

Anthony George in the role of Nicky Arnstein is sadly miscast and struggles with some truly insipid lines. Danny Carroll in the role of Eddie Ryan does an excellent job of dancing and singing. His number with Lillian Roth "Who Taught Her Everything" is the high point of a lack-lustre evening.

The audiences seems to be having a fairly good time at "Funny Girl". The applause is not deafening; the laughter is not contagious; the lobby talk at intermission is not the happy buzz associated with a true hit. In short, "Funny Girl is far from funny and fascinating enough to warrant all the adulation it has been receiving over the years of its existence.

Along with some of the Broadway critics Wally will file his minority report. Folks keep buying tickets to mill-of-the-musicals like "Funny Girl" because of the fancy packaging and the "almost-good-enough" qualities that exist. Why? Are we so easily satisfied? Are we so desperate that second-best is becoming acceptable? It's time for American theater audiences to set some standards.

"Funny Girl" in my critique book was a great disappointment.

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MOVIE GUIDE

ALGIERS DRIVE-IN
Warren & Wayne Road
Wed. to Tue., March 16-22
Lee Marvin
"SHIP OF FOOLS"
Also
Horst Buchols
"THAT MAN IN INSTANBUL"
GA 2-0880
FREE IN-CAR HEATERS

WAYNE DRIVE-IN
Mich. Ave. 1 Mile W. of Wayne Rd.
Wed. to Tue., March 16-22
Sophia Loren
in
"JUDITH" In Color
Also
Carroll Baker
"HARLOW" In Color
PA 1-3150

STATE-WAYNE
Mich. Ave. 1 blk. W. of Wayne Rd.
Wed. to Tue., March 16-22
Lee Marvin
"SHIP OF FOOLS"
Also Horst Buchols
"THAT MAN IN INSTANBUL"
PA 1-2400

LA PARISIEN
Ford & Middlebelt Rds.
NOW SHOWING
HURRY! FINAL WEEKS
Rex Harrison
Audrey Hepburn
" MY FAIR LADY"
In Color
GA 1-0210

MR. REMARKABLE AND KING NEPTUNE (Mack Palmer and David Richmond) make a wager in "The Fisherman and His Wife". The Milan Theatre Company of Detroit's production of the child's play will be presented at the St. Agatha Gym March 20 at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. For ticket information contact J. Brown at KE 5-9879 or K. Monticello at KE 5-1687.

AT TERRACE

'The Group' Is Devastating Film

By SUE SHAUGHNEESSY

Devastating.

That's the adjective that probably best describes Mary McCarthy's sensational book about her classmates at Vassar "The Group" and it also describes the movie adaptation of the novel which is currently showing at the Terrace Theatre in Livonia.

The story line concerns eight members of Vassar's Class of '33 who roomed together in the "Tower" during their senior year.

Mary McCarthy uses the book to expound on several of society's mores through the voices of "The Group" and follows them from graduation to the outbreak of World War II. The movie makers have translated this to the screen.

People who read and enjoyed the book won't be disappointed in the film. It's a slick production.

If the story line seems disjointed to those who haven't read the book that's not Hollywood's fault. It's Mary McCarthy's.

Mary McCarthy has a finely honed sharp edge to her pen and can be very cutting and devastating. If one enjoys seeing people cut to ribbons through the use of carefully chosen words then the book and the movie has something to offer.

As stated earlier the film does a fine job (better than expected in fact) of translating just about all of the book to the screen.

The original novel sold many many copies not because of the author's skill (which was really lacking in this work) but rather because of its graphic detail and the furor caused among the class of '33.

In spit of all its failings and its coarseness the novel was, at times, amusing. The same can be said about the film.

Cast members include: Candice Bergen, Jean Hackett, Joanna Pettet, Mary-Robbin Redd, Shirley Knight, Jessica Walter, Kathleen Widdoes, Larry Hagman, James Broderick and Hal Holbrook.

The film was directed by Sidney Lument, while a chap by the name of Sidney Buchman wrote the script.

Pinocchio Closes This Weekend

The annual children's production of the Junior Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford closes this Saturday with a performance at Thurston High School in Redford Township.

Four performances are scheduled of the one hour production of the classic Pinocchio at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets may be obtained at the door.

The double cast for the production, which has been visiting high schools in both Redford Township and Livonia for the past month, included:

Geppeto, Bob Palmer and Ken Slapik; Blue Fairy, Elain Slapik; Pinocchio, Keith Mueller and Ron Simmons; Sandwich Man, Carole Stuart; Fire Eater, Carol Sewey and Randy Yohe; Candlewick, Tom Paterson and Jamie Heston; Harlequein, Cindy Veres and Ann Zimmerly; Clumbine, Signe Lawson and Carole Valleskey.

Puppets: Tanya Bone, Cheryl Smith, Debbie Smith, Cindy O'Drago; Lori Venturino, Lori Venturino, Jill Sariego, and Susan Lane.

To Tour 3 States

William Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Johnston of 21317 Ontago, Farmington, will spend his upcoming spring vacation from classes at Kalamazoo College touring the state. A total of 65 vocalists and instrumentalists from the college will give concerts in schools and churches in Michigan, Ohio and New York. Johnston is a sophomore at Kalamazoo.

A man likes to preach economy at home, but it may be his wife who has to practice it.

Comedy Opens This Week in Plymouth

Rehersals are now in full swing for the upcoming production of "A Thousand Clowns," by the Plymouth Theatre Guild. Performances are scheduled March 17, 18 and 19 at the Plymouth High School auditorium. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m.

The play, with a cast of five males and one female, concerns a television writer who is confronted with the problem of raising his sister's son. The New York Department of Social Welfare has decided that a bachelor's apartment is no place to raise a boy.

Appearing in the cast are: Don Mycek, Dearborn, as Murray Burns; Willie Blackman, Plymouth, as Nick Burns; Richard E. Brown, Garden City, as Albert Admundson; Judy Brantigan, Livonia, as Sandra Markowitz; Cal Cruzen, Dearborn, as Arnold Burns; and Jake Rumpf, Plymouth, as Leo Herman.

Merlin Heft is the director, while Sandra Richard, is producer of the show. For ticket information contact Mrs. Richards at 453-3568.

Farce Opens at U of D

Friday, March 18, is the opening night for the University of Detroit Theatre production of Carlo Goldoni's "The Servant of Two Masters," a middle eighteen century Italian farce in the style of commedia dell'arte.

Directed by U. of D. Theatre Managing Director James Rodgers, "The Servant of Two Masters" will be seen in the U. of D. Theatre on the McNichols Road campus at 8:30 p.m. for three consecutive Friday - Sunday weekends, closing Sunday, April 3.

For ticket and program information call the theatre box office, third floor of the McNichols campus Library, at 342-1000, ext. 207.

Win A New Outfit

Some lucky lady will receive a complete Easter outfit plus dinner for two within the next few weeks. All that is necessary is to register at the Terrace Theater in Livonia.

The dinner for two is being awarded through the courtesy of Taylor's Towne House, which is also making available a buffet dinner for two as the second prize.

St. Patrick's Party
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Gala Floor Show
Featuring
EDNA BROWN, VOCALIST
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STARRING . . . Vivian Leigh, Simone Signoret, Oskar Werner, Jose Ferrer, Elizabeth Ashley, Lee Marvin, Michael Dunn, George Segal, Jose Greco.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS include . . . "Best Picture," "Best Actress, Simone Signoret," "Best Actor, Oskar Werner," and "Best Supporting Actor, Michael Dunn".
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Dan Knotts as
"THE INCREDIBLE MR. LIMPET"
— Color —
Winner of Parents Magazine Special Medal Award.
Showing 1:00-2:55-4:50. Open 12:30
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, ONE NIGHT ONLY
The Plymouth Youth Council presents an outstanding New Motion Picture
All Seats $1.00 Showings 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

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DEAN MARTIN as MATT HELM
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Dewline

By JOHN DEW

It's an amazing thing that something always seems to come along at the right moment to save the music industry at it's darkest hour. In the ages after World War II the old 78 rpm was waning in popularity and sales. Presto . . . the 33 or LP was born and brought about a rebirth of quality and interest — not to mention money in the till.

Lately sales have been sagging once again. Enter tape cartridge units for automobiles and the industry is once again booming. The cartridge units have gone over so well that there is now a rush to convert the best sellers in the album lines to the playing packages for car consumption.

Now many manufacturers are even putting current hit singles on the cartridge units. The music business is booming but the radio stations may have to put on their worry hats if the trend continues at the pace it is currently maintaining — a large segment of radio's popularity has been the in-car listener.

Among the shows slated to compose fall TV fare—which may or may not be fair: "The Girl's from UNCLE"—obviously a spin-off from the "Man from UNCLE," "Tarzan," and a CBS Saturday morning cartoon series, "The New Adventures of Superman." Zowie!

The "Superman" cartoon series is being produced by the same man who produced the old series of "Superman" shows on radio. As voices for the new cartoon show he has lined up Bud Collyer—the original radio voice of Superman, Jack Grimes —the original Jimmy Olsen, and Jackson Beck who was the original narrator on the radio series. As a final shot of authenticity the voices will be recorded at World Transcription Studios in New York—the same place where the radio show was once recorded.

Steve Lundy, WXYZ's 11—2 p.m. personality is currently starring in "All the King's Men" with the Ridgedale Players on 10 Mile near Woodward. The show concludes this weekend with performances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. Steve is also scheduled to pursue a course in the care and feeding of an M-1, under the auspices of the U.S. Army soon. He has been notified to report for induction sometime in April.

Good news for the scream set . . . the Beatles are negotiating for a return round of cross-country chaos. They plan a third U.S. tour sometime in August. Also due to return this summer are the Rolling Stones and Herman's Hermits.

Club 1270 expands to an hour this Saturday starting at 2:30. Host Dave Prince has lined up Pat Boone, Bobby Goldsboro, the Shadows of Night, Marv Johnson, and Tommy Edwards for the Channel 7 show.

Some of the top talent around town: Jamie Coe still strong at Don Rovin, the Sunliners at the Cliche, Bobby Sherman of the defunct "Shindig" show starts at the Metropole in Windsor, March 21, The T-Bones at the Gay Haven next week, and Pat Boone currently headlines the action at the Roosterfall.

OBSERVING THE TOP TEN

1) Soul And Inspiration ..... Righteous Bros.
2) Nowhere Man ..... Beatles
3) Gloria ..... Shadows Of Night
4) Secret Agent Man ..... Johnny Rivers
5) 19th Nervous Breakdown ..... Rolling Stones
6) Boots Are Made For Walkin' ..... Nancy Sinatra
7) Time Won't Let Me ..... Outsiders
8) Bang Bang ..... Cher
9) I Hear Trumpets Blow ..... Tokens
10) Daydream ..... Lovin' Spoonful

Spotlight of the Week: One Track Mind ... Knickerbockers

St. Pat's Celebration—Thurs., Mar. 17
Special Corn Beef & Cabbage
Dinner $1.75 — Free Favors
Danish Inn
RESTAURANT AND COCKTAIL LOUNGE
32305 Grand River
BETWEEN 9 MILE & FARMINGTON ROAD
ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY Except Monday
"PAT FLOWERS" At The Piano Bar
● Business Men's Lunches ● Cocktail Hour, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Reservations GR 6-3320 — CLOSED SUNDAY
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KITCHEN OPEN FOR LATE SNACKS
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Ample Parking in the Rear

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LIBBY . . . A big red scar on her face called a mouth
LAKEY . . . Mens Lisa of the smoking room — for women only!
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THE GROUP IN COLOR
POLLY . . . No Money, No Glamour
HELENA . . . sweet, but confused about love.
DOTTIE . . . the nerve ends are near the surface
POKEY . . . money, money
PRISS . . . she fell in love and became an experiment
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1st PRIZE SUIT from ZUIEBACK'S SUBURBAN, plus DINNER for TWO at TAYLORS TOWNE HOUSE
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SPECIAL KIDDIES MATINEE
Saturday Only—Open at 11:00, Shown at 11:30 and 1:15
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and "HEY THERE IT'S YOGI BEAR" (Color)

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It's suspense searches, soothes, leaves you breathless!
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SCENE BY SCENE...
CHARACTER BY CHARACTER...
EXCITEMENT BY EXCITEMENT...
VIVIEN LEIGH as the divorcee
SIMONE SIGNORET as La Contessa
JOSE FERRER as an angry man
LEE MARVIN as the ballplayer
OSKAR WERNER as the Ship's Doctor
ELIZABETH ASHLEY as the artist's sweetheart
GEORGE SEGAL as the American artist
JOSE GRECO as the seller of love
MICHAEL DUNN as the dwarf
CHARLES KORVIN as the Captain
Ship of Fools
AND
THAT MAN IN ISTANBUL
HORST BUCHOLZ
SYLVA KOSCINA
He's no secret agent... he's a crook!
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