

GUIDING FORCES BEHIND the Actors Workshop at Franklin High School in Livonia are publicity director Robert Wall, director David Hirvela, musical director Roy E. Ernst, and set designer H. G. Waller.



"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE a dame," the chorus of South Pacific prepares to swing into action. This group recently put on a performance of South Pacific that garnered favorable reviews. These students are members of the summer school actors workshop at Franklin Iligh School, Livonia, Front (left to right); Kay Grismer, Stephanie Miquelon (choreographer); back (left to right): Dan Vigiliarolo, Tom Nastas, Pat Williams, Dale Hindmarsh, Steve Antonishek, Lee Burgess and Gary Greening.

Expectant Parents Begin Classes Aug. 17

Wayne County Department of Health is pleased to announce a new series will be held at the Wayne County Health Center on Wednesday. Aug. 17.

The classes will meet from 17.30 to 9 p.m. for eight consecutive Wednesdays. They will be conducted by a member of the Public Health Nursing Division staff.

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The Distaff Side...

When you go to a stage play or a movie, you close your eyes and pfetend it's you out there on the stage. When you get home, you analyze all the moves that were made, and she lines spoken.
You know by heart the biographies of your favorite stars. You feel, you honestly know all the pittalls of a theatricallife, not the phony ones-dreamed up by magazine writers of non-existent snares which befall the young hopeful-but the real ones; of discouragement, the necessity to earn a living while still seeking a career, and the knife-edge-competition. In other words, you are stagestruck-hopelessly so.

Coming to grips with the problem, even the vaguest dreamer knows that you have to come prepared in your search for fame. There are several excellent and well known drama schools throughout the nation. Pasadefa Playhouse, the Dramatic Academy of Art, and the Guthrie McClintic Theater to name a few.

But these are all universities and some of them even require a university degree before entering. What of the teen age years? These are the danger years when phony drama schools "fleece" young hopefuls. Amateur coaches run rampant, and school dropouts are heavy, as teens run away to seek the rainbow and find instead the end of the line.

What about a really good drama school for teenagers and a chance for them to take part in a production? This is the train of thinking that led Roy Ernst. Boll Wall, and Dave Hirvela to establish a school, It, it is really unique—as far as the Observer known, the only school of its kind for teen-agers.

It is modeled along the lines of the famous actors

for teen agers.

It is modeled along the lines of the famous actors lab where so many personalities—Paul Newman, Ben Gazarra, Bob Walker Jr. and Marlon Brando studied.

PWP International

This "Actors Lab" for isens is held during the summer months at Franklin High School in Livonia. Auditions begin in May. Would-be-pupils are weeded out. Hirvela admits that he is "rough on them."

"There is no place in the theater for someone

who is not willing to work," he stated. "And above all, for someone who is not willing to take direction."
"If the teens think this is tough," he continued, "they should see the competition they will encounter when they finally get to New York."

The one thing he has no patience with is someone who will not settle down to work. Anyone looking for "fun" or "something to do" is finished before starts.

Hirvela, whose scholarly appearance belies his

rugged interior, feels that this policy has paid off.
"Once we start," he says, "there is very little need to dismiss anyone. We know they are pretty well qualified, before they are allowed to enter."

need to dismiss anyone. We know they are pretty well qualified, before they are allowed to enter."

Along with this line of thinking, they usually select musical comedy, because this is the most difficult. Actors' skills are usually listed like any other people, and musicals call for three talents, singing, dancing, and acting. For this reason many hopefuls are disqualified.

Recently they produced the world-famous musical "South Pacific" which received very good reviews from Wally Roberts, Observer Drama Critic. The day The Observer visited the Actors Lab, we were much impressed by the professional atmosphere. Classes were going on everywhere and students were serious and above all learning to be on time.

There was no "fooling around" such as is sometimes associated with teenagers. These students were really very lucky to have the guidance of the "prost" For example, Wall was an actor and appeared on both its stage and television besides attending the Guithrie McClintric School. These students are getting really practical suggestions.

So teenagers, if you dream of seeing your name in lights, you don't have to run away, or count the years till you graduate, if you are willing to work were send of the prost Gazarra, Bob Walken Ir. and Marlon Brando studied.

They have streamlined it to jet proportions, because in most schools the first three years are spent in study before you actually take part in a production during the first term.

The students are taught dancing, singing, acting, and other important phases, such as a chance to work in the Publicity Workshop under the direction in loghts, you don't have to run away, or count the of Wall. They also fearn costuming, scenery, and above all the most important rule, the discipline of the "pros." For example, Wall was an actor and appeared on both the stage and television besides stiending the Guithre McClinits Cshool. These students are getting really practical suggestions.

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THE MUSIC MAN for these serious young play Roy E. Ernst, musical director of the Artor's Worksl Franklin High School. Students are (front. from Beth Shirley, Nancy Waring, Nora Owen, Sharon

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