

Potpourri

(Continued from 1-D)

drawing greater audiences. Repertory companies are being formed.

WHETHER or not it has been an effect of Broadway's difficulties or television's inadequacies (or possibly both), there has been an unprecedented demand for participation in live theater on the grass roots level.

This has been particularly evident right here. Within this area alone there are two first-rate theater groups, St. Dunstan's and The Village Players. Both groups produce four or five plays a season.

A new theater school has just opened at MSUO designed for adults, high school and college students. There is Will-O-Way Apprentice theater for children and adults.

The theater schools present final shows at the end of their season. Plays are well attended. Membership and enrollment in all of these organizations are growing.

THIS is a good deal of theater activities, for a community of this size to support and with three theater schools, there should be even more in the future.

Besides all this, Will-O-Way is now embarking on two new ventures which should further stimulate theater growth for both children and adults.

The school has prepared a touring production of "The King of the Golden River," a dramatization of John Ruskin's story by Mrs. Celia Merrill Turner, director of Will-O-Way.

TEN BIRMINGHAM children are in the cast. The show was first presented at the Detroit Art Institute as one of the featured events of the Detroit Freedom Festival. Over 2,000 children from the Detroit area saw the production.

Will-O-Way is now looking dates for fall appearances of the show in schools and for PTA's and AAUW organizations throughout Michigan.

On the adult level, Will-O-Way is undertaking for the first time production of plays by local authors.

THE FIRST of these will be "Was This the Face," by Edwin Ahearn, Detroit playwright and radio announcer. The show is scheduled to open Aug. 24 at the Will-O-Way playhouse.

Set in Italy during the production of a fabulous movie, the story revolves around the complicated love affairs of a beautiful Hollywood actress and her neglected singer husband.

The play sounds like very good satire on Hollywood and Hollywood leading ladies.

THE IDEA behind undertaking this production (which the Turners think will be first of many) is to encourage playwrighting right here.

If drama is going to continue to be an important means of expression and not just entertainment, there must be an opportunity for the writer to present a new work with professional production at less than Broadway costs. New ideas and new participation must be encouraged.

It is good to see this kind of opportunity being offered here.

The ultimate outcome of small community theater may cost Broadway its leadership, but it might give drama a much needed shot in the arm.



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Original short stories, essays and of Pontiac and William Hoke, 23, poems, all the work of Michigan of 444 Berwyn, Birmingham. (Hoke State University Oakland students, also is editor of MSUO's student last week were published as weekly, The Oakland Observer.) display in the Studio North lobby MSUO's first literary magazine. Among the contributors are John Contuse.

The magazine was initiated, Gillespie, 27750 Laber, Southfield, edited and produced by a student and Mrs. Max L. Alterkruse, 29025 group. Editors are Nancy Kelly Carol, Franklin.

A "small show" of six paintings by Dorothy Siddall, 31165 Sheridan, Beverly Hills, will be on display in the Studio North lobby through August 12. Mrs. Siddall is a member of BAA, the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and the Michigan Watercolor Society.

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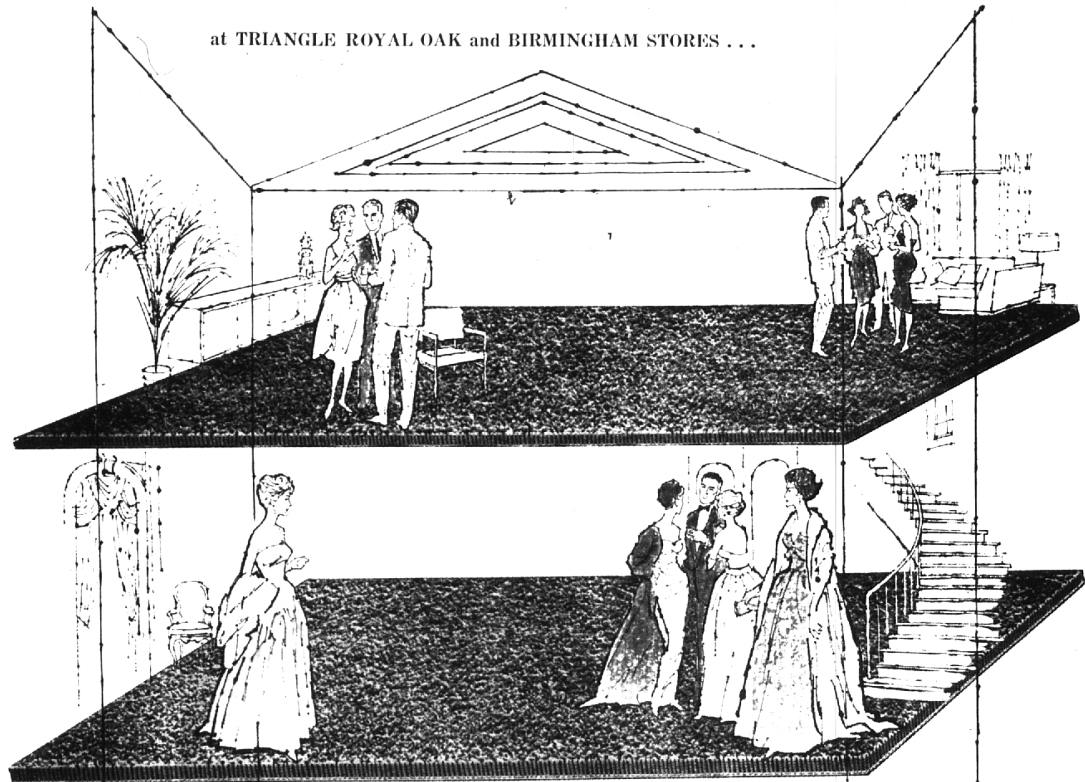
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