

Play Spoofs Credit Card Living

By LARRY EVOE
Staff Writer

A fast talking, free wheeling junior advertising executive, his attractive young wife and her whiskey-nipping aunt all help to make up the ingredients of this year's Arts Festival musical comedy production.

With the intriguing title "The High Cost of Loving in Birmingham," the musical again combines the talents of Dean Coffin and Isabel Himelhoch.

Playgoers will find themselves laughing—at themselves again—when the production opens next Thursday in the geodesic dome in Shain Park.

FIRST, IT WAS the Birmingham Eccentrics, then last year's hit "Newcomers," and now "High Cost."

While "Newcomers" was primarily a take-off on the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, the current production is aimed at a situation that is going on all over the country—credit card spending.

Local folks needn't worry, however. The good old Birmingham-Bloomfield area is not forgotten. Such familiar places as the Community House, Kingsley Inn, The Eccentric and MacManus, John & Adams keep popping into the

dialogue.

The plot revolves around the plight of Howard Honeycutt, United States champion of buying on credit; his wife, Hannah, who sets up a "Payboy" club (pay-as-you-go); and Aunt Maggie, who has a heart of gold and a hatful of whiskey.

HOWARD AND HANNAH'S marital life is charted from Birmingham to Las Vegas to Washington, D. C. under the power of the credit card.

Things are looking black for the Honeycutts (because Howard always forgets to pay the bills) when they are declared the winner of a free week end in Las Vegas as one of the four typical credit card customers.

Howard, played by Robert Schuler, impressed the brass of American Distress Credit Cards so much he eventually winds up working for the company.

While in Vegas, Hannah, played by Mrs. Edgar A. Guest, wins at the gaming tables and finds herself a boyfriend. Howard, of course, finds a girlfriend with the unlikely name of Tamara Toumanchenko.

Complications ensue. Eventually after a series of misunderstandings and mishaps Howard finds himself an appointee

for a cabinet post and by the time the curtain comes down all is well.

THE ROBUST Aunt Maggie is played by none other than the Birmingham area's best known comedienne, Winnie (Mrs. Dean) Coffin, well-known for her previous roles in Arts Festival productions.

Other featured players, in the Dr. Jack Hassberger directed production, include Fay Brown, JoAnne Meure, Chester Hard and Felix Harrison.

The rest of the cast is made up of Greg Malover, Robert E. Brown, Mrs. Chester Hard, Bob Giltay, John Mitchell, Ted Backer, Mrs. June Easterbrook, Morris Purdy, Bruce Conander, Keith

Honhart, Mickey Falk, Mrs. Chalmers Brown, Mrs. June Wisby and E. Ray Scott.

TICKET LOCATIONS for "High Cost" are: Grinnell's, 299 W. Maple; Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road near Lincoln; and the Festival Information Booth, corner of Maple and Henrietta, in downtown Birmingham.

Prices for Thursday, June 20, and Sunday, June 24, are preferred seats, \$3; orchestra, \$2.

Prices for Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 23, are preferred seats \$4; orchestra, \$3.

Curtain time for all four performances is 8:30 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce Plans Downtown Events

Downtown activities for the Birmingham Arts Festival are being planned by a Chamber of Commerce committee headed by Jim Couzens of the Village Sport and Hobby Shop.

Five events, plus a four-day run of "The High Cost of Loving in Birmingham," will be presented in the geodesic dome in Shain Park.

Couzens is designated as general chairman of downtown activities, while Ward Ouradnik serves as chairman of Shain Park. Couzens is also the chamber's representative on the Arts Festival steering committee.

OTHER CHAMBER members working in festival roles are Bill Roberts as coordinator with the city, Harvey Kreeger as vice chairman and Bob Thom and Harris Machus as consultants.

In addition, the chamber is providing the services of executive secretary Charles Mortensen as Arts Festival treasurer.

The schedule of downtown activities

begins with a South Oakland Symphony concert in the Shain Park Dome Sunday night. Monday evening the program will consist of an hour and a half feature film, "Carnegie Hall."

TUESDAY'S the night of the "Combo Clash" when teen-age musical groups will compete for prize awards up to \$50.

Wednesday the dome is slated for the dress rehearsal of the show, "The High Cost of Loving," to be presented Thursday through Sunday evenings.

On Friday there will be a matinee performance of "King Midas and the Golden Touch" by the Vanguard Players' children's theatre group.

TO COMPLETE the downtown agenda of planned events is folk dancing in Shain Park under the auspices of American Field Service Saturday afternoon.

During the Arts Festival, the downtown area will also offer special displays of art in the stores and the sidewalk cafe again at Machus.

Ticket Information

Tickets for events of the 1963 Birmingham Arts Festival, are available from several sources, according to ticket co-chairmen Mrs. George R. Squibb, 596 Rudgate, Bloomfield Hills, and Mrs. William Bullock, 329 Tibury, Birmingham.

Locations where tickets may be purchased are Grinnell's, 299 W. Maple Road, Birmingham; the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 South Cranbrook Road; and Festival Information Booth, corner of Maple and Henrietta, Birmingham.

TIMES, DATES and admission prices for Festival activities in the Shain Park dome are:

- Sunday, South Oakland Symphony Orchestra concert, 8 p.m. — preferred seats, \$3; orchestra, \$2
- Monday, Choreographers Workshop dance program and feature-length film

"Carnegie Hall," 8 p.m., \$1.

• Tuesday, "The Combo Clash," 8 p.m. — \$1.75.

• Thursday, "Art and Architecture Tour," 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.—\$2.50. (Tickets for the tour can also be obtained from Mrs. Charles Stein, 6887 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Township.)

• THURSDAY, June 20 and Sunday, June 24, "The High Cost of Loving in Birmingham," 8:30 p.m. — preferred seats \$3; orchestra, \$2.

• Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, "The High Cost of Loving in Birmingham," 8:30 p.m.—preferred seats, \$4; orchestra, \$3.

• Friday, June 21, children's theatre matinee, "King Midas and the Golden Touch," 2 p.m.—\$1.



"Stained Glass No. 2"

Painting by

Winifred Klarin

Will Be Exhibited During
Birmingham Arts Festival Week
at

chudiks

brown and ann streets • one block west of the
bloomfield theatre • birmingham • mi 7-1300



"Betsy"

Painting by

Robert Konersman

Will Be Exhibited During
Birmingham Arts Festival Week
at

The Time Shop

Opposite Post Office

151 S. Bates

Open Friday Evenings

MI 6-7377