sad to see how run-down and

empty it has become. I went



## "Music Man" at Muni Opera

Members of the prominent Paroo family in "Music Man" are being played at the Springfield Municipal Opera by Bonnie Withrow (left), as Mrs. Paroo; Barry O'Brien (center), as young Winthrop; and Mary Ann McBride, as

Marian (the librarian) Paroo. The Meredith Willson musical continues tonight and Wednesday through Sun-day, Aug. 18, at the Muni Opera Theater, Lake Springfield. (Staff photo).

## "Music Man" struts his stuff at Muni

by Eileen E. Einhardt

Springfield Muni Opera opened the last show for the season Friday to an audience that defied the threat of more rain and clung loyally to their seats until the wet stuff finally forced an intermission before it was scheduled on the program.

"Music Man" is a musical show strong on great tunes with a folksy, "down home" plot that entertains, not strains, the imagination. It is light but hearty fare for "fair week."

THIS PRODUCTION revolved around the star performance of Gary Wilson as the glib "Professor" Harold Hill, a salesman who could not only separate River City citizens from their money, but loan it back to them at a high interest rate. He has that special stage "charisma" which carries the show and there was a noticeable decline in interest when he was not on it.

Mary Ann McBride was a lovely "Marian the Librarian" whose voice is her major asset — superior in quality to Wilson's, but who had to walk in his shadow when it comes to acting and stage presence. But then, there were few who were not in that category

Children had a good piece of the fun onstage and young Barry O'Brien as Winthrop proved a real trooper, especially in his big number, "Gary, Indiana." He's a real

winner.
BUT THE MUSIC of "Music Man" was perhaps its best feature. Choral director Charlene Gates produced a chorus of exceptional quality, particulary in "Iowa Stubborn," which featured a neat bit of staging — a large frame walked onstage with the classic farm couple of the famous Grant painting bringing appreciative applause.

Cindy Garretson (a female conductor in the pit for a change) had her musicians well in hand. And although there were times when the





provided excellent accompaniment for the singers and carried off the necessary

review

vamping with subtle ease. Director Gene Rubley really scored in acquiring SPEBSQSA singers Wayne T. Drury, Doug Hahn, Phil Maxwell and Robin Meredith. Their "Lida Rose" drew one of the biggest

hands of the evening. Special lighting effects during a chase in Madison Park gave an amusing "Keystone Cops" impression which was greatly enjoyed by the audience, except that actors who were visible on the fringes did dispell the illusion somewhat.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Marian Levin was tasteful and colorful - not too demanding on the dancers, with an especially lovely bit in the park near the end of the second act.

Unfortunately, rain interrupted the show near the end of the first act, becoming a real problem during Marian's singing of "My White Knight" - distracting the audience and bringing on the announcement of an early intermission. This seemed to break the continuity of the production and so dampen the glow that, for my part, it never really seemed to re-

ber which is intended to wind up the first act and set up the audience for the sec-

orchestra color was a bit ond act. Umbrellas were Sullivan thin and there were the inev- hastily brought to the oritable few "bloopers," she chestra pit and the musicians did nobly the rest of

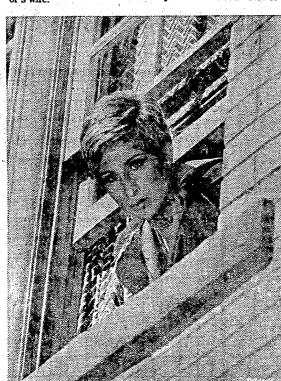
> My guess is that, barring similar interruptions on succeeding nights, the play will no doubt continue smoothly.

OTHER NOTABLE performances of the cast were given by Bonnie Withrow as Mrs. Paroo, Peter Samuel as Tommy, Don Bailey as Marcellus and Virginia O'Brien as Eulalie Shinn, the mayor's wife.

the evening.

It is, on the whole, a very enjoyable production.

St. Louis MUNICIPAL FOREST PARK. Ends tonight: Alice Faye and John Payne in "Good News."



"FOR PETE'S SAKE": Barbra Streisand returns to slapstick comedy in the film due to open Friday at the Fox Town & Country Theatre. Co-starring is Michael Sarrazin, as Barbra's husband Pete, who drives a cab days, goes to college nights and worries about money all the time.

## The show continued after the break with the big "Wells Fargo Wagon" num-COME ANYTIME 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 STARTS 1:30, 4, 7, 9:30 · \* CROSBY \* ASTAIRE \*KELLY **BACK BY** \* ROONEY \* KEEL \* REYNOLDS POPULAR DEMAND \* STEWART 'BORN LOSERS' TOM LAUGHLIN -as billy jack SUPREME COURT RULES IT IS NOT OBSCENE "CARNAL KNOWLEDGE" JACK NICHOLSON lack Nicholson, Cambre Berger FAYE DUNAWAY Ann Margret COMING . DERKSEN PRWY. ESOURCE 2: THUR (PG) AT 1. 3. 5. 7. 9 JAMES EARL JONES MIGRANI DURROWA CARROLL "CLAUDINE" WORKERS \(\alpha\)\(\alp REVOLT! SOURCE 3: THURS! (G) PIPPI (LONG STOCKING) IN THE SCUTTE SEAS" CHARLES BRONSO CAPITAL THURS. (PG) 寥 "MR. MAJESTY! FUP WILSON THE OWN SAT. উউউউউউউউউউউউELCOME FAIR VISITORS উউউউউউউউউউ

## June plugging "That's Entertainme too. He'd plead and cajole

and even cry if you seemed

to be opposing his will. But

he knew how to run a movie

studio. We need some more

Miss Allyson had been

a dozen young Broadway

players who were repeating

the musical comedy stage

"Going to MGM was like a

hit "Best Foot Forward."

like him around today."

by Jeannette Mazurki Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD - "I think audiences are ready to see something beautiful and positive again," said June Allyson, sitting in the sunny living room of her high-rise apartment in Westwood.

Miss Allyson was packed to leave the following day on a nationwide tour with "That's Entertainment," the new MGM spectacular 50th anniversary salute to itself.

"I know it sounds corny, but there are so few films made anymore the family can see together. And then, too, I'm proud of what we all accomplished at MGM. I'm anxious to see the reaction from young people who may never have seen some of those musicals. In fact, they weren't born yet."

Springfield

MUNICIPAL

18: "Music Man."

Nanette."

Peoria

py Time.

Lake Springfield. Tonight

and Wednesday through Aug.

THEATRE 200, YWCA

auditorium. Ends tonight:

LITTLE THEATRE ON

THE SQUARE. Now through

Aug. 25: Andy Devine and

Julie Jenner in "No, No,

CORN STOCK THEATRE,

Upper Bradley Park. Now

through Aug. 20: "The Hap-

OPERA.

"Spoon River Anthology."

OPERA.

Miss Allyson is modest about her own contribution to movie history. She aims jokes at self-described "limitations," seems still astonished at her good luck and grateful to two men who steered her through the perils of Hollywood stardom; first husband Dick Powell, and MGM's studio head through the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s, Louis B. Mayer.

"If it hadn't been for Pops (Miss Allyson's nickname for Mayer) who saw something in me nobody else around the studio seemed to see, including myself, I'd never

fairy tale come true," she remembers. "I'd always been star-struck. And here I at the same time. MGM had

SUMMER

MANN THEATRES

WEEKEND

SAT., SUN., 1:30, 3:30, 6:10, 8:30

WEEK NIGHTS 6:10, 8:30

FOX TOWN & COUNTRY

have been a star. He guided my career carefully from one film to another. I adored him and trusted him completely. He was a father figure to me and to most of the rest of the stars at MGM. Oh yes, he was a great actor,

Opening Monday: Roberta

STOCK, Lincoln Theatre.

Now through Aug. 18: Peter

LUCILLE BALL

For 16 year old Candy,

dying would have been easier

The Candy

**Snatchers** 

SHOWN SAT., SUN. 1:40, 4:50, 8:00

WEEKNIGHTS 6:30, 9:30

14TH OUTRAGEOUSLY

**FUNNY WEEK** 

TONIGHT

4TH WEEK

faster than

Crazy Larry,

except

Dirty Mary!

**FORTHESAKE** 

OF YOUR SAVITY.

PRAY ITISN'T TRUE!

5th fun

WEEK

**Wali dishey** 

Rides again

PEUS: DISNEY CARTOON GLASSIC "SHANGHAIED" AND "SAGA OF WIND WAGON SMITH"

SPONS AT 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:05
PINE BE CLEARED AFTER MATRICES FOOMY:
ESUICAYS CONTINUOUS FROM 1:00 P.III.
BE Childry T 2 — \$1.00 Adult Adm. \$2.00

TECHNICOLOR'

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**≡528-8941 ≡** 

**WEEK NIGHTS 8 P.M.** 

PLUS AN X-RATED CO-HIT IN 3D!

EAST

COOK

AND

BYPASS

The Legend di

HAYES BERRY POWERS MICINTIRE WYNN

AULHOVIL

SAT. SUN. 3:15, 6:30, 9:30

FRISINA

TODAY

MUST END SOON

SPRINGFIELD

PARTIATRANKIT

THAT LOVABLE BUG IS BACK

Cinema

Lupus in "Boeing, Boeing."

Peters in "Bitter Sweet."

Robinson

ROBINSON

was on the same lot with my lifelong idols Fred Astaire, Clark Gable, Katharine Hepburn and the rest. "There was a time when I was making three pictures

> between sound stages." from "Good News," made in

to buy me a bicycle to get

ters.

"It's not the same studio,"

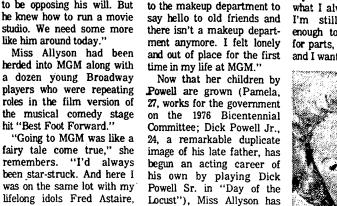
In "That's Entertain-Broadway and starred in two ment," Miss Allyson and movies made for tv. Peter Lawford are seen in a Summer theater "The kids are on their rousing musical sequence

> She had not made a movie since 1959 until she returned to MGM in 1972 to play a cameo role (along with onetime co-star Lawford) in "They Only Kill Their Mas-

she discovered. "It made me

BEATRICE ARTHUR

PG



into high gear. She toured nine months with the revival of the musical comedy "No, No., Nanette," playing the role Ruby Keeler originated on own and I'm alone," she "So I'm back doing says. what I always wanted to do. I'm still not aggressive enough to go out and fight for parts, but I am available and I want to work.'





