



## "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 Sunday, 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, particularly 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

orchestra color was a bit thin and there were the inevitable few "bloopers," she 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 bands 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 by 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 recover.

The show continued after the break with the big "Wells Fargo Wagon" number which is intended to wind up the first act and set up the audience for the second.

and act. Umbrellas were hastily brought to the orchestra pit and the musicians did nobly the rest of the evening.

My guess is that, barring similar interruptions on succeeding nights, the play will no doubt continue smoothly. It is, on the whole, a very enjoyable production.

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.



"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.

# June plugging "That's Entertainment"

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."

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 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,

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 like him around today."

Miss Allyson had been herded into MGM along with a dozen young Broadway players who were repeating roles in the film version of the musical comedy stage hit "Best Foot Forward."

"Going to MGM was like a fairy tale come true," she remembers. "I'd always been star-struck. And here I 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 at the same time. MGM had to buy me a bicycle to get between sound stages."

In "That's Entertainment," Miss Allyson and Peter Lawford are seen in a rousing musical sequence from "Good News," made in 1947.

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

"It's not the same studio," she discovered. "It made me

sad to see how run-down and empty it has become. I went to the makeup department to say hello to old friends and there isn't a makeup department anymore. I felt lonely and out of place for the first time in my life at MGM."

Now that her children by Powell are grown (Pamela, 27, works for the government on the 1976 Bicentennial Committee; Dick Powell Jr., 24, a remarkable duplicate image of his late father, has begun an acting career of his own by playing Dick Powell Sr. in "Day of the Locust"), Miss Allyson has decided to put her career into high gear.

She toured nine months with the revival of the musical comedy "No, No, Nanette," playing the role Ruby Keeler originated on Broadway and starred in two movies made for tv.

"The kids are on their

own and I'm alone," she says. "So I'm back doing 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."



June Allyson

## Summer theater

### Springfield

MUNICIPAL OPERA, Lake Springfield. Tonight and Wednesday through Aug. 18: "Music Man."  
THEATRE 200, YWCA auditorium. Ends tonight: "Spoon River Anthology."

### Sullivan

LITTLE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE. Now through Aug. 25: Andy Devine and Julie Jenner in "No, No, Nanette."

### Peoria

CORN STOCK THEATRE, Upper Bradley Park. Now through Aug. 20: "The Happy Time."

### St. Louis

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

Opening Monday: Roberta Peters in "Bitter Sweet."

### Robinson

ROBINSON SUMMER STOCK, Lincoln Theatre. Now through Aug. 18: Peter Lupus in "Boeing, Boeing."

## HURRY

LAST WEEKEND

# MAME

LUCILLE BALL BEATRICE ARTHUR

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

FOX TOWN & COUNTRY  
2445 S. MARIETTA  
546-7800

For 16 year old Candy, dying would have been easier!

# The Candy Snatchers

SHOWN SAT., SUN. 1:40, 4:50, 8:00  
WEEK NIGHTS 8 P.M.

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

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

LINCOLN 329 S. 5TH ST.  
528-8941

FRISINA Cinema

14TH OUTRAGEOUSLY FUNNY WEEK

# BLAZING SADDLES

Stevenson & Westlake

TODAY AT 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15  
NIGHTLY 7:10, 9:15  
MUST END SOON

SPRINGFIELD Drive-in

EAST COOK AND BYPASS

TONIGHT 4TH WEEK

No one's faster than

Crazy Larry, except

Dirty Mary!

DIRTY MARY CRAZY LARRY

and at 9:45

THE LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE

FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SANITY, PRAY IT'S NOT TRUE!

THAT LOVABLE BUG IS BACK

## 5TH FUN WEEK

# HERBIE RIDES AGAIN

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

TECHNICOLOR

HAYES BERRY POWERS MCINTIRE WYNN

PLUS: DISNEY CARTOON CLASSIC "SHANGHAIED" AND "SAGA OF WIND WAGON SMITH"

SHOWS AT 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:05  
THEATRE WILL BE CLOSED AFTER HOURS TODAY ONLY  
WEEKENDS CONTINUOUS FROM 1:00 P.M.  
Child Under 12 — \$1.00 Adult Adm. \$2.00

BOX OFFICE OPENS 8 P.M.

MID-AMERICA THEATRES

## GREEN MEADOWS

DRIVE-IN

SHOWS WILL START 8:30

DOUBLE FEATURE!!

# CLINT EASTWOOD

## HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER

PLUS

# CLINT EASTWOOD

"PG" "F" in "JOE KIDD"

2 THE MASSAGE PARLOR RACKET LAID BARE

When the mobster muscle in they get rubbed down... then rubbed out!

PLUS

# THE BIG BUST-OUT

MANHANDLERS

— BUMPER STRIP NIGHT —  
DRIVER OF CAR WITH "STRIP" ON REAR BUMPER ADMITTED FREE

DRIVE WEST ON WABASH AVENUE

TWIN 1 TONITE OPEN 7:30

# Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn

AT 8:30 PLUS

TONITE TWIN 2 2 ADULT HITS

# WORKING GIRLS

They'll do anything for money!

PLUS THE SINGLE GIRLS

AT 10:00 WELCOME FAIR VISITORS

AT 8:30 PLUS

Mark Twain's PLUS FAMILY HIT #2 AT 10:45

# Tom Sawyer

HALF CLAD ALL BAD!

OUT SO. SIXTH

## 66 DRIVE-IN THEATRE

OPEN 7:30

2 BIG HITS

"MASH" At 8:30

"SPY'S" At 10:30

WOW!

# SUTHERLAND & GOULD

IN THEIR BIG NEW HIT

# SPY'S

PLUS THEIR FAMOUS COMEDY SMASH

# MASH

TONIGHT! SPRINGFIELD

MUNI OPERA presents

# THE MUSIC MAN

MEREDITH WILLSON'S MUSICAL HIT

CURTAIN 8:30 P.M.  
Box Office Opens 7 P.M.  
All Reserved Seats: \$3.50  
General Admission: Adults \$2.50—Teen-Agers \$2 Children \$1  
815 East Lake Drive  
Advance Tickets on Sale at Roberts Bros. Downtown

YOU NAME THE SONG...

IF WE CAN'T PLAY IT...

YOUR DRINK IS FREE!

Happy Bar and Lounge

CARDUS ROOM

IN THE LINCOLN TOWERS

KERASOTES FRIENDLY THEATERS

## SENATE

AT 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

A RE-RELEASE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

# BORN LOSERS

THE ORIGINAL SCREEN APPEARANCE OF

# TOM LAUGHLIN

AS BILLY JACK

2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

LAST 4 DAYS

BRILLIANT NEWWORK

# Chinatown

JACK NICHOLSON FAYE DUNAWAY

CAPITAL CITY CINEMA

SHOPPING CENTER • DRUGS • PEWEE

AT 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

# MICHAEL WORKERS REVOLT!

# CHARLES BRONSON

# "MR. MAJESTYK"

## ESQUIRE

COME ANYTIME STARTS 1:30, 4, 7, 9:30

★ CROSBY ★ ASTAIRE ★ KELLY ★ ROONEY ★ KEEL ★ REYNOLDS ★ STEWART

NO PASSES OR SENIOR CLODS

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

LAST 4 DAYS

1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

SUPREME COURT RULES IT IS NOT OBSCENE

# "CARNAL KNOWLEDGE"

Jack Nicholson, Candice Bergen, Ann Margret

COMING

ESQUIRE 2: THUR (PG) JAMES EARL JONES DIANNA CARROLL "CLAUDINE"

ESQUIRE 3: THURS (G) "PIPPA (LONG STOCKING) IN THE SOUTH SEAS"

CAPITAL THEATRE (PG) FLIP WILSON "UPTOWN SAT. NIGHT"

WELCOME FAIR VISITORS