



RIB-TICKLING sequence is from "Send Me No Flowers," with Bob Lohbauer, left, and Mike O'Neil, among stellar Chapel Theatre cast performing weekends at Smith Bros. Fish Shanty property on Pacific Coast Highway.

'Flowers,' Chapel Theatre Play, Deserves Bouquets

By BETTY SCHROEDER
To say that the current production at Chapel Theatre in Torrance, "Send Me No Flowers," by Norman Barasch and Carroll Moore is a rib-ticking and fun-filled comedy is stating it mildly. From beginning to end the audience is in a constant state of merriment from the typical and true to life goings on in the life of a hypochondriac.

Bob Lohbauer of Inglewood comes through beautifully as George Kimball, who becomes even more of a hypochondriac when he overhears his doctor discuss a dying patient and mistakenly thinks he is referring to him. Instead of what could have been treated as a tragic situation, the authors have gone all out in conjuring up the most comical situations imaginable that could befall a man who believes he is dying.

Charming Job
Lohbauer does such a convincing job of being a hypochondriac that he practically has the audience feel his imaginary symptoms and ills. Fran Ward of Manhattan Beach is no stranger to South Bay theater audiences and does a most charming job as Judy, the long-suffering and patient wife of George Kimball, and is thoroughly delightful in her role.

Appearing as the man George has chosen as a replacement for his wife's husband after his death, is Frank Herman of Manhattan Beach, who is well known as "Skipper Frank," who makes a most welcomed second appearance with Chapel Theatre, having appeared in "The Seven Year Itch" last season.

As Bert, the former boyfriend of Judy, Herman is charming, robust, and debonaire and adds much to the comedy situations. Scene-stealer of the play is Murray Jarvis of Hermosa Beach, who is Dr. Morrissey and brings spontaneous applause after his appearances on stage, with the audience wishing there were more scenes for him. His audacious views of the medical profession brings howls of laughter from the audience, especially when there are doctors in attendance.

Newcomer Shines
Mike O'Neil of El Segundo is a newcomer to Chapel Theatre and portrays the Kimball's neighbor, Arnold. Being the first to know of the supposedly forthcoming "death" of George, Arnold begins a period of pre-mourning by becoming unconsolably drunk. Much to the delight of the audience, O'Neil's performance is most convincing and not overdone in the least. One of the hilarious scenes involves George and the cemetery lot salesman, played by Jim Sena of Gardena, who enlivens the gaiety of the situation in spite of the type salesman he represents.

For anyone who has had the experience of purchasing "the eternal home" this will bring gales of laughter as the memories of such sales

points as good drainage, beautiful view, and uncrowded lots come to mind. The funniest portions of the play are the ones that are so true to life that each can associate with his own life and no one resents a little good natured fun poked at him.

The rest of the capable cast includes: John Judkins as Vito, Frances Edwards as "Baby Doll," Marlene Sena as Miss Mason, and Dick Obert as a passerby, Barney Friedman of Manhattan Beach directed this well cast play and is certainly no stranger to South Bay theatre-goers.

Set Designs Lauded
His production staff consists of Phyllis Palmer of Redondo Beach as producer, assisted by Ramona Bingham; stage manager, Rudi Medina of Redondo Beach; asst. stage manager, Jim Sena, who is also Mr. Akins, the cemetery lot salesman; lighting by Dick Obert, props by Frances Edwards, sound by Shirley Obert, with set dressings by Marlene Sena. Congratulations are in order to Steve Sands, resident producer of Chapel Theatre, for his ingenious set design which enables the many dream sequences to be carried out so well, plus the lighting effects designed by George Bingham.

For entertainment which is anything but dull or humdrum, "Send Me No Flowers" is the answer to a fun-filled evening out. Since there have been several performances sold out in advance, it is advisable that reservations be made well in advance of the date desired, by calling the box office, PR 2-9636. Chapel Theatre is located on Smith Bros. Fish Shanty restaurant property, 4164 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance. Admission prices are \$1.50 Fridays and Sundays, \$1.75 Saturdays with curtain time 8:30 p.m. "Send Me No Flowers" will be presented four more weekends with June 22 the final performance.



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