

'Finian' Falls Short of Mark

What should be one of the slickest productions of the Long Beach Civic Light Opera Association's current season doesn't quite make it.

"Finian's Rainbow," which opened at Concert Hall last Thursday for a run which ends Feb. 18, has everything that makes a musical a success—a good story, very good music, lots of dancing, and grand sets.

But it also demands a good deal of its singers—and that's where the CLO production fails.

PETIT Miss Sinkovec, a high school senior who is playing her first CLO production, just doesn't have that lyrical quality which the role of Sharon McLonergan demands. Miss Sinkovec is backed up by one of the best chorus ensembles CLO has assembled, but it can't overcome the initial failure.

But "Finian's Rainbow" does have its bright moments—and one of them is Pepper Clyde, who plays the role of the deaf mute Susan Mahoney. Susan talks by dancing until a Leprechaun restores her voice in the final scene—and what dancing. Miss Clyde, who danced her heart out in "West Side Story," steals this show, too, with her graceful movements about the stage.

Arthur Carah stars as Finian McLonergan, who has come to Missinucky's Rainbow Valley with a pot of gold (stolen from the leprechauns, no less) to become a millionaire. Carah is a gifted performer who has been perfectly cast for this role.

FINE performances also

JERRY REYNOLDS

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Zounds What Sounds!

When you talk about "the full sound" you must certainly be talking about the current entertainment offered at SamFalla's San Franciscan in Torrance.

Piano, accordion, electric bass, guitar and cocktail drums—put them all together and it sounds like a big group but in reality it's just a trio but gives off with music that would credit a much larger group. All these instruments, plus the fact that they all do vocals makes "The Johnny Powell Group" an outstanding organization.

They're seasoned performers, these people, having done night club, television, picture work—the works, and have played in some of the finest clubs on the Reno-Tahoe-Las Vegas circuit. They also boast of credits from the Bob Hope Show, the Billy Extine Show, Ed Sullivan "Shoo" as well as a stint with the Hollywood Palace.

Breaking the group down it's Johnny Powell who is the piano and accordion man plus the leader-type guy.

Paul McElvain swings with his electric bass as well as the guitar, and as we said before, does masterful vocals.

And Janie Saylor... well now here's something else again! A lovely girl with an equally lovely voice and who carries the rhythm for the group on the cocktail drums.

An extremely versatile group, this and they're playing nightly at the San Franciscan for your entertainment. Make it by soon and listen to an exciting bunch right there on Sepulveda at Crenshaw.

If Sears and Roebuck didn't sponsor the original production of "Finian's Rainbow" they most certainly should have "cause they sure were being plugged throughout the current show at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium when we attended the press opening last Friday night presented by the Long Beach Civic Light Opera.

It's always a pleasure to attend the production of this talented organization and "Finian's Rainbow" is no exception. A well-rounded production with standout performances from many of the talented people in the show. Look for the review of this second production of the current season elsewhere on this page.

If you haven't yet made the short trip down over the hill to the tip of the Palos Verdes Peninsula for a listen at The Wilder Brothers during their current booking at Galley West Restaurant, then you've been missing something. These lads plus the lassie are worth any kind of a trip you should make, they're that good. Sure, sure, maybe you have seen The Wilders before but if you're a true Wilder fan, that doesn't matter. Plus, they've slipped a lot of new stuff into their act that they



EXHILARATING... Just looking at the picture of pretty Janie Saylor is one of the most exhilarating events that can happen in your life in the next few days so get in on the action with The Johnny Powell Group at The San Franciscan in Torrance.

and it's 20 per cent discount for all over two weeks to one and all.

This, you understand, includes the use of the golf course as well as the tennis courts, the swimming pool, and the therapeutic pool. So all in all, that's not too bad a package, d'ya think?

By the way, lovers, the National Shakespeare Company is opening with "Romeo and Juliet" on Monday night, Feb. 26, at Melodyland Theatre so you had best get busy and order your tickets 'cause that is like about a week from this coming Monday.

Opening nite the curtain will go up promptly at 8 o'clock and the same play will be repeated at 11 a.m. and again at 3 in the afternoon Tuesday, the 27th.

Then Thursday it'll be the famed Ben Jonson comedy "Volpone" at 11 a.m. and again at 3.

The final production of the series will be "Twelfth Night" at 11 in the morning and again at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2. Oh, and there are special reduced rates being offered to students for all performances. You may get tickets at the box office or at all theatre ticket agencies for the seven-performance engagement.

Bet you thought all along

from home" for close to 3,000 boys of all creeds, color, race and religion from age 7 to 19. Relating Variety's humanitarian activities, a film will be shown all this week in all major theatres and drive-ins throughout Southern California including National General Fox West Coast, Pacific, Lowes, and Metropolitan Theatres.

Well now, didn't mean to get on a soap box here but it's truly important that you should know something of what these fine folk in the world of make-believe are doing. Y'see, they're not always making believe so it's always a pleasure to write little goodies about these wonderful people as they appear in this or that club around our Southland.

Tony Zoppi sat himself down to write a note regarding the current attraction up there in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel.

The show, of course, is "Funny Girl" and Tony says it's now been extended through the month of March, due largely to the magnificent performance of Mimi Hines, according to the opinion of almost everyone.

And don't sell the shared star billing short, either; that of Phil Ford and Anthony George. An altogether beautiful production, and with altogether beautiful people.

"Up the rud a piece" they have got a catchy title for a catchy revue at the Hotel Tropicana—"Color Me Groovy" featuring some more "beautiful people."

Comic Allan Sherman, singer Beverlee Reed, Si Zentner and his ork. In the revue itself, Clarence Freed's, there is comedienne-chanteuse Allison McKay, singer-dancers Charlie Gray and Sally Lee plus the talented Dupree Dancers. All this in the million dollar Blue Room where producer Maynard Sloate holds forth.

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