

# Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

## 'Kiss Me, Shrew'

A shrew indeed was Laura Killingsworth portraying the uncontrollable, ill-mannered but beautiful katharine (Lilli Vanessi) in "Kiss Me Kate," the musical version of "Taming of the Shrew" last nite at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium.

However, running true to Shakespeare form, by the time the final curtain came down on this Long Beach Civic Light Opera Association's presentation, Fred Graham (Petruchio) portrayed by James Boyd had settled her down to a mere walk.

From the opening curtain to closing, this was one of the most professional offerings we've seen anywhere in the Southland this season, packed with talent both in the vocal as well as the dance field. It would be a difficult chore indeed, to single out "A" particular performance. Pure quality!

The wonderful blending of Mrs. Killingsworth's voice with that of handsome and personable James Boyd's strong baritone raised goose flesh throughout the packed house. In all fairness, it must be said that these two talented performers were the standouts in the production.

And in the dance department, choreography director Cris Timmons' labors must have been considerably cut to a minimum with the brand of talent he had on that stage. If there were steps or lines fluffed, it was not noticeable and the stage presence of the various performers was of the calibre that the "fluffs" were expertly covered up. It must have been sheer pleasure for director James Britton, too, working with this fine troupe.

But of course, with the brand of musical artistry Jack Kroesen and his impeccable group of music-makers present, it would be difficult to "blow" a step or a note. Here, truly, is a dedicated group of real musicians.

Rounding out a few more of this talented cast would be vivacious Linda Hart, portraying Lois Lane (Blanca).

newcomer Dick Johnson as Bill Calhoun (Lucentio) and the comedy-relief gangsters Roy Malmberg and Ralph Richmond, all of whom turned in applause-drawing performances.

You still have until July 30 to catch this Broadway by the Sea presentation of the Long Beach Civic Opera, so if you enjoy the arts we strongly urge you to avail yourselves of an excellent production.

Talk about "crazy-mixed-up" it was exactly that one nite recently at The Tea House while passing the time of evening with nite barman Ron.

Well, also passing time at the cocktail bar in the rear of The Tea House was "Slim" Gum . . . who's husband Don Ray Gum and son Mike Ray Gum were waiting at home for some Sub Gum along with

Fred Gled (hill) who's wife Lavisa was with Slim Gum helping in the order of the Sub Gum. Now in all fairness it must be noted that "Slim" is really Carolyn, but after all, Carolyn Gum doesn't somehow have that ring that Slim Gum puts out. Huh? Are you confused?

Anyway, we hope everything worked out nicely with the Sub Gum, the Slim Gum, the Mike Ray Gum, Don Ray Gum, the Fred Gled and the Lavisa Gled (hill) group. Now how do you suppose she wound up with such a non-rhyming name as Lavisa? Couldn't they just hang a nickname like "Sled" on her just to carry out the illusion? Please, don't. Having a hard enough time as it is!

The old saying about "a bad penny turning up" and "bad penny turning up" does not hold with this. It's a case of "a GOOD penny turning up" and it's none other than our old friend and star bartender, Kenny Decker who "opened" last week-end at The Half Way House where he'll be "playing nitely at the main bar."

Kenny's partner in the cocktail lounge of The Half Way House is another well-known cat in the area, Ron Forrester, sometimes referred to as "Old Forrester." (Not really. Can't be more than 50 . . .)

Genial Gene Wright, manager-host of the newly-rejuvenated Half Way spot there at the entrance to the Torrance Airport, wants it known those fabulous luncheons will be a continuous affair from 11:30 in the ayem 'til 4:30 in the afternoon.

The dinner bit takes over at half-past five and hangs tough 'til 10 in the evening. There's also dancing and entertainment here nitely so swing by any nite soon and join the swingers. After all, this spot is becoming known as the "Swingers' Room" y'know so like, if you can't whip 'em . . . join 'em!

The Cove Bowl is a fun spot these days down there in Wilmington although we sure got carried away last week when we called Juan Brady "Warren" but we'll make up for it this week.

Juan's still there Thursday through Saturday. For the Celebrity Nite bit which is Sunday, it's "The Drifters" this week.

But hold, now! Know what Thursday night is at The Cove Bowl? Well hang tough and we'll leave you know; it's Ladies Nite . . . that's what it is and that means that all ladies will be charged only forty cents for any regular bar drink, and that's a bargain! So, ladies, try to behave like ladies and get in on a good thing!

Understand Bill Fremon't's attracting many newcomers to his Matador Restaurant in West Los Angeles and some have trouble in their selection so Bill comes to the rescue.

Y'see, these IS a difference between Spanish food and Mexican food . . . and that's not to take away from Mexican food in any way. We like both equally well but if one has his mouth set for authentic Spanish food, he's apt to become irate if he's served South-of-the-border type food . . . and vice-versa.

So irrespective of the nite, the time or the rush of business at The Matador, don't hesitate for a second to ask Bill to give you a hand with your selection, whether it be poultry, veal, seafood or beef. Senor William will be at your table on the double and explain the various menu items for you. Just how Bill Fremon't can be in so many places at one time in his popular foods-of-Spain dinery has always been a mystery to both patrons as well as employees but he somehow makes all the rounds. He's just tireless, guess that's all you can say.

Then of course, there's al-

ways the cozy Flamenco Room downstairs for that after-dinner sip to watch and listen to the talents of such artists as beautiful and dazzling Lucerito with her partner Raphael Ruiz. Or master-guitarist David London, guitarist-singer Maria Del Rey and Professor Matos at the piano. They all add to the rounding out of your evening at The Matador.

Oooops! You're missing something if you don't take advantage of some of Nick Ciociarelli's (try Smith if you can't remember THAT name) Cooper's Brandy. It's some of the smooooootheest we've ever experienced (nicer word than "tasted") and Nick features it at his Jet Room Lounge regularly. Sure, brandy is the kind of thing you should have following a dinner but with this stuff Nick has, it's just plain good. For sort of a nice change of pace now and then, give it a whirl!

Don't get mis-confused by that "after dinner" thing. Although Nick and Nell don't feature food per se, they still put out a whale of a sandwich for a half-a-buck and let's face it, there's many times you feel like a short quickie in that department. If you don't . . . the LAPD does! It helps, friends, it helps!

Blew the whole shot down there a week ago when our camera got spooked so tried it again last Friday nite so . . . living bravely as we do . . . you'll note a bit of art somewhere on this page of delightful Maxine Ernst, posing provocatively (Whoosh! Who dreamt up THAT word!) with other well-known human beings at the piano bar.

Human beings like Bob Frey on drums, for example, and then standing over there looking happy but helpless (whynot! He's nite bartender and what can he do at the PIANO bar!) is Bill Ellis, one of Nick's rely-upon type guys. And, incidentally, a fine mixologist!

And parked right there at the end of the piano-bar is Marian Freeman and Ramon Alcantor . . . (Hold it! Hold it! Hold it! That's not Eddie's brother. That's Ramon's last name!)

Getting back to Bill Ellis and mix-ologists in general, let's not slip over the well-versed sports authority in this group. He's John O'Connor (a fyne Eytalian boy!) who's been day man for lo these many six years. Gotta question about sports? Ask him! If he doesn't have the answer . . . he's got a book. Oh year . . . the other guy

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A GOOD GROUP . . . Sort of living it up at the huge piano bar at the Jet Room Lounge one nite last week were, (left to right) Ramon Alcantor, Marian Freeman, and (standing) hostess-beauties Maxine Ernst, talking with nite mix-o-matic Bill Ellis. Seated behind pianoman-supreme Chuck Bishop is Bob Frey on drums. You can catch 'em all nitely at Nick and Nell Ciociarelli's spot in Inglewood.

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in the picture at the piano-bar! Mmmmm, let's see now . . . Chuck Bishop? Sounds familiar. Could be! Yeah, it IS Chuck Bishop, a truly good entertainer. Chuck's only trouble is he wants to have his hair combed when posing for a picture. And here's a cat that doesn't haxe to worry about his looks. His talent would carry him! And HEY, come to think of it, he ain't that ugly! From our observation and the observations of the ladies in the house, he's like "got it." (Just forget the hair, Chuckie, baby!)

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