S.W.O.N. Songs'

By ARTHUR FRIEDMAN

"S.W.O.N. Songs: A 1940s Homefront Ca-baret." Written and Directed by Ron Jen-kins. Musical direction by Brad Ellis. At Charlestown Working Theater, 42 Bun-ker Hill St., Charlestown. Through May 21.

"S.W.O.N. Songs: A 1940s Home-front Cabaret" is based in part on the oral histories of the women who worked in the Charlestown Navy Yard during World War II. When the actors step out of character to recite these women's actual monologues, they (both ac-

tors and speeches) move us. But "S.W.O.N. Songs" is mainly the work of writer Ron Jenkins, whose poor excuse for a script fol-lows the fortunes of a group of

Fellow singers call him 'God'

From Page 31

hard for a big record company that's geared to sell records in K-Mart to figure out what to do with an esoteric guy like me."

What makes this record different from his previous albums?

Clark chuckles. "I got to pay for it myself," he says. "And I got to produce and do the whole thing myself. I didn't have any pressure on me except to do what I chose, so I took my time and made the record I always wanted to make. It's a real acoustic approach. There's no drums, no big band. It's living room music."

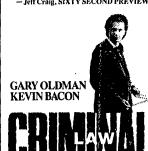
Now Clark, 47, is taking his songs out of the living room and putting them on the road. He's opening for another Texan, Nanci Griffith, at two sold-out shows at Berklee on Saturday. Don't des-pair. Just drive out to Northamp-ton on Friday and see him perform at the Iron Horse with Townes Van Zandt.

Van Zandt is yet another Texan. He doesn't have much of a voice, but he's one helluva song-



"Gripping Suspense"

- Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW



R CD PANAVISION DOWN HEMDALE

CHERI SOMERVILLE (101 WS CHERI SOMERVILLE (101

PEABODY BURNINGON MAIL CHESTNUT HILL STORY STORY CHESTNUT HILL STORY STORY CHESTNUT HILL STORY STORY CHESTNUT HILL STORY STORY CHESTNUT HILL STORY

[X][corn.eigen], [X][corn.eigeno], [X][corn.eigeno] GENERAL COMMAN PROMICASE CINEMAS PROMICAS PROMIC

Shipbuilding Women of the Navy (S.W.O.N.s). There's Ginger, the movie-struck hairdresser; Helen, who aspires to Electrician-First-Class status; and Ethel, a worldlywise black woman with few stars in her eyes.

Nothing much happens to these Assembly Line Annies: they trade patriotic slogans, they stage a workclothes fashion show, they form a singing group, they worry about the boys at the front.

"Get

That they are stereotypes goes without saying. That they are uninteresting stereotypes is Jenkins' fault: His inane script offers neither a coherent plot, coherent characters nor a coherent parody (if that's his game); and the show's 20 songs serve merely as decoration.

Jenkins touches on some po-tentially interesting themes: The effect of the mass media and pop-ular culture on defining these wo-

NEW ENGLAND'S

CHINESE

RESTAURANT

"The Way

You Do

The Things

You Do

men's values; the first stirrings of the equal rights movement blacks and women. But "S.W.O.N. Songs" is too sketchy to bear the weight of Jenkins' attempts at seriousness; so they seem sentimental, clumsy, and pretentious.

The performers are far livelier

A STATE OF STATE

than their material. I liked Kathy St. George as Ginger (she has a pleasant trace of the young Judy Garland), Kathryn Woods as Ethel (though she cries too much, which is out of character for the tough, no-nonsense welder), and Sally Schwager as the aspiring Helen. They'd all be better off in a better show.

Two of Boston's most gifted ca-baret artists, Bobbie Steinbach and Jodi Capeless, are wasted in the undemanding roles of radio

performers and plant managers.
With such a squandering of
talent, no wonder "S.W.O.N. Songs"
takes a S.W.O.N. dive.



EDDIE KENDRICKS & DENNIS EDWARDS

Former Lead Singers of the **TEMPTATIONS**Only New England Appearance!
Special Guests: **Michard J's Inn Crow**d

Serving the finest Szechuan, Thal, and Chinese cuisine

Please (617) 233-1236 Call: (617) 233-0077



NOW PLAYING

PEABODY

CHARLES

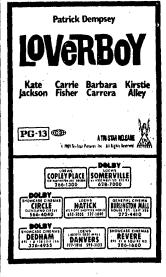
BURLINGTON MALL

DEDHAM

SOMERVILLE ALLSTON CINEMA



No Passes at Loews Theaters









	IE 227-8722: SUBURBA Œ FIRST SHOW ONLY AT		
COPLEY PLACE	NICKELODEON 606 FUMM AVE SIR KENMORE SO 404 - S	ж	DALTON ST. OPF. SHEVA
CRUSOE (PG-13) +10:30-12:10-2:20-4:40-7:25-9:40	SCANDAL +12:30-2:40-4:50-7:00-8:15	(81)	CRIMINAL LAW +1:15-3:15-5:30-7:4

HIGH HOPES *12:45-3:00-5:15-7:25-9:40

*10:30-12:10-2:20-4:40-7:25-9:40 LOVERBOY (P4-13) +11:15-1:30-3:50-5:15-7:40-10:00 BARON MUNCHAUSEN (PG) +10:45-1:35-4:16-7:10-10:00

FIELD OF DREAMS +11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING +11:15-2:00-4:35-7:00-9:30 SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL IPE

RAM MAN 10:15-1:20-4:20-7:30-10:10

PARENTS 1:40-3:40-5:40-9:50 WORKING GIRL (# +10:00-12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:20

NATICK VIEW JUB SHOPPER L WORLD 27 - SUCH 227 SERD HORROR SHOW HOPAS + 1:20-3:25-5:30-7:55-9:55

LOVERBOY +1:10-3:15-5:15-7:30-9:35

12:40-3:05-5:25-7:40-9:50 PETSEMATARY NO PASSES DOLBY (R * 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:20-9:30

SPEEDZONE \$1:00-3:00-5:00-7:10-9:20

BROCKTON-

LOVERBOY SPEED ZONE (PG) *5:10-7:15 REDSCORPION (R) SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL (PG)

THREEFUGITIVES

WORKINGGIRL ACCIDENTAL TOURIST

ACCIDENTAL TOURIST * 5:30-7:50

WORKINGGIRL

HEATHERS +12:45-3:00-5:00-7:30-9:30

MAJORLEAGUE NOPASSES (R) +1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30 NEW YORK STORIES *12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:20

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (PG)
1:30-7:30 TORMORDOLEV MEDICAGE

JACKNIFE +1:15-3:20-5:20-7:20-9:20

+12:00-2:15-4:30-7:00-9:30 DREAM TEAM #013 BARONMUNCHAUSEN

NEW YORK STORIES *12:00-2:20-4:45-7:15-9:45

JANUS STURE: NEAR HARVARD SU 64 STU DANGEROUS LIAISONS +12:30-2:46-5:00-7:30-10:00

HARVARD SQ.

SCANDAL. +12:30-2:45-5:00-7:30-9:45

FIELD OF DREAMS

SOMERVILLE CRIMINALLAW

12:30-2:45-5:00-7:15-9:45 LOVERBOY BOLBY (PG-13) *12:45-3:10-5:20-7:40-10:10 HORRORSHOW NOPASSES (R

★1:00-3:15-5:30-8:00-10:20

+12:30-2:50-5:00-7:10-9:25 REDSCORPION

*12:30-2:50-5:10-7:35-10:00 PETSEMATARY WORKERS I +12:40-2:55-5:10-7:20-9:40

SEE YOU IN THE MORHING *12:30-2:45-5:00-7:15-8:45 SPEED ZONE

SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL (PO) #12:30-2:30-5:15-7:45-9:50 'MGONNAGITYOUSUCKA (#

*12:40-2:40-5:40-7:30-9:50 SAYANYTHING *12:45-3:00-5:16-7:45-10:00

MAJORLEAGUE NOPASSES (R) +12:50-3:10-5:25-7:50-10:10

RAINMAN

*1:15-3:15-5:30-7:45-9:50

SAYANYTHING +1:00-3:15-5:15-7:45-10:00

CHARLES

12:45-2:50-5:00-7:20-9:40 DREAMTEAM #6-13

REDSCORPION +1:15-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:10

*1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-8:30

HORROR SHOW NO PAGE 1:00-3:00-5:00-7:15-9:30 PETSEMATARY NOPAL +1:30-3:30-5:45-7:45-10:00

DANGEROUS LIAISONS +1:00-3:16-5:30-7:45-10:00

DANVERS RIC (48 EXT 44 77 255) 59

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING (PG.13) +1:00-3:10-5:15-7:30-9:50

SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL +1:30-3:30-5:20-7:20-9:30 SAYANYTHING OOLBY (PG-13) +1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-8:40

DREAM TEAM DOLEY +1:00-3:15-5:35-7:50-10:15 MAJORLEAGUE DOLEY HOPASSES (R) #1:10-3:15-5-20-7:45-10:00

RAINMAN +1:30-4:30-7:15-10:00

DANVERS LTM .

LOVERBOY *5:20-7:20-9:20 HORRORSHOW HOPAMES

BARONMUNCHAUSEN PE

SCANDAL

SPEED ZONE