For its current offering, the Sun­­shine Dinner Playhouse in Cham­­paign is presenting an offbeat little show called Some Enchanted Evening.

Offbeat, that is, for the Sunshine, from which we've come to expect quality productions of blockbuster musicals and light comedies.

Some Enchanted Evening is what is becoming known in showbiz as a musicalette - an anth­ology of songs, and sometimes dances, of the same authorship or thematic content. Some anthologies are ambitious, large­scale productions (Sophisticated Ladies), others more modest (Ain't Misbehavin'). The Sunshine show is a small, intimate revue featuring the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein, one of the longest and most successful collaborations in the history of American musical theatre. There's no unifying concept. It's a string of songs, presented in no particular order, interspersed with an occasional bit of patter or dance.

Some of the songs are classics that have become a part of our lives - Oh, What a Beautiful Mor­­nin’, There is Nothin’ Like a Dame, I Enjoy Being a Girl, Do-Re-Mi, If I Loved You, I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair, and, of course, the title number. Others may not be so well known - In My Own Little Corner (from Cinderella), The Gentlemen is a Dope (from Allegro), It Might As Well Be Spring (from the film State Fair). Most of them still ex­­ert their magic. They're fresh and alive, full of joy, simple but with an underlying sophistication. And they're sung with verve, flair and feeling by five attractive, talented young performers - Constance Dykstra, Shirese Hursey, Robert Mangialardi, Michele Van Note, and Allen Walker. They don't try to recreate any of the characters of the original shows. They appear as themselves and sing the numbers in their own individual styles. They're all in evening attire. The set consists of illuminated panels with the names of some of the big Rodgers and Hammerstein hits - Oklahoma!, South Pacific, The Sound of Music, The King and I, Carousel. It's a bit disconcerting to see a piece of rural Americana like The Surrey With the Fringe on Top performed in such a theatrical set­­ting, or to hear I Can't Say No when the “cain’’ is supposed to rhyme with “quaint,” “ain’t” and “faint”.

But in general it works beautiful­ly, and I can't think of a nicer way to spend a warm, friendly, enjoyable evening of glorious music. And if you're lucky and get there on a night when the performers need more time to get ready for their opening number, you'll be able to catch the show's musical director, Machelle Bebensee, do­ing a few tunes from the Sunshine's next production, Funny Girl. She's a classy singer with a big voice, nice style and a pleasant sense of humor.

There are performances Wed­­nesdays through Sundays in the Chancellor Hotel, through March 15.