

In concert from page 8

THE WIT SPOCKET
Win Gagey Tab at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (adult admission) (313) 861-1411

GEORGE CLINTON JR.
Win W.K.S. at Avlin's, 5766 Cass, Detroit, (313) 832-2355

HOPE ORCHESTRA
Win Clio Chace at 3-D, 1818 N. Main St., Royal Oak, (alternative rock) (313) 583-3344

THE STILES
Studio Lounge, 6921 Wayne Road, Westland, (rock) (313) 729-2540

Friday, July 1

STEVE MILLER
Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (rock) (313) 377-0100

THE 3 OF US
Mr. Lou's Rhythm and Blues, 16117 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe, (blues) (313) 827-1700

JEFF MUCKLEY
Gem Theatre, 58 E. Columbia, Detroit, (alternative rock) (313) 953-8900

BALT AN PEPA
Win K-7 and The Pupples at Chene Park Music Theatre, One and Jackson, one mile east of the Renaissance Center, Detroit, (rock) (313) 393-0066

NICHOLLE G.
Doc Frock's, 7935 W. Maple, Westland, (rock) (313) 824-7200

THE SPRINGERS
And The Gratitude Steel Band perform on Michigan Tasterfest's Grand Stage, West Grand Boulevard in front of GM Building, Detroit, (blues) (313) 872-0188

KEB
And David Myles & Milestones perform in Michigan Tasterfest's Jazz Showcase Tent, west entrance to Fisher Building, Detroit, (jazz) (313) 872-0188

ELEANOR MCINTY
Maggie Bag Theatre Cafe, 22018 Woodward, Ferndale, (acoustic) (313) 544-3030

THE BLUES-O-MATICS
Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn, (blues) (313) 581-3650

NOKKI JAMES AND THE FLAMETHROWERS
Sports, 106 Maple, Wyandotte, (blues) (313) 283-5060

PAUL MARVIN BLUES BAND
Stan's Dugout, 3350 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills, (blues) (313) 824-6433

KERISA NIE BOONES
Stan's Dugout, 40000 Garfield, Clinton Township, (blues) (313) 334-9292

CARTOON LIFE
Win Calamity Jane at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, (alternative rock) (313) 334-9292

CARNIVAL STRIPPERS
Barnatomes, 9411 E. M-36, Whitmore Lake, (alternative pop) (313) 449-5341

Saturday, July 2

STEVE MILLER
Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township, (rock) (313) 377-0100

TORI AMOS
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (jazz) (313) 961-5451

THE 3 OF US
Mr. Lou's Rhythm and Blues, 16117 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe, (blues) (313) 827-1700

E.C. & THE BUNSHINE BROS
And Bust'n' Loose perform on Michigan Tasterfest's Grand Stage, West Grand Boulevard in front of GM Building, Detroit, (blues) (313) 872-0188

RAKES BROTHERS
With Rocky T and Calvin Brooks perform in Michigan Tasterfest's Jazz Showcase Tent, west entrance to the Fisher Building, Detroit, (jazz) (313) 872-0188

'Lion King' has slightly muffled roar

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

The songs sort of flirze. The humor relies too much on farting and burping. Even the youngest audience members will find the story predictable. That said, "The Lion King" is still the best family entertainment you'll find this summer.

Disney has animated itself into an impossible corner. "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Aladdin" were among the best animated features ever produced. Aside from state-of-the-art graphic work, they incorporated laughs, Broadway-caliber music and characters you really cared about.

"The Lion King" has a lion's share of these elements as well. Simba, the lion cub, must grow into his destined role as king of the jungle. His father, Mufasa, uses his wisdom and good judgment to prepare the boy for the challenge of taking his place in the great "circle of life."

Scar, the king's evil brother, has other ideas. He wants a pack of hyenas to start a wilde-

MOVIES

beast stampede that will trample the king and his son, leaving Scar heir to the throne.

This is by far the most exciting part of the movie. Simba stays just ahead of the thundering hooves, shown in a clever mix of traditional and computer-generated animation. Mufasa manages to scoop Simba up to safety but dangles precariously beneath a ledge while trying to save himself.

The comedy comes when Simba leaves the kingdom and meets up with a warthog and his weaselly companion. They convince the young lion to adopt their motto of "Hakuna Matata" (meaning "no worries") and embark on a care-free existence of idleness and insect suppers not unlike the Falstaff/Prince Hal drinking and debauchery bond in Shakespeare.

"The Lion King" uses little-known actors Ernie Sabella and Nathan Lane and their important comic parts, a surprise considering the high profile, hugely suc-

cessful cameo by Robin Williams as the voice of the genie in "Aladdin." These Broadway performers are fine, but even better are the familiar voices of James Earl Jones' Mufasa and Jeremy Irons' Scar.

Tim Rice and Elton John collaborate on five original songs, with middling success. Syrupy ballads like "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" bore me as much as when I was a kid, while "I Just Can't Wait to Be King" compares weakly with similarly frenetic and colorful numbers from previous films.

Probably, the most effective music is found in the opening "Circle of Life," which incorporates African rhythms with the main theme of the movie. In a clever Disney marketing strategy (which grew tiresome for avid moviegoers), the song was used in its entirety in lengthy trailers for the film.

The message behind the movie comes across loud and clear. Simba must find his place among previous kings that now look down from the stars. He has help from a

wise old monkey named Rafiki (voiced by Robert Guillaume) who uses mysticism, primitive drawings and a bon on Simba's head to put it all in perspective.

Give thanks to the Disney screenwriting crew for steering clear of overt political correctness. The movie could have easily turned into a timely reproach of evil posers and the vanishing raincoat, but the all-anim story has an agenda of its own, especially about the importance of fathers as role models.

Though no classic, "The Lion King" is proof positive that Disney makes the best animated features on the planet. Some kids have been known to watch movies like "Aladdin" more than 100 times on video. Maybe they'll watch "The Lion King" only 70.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 953-2047, mailbox 1866, on a Touch-Tone phone, write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eclectic Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48160.

Exciting from page 8A

all promise him that when he went there would be dancing in the streets and people would have fun. Of course, we had the traditional funeral, but I thought we've got to do this New Orleans thing."

During the past couple years, Kurkowski said, Landt had become a visible member of the Wayne State University/Cass Corridor business district.

"People knew who he was. He loved to go to the other bars and spend money and leave me at Alvin's working. He believed in circulating the money," she said with a laugh.

Alvin's is at 5766 Cass Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 832-2355 for more information.

Stabbing Westward

Opening for Depeche Mode and Primal Scream, this industrial-laden rock band doesn't exactly fit in with either band's pop rock glam reputation. But Stabbing Westward lead singer Christopher Hall said it finally hit him what his band's mission is for the tour.

"It is to burn off everyone's negative energy so they can have a happy peaceful experience," said Hall, whose band plays the Pine Knob Music Theatre July 3-4,

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER
6020 John R (at Warren), Detroit. Call (313) 577-8400 for information. (\$6.50-\$10)

"Rolling Stones at the Max" (USA - 1990). Weekends through June (call for show times). The "world's greatest rock band" captured live during their European Steel Wheels tour. What makes this different from the other half dozen Stones films is that it was filmed for the all-encompassing OmniMax screen.

MINOTEK
Capital Theatre and Arts Centre, 121 University Ave. W., Windsor. Call (519) 971-5160 for information. (\$4)

"Kwaidan" (Japan - 1964). 9 p.m. July 3-4. A four-part adaptation of American writer Lafcadio Hearn's ghost story collection, as told by Masaki Kobayashi. In one, a musician is summoned nightly from his home to play for a phantom assembly. In another, a samurai is taunted by a maniacal face that appears in any water reflection.

MAIN ART THEATRE
118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (810) 542-0180 for information and show times. (\$6.50-\$4 student; \$2 twilight/matinee)

"The Cannes Festival of Humor," June 28-30 (call for show times). More than 100 funny, award-winning commercials from the Cannes and Venice film festivals. While sex is the main pervader, one actually uses an assassin to show the importance of a good cigar to each new head of state.

"8½" (Italy - 1963). July 1-3 (call for show times). A brand new 35mm wide-screen print of Fellini's very autobiographical masterpiece. Marcello Mastroianni stars as a bemused film director struggling with his latest project and the various women in his life.

"Fear of a Black Hat" (USA - 1994). This new comedy does to rap music what "Spinal Tap" did to rock. Call (313) 543-9599 for show times. (\$5; \$3.95 matinee; \$2.95 twilight)

"Widow's Peak" (USA - 1994). Mia Farrow stars in this comedy/mystery set in 1920's Ireland about a gossiping group of well-to-do widows and one young, glumorous widow who comes to town and stirs up trouble.

MICHIGAN THEATER
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call (313) 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens)

"Bitter Moon" (Britain/France - 1993), through June 30 (call for show times). Roman Polanski's best movie in 20 years finds a strait-laced Brit (Hugh Grant) drawn to the ramblings of an embittered American expatriate (Peter Coyote) aboard a luxury cruise. Told mostly in flashback, the story of sex gone sour is full of bizarre twists.

RABBLES COFFEEHOUSE
22010 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Call 779-0707 for information. (Free)

"On the Road," 9 p.m. June 27. This compilation of educational films from the 1950s and '60s should be a blast from the past.

STATE THEATER
2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call 965-6450 for information. (\$1)

"Romeo is Bleeding" (USA - 1994), 9 p.m. June 27. Gary Oldman and Lena Olin star in this moody, funny neuro "film noir" about a hitman and his latest assignment - a shrewd woman gangster who will do anything to stay alive.

MAGIC BAG THEATER
22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (810) 544-3030 for information. (\$5)

"Best of the Three Stooges," 8 p.m. July 1-3. Five more classics starring the slapstick trio, based on suggestions from previous shows, including "Boobs in Arms," "Heathly, Wealthy and Dumb" and the World War II Hitler spoof "You Nasty Spy."

MAPLE THEATER
4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield. Films play through at least Thursday. Call (810) 655-9090 for information. (\$5; \$3.95 matinee; \$2.95 twilight)

"Widow's Peak" (USA - 1994). Mia Farrow stars in this comedy/mystery set in 1920's Ireland about a gossiping group of well-to-do widows and one young, glumorous widow who comes to town and stirs up trouble.

SCREEN SCENE

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New attitudes are cause for confusion

Voice Mail Message:
Hi. I'm 16 years old and I have a question for you that I really need answered. I have been talking to this boy ever since we've been in elementary school - second grade, to be exact. For the past year, he's changed. Now all he talks about is sex. When he gets around his "boys" or his "fellas" or whatever you want to call them, he seems to change. He's not all sweet anymore. We haven't had sex yet. I don't know about him, but I'm still a

virgin. I really want to know what should I do about it?

Dear Caller,
Hi. I listened to your message very carefully to try and understand the question you are asking. Is it that you have decided to have sex some time in the near future, but you want to know that this is the boy with whom you will have sex? Your confusion seems to be caused by the difference between the way he is now and the way he used to be.

If this is your question, you have already answered it. Your friend's current attitude does not warrant having sex with him. If you ignore his current attitude, you have accepted a contract between the two of you which may encourage him to be unkind to you.

It is important for you to understand that sex is not an isolated experience. It is part and parcel of the nature of the relationship between the two people. You do not mention love. Is this not a consideration in your decision?

If I am correct in understanding your question then my response, which brings up love, is pertinent. If I am not correct, please leave another message that clarifies your question.

In general, girls' first sexual experiences stay with them for their lifetimes. Their first choice of a partner can raise their self-esteem, if they choose with thoughtfulness and good judgment, or can tear down their self-esteem. In sexual relationships without love, girls often feel used. This makes them feel ashamed.

Researchers of gender differences find that the greatest discrepancy in men's and women's attitudes are found in sexuality not in mathematics and science, as people so often believe. This is most often the case on the issue of first partners.

Barbara

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