



Leslie Blaubut plays the role of a Farmington mother who stops to buy tickets from Jane Newhauser at the theater on Farmington Road.



Zack and Mack, the rock stars who come to visit their fans, are played by Brad Campbell (left) and drummer John Mundell. Jeff Noch takes the role of their photographer.



## Youth learn about theater by staging a production

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

About 40 youngsters spent a good part of their summer learning all phases of the theater, under the direction of Taffy Jones, in Farmington Community Center.

They learned about stage makeup and painting scenery; about creating costumes, acting, stage direction and theater vocabulary.

It all led up to the production of "Friends on Farmington Road," which played to a packed house, cheers, applause and curtain calls.

"They learned how to sit, fall, stand and walk properly," Ms. Jones said. "They learned how to project and enunciate and how to use their emotions and senses."

"But most importantly, they learned self confidence and how to work with others and come up smiling even if they did not get the desired part this time."

"They learned to deal with the unexpected and to have fun but to get the job done right."

MS. JONES WROTE and directed her first children's play at the age of 10, produced in her garage with her sister and some neighbor-friends, and has never stopped.

She majored in drama and dance at Finch College and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, both in New York City.

Now she is creator, director, writer and producer of the Whistle Stop Theatre, and will take on the title of artist-in-residence for the Bloomfield Hills School System this fall.

In the interim years she worked as a dance and drama coach at Knox School for Girls, and for ten years headed up the drama productions for the Sidney Recreation Commission, the Oquaga Lake Association and for WBNF-TV, all in New York.

Simultaneously, she wrote three syndicated columns: Bedtime Stories, Frazzles and Grandma's Deltite.

Her move to the Detroit area brought her the directorship for the Birmingham Children's Theatre, and out of this experience, she conceived the idea for Whistle Stop Theatre, now in its third year.

HER PHILOSOPHY is that all children should be able to enjoy live theater, and for those who would maybe otherwise not ever see a live produc-



Scott Stern, one of the stars of the show, in lame of the 5-14-year-olds who signed up for dramatic classes with Taffy Jones this summer had their hand in the production that played to a packed house. All some part of the total production.

tion, the theater will come to them.

From it's base at the St. Dunstan Theatre, Whistle Stop makes stops at churches, schools, community centers, retirement homes and organizations.

Productions are shown on the Duad Doors TV show on Channel 7 each year, and one was chosen for a summer re-run this season. Productions have also been shown on closed circuit television for children in Beaumont Hospital.

Staff photos  
by Allen  
Schlossberg

This year, Whistle Stop Theatre becomes Whistle Stop Children's Theatre, Inc. and will go into the Bloomfield Hills School System with Ms. Jones and her original play called "Scott." Music for "Scott," which concerns respect for one another, is written by Brenda McDonald.

"Scott" will be whistle-stopping in all of the city's elementary schools.

All of Ms. Jones' plays carry some kind of message for the audience. The first two plays that whistle-stopped in Farmington Community Center centered around "Professor Pompos," an archeologist who "dug ecology."

"FRIENDS ON Farmington Road" showed how one pessimistic person on

a street could change an entire neighborhood's mood; then vice versa.

Youngsters, divided into two age groups, learned their parts, and the first production was put together in the end-of-the-classes dress rehearsal.

Ms. Jones will return to the area with The Farmington Community Center Children's Theatre this fall for all children from 5-8 years in one group, and those from 9-14 years in another.

Classes will run on Fridays, beginning Oct. 13, with a production set for Dec. 2. A spring session will begin March 30, and conclude with another original play.

## Bill boards cry out for abuse victims

By SHIRLEE IDEN

It's a sign of the times when huge billboards appear with the legend "Battered Women Need Shelter."

That's what's happening in the Oakland and Wayne counties areas. The campaign is spearheaded by the Women's Liberation Coalition of Michigan (WLCM), a group of about 3,500 members.

Barbara Troy of Southfield, an active feminist, said the Coalition has been active at least since 1969 and has brought together women's groups.

Their work resulted in the first "Stop Rape" handbooks in the country, in a women's health project and in the Feminist Credit Union in Ferndale, also the first in the United States," she explained.

Ms. Troy is the woman behind the Feminist Auto Broker Company in Southfield and is on the board of the WLCM and active in other feminist causes.

"Our coalition is made up primarily of women from the metro Detroit area and Ann Arbor," she said. "Women pay a one-time \$5 membership and they're a part of things."

THE BILLBOARDS are one of the biggest media achievements the women can point to presently. "I have a great many feminist friends all over the country and to our knowledge, these are the first feminist billboards ever."

"Our concern is to make people aware of the problem of battered women," she said. "In fact, the coalition has no real affiliation with any shelter being built, but we want bat-

tered women to understand themselves that there are others like them, and there are people who will help."

She said the organization has also produced several 30-second public service announcements featuring James Bannan, deputy chief of the Detroit Police Department who is a known authority on family violence and rape.

"Bannan says there are 100,000 battered women in the tri-county area, that is, women battered enough to require medical attention," she said.

"Our public service announcements have Bannan talking about the volume of the problem and urging people who are battered to call 911."

The 10 full-size, illuminated billboards the coalition is utilizing were donated by Eller Outdoor Advertising Company of Michigan's president, Roy Lineweber.

Erection of the billboards began last Wednesday in 10 Wayne County locations with other billboards planned for Oakland County.

CURRENTLY, the only shelter available for battered women in the tri-county area is the Salvation Army which offers shelter on a limited basis. The billboards depict a beaten woman and child and are the results of joint efforts by the WLCM and persons who donated both skills and money for the project.

Deborah Ann, an artist and WLCM board member designed the billboard while Eric Smith of GWS Studios in Detroit donated the photography. Les Miller of McNamara Association did the final arts work and the models

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### The Katydids

Something new from the Kendallarks this summer is the four-member group called the Katydids, which will make its first public appearance riding in an open convertible in Farmington and Farmington Hills Founders Festival Parade Saturday. Bea Scaglioni (at left) leads Sara Wollard, Sue McLean and Betty Gignac when the Katydids will act as strolling musicians, singing old tunes for anyone who wants to sing along, in various spots through the festival days.

The group was formed for the festival to represent the 25-member Kendallarks chorus, but will remain a permanent part of the larger group, which will be on call to perform for small, informal gatherings in the area where a piano is not a necessity. Mrs. Scaglioni will take performance requests by calling her at 636-5028. She retires as president of the Kendallarks this season, and turns the office over to Mrs. Wollard. (Staff photo by Allen Schlossberg)