

Clown Alley funsters sharpen comedy skills

Calling all clowns, jesters and jesters.
Anyone interested in clowning is being invited to a kickoff meeting of the Oakland County Clown Alley on Monday, Jan. 14, at the Springfield Oak Youth Activities Center in Davidsburg.
The initial meeting, which gets underway at 7:30 p.m., will outline the purpose and proposed activities of the Clown Alley.
The group, sponsored by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, "is designed to give experienced clowns and people inter-

ested in experiencing clowning a chance to improve their arts and skill," said Anne Clinton-Grocco, park supervisor at Springfield Oaks.
In addition to meetings, demonstrations, workshops, lectures and activities at Springfield Oaks, the clowns will have opportunities to entertain at clown camps in the Oakland County Parks and during parades and other events.

Springfield Oaks is located at Andersonville and Hall roads in Davidsburg. For further information, phone 625-8133 or 634-9371.

Studio Theatre offering musical revue

"Starting Here, Starting Now," a musical revue by Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire, will open at Detroit's Wayne State University Studio Theatre at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23.
Performances are scheduled Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. through Feb. 2, with a matinee at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31.
"Starting Here, Starting Now" brings together songs from a number of musicals written by Maltby and Shire. At the heart of their material is an active, intelligent optimism about life and love and it is in touch with the realities of modern life.
"New York Times" critic Clives Barnes said of this revue, "As a cabaret, this is a good show. It is cheerful, even rewarding way to spend the evening." Songs from the show have been recorded by such artists as Roberta Flack, Barbara Streisand, Pearl Bailey, Robert Goulet and Andy Williams.

"Starting Here, Starting Now" is directed by Philip Fox, with musical direction by Philip J. Michael, sets and lighting by William McConnell Bozman and costumes by Dianne Cooley.
In the cast are Kathy Brant, Marc Gokajko, Dennis Green, Lisa Grimm, Philip J. Michael, Jenny Roberts, Robert Stormont, Randy L. Swanson, Robert Tye, Dennis Wroesch and Sandra

Prappas. Proceeds from this production will benefit the Blakely Scholarship Fund for undergraduate students.
Further information and tickets for

"Starting Here, Starting Now" are available from the university theater box office at Cass and Hancock, phone 577-2972.

Stagecrafters offers tryouts

Stagecrafters of Clawson will hold open auditions for its third production of this season, "Vanities," at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 14 and 15.
Readings for the three female roles will be held at the Stagecrafters Playhouse at 176 Bower St., Clawson (one block northeast of 1st Mile and Main Street). For further information, con-

tact producer Mary Kearney at 879-1822.

Highrise inferno

Hells Canyon, which forms part of the Oregon-Idaho border, could hold six Empire State Buildings stacked one atop the other with room to spare.

Redford shows movie classics

The seventh series of "Movies at the Redford" will begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 11 and 12, with the film "Around the World in 80 Days." The series is a bi-weekly presentation. The Redford Theatre is at 17360 Lahser, in northwest Detroit.
Other films in the series are "Maytime," Jan. 25, 26; "The Great Caruso," Feb. 8, 9; "Watering Heights," Feb. 22, 23; "The Sound of Music," March 7, 8; "Arsenic and Old Lace," March 21, 22; "The Greatest Story Ever Told," April 4, 5; and "42nd Street," April 18, 19.
As a special feature before each performance, an organ overture will be played by an area organist on the Redford's vintage, 1928 Barton Theatre Pipe Organ. Organ overtures begin at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets for the films are available at the box office, Masters Candies, 17340 Lahser, or by mail. A ticket order form may be obtained by writing to: Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit 48219.
Some of the films in the series, including "The Sound of Music" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told," will be presented in 70mm and six-channel stereo-methods well-known for picture clarity and realistic sound.
Few theaters are able to show these prints, however, as they lack the necessary equipment. The Redford Theatre recently finished the installation of 70mm projectors and six-channel stereo sound equipment which was rescued by members of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society when Detroit's last Cinerama movie house — The Summit — fell under the wrecker's ball.
The Motor City Theatre Organ Society is a group of more than 400 area residents who are dedicated to the preservation of the theater pipe organ and the fostering of its music. In addition to activities at the Redford, which it owns, the club maintains theater pipe organs and presents programs at several other area theaters.

'Comedy Tonight' returns to campus

Following a sold-out appearance last spring, "Comedy Tonight" will return at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, and Saturday, Jan. 19, to the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus.
Members of the performing trio have had guest appearances on "The Johnny Carson Show," "Merv Griffin," "Mike Douglas," and "The Dinah Shore Show." They have played in regular situation comedies on network television, and are in the process of filming pilots for the networks.
Slated to headline the show is Mitchell Walters, who has performed at the Comic Strip in New York City as well as the famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles.
Mitchell also has writing credits from ABC's "Laverne and Shirley," CBS's "The Jeffersons," NBC's "New Laff In," and recently sold a script to ABC's "Love Boat." He also has performed on the "Richard Pryor Show," and the "Johnny Young Comedy Special."

The Student Activities Office Program Board is sponsoring "Comedy Tonight" which will be held in the Recreational Organization Center on the UM-D campus. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. For further information, call 593-5390.

Birmingham girl stars in 'Oliver'

Shannon Burrows of Birmingham is starring as Oliver in the musical "Oliver" opening at 8 p.m. today in the Alger Live Theatre in Detroit.
This adaptation of Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist" follows the orphaned Oliver through his early years. The music tells the story "Food, Glorious Food," "Who Will Buy," "Gotta Pick a Pocket or Two," "Where Is Love?" and "Oliver."
Coming attractions at the Alger will include the Pippin Puppets in "Hansel and Gretel." These one-of-a-kind, hand-made marionettes are worked by young, energetic puppeteers trained in "puppet acting" techniques.
The company producer/director is Robert Papineau, who oversees and leads designs and construction of both the characters and sets. Papineau also will conduct workshops on puppeteering techniques at the theater in the near future.
For further information call 684-6500.

Vienna Boys Choir appears in Detroit

The Vienna Choir Boys will stop at Detroit's Music Hall Center for performances at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 20.
Comprised of 24 boys between the ages of 10 and 13, the choir is on its 34th tour of North America.
Music will range from 16th to the 20th century works and the choir will also sing a one-act comic opera in full costume. The boys also sing Latin hymns, German folk songs and French chansons.
The Vienna Choir Boys have been a prominent attraction in Vienna since 1498 when the choir was founded by imperial decree by Emperor Maximilian I. Each year the institution admits fewer than 100 boys, only 10 percent of the applicants. Students are given an academic education in addition to musical training.

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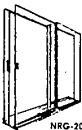
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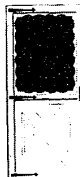
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