

Performers spin favorite fairy tale

By JULIE BROWN

"If you are a dreamer, come in, If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar, A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer... If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire For we have some flax-golden tales to spin. Come in! Come in!"

So begins the show at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. Children in need of something to do during the long summer months just might enjoy seeing a performance of one of their favorite fairy tales.

"Rumpelstiltskin" will be staged at OCC at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 14. "Hansel and Gretel" will be shown at the same times on Saturday, July 28, and "Beauty and the Beast" will be performed on Saturday, Aug. 11.

"Mostly we count on parents who want an alternative to Saturday morning T.V.," said Stan Gill, who plays the title role in "Rumpelstiltskin." "The show lasts just under an hour, and there's not a boring second."

The shows are intended for children ages 4 to 12, Gill said.

"We have our own formula for children's theater, which is a combination of all the best aspects of the theaters I've worked with, which is about half a dozen," he said.

Each show begins with a "warm-up,"

designed to put the children at ease. Some children will have the opportunity to be made up, and others will be able to come up on stage, Gill said.

"THE WARM-UP is like a children's revue," he said. "It's very funny and very imaginative. It's audience participation, and we have constant contact with the children."

Gill, a 1988 Southfield High School graduate, attended Wayne State University, and graduated from Michigan State University, with degrees in theater, studio art and education. He has taught at Okemos and Ypsilanti high schools and intends to attend the University of Minnesota in the fall, where he will pursue a master's degree.

"The actors are all schoolteachers," he said. "They're friends and people who've worked with me." Shelley MacMillan, a former Southfield resident, and Diane O'Brien Boggs, a former Oak Park, are two of the one-time Oakland County people involved in the OCC performances.

Gill was one of the founders of the Black Sheep Repertory Theatre in Manchester, which opened in July 1977. He has high hopes for the OCC shows.

"It's the culmination of years of experience. It's not like anything they've ever seen," he said. "I'm advertising it as a children's festival, in conjunction with the celebration of the International Year of the Child."



The shows will be staged in Building J, Room 303, at OCC in Farmington Hills. Tickets (\$1.25 per person) are available at the door, with reduced rates for groups of 10 or more people.

"Parents can have a great time, too," Gill said. "If they don't watch the show, they can watch the audience. If it's successful, maybe we'd consider doing it again."



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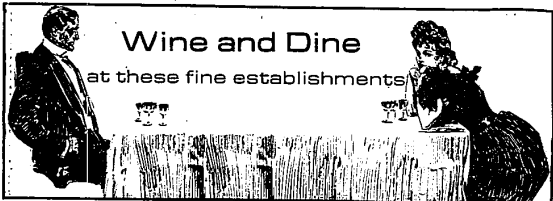
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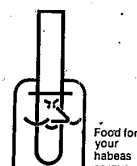
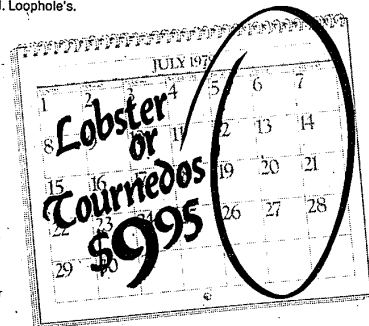
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