



Disco partners vie for 'Dance Fever'

If you're burning with dance fever, you should be dancing when Merv Griffin Productions and 20th Century Fox representatives come to Oscar's on June 10.

Sponsors of the weekly television show "Dance Fever" will be at the Southfield disco to select couples to appear on the show. Would-be disco kings and queens will have the opportunity to prove themselves to the tune of \$35,000 and a free trip to Hollywood.

Couples selected to appear on the show will receive the trip as well as a possible appearance on the show. Those who appear on the show will share \$1,000. Winning couples in the semi-final rounds will share \$5,000, and the grand prize winners will share \$35,000 in cash and prizes.

A Detroit Pistons cheerleader and dancing enthusiast is already practicing intricate twists, turns and lifts with her partner, Mike Leach.

CINDY CONN, 23, of Troy, who is a court stenographer by day and dances at night for fun, says, "I've loved to dance since I can remember and I'm really looking forward to the competition."

Leach, 28, entered last year's "Dance Fever" competition at Pepper's Disco in Waterford. He won as a finalist and received a free trip to Hollywood.

He appeared on the Dance Fever Show and won prizes and gifts. Anyone over 18 who doesn't earn his or her living as a dancer is eligible to enter the competition.

Bluegrass festival features 7 bands

Stompin', pickin' and kickin'. That's bluegrass music.

It's music born in the rural south in the '30s when Bill Monroe added a syncopated beat to mountain songs and came up with a painkiller for the Depression.

To this day, most bluegrass performers are purists, avoiding the modern trappings of electric guitars and 16-track recording studios for the low-tech life of bars and festival shows.

At many colleges and universities we're billed as 'folk music,' but that's all right with us," says Roy McGinnis of the Sunnysiders, a bluegrass group that performs throughout Michigan.

"We never want to dilute our music with electric instruments or drums, like country music has been diluted into rock."

THE SUNNYSIDERS are one of seven bluegrass bands invading Meadow Brook's Baldwin Pavilion — best known as the summer home of the Detroit Symphony — for this Sunday's Motor City Bluegrass Festival.

Along with the Sunnysiders, the Red Clay Ramblers, the Hotmud Family, Unexpected Company, Livingston County Grass, Acme Bluegrass and the Costabella Cloggers will perform continuously, noon to 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 (free for children under 15), available at Hudson's and CTC outlets. For more information, call 577-4204.

"There's a lot of folks in Detroit who

concerts

never heard real bluegrass music at all, and I hope they'll come out and find out what it's all about," says Larry McDaniel, organizer of the festival and drawl-voiced host of the "Arkansas Traveler" show on WDET-FM.

"Lots of folks who listen to my program came up from the South. They miss hearin' bluegrass music, cause you don't hear it anywhere in these parts — not the real thing, anyway."

"People are callin' me up all the time and they want to know what is this music and how come they never heard it before, and so on. I also throw in some blues, stringband, jugband and gospel music, and most folks seem to like it."

WITH ITS RURAL background, bluegrass lyrics often tell stories of home, family and poverty, using banjos, fiddles, mandolins and maybe a dulcimer. And by its nature, bluegrass is rarely heard on record.

"Bluegrass music was born when people got together on the back porch and at barn-raisons, wedding's and community gatherin's," says McDaniel.

To really perform bluegrass, you need a live audience. I've always said that Henry Ford did as much for bluegrass as anybody when he invented the pickup truck around 1928."

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