

Performers needed for talent show

Applications to audition for the Seymour Talent Show are still being sought, according to booking agent Seymour Schwartz of Southfield.

Schwartz says he is looking for all types of talent — singers, dancers and comedians. Judges will select winners and prizes will be awarded at the show, slated for 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Stafford's restaurant at Orchard Mall on Orchard Lake Road and Maple in West Bloomfield Township.

Interested performers should call the restaurant at 851-8952 or Schwartz at 356-8925.

Talent contest judges include Jim Windell, freelance entertainment

agent, Dennis Vernier, one-man-band virtuoso now appearing at Stafford's; Heidi Press, associate editor, The Jewish News; and Patricia Kelly, promotional director of Orchard Mall.

Musical accompaniment for the show will be provided by Charles Rowland, currently appearing at Sydney's

the box office at 555-8437.

"Wings" is the play for which the Tony Award was given for best actress

in 1978. The drama is about a stroke victim and her desperate struggle to make sense of her shattered world.

Michigan premiere slated

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DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Reform prison warden Robert Redford disguises himself as an inmate in order to find sources of corruption that permeate the system in "Brubaker."

the movies

Louise Snider

Robert Redford succeeds again as modern hero

Just when you think every summer movie is designed for people who already have fried their brains at the beach, along comes "Brubaker" (R).

"Brubaker" is a hard, tough film. It's an angry film, and you get angry watching it.

At issue is a major social problem, a prison system that is inadequate at best, corrupt and murderous at worst. Not a very entertaining subject, but prison reform is not a very popular cause, as Thomas Merton found out.

Merton is the reform warden who is the model for Robert Redford's Brubaker. Merton rocked the Arkansas penology system when he exposed the hellish conditions of the state prisons, where murders were unreported and victims buried in unmarked graves.

BUCKING THE ESTABLISHMENT, as Merton discovered, isn't the way to win friends or influence people (in high places). Certainly, it's not a course of action that will advance a career dependent on the good will of officials.

However, this degree of uncompromising moral rectitude, as well as the larger issue of what happens when any individual threatens an entrenched bureaucracy, gives the movie a compelling intensity and probably was a factor in attracting Redford to play the lead.

This is another white knight role for Redford, whose all-American looks and low-key manner seem to define a particular kind of contemporary hero: likeable but not a team player; handsome but not unmanly, brave but not cocky.

Brubaker is similar, therefore, to other characters Redford has played from the investigative reporter in "All the President's Men" to the rebellious cowboy of "The Electric Horseman."

Redford creates a highly credible persona in all of his performances. In "Brubaker," he does it again after a tantalizingly modest beginning.

PRETENDING TO BE just another inmate, the new warden mingles inconspicuously with the population of Wakefield prison. This play allows story emphasis to focus on the prison and how it works. Wakefield is a place that encourages and perpetuates barbarous conduct.

The state prison has its own cattle herd and acres of food crops, yet there is never enough to eat and the men are served worm-infested slop. Bribes are the rule for everything from haircuts to medical attention, and beatings are commonplace.

The prison does bring in a profit, however. Since everyone from trustees up to the governor's office seems to have a hand in the cookie jar, no one is overjoyed when Brubaker, the reform warden, steps in and puts the lid on.

The governor's aide (Jane Alexander) urges Brubaker to compromise. Allow some of the old (corrupt) ways to remain and he'll get funds to improve facilities and conditions. He doesn't see it that way. Compromise on strategy? Yes. On principles? No.

Once or twice there is a suggestion that Brubaker's no-compromise attitude may not be in the best interests of the prison, but this provocative question is not pursued. The knight emerges with his armor still shining.

Mention should be made of the careful direction of Stuart Rosenberg, the taut script by W.D. Richter and the skillful acting of the entire supporting cast.

what's at the movies

NEW RELEASES

BRONCO BILLY (PG). Clint Eastwood stars as rowdy, brawling owner of Wild West show.

BRUBAKER (R). Serious drama with Robert Redford as reform warden fighting corruption on state prison farm.

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG). "Star Wars" sequel unites original cast in continuation of battle against the evil empire.

FAME (R). Lots of young talent in vibrant musical about students at New York's School of Performing Arts.

FRIDAY THE 13TH (R). A case of overkill as counselors reopen camp closed since a series of vicious murders.

THE HOLLYWOOD KNIGHTS (R). Comedy about young men fighting to save their hangout from the wrecker's ball.

THE ISLAND (R). Butchery galore as Michael Caine investigates ship disappearances and finds modern-day piracy in Caribbean.

ROUGH CUT (R). Diamond thief Burt Reynolds falls for Scotland Yard decoy Leslie-Anne Down.

THE SHINING (R). Stanley Kubrick fashions ultimate horror film where ordinary becomes ominous, and Jack Nicholson's psychotic evokes both fear and laughter.

TOM HORN (R). Steve McQueen in story about rugged men at the end of the Old West era.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

- G General audiences admitted.
- PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
- R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
- X No one under 18 admitted.

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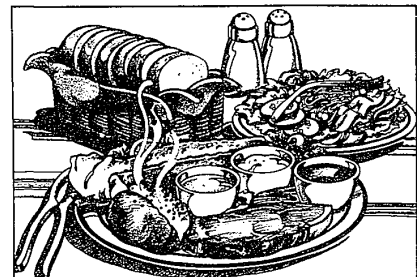
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