

Woman organizes lively arts for youngsters

A new performing arts series for children, 3-10, "Lively Arts for Little Ones," will open in Southfield and Troy starting next month. It is the brain child of Anne Smith of Birmingham who believes there's a real need for quality live entertainment for children. And when Mrs. Smith takes off to oversee her new career as an impersonator on four Saturdays and Sundays starting Nov. 8, her husband, Robert, son Michael, 3, and daughter, Jennifer, 5, will be right beside her.

"That's because her performing arts series, inspired by the advent of motherhood is designed with families as well as children in mind — her own and others. Mrs. Smith and family recently moved here from Columbia, Md. Smith, an attorney, came back to his home area to go into private practice. Before the children were born, Mrs. Smith taught high school English and drama for nine years. She also organized a group of adult actors, "The Crackerjack Players," in Columbia

who presented children's theater productions. And before she left Maryland, she had successfully presented several performing arts series for children, 3-10, just as she is doing here. The contacts for entertainers were established, her in-laws Sara and Melvyn Maxwell Smith of Bloomfield Hills give her encouragement. Sara Smith, drama teacher for many years and still active in theater groups, is one of her strongest supporters. Her mother, Barbara Handel of Birmingham, who does free-lance public relations, is ready and willing to lend a hand.

So although Anne Smith has all the family support anyone could ask for, the series is still her baby. So far, she has booked it into four metropolitan area locations, Dearborn, St. Clair, Southfield and Troy. The Troy and Southfield ones will be given on the same four Sundays, Nov. 9, Jan. 11, March 8 and May 3. In Southfield the programs will be at 1 p.m. and in Troy at 3:30 p.m.

FOLKSINGER TOM GLAZER will lead off on Nov. 9. A popular balladeer, especially with youngsters, he is the composer of "It Takes a Worried Man" and "On Top of Spaghetti." Much-recorded, he has appeared on national television and performs extensively throughout the country.

A local dance troupe, "Other Things and Company" is scheduled for Jan. 11. This popular dance/theater troupe was organized by Carol Halsted, head of the Oakland University dance department. They perform a variety of children's stories, fairytales and poems with live musical accompaniment.

On March 8, Babcock, a master of the art of silent story-telling, will use such characters as a lonely clown, superhero and a menagerie of animals to tell tales.

Concluding the series is a performance of "Peter Pan" by the Nicolo Maronettes of New York City. The production is done with an original musical score, unusual lighting effects, exciting costumes and realistic, hand-carved marionettes.

Series tickets are \$10 for four shows. Tickets are sold only as a series.

Mrs. Smith said she recommends that a parent or other adult accompany children under five. She said she found in Maryland that many of the parents of children over five came because they liked the programs.

Laughingly she added, "Adults, unaccompanied by children are welcome to attend."

Performance in Troy will be given at Somerset Mall dinner theater, call 642-1452 for ticket information, and in Southfield at the Civic Center Auditorium, 354-4717.

Oak Park Symphony begins season

Linda Suedden Smith of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra will be the guest soloist for the opening program of the Oak Park Symphony Orchestra at 7 p.m. Oct. 19.

Mrs. Smith will play the Sibelius Violin Concerto. Also on the program are Dvorak's Carnival Overture and the Shostakovich Fifth Symphony.

This will also be the first concert for the orchestra with new conductor, Ervin Monroe, first flutist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his position as conductor and music director of the Oak Park Symphony, Monroe is conductor of the Oakland Youth Symphony and member of the Wayne State University faculty.

He attended Oberlin Conservatory of Music, studied in Salzburg, Austria

where at 19 he was offered a professional post with the Mozarteum Orchestra and toured with them throughout Europe. He completed his studies at Manhattan School of Music where he earned a masters in flute performance.

Mrs. Smith studied at Eastman School of Music with Joseph Knitzer and with Ivan Galamian at Juilliard. She performed in a recital at Lincoln Center in 1967 and as been a soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on two occasions. Her husband, Bruce Smith is also a violinist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and they have four children.

There will be a reception following the concert for the audience to meet the new conductor and guest artist.

Tickets, \$4 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors, will be available at the door or by calling 542-4665.

Concerts are held at Oak Park High School, 13701 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park.

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