

## Seaholm grad to appear at 'Up with People' in Troy

Seaholm graduate David Hartwig, 19, will be in the cast of "Up with People" when the group of young people performs its vibrant two-hour show of song and dance at 8 p.m. Jan. 19 at Troy Athens High School.

Hartwig became interested in Up with People after the traveling troupe performed at Seaholm last year. He will be staying with his family during the stop here and expects to have lots of relatives and friends at the Troy concert.

His parents are Eugene and Donna Hartwig of Bloomfield Hills. He has a brother, Charles, a senior at the University of Michigan, and a sister, Cathy, who is a graduate of Michigan State University.

"I never was in one of those Seaholm musicals," Hartwig said, when asked about his performing background. He never really sang and danced before joining Up with People. The group doesn't require musical expertise but, rather, interest and enthusiasm.

the cast performed at last year's Super Bowl at the Pontiac Silverdome; an international medley of songs of places it's visited, with authentic costumes and dances for that country, and original Up with People music.

Tickets for the local concert are available from the Troy Adult Education Office or the Troy Parks and Recreation Department. Prices are \$5.50 for adults, \$3.50 for students and senior citizens.

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Dustin Hoffman as New York actor Michael Dorsey dresses up as a woman to get a role in a daytime soap opera, in "Tootsie."

the movies  
**Louise Snider**

## Dustin Hoffman portrays more than just a tootsie

"Tootsie" (PG) is terrific, and Dustin Hoffman is responsible for the terrificness. He proves he is the consummate actor, even in a dress.

He plays an unemployed New York actor, Michael Dorsey, who can't get work because he is too good. He's a perfectionist who gives directors a headache. His agent (played by the movie's director, Sydney Pollack) tells him no one in New York or Hollywood will hire him.

Desperate, he dresses as a woman, takes the name "Dorothy Michaels," and auditions for the role of a female hospital administrator in a television soap opera. He gets the role, and his career soars as Dorothy becomes a personality to be reckoned with.

Hoffman is convincing as Dorothy and dignified. He doesn't go for the cheap joke. He hasn't created a stereotype good for laughs, although there are plenty. He has created a character with a backbone, not just a figure, and with a brain, not just a hairdo.

MICHAEL, AS DOROTHY, histles when he sees the way the director and a lecherous actor take advantage of the women on the show, talk down to them and, at best, patronize them. He chafes at the trite, predictable dialogue of the melodramatic scripts.

He begins introducing fresh dialogue, makes Dorothy more assertive and becomes an inspiration for others on the show, including the female lead (Jessica Lange), with whom he falls in love.

All of this exacts an emotional toll on Michael and introduces comic complications in his domestic arrangements and friendships. The comedy is bright and sophisticated, filled with sharp observations about the acting profession, television serials and male-female role playing. "Tootsie" is very funny, but to its credit, it is seldom funny at the expense of laughing at someone.

Its humor arises largely from situations, entanglements and misunderstandings.

Supporting Hoffman is a superbly assembled cast. Teri Garr is Michael's longtime girlfriend who thinks he is gay. Jessica Lange, the nurse of the television show, thinks Dorothy is a lesbian. Charles Durning, who plays Jessica's father, falls in love with Dorothy. Bill Murray is Michael's surprisingly calm and droll roommate. Dabney Coleman is the macho, egotistical TV director, Sydney Pollack. "Tootsie's" director, is Michael's beleaguered agent, who argues with him in one of the movie's best scenes.

IF "TOOTSIE," with all its satirical thrusts, were only about an actor transforming himself into a female star, it would be comic enough, but the movie offers more than that. The first 20 minutes provide a telling, behind-the-scenes look at what most actors — all but the superstars — endure.

The actor, auditioning for a part, puts himself on the line and faces the humiliation of rejection from the vague, "You're not right for the part," to the abrupt, "You're too short" or "too old."

Hoffman conveys the actor's feelings with such strength and intensity you can't leave the theater without believing these were actual experiences for him, too. When "Tootsie" ends, you feel that you have not only been entertained but shared a personal and authentic experience.

As for Dorothy, the measure of Hoffman's success is that he has created such a strong, unique and inspiring character that she is missed when the movie is over.



Hoffman brings reality to the role of "Dorothy Michaels."

## Acting classes offered

Registration is open for the professional Actor Training Program that begins Jan. 17 at the Academy of the Arts at Lycee International on Evergreen at 13 Mile roads in Southfield.

Students may enroll in individual classes for personal or professional development, following a program that leads to a certificate in acting. Advanced-level training is offered in partnership with the Actors Alliance Theatre, a resident professional company.

Class offerings include Acting Fundamentals, Voice Development, Stage Movement, Mime and Dance.

For students with some previous professional training, classes in character study, method acting, scene study, play production and dialects are offered. Professional apprenticeships in acting and stage management with the Actors Alliance Theatre are open to advanced students by interview or audition. A limited number of internships in directing also are available.

Students who have not previously been admitted to the academy may contact the administrative office to arrange an interview. For those interested in visiting the academy, an open house is scheduled 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

For further information, call the academy 1-4 p.m. weekdays at 642-1325.

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