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Home fashions

Catch a behind-the-scenes look

By Dennis Coffman
staff writer

For students of fashion and design, or for those who simply want to achieve a more contemporary appearance for their homes, the National Home Fashions League has put together a Designers Resource Tour for Saturday.

The tour covers six design-oriented businesses, such as printmaking, custom fabric printing, draperies, blinds, furniture and stained glass.

"The tour is for people who are interested in how things are made," said Mickey Greenfield, publicity vice president for the league.

"The tour includes floor coverings, lighting, upholstery and just about everything in the home that can be designed or decorated," she said.

AN EXAMPLE of the kind of work that can be seen on the tour is the selection of custom vertical and horizontal window blinds at Blinds & Design Inc., 3045 W. Eight Mile, Livonia.

Arlene Lullove, who with her husband Noll operates Blinds & Design, is co-chairman of the fashion tour. The tour includes a second Livonia firm — Vogue Furniture Co., 30954 Industrial Road. The 8,000-square-foot facility makes custom furniture from wood, laminate and lucite.

A third store in the northwest area included in the tour is Tiffany Art Glass, 121 E. Main, Northville.

John Zawadzki, the store owner, is an artist who has been in business for more than seven years. Zawadzki has been commissioned both for residential and commercial jobs.

"RIGHT NOW, I'm working with another artist on wildlife scenes on 'Tiffany lamps,'" said Zawadzki. "These are hand-painted, fired, deflated designs, such as ducks in flight."

The Northville artist also makes glass designed for windows or doors. But his latest innovation is beveled lampshades or beveled clear glass. During the tour, Zawadzki will build a lampshade or window.

Heather Fyfe and Leah Cunningham, who operate Mystra Inc., 1865

Austin, Troy, provide another dimension to the home fashion tour.

"We do hand-painting, airbrushing and silk screening," said Fyfe. "I am more of an artist, while Leah handles the business end of the business."

During the tour, her staff will provide commentary on the items in the store, but tourists will be able to browse at their leisure if they wish.

FYFE RECENTLY won the top prize in a Michigan competition for textile design and was runner-up nationally.

Her work is being handled by representatives to wholesale buyers. The wholesaler presents the work to interior designers or architects.

Fyfe noted that fabric design has been undergoing a change recently. "There has been a change in the language of hand-drawn fabrics. They're getting away from the splatter-prints and into fine screens, into really studied designs."

Some of her products include backgrounds for fashion shows, fabric mobiles, pillows and printed fabrics.

ROUNDING OUT the tour are Phoenix Impressions, 11 Perry, Pontiac. On its 10,000-acre site with a touch of SoHo, Phoenix has a small gallery; a printmaking studio for printmakers Tad Collins, Mark Arminski, James Drury and Thomas James; and art studio for artist Linda Golden.

Mary Lee Drapery, 1939 S. Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills, is the 6th and last stop on the fashion tour. The small custom studio will fabricate any type of window treatment.

Tickets for the tour can be purchased at Plerson Interiors in the Somerset Mall, Walter Herz Interiors, Southfield; Random House Interiors, Novi; and any of the Gorman Galleries in Southfield, Troy or Fairlane Mall.

They can also be obtained by calling Linda Golden at 855-9318. By purchasing a ticket for \$7.50, the holder can visit all six locations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE NATIONAL Home Fashions League includes executive women in



Arlene Lullove, tour co-chair, specializes in fashions for windows.

the home furnishings field and their industry foundation colleagues.

The non-profit league sponsors the tour as a fund-raiser, to support programs that include consumer education, scholarships and a series of publications — "How to Earn a Living" — describing job opportunities in the interior furnishings industry.

Recently Nancy Barker, vice president of Northwood Institute, Midland, was named woman of the year by the league.

The Michigan chapter of the league has 50 members. The league, which recently held its national convention in Detroit, has 19 chapters across the United States.

Guild hosts poetry event

"The New Passion for Poetry" will be explored when Cranbrook Writers' Guild presents four of its successful former students at 8 p.m. Monday, in the Oak Room at Cranbrook House, Bloomfield Hills.

All poets, the alumni of the Cranbrook Writers' Conference will read from their work and discuss the rebirth of poetry.

Featured will be David James of Adrian, author of "A Heart Out of This World;" Marc Sheehan of Grand Rapids, winner of a \$12,500 Poetry Fellowship in 1984 from the National Endowment for the Arts; Margo LaGattula of Rochester, author of "Diverston Road;" and Leonora Smith of East Lansing, editor of Labyrinth, magazine of women's arts and letters.

Joan Rosen, professor of English at Oakland University and president of Cranbrook Writers' Guild, will moderate.

Tickets for the event are \$3 and further information may be obtained by calling 646-4963. There will be no charge to members of Cranbrook Writers' Guild.

EACH OF the four speakers is among the top writing talents from Michigan colleges awarded scholarships each year to the Cranbrook Writers' Conference. The four-day session is held each summer on the campus at Cranbrook.

Students spend four intensive days in seminars and at work on their manuscripts, with guidance from top professionals. Among authors who have served on the conference's faculty since 1969 are Harriet Arnow, W. D. Snodgrass, Joyce Carol Oates and Myra MacPherson.

The four alumni credit the conference with a major role in their success. James' first book, published by Carnegie Mellon Press, is a near sellout. James is admissions director of Siena Heights College and won a 1984 Creative Artist Grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Sheehan is at work on the book of poetry for which he received the fellowship. Smith is also an author of both fiction and poetry. She teaches creative writing and composition at Michigan State University.

LaGattula, whose book was published by State Street Press, recently



Margo LaGattula



David James

received her master's in fine arts through the Goddard Writing Programs at Vermont College. She teaches creative writing at Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Roper School and Upland Hills, and is completing her second book of poetry.

Other Conference alumni include R. J. Bixby of Kalamazoo, 1979 winner of the Redbook Young Writers' Contest, and Carrie Smith, whose first novel, "Forget Harry," was published in 1981 by Simon and Schuster.

'Magic Flute'—spellbinding

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

Oh, for a magic flute to master the passions of men, bring happiness to the sad, tame the wild animals in the forest, turn men's thought to love, calm the forces of evil, and bring the world into the brotherhood of friendship and love. Latter ideals are never more evoked than they are right now.

It is a simple fairytale, born in the tradition of Viennese singspiel and French opera comique and it came to life Friday evening with the Michigan Opera Theatre's production of Mozart's "Magic Flute" at the Music Hall.

On a stunning stage, the story of the universality of man and his communion with the gods in search of virtue, nature, and wisdom is the basis for the allegorical plot, ill-conceived yet never simplistic.

CAREFULLY and tastefully illustrated by John Conklin's scenery and costumes from the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the sets carry out the dualism in the story (men against women, sun against the moon, day against night, fire against water) with lines and circles, suns and moons, and oranges and blues.

Against such a backdrop of beauty with sets that always allowed the singers to move easily from one scene to the next, Mozart's symbolism (or that of Freemasonry) is ever present. The repetition of the three chords the E-flat key in the orchestral music is paralleled on stage with the three ladies (Ruth Jacobson, Jill Leasure, and Claritha Buggs), the three slaves (Rocco Cocchiarrate, Christopher Kelly, John Lee), and the three boys (Wayne Brown, Demetrice Powers, and Phillip Jones).

All provide guidance obviously symbolic of the Holy Trinity for the noble couple, Tamino (Paul Spencer Adkins) and Pamina (Carmen Ballthrop) on their journey through trials to refinement of their souls.

This MOT production is in English with a libretto done in 1976 for MOT. The audience missed none of the humor. Papageno, the bird-catcher, sung by David Parsons stole the show — a tribute to MOT as he was one of its first interns. His wonderful portrayal and delightful antics were always refreshing, indicating there is more in store for his talents. Gustav Meier, conductor of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, conducted the orchestra in the same quality level as the sets and Papageno's spirited performance.

JEROME HINES led the rest of the cast. At 62, the basso still has the melodic warmth to sing Sarastro's two arias "O, Isis and Osiris, Hear us, we



Jerome Hines, basso, sings the role of Sarastro in "The Magic Flute."



Sharon Christman portrays the wicked Queen of the Night in this popular opera by Mozart.

pray" and "To rule by Hate and Vengeance."

Carmen Ballthrop as Pamina had smoothness in her middle voice although her top was pushed but warmed up for her Act II aria.

Tamino, Paul Spencer Adkins, never did reveal the tenor quality in his voice. As the Queen of the Night, Sharon Christman managed to get all five of her high Fs in during her two spectacular arias.

Although there are some vocal weaknesses in this production, MOT productions are at a level of quality which ensures consistent enjoyable entertainment.

With Di Chiera's leadership positions in national and international organizations and the innovative ideas the company is not afraid to try, it is clear the Michigan Opera Company intends to emerge as one of the leaders in the opera world. MOT is not going to settle for anything second rate. After all, parades are never good enough.

"Magic Flute" will be performed at 8 p.m. tonight, Friday, and Saturday at the Music Hall. Friday's performance will be interpreted for the hearing impaired and the deaf.



Jane Rosenon

Glinka Ortega

Flute, harp duo to give concert

Glinka Ortega, flute, and Jane Rosenon, harp, will be the guest musicians for the second concert of the Cranbrook Music Guild series at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at Cranbrook House.

The program by these two who have performed together many times will include selections by Liszt, Bach, Handel, Rossini, Donizetti, Debussy and Hovhannes.

Rosenon, a second generation harpist, has been performing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for the past three years. She has also been a featured soloist with the Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra.

Ortega, born in Bulgaria and educated at the Varna School of Music there, received her bachelor's degree in music and performance at Oberlin Conservatory and her master's from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. She has taken master classes from many distinguished flutists, including Jean Pierre Rampal.

Ortega, who gave concerts in Europe last summer and recently performed in recital at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, said acoustics are a vital

preview

factor in the quality of any performance. She is pleased with those in the beautiful, paneled library of Cranbrook House where she has been rehearsing for Tuesday's concert there.

"During a performance, one forms a relationship with the walls, the balconies, the surfaces and the music; one feels becomes alive . . . the utmost challenge is finding that mysterious, spiritual force," she said.

SHE AND her husband and children spend their summers at their home in Spain where she is involved in performing for the Summer International Festivals in both Seville and France.

Ortega, who made her Carnegie Hall debut a year ago to rave reviews, said that for her, "Music is discipline. Each day, practicing is part of the daily spiritual hygiene . . . yet, the hunger for

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