

upcoming things to do

- ALEXANDER ZONJIC**
The Alexander Zonjic Quintet performs at 8 p.m. every Monday through Oct. 28 at Nicky's in the Top of Troy Building, 755 W. Big Beaver. The group also performs Wednesday only at Baker's Keyboard Lounge, 10510 Livernois, Detroit. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. For more information call 625-8333.
- COMEDY PARTY**
The Detroit Producers Association presents the "Detroit Comedy Jam Party" with a screening of the first "Detroit Comedy Jam," at 8 tonight at Combermere Stage, 1350 Combermere, Troy. Comic Mike Blinder from Birmingham will appear in person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. There will be munchies and a cash bar. All proceeds benefit the DPA. To order tickets at \$10, call 528-0720. Tickets are \$12 at the door.
- FOLKTOWN CONCERTS**
The sixth season of traditional and original folk music concerts will be presented at Folktown, a Southfield coffeehouse, each Saturday night through Nov. 23 and also Dec. 14 at the Southfield Civic Center in the Parks and Recreation Building on Civic Center Drive. Saturday's concert features folk duo Rick and Marusek Del Gesso with their "Good Time Music," and traditional songs and blues. Admission is \$6. For further information, call Folktown 6-9 p.m. at 855-9848.
- RESTAURANT DUGLASS**
Anthony Lange plays piano music for diners every weekday at Restaurant Duglass in Southfield. The Wilbert Peagler Quartet offers dance music from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. every Saturday.
- CARILLON RECITAL**
Dr. Frederick L. Marriott, carillonneur of Kirk in the Hills, will play two 30-minute concerts at 10 a.m. and noon Sunday at the church in Bloomfield Hills.

'Corpse!' offers few stiff chills



Keith Baxter and Milo O'Shea star in "Corpse" at the Birmingham Theatre. The mystery-comedy continues through Oct. 20.

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BAXTER is wonderfully manic as Evelyn, sliding in and out of various personas and declaiming Shakespeare in moments of duress. Evelyn impersonating Rupert is more suave and believable than Baxter playing the real Rupert; the latter's characterization is so overly stylized that Rupert wails and talks like a robot, and he is satiric to the point of silly.

O'Shea, on the other hand, plays the phony major to comic perfection. The director John Tillingier gets the most from his players and handles the mood shifts about as well as anyone could.

ON THE TOWN

Clutch Cargo's: good exposure

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St. Andrews, like Clutch Cargo's, allows new bands a place to "break in." Among the memorable moments at St. Andrews history was a March 1983 Culture Club show. A huge crowd gathered on the open dance floor to see Boy George and his band — 13 months later the same band played to 11,000 at Cobo Arena.

"For most of my shows there are still tickets available (on show nights)," Bannon said. "But for shows like Culture Club and the sold-out Frankie Goes To Hollywood, many people missed it."

ASIDE FROM St. Andrews, Clutch Cargo's recently has presented shows at the Fox Theater in Detroit and the Royal Oak Music Theatre. "Royal Oak is a great location," Bannon said. Royal Oak Music Theatre, undergoing renovations, is one of the area's more popular concert facilities.

Bannon also books shows in other area venues, including Center Stage in Canton Township, he said. "It is a beautiful facility. I did a Figures on AA Beach show there."

"I'm really crazy about Figures on a Beach, and Center Stage is a beautiful place. It's just hard to draw a large crowd there. Built on the idea of an 18-year-old drinking age and 75-cent-a-gallon of gas, the place made sense," Bannon said.

(Center Stage, which has been closed, is scheduled to reopen Oct. 5 as Danacria, a 1,050-capacity dance/concert facility.)

On the opposite side of town, in Pontiac, Bannon just wrapped up a summer project. "We just did a little summer series at Menage," Bannon said. Menage, a popular yuppie hangout, is at 13 S. Saginaw in downtown Pontiac.

Clutch Cargo's also has staged shows in Ann Arbor and in the Rochester area. Summertime shows at Meadowbrook and successful shows at the Michigan Theatre are just two more venues on Bannon's roster.

Bannon has an impressive list of Clutch Cargo's shows at St. Andrews including: Jane Siberry (who appeared last week); Midnight Oil, Oct. 6; Gene Loves Jexel, Oct. 9; Hoodoo Gurus, Oct. 11; and Shriekback, Oct. 12.

MIDNIGHT OIL is an Australian band. "They are the only band selling out stadiums in Australia," Bannon said.

Midnight Oil's leader, Peter Garrett, is a striking front man. His bald-headed, 6-foot-6 frame is not his only unusual feature. The attorney-turned rock star once ran for political office in Australia and nearly won. Garrett and his band are now trying to establish themselves and spread their political views and popularity here.

Another feature show was Canadian singer/songwriter Jane Siberry. She has been compared to a range of singers from Joni Mitchell to Laurie Anderson. Her style has been described as dream-like, quirky and eccentric. But the consensus among critics is positive — her eclectic style works.

Last month Siberry performed to a crowd of 12,000 in Ontario. Bannon said Siberry's St. Andrews show was originally slated for Menage, but schedule changes called for the switch.

Scheduling groups who haven't hit the top of the American charts is a risk. In order to get other opinions on new music, Bannon uses his after-hours club, Asylum, at 1314 Broadway in Detroit to test reactions. Two good indicators, according to Bannon, are college radio and the club scene. Bannon relies on his own intuition and the club.

"I have Asylum a Thursday, Friday and Saturday dance club," Bannon said. "From 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. I get to test records. A real strong show will be Shriekback. They are the kings of club play."

BANNON, though only 30, is no newcomer to the music business. Before Clutch Cargo's he was involved with

Bookies at 870 W. McNichols — often called Detroit's "citadel of rock 'n' roll."

"I used to be involved in Bookies," Bannon said. "Remember the Police show there? You could tell they'd make it. I also worked with Iggy (Pop) — the singer and leader of the Stooges) in the late '60s. He's been a lot of fun to work with. He's wild."

Aside from building Clutch Cargo's productions and working with Asylum and St. Andrews' dance nights, Bannon is now working on new projects with Brass Ring productions.

Birmingham-based Brass Ring is one of the nation's leading rock promoters. They book everything from the lesser-known X show at Royal Oak Music Theatre to the Rolling Stones at the Silverdome.

Clutch Cargo's and Brass Ring work independently but consult each other on some aspects of business, Bannon cited Friday's Tears For Fears show at Cobo.

"In it's early stages, we discussed doing it at St. Andrews," he said. "But when they started taking off, I advised we move it to Royal Oak (capacity 1,700)." The show became a Brass Ring show at Royal Oak, but ticket demand forced a move to the larger Fox Theater which holds about 3,000. Then, due to a band member's illness, the show had to be postponed. In the time that passed, ticket demand increased along with the band's popularity. The show is now scheduled for Cobo.

"We advise each other and I use venues that they use a lot," he explained. Both companies like to use the Royal Oak Theatre. Clutch Cargo's just staged Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark there, and Brass Ring presents X there Oct. 10.

"I work for the company (Brass Ring) building a new end — managing bands like Blue in Heaven," he said. "Blue in Heaven is a band that I saw in a pub in London. I met their manager. I really liked them."

"Brass Ring is involved in handling their business here. We're going to build a roster of groups. Everyone here at Brass Ring has an expertise in a certain area. Instead of hiring just a manager, they hired an entire company with an established reputation."

THE VENTURE with Blue in Heaven is Brass Ring's first of this type, about six weeks, probably performing here the end of October. They will then work on a new album.

Blue in Heaven is an Irish band. Their album "The God's Men" has been compared favorably to their countrymen U2. The music has an eerie quality on some tracks, but an almost upbeat sound on others. The sound is haunting and out-of-the-ordinary.

According to Bannon, Blue in Heaven's talent was apparent to him immediately. It reminded him of the first time he saw the Police; there was a spark. He hopes to find other groups, not necessarily just from overseas.

He will soon be going to Europe. "I've been there three times in the past year and am looking forward to going back and finding some more talent for Brass Ring's management company." "I also try whenever I can to see what's going on with local bands," he added. "What's important is to work more at a goal. Many bands look for what will net them a lot of money, instead of being more creative."

Also important, according to Bannon, is image. "Image goes right along side of the music," he said. "Three elements are important — sex, style and subversion."

Bannon explained what skills it takes to do his job. "First a real love, and then wanting to be creative. I'm real fortunate that Brass Ring has hired me. This is a good opportunity to get into it at other levels, other than just the club."

"I'm mostly involved in sizing whether people would want to see a show, whether or not the music's received air play," he said.

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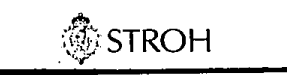
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