

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(T.S.F.R-70X)C9C

Thursday, February 6, 1988 O&E



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Donni Dorian does a Phyllis Diller comedy routine in "City Lights," the revue produced and directed by entertainer Joey Van at One Lafayette in Pontiac.

'City Lights'

Revue opens dazzling nightspot

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

THOSE CITY LIGHTS are shining in Pontiac — lighting up the stage of a new entertainment complex called One Lafayette.

Named after the street address where it is located, One Lafayette is a dream come true for developer Garry Craig of Rochester. He bought the building from the Masons a year ago December and by last December had renovated the fourth-floor Crystal Ballroom and opened a nightclub revue, "City Lights."

By mid-January the 325-seat ballroom was sold out for the first time on a Saturday night, and Craig is looking forward to getting bigger crowds for all the shows, presented at 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays and 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays.

Special January low prices have been raised to \$8.50 for Wednesdays-Thursdays and \$10.50 Fridays-Saturdays. Craig thinks the show, described as a Las Vegas-style revue, is one everybody will think is well worth the money.

"I've seen it every night for the last month. I laugh and cry every night," he said.

ONLY DRINKS, cheese trays and munchies are served in the room at present, hors d'oeuvres will come later, and eventually there will be a second-floor dining room and a fifth-floor gourmet restaurant where showgoers may have a meal first.

On nights when there's a big crowd, the 2½-hour revue is followed by dancing to live music or records on stage. A permanent ballroom for dancing is planned for the second floor.

Asked how much a couple might spend for an evening at One Lafayette, Craig speculated, "You could have dinner, show and dancing for \$39-\$100 per person once the whole complex is done."

He wants to provide a number of options. "I think people need to choose that themselves."

The most striking element of the new entertainment complex (which is in phase one of four phases of proposed development) is the beauty of the original interior, and particularly the Crystal Ballroom. Entering the old Masonic

Temple, built in 1929, you find yourself in a spacious, high-ceilinged lobby. An elevator to the left of a small staircase on the first landing takes you to the fourth-floor ballroom.

Craig chose the color scheme and decor for the Crystal Ballroom, attractively done in mauve and several shades of gray. Square tables are grouped into seating arrangements of two, four and more for larger groups.

"I COULD HAVE got another 100 tables in here," he said explaining why the room appears serene, without the anticipated cramped look of many nightclubs. Besides the large main floor, the rectangular room has tiered seating and brass railings. On a recent Saturday night, there were tables for two along both sides on a second level and seating for a large group in the balcony that runs across the back on the third level.

Six lavish crystal chandeliers hang from the ceiling throughout the ballroom. They are not originals but, "They give it that '20s or '30s look — what this room would have had," Craig said.



David Robins does vocal impersonations of Johnny Mathis and other singers.

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Dinner theater offers comedy

"Heaven Can Wait," a comedy-fantasy by Harry Segall, will be presented in dinner-theater format by Jimmy Laurence Productions of Farmington Hills at 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays in the Club at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn. Performances will continue through May 24. Dinner is at Giulio's at 6:30 p.m. or at Kafay's at 7:30 p.m. Cocktails (optional) are at 8:30 p.m. Show and dinner at Giulio's is \$29.50 per person, show and dinner at Kafay's is \$21 and show only is \$8.50. The play is based on two motion pictures — "Here Comes Mr. Jordan" and "Heaven Can Wait." The story is about Joe Pendleton, a prize fighter who has been whisked off to the hereafter too soon and returns to earth in another body.

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