

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(OJC)

Thursday, May 8, 1986 OJC

upcoming things to do

• GOLDEN POND

Birmingham Stage Players will present "On Golden Pond" by Ernest Thompson at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, May 16-17 and 23-24, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Husband-and-wife team of Dick and Dee Dwolley will play the lead roles of Norman and Ethel Thayer. Tickets at \$45 for adults, \$4 for students are available at the door. For reservations call 644-2075 anytime.

• DJ ROAST

Comic Mike Binder, who is originally from Birmingham, will be there when Detroit's morning disc jockeys gather to road one of their own. Jim Hines of 93.3 FM Radio WDTX, Thursday, May 15, at Ronia's of Bloomfield in Bloomfield Township. All proceeds from the event will go to the Arthritis Foundation. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., a fantasy auction will begin at 8:30 and the roast at 9 p.m. For tickets at \$50, call 561-9096.

• MUSICAL 'OLIVER'

Cori Carrier of Rochester will play the lead female role of Nancy in the Gross Pointe Children's Theatre's production of the musical "Oliver." Performances are at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 16; and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the William Fries Auditorium at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Carrier is a theater major at Oakland University who recently appeared in the Actors Alliance production of "Fantasticks." For tickets at \$4.75 for adults, \$3.50 for students and senior citizens, call 885-6219.

• SHOOBEE DOO

The ShooBee Doo, starring bass-vocalist and comedian Bobo Doo is featured at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays through May 11 at the Midtown Cafe in Birmingham. The show includes music from the album "Good to Go with the Real ShooBee Doo," recorded live at the Montreal-Detroit Jazz Festival; Broadway show tunes and selection from the Attic Theatre production of the musical "1940s Radio Hour." For further information, call 642-1133.

• WINS AWARD

Todd Levin of Farmington Hills has won a BMI Award to Students Composer prize for "Aqua Vitae" for marimba and 17 musicians. The piece was commissioned by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In memory of percussionist/faculty member Charles Owen. It will premiere at the university in November. BMI Awards to Student Composers will be presented Wednesday, May 14, at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City. Levin is finishing his master's at the

Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

• BENEFIT BALL

"Salute to the Twenties" Benefit Ball will be held from 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18, as part of a "Celebrate Seniors" Week at Winchester Mall in Rochester. The Big Band sounds of Chet Bogan and vocalist Dixie Bell will be offered. Guests are being invited to "come as you are, or dress as your favorite Twenties star." Tickets at \$3 are available at several locations including the mall office. Proceeds will be donated to the Older Persons Commission for the purchase of mini-buses.

• DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN

The fourth annual Budweiser Downtown Hoedown, said to be the world's largest free celebration of country music, will be held Friday-Sunday, May 9-11, at Hart Plaza in Detroit. Concerts begin Friday with Waylon Jennings as the top attraction. Saturday's schedule includes Tammy Wynette, John Schneider, and Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers. John Conlee, Janie Fricke, and George Jones and the Jones Boys will perform Sunday. Entertainment runs continually from noon to 11 p.m. each day.

• STAR THEATER

Singers Jerry Vale and Teresa Brewer, with the full Glenn Miller Orchestra, will open the 15th season the week of Tuesday, June 17, at the Star Theatre of Film at Whiting Auditorium. Other stars booked are Giorgio Tozzi in "South Pacific," the week of July 8; Donald O'Connor and Richard Fredricks in "Showboat," the week of July 22; the McGuire Sisters, Eddie Fisher and the Tennessee Davis Orchestra, the week of Aug. 5; Jim Nabors show, also starring Brenda Lee, the week of Aug. 19, and the Mitzl Gaynor Show, the week of Sept. 9. Season tickets are \$65 for all six shows. Single tickets are \$12.50. For more information, call 239-1404.

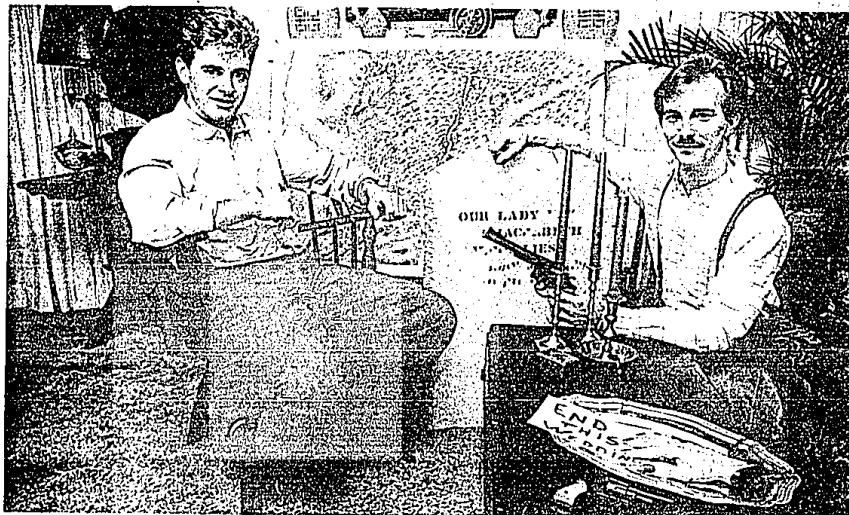
• MAGIC SHOW

David Copperfield will present six performances of "The Magic of David Copperfield" Friday-Sunday, May 9-11, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. The 90-minute show is filled with highly choreographed illusions, set to contemporary/popular music, and includes audience participation. Tickets range from \$15.50 to \$21.50. For more information, call 423-6666.

• SUMMER FESTIVAL

Tickets to all performances at

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Staff photo

Farmington resident Michel Hoad (right) and assistant Ed Postif, who lives in Plymouth, show some of the tools of their trade as organizers of mystery weekends. Curious maps, tombstones, pistol, candles, notes written in blood, and severed hands are

as organizers of mystery weekends. Curious maps, tombstones, who track down an elusive killer.

Whodunit? Mystery weekends give answer

Performances of the Avon Players production of the Neil Simon/Marvin Hamlich musical comedy "They're Playing Our Song" continue through Saturday, May 17, at the Avon Players Playhouse in Avon Township. For ticket information call 656-1130.

By Gary Ziegler
special writer

Avon has ended the season with a Neil Simon musical comedy that is two-thirds hang, one third whimper. The last few scenes survive only by riding the swell of the first ones, which are just splendid.

Karen Elliott-Uphur and Jeff Upchurch are ideally paired, as I thought back in December of 1984 when she was plain Karen Elliott. They met when she was cast as Sister, he as the accused priest, in the play's production of "The Hunter Stumbles," an unsatisfying little drama.

This time they found a medium that is nearly equal to their talents.

They play words and music people, songwriters, both neuritic, uncertain, vulnerable. We see a little of ourselves in each of them.

Karen is a physical actress, thrusting her whole body into each line, without a hint of overstatement or inappropriateness. We are sorry when her character gains success, pose, maturity and an awful hairdo. But she turns a few mediocrocks into real treasures with her clear, strong voice and her expressiveness.

JEFF'S ROLE CALLS for a more subdued rendering, but he too recognizes the importance of movement, of modified burlesque, in theater. He does not go beyond the bounds of what seems natural to him, however. His exasperation, frustration, anger, and love are conveyed beautifully in his face and voice. His '50s-style falsetto singing is a special treat.

Their real troubles start in bed and, strangely enough, so do those with timing and the play in general. The second act just isn't as interesting.

Heald and assistant Ed Postif of Plymouth are so taken with this new form of entertainment they conduct a full-time business of writing, producing and managing mystery parties for hotels, corporations and private gatherings that can last three hours or three days.

ing, perhaps because romantic sexual tension is replaced by real tension. Still, the audience remembers the earlier belly laughs.

Simon fully compensates for plot

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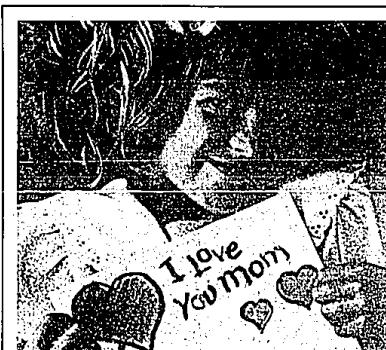
—Molly Abraham
DETROIT FREE PRESS

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