

Lighter festival steps up theater



Continued from Page 5

Theatrical attractions will include two productions by the Acting Company, which has been called "America's foremost classical repertory theater company." To be presented are Shakespeare's romantic comedy "As You Like It" and a new production of "Ore-

hards," seven short stories by Chekhov, adapted by contemporary American playwrights.

Brown said "Ore-hards" will be performed for the first time in Michigan. Another Michigan premiere will be the all-black Market Theatre Company of South Africa's production of "Ashnamali," a play about the hardships of life in that country.

Prominent actor Kevin McCarthy will star in a one-man show, "Give 'em Hell, Harry," portraying American President Harry Truman. McCarthy has been appearing in this production, interspersed among his many other performing slints, for the last eight years.

Dance will be featured at the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, with two companies returning from the premiere season. These are Pilobolus, which stresses originality in movement, and Waves, a jazz dance company from Philadelphia.

ON ITS FIRST night at the festival's first season, Waves was a popular attraction, "but it was twice as crowded the second night," Brown said. "They somehow manage to blend ballet with break dancing. It's a real energetic show."

Folk singer Judy Collins will open the third season, in concert Saturday, June 28, following a gala benefit party. Musical entertainment for young people during the festival will include Bob McGrath of "Sesame Street" presenting an educationally oriented children's concert Sunday, July 6.

The festival finale is a concert with jazz star Dizzy Gillespie and the J.C. Heard Orchestra, Saturday, July 19.

upcoming things to do

● FREEDOM FESTIVAL

The 1986 International Freedom Festival continues through Sunday, July 6. For the 28th consecutive year, Detroit and Windsor join together to celebrate their countries' birthdays (Canada Day on July 1 and Independence Day on July 4) during the festival. More than 100 mostly free events on both sides of the Detroit River are expected to attract nearly three million people during the festival's 17-day run. The Fireworks Extravaganza will be held at 10:05 p.m. Wednesday, July 2. More than eight tons of fireworks will be shot from two barges anchored in the Detroit River, midway between Detroit and Windsor.

● MEADOW BROOK

Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor will sing and dance together in a new act at 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, in their Meadow Brook Music Festival debut on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Engelbert Humperdinck, known as the "King of Romance," also will make his first appearance at the festival, at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 28. Lawn seats only, at \$12, are available for each concert.

Spyro Gyra, with special guest Special EFX, performs at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 1. First of the "Summer Solid Gold" concerts is called "Motor City Magic" and stars Mary Wilson, Junior Walker and the All Stars, the Marvellettes, Mary Wells, and the Contours. Fireworks also will be presented. For ticket information call the box office at 377-2010.

July weekend. For ticket information call 644-4418 anytime.

● CHILDREN'S REVUE

"I Didn't Know That," a light-hearted revue for children, makes its Hilberry Summer Theatre Festival debut at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 30, at Wayne State University in Detroit. Performances continue through Saturday, July 19. Cast members include area residents Thomas O'Connor and Fred Santiago, both of Birmingham. For ticket information call the box office at 577-2272.

● 'BORN AMERICA'

WJR-AM radio personality Jimmy Launce of Farmington Hills and WKBD-TV Public Affairs Manager and "Ten O'Clock News" anchor Amyre Makupson of Southfield will be local hosts for "Born America," a March of Dimes TV event, for 21 hours on Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29. The program originating live from Los Angeles features celebrities and entertainers in a tribute to the 13 original states and their contributions to all of America.

● RUN EXTENDED

"Joe Egg," the recent New York hit by Peter Nichols, has been extended through Saturday, July 12, at Will-O-Way Theatre in Birmingham. The extension includes the 4th of

July weekend. For ticket information call 644-4418 anytime.

● ACTORS WORKSHOP

Will-O-Way Theatre will host an "Actors Workshop" from Wednesday, July 9, to Saturday, Aug. 9, in Birmingham. Students must be registered by the first week of classes. For more information phone 644-4418 anytime.

● SUMMER NIGHTS

Teen Angels will appear for the second Friday in a row at the "Summer Nights" outdoor concert series at the Troy Hilton's Outdoor Court-

yard. The party kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 27. Admission is free for the cocktail crowd until 7:30 p.m. when a \$5 cover charge goes into effect.

● BENNY'S BAND

Benny and the Jets will play summer concerts at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 11-12, on the deck of the Mayflower II in Plymouth. The "Balloon Ball" concerts are part of the Mayflower Hotel Air Balloon Festival in Canton. The oldest band specializes in music of the '50s and '60s. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

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