

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, October 30, 1986 O&amp;E

(O)70



Mime artist O.J. Anderson, a former Southfield resident, is one of the stars at the Folk Festival headlined by Claudia Schmidt at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3, at the Music Hall Center in Detroit. For tickets at \$12.50-\$8.50, call the box office, 963-7680.

## upcoming things to do

### AREA PREMIERE

Meadow Brook Theatre will present the Detroit-area premiere of "Foxfire" by Susan Cooper and Hume Cronyn at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. The play, which opened last year on Broadway, is a comedy-drama about a Blue Ridge Mountain farm family forced to break a generations-old link to the land. The cast includes Mary Fogarty, Arthur Beer, Paul Hopper, Joseph Reed, Dona Werner and Thomas Mahard. For ticket information, call the box office at 377-3390.

### HALLOWEEN SPOOF

"De Not Remova," a five-minute Halloween spoof with vampires, mansions, pumpkins, children and people who choose to disregard warning labels, continues through Thursday, Oct. 30, preceding each feature at the Maple Three Theatres in Bloomfield Township. Joseph Alvaro, former Birmingham resident, now of New York, directed the film. His brother, Timothy, of Royal Oak, wrote the spoof. Among Detroit-area residents in the cast are Richard Knox of Birmingham and Sara Brenner of Bloomfield Hills.

### HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Peanut Butter Players, professional children's luncheon theater headquartered in Lathrup Village, will offer a Halloween Party during regular performances at 1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 1-2, Halloween weekend, at Austin Hall/Mallard Pub in Grosse Pointe. All children who come to the show in costume will be entered in a costume contest to be held onstage and judged by the ac-

tors. The fall show, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," is preceded at noon by a lunch of hot dogs, potato chips, peanut butter cookies, apple and beverage. Tickets at \$5 include lunch and the show. Performances continue through Dec. 7. For reservations, call 559-6PBP.

### PLAY 'JUVIE'

"Juvie" by Jerome McDonough will be presented at 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, at Will-O-Way Theatre in Birmingham. The short play deals with eight juvenile delinquents who spend an entire evening in a holding cell. Will-O-Way is forming a team called "We Can Hear You" to deal with the problems of crime, drugs and alcohol in today's youth. After the program, a group of young, recovering alcohol and drug abusers from Straight Inc. in Plymouth will share stories with the audience. Parents of children at the clinic also will talk about the problem. Tickets are \$5. For further information, call Francine Hachem after 6 p.m. at 644-4418.

### CODEN RETURNS

Ron Coden and Company return for an eight-week stay beginning Friday, Nov. 7, at the Comedy Crossing in Southfield. Coden and his two sidekicks of many years, Ron Blight and Steve Pava, do the comedy and music that Coden has presented for more than 20 years. Shows are at 8:30 and 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays including New Year's Eve. Warmup comedians open the show. Cover charge is \$5 Fridays, \$6 Saturdays. An open-mike night is featured at 8 p.m. Wednesdays, cover charge \$3. For reservations, call 353-3768.

# Staging new plays is a worthwhile challenge

By Cathie Bredendach  
special writer

**T**RINITY HOUSE THEATRE of Livonia is committed to giving new playwrights a chance to see their work on stage.

The group enjoys the challenge of producing untold and unpublished plays at its theater, a 19th-century former meeting house that looks like an old country church, on Six Mile Road near I-275. The theater holds 50, and as the season moves along, the house will frequently be full.

Trinity House has never followed the usual community-theater success formula of staging only seasoned,

Broadway hits. Most community groups shy away from plays they don't know and that working out the kinks in a new play can be a director's nightmare.

For six years, Trinity House has been successfully running against the current by producing unknown plays. The group pulls respectable audiences and enthusiastic crews for its production, and its membership is growing.

**UNDER THE FRESH** leadership of Brian Heersink, Trinity House will continue to premiere new plays and to develop its role as a theatrical think tank where local playwrights can get help pruning and

polishing new plays to get them ready for possible production in a future Trinity House season.

"We work with playwrights," Heersink said, "to help them develop their characters, improve pacing and decide what will work on stage. Most plays go through several rewrites. Then we put on a staged reading."

Heersink said, "We love to get manuscripts," and explains that Trinity House hasn't sought out writers because "so far they've found us."

This season, the group will present several plays which have never been staged before and a few which have seen the footlights only once or twice. In September, the group presented "Vardley's Lives," a comedy about a cartoonist whose comic strip characters jump off the page and invade the life of their creator.



Brian Heersink is the new executive director at Trinity House.

The group's next presentation, "An Evening of One Acts," plays weekends from Friday, Nov. 14, through Saturday, Dec. 13. The evening opens with the Michigan premiere of "Virginia Is for Lovers," a one act which won a playwrighting contest in Texas. "Collection," by group member Jim Leach of Ann Arbor, will have its first run before an audience. Rounding out the evening of one acts will be "Maggie and Beth" by Paul Patton, founder of Trinity House Theatre.

**IN FEBRUARY**, the group will present the comedy-fantasy "Candle in the Wind" by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Russian writer who emigrated to the United States after being persecuted in a Siberian "work" camp for refusing to espouse the party line.

The body of Solzhenitsyn's work shows a seriousness seemingly out of synch with a comedy-fantasy, yet "Candle in the Wind" manages both to ask typical Solzhenitsyn questions about how we should live and to be light-hearted entertainment. "Candle" runs weekends from Feb. 20 through March 21.

Closing play of the season, "Gravity" by Paul Patton, incorporates original rock music numbers into a story about a girl searching for meaning. In her quest, she meets a bizarre wizard who does magic tricks. "Gravity" runs weekends from May 1 through June 6.

Tickets for Trinity House Theatre performances cost \$3 for Thursday nights and \$4 for Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 464-6302.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Rehearsing a scene from the Trinity House Theatre production of "Virginia Is for Lovers" are Donna Miller, Richard Shawl and Bethany Moore.



The exciting Champagne Brunch at the Bistro M is a feast for the eyes and palate.

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