



## Do I hear a waltz?

### Dancers put their best foot forward on the ballroom floor

By Loralne McClish  
staff writer

*'The fad today is disco, but there's always been a fox trot. It's just done with different music.'*

— Kathy Muscillo

**E**VERYBODY CAN dance. Some persons have just never been shown how. That's the belief of Kathy Muscillo who said "Hallelujah — we're back to ballroom dancing. We are once again discovering the pleasures of touch dancing."

The dance instructor's exuberance stems from the first ballroom dance class offered in Farmington Community Center that drew a capacity number for each of the three sessions offered, plus a waiting list.

"It's a fun hour of laughing, smiling, joking, giggling and meeting new people for the students, while they were learning

something that will always give them pleasure," Muscillo said. "Some couples left holding hands because touch dancing is romantic. They won't be winning any contests after six lessons, but they will be able to walk out on any dance floor with confidence."

While ballroom dancing fell out of favor with the teens in the '60's, there were always groups

and clubs which maintained it, but more often than not it was private clubs that offered the ballroom music, and the dancers more often than not were over 45 years old.

"For years I would get requests to teach ballroom dancing from a couple here or there and it always seemed like they were going to a wedding next week and needed a hurry-up lesson. If I offered a class, two or three couples at most would show up," Muscillo said.

"It was about eight months ago, less than a year anyway, that I think the high school and college kids started to realize maybe they'd been missing something."

MUSCILLO OWNS and operates Muscillo Dance Studio in Royal Oak where she teaches every type of dance and watched her own teenagers and their friends go through what she called "the no-dance period."

Acting as chaperon for middle school and high school dances, Muscillo said, "They either thrashed around aimlessly on the dance floor or they sat on the sidelines wishing they knew what to do. But they wouldn't have admitted that on their death beds. It was the old rebellion stuff. They sure weren't going to do anything their parents did, or even suggested. Whatever was going on, on that dance floor, sure wasn't dancing."

The ballroom dance students in Farmington Community Center — limited to 30 in each of the three classes — run the age gamut from teens to over 60, and because there is no residency requirement to attend center classes, come from many surrounding communities.

"Whether 17 or 60, it's about

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C.D. STOFFER

Bob Lemon of Beverly Hills and Jan Garner of Farmington Hills pair up for some fancy footwork.



C.D. STOFFER

Rose Niemczak of Farmington Hills and Bill Limban of Waterford met one another in dance class. Dancers without a partner are encouraged to sign up for the hour of instruction.

## One-acts

### 2 of Thornton Wilder's best staged here

It is generally known that the one-act play is the basis for the TV sitcoms of today. Before there was "The Cosby Show," or "All in the Family," or even "I Love Lucy," there was the American one-act play.

It is not generally known, however, that Thornton Wilder, the Pulitzer

Prize-winning author of the plays "Our Town," "The Skin Of Our Teeth," and "The Matchmaker" (upon which the musical "Hello, Dolly!" was based) was a prolific playwright of one-act comedies.

Two of his one-acts, considered his best, "The Long Christmas Dinner" and "The Happy Journey To Trenton

and Camden," will have their professional performances in Michigan when the Unity Theatre Company presents them together in three different metro Detroit locations during the month of November.

Two of those performances will begin at noon, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, in Farmington Community Center on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

All tickets are \$10 and can be reserved by calling 675-1391.

Unity Theatre Company is a newly formed, Michigan-based group of theater professionals including actors, designers, directors and technicians, dedicated to producing, touring and revitalizing a unique form of theatre, the American one-act play.

BOTH PLAYS are under the direction of Scott McCue, a professional actor and director who holds stage, television and directing credits throughout the U.S. and Canada.

McCue has appeared in several Attie Theatre and Detroit Repertory Theatre productions and has been a guest artist and instructor at Wayne State University and St. Clair College in Ontario.

He is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, Actor's Equity Association and is an honorary lifetime member of the International Thespian Society having received their highest award in 1975.

In "The Long Christmas Dinner" at a sumptuously spread table, 90 Christmas dinners unfold in accelerated motion so that four generations of family life flow through the play, without interruption, in a sequence of merging scenes. The theater historian, John Gassner called "The Long Christmas Dinner" the most beautiful one-act play in English prose.

THE SAME USE of simplicity of subject appears in "The Happy Jour-

ney To Trenton and Camden." In this play, the author uses a stage manager (much like the narrator in "Our Town") who sets up the visible action and participates in the play in several of the smaller roles.

## Sewing guild calls for help

The Mary Stoll Sewing Guild, now working toward its annual contribution of children's clothing for Farmington Area Goodfellows, has put out a call for volunteers.

Sewing experience is not necessary to join the group which meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Thursday in Farmington Community Center. Help is needed for ironing,

cutting, hand-sewing buttons and sorting through donated fabrics and materials.

The center is at 24705 Farmington Road. Interested people may drop in on a Thursday, or call the center at 477-8404. The guild members also will accept donations of fabrics, which can be dropped off in the center.



Maureen Pickens and Jesse Heindl appear in Thornton Wilder's "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden," double-billed with "The Long Christmas Dinner." The 12-year-old actress from Farmington Hills makes her debut as a professional in Unity Theatre's production this month.

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