

upcoming things to do

● LASER/LIGHT

A laser/light show featuring Frosty the Snowman will be one of the highlights of the holiday season at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. "Ornaments" stars familiar shapes of actual objects twisting and dancing to theme music of favorites such as "Jingle Bells," "Winter Wonderland" and "Sleigh Ride." The show will be presented at 2:15 p.m. daily and 3:45 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays from Friday, Nov. 28, to Sunday, Jan. 4, at the institute's planetarium dome. Three and 4-year-olds may join older children for this presentation only. Another laser/light show, "I Robot," featuring music from the Alan Parsons Project, continues to be shown at 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays. Other holiday offerings at the science museum include a planetarium demonstration — the holiday classic, "The Christmas Star" — and live performances of Mr. Wizard's World, presented by "Little Love." For more information, call 645-3230.

● 'ODD COUPLE

Neil Simon's female version of his comedy hit "The Odd Couple" has been held over through Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Birmingham Theatre. The play stars Joanne Worley of "Laugh-In" fame and Oscar winner Sandy Dennis. For ticket information, call 644-3533.

● ALL STARS

Norma Jean Bell and the All Stars appear in three shows nightly Wednesday-Saturday at Ruseley's Lounge in the Northfield Hilton. Cover charge is \$3 for Wednesday-Thursdays, \$5 for Friday-Saturdays. For more information, call 879-2100.

● CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Farmington Community Chorus will present its sixth annual Christmas Concert titled "Home for the Holidays" at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, at the Harrison Center for the Performing Arts in Farmington Hills. In addition to performing holiday favorites, the chorus will present a musical revue called

"Home for the Holidays." Tickets at \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students may be purchased from chorus members. Tickets at \$3.50 and \$2.50 may be purchased at the door.

● FLUTE SOUNDS

Alexander Zonjic, flutist, plays every Monday in December starting at 9:30 p.m. at Panache in Birmingham, Tuesdays at 9 p.m. at Silly's in Mount Clemens, Thursdays-Saturdays at 9 p.m. at Murdoch's in Rochester and Sundays at 9:30 p.m. at Point Hop in Detroit.

● HOLIDAY SONG

"One People, One Planet... Please," the Meadow Brook estate holiday concert directed by Michael Naylor, will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at Varner Recital Hall on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Theme will be "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All Men and Women." Admission is \$7 and \$3. For more information, call the Center for the Arts box office, 370-3013.

● FOOD DRIVE

The fifth annual Birmingham Theatre Holiday Food Drive, this year co-sponsored by WJR Radio, to aid the Capuchin Mission Soup Kitchen, will be 3-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8, in the lobby of the theater in downtown Birmingham. For every 10 pounds of canned, boxed or dried foods, or a \$10 check to the Capuchin Mission, the donor will receive one ticket (limit two tickets per person) to the musical "Nunsense" at the theater from Feb. 6 through March 8.

● 'FROSTEE' REVUE

TAP Ltd. of Farmington Hills is presenting its 10th annual holiday show, "Celebrating a 'Froste' Christmas Revue," Friday-Saturday at the Allen Park Dinner Theatre. The show continues through

Dec. 27, with a special performance on New Year's Eve. Doors open at 7 p.m., dinner is at 7:30 and show at 9. Featured is the new musical show-group Fever. Michael J. Kiler of West Bloomfield produced and directed the family Christmas revue, with Rebecca Kiler as musical director and accompanist. For more information call 386-6900.

● FILM THEATER

"Medieval Japan," a series of films showcasing Japan's foremost directors, continues at the Detroit Film Theatre at the Detroit Institute of Arts. "Ballad of Narayama" (1983, Shohei Imamura, director) continues at 1 p.m. daily through Sunday, Nov. 30, at the newly restored 400-seat recital hall. General admission tickets at \$1 per person are available at the door only.

● SANDI PATTI

Grammy-Award-winner Sandi Patti, plus special guest First Call, will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Patti has three albums — No. 1, 3 and 4 — on national religious best seller's charts. She won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Performance in 1985. Tickets at \$10.50 and \$9.50 are available at all Ticket World locations including Hudson's. For more ticket information call 423-6666.

● DANCE PARTY

Festival of Trees will present an adults-only party, "Sparkle, Dazzle & Glow," from 6-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, at Cobo Hall's Riverview Ballroom in Detroit. Dancing is to the music of the '50s and '60s with the band Reunion. Nick Arama, midday host on WOMC, will make a guest appearance. Detroit's "Dance Fever" semi-finalists, Ursula Buckanes and Johnnie L. Smith, also will appear. Admission is \$5 per person at the door. There will be a cash bar. For more information call Children's Hospital of Michigan at 745-5373.



Barbara Michals

Performances of the Birmingham Village Players production of the musical "Two by Two" continue through Saturday, Dec. 6. For ticket information, call 644-2075 anytime.

By Barbara Michals
special writer

With a boatload of talent aboard, it's strictly smooth sailing for the Birmingham Village Players production of "Two by Two," the Richard Rodgers-Martin Charnin musical about Noah's ark. This charming show is full of high spirits and bouncy tunes.

Gary Temple is outstanding as the Biblical patriarch Noah. His powerful baritone, expressive face and boundless energy are a constant treat.

On his 600th birthday, Noah is forewarned of the coming flood and instructed by God to build an ark. "Why Me?" he musically protests. His first problem is to convince his family that he has not become senile. "Put Him Away!" they sing in reaction to this ark business.

Next Noah must find a wife for his youngest son, Japheth, for God has instructed that all who board the ark must come "Two by Two." Jim Andres is very likeable as the rebellious Japheth, torn between his duty to his family and his doubts about a vengeful God.

NOAH MUST ALSO convince all three of his sons that the ark doesn't need a rudder, for God will steer. When the vessel nearly founders in the storm, Noah grudgingly consents to use a rudder. He cannot forgive himself for having weakened in his faith, though it appears that God does indeed help those who also help themselves.

Tom Kern is amusing as the avaricious Shem, Noah's eldest son, and John Stanszsek is convincing as the lazy Ham, the middle son. They lend able vocal support in numbers like "You Have Got to Have a Rudder on the Ark" and "Poppa Knows Best."

Isabel Himmelhoch plays Esther, Noah's wife, as the universal Jewish mama, wanting only the best for her children and deeply calming an irate Noah with a good meal. She captures the Yiddish inflections without overdoing it, and her comic timing is excellent.

Del Moore adeptly uses facial expressions and body English to portray Shem's shrewish wife Leah with broad comedy strokes. She is at her spunkiest chiding her husband in the duet "As Far As I'm Concerned." Leah is disliked but tolerated by her in-laws, who favor Ham's wife, Rachel.

Everyone loves sweet-natured Rachel except her husband, who treats her with utter indifference. As Rachel, Pat Ward has a lovely singing voice. "Something Doesn't," she laments of her five-year marriage. She does a fine job with the ballad "I Do Not Know a Day I Did Not Love You," as does Andres.

DIANNE RYDING is effective as Goldie, the serpert who comes along as a possible wife for Japheth.

At the helm, director Dee Dee Johns-Charlton and musical director Frisella Benson keep everything shipshape.

Barbara Michals teaches high school English and journalism in Southfield. A theater critic for the last 12 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

clarification

Martha Welton was musical director of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man," recently presented by the First Theatre Guild at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham.

ham. Welton's last name was accidentally dropped from the review of the production in last Thursday's Observer & Eccentric.

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