

These theatres wine, dine, amuse audiences

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as a fund-raiser. "We'd have to charge exorbitant fees to take one of my huge shows out," she says, "so we wrote 'Broadway Lullaby' as a show with a smaller cast that will travel well."

She likes doing shows for groups because her company is relieved of the task of selling tickets and marketing. "The groups sell the houses themselves. We just arrive, knock 'em dead and leave. It's a nice quick evening."

THEATRE ARTS Productions, a large production company specializing in musical reviews, is staging "Fascinatin' Rhythm" Saturday evenings at the Novi Hilton Dinner Theatre as well as numerous other

productions for schools and businesses. The company has been in the theater business for 15 years and employs nearly 100 people. T.A.P. custom designs shows around themes for businesses, sometimes composing original music for the occasion as well as doing spoofs and take-offs.

The company also produces Saturday evening shows at Fiorelli's Restaurant in Flatrock and does regular luncheon parties at the Holly Hotel. Programs for schools is another facet of T.A.P.'s business. This year the company will present shows on alcohol and child abuse in up to 300 schools around the state.

Producer and artistic director Michael J. Klier says T.A.P. discovered its success formula about 10 years ago. The company had been doing the usual Neil Simon comedies and Broadway musicals such as "I Do, I

Do," when it put together a review of Academy Award winning songs called "Oscar," a show with lots of audience participation and a sing-along section. Audiences loved it. Now T.A.P. lays out nearly all its shows using the same winning recipe and even includes a "Name That

Tune" contest with prizes. T.A.P. shows appeal to audiences 35 and over and aim to entertain rather than deliver heavy messages. "We start off like a sky rocket and just keep going," Klier says, "and we always hire professional people who have a personality they can share

with an audience."

"There's been a resurgence in dinner theater in the last five years," Klier says. "Two-income families

are staying closer to home and taking shorter trips and outings, but they still need the release of getting out and relaxing."

upcoming things to do

• OLD WAVE MUSIC

Iowa Rose, a quartet specializing in traditional music, bring their blend of different styles of American folk music to audiences at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, in Varner Recital Hall on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. Iowa Rose has performed in concert halls, at music festivals, on National Public Radio and on the "Fire on the Mountain" program on cable's Nashville Network. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$5 for seniors and children under 12, and are available by calling the OU Center for the Arts box office, 370-3013.

• READERS THEATER

The second performance of the fall series of Readers Theater is set for 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, in the DeRoy Studio Theater at the Maple/Drake Jewish Community Center. A premier wine bar opens at 3:15 p.m. The program is sponsored by the Institute for Retired Professionals at the Jewish Community Center and is supported by an endowment from Irwin and Sadie Cohn Fund. A limited number of tickets are available beginning at 3:15 p.m. the day of the performance. There is an admission charge. For details call the Readers Theater at 967-4030.

• FIRE AND ICE

The Michigan premiere of Willy Bogner's award-winning film "Fire and Ice" is set for 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in the AMC Maple 3 Theatre on Maple Road, one block west of Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Township. Tickets for the evening benefit are \$25 per person and include an afterglow in the theater following the film. The showing will benefit the Detroit Ski Prix. The film by cinematographer/former ski racer Willy Bogner features John Eaves, Canadian Olympic ski champion and Suzy Chaffee, U.S. Olympic ski champion. Benefit tickets are available at Don Thomas Sportsbar, 6600 Telegraph; call, 626-9500. The public is welcome.

A new deadline has been established for items to be submitted to the *Upcoming calendar* - one week ahead of publication date. Information must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham 48012.

Now playing after dinner

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"Be-Bop Broadway and Blues," musical review playing Saturday evenings through Nov. 28 at Fiorelli's Restaurant in Flatrock. Theatre Arts Productions. Call 782-1432.

"An Old-Fashioned Holiday Treat," musical review playing Saturdays, Dec. 5-26, at Fiorelli's Restaurant in Flatrock. Theatre Arts Productions. Call 782-1432.

"Broadway Lullaby," musical review playing New Year's Eve at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Nancy Gurwin Productions. Call 661-1000.

Theater Weekend

New York style mini getaway at the historic Boisford Inn, Farmington Hills includes lodging, meals, and two Broadway theatre productions - "The Dining Room" and "To Broadway with Love" - a musical review. Weekends Jan. 16-18, Feb. 19-21, and March 18-20. Call 474-4800.

Just Theatre "Gypsy" playing through Oct. 25 at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Call 661-1000.


"Talley's Folly," romantic comedy playing weekends Jan. 23 to Feb. 6 at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Call 661-1000.


"Guys and Dolls," weekends May 7-19 at the Jewish Community Center. Nancy Gurwin Productions. Call 661-1000.

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