

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, September 1, 1988 O&amp;E

(C)SC



Stephanie Zimbalist and Rex Smith co-star as Julie Jordan and Billy Bigelow in "Carousel," opening Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

## upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

### MEADOW BROOK

Closing the Meadow Brook Music Festival season will be six evening performances and two matinees of the musical "Carousel" starring TV and movie star Stephanie Zimbalist, pop singer Rex Smith, and opera and musical star Patrice Munsell. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, Sept. 6-11, and 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, and Saturday, Sept. 10, at Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Local children who have been chosen to appear in the production include Chrissy Wolfram of Bloomfield Hills and Joey Hutchinson, Erika Lynn Jacobsen and Heather Chaffey, all of Rochester Hills. For ticket information call the box office at 377-2010.

### 'ALONE TOGETHER'

Ridgedale Players of Troy presents "Alone Together." Lawrence Roman's account about a middle-aged couple trying in vain to empty their nest of the three sons who just can't seem to leave home for good. The show will run from Sept. 16-25. Dates and performance times are 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16; 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17; 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18; 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23; 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25 (matinee). Tickets cost \$6 and can be ordered from Harry Henry, 93 Maplefield, Pleasant Ridge 48069, phone 542-0427.

### CHAMPAGNE GALA

The French Chamber of Commerce will benefit Tuesday, Sept. 13,

when for \$50 (general) or \$75 (patron), the public may sample French champagnes including Perrier Jouet, Veuve Clicquot, Boisset, Laurent Perrier, Briceot, Mumm, Henri Abele and Roederer, at Somerset Mall in Troy. There will be hors d'oeuvres from Sebastian's Restaurant, Saks Fifth Avenue will present a fur, resort fashions and jewelry show. For reservations call 964-2423.

### DINNER THEATER

"Somerset Strut" is presented every Friday and Saturday night at Somerset's Dinner Theatre at Somerset Mall in Troy. Sebastian's restaurant and performers Phil Marcus Esser, Barbara Bredius and Charlie Latimer combine to offer the musical revue of song and comedy. First course of the evening is served at Sebastian's. For the first show, dinner seating is at 6 for the 8 p.m. performance. On Saturday, there are two shows, dinner seating at 6 for the 8 p.m. performance and another dinner seating at 8 for the 10 p.m. show. For reservations call 649-6623.

### GRAND OPENING

Entertainment will be provided by members of the Michigan Opera Theatre during an evening of fashions, food and music at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18, at Somerset Mall in Troy. The event, celebrating the opening of the new Graham & Gunn store, will be a benefit for the Attention Deficit Disorder Clinic at Children's Hospital. Patron tickets are \$50, benefactor tickets \$75. For reservations call 647-1740. The event is sponsored by Tea & Concerts.

### SUNDAY CONCERTS

Every Sunday from 2-4 p.m. free concerts are held at Somerset Mall in Troy. Entertainment dates this month are: Sept. 4 — Ron Jackson,

Please turn to Page 6

## Dual roles Actor also is artistic director

By Anne Y. Meyers  
special writer

**A**LL THE WORLD is a stage... at least for Birmingham native Gary Steward-Jones it is. With his time divided between performing in "The Owl and the Pussycat" and serving as artistic director of the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts, Steward-Jones' world is a busy production.

Steward-Jones was named the artistic director in April. Since then he has been selecting productions for the season and rehearsing and starring as Felix Sherman in "The Owl and the Pussycat."

"I love it," he said about his new job. "One of my goals has been to run a theater. I have been artistic director of a smaller theater, the Mobius Theatre in Pontiac."

Although the titles are the same, the new appointment is different, he said. "The Detroit Center for the Performing Arts is much more of a challenge" because of its size and greater versatility.

STEWART-JONES has extensive experience in theater. In the late '60s he attended Michigan State University on a creative arts scholarship for theater. He was married just after leaving the university and passed up an opportunity to tour with a production.

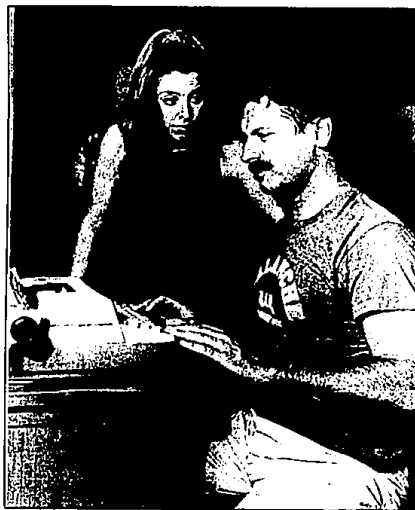
"My roots are here," he explained. "My family's here. My friends are here."

Steward-Jones is happy with the course his career has taken. "Not only am I doing what I want," he said, "I am making a living at it."

He has done acting, singing and directing with many local professional and community theaters, including the Detroit Repertory Theatre, the Marquis Theatre, the Mobius Theatre, the Nancy Gurnwin Dinner Theatre, St. Dunstan's Guild, the Dearborn Civic Theatre, Theatre Arts Productions, Mercy College, Shelby Hotel Dinner Theatre and the Book Cadillac Dinner Theatre. The actor/singer/director also has worked many other jobs.

He has been an independent sales representative and has worked on all the runs of data processing. These other jobs are what Steward-Jones describes as "what I did in the last 20 years to pay my rent."

"I PICKED UP a lot of invaluable experience in the business world, both managing and work-



THOMAS ARNETT

ing," he said. At the beginning of this year, he decided to put aside all other work and concentrate on theater. Shortly after this, the call came in from the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts. "I thought I was coming in to interview to direct one production," he said.

Steward-Jones thinks a lesson can be learned from this. "Maybe if you commit yourself to a course of action, things will work to your benefit."

He has big plans for the new season. "Our plan this year is trying to find out what our market is," he

explained. "We're continuing with children's theater during the week. We're also doing six mainstage productions and we're bringing in Theatre Grottesco, an internationally known group."

Steward-Jones believes the public can look for a great mix of things to come from the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts.

"WE WILL HAVE a world premiere of a drama called 'Golden Dawn,' as part of playwright development," he said. "People are coming in from New York to look at the play."

**Steward-Jones is happy with the course his career has taken. 'Not only am I doing what I want,' he said, 'I am making a living at it.'**

Elaine Kaiser is Doris and Gary Steward-Jones is Felix in the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts production of "The Owl and the Pussycat." Steward-Jones, a Birmingham resident, recently became the center's artistic director. He also acquired the co-starring role in the season's first show, which continues through Saturday, Sept. 24.

"We hope to find out this year what really does excite our audience the most. Long term, we hope to make the center what its name implies, so it won't only be our theater, but a performing arts theater for everyone."

The old Eastown Theatre, 8041 Harper at Van Dyke, is home to the Detroit Center for the Performing Arts. The historic building offers two areas for performances, the 2,000-seat main auditorium and a 150-seat intimate theater. The group has been steadily renovating the building.

Other productions upcoming at the center include "The Wiz," "Luv" and "Pippin."

"The Owl and the Pussycat" continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 24. The theater is two blocks north of I-94 at the Van Dyke exit. For ticket information, call the business office at 961-7925.

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2 C	Large Eggs
2 1/2 C	Bananas
2 1/2 C	Cake Flour
1 1/2 C	Soda
1 1/2 C	Baking Powder
1 Tsp	Salt
1 Tsp	Bananas (Mashed)
1 C	Nuts (Chopped)

Crust: 1/2 cup butter and 1/2 cup sugar, add eggs and beat until fluffy. Add 1/2 cup of dry ingredients, alternate with banana mix. Mix well. Add mashed bananas and nuts. Pour into greased 13 1/2" cake bowl or 250° for 45-60 minutes.

**Icing:**

4 oz	Cream Cheese
1/2 Box	Sugar (Powdered)
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1 Tsp	Vanilla
1 C	Coconut (Packed)
1 C	Pecans (Chopped)

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