

Out of the ordinary

Looking for films of the edge of mainstream cinema, Street Scene kicks off two new features this week, designed to answer that question and more. Meet Ann Sharp, who will be reporting on what's coming to town in the way of alternative films. You'll find her reviews and a movie listing on Page 2D.

STREET SCENE

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Monday, January 9, 1989 O&E

★*D



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Drums, flutes and a guitar were all the Ann Arbor-based group Majji needing for their recent performance at the Community Concert Series in Detroit.

The fine art of community concerts

By Julie Brown
staff writer

Variety is easy to find at the Community Concert Series. You can find rock, jazz, blues, poetry reading, comedy and other forms of entertainment at the Paradigm Center for the Arts in Detroit. "We are different," said Charlie Gorevitz of Oak Park, a concert organizer. "The concert series isn't for everybody." Concerts are held in the third floor of the Paradigm Center, 1437 Randolph (third floor) in Detroit's Harmonie Park. Concerts are held every other weekend, most are held Friday nights. Many concerts are benefits. Proceeds from one recent Saturday night were used to buy food for a Detroit soup kitchen. Other concerts have raised money for environmental and peace causes. "It's a cross section," Gorevitz said of those who attend the concerts. "People come from all over, actually."

Those who want to do experimental performances show up; these interested in being part of an alternative scene attend.

THE EVENING starts with an open mike session, usually held from 9-10:30 p.m. The scheduled performers generally start at 10 p.m. on concert nights, said Andy Smith of Detroit, one of the organizers.

The concert series started about three years ago, said Smith, who grew up in Southfield and graduated from Southfield High School in 1986. Concerts were then held in the basement of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church near the Wayne State University campus. The performances began as an all open mike time, with concerts

put together as people showed up to play, Smith said. Groups are now scheduled to perform at different times on concert nights. The concerts provide a forum for local artists, said Smith, who became involved in the series as a high school senior.

"We just provide a huge variety of entertainment. It's a limitless, censorship-free environment."

The series is run by a group that includes many artists. Price is \$3, payable at the door. A vegetarian kitchen operates during concerts.

"If you want to eat healthy food, that's also an alternative," Smith said.

The concerts are inexpensive and accessible to many people. They provide an alternative to bars, where the emphasis tends to be on the bottom line, Smith said. "For us, the art and entertainment are the priority."

SMITH PUTS out a self-published magazine, "Babyfish." He did his first poetry reading when the concert series was at St. Andrew's and still reads poetry at the Paradigm Center.

More experienced performers appear at the center. The Orange Roughies have performed there and continue to do so, Smith said. "It's also definitely there for people just getting their start," he said, adding that a performer doesn't have to be a political artist to appear.

The series is a modern forum that holds on to traditional counterculture values. No age limits apply for the concert series; alcohol isn't served and smoking isn't allowed in the performance area. People of different ages from different backgrounds attend, Smith said.

"And every time it's different. It's always changing."

Generally, 100 to 200 people attend. Attendance varies, depending on publicity efforts and on the scheduled performers. "People know that it's here and it's happening every other weekend. It's really the only thing like it going on in the city."

"I'd say we draw quite a bit from the suburbs," Smith said.

FERDALE RESIDENT John Annesser has been doing the sound at the concerts for about two years.

"Plus I perform here sometimes." A friend of his told him about the concert series.

"Once you break the ice, it's nice," Annesser said. "I'm glad I broke the suburbanitis barrier."

"I'm glad to see people are more interested in seeing innovative talent." The concert series has become more sophisticated since its days at St. Andrew's, he said.

"When there's a good crowd, it's like a professional type show." Norman Hume's band, Vogue, did its first performance at the concert series. He performed with a poet at the Dec. 8 concert.

"It allows different kinds of arts that wouldn't necessarily be given a chance at clubs," said Hume, a Detroit resident. "It's an extremely diverse crowd."

Gary Martin of Berkley, a member of Vogue, came to the Dec. 8 concert to see Hume perform.

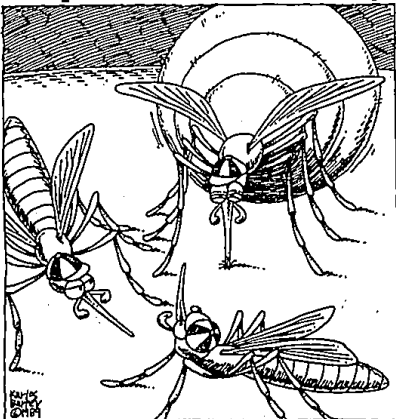
Martin's accustomed to attending the concerts and likes "the food a lot."

"It's nothing new to me. I come downtown a lot."

For more information about the Community Concert Series, call 548-7235, 541-8853 or 965-5437 (direct line, concert nights only.)

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"Chug III Chug III Chug III"

You won't find a wrong 'key' when you visit Florida's Keys

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

See the world's biggest key lime pie and the world's biggest snorkel. Attend the underwater wedding of two deep sea divers.

Visit Mel Fisher's treasure museum, which displays the riches he salvaged from a 17th century Spanish galleon.

Go see the sunset with the Cookie Lady and the rumbe with the white face on Mallory Square Dock.

Where are you? You are in the Florida Keys, a curve of coral reefs extending like a bony tail into the emerald green waters of the Caribbean. You don't cross a border when you drive the longest overseas highway in the world, but it is another country, a land of Oz, where they live on island time.

The Keys begin 42 miles south of



Windsurfing is a favorite activity in Bahia Honda State Recreation Area across the Seven Mile Bridge from Marathon.

Miami and extend roughly from Mile Marker 100 at Key Largo to Mile Marker 0 at Key West. The Overseas Highway, U.S. 1, is a ribbon of concrete that ties all these funky little islands together and seems to stop them from floating away into never-never land.

You know you're in the Keys when you enter Key Largo in a burst of bill boards, the most important of which says "John Pennakamp Coral Reef State Park."

The park gives you access to the only living coral reef in the continental United States. It can be seen by glass-bottom boat, dive boat or in snorkeling gear. Don't be surprised, if you look down and see a nine-foot bronze statue of Christ in 20 feet of water.

IF YOU'RE a fan of old Hume... Please turn to Page 4.