

## 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.

### SUMMER FESTIVAL

Ann Arbor Summer Festival has announced the schedule for its sixth season of international performers and premiere presentations of music, dance and theater. The festival will open with singer Mel Torme performing at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 24, in the Power Center.

Other stars will include Al Hirt and his New Orleans Jazz Band, Friday, June 30; Sonny Rollins and his quintet, Tuesday, July 11; vocalists Judy Collins, Sunday, July 9; the Platters and the Drifters, Friday, July 14; and the Chenille Sisters, Wednesday, July 5.

The American Repertory Theatre will present a new production of Moliere's classic "The Miser," Thursday-Saturday, July 6-8. Ann Arbor's Peninsula Productions, New York University's musical theater program and the University of Michigan will join to offer new one-act musicals "The Captain's Wife," "Back to Back" and "The Ugly Duckling," Thursday, June 29, to Sunday, July 2.

The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will present "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," Friday-Sunday, June 23-25, and the Wild Swan Theatre will perform "The Emperor and the Kite," Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25. For children, Theatreworks USA will do "The Great Vaudeville Magic Show," Sunday, July 9.

For more information or a season brochure call 747-2278. Phone orders may be placed after Monday, May 15, by calling 783-TKTS.



Cap Blood as the Rev. Leonard Clement (left) and Paddy Croft as Miss Marple try to find the killer in Agatha Christie's "Murder at the Vicarage," opening Thursday, April 27, at Meadow Brook Theatre.

### AGATHA CHRISTIE

Meadow Brook Theatre will open Agatha Christie's "Murder at the Vicarage" at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, for a four-week run on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. One of Dame Agatha's most popular mysteries, "Murder at the

Vicarage" has been dramatized by Mole Charles and Barbara Toy and is staged at Meadow Brook by Artistic Director Terence Kilburn. Paddy Croft, making her Meadow Brook debut as Miss Marple, has extensive Broadway credits including "Major Barbara" and "The Prime of Miss

Jean Brodie," plus appearances in regional theater such as the Guthrie Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre and the McCarter. Tickets may be reserved by calling the box office at 377-3300.

### JAZZ CONCERT

Free Flight will appear Sunday, April 30, for two shows, at 8 and 10:30 p.m., at Baker's Uptown in Pontiac. Tickets at \$9.50 in advance are available at the club and all Ticketmaster outlets. Free Flight is in heavy rotation on WVAE ("The Wave") and is in the Top 5 on all the respected jazz charts (including Billboard and Gavin).

### BERLIN MUSICAL

"Annie Get Your Gun," Irving Berlin musical comedy that is an American theater classic, opens at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. Performances continue through Saturday, May 13. This new production is the 24th major show to be presented by the Southfield-based Nancy Gurwin Productions, a professional theater company specializing in extravagant musicals. Gurwin plays the legendary sharpshooter of the late 19th century, Annie Oakley. Morris Anderson is co-starred as Frank Butler, the man Annie loves and almost loses through her superiority in a shooting contest. For reservations call 661-1000, or for information and reservations call Nancy Gurwin at 354-0545.

### LIVE AUCTION

Temple Beth El in Birmingham will sponsor a live auction, conducted by auctioneers Frank Boos of Boos Gallery, from 8-11:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13. This black-tie-optional event will kick off with a silent and super-quiet auction conducted between 8:30-10:30 p.m. Boos will be aided by celebrity auctioneers Joe Glover, John Kelly and Marilyn Turner. Admission is by reservation only, with a minimum donation of \$25 per person. For reservations, send a check payable to Temple Beth El, to: Auction Committee, Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Birmingham 48010. Reservation deadline is Friday, May 5. For more information, call 851-1100.

### DRAMATIC PLAY

West End Productions presents "Extremities," a dramatic play by William Mastrosimone, and an explicit portrait of an attempted rape. Tickets are \$12.50. For information, call 961-MELT.

Please turn to Page 7



## Tension builds up in 'Pack of Lies'

Performances by the Farmington Players production of "Pack of Lies" continue through Saturday, May 13, at the Farmington Players Barn. For ticket information call 538-1670.

Suppose the FBI asked to use your home as a surveillance post to observe your best friends across the street? They don't give you many details. It's top secret. But your government needs your help. And they're very persuasive. Would you agree? If it develops that your friends are involved in some shady activity, how would you feel about betraying their trust?

The Farmington Players successfully explores these and many more thought-provoking questions in its production of Hugh Whittemore's domestic melodrama "Pack of Lies."

At times, one might wish for acting with a more natural candor. But generally, director Bill Salisbury's cast creates and sustains a tension that evolves from a family facing the moral and emotional dilemma of trying to continue a friendship, while at the same time allowing the authorities to observe their friends' every move.

"Pack of Lies" is based on an actual 1960s' cold-war spy case, involving the sale of NATO secrets to the KGB. The characters have been changed, but one essential element remains the same. Scotland Yard asks a family (the Jacksons) to help them collect information about their friends (the Krogers).

MUCH OF THE opening, cheery

conversation designed to establish the friendship between the Jacksons and Krogers is a bit forced. But once the plot begins to unfold, the characters seem to ring true.

Ralph Rosati turns in a stellar performance as Bob Jackson, an ordinary London suburbanite — caught between his duty as husband and father and his patriotic obligations to his country.

Heleen Jackson is played by Jan Salisbury. Although a little stagey at times, she is quite convincing as a happy homemaker who slowly breaks down because she cannot cope with the deception and the ever-increasing demands of the authorities.

Judie Rosati scores as the energetic and earthy Mrs. Kroger. Lucien Chocron, on the other hand, plays Mr. Kroger quite effectively as a laid-back type.

Michael Megerian looks and sounds perfect as the British intelligence agent, Stewart. One wishes, however, that there was a more manipulative side to his character — something in his speech or mannerisms that indicate he, too, is willing to deceive quite ordinary citizens in order to achieve his goals.

The setting is tastefully done. Perhaps the most riveting scenes are the spotlighted colloquies, in which the major characters tell us about themselves. Very well done.

Bob Weibel of Westland is a freelance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.

**Michael Megerian looks and sounds perfect as the British intelligence agent, Stewart.**

## Helping make Firehouse fun

Continued from Page 5

strengths in their music, like, for instance, Watt's thin, sugary leads and Hurley's cannon-shot drumming. Certainly at the forefront of the Firehouse sound is Crawford's snake-like guitar play.

Showmanship, though, is not a policy in the Firehouse camp.

"And don't want to see chops all the time," Crawford said. "We're not a player's band. We're more than a

guitar-magazine band. Beyond that, who knows?"

FANS OF the Firehouse do. The band has a strong following on the college campus. "Riddle of the '80s" off Firehouse's latest album is in the station of Oakland University in Rochester Hills.

With the current stagnant state of album-oriented radio, reaching an audience beyond the campus crowd appears unlikely.

"I think there's a lack of a real trend," Crawford said. "I think that's healthy. When there is a lull, that's when something new breaks. That's what happened in the late '70s with punk. I think some interesting things will sprout."

Firehouse already has.

Firehouse will perform along with Screaming Trees at 10 p.m. Friday at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Tickets are \$12.50. For information, call 961-MELT.

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Sunday, May 7 — 7 P.M.  
Thursday, May 11 — 7:30 P.M.  
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