



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

## Movie premiere

Singer Natalie Cole appeared in Farmington Hills Monday night to promote the Detroit-area movie premiere of the Touchstone Pictures comedy "Pretty Woman." Her new song, "Wild Woman Do," is the first single released from the movie's soundtrack on EMI Records. Above, she an-

swers questions from the media in the lobby of the Old Orchard Theatre, 28123 Orchard Lake Road. WHYY-FM hosted the publicity tour appearance. The movie opens nationwide Friday.

## upcoming things to do

- Fox Theatre**  
Tom Jones is coming to Detroit's Fox Theatre to perform Thursday, March 29, through Sunday, April 1. Tickets are on sale at the Fox Theatre box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Showtimes for Jones' performances are 8 p.m. March 29-30, 4 and 8 p.m. March 31 and 7 p.m. April 1. Tickets are priced at \$27.50, \$32.50, \$25, \$20 and \$10. To charge tickets call 567-6000. For more information call 567-6000.
- Music conference**  
The Metro Area Artists & Songwriters Association, Inc., in tandem with BMI (Broadcast Music Inc.) will present the Detroit Music Alive & Kickin' '90 Conference on March Friday-Sunday, March 23-25, at the Pontchartrain Hotel in Detroit. Showcases auditions and finals continue the first two weeks of March. Participants must be able to perform a minimum of 20 minutes of original music. Top 40 or cover tunes are not permitted. Registration packages or more information may be obtained by calling 983-9418.
- Musical 'Annie'**  
The Park Players continues performances of the hit musical "Annie" at 18445 Seaside in Detroit on the following dates: Friday, March 23, 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 24, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 25, lunch-con, 12:30 p.m.; Friday, March 30, wine and cheese, 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 31, 8 p.m.; and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call 255-3254.
- Shrine Circus**  
The 1990 Moslem Temple Shrine Circus performs through April 1 at the State Fair Coliseum at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit. Shows are Monday-Friday, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m., 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. (Sunday, April 1, 1:30 p.m. show only). Ticket prices are Monday-Thursday, \$3-48; Friday-Sunday, \$3-49 (general admission seats, \$3). Tickets are available at the fairgrounds, AAA and all Ticketmaster locations. For more information call 366-6200.
- Comedy classic**  
The Theatre Company of the University of Detroit continues its 19th season with the contemporary comedy classic "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" by Tom Stoppard, running through Sunday, March 25, in the Earl D.A. Smith Theatre on the University of Detroit campus. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 reserved and \$6 for students and seniors. For more information or to reserve tickets call the Theatre Company at 927-1130 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.



**Bob Weibel**  
special writer

## This 'Plaza Suite' has effervescence

The Schoolcraft College Theatre Department production of "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon continues Friday-Saturday, March 23-24 (dinner theater), and Friday-Saturday, March 30-31 on campus in Livonia. For ticket information call 482-4400, ext. 5270.

By Bob Weibel  
special writer

Schoolcraft College's "Plaza Suite" is one of the best productions of Neil Simon's hilarious comedy this reviewer has seen in some time. For openness, there is a quite stunning set. It has been tastefully decorated to give every illusion of the ritzy hotel in the Big Apple.

What really sets the show apart is the brisk pace Director James Hartman has set. What a pleasure to see a cast bubble along like effervescent champagne. And there is good mixture of engaging college students with older, experienced adult performers.

"Plaza Suite" consists of three playlets that examine various aspects of marriage. The first story is about a wife (Linda Bodnar) trying to hang onto her husband (Frank Betzel). Bodnar is excellent as a wife who decides to rekindle the flame with an anniversary party in the same room as her honeymoon. Betzel is equally good as a man more interested in business (and his thin, young secretary, played effectively by Donna Christensen).

We chuckle when we see this husband and wife are on different wave lengths — laugh when they discuss the possibility of his affair — and are filled with compassion when we learn it's true, and wonder if they

**What really sets the show apart is the brisk pace director James Hartman has set.**

can work things out. About the only thing that would improve their scene are a few more knowing looks and gestures typical of couples who have been married for some time.

**THE SECOND SCENE** is about a famous Hollywood producer (married three times) who invites his old high-school girlfriend up for a drink and a chat. Rob Rehn is perfectly devilish as a smooth-talking seducer. Amy Van Buhler as the old girlfriend is the picture of innocence. And nervousness. She has a husband and three kids back in Teaneck, N.J. She just can't seem to resist one more vodka stinger and Mr. Famous Hollywood Producer.

The final happening in Room 719 of the Plaza is out-and-out pure sketch comedy — the type that Sid Caesar made famous on his "Show of Shows." Jeanne Bageris is priceless as a hysterical mother whose daughter (Nancy Hawker) has locked herself in the bathroom and refuses to come out. On her wedding day! James Howland is sensational as a big buffalo of a man who can't coax his little Mimsey out of the bathroom. He rages, his wife loses control, the two argue and the laughs cascade like an avalanche into a wild finish.

Also appearing are William Correll as the bridegroom, Tom Hanson as the bellhop and Gary Burton as the waiter (who reminds one of Jackie Gleason characters).

**Rob Rehn is perfectly devilish as a smooth-talking seducer.**

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

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