

Show troupe goes international

By Tim Smith
staff writer

A "goose bumper" of a patriotic

show is what the international Up With People troupe will deliver at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at the "Star-Spangled Southfield" festival, said



BRIAN SPRAGUE

Up With People begins a night of free entertainment at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 30, on the front lawn of the Southfield Civic Center.

event spokesman Brian Sprague.

Up With People's two-hour silver anniversary "Face to Face" show will take place on the front lawn of the Southfield Civic Center, located on Evergreen Road at 10½ Mile Road. It will precede the annual fireworks extravaganza, by Zambelli International Fireworks Co.

"We're looking for good, clean family entertainment that's patriotic and this definitely is that," Metrogroup Promotions' Sprague said, when asked about why Up With People was recruited for the Southfield festival. "It's a goose bumper, upbeat, everything from rock and roll to classical to rap."

"Each song has a message about peace in the world, getting along with people."

From a 60-by-30 foot stage, "Face to Face" will feature elaborate costume lighting and a striking new set.

"THE STAGING is vast," Sprague said.

And the sound production for the free concert will be solid enough to easily reach the audience, whether sitting on the Southfield Civic Center front lawn or across Evergreen Road, he added.

Co-sponsoring Up With People's appearance are the Observer and Eccen-

tric Newspapers, WJOI-FM and Continental Cablevision.

Besides the international smorgasbord of musical samplings, the program also features colorful enthusiasm, generated by the diverse entertainment group.

According to Sprague, five buses and vans will bring the 175 troupe members into Southfield the day before the festival. They will stay with host families in the area, he added.

The performers are from 43 countries, including the Soviet Union — for the first time in the 25-year history of the independent, non-profit group.

"THESE KIDS are really nice people, in their early 20s," Sprague said. "They're college kids, basically, who take a year to travel with Up With People."

The troupe that will perform in Southfield is one of five international touring companies, which spend 11 months traveling to entertain audiences across the world.

Up With People's aim is to encourage understanding among people of all nations through a unique program of intercultural education, musical performance and public service.

For more information about the Southfield performance, call Metrogroup Productions at 350-9070 or the 24-hour "Star-Spangled Southfield" festival hotline at 353-9070.

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