New theater accents deaf

Continued from Page 7

when People learn that Wells' parents are deaf, they often say sympathetically, "Oh, how sad." Wells feels no sadness about her growing up with deaf parents. "I feel my life has been enriched. They were good oarents."

and been entineed, any were good parents."

She insists, "Deafness isn't some-thing to be fixed. The deaf are a group of people who share a larg-guage and a culture." She has shared that culture from birth, and the Sign that culture from birth, and the Sign likelong commitment to the deaf armmander this her devotion to the act of threely and the state of the state

community with her devotion to the art of theater.

She is currently earning her master's degree in fine arts at Eastern Michigan University. Last summer she worked with the National Theatre of the Deal in Washington, D.C.

Sign theatre, because it relies exilustively on vision as the communication mode, adds to the already myriad details a director most consider in staging a play. Wells decided to keep sets and costuming minimal for 'The fee Wolf,' in part because a traveling troupe can't be encumbered by elaborate sets. Simple and portable sets are more practical.

Est the most commanding reason

CAI.

But the most commanding reason for simplicity lies in the nature of sign theater. Wells says, "We have to

be careful that sets and costuming focus on the people and the story and don't detract from the signs." In bearing theater, actors may upstage one another (block one another from audience view) by accident or out of competitive spite, but in sign theater keeping sight lines clear becomes not just wise directing but crucial to communication.

SIGN THEATER demands meticulous staging of the action to keep sight lines open every second. Wells says the nature of sigh theater also limits the size of the house. "I prefer a small house. If people sit too far away, they can't see." She feels 300 to 350 is the maximum-size house suitable to sign theater." The stage of the second stage of the

Strong images

tension between innocence and evil in his portrayal of the androgynous, white-faced MC, the role made fa-

ble.
The ambivalence and hint of sorow Kane Injects into the song "Cabred" runs throughout the Meadow
rook production, creating an intelignent tensing to balance the naughty
indidesness of the song and dance
cle at the Kit Kit Kitub.

MICHAEL NOSTRAND as
the lie Master of Ceremonies seems
nore a sniggering little guy than a
nadevolent force, but he keeps the

PREVIEW PARTY
The third annual Jacobson's Holi-

day Preview Party to benefit the Meadow Brook Theatre at Oakland University will be 79:39 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Jacobson's at Great Oaks Mall in Rochester. Hors doeuvres and wine will be provided by Machus. The event is black-tie optional. Celebrity guests include Paula Blanchard, who will autograph copies of her new book, "Till Politics

Do Us Part," and Brian Polcyn, Pike Street Restaurant's chef, who will benefactor tickets. For more infordemenstrate his cooking talents. mation, call 370-3316 or 651-6000.



Gordon Reinhart, star of "Billy Bishop Goes to War" at the Attic Theatre, is planning a move to Los Angeles soon. ma and interpreters theater, re-members her former student as bright and dependable. Reinhart wrote some original music, which was used in one of the school produc-

was used in one or un source, the control of the co

jored in violin and took business courses.
"It was the idea of preparing you to go into arts administration but, of course, I didn't choose to do that."
While at DePauw, Relohant auditioned for a student theatrical production and became hooked on acting, He subsequently obtained a master's degree in acting at West Virginia University.
Acting presents the opportunity to research and learn about a variety of characters and issues, he said.
"Billy Bishop Goes to War" is a one-character musical based loosely on the experiences of a Canadian flying ace during Werld War I. REINHART HAS directed and acted in several Shakespearean productions at the Attic. He also appeared in a play called "Burn This," which is about four characters attempting to cope with the death of a friend.

The Attic. in Detoil's New Center.

affield.

The Attic, in Detoit's New Center area, often showcases offbeat and thought-provoking productions, according to the control of the

Reinhart, in a physically demanding role, splns stories in an officers club. He even has the chance to play the violin.

"Billy Blshop was a very unlikely bero, and that is the charm of it," he can be faces producing the was a rough-and-tumble kind of guy."

The decided to move to Los Angeles because it offers a wider range of rolling the knows he faces producing the knows he faces producing the special competition for a limited number of roles. He expects to come back occasionally for local appearance.

back occasionally for local appear-ances.
"You can't compare yourself with other people, and you can't be intim-idated," he said. "I den't want to be cocky. I have gone to school and trained. I'm not just some person who says, I'd hink I will try acting." It's possible I won't get work, but I believe I will."

"Billy Bishop Goes to War" is at the Attic Theatre, Third Avenue and W. Grand Boulevant, Detroit. Performances are at 8 tonight (Thursday) and Friday, S and 9 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. For ticket information call 875-8284.

defined in show

iable.

The ambivalence and hint of sortions Kane injects into the song "Cablert" runs throughout the Meadow Brook production, creating an intelligent tension to balance the naughty upindlessness of the song and dance

upcoming things to do

• AT DUFFY'S
Alexander Zonjie, jazz pop artist,
performs with his quintet at Duffy's
Waterfront Inn in Union Lake. Showtime is 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Cover
charge is 87 per person. Call 3639469 for reservations.

Gordon Reinhart often had sweaty palms and a nervous stomach when he performed on his violin.

But put him on a stage, playing theatrical roles, and he is at peace.

""Acting seems so much easier for me," said Reinhart, who grew up in Westland and graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1979.

The section of the section of the section of the section of the music, debate and dramatics. He plays the lead role in the musical Billy Bishop Goes to War," which runs through Sunday at the Atle Theatre in Detroit.

Then Reinhart will pack up and move to Los Angeles, where he is seeking new opportunities in theater and films.

"I'm excited," he said. "I will be atarting from scratch. I have been saving money, enough to last for a year."

year." His parents, Dean and Ruth Reinhart, live in Westland.

UNTIL FAIRLY recently, Reinhart's major creative outlet was music. He began studying violin in third grade, at Elliott Elementary School, in the Wayne-Westland school district. He took private music learners.

sic lessons.

He spent six summers at Interlochen music camp in Northern Michigan — three years as a camper and
three years as a counselor. As he
continued his music studies, he performed frequently before audiences.

"That was very difficult," he recalled. "I had nerves and stage
fright."

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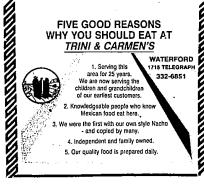
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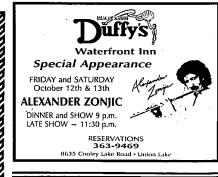
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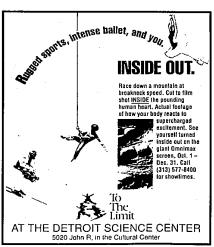
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