upcoming

things to do

• 'BEAU JEST'

The Birmingham Theatre will present "Beau Jest" by James Sherman, opening at five-week engagement Tuesday, Nev 13. Performances continue through Sunday, Dec. 16. The cornedy reflects family dynamics when the thirtyish daughter's new boyfriend enters the picture. Ticket prices, depending upon performance, range from 314/32. For ticket information call the box office at 644-5353.

● CABARET CONCERT
Actors Alliance Theatre Company
will spook the Southfield Symphony
with scary tales, classic poems and
witches' brew throughout the musial selections to be presented at 3
p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Southfield Civic Center Pavilion. The actlag ensemble, dressed in full Hallowensemble, dressed in full Hallowensemble ing ensemble, dressed in full Hallow-een attire, will set the mood for the "Devils, Goblins and Halloween" Cabaret Concert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors and stu-dents. For information and reserva-tions call Cultural Aris at 354-4717.

The Smith Theatre Guild opens the 1990-91 season with a production of Larry Shue's "The Nerd." The come-dy will be presented at 8 p.m. Thurs-

day-Saturday, Oct. 25-27, at the Wal-lace F. Smith Theatre at Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. For further information or to order tickets call 471-7700.

• READERS THEATER

READERS THEATER
Short stories read by professional actors will be brought to life at Readers Theater at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, in the DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. A complimentary wine bar will open at 3 p.m. The program features Shirley Beeyas, Evenyon Chach, Rube Weiss and Paul Winter. Melha Winer will serve as the host of the performance. Tickets are available at the door beginning at 3 p.m. There is an admission charge. For further information call Readers Theater at 1967-4030. Readers Theater at 967-4030.

• 'GOD'S FAVORITE'

The Woods Players will present the comedy, "God's Favorie" by Neil Simon at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 9-10, 16-17, in the main auditorium of Oakland Community College's Royal Oak Campus. Tickets are 35.50 (44.50 for septors and Community College's Royal Oak Campus. College's Royal Oak Campus. Tickets are \$5.50 (\$4.50 for seniors and

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Big musical requires lots of effort

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AUDITIONS ARE open in Bloomfield Players productions, although the group strives to Involve those the warmen of the production of the

the (Birmingam) Village Players.

The new community theater group was launched last winter by a citizens advisory commission of the Bloomifield Hills Schools. Its January production of "The Music Mar" starred local dentist Dr. Larry Millier as Harold Hill, and was well attended. Many who played in "The Music Man" have returned to beau in "Dolly!" including Beeky MacIntyre who plays the lead role of Dolly Levin.

in Louis,

'tyre who plays the lead role of Louis
Levin.

The lineup of past and future
shows attests to the popularity of
musicals with audiences of all ages.

Last winter the Bloomfield Players
brought "The Music Man" to town;
Dolly, the matchmaker, takes center

stage this fall, and "South Pacific" and "Fiddler on the Roof" are the two shows for next year. The council points out that all future productions need not be musicals.

need not be musicals. Hamilton says they chose to launch the new theater group with upbeat shows likely to bring box offices success. "We wanted crowd pleasers although they're more expensive to produce because of royal-ties. People like musicals."

ties. People like musicals."

THE NEW volunteer group is working to build a reputation and sell enough tickets to cover production costs. "Our objective is to break even," says Hamilton, but for the first couple of years Bloomfield Schools plans to subsidize the group to fifering a stipend to the producer, the director, the orchestra conductor and the vocal director. "Hopefully that work continue after we develop our own cadre of people," she says.

Executive producer Hamilton hires the artistic and management people from resumes and interviews. Once she hires the staff, she hopefully the staff, and the productions. Seed money for the new group comes from the Bloomfield Hills millage which voters renewed last June. "We want to offer both passive and active reaction options," Hamil-

ton explains. Nobody implies that the rigors of acting or building sets is passive, but compared to run-around sports like soccer, a broader segment of the community can take part in a musical production than can play in youth sports.

can play in youth sports.

The citizens advisory commission wanted to diversity offerings of the Recreation and Commonity Services Division in part because, "Most residents don't have children in schools." Hamilton says that they wanted programs supported by millinge money to address the needs of the whole population of the district.

population of the district.

The commission focused on the-ater arts as a rich field for commu-nity jinvolvement. The department now offers three youth theater groups, the Candy Apple Players for pre-schoolers through second grade, the Knapsack Players for grades three through five and the Rising Stars for grades six through eight.

THE GROUPS take their shows on tour to at least two schools in the district. Junior thespians trained by these groups appeared in "The Music Man," and the hope is the classes will feed young talent to the Bloomfield Hills runs a series of workshops on acting, dancing, and how to audition and be successful in a show like "Dolly!"

Montross casts a show according to studying previous successful productions. I direct a show and I don't read stage directions. I direct a show and I don't read stage directions, "he says." I do what I feel. I don't like to see a carbon copy of everybody else's show."

As clearly as she knows that she doesn't want to mimic other productions, Montroes knows she likes to make audiences feel part of the action of the show, It's part of her directing style.

"I like to break the barriers" (be-tween players and audience), she says. In "Dolly!" the players parade down the alistes from the back of the house and the vivacious Dolly stops along her route to pass out business cards and greet people in the audi-ence. And what do audience mem-bers say as she smiles her Irrestible smile and shakes their hands? What else but — "Hello, Dolly!"

Performances of "Hello Dolly" are at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, from Oct. 26 to Nov. 4 at the Laher High School Theater, 3458 Laheer Road, Bloomfield Hills. For ticket information, or for membership information, call the Bloomfield Hills Recreation Department at 433-0855.





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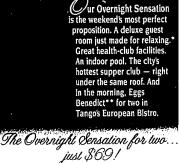


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