

MOT slates Dance Days in Livonia

Michigan Opera Theatre will host Dance Days on Saturday in Livonia to highlight the March presentation of Cleveland San Jose Ballet's "Coppelia" in Detroit.

The free pre-performance event will be from 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, in the Grand Court at Laurel Park Place, Newburgh and Six Mile.

Storytellers will regale young audiences with the amusing tale of the doll Coppelia and her creator, the eccentric toymaker Dr. Coppelius.

Face painters will transform children into the dolls of the world that populate the toymaker's workshop.

Muriel's Doll House in Plymouth will create a doll display. Children

will have the chance to win a doll.

Selections from the classical ballet will be performed by Dearborn Ballet Theatre.

Everyone will have a chance to enter a drawing for free tickets to the performance of "Coppelia" at Detroit's Masonic Temple.

MOT will present the family-oriented ballet in four performances at the Masonic Temple: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 8-9, and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

THE FAIRY tale tells the story of the irascible toymaker Dr. Coppelius and his life-like mechanical creation Coppelia in a small European vil-

lage. It blends comedy, color and magical surprises.

When the peasant boy Franz becomes infatuated with Coppelia, the toymaker's favorite doll, his jealous and mischievous fiancée Swanilda pretends to be Coppelia and wins him back.

Cleveland San Jose artistic director and Detroit native Dennis Nahat created the lively, original choreography for his "Coppelia," incorporating the flavor of many European customs and traditions. Costumes and sets reflect the charm of traditional Europe.

MOT will host a free pre-performance party 12:30-1:45 p.m. March 10

in the Masonic Temple.

The fare will include face painters and storytellers. Younger children can color ballet cartoons with crayons. Traditional shortbread has been provided by Walkers Shortbread Ltd., Scotland.

BUY ONE ticket at full price and buy up to two more tickets for children 17 and younger at \$10 each, subject to availability. Call the MOT ticket services office: 874-SING.

Single tickets are available through the Ticketmaster charge-line: 645-6666. Or visit any Ticket-Master, including at Hudson's Harmony House and Sound Warehouse.

A student/senior matinee is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday, March 7. All seats are \$7.50 and available for groups of 10 or more. Call Kathleen Bordo Crombie, group sales manager, 874-7878.

Target Stores has provided \$5,000 to allow underprivileged children and their families to the matinee at 2 p.m. March 10. Call Sandi MacDonald, MOT marketing director, 874-7850.

MOT will host the third in its series of pre-performance luncheon lectures at noon Sunday, March 10, in the Crystal Ballroom before the 2 p.m. curtain of "Coppelia." A member of Cleveland San Jose Ballet's

artistic staff will speak.

Cost is \$20 per person. Call the MOT lecture line: 874-7835.

ALL DETROIT performances of "Coppelia" are dedicated to the memory of flight attendant Heidi Marlene Joost, a victim of the December airline accident at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The Dearborn resident was a lifelong student of dance and had studied at the Ricardeau Studio, which provided training for Nahat.

Her parents, Cleveland residents, have established a scholarship in her name for students at the School of Cleveland Ballet.

Tracking trends in kitchen and bath color

I had the opportunity to speak with Ellen Cheever, director of educational services for the National Kitchen and Bath Association, while she was here as keynote speaker at the Michigan Design Center and Schoolcraft College.

Here are some of her remarks on trends in the kitchen and the bath:

Q: Could you first give our readers a capsule summary of overall trends you see influencing the design and color of kitchens and baths?

A: The most influential trend is the emerging family unit: more often than not, it consists of two working adults with children, or various combinations of adults without children.

No longer is Mother exclusively cooking for the family. The responsibilities are shared and so is the kitchen space.

Consequently, kitchen planners and designers are using a zoning concept that separates the different functions of the kitchen, allowing

two or more people to work together without getting in each other's way.

Further, creation of the Great Room in residential design has influenced kitchens by integrating them more with other home furnishings.

Meanwhile, the square footage of the bedroom has decreased, as the bath assumes greater importance for relaxation and exercise, and not only personal hygiene.

Q: What are people spending for their kitchens?

A: The average kitchen now cost about \$18,000 and much more for upscale kitchens. No matter what the cost, we at the association like to think of the expenditure as having a high return on investment because the returns include personal satisfaction as well as functional consideration.

Without being wasteful, we encourage people to renovate and redesign their kitchen and baths when their tastes change, and not wait until things wear out, which



all about color
Helen Diane Vincent
will probably be never.

Q: Who are the trendsetters in kitchen and bath design and to what extent do European manufacturers influence American tastes?

A: American manufacturers monitor many sources and deliver a good product to the public. There's a great deal of reciprocity in design: one industry can influence another.

European design is very influential on upscale levels but much of their use of extreme color or wood tone contrast isn't acceptable to the American market.

We find American taste polarized between two extremes: the sleek, contemporary Eurostyle on the one

hand, and the warm, country style on the other.

Here at the Michigan Design Center, the Italian Snidero line and the German Siegmatic are examples of very high style, contemporary European design.

The English company, Smallbone, using a lot of oak and pine, has capitalized on the casual, country look.

Many Americans who do not gravitate to either extreme opt for the eclectic look in a wide variety of wood finishes.

Michigan, with its automotive industry, and many people with an engineering background seem to prefer contemporary styling with a lot of fine detail.

Q: Given these circumstances, what do you feel are the color trends for the kitchen? And what about brass and metals? I understand they're important too.

A: Brass and even 24 carat gold, in railings and accents, has already been successfully introduced. Now

what we're watching is the use of stainless steel.

At the last Cologne kitchen fair, an all-stainless steel kitchen was shown. We feel stainless steel will be increasingly used, though more as an accent to color and other materials.

Although 80 percent of kitchens are white, color will become gradually introduced through other neutral and pastel tones such as light grey, peach, pink and beige.

Brighter and darker colors will also be used in a highly selective way as focal points in an otherwise white or neutral colored kitchen.

The backsplash area of the kitchen, the area above the counter, is one way of introducing the brighter color accents. Black, introduced a while ago, can be overpowering as a massed surface, and is suitable only for very dramatic and sophisticated installations.

Q: What about color trends for the bath?

A: Color for the bath falls into three categories: the kid's bath, the

powder room and the adult bath, or both suite.

For kids, all we can recommend is a no-nonsense approach. For the powder room, anything goes, and the more dramatic, the better.

As far as the adult bath is concerned, white, as in the kitchen will continue, but more color in the form of soft pastels will increase. So will bright or dark accents used to provide a focus to a room. For example, a very dark green can be used for the sink and combined with other fixtures and tiles in white, or other neutral colors.

In summary, the kitchen and bath will both see the increased use of color in highly selective combinations allowing color to provide a focal point. Both kitchen and bath manufacturers as well as many tile and laminate resources are gearing up for the increased and more complex use of color.

Helen Diane Vincent is a Troy-based design writer.

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PARK LIKE SETTING Two and a half acres of lush grounds welcome you home to this sprawling Ranch. Enjoy the fireplace in the master suite and the view in the great room, which has recessed lights that accent the beautiful stone fireplace. Wet bar, dining room, 2 car garage and the end you must see! \$149,900 626-9100 02-B-5452

SOUTHSIDE This beautiful 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home has it all. Extras: Granite kitchen, formal dining room, spiral staircase, large room with fireplace and wet bar. Other appointments include 1st floor laundry, deck and master bedroom with walk-in closet and bath. \$179,900 02-B-5460

COUNTRY LIVING YET CONVENIENT LOCATION Charming Ranch is tucked away on 16 wooded acres. Open floor plan includes lots of windows, 3 bedrooms, plus den, master bedroom with access to bath and deck, fireplace in great room and dining room. Offers spacious kitchen and great carpet. \$108,900 626-9100 02-B-5171

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