

upcoming things to do

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Southfield Civic Center. For more information contact the Community Relations Department, 354-4054, or the International Institute, 971-0600.

ARTS CAMPS

Registrations are being accepted for the summer Youth Arts Camps

'Dames at Sea' is a splashy musical

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dance like Benton. In her "The Echo Waltz" she even covers the book in her voice with a puffy air sound, more mocking of the '30s genre and very, very sexy.

Michael Scott's Captain "Kewpie Doll" Courageous matches Benton's mimicking in their terrific take-off on "Begin the Beguine." Their dancing, their head movements and body angles just of the serious routines they cleverly imitate. You need never see a Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell movie to enjoy this.

"DAMES AT SEA" is not what we would expect from off-Broadway in 1968. It is too much fun. It has none of the disheartened antagonism of that Vietnam era. Ruby is a tap-dancing wizard (Trisha Gorman) from Centerville, Utah, who arrives at the Hippodrome on Broadway with a pair of shoes and a first class case. Popeye-sailor/songwriter Dick (Don Goodspeed) falls in love at first sight with her in "It's You" before he realizes she is the waitress who sold him an Eskimo Pie back in his hometown of Centerville. He shows his love with more dancing and songwriting.

The show's star is prima donna Mona Kent who is really Grace Topolofski from Flatbush who finds "Popeye" Dick the irresistible next Broadway Beethoven. Ruby learns the chorus routines, finds a place to live, falls in love, has two fights with lover Dick, learns lady Mona's dance parts, sees the Hippodrome razed, moves to Dick's battleship for opening night, is kicked out of the show, makes up with lover Dick, steps in

sponsored by the Oakland University Center for the Arts in Rochester Hills. The ninth annual camps will run from July 8-19 and July 22 to Aug. 2 for children ages 7-12. The camps are identical in content and staff. Each camp concentrates on classes in music, theater, dance and visual art. Artists and educators from the area will teach. Total cost

for each camp is \$220. Partial scholarships are available for children who might otherwise be unable to attend. Enrollment deadline is June 21, but camps usually fill early. For details call 370-3018.

SINATRA FESTIVAL

The Livonia Mall Classic Film Series is every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. No tickets are necessary for the free movies at Livonia Mall Cinema for the Frank Sinatra Film Festival which continues Tuesday, April 16, with "Some Came Running" with Shirley MacLaine; Tuesday, April 23, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with Gene Kelly; and Tuesday, April 30, "High Society," with Bing Crosby.

MUSICAL COMEDY

Plymouth Theatre Guild will present its last production of the season, the musical comedy "Once Upon A Mattress," based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea." Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18, at the Water Tower Theatre on the campus of the Northville Regional Hospital. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$7 seniors (62 and over) and students (18 and under). Tickets may be purchased at the door or at Plymouth's Penniman Deli. For reservations or additional information call 349-7110.

table talk

Le Gala

More than 45 of metropolitan Detroit's top chefs will vie for culinary honors by creating hot d'oeuvres, entrees and desserts at the 13th consecutive Le Gala de Cuisine 3-7 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Cranbrook School's Eliel Saarinen-designed Quadrangle in Bloomfield Hills. A cookbook featuring recipes from participating chefs, along with a poster, is included in the admission of \$125 (friend), \$150 (patron) and \$200 (benefactor). For ticket information call Betty Badstuber at 641-0711.

Mary Jane Doerr of Troy is a fulltime teacher and freelance writer who specializes in opera and musical theater.



The hit musical "Cats" comes to the Palace of Auburn Hills for five performances, Tuesday-Thursday, April 23-25. For ticket information call the box office at 377-8800.

93RD SEASON

Boblo Island will open for its 93rd season Saturday, May 25. New attractions this summer include "Back to Bones" live animal show and the International Sports Pub, "Back to Bones," highlighting unique creatures with a backbone, will make its debut on a new outdoor stage in Fort Fun. Boblo Island's activity area for children, For adult visitors, the International Sports Pub will provide a place to relax in air-conditioned surroundings on weekends. Video screens will provide sports events televised all day. Also new for the 1991 season are upgrades to existing buildings, a new water ski above and a video game center, Mark Wilson's "The World's Greatest Illusions" and the Simpsons will be returning. Boats begin sailing Saturday, May 5, from all three docks including Detroit and Gibraltar and Amherstburg, Ont. Sailing schedules, dock locations, park hours and other information may be obtained by calling 843-0700.

STRING QUARTET

The staid, highbrow image of a

string quartet will be shattered when the Turtle Island String Quartet swings blues, jazz, folk and rock on classical strings at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12, at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit. Tickets at \$12.50 are available at all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets are \$15 at the door, with doors opening at 7 p.m. For more information call 833-9700.

Spring taste

"Taste of Spring," expected to become an annual event, will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at the Community Center Farmington-Farmington Hills. The evening includes champagne, music by pianist Jim Nuckolls, a wine tasting of 20 varieties coordinated by John Janna of the Merchant of Vino, a supper buffet prepared by Franco's Gourmet to Go, and a dessert buffet provided by culinary students of Oakland Community College and a variety of local bakeries. Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information call the community center at 477-8404.



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