

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming Entertainment calendar: Three weeks ahead of publication. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

CLASSICAL GUITAR

The Fine Arts Committee of the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College will present classical guitarist Paul Vondzilano in concert 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 8 in the Performance Space, Building F, Room 119 on the Auburn Hills campus, 2900 Featherstone Drive in Auburn Hills. For tickets, information, call 340-6546.

STAR CLIPPER

Celtic Group and Michigan Star Clipper hold auditions for '91 Christmas show and 92 musicals and mysteries, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 13, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 14 and 3-9 p.m., Nov. 18 on The Star Clipper, 840 North Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake (at Pontiac Trail and W. Maple). Needed are vocalists, musicians (pianists, keyboardists, electric bass, and saxophone, clarinet players) and actors with a

background in stand up comedy or improvisational theater. Bring a resume, picture and audition tape if available. To make an appointment, call 454-0054.

ORIGINAL PLAY

"Both Sides of the Track" an original play featuring the music of Tom Waits and Rickie Lee Jones presented 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake. Tickets \$6 includes dinner, or \$3 for play and refreshments. For more information, call 683-0509.

FOLKTOWN

Folktown Coffee House presents Dick Siegel and his ensemble in concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Southfield Civic Center, Marcotte Room, Evergreen Road at Civic Center Drive. Musically tough to classify, Siegel and his ensemble blend elements of folk, jazz, blues, honky-tonk and acoustic rock. For information, call 855-9848, for advance tickets call Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

PALACE

Paula Abdul with special guests, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9. Comedian Howie Mandel will perform 7:30

p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Two Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. For ticket information, call 377-0100.

HOUSE CONCERT

Owain Phylle and Dolly Decker perform 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at the third house concert sponsored by the Palm Creek Folklore Society in the Rochester Hills home of Phil and Althea Doolittle. Tickets are \$8, seating is limited. Call 375-2513 or 644-5496 for information.

MICHELE RAMO

Michele Ramo Quartet will appear 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The hotel is at 350 Pierce at the corner of Townsend. Ramo is an internationally acclaimed guitarist and composer. Tickets are \$17.50 per person. For advance tickets, make check or money order payable to: Michele Ramo Quartet, P.O. Box 1901, Birmingham, MI 48012, for more information, call 427-6835.

JAZZ

Larry Barris & Friends, 9:30 p.m. to midnight, Sunday, Nov. 10, at Max & Erma's Restaurant, 31205 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, call 855-9991 for information.

FOLK

Matt Watroba, who hosts the Polls Like Us program on WDET-FM will

serve as a co-facilitator at Border's Nov. 10's second Sunday Salon, 6:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, Joining Watroba will be David Seemann. The two meet at Plymouth-Salem/Plymouth-Canton high schools.

BIRMINGHAM THEATRE

"The Wizard of Oz" opens Nov. 13 for five weeks at the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward. Tickets on sale now, call 644-3533 for ticket information.

CHAMBERWORKS

"A Musical Tour of Europe: Part Three" featuring music for flute, violin and cello and harpsichord from 18th century Germany, Sweden, Denmark, England, Scotland and France. 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15 at Christ Church Cranbrook - Guild Hall, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. For ticket information, call 643-7788.

SOUND CREW

Jerry McKenzie's Sound Crew performs Nov. 15-16 at the Bird of Paradise nightclub on Ashley Street in downtown Ann Arbor. The group consists of four Observer & Eccentric area musicians: drummer Jerry McKenzie, pianist Matt Michaels, Jack Brokensha on vibraphone and Dan Jordan on bass. Sets will be played at 9:30 and 11 p.m. as well as 12:30 a.m. each night. Dress is casual. For

reservations, call 662-8310.

OPERA THEATRE

Gilbert and Sullivan's Operetta "The Mikado" opens Nov. 15 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit for 15 performances. Students and seniors may buy tickets for half off one-half hour prior to any performance, subject to availability. For information, call 874-SING. Luncheon/lecture, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, at the Pegasus in the Fisher restaurant prior to the 1 p.m. curtain. For reservations, call 874-7850.

'A Raisin in the Sun' at Oakland University

"A Raisin in the Sun," one of Broadway's longest running plays concerning the black experience, comes to Oakland University for five performances, Nov. 13-17.

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance will present the play 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13-Saturday, Nov. 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 in the Varner Studio Theatre on campus in Rochester Hills.

Set in the southside Chicago ghetto during the 1950s "Raisin" revolves around the divergent dreams and

MARY WILSON

Mary Wilson, former member of the Motown group, The Supremes will perform at a benefit concert for Michigan Cancer Foundation's research programs, 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Rackham Auditorium in the Engineering Society of Detroit. General admission tickets, \$25, each, are available at all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets by phone, call 645-6666. VIP tickets, including champagne reception with the performer and front-row seats are available, call 557-5440.

conflicts within three generations of the Younger family. Multiple themes of black identity, pride, quest for liberation, and the family's strength culminate in the Younger's refusal to sacrifice human dignity to the demands of a money-driven racist society.

Cast members include senior Daphne Briggs of Canton. Tickets are \$3 general admission, and free for OU students. For information, call 370-3013.

DIA hosts Wassail Feast

For two decades, the Wassail Feast at the Detroit Institute of Arts has served as a holiday time machine for thousands of local merry-makers.

Because the event traditionally sells out far in advance, the DIA has added more dates for 1991. Wassail Feasts will be celebrated on eight nights between Dec. 11 and 21. Ticket prices range from \$135 to \$150, depending on the date chosen.

For information, call the Wassail ticket office at 833-4005.

THIS SPECIAL event, which recreates the winter court in the time of Elizabeth I of England (1533-

1603), transports revelers back to a time of feasting and merriment, where elaborately costumed minstrels, dancers, acrobats, mimes, carolers and musicians accompany a three-course meal and an open bar.

The elaborate menu includes traditional favorites such as hearty mulled-harley soup, English pork-and-leek pie, prime roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, flaming figgy pudding with brandy sauce and, of course, a potent punch from the Wassail bowl.

Guests are encouraged to dress in medieval costume, although business attire is also accepted.

Performances of the First Theater Guild of Birmingham production of "Annie Get Your Gun" continue through Nov. 9 at Knox Auditorium of the First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple (between Southfield and Cranbrook) in Birmingham. Tickets \$5 available at the door, for advance tickets call 573-5762. The senior citizens matinee, 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 is at no charge to seniors.

About this time of year in 1926, Frank Butler died in Royal Oak, just 18 days after his wife Phoebe Anne Moses (Annie Oakley) passed away, and 51 years after they met at a sharpshooting match in Cincinnati.

That competition in 1875 is the one dramatized by Herbert and Dorothy Fields in the musical "Annie Get Your Gun," mounted this week by the First Theater Guild in one of the best productions this group has done in recent years.

IT WAS love at first sight in Cincinnati as the show tells but the real Annie Oakley wore satins and laces and she could read.

Pamela Vachon, who is Annie Oakley in this production at Bir-



Mary Jane Doerr

mingham's First Presbyterian Church, is more like the real Oakley, softer and not a harsh Ethel Merman type. A high school junior, Vachon is closer to Oakley's age of 15 when the story took place.

Vachon has a future on the stage. The teenager's voice resonates in the middle range with ease and beauty. She swings with the Irving Berlin hit "I Got the Sun in the Morning" and spits out the words in "Anything You Can Do" without resorting to belting to be understood.

Her Frank Butler, Mark C. Walters, has a gorgeous voice. His remarkable sweet sound deepens throughout the show, into a beautiful final reprise of "The Girl that I Marry."

LIKE ALL our musicals, "Annie

Get Your Gun" is stylized with tradition in how it is performed, each character already created through 50 years of continuous productions nationwide.

Director John F. Spears used that traditional staging but gave his production freshness that was naturally enhanced with Alice Fay Hall's choreography (especially in the "banter" dance), the simple costumes and scenery, and Barbara Anne Gowans' peppy keyboard accompaniment.

Not only were Spears' leads strong but his secondary parts were well chosen. Roger Nowland played the wheedling dealer Charlie Davenport, Ranae Burak a hussy Dolly Tate, and Ronald Vachon was the show business magnate Buffalo Bill.

Chief Sitting Bull has probably already retired to North Dakota's Standing Rock Indian Reservation by the time Annie and Frank joined Buffalo Bill. But, the character adds humor and fun to the musical, especially the way John Roberts played it for the First Theater Guild, with a sense of understanding and kindness that probably the leader of the Little Bighorn Massacre of General George Custer did not possess.

While the story of the musical is based more on the misinformation published by Buffalo Bill's publicists about Annie Oakley and Frank Butler, the love story between the two sharpshooters is true and something this First Theater Guild Production captured with their two leads.

Together Pamela Vachon and Mark C. Walters recreated the true love story of the most fascinating couple in American folklore, a love story that did not end where the musical does.

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

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