

ON THE MARQUEE

Plymouth Oratorio

The Plymouth Oratorio Society will begin its seventh season with rehearsals 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4. Rehearsals will be at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, between Canton Center and Sheldon roads in Canton. The society is open to all interested singers without audition. Scores will be available at the first rehearsal. For information, call the director, Robert Pratt, 761-2291, or Mary Bozell, business manager, 455-6512.

Trinity House

Trinity House Theatre of Livonia announces open auditions 7:30-10 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 4 and 5, for "Quilters," a musical that tells the tales of a pioneer woman and her six daughters, set in the American frontier. Roles available for seven women of varying ages with musical and dance abilities. The auditions will be at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile on the corner of I-275. Audition candidates are requested to bring a prepared vocal piece with sheet music. Wear comfortable clothes for movement. For information, call 464-6302.

First Theater Guild

First Theater Guild is holding tryouts for their spring musical, "Babes in Toyland," 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 and Friday, Jan. 8 at First Presbyterian Church in the Knox Auditorium, 1609 W. Maple, Birmingham. Roles available for adults, high school, middle school and elementary school students. For information, call Ed Krebs, 644-0356.

Auditions

Schoolcraft College is holding auditions for its winter theater production of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, and Wednesday, Jan. 27, in the Liberal Arts Theatre on the college's main campus at 18600 Haggerty. Auditions open to the public, and no experience is necessary. For information, call 462-4400, Ext. 5270.

Polish dinner

The American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple at Dequindre, Troy, will present its traditional holiday celebration of "Opłataki," with traditional foods and music, Sunday, Jan. 10. Cost is \$17.50 and includes dinner and refreshments. Call 689-3636 for reservations.

Langsford Singers

The Langsford Singers will be auditioning for all voice parts, particularly tenors, the week of Jan. 11 at North Congregational Church in Southfield. Singers should be proficient at sight-reading, capable of a cappella singing, and must prepare a solo to display overall musicianship. The Langsford Singers include a 35-voice male choir and a 45-voice chamber choir whose focus is 17th and 20th century music. Call Pat Stewart, 884-2018, to schedule an audition appointment.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble teams up with Pick of the Crop Dance and Music Ensemble in a joint concert of dance, Jan. 8-9 at Oakland University's Varner Studio Theatre.



Back in motion again, the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble will team up with Pick of the Crop Dance and Music Ensemble in a joint concert of dance, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 and Saturday, Jan. 9 at the Varner Studio Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$10 general, \$8 senior, \$3 student. For tickets and information, call 370-3013.

A premiere work by Eisenhower Dance Ensemble artistic director Laurie Eisenhower and works by two renowned New York choreographers, David Parsons and Peter Pucci, will be featured.

Pick of the Crop, an ensemble from Buffalo, N.Y., is co-directed by choreographer Elaine Gardner and musician Curt Steiner. The group of six dancers will travel to Michigan to share this program with the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, which will travel to Buffalo to repeat the program in April.

Each dance company will contribute four dances to the program. "Both groups are trying to do more touring," said Laurie Eisenhower, Eisenhower Dance Ensemble artistic director. "This is a way for them to show their work to more audiences."

Pick of the Crop will present four Detroit area premieres, including the internationally known choreographer David Parsons' "Sleep Study," and former Pilobolus dancer Peter Pucci's "Pas De Foe Gras."

Both works are humorous and have become repertory favorites for Pick of the Crop. Also in the program will be "Willy-Nilly," choreographed by Marcus Schulkind.

Schulkind's choreography is known for its subtle wit, musical accuracy, technical sophistication and lyricism.



Dance: Stephanie Pizzo, left and Desiree Buonbrisco Brengman rehearse for the upcoming Eisenhower Dance Ensemble performance.

The dance to music by Igor Stravinsky came about as a study on the idea of a Baroque line dance.

The final Pick of the Crop contribution will be a work by Elaine Gardner entitled "Don't Rush the Whoosh," performed to traditional Scottish "muro music."

The two pieces of rhythmically energetic music are sung without instrumental accompaniment.

Eisenhower Dance Ensemble's contribution will be four dances, all choreographed by Eisenhower. Due to a dress rehearsal injury during perfor-

mances in November, the company had to cancel the presentation of the trio "Iterims."

The company hopes to rectify this by presenting the dance on this program. Originally choreographed in 1984, the dance, which explores the relationship of a child and her parents, will utilize a new music composition by local composer John Reineau.

Highlighting the concert will be a new premiere Eisenhower choreographed to music by Palestrina. The Oakland Chorale, conducted by Rebecca Reese-Dawson, will perform the

music live at the concerts.

"The idea for this dance excites me. It's not just a visual experience but an aural one as well. The choir singing on the balcony of the theater should prove to be a fabulous experience, filling up the space with wonderful, sacred music," said Eisenhower.

Other dances to be performed by the company include "Enlight," which the dancers perform entirely in a small rectangle of light, and "Love Songs," a classic set to music by George Gershwin.

'Cloud Nine' selected for theater festival



CATHIE BREIDENBACH

"Cloud Nine," a play by Caryl Churchill, takes a provocative look at sexual, racial, and gender roles in Colonial Africa of 1895 and pre-AIDS London of 1980. When the Oakland University Department of Music, Theater,

and Dance produced the play this fall, it caused a stir on campus for the bold, innovative way it looks at changing expectations and sexual mores.

Faculty from theater departments of other colleges in the state saw the production and chose "Cloud Nine" to participate in the 1993 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for Region III, Jan. 5-10.

Of 148 college entries from five states, only six were selected. Festival

judges also unanimously chose Angela Maclean from the production to compete for the Irene Ryan Foundation Acting Scholarship at the festival at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill.

On Monday, Jan. 4, Oakland University is sponsoring a benefit performance of "Cloud Nine" to help pay for travel expenses to the week-long festival of plays and workshops. Those who missed seeing "Cloud Nine," this fall can buy tickets at the

door, while they last, and standing room only space to the one benefit performance, on Jan. 4. Tickets priced at \$50, \$20 and \$10 will go on sale at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. performance in the Varner Hall Studio Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester.

"Cloud Nine's" claim to controversy revolves around its determination to challenge conventions and explore

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