

ON THE MARQUEE

Youth theater

Bloomfield Players Youth Theatre will present two productions at Andover High School, 4200 Andover Road at Long Lake Road, one block west of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills, on April 30 and May 1. "The Tales of Hans Christian Andersen" will be presented 7 p.m. Friday, April 30, and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be presented at 8:15 p.m. Friday, April 30, and 2:15 p.m. Saturday, May 1. Tickets are \$2 and may be bought at the door. For more information, call 433-0885.

Avon Players

Avon Players will present "A Chorus Line" weekends starting 8 p.m. Friday, April 30, through Saturday, May 22, at the playhouse in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call 375-1590.

Auditions

Nancy Gurwin Productions is holding auditions for "Phantom of the Op'ry," ages 8 to 17, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in Room 131-132 at the Jewish Community Center, 6800 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. All roles available. Processing and audition fee \$5. For more information, call Nancy Gurwin, 354-0546. Also auditioning for a rehearsal accompanist for "Phantom," and music director for Camp of the Arts at the center this summer.

Birmingham Concert Band

Birmingham Concert Band presents "A Spring Fling" at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 West Maple, Birmingham. Concert will feature music to shake the winter doldrums. Free-will offering.

CASTING CALL

Junior Actors of Ridgedale Players will audition young men ages 8 to 18 for a variety of roles in "Heidi," at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1 at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road, Troy. Play dates are June 25, 26, 27. For information, call 649-2571.

Dance benefit

Rose Marie Floyd's Contemporary Civic Ballet Company presents "Kaleidoscope of Dance" to raise money for the Detroit Institute of Arts, 9 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at Southfield-Lathrup High School Auditorium, 19301 W. 12 Mile Road, Lathrup Village. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 seniors and students 18 and younger. Call 851-7408, 851-9326, 539-3320, or 646-7480 for ticket information. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Jazz

Nalma Shamborguer and Trio will perform at the Southfield Concerts in the Garden Series 11 a.m. Sunday, May 2 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 29100 Franklin, Southfield. Concert and continental breakfast served at 10:30 a.m., \$7.50; concert and coffee, \$4. For ticket information, call 354-4717.

Show warmly recreates gospel sings

"Smoke on the Mountain" continues through May 16 at the Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University. For ticket information, call 377-3300.



HUGH GALLAGHER

Hallelujah! Meadow Brook has a winner with an unusual theatrical presentation that neatly combines gospel music, gentle comedy and wry insights into rural American family life. Alan Bailey conceived "Smoke on the Mountain" from warm childhood memories of all night gospel sings. In the program notes he writes that he always admired those traveling gospel singing families who always seemed so perfect and happy compared to his own family.

"Smoke" recreates one of those gospel sings but reminds us that all families share troubles. Bailey and writer Connie Ray have fun with the style of Baptist worship but show deep respect for the message. This delicate balance is maintained by a perfect cast who seem to have stepped whole out of the hot June Carolina night of 1938 when the performance is set.

The Rev. Mervin Oglethorpe prepares his congregation for a special night at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. The Sanders Family Singers are performing again after a long hiatus. Unfortunately, as the play opens, the family is late returning from their meal at the Eat and Run. They finally arrive in a state of disorder, their bus having turned over into a ditch.

This incident sets up the main premise that perfect families in perfect harmony are an illusion. The Sanders include Burl and his hefty good natured wife Vera, Burl's recently returned brother Stanley, and Burl and Vera's three children, the lively twins Denise and Dennis and the shy Juna.

As the evening unfolds we are treated to fine foot-stomping white Southern gospel music, some of it authentic and some written for the show. The actors are all excellent musicians and the arrangements by



Gentle comedy: Don Bryant (Stanley) (left), Barbara Larsen (Vera) and Richard Glover (Burl) appear in "Smoke on the Mountain" at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre through May 16.

Alan Bailey conceived "Smoke on the Mountain" from warm childhood memories of all night gospel sings.

Mike Carver and Mark Hartwick are authentic to the style, even when the lyrics sometimes have a tongue-in-cheek quality. Musical highlights include "I Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now," "I'm Taking a Flight," "Christian Cowboy" and "I'll Fly Away."

But the best thing about this show is the interplay among the performers as each gets to testify about their lives and their beliefs. David Rosaley Caldwell is hilarious as the red-faced, over-eager Rev. Oglethorpe who is desperately trying to fit in with his new congregation. Richard Glover is a

solid, philosophical Burl, the family's anchor and not a little resentful about it. Barbara Larsen brings a sweet voice and an endearing ditziness to mama Vera.

Don Bryant Bailey shows us the dark side of redemption and what religious revelation is supposed to be about in his richly nuanced performance as troubled brother Stanley.

All is not well with the children and this, too, is handled with humor and insight. Jennifer Piech is non-stop, happy motion as Denise, the pretty daughter who is hot to trot and

go Hollywood but returns to the shelter of her home. Piech is a riot in her testimony to the lures of David Selznick. Lucinda Blackwood gives a tender reading to the plain, untalented June who has her resentments but also her strengths. Jeffrey Currier is the other twin who must struggle with the "call" and finally finds his voice. Currier is a talented musician who takes his turn on several instruments including a clarinet.

Mike Nichols' set puts us right into the church near the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The "congregation" on opening night was clapping its hands, stamping its feet and calling the "family" back for more.

Hugh Gallagher is an assistant managing editor, copy desk, at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc.

Groups celebrate National Music Week

"A Better World Through Music," is the theme of the 70th annual observance of National Music Week sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs Inc. The Birmingham Musicals and Farmington Musicals will jointly celebrate National Music Week, by offering morning, afternoon and evening concerts, Monday, May 3 through Thursday, May 6 at Tel-Twelve Mall, Telegraph at 12 Mile in Southfield.

All performances are free and open to the public.
Monday, May 3 — 10:30 a.m. Derby Middle School Chorus, 10:45 a.m. Derby Middle School Orchestra, 11

a.m., Derby Middle school 7th and 8th grade bands; 11:15 a.m. The Rainbow Girls of Birmingham Musicals; noon, The Milford Musicals Chorus; 1:15 p.m. The Singing Seniors; 3 p.m. Harrison High School Jazz Band and Ensemble; 5:15 p.m. Carl Reyes, pianist; 6 p.m. The Chime Ringers of Southfield; 7 p.m. Grace Ward, soprano, Joan Bowes, accompanist; 8 p.m. City of Royal Oak Bell Choir.
Tuesday, May 4 — 11:15 a.m. Irene Muttutat and Marion Stelzneycki, piano duo; 12:15 p.m. Greenfield Grade School Honors Choir; 2 p.m. The Junior League Chorus; 2:30 p.m.

Elaine Vermiglio, pianist; 3:30 p.m. Connie Randall, soprano, Elaine Vermiglio, accompanist; 5:30 p.m. Dorothy Duenning Corzili, lyric mezzo soprano, Maxine Zeitz, accompanist; 6 p.m. Livonia Youth Symphony of Michigan Stringed Orchestra; 7 p.m. Livonia Youth Symphony of Michigan Philharmonic Orchestra.
Wednesday, May 5 — 11 a.m. Fowler Middle School Orchestra; 1:30 a.m. West Maple Middle School Band; 12:30 p.m. Birney Middle School Varsity Chorus and Birney Middle School Music Workshop; 1:30 p.m. The Silver Tones; 5:15 p.m. Young at Heart Senior Chorus of Livonia; 6:15 p.m. Judy Reger, soprano; Suzanne Frederick, accompanist; 7 p.m. Farmington Musicals Chorus; 7:45 p.m. Collette Rosner and Joan Bowes, Piano Duo.
Thursday, May 6 — 10 a.m. Birmingham Musicals Stringed Ensemble; 11:30 a.m. Chris Rakocy, pianist; 1 p.m. Morrine Smith and Jan Smith Piano Duo; 2 p.m. Southfield High School Madrigal Concert Choir and Limited Edition; 4 p.m. Southfield Lathrup High School Madrigal Singers and Show Choir; 7:30 p.m. Gentleman Songsters of Detroit, Oakland Chapter.

Buddy's PIZZA

for **Mother's Day**

SUNDAY, MAY 9th

BUDDY'S will have a Special Menu and a Special Gift for each Mother (while supply lasts)

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281-3550

Other Buddy's Locations

FARMINGTON
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Commercielle
855-4500

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23148 Darlington Hwy.
Off of 200m.
852-8900

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Arts and Crafts Show

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 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Troy High School
 (located on Long Lake, between Oakdale and Cookley)
 Over 140 ??????

MOTHER'S DAYS

Thanks, Mom.

- Sumptuous Buffet Served 9:30 am-3:30 pm
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HISTORIC Chesaning

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For more information, call the Chesaning Chamber of Commerce at (313) 845-3055

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