

Area play targets real life of gunslinger Earp

Notorious gunslinger Wyatt Earp returns to set the record straight as OCC's Royal Oak campus presents a one-character play

Temple to host author

Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld will be the Theodore and Mina Bargman Scholar at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 17, at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road in Bloomfield Hills.

Appelfeld's speech will be called "My Life, My Work." Admission is free.

Born in Czernowitz, in what was then Romania, Appelfeld fled, by the time of his eighth birthday, escaped from a Nazi labor camp. He survived the remainder of World War II by roaming the countryside on his own. In 1945, still a boy of 14, he emigrated to Israel where he completed his studies, served in the army and earned a degree at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Since 1976 he has been professor of Hebrew literature at the Ben Gurion University in the Negev.

Temple Beth El Rabbi Daniel Polish has special praise for Appelfeld's book called "Badenheim 1939," which deals with the Holocaust.

"More than any work I know, (the book) helps us feel what it was like to live in Germany and Eastern Europe as the horrible events began to move toward their inexorable conclusion," the rabbi wrote in the Temple Beth El newsletter. "You feel the ominous future creeping in over so slowly, until it is an inevitable and inescapable presence dominating your life. It is not a grim book, or a gruesome one, merely a brilliant one. It ranks, in my opinion, as one of the most important Jewish works of our age."

Appelfeld's works also include: "The Age of Wonders," "Till: The Story of a Life," "The Retreat," "To the Land of Canaan," "Immortal Barfius," "For Every Sin," "The Healer," "Kafarna," "Unto the Soul" and "Beyond Despair: Three Lectures and a Conversation with Philip Roth."

Time Magazine likened Appelfeld's work to water running over stone, "impeccably abrasive, patient and stubborn in their scourgings."

Eva Hoffman in a recent New York Times review of Appelfeld's latest works said, "Appelfeld has achieved a distinctive place and voice by writing not so much about the stark struggles between victims and persecutors as about the more shadowy conflicts within victims' and survivors' souls."

8 p.m. Friday, April 15, in the Life Johnson Theater.

Titled "The Last Knight," the two-act drama explores controversy involving Earp's career as a lethal gunfighter and lawman. Playwright and actor Mark McPherson portrays Earp.

The script takes place in Alaska 20 years after Earp's stint as a

peace officer in Tombstone, Arizona. Finding himself at the center of a good deal of myth-making about the "Wild, Wild West," Earp begins to tell his own story. The narrative is illustrated with an extensive sequence of period photographs which reveal what the real west was like, and offers candid glimpses of many of the men and women who became the era's most talked about personeli-

ties, including Doc Holliday, Jesse James, Butch Cassidy and Calamity Jane.

McPherson's portrayal of Wyatt Earp is the latest in a series of other one-character dramas in which he has "become" Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Winston Churchill, George Bernard Shaw and Charles Dickens. He has also directed stage dramas and produced two PBS documentary

films, "An Egyptian Odyssey" and "The Great Shakespeare Duel."

The April 15 presentation of "The Last Knight" is part of the campus' Sensational Senses Series, a joint venture of OCC and the Royal Oak Restaurant Association. Audience members may enjoy free hors d'oeuvres by Durango Grill prior to the 8 p.m. performance.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Royal Oak campus theatre box office. For more information, call 544-4903 or 544-5551.

The Royal Oak campus is located at 739 South Washington. Free parking is available in the campus north and south lots, as well as in the campus parking structure at Lincoln and Washington.

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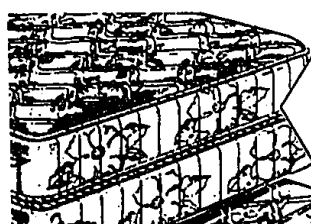
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