

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Toast Chuck Muer at tribute to his memory

The public is invited to join the family and friends of Chuck Muer 7 p.m. Friday, April 15, in a tribute to his memory in support of the Chuck Muer Memorial Scholarship Fund for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Students at Macomb Community College.

Muer, Betty and another couple were tragically lost at sea in a storm March 13, 1993, their sailboat was never found.

Bill Kruse of Kruse & Muer Quality Foods in Rochester Hills, Kruse & Muer on Main in Rochester and the Rochester Chop House and Oyster Bar in Rochester, will act as master of ceremonies. Among the family and friends of Chuck and Betty Muer who will speak at the tribute are Certified Master Chef Milos Cibielka, restaurateurs Joe Muer and Charles (Rocky) Rachwitz of Livonia, and Susan Muer.

The event will be at the John R. Dimitry Student and Community Center of Macomb Community College and begins with an hors d'oeuvre reception, followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. A tax deductible donation of \$5 to the scholarship fund is included in the \$25 ticket. Call (810) 286-2222 for tickets.

Chuck Muer was a wonderful man who touched many lives. I'll never forget meeting him at "Big Fish" shortly after a cookbook of favorite Muer recipes was published.

"I'm glad to be the master of ceremonies because I spent 17 years learning in the Muer organ-

See MARQUEE, next page

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- What's new at the movies.
- Upcoming plays and concerts in your community.

Drama questions artistic themes



CATHIE BREIDENBACH

Donald Margulies' play "Sight Unseen" juggles multiple themes with astonishing dexterity as it tells the story of Brooklyn-born artist, Jonathan Waxman, whose paintings command six figures since he was "discovered" by the media and dubbed a visionary.

One art critic called Jonathan "either a genius or a charlatan" and the play's tension rides on that central ambivalence as it simultaneously juggles theoretical questions about art for arts sake versus the commercialism of art with parallel questions about whether Jonathan is a man of integrity and genius or an arrogant opportunist. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre's richly layered production debuts for Michigan audiences the acclaimed play that was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

When Jonathan travels to London to launch a prestigious show, he decides to visit his ex-wife, Patricia, now living in Norfolk with her English archaeologist husband, Nick.

Excavating Roman latrines and ancient waste dumps are Nick's passions as he "studies the past to make sense of the present." When Jonathan visits his ex-wife 15 years after their break-up, he is also studying his past to make sense of his present, and the play's scenes move back and forth in time — beginning in the present and ending in the past, on the day Jonathan met Patty in art school when she modeled nude for his painting class.

John Lepard as Jonathan, Dan C. Bar as Nick, and Susan M. Arnold as Patricia keep the tensions perco-

ON STAGE

"Sight Unseen"

★ Jewish Ensemble Theatre at the Aaron Day Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield.

★ Performances through May, 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 8:45 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays.

★ Tickets range from \$8 to \$19.50 with discounts available to senior citizens, students and groups. Call 788-2900 or 645-6666.

REVIEW

lating as the three expert actors snipe at one another about pushy Americans who complain of being cold in English houses, the mediocrity of English cooking, and the brashness of modern art. Their verbal paces barely conceal the jealousy, frustration, and regret of the three who try to put a civilized face on long-submerged emotions.

Director Nicholas Calanni superbly paces both Margulies' excellent dialogue and the play's five scene changes. Two revolving sections of set designed by Russell Smith capture the rustic simplicity of Patricia's house with its field-stone fireplace.

Jon's boyhood bedroom in Brooklyn, and the opulent black and white sophistication of the London gallery where a German journalist (Eden Cooper Sage) assaults Jonathan with comments on his Jewishness and with criticisms disguised as a reporter's questions.

She hones in on the central dilemma of the play and attempts to



Drama: John Lepard as Jonathan and Susan M. Arnold as his ex-wife, Patricia, keep tensions percolating in "Sight Unseen."

prove that the acclaimed Jonathan Waxman is more a self-serving genius at promotion and packaging than a man and artist of integrity. Playwright Margulies leaves the question unresolved, because art, as

Jonathan explains, take place in the eye and mind of the beholder.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.

Local orchestras present spring concerts

Be sure to make time for music this weekend. Celebrate spring with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony on Sunday, or introduce your children to the classics Saturday afternoon at a concert to be presented by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. The Plym-

outh Symphony Orchestra will showcase the winner of the young artist competition Saturday night. Here are details.

■ Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presents "Grandiose" with guest artists soprano Glenda Kirkland, and

alto saxophonist Shizuo Kuwahara of Novi, winner of the symphony's Youth Artist Competition, 8 p.m. Friday, April 15, at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial, Plymouth. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 senior citizens and \$5

students K-12. Call (313) 451-2112.

On April 29 the symphony will present a Pops Concert of Andrew Lloyd Webber favorites at the Golden Fox, Fox Hills Country Club, 8768

See CONCERTS, next page

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