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INSIDE:

#### ON THE MARQUEE



#### Village Players thankful for community's support

onna Masters and the Village Players are applauding the community for supporting their Satunday, April 30 benefit, a "Country & Western dambere and Silent Auction."
"We were filled to capacity," said Masters. "It was electric, everyone was happy. Everything was beautiful."

beautiful."

"We expected 130 people, but we had more," said Masters. "The community really supported us. Our silent auction was also a success." Even proceeds will go in the theater renovation fund. If you missed the party, don't miss the Villad. If you missed the party, don't miss the Villad May 18 Shire, opening 8 p.m. Friday, May 13 with shows continuing weekends through May 28 at the playhouse, 732 Chestmit Street, Birmingham, Call (30) 644-2075 for tickets.

Here are a couple of dates to mark on your calendar.

- ham. Call (\$10) 641-2075 for tokets. Here are a couple of takes to mark on your calendar.

  Metropolitan Opera coloratura soprano Ruth Welting will headline the 7 p.m. Sunday, May 15 Southfield Symphony concert at Southfield Pavilion. Tickets \$9 in advance, or \$6 for students and senior adults. Call 354-4717 or the ticket holline \$51:7408.

  Boakland University's Meadow Brook Theatrewill be the setting for singing, yodeling, hand clapping and fancy cowgir rope tricks as the award-winning children's singing duo "Cathy and Marcy Cerfonton of Southfard Southfard Southfard, Southfar

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

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

## Cinderella' showcases local talent



lacub Lascu's idea of building a ballet audience is allowly. Slowly the West Bloomfield horocygrapher built the popularity of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's building "Noterackberry of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's building "Noterackberry of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's building "Noterackberry of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's over 25 performances at the Fox Theatre, a theater double the size of Ford Auditorium to over 25 performances at the Fox Theatre, and the size of Ford Auditorium. Now, slowly, he is establishing a new ballet tradition, with Michigan Opera Theatre, mounting a major production each spring, meshing the vast talents of the local dancers with major international names. When "Cinderella" by Sergie Prukofiew upens Friday exening at Masonic Temple, two-thirds of the nearly 60 dancers in the cast will be from local ballet schools.

From Rochester to Livonia and Plymouth, dancers from 10 to 56 years old flocked to his open auditions for this season's age old story. Lascu's grantidaughter Marie is a page and Bloomfield Hills resident Margo Cohen is the mean stepmother. Others are stars, time-keepers, dressmakers, corscieres, and companions for the two ugly stepsisters, Grizalda and Anastasia. "It is such an honor to be in this production with the wonderful talent Lascu has brought in," said Carole Cotter, owner of Miss Carole's School of Ballet in Farmington Hills, who will dance Anastasia. Cotter is a good judge of dancers. She danced with the some of the discipline's greatest names— Baryshnikov, Nureyev, and Fonteyn—

discipline's greatest names - Bar-yshnikov, Nureyev, and Fonteyn -

#### ON STAGE

- in Theater: Michigan Opera Theatre presentation at the Masonic Tem-ple, 500 Temple, Detroit.
- ★ Curtain time: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 6-7; 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, May 7-8.
- and Sunday, May 7-8. \*Tickets: Range from \$11 to \$63. Children sit with their parents for only \$10 each with the purchase of one or more half-priced adult schets. Call (\$11) \$14-\$ING or Ticketmas-ter, 645-6666.

#### **PREVIEW**

when she was at the American Ballet. Theatre before she joined the Brondway cast of "Sugar Babies."
"It seems the bigger the name, the more humble the dancer," remarked Cotter about this production's leads, Evelyn Cisneros of the San Francisco Ballet and Catherine Batcheller of the Stuttgart Ballet.
Cisneros, who has been seen on national television in this role, has won numerous awards for her achievements from the Hispanic community, has been featured in national magazines, and, in 1991, was honored as one of the Most Gifted Women in San Francisco Bay Arra. She has danced in Losco's Arra. She has danced in Losco's Stollwitzer will be the ladies' Prince Charming.
"I had only seen videos of the two

Stollwitzer will be the incommendation of the two from Germany. Now that they are here, I am thrilled," said Lascu in on interview on the evening of Richington of the commendation of the



Dancers: "Cinderella" principal guest artist Evelyn Cisnevos, (left) Margo Cohen of Bloomfield Hills, Carole Cotter of Farmington Hills, director/choreographer, Iacob Lascu of Bloomfield Hills and Jodi Germain of Bloomfield Hills take a

vention into Romanian politics en-abled Lascu and his wife to immi-grate to the Detroit area where Lascu has made an enormous con-tribution to the cultural life. Now as the "Turandot" acts come down, and the lovely Son Francisco Ballet Theatre sets go up at Mason-ic Temple, DSO conductor Lealie Dunner is preparing the MOT or-chestra.

"Dunner is so observant. When he conducts, he watches the dancers rhythms and keeps the orchestra in perfect timing," said Jodi Germain, of Bloomfield Hills, a marketing

Lascu is assistant and a super in the production.

Lascu is obviously pleased. "No, I am not going to tell you anything about the show and give away the surprises."

surprises."

Everyone will have to witness for themselves the Good Fairy's magic and how Cisneros changes her toe shoes into glass slippers.

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

## Don't miss 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses'



Here, right now, is my one-time-only money-back guarantee to all you "professional" theater anoha who refuse to plunk down eight or 10 bucks for an amaster production. See Farmington Players' "Les Liaisons Danter atill think that community theater is just a showcase where frustrated high

#### REVIEW

school actors perform in front of their friends, I'll pay for your ticket.

The Players have bitten off a lot with Christopher Hampton's dark tale of sex and decelt in 18th century France. They come away with a production which, from top to bottom, is the best I've seen them do. "Les Liaison" presents us with La Marquise de Merteuil (Paula Myen) and Le Vicomte de Valmont (John

DeMerell), two pre-revolutionary ariatocrats who make J.R. Ewing and Alexis Carrington look like Mr. Royers and Mary Poppins. For no better reasons than boredom, and a sense of sport, they systematically destroy the reputations and ruin the lives of those around them.

As Valmont, DeMerell is stunning and chillingly effective. With viperlike instincts and charm to spare, he personifies amorality. His wit, draw-

See THEATER, 98

### ON STAGE

\*Les Lisisons Danoersu

Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through May 21.
 Tickets: Call 553-2955.

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