

ON THE MARQUEE



KELLY WYONIK

'Big Fish' expands outdoor dining area

**W**arm days, cool nights, spring in Michigan is heavenly. I visited Chuck Muer's Big Fish at 700 Town Center Drive, on the perimeter of Fairlane Mall in Dearborn, Saturday to check out their expanded patio dining area. It's very nice. The chairs are comfortable, and landscaping creates a buffer from mall traffic.

The outdoor dining area now accommodates 200 guests. Jazz pianist Ernie Swan performs 5:30-10 p.m. Monday and Thursday, and 5:30-8 p.m. Friday. From 6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Big Fish offers a Patio Jazz Summer Concert Series. The restaurant is also presenting musical performances by the Hank Muer Trio 7 p.m. to close on Fridays, and other local artists on Saturday nights. Order from the special patio menu of appetizers and entrees. Call (313) 396-6550 for reservations.

What's your favorite summer outdoor dining spot? Call or leave me a Voice Mail message at (313) 396-2105. Throughout the summer we'll be featuring new restaurants and sharing reader tips on good places to eat out.

Best relaxation and romance are the top reasons Americans dine out, according to the 1994 MasterCard Dining Out Study, recently released by the National Restaurant Association Hotel/Hotel Show in Chicago.

Eighty-two percent of the respondents said that going out to eat is the number one way they unwind and relax, and 69 percent view dining out as a way to treat themselves. Celebrating anniversaries and birthdays are other occasions for eating out. Mother's Day and Valentine's Day ranked third and fourth behind anniversaries and birthdays. Followed by Father's Day and New Year's Eve.

Traditional family holidays such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter are rarely spent in restaurants, with people preferring the comforts of home cooking on these days.

When does your family eat out? Do you agree with the survey? Call me.

Be sure to stay tuned to Entertainment throughout the summer for listings of summer concerts in your neighborhood.

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.

Symphony presents benefit concert



Don't miss the Southfield Symphony Orchestra's benefit concert on Thursday, June 16. There will be fine food, a silent auction, and a concert featuring the symphony, guest conductor Ervin Monroe, and Alexander Zonjic.

Delectable French cooking by Vassel's Catering awaits concertgoers at a special benefit concert to be presented by Southfield's Symphony Orchestra Thursday, June 16 at the Southfield Civic Center.

The benefit is being presented in anticipation of the symphony's move to the new Southfield Performing Arts Center at the former B'nai David Synagogue for the symphony's 42nd season next fall.

A social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, followed by dinner at 7 p.m., a live auction at 8:15 p.m. and the concert at 9:15 p.m.

For ticket information, call 354-4717 or 851-7408.

Gold tickets are \$100 and include champagne, a special memento and front reserved seats. Silver tickets are \$65 and include champagne. Bronze tickets are \$40.

Corporate sponsorship is also being sought.

Guest conductor Ervin Monroe, principal flutist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, will lead the symphony. Jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic and Trio, and Monroe will perform as

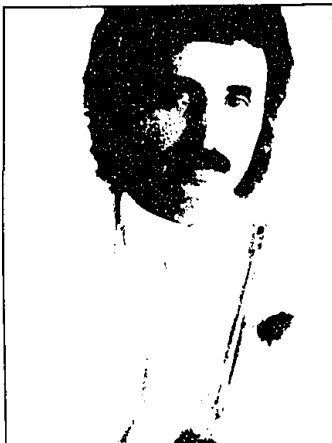
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soloists. The symphony will play classical, jazz and pop pieces for orchestra and flute. Amyre Makupson, of WKBD-TV, is honorary chairwoman of the event.

A delightful musical touch will be added by the Barbara Ogar Student Flute Choir, a group of 30 talented musicians who will welcome concertgoers on arrival and also perform during dinner.

There will be a silent auction featuring an array of items including a Beverly Hills Racquet Club membership, a piece from Globe Furniture and overnight weekend packages from many Southfield hotels.

Featured on the menu will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, including gingered turkey brochette. Entrees include baked chicken breast, Montreux with sauteed fresh vegetable mix and wild rice pilaf; salad, fresh endive mixed greens, raspberry vinaigrette and Michigan dried cherries, with tropical Mandarin mousse for dessert.



Guest artist: Jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic will perform with the Southfield Symphony Orchestra in a benefit concert on June 16 at the Southfield Civic Center.

Zonjic, a world-class flutist and performer, crosses from jazz to classical, funk to fusion, touching on pop, soul and gospel. His large following of fans is testimony of the universal appeal of his music. In addition to his music study at the University of Windsor, Zonjic was tutored by renowned classical flutist and mentor Ervin Monroe.

St. Dunstan's shines in challenging musical



BARBARA MICHALS

In one of their most challenging shows of all time, St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook presents an outstanding production of "City of Angels," a musical about Hollywood in the 1940s. Talent abounds in the large cast, all of whose

flawless on opening night, June 3.

The musical is a play-within-a-play. It pokes fun at the hard-boiled detective genre of the 1940s as it shows a film in progress, and it also takes a more serious look at the inglorious maneuvers going on behind the scenes of the film.

Stine (Marie Richards) is a young novelist who has sold out his artistic integrity for the big bucks of Hollywood. As he struggles to complete the screenplay to one of his detective novels, he also struggles to keep his self-esteem on track, his libido in check, and his marriage intact. He's losing the battle until Stone (Jim Andres), his fictional alter-ego, slips over into

the real world and gives his creator a pep talk.

Each scene that Stine writes is acted out on stage, including rewrites. Scenes in the "real world" of the movie script are presented in all black-and-white, while those in the "real world" are in color. Aside from the male leads, each cast member plays two characters, one in Stine's real life and one in the film. Add to that the problems of 31 scene changes presented in the outdoor venue of Cranbrook's Greek theatre.

Director Nancy Brassert has won-

ON STAGE

"City of Angels"

\*Theater: St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, outdoor Greek Theatre, 420 Lone Pine Road, on the Cranbrook Educational Community campus, Bloomfield Hills

\*Curtain time: 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 18

\*Tickets: \$12 students and senior citizens \$10 Call 644-0227

REVIEW

derfully coordinated the cast and crew of this large undertaking. Assisting her are musical director Marlene Loucks, choreographer Dee Dee Johns-Charlton and assistant director Paul Gillin.

Richards is perfect as Stine, whether struggling to keep his frustrations in check or venting his sardonic humor, and vocally he's magnificent, belting out his solos and duets.

Likewise, Andres is marvelous as Stone, giving a wonderfully droll delivery to absurdly corny lines and adding strong vocal ability. The Stine-Stone duet "You're Nothing Without Me" is a real tour de force.

Kappy Pennington is convincing as the movie's seductive Aurora Kingale and looks stunning in all-white as she vamps around Stone's office. Kendall White is well-cast as Mallory Kingale, the sexpot daughter in the film and aspot startlet off-screen. Janie Castagna so thoroughly individualizes her roles as Gabby, Stine's long-suffering wife, and Bobbi, the

lost love of Stone's life, that is hard to remember whether they are played by the same actress. Vocally she shines in her sexy torchsong "With Every Breath I Take," and the duet "What You Don't Know About Women."

Ed Guest is very believable as Buddy Fidler, the unscrupulous real-life womanizing producer-director, and Irwin S. Irving, his exact movie counterpart.

Amy Lynn Smith is excellent as Dolie, Stone's wise-cracking, long-suffering secretary, and as Gabby, Buddy's real-life secretary. She belts out a rousing "You Can Always Count On Me," first as Dolie, then as Gabby, with a split-second change of set and costume.

As Munoz, the Latino cop with a giant chip on his shoulder who hounds Stone with a vengeance, John Marshall is so terrific it is hard to remember that his accent is assumed. His song-and-dance routine with three other cops is hilarious.

Playing pop singing star Jimmy Powers, Andrew McMechan croons beautifully, backed up by the "Angel

See ST. DUNSTAN'S, next page

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WHEN THE CURTAIN GOES UP,  
YOU'LL WANT TO BE HERE...  
**MISS SAIGON**

Joe Muer's Is Pleased To Welcome *Miss Saigon* To The Masonic Temple Theatre. Performances Begin On Friday, October 14 And Will Run Until December 11, 1994.

The Dinner-Theatre Package Will Include The Following:  
Dinner • Dessert • Tax • Gratuity  
• Theatre Ticket  
(Main Floor Seating)  
• Shuttle Service To And From The Theatre

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