

LET'S GO!

your guide to suburban entertainment

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1994

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Run away, become a circus clown, dancer

Hurry! If you've always wanted to "run away and join the circus," here's your chance. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College is holding auditions 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Joe Louis Arena. The circus is also holding auditions for female dancers. Applicants must be 17 or older, and wish to pursue a career in clowning. Dancers must be 18 or older, have a strong background in dance, preferably jazz, modern and ballet. Call (810) 540-0660 or 1-800-755-9637 (clown college), 1-800-880-3047 (dancers).

The circus will be in town at Joe Louis Arena until Oct. 9. Tickets are available at the box office or by calling (810) 645-6665.

W One of the best deals in town is dinner theater at Schoolcraft College. This year's season opens 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, with Peter Weiss' "Marat/Sade" — (The persecution and assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as performed by the inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the direction of the Marquis De Sade).

On the dinner menu is such homemade lasagna, green beans, bread sticks, Spumoni ice cream and beverage, all prepared by the college's award-winning culinary arts department. Dinner theater will be offered 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22; Oct. 28-29, and Nov. 5. Tickets are only \$16 per person. A theater only option will be offered 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. Call (313) 462-4409 for tickets today, they go fast!

Speaking of food, I have lots to report on the local dining scene. The new atrium at Leon's Family Dining, 303 S. Wayne Road is open. Jonathan B Pubs of Livonia and Westland are presenting their annual Oktoberfest celebration

See **MAN AWAY**, 2B



Symphonies pitch season openers

BY BRIAN LYSAGHT
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth and Livonia Symphony Orchestras, and Schoolcraft Wind Ensemble are busy rehearsing music for their season openers this month.

Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, returns to Salem High School auditorium, to launch its 49th season 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, with a special piano work and a popular symphony.

Plymouth Salem Auditorium is at 46131 Joy Road, Canton. Concert tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 senior citizens, \$5 students in grades K-12. After the concert there will be a champagne reception at Water Club Grill, (I-275 and Ann Arbor Road). Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cash bar. There is a \$10 donation. For concert and reception information, call (313) 451-2112.

Schoolcraft College's Wind Ensemble will present a Fall Pops Concert, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the Community Room at Schoolcraft's Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff, just south of Ford Road between Wayne and Merriman roads in Garden City.

The free concert will feature works by John Phillip Sousa and popular movie melodies.

Livonia Symphony Orchestra begins its 22nd season, coincidentally, 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at the James P. Carl Auditorium, Churchill High School, (Newburgh



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACQUELINO

Brassy: Francesco DiBlasi conducts the Livonia Symphony at Sunday, Songs & Symphony, a benefit held Sunday at Laurel Park Place. The brass section gives a sparkling performance.

at Joy roads) in Livonia. Season tickets are still available. Five concerts for \$55, senior citizens age 65 and over \$35, and students 21 and under \$25. Call (313) 421-1111 or (313) 464-2741 for information.

Plymouth Symphony program

The Plymouth program on Oct. 15 is one of 12 this season, making it one of the most extensive, said conductor Russell Reed, who is starting his eighth season.

"I feel really good that we are back in the Salem Auditorium," said Reed. "We didn't play there all last season. We consider that our home station."

Guest pianist Pauline Martin will join the Plymouth Symphony for Prokofiev's "Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Major," a rousing Russian composition that Reed called "one of the most outstanding piano concertos ever written."

The season grand opening is Weber's "Euryanthe Overture," a seven-minute piece that Reed said would be a perfect start to the season.

Brahms' "Symphony No. 1 in C Minor" will close out the evening. Though the work is Brahms' first symphony, it is exceptional, the conductor said.

"He was very mature when he began to write symphonies," said Reed. "It's a major work."

See **SYMPHONIES**, 2B

Philharmonic to present 'Basically British' program

With a nod to Great Britain, the Farmington Area Philharmonic, resumes its season at 7:30 p.m. Sunday Nov. 6 at the North Farmington High School auditorium.

The program, titled "Basically British," features several compositions from the land of the stiff upper lip.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra violist Hart Hoffman will be special guest soloist performing the Walton Concerto. Also on the program is Haydn's "London" Symphony, one of a dozen he was commissioned to write by that city and Elgar's "Enigma Variations."

Tickets are \$8, \$12 and \$20 and will be available at the door. Call the orchestra's office at (810) 478-2075 for information on advance tickets.

This is the second of seven concerts in the 1994-95 season for the orchestra and conductor Karen Nixon Lane.



In harmony: The LSO string section concentrates on their music. The symphony begins its 22nd season Oct. 22.

Now showing

Dining
Local restaurants will fork over up to 7 percent of their gross receipts on Oct. 13 for hunger relief.

Theater
Check out Entertaining Choices for information about shows playing at community theaters in your neighborhood.

Movies
See John Monaghan's review of Tim Burton's new movie, "Ed Wood" opening Friday at metro Detroit movie theaters.

Travel
Visit the Toledo Zoo with the Prysby Family.

Music
After the death of one of the founding members, Cause & Effect is back.

Looking ahead

- Scary and fun things to do on Halloween
- Plan a fall get-away to a bed and breakfast
- Find out who won our "Only You" contest

Funny cast keeps up frantic pace in spoof

BY CATHE BREIDENBACH
STAFF WRITER

Michael Freyn's uproariously funny comedy "Noise Off" opens the Meadow Brook Theatre's season with dizzying energy and precision choreography by director Donald Ewer. "Blocking" may be the traditional term for a director's plan of where actors stand and move on stage, but choreography more accurately describes the intricate nine character movements in "Noise Off" that begin in the moderately fast-paced Act 1 with characters alternating in and out of doors and hilarious crescendo. Moments on stage become a frenetic dance impeccably executed by the Meadow Brook cast in this story about a second-rate traveling theatrical troupe performing a trite English sex farce entitled "Nothing On."

To the Act 1 action of musical doors and characters racing up and down the stairway, Freyn adds in Act 2 and 3 a nine player game of keep away with a liquor bottle, and a juggling routine that keeps two bouquets of flowers and a prickly cactus in constant motion.

Simultaneously characters continue racing and hopping up stairs and running and tumbling down them — all the while putting on a live play. It's an extraordinary, almost schizophrenic, feat, helmed by Freyn's masterful verbal humor of witty puns (if that's not an oxymoron) and double entendres.

American couple covertly sneaking in and out of bedroom doors is staple fare in the bedroom farce that Freyn spoofs in "Noise Off." He expands the theme of the sex farce by adding a play within a play — an honored theatrical tradition begun by one William Shakespeare.



Rehearsing: Suzi Regan as Peggy Norton-Taylor (left), Richard A. Schwot as Frederick Fellows, and Shirleyann Kadljian as Brooke Ashton in a scene from "Noise Off."

"Noise Off"

THEATER: Meadow Brook on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester.

CURTAIN TIME: 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; 8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 6 p.m. Saturdays; 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8; 6:30 p.m. Sundays. Show ends Oct. 23.

TICKETS: Range from \$18 to \$28.50. Student, senior citizen and group discounts available. Call (810) 377-3300.



In "Noise Off," a traveling British theater company is putting on a bad sex romp called "Nothing On" complete with secret lovers, a scandalized housekeeper who calls everyone "Luv," a house hunting agent, a bumbling burglar in a mask, a curvaceous bimbo who loses her dress within minutes of the opening curtain and runs about the remainder of the play in her lingerie.

That's the play within the play that the company is rehearsing in Act 1 and which we see performed at two stops on their itineray, the second time from backstage thanks to a rotating set designed by Peter Hicks.

The frame play spoofs theater stereotypes like the harried stage manager and the disastrous dress rehearsal just hours before opening night.

See **CAST**, 2B