

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater

Let's go Dining

Let's go to the Movies

Let's go Travelling

Let's go listen to Music

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1995

ON THE MARQUEE



KIRBY WYONIK

If you enjoy eating out here's news to "Relish"

Here's good news to "Relish." Matt Prentice, president of the Unique Restaurant Corporation, is opening his 11th restaurant in Farmington Hills. The new restaurant will be on 12 Mile Road, at Drake in the Arboretum Office Park, formerly Metropolitan Music Cafe, Amici's and Pomodoro. Relish is the second of three restaurants Prentice plans to open in 1995.

Relish will focus on the simplest of cooking techniques — grilling. Fresh fish, range birds, prime meats and seafood will be accompanied by a vast array of relishes, chutneys and salsas. The restaurant is closed for renovations and is scheduled to open June 1, pending the approval of the liquor license transfer by the Liquor Control Commission. Keep reading Let's Go! for details about the grand opening.

■ Some "bunny" is going to be very happy on Easter! It could be you. Chimento's Italian Market, 33610 Plymouth Road, one block west of Farmington Road in Livonia, is giving away a nine pound chocolate Easter egg on April 14.

To be eligible to win, fill out a raffle entry at the store now through April 13 with each purchase. For more information, call (313) 421-3800. ■ Farmington Community Band ushers in spring 3 p.m. Sun., March 26 with a collection of band favorites for its concert at Harrison High School, 12 Mile Road (between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Roads), Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$3 adults, \$2 students, senior citizens free, at the door. Call (810) 476-5014 or (810) 483-3412 for more information.

Come out and say goodbye to winter blues by enjoying toe-tapping music especially selected to put "Spring" back into your step. Paul Barber conducts the 60 plus member band.

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Now showing

Dining
Local restaurants are planning entertainment and special menus for their St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Theater
Check out Entertaining Choices find out what's on stage in your community.

Movies
John Monaghan reviews "Outbreak." This film, which stars Dustin Hoffman, is about a lethal virus that threatens to spread uncontrollably unless a cure can be found.

Travel
Travel to Poland this summer with Jane and Ed Wojtan of Livonia.

Music
Rich Decicciis and his bandmates in She's So Huge have their eyes firmly focused on the future.

Looking ahead

► Comedy
► What's new at the movies.



See DRAMA, 25

Romantic leads: Lonnie and Nancy Valentini as Peter and Rita in "Prelude to a Kiss." Below, director Jane Pfeifer with her one-year-old son, Jack.

Romantic drama mirrors couple's life

BY BUE SUCHITTA
SPECIAL WRITER

When Nancy and Lonnie Valentini of Livonia met six years ago at the Players Guild of Dearborn, little did they suspect then that their time shared on stage would lead to the altar. Now, married, and the parents of nine-month-old Dominic, they find life imitating art as they play romantic leads opposite each other in the Guild's production of "Prelude To A Kiss."

The romantic and mysterious comedy/drama by Craig Lucas, follows the lives of Peter and Rita, who meet, fall in love, and marry. However, on their wedding day, their souls are inexplicably transferred into each other's bodies when a mysterious elderly man kisses the bride. Peter is so much in tune with Rita that he immediately realizes that his new bride is not the woman he married. How their love survives this challenge provides an emotional and exhilarating story.

Nancy, who plays Rita, brings a little bit of herself to each character she plays. There is a touch of irony in Lonnie being cast as Peter, and Nancy as

"Prelude to a Kiss"

► **THEATRE:** The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison (near Monroe and Outer Drive) Dearborn.
► **CURTAIN TIME:** 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., March 17-18; 24-25; 2:30 p.m. Sun., March 19.
► **TICKETS:** \$8, \$5 on Sundays for students under 18 with ID. Call (313) 561-TKTS for reservations, (313) 277-5164 for information, directions to playhouse.



Rita. "Peter is pretty conservative and Rita is the wild one," said Nancy. "In real life, it's the exact opposite for us. Rita and I have similarities, though. We are both graphic designers and we both love our husbands — for better or worse."

Lonnie and Nancy enjoy the comfort level of playing romantic roles opposite each other. "With an actress I don't know, I would have to build up chemistry," Lonnie said. "With Nancy, it's already there."

"It's definitely more relaxing when it comes to romantic scenes," said Nancy. "If you are playing opposite someone you barely know, it's like being on a first date — kissing can look awkward."

Nancy and Lonnie work full time, and Lonnie goes to school at night. Both roles are demanding and they spend a lot of time at the Guild, with nine-month-old Dominic in tow. "He adjusts reasonably well to being held by different cast members while we're rehearsing on stage," said Nancy.

See DRAMA, 25

Concerts feature variety of musical styles



Flutist: Glinka Gerova-Ortega, Musica Viva artistic director, will be performing on March 18.

Opera, Broadway show tunes, tango, Latin jazz, and Tchaikovsky, these are some of the musical styles to be featured at noteworthy concerts this weekend.

■ Canton Project Arts is presenting "An Evening of Broadway Music," featuring artists of the Michigan Opera Theatre, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Canton Little Theatre, Plymouth-Canton High School.

"We sponsor these concerts to bring the Michigan Opera Theatre out to the community," said Sherrie Moore, of Canton, a member of Canton Project Arts. "This concert will introduce the audience to a little bit of opera, and there will be lots of Broadway show tunes too."

The two act show will feature Marie Cimarrelli, soprano; Betty Bronson, mezzo-soprano; Karl Schmidt, tenor; and Mark Vondrak, baritone.

Operetta selections include "Italian Street Song" and "Sweet Mystery of Love." Also on the program is the "Music of Irving Berlin," "Music of Harold Arlen," selections

from "Guys and Dolls," and "Les Miserables." Cimarrelli will be featured on the solo "With one Look," and Vondrak will sing, "Love Changes Everything."

■ Musica Viva International Concerts presents the "Jobim/Piancolla/Ramo Festival," a celebration of their music in Song and Dance, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Smith Theatre for the Performing Arts on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills.

"This is the only festival of its kind ever produced in Michigan. And it's in tribute to Antonio Carlos Jobim who recently died," said artistic director, flutist Glinka Gerova-Ortega of Bloomfield who will also be performing on the program.

Jobim was a well-known composer of Brazilian music. He popularized the samba, bossa nova, and Latin Jazz. He is best known for "The Girl From Ipanema," and the "One Note

Noteworthy Concerts

Canton Project Arts presents:

"An Evening of Broadway Music"

► **CURTAIN TIME:** 8 p.m. Sat., March 18, Canton Little Theatre, Plymouth-Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center Road, Canton.

► **TICKETS:** \$10 adults, \$7.50 students and senior citizens. Available at the door, Arnold Williams Music, Dearborn Music, and Canton Township Administration Building. Call (313) 455-9009 or (313) 397-5399 for information.

Musica Viva International Concerts

"Jobim, Piazzolla, Ramo Festival"

► **CURTAIN TIME:** 8 p.m. Sat., March 18, Smith Theatre for the Performing Arts, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, (Orchard Lake Road at 1495 south of 12 Mile Road).

► **TICKETS:** \$17 in advance, \$22 at the door. Call (810) 471-7700 or Ticketmaster, (810) 645-6666.

Farmington Area Philharmonic

"Tchaikovsky"

► **CURTAIN TIME:** 3 p.m. Sun., March 19, Mercy High School, 23300 11 Mile Road, at Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.
► **TICKETS:** \$20, \$12, \$8. Discount for students accompanied by parent. Call (810) 478-2075.

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