

FRIDAY



Stewart Francke, whose song "Expecting Heroes" was featured on the Nov. 6, episode of "Melrose Place," appears with The Burros and Mary Stuart 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. Cover charge \$5 for the 21 and older show; call (313) 875-6555.

SATURDAY



Michael Franks enchants jazz lovers at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Call (810) 433-1515 for tickets.

SUNDAY



Ridgedale Players presents "Steel Magnolias" at the playhouse, 205 W. Long Lake Road, Troy. Call (810) 433-1572.



Hot tip: "A Tuna Christmas" is on the holiday menu at the Fisher Theatre, Detroit. Call (313) 872-1000, Ext. 0 for information, or (810) 645-6666 to charge tickets.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-983-2105

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Ice Spectacular

brings classic to life

BY KEELY WYGONIK • STAFF WRITER

If you liked the movie "The Wizard of Oz," you'll love "The Wizard of Oz on Ice" coming to Joe Louis Arena, Nov. 15-19.

"It's almost like going to watch the movie, but it's better because it's live," said Jeri Campbell, 24 of Garden City who plays Dorothy. "We have fireworks and people flying around, even flying monkeys, there's a lot of excitement, and a lot of really talented skaters from all over the world."

Dorothy joins Toto, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman and the Cowardly Lion on a journey down "The Yellow Brick Road" in "The Wizard of Oz," a lavish \$9 million production.

"The Wizard of Oz on Ice"

Nov. 15-19, Joe Louis Arena, Detroit
Tickets: \$10.50, \$13.50, \$16.50, call (313) 396-7600 for information, or (810) 645-6666. Save \$5 on all tickets 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Based on L. Frank Baum's story "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," published in 1900, "The Wizard of Oz" became a family classic with the production of the MGM movie version, winner of three Academy Awards in 1939.

"Today the story is as meaningful as when Baum first wrote it. Everyone understands the message," said producer Kenneth Feld, also the producer of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Robin Cousins of Great Britain, a 1980 Olympic gold medalist, is the production's special choreographer and creative consultant.

Bobby McFerrin provides the singing and speaking voices of the 38 characters, including Toto. Dorothy is vocalized by Laurence Wilkerson.

"We're acting and speaking, but the audience could never hear us from the ice," said Campbell. "I watched the movie a few times to try and learn the dialogue, and I listened to the soundtrack for 'The Wizard of Oz on Ice.'"

"The focus is on the story, and it's very similar to the movie. Because it's on ice, some of the steps will be different, but 'The Wizard of Oz' is a classic, and we didn't want to lose the feel of it."

However, Feld adds, "there is room for contemporary interpretation."

For example, the inspiration for Munchkinland came to production designer Mark Fisher after a visit to a marketplace in Mexico City.

"The vibrant colors of the paper flowers there in Mexico were the effect of the colors I wanted," he explained. "The costumes are very colorful," adds Campbell, "bright orange, purple, green, kind of like a rainbow."

The beginning of the second act of "The Wizard of Oz on Ice" features an energetic jitterbug number that was rehearsed for the movie, but cut when producers thought it might date the movie.

One of Campbell's favorite scenes is when she throws water on the Wicked Witch and makes her melt.

Theatrical director Jerry Bilik, who attended the University of Michigan and later taught there as a professor of music, decided to put it back into the 1995 ice presentation with contemporary updates in music and choreography.

"We wanted a lively production number at that point in the show," he explains, "and we thought it would be fun to do."

"There's no place like home," and right now home for Campbell is Garden City. "I've been touring with ice shows on and off for the last three years," she said.

"I love figure skating. It's offered me the opportunity to travel and experience so many different things."

Campbell performed in her first professional ice show in 1993 after years of competing as an amateur and three years of coaching. She competed in her first professional skating competition in 1994, earning two gold medals in the Dorothy Hamill Crown.

"I heard Ken was doing a new show and sent a video to Bob Paul, the director of skating," said Campbell explaining how she got the part of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz on Ice." "I saw it as the perfect ice production - with many possibilities. I met Robin Cousins when I lived in California, and I've worked with Brent Frank who plays the Tin Woodsman."

When the show closes in Detroit on Nov. 19, Campbell and the cast will travel to Houston, Texas.

"Right now my goal is to save for a house," she said. "I would like to live in California, and would love to work behind-the-scenes in skating shows as a choreographer."

Campbell is scheduled to tour with the show for one year. In addition to stops in the United States, "The Wizard of Oz on Ice" will visit Asia, Europe and South America.



Land of Oz: Jeri Campbell of Garden City is Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz on Ice," a spectacular production which brings L. Frank Baum's beloved story to life.

Benefits offer lots of laughs

BY CARL BOOKSTEIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Unger and cancer are not laughing matters, but both causes will benefit this week by some much needed comic relief.

Comedy comes to the aid of two inspiring local charities - Forgotten Harvest and Gilda's Club, metro Detroit.

Forgotten Harvest is presenting Comedy Night IV starring the Smothers Brothers at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit on Nov. 14. Forgotten Harvest, a non-profit organization delivers food to metro Detroit area soup kitchens and shelters - 60,000 pounds a month. One such soup kitchen, the

Pontiac area Baldwin Church and Center serves 250-300 meals a day to the hungry with the help of Forgotten Harvest. According to Sylvia Wheeling, they will serve Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, dressing and fixings to 600 people.

"Forgotten Harvest is the greatest," she said, "they're a great bunch of people."

Mark Ridley of the Comedy Castle in Royal Oak agrees. He is master of ceremonies of Comedy Night IV at the Fisher Theatre and has been involved with these comic benefits for Forgotten Harvest since their inception four years ago.

"Forgotten Harvest is an unbelievable organization," said Ridley. "It's just unbelievable how they grow. I'm excited to meet this year's headliners, the Smothers Brothers."

The Smothers Brothers have been together for over 35 years - the longest running comedy team in history. Smothers Brothers Tom and Dick garnered a lot of attention in the late 1960s with their own prime time television show and humor that was biting politically and socially. The act has evolved over the years.

"We try to keep our humor

Comedy Benefits

• Comedy Night IV starring The Smothers Brothers, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, Fisher Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$25 to \$150. For \$25 seats, call Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666, call (810) 350-3663 for patron ticket information.

• Motor City Women of Comedy benefit for Gilda's Club, metro Detroit, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, Miss Kitty's Comedy Club, Oxford. Tickets, which include dinner, \$35 and \$55 (V.I.P.). Call (810) 628-6500.

BENEFITS continued inside

ARTISTIC EVENT

Artists do their 'Share' to help children

BY LINDA ANNY CHOMEN
SPECIAL WRITER

To see the severely abused children cared for by the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center is to understand why more than 100 artists have donated their works to ArtShare '95.

The juried fine art exhibit Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 9-11, culminates with a silent and live auction to benefit the non-profit Farmington Hills facility 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, at The Somerset Collection in Troy.

Hamtramck artist George Vihos knows that the money raised helps children in a variety of ways. He spent five weeks last summer directing youngsters in the Innisfree program to produce an art project at the center where more than 1,000 children, youths and families in crisis received help in 1994. He has seen firsthand the effect abuse has on a child. That's why he has donated a 6-foot, 4-inch egg tempera painting titled "Alone."

"The idea for the program was to get the kids out of their pain. When you see it, you understand what abuse is all about. After working with them, I saw how art affects their lives. That's why I've donated to the auction so that it will raise money for the children," Vihos said.

ArtShare is about artists helping children. Art adviser Urban Jupena - who has contributed several of his fiber works to the auction, including a fabric collage wall hanging - invited only artists of reputation to donate their works. Since the auction is intended to raise money, minimum bids are purposefully kept low so that most of the time buyers end up receiving more value for less money.

"We want to keep a high quality in the auction. The artists we invite expect a certain kind of quality or they won't be

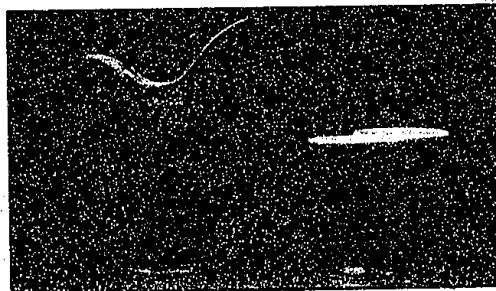
willing to donate again. For the people who buy art, it's a really great deal. They and the center are the true recipients of the event," said Jupena, a Wayne State University art professor who is sharing the art advisory duties with Redford Township sculptor Sergio DeGiusti and Elaine Salzman of West Bloomfield.

"The real unsung heroes in this situation are the artists who donate their works to ArtShare. They really have to be thanked."

Maria Martella of West Bloomfield, auction committee chairperson, seconds that notion.

"I'm excited about all the art we've had donated. The auction itself is the beauty of the art and artists, and of the children coming together. It was named ArtShare because it's the sharing of the art by the artists with the children."

EVENT continued inside



Sharing art: Vessels from Pewabic Pottery along with work from more than 100 artists will be on the auction block Saturday at the Somerset Collection in Troy in ArtShare '95. The event will benefit the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center as well as Pewabic Pottery.