



"Mr. Holland's Opus," a drama about a high school music teacher whose dream is to compose a symphony that will move the world, opens at metro Detroit movie theaters.



Norman Foote kicks off Meadow Brook Theatre's "Saturday Fun for Kids" series. Tickets \$6. Concert begins 11 a.m., call (810) 377-3300.



Stagecrafters presents "Sweet Charity" at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak. Call (810) 541-6430 for tickets.



Hot tip: Play "Chopsticks" or your favorite tune on a walk-on keyboard at "What Makes Music?" an exhibit opening Jan. 20 at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

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Couple crafts collectible

cookie jars



Collectible Commodity: Kathy and Doug Wolfe worked together to create and sculpt this one-of-a-kind ceramic cookie jar for the Onion Roll Deli in Royal Oak.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Waitresses, teachers, fortune tellers, and hockey players: Kathy Wolfe creates a boy of whimsical ceramic cookie jar characters. They are on display through Jan. 30 in the second floor showcases at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Wolfe and her husband Doug, who works in law enforcement, produce the one-of-a-kind and limited edition collectibles in their West Bloomfield studio.

Never ones to live unfulfilled lives, the couple also tends their own sled dog team, raising eight Alaskan Malamutes and Siberian Huskies right there in their nearly two acre backyard. Both also ride Harley Davidson motorcycles for fun. But back to the their cookie jars, a fun medium in itself. Advertising and figure-shaped cookie containers are hot commodities right now.

Collectors from all over the world meet annually at conventions to trade items and learn more about the hobby.

What makes the Wolfe's jars so popular is the fact it's art. Most of the jars are hand-built in the tradition of pottery. Others employ a combination of these techniques combined with a molding process. In 1992, Wolfe Studio was commissioned by Elias Brothers Big Boy to sculpt and produce a limited edition jar of Big Boy using the second method. The 250 pieces sold out within three months.

Other licensed jars to the Wolfe's credit include Purdue Pete, mascot of Purdue University, and a San Jose Sharks hockey team goalie jar. Doug's underglazing and airbrushing of the characters' features gives them a life of their own.

"Andy Warhol's cookie jar collection made collecting popular. Figurative and advertising are the most sought after themes of jar dealers and auctions," said Kathy Wolfe who grew up in Royal Oak and studied commercial art at Southfield Lathrup High School and Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

"We do jars for the serious collector, handcrafted rather than mass produced outside of the United States. It gets very boring doing the same piece over and over. I have more fun doing one-of-a-kind jars. This way collectors can have their own piece of art."

The Statue of Liberty, brides, angels, an Inuit Eskimo holding a Siberian Husky puppy in her arms, a female rabbit, and a two jar set featuring the Phantom of the Opera and Christen are among the human figures sculpted by the Wolfes. Many of the pieces like the 1958 Girl Scout Wolfe researched at the library to maintain authenticity.

A wolf in a tuxedo is the trademark jar of their studio. A head of a wolf or husky cookie jar by the Wolfes would make a great gift for a dog lover.

"Cat Lady features a lady holding a gray cat and a tiger cat. I think animals personalize collecting if people want a jar of their own pet. Or they can have someone done like their grandmother. It's a great remembrance," said Wolfe.

"And they give you a good feeling when you look at it." The Wolfes' works sell mainly by word of mouth. Customers contact them at their studio, (810) 855-4444, after seeing their jars at exhibits, in homes or collectors' books and guides. Prices range from \$65 to \$500.

This couple, married 23 years with three children, has come along way from "producing salt and pepper shakers in their spare time for something to do."

"What started out as a hobby has turned into a business," said Wolfe whose first set of salt and pepper shakers, a record and a radio, commemorated a song written by her father for Patti Page.

Livonia Civic Center Library is at 32777 Five Mile Road (east of Farmington Road). Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

THEATER REVIEW



Leading roles: Edgar A. Guest III and Laurie Jerrell star in Nancy Gurwin's production of the musical "Peter Pan."

Joyous 'Peter Pan' celebrates childhood

BY BARBARA MICHAEL
SPECIAL WRITER

For the young and young-at-heart the Nancy Gurwin production of "Peter Pan" at the Jewish Community Center is a joyous romp celebrating childhood. The musical's subterfuge cast appear to be thoroughly enjoying themselves as well as entertaining the audience.

When the ever-youthful Peter Pan (Laurie Jerrell) intrudes into the Darling nursery to search for his missing shadow he soon charms Wendy (Janet Patton), John (David Sherline), and Michael (Nathan Keen) into flying off to Neverland with him so that Wendy can play mother to the Lost Children. Once there they all face confrontations with both pirates and Indians, the former led by Captain Hook (Edgar A. Guest, III), the latter by Tiger Lily (Kim-Shalley Garner).

Jerrell is a very likable Peter,

boyishly bonafide of his accomplishments ("I've got to grow"), and moved to tears by a sense of loss. She skillfully holds out numbers like "I'm Flying," "Neverland," and the irrepressible "I Won't Grow Up" and handles the choreographic demands with equal enthusiasm.

As Captain Hook, Guest reveals in being "the slightest hint of them all" as he darts about the stage with great gusto, decked out in a magnificent wig of Restoration curls, ruffled pirate shirt, and pink brocade vest. He is backed up by a hilariously scruffy band of pirates (Gary Lee Temple, Sam Weiner, Rich Sherline, Alex Kellin, and Ken Gross) who cavort with delightful clumsiness through their dance numbers.

Patton is outstanding as Wendy, at times remarkably mature, other times endearingly adolescent. Patton has enormous stage presence and can

hold her own vocally.

Playing young Michael, Keen also has impressive stage aplomb, and a strong speaking and singing voice. Garner's Tiger Lily is perky and adroitly leads her Indians through choreographer Valerie J. Mould's lively dance routines. The many other youngsters playing the Lost Children and various small animals also dance with skill and enthusiasm.

Director Nancy Brassert achieves great results with her characters and individual scenes. On opening night, however, the total effect was marred by very cumbersome scene changes going somewhat awry.

The five-piece orchestra, under musical director Christopher Keen, sounded thin on the overture, but quickly picked up substance.

Overall, "Peter Pan" is just enormous good fun.

"Peter Pan"

Where: Nancy Gurwin production, Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield.

Show times: 6 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays to Feb. 4.

Tickets: Adults \$15; senior citizens, \$12.50; students, \$10. Call (810) 347-6842 or (810) 354-0545