

Plan a getaway to enjoy Michigan's winter wonderland

Here are some ways to enjoy winter in Michigan.
 ■ The Park Place Hotel in downtown Traverse City is an ideal ski base for couples. The package, at \$134 per night per couple, includes a classic room, full breakfast and choice of lift tickets to three different resorts in the area: Sugar Loaf, Shanty Creek or

Crystal Mountain. At the slopes, weekend lift tickets alone would run \$66 to \$70 a day for two adults. Call 1-(800)-748-0133 for information.

If only one person skis, the Park Place ski package rate drops to \$109.50 with one lift ticket. Traverse City offers a variety of entertainment, shopping, antiques

and gourmet dining.
 ■ Call 1-(800)-506-1299 for your copy of the "Cross Country Ski and Lakeshore Guide" for Holland, Grand Haven and Ottawa County. Grand Haven and Holland are just three hours from metro Detroit. The brochure includes a descriptive guide to 12 cross country ski areas in Ottawa

County, an accommodations guide for Holland and Grand Haven, which includes bed and breakfasts, snow condition hot lines, and cross country ski rentals and sporting goods stores.
 ■ Sugar Loaf Resort in Cedar near Traverse City is offering a variety of packages including "Learn to Ski, Learn to Ski Est-

er" from \$239 per person for three-night stay. Check-in Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 18 and 25. Call 1-(800)-968-0576 for more information.
 ■ For information on winter events and the latest snow conditions in the upper peninsula, call 1-(800)-662-7134.
 "Virtually every one of our 15 counties has ample snow for

cross-country skiing and snowmobiling," said Tom Namachek, executive director of the Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association in Iron Mountain.
 ■ The Zehnder's Snowfest is Jan. 29 to Feb. 6 in downtown Frankenth. There will be a snow sculpting contest and fireworks. Call (617) 652-9925 for information.

Avon Players shine in musical revue

Avon Players presents "Still Made In The U.S.A." 2 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays to Feb. 3; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28; 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1 at the playhouse on Tonkon Road (1 1/4 miles east of Rochester Road), Rochester Hills. Call (810) 375-1390 for ticket reservations.

By CARL BOOKSTEIN
 SPECIAL WRITER
 "Still Made In The U.S.A." is 100 percent song and dance in this enjoyable evening of American music; dialogue is not missed. The Avon Players put forth their

all in an ensemble musical review of American music from the Roaring 1920s to the present. Their song and dance canvases include music of Vaudeville, Broadway, Disney, country, pop, and even a melody of 1970s Disco Fever.

The cast is clearly enthusiastic about being on stage with this show and their high and happy spirits are contagious. There were several stand-out numbers and performances, but it is the unified group spirit that makes this show a genuinely pleasant experience.

Act One kicks off as the full cast of singers and dancers

REVIEW

saunters in, assembling informally as though for rehearsal, yet within a matter of moments the show is under way.

"Still Made In The U.S.A." is a follow-up to the original "Made In The U.S.A." production that Avon Players put on a couple of years ago. One of the first act's most effective numbers is a 1950s Rock and Roll medley from that original show, including "Life Could Be A Dream (Sha Boom Sha Boom)," "Woolly Bully" and

"Bony Moronie." This excellent number is concluded with young actor Matt Solson riding a surfboard held high atop the outstretched arms of his elder cast members.

"Still Made In The U.S.A." celebrates American music, and it is the singing, particularly of the women in the cast, that help lead to the success of this revue.

Megan Kapora performs a wonderful "Tomorrow" from the musical "Annie." Amy Sharpe hits

her country twang just right on "The Wrong Side of Memphis." Jennifer Combs and Lesa Bydalek also do some fine singing. However, it was recent University of Michigan graduate Angela Kirchner and her beautiful rendition of "Memories" that was the highlight of the show.

Overall, "Still Made In The U.S.A." succeeds because of its snappy pacing, joyful song and dance numbers, and a great collection of American music.

THEATER

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