

Uptown from page 1B

ner" (and husband) David Trepeck live a couple a blocks away from the theater. Bill Herting, whom David met when the couple lived in Dallas, is the third partner. Herting is president of Cineco Cinema Corp. of Dallas, Texas, an independent theater development company. He is also a partner of Cinema Services Co., an independent film buying and consulting firm for small circuit theater owners throughout the U.S.

Ruth Daniels, formerly of the AMC Maple Theatre, will bring 10 years experience to her new role as the General Manager of the theater. A resident of Farmington Hills, she's planning to

start a film discussion group in a month or two, and is also considering an evening program featuring a local celebrity.

Uptown Birmingham Theatre offers all the comforts moviegoers have come to expect, without making them feel cramped in a small space. Architect Victor Saroki & Associates restructured the theater to house eight screens on two levels varying in size from 430 to 65 seats, without sacrificing the original 1920s look and feel. The lighting fixtures are classic Art Deco, and there are vintage movie posters on the walls.

"It's an urban theater with all

the modern technology, with the intimacy and feeling of a home-town theater," said David Trepeck. "A lot of hard work went into it."

Love seats are ordered, and will soon be installed in the theaters, offering stadium-style seating in comfortable chairs, and state-of-the-art Dolby Digital and DTS Stereo sound. There's a balcony in the largest auditorium, and changing tables in the men's and women's restrooms. Concession stands offer real buttered popcorn, "Twist and Shout" gourmet pretzels, Gayle's Chocolates, gourmet coffees, pizza and candy. Over 1,700 parking

spaces are available between the Peabody Street structure, connected to the theater by a courtyard entrance, and the Pierce Street structure.

In addition to new releases, the partners hope to show classic films, art films and children's films. "We'll see how people respond," said Carole.

"We've been waiting a long time for the reopening," said Gail Gotthelf, director of the Birmingham Principal Shopping District. "The theater brings back entertainment to downtown and encourages merchants to stay open later, and create fabulous window displays. It will create more walking traffic."

Outside, it was like Oscar Night as a small crowd gathered to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We're excited, we live in town and it's nice to be able to walk to the show," said Chris and Gaines Carter who were out walking their collies, Courtney and Casey. "We brought Lasso to the opening," joked Gaines.

On Monday the balcony and main theater were still under construction, but the partners said they would be ready for Wednesday's opening. The courtyard entrance off Peabody is nearly complete. "We want to landscape it, and have jazz con-

certs out there," said David.

As the sun set, it grew darker, and anticipation built as the partners got ready to flick the switch to light the new marquee.

"It's fitting that the first movie we'll be showing is 'Mission: Impossible,'" said David just before the projectionist got ready to roll the first reels.

To many their mission did seem impossible. "Theater demolition sought," was the headline in the *Eccentric* on Dec. 8, 1994. "I'm afraid it's got to go," said owner Edward "Ted" Fuller. "I've done everything I can, but no one wants to rent it."

VIPS from page 1B

advantage. Where the Main and Detroit Film Theatre have to fill comparatively large houses, the Birmingham can afford to show smaller films longer in some of its intimate auditoriums.

"Family films will also be at home here," says Herting, hinting at upcoming screenings of Disney's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" in late June.

Perhaps the best move the Birmingham made was snagging general manager Ruth Daniels

Party offers 'Garden of culinary delights

Over 55 of metro-Detroit's finest restaurants will participate in the Garden Party, La Fete Au Jardin 1-6 p.m. Sunday, June 2 in the gardens of the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center (21400 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills).

Tickets are \$100 per person. Patron tickets \$300 (include two tickets and valet parking). Benefactor tickets are \$500 (include four tickets and valet parking). For more information, call (810) 626-7527, Extension 224.

Jazz musicians Alexander Zornic and Friends will perform throughout the day as guests stroll through the Center's gardens and food tents full of appetizers, entrees, desserts and wine tasting tables. A collection of sponsor Ford Motor Company's classic and modern vehicles will be on display. Rich Fisher, Fox 2 WJBK-TV, Dick Purtan, Oldies 104.3 WQMC, and even chairman Eddie Jonna, owner of The Merchant of Vino, will auction rare and collectible bottles of wine during a live auction.

Delicacies not to be missed include Five Lakes Grill's Chef Brian Polyn's pan seared large sea scallops with sesame onion compote. Polyn, former chef at Acadia and Pike Street, opened Five Lakes Grill in Milford in August, 1995. Also new to the party this year is Tapawingo, a northern Michigan hotspot in Ellsworth. Chef Rich Davis will be cooking grilled lamb loin Hunan style with black bean and mango salsa.

Emily's of Northville is featuring lamb confit salad. Savino Sorbet Frozen Desserts of West Bloomfield will tempt everyone's sweet tooth with assorted Savino Sorbet.

Additional participating restaurants include: Albane Bottle and Basket, Allegro, Andiamo, Italia, Beverly Hills Grill, Big Daddy's Parthenon, Bloomfield Open Hunt Club, Byblos Lebanese Restaurant, Cafe

Cortina, Chianti Villa Italia, City Grill, Coffee Express Co., Country Epicure, Diamond Jim Brady's, E.G. Nick's, Elwin and Company, Envy Cafe, Ernesto's, Excalibur, Gayle's Chocolates, Great Harvest Bread Company, Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc., Home Bakery, Larco's Italian Chophouse, Le Metro, LePanto, Marv's Meat & Great Seafood Co., Melody Foods, Inc., Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train, Midtown Cafe, Mon Jin Lau, Musashi, Japanese Cuisine, Muskie's Urban Pier, Pike Street Restaurant, Pizza Gourmet, Relish, Ridley's, Ristorante Di

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Fundamentals of Wine: Ordering, Serving & Pairing with Food, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 19; Summer Whites, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Classes at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Call (810) 644-5832.

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