

Uptown from page 1B

...er" (and husband) David Trebeck 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 Cineplex 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 Theatres, 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 Sanoki & 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 hometown theater," said David Trebeck. "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 coffee, 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 Piero 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 re-opening," said Gail Gottlieb, 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 cre-

ate 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 Lassie 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 reel.

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 Theatres have to fill comparatively large houses, the Birmingham can afford to show smaller films, even 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

from her longtime stint at Bloomfield's Maple. Her professional devotion to the movies is refreshing in an era where today's general managers were literally yesterday's popcorn makers.

The entire feel of the theater was perhaps best summed up by one opening-night guest: "If the Ritz-Carlton was a movie theater, then this would be that theater."

Over 55 of metro-Detroit's finest restaurants will participate in the Garden Party, La Fete Au Jardin in 36 parks, Sunday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. of the St. Vrain & Sarah Fisher Center (27400 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 Zonie 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 award Ford Motor Company's classic and modern vehicles will be on display. Rich Fisher, Fox 2 WJBK-TV, Dick Puritan, Oldies 104.3 WOMC, and event chairman Eddie Jonna, owner of The Merchant of Wine, will

feature rare and collectible bottles of wine during a live auction.

Delicacies not to be missed include Five Lakes Grill's Chef Brian Polcyn's sauced large sea scallops with sesame onion compote. Polcyn, 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 hot spot 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. Savory Sorbet Frozen Desserts of West Bloomfield will tempt everyone's sweet tooth with assorted Savino Sorbet.

Additional participating restaurants include: Albano Botella 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, Envoy Cafe, Ernesto's, Excalibur, Gayle's Chocolates, Great Harvest Bread Company, Hirano Walker and Sons, Inc., Home Walker, Larco's Italian Chophouse, Le Moiro, 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, Ridgely's, Ristorante Di

Maria/Little Italy/Villa Maria, Ristorante Di Modesta, R.M. Galigan's, Shanghai Cafe, Something Chocolate, Sparkey Herbert's, Sweet Dreams, Sweet Endings, Sweet Lorraine's, Thai Popper, The Bread Winner Bakery, The Golden Mushroom, The Lark, The Ocean Grille, The Whitney, Tom's Oyster Bar, Too Chez, Traffic Jam & Snug, Tribune, and Van Dyke Place.

Proceeds will benefit the Center's programs for severely abused children. Sponsors of the party also include MNP Corporation, Merchant of Vino.

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