



Bette Midler, (left to right) Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton celebrate in "The First Wives Club," opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.



Franklin Community Church Organ Fund presents "Sharley and the Marshmallow Dragons," 7:30 p.m. at Franklin Community Church, 32473 Normandy Road, Franklin Village. Call (810) 932-2146, (810) 626-6606 or (810) 626-1693 for reservations.



Detroit Festival of the Arts in Detroit's University Cultural Center (between Warren & Ferry Avenues) offers an expanded Artists' Market, entertainment on four stages, and children's fair, (313) 577-5088.



HOT TIX: International violin heavyweight Midori opens the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's "International Season" with Music Director Neeme Jarvi in an All-Beethoven program Sept. 19-22 at Orchestra Hall in Detroit, (313) 833-3700.

THEATER

Meadow Brook celebrates modern works

Season Schedule

Meadow Brook Theatre is on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call the box office (810) 377-3300.

- "Beau Jest," side-splitting comedy by James Sherman - Sept. 19 to Nov. 17.
- "Just A Dream" side-splitting comedy by James Sherman - Oct. 2 to Nov. 17.
- "A Christmas Carol," holiday tradition by Charles Dickens - Nov. 20 to Dec. 29.
- "The Woman in Black," spine-chilling ghost story by Stephen King - Jan. 18 to Feb. 12.
- "I Am a Man," real life drama by Orlan - Feb. 12 to March 10.
- "Romeo," romantic comedy/mystery by John Updike - March 15 to April 13.
- "The Sound of Music," dramatic musical by Richard Maltby and Don Westover - April 22 to May 18.
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BY KEELY WYONIK
STAFF WRITER

Two-thousand-year-old musicals and revivals of old-time favorites will find that something different they're looking for at Meadow Brook.

This year's season plays up works written within the last six years. "There is a lot of good modern work that has not seen the light of day in regional theaters," said artistic director Geoffrey Sherman. "These are well-written, highly entertaining and moving plays. We want to give our audience a chance to see them. Why go all the way to New York when you can see a good play here."

A highlight is "I Am a Man," by University of Michigan professor Orlan, which is based on events from the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers

strike. It will be co-produced with Detroit's Plovers Theatre Company. "Appalachian Strings," a new musical which premiered at the Denver Center Theatre Company last spring, where it played to sold-out houses, follows a family as it leaves Ireland during the 1840s and settles in America's Eastern mountains. Through story and song the succeeding generations tell of living off the land, in mines and on the road. An on-stage band backs up the cast.

Anyone whose mother calls them everyday — "so I know you're safe and not lying in a gutter somewhere," will enjoy the season opener James Sherman's "Beau Jest."

This long-running New York hit involves Sarah Goldmann, a vice Jewish



Season opener: John Seibert (left to right), Linnea Todd and Wayne David Parker perform in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of James Sherman's hit comedy "Beau Jest."

THE
Observer
NEWSPAPERS

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

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Affordable Bronze: Joan Wilson creates sculptures that capture the energy of life.



QUALITY REIGNS IN NEW ART AT MEADOW BROOK

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN • SPECIAL WRITER

New Art at Meadow Brook

What: The 20th annual outdoor festival of fine art and fine craft show presented by the Creative Arts Council. Admission is free. For more information, call Joan Wilson at (810) 656-6040. When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 28-29. Where: On the grounds of Oakland University at the corner of Adams Road and Walton Blvd. in Rochester.



tures more than 125 artists working in a variety of mediums ranging from painting, sculpture and ceramics to glass, photography, wood, fiber, jewelry, graphics and mixed media. Juror Arlene Solik of the Sybil's Gallery in Royal Oak will award a total of \$1,000 in cash prizes.

"People like coming to the show because of the caliber," said festival chairwoman Joan Wilson. Among the highlights of the festival will be music and story by The Collecting Consort, a performing duo consisting of Anne Wakenhut on Celtic harp and Gary Wakenhut, hammered dulcimer,

what's special about the 20th annual "New Art at Meadow Brook" outdoor festival Sept. 28-29? The quality of the fine art and fine craft, chimed four of the artists at a recent interview.

Sponsored by the Creative Arts Council, a nonprofit artists' organization celebrating more than two decades of commitment to the fine arts, the juried show features more than 125 artists working in a variety of mediums ranging from painting, sculpture and ceramics to glass, photography, wood, fiber, jewelry, graphics and mixed media. Juror Arlene Solik of the Sybil's Gallery in Royal Oak will award a total of \$1,000 in cash prizes.

"I've always loved faces so when I started doing clay, it took the direction of masks," said Karin Batchelor, who uses a 55-gallon drum heated to 2,000 degrees with propane fuel to fire the clay. Batchelor then removes the objects with tongs while still red-hot. She immediately places it in a pit filled with combustibles like newspapers, sawdust and leaves. The clay ignites the materials and gradually a strong flame develops. The pit is then covered tightly and left to simmer for 10 to 20 minutes. What emerges is a blackened clay body with a crackle surface. Color flashes are created when oxygen is reintroduced after being depleted by the fire in the pit.

The barely manipulated bal-

anced form that Batchelor strives for in her vessels is also apparent in her figurative sculptures.

"Initially I began crafting the figures with bat-like wings because I loved the art dolls made of fabric but couldn't sew," said Batchelor. "It really depends on the person looking at it what they see."

Visual artist/writer Lori Solymosi will display collagraphs, and monotypes. She will also have copies of a book for sale which includes her writing. "Almost Touching," is an anthology of poetry and stories by 10 Michigan artists.

A Rochester resident who teaches at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Solymosi creates collagraphs by placing a collage of materials such as leaves, Mimosa seed pods and feathers on a Masonite plate then glues them down. The plate is then inked, wiped, and run through an etching press with damp paper. The result is a print bearing a variety of tones, lines, shapes and embossments.

"A lot of poetry inspires me, but I reap my inspiration from everywhere. For instance, taking a run at 5 a.m. in Honolulu and seeing seed pods on the ground and relating it to growth, how the creative process is a birth process," said Solymosi whose studio is one of 40 on the Pontiac Artists Studio Tour Sept. 28.

Joan Wilson of Rochester creates

limited-edition bronze sculptures that capture the energy of life. A commercial artist rendering car catalogs until 1990, Wilson sculpted paper relief until switching to bronze three-dimensional figures one year ago. She strives to capture the split-second movement of bodies in motion, also the language exuded from inner feelings.

"I like bronze because it allows me to work without boundaries. I like the weight and feel of the bronze and the fact it's timeless," said Wilson who admits bronze is expensive and customers make a commitment when they buy it.

"I hope people can personalize my work, say that's me at this period of my life. For me, I've succeeded when I can do that."

Donna Beaubien makes large castings of paper, tears them up and reassembles the shapes into a three dimensional collage which she then frames. For 26 previous years, the Troy resident had painted oils before learning to craft handmade paper in 1990. She will also display abstract paintings on silk.

"My work is very soft looking. You look at it and know a woman did it," said Beaubien, a recent exhibitor in Art & Apples.

Her interest in art began at an early age while taking classes at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Beaubien's award-winning work now hangs in private and corporate collections all around the world.

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