

FRIDAY



Madonna portrays the ambitious Eva Peron, one of the most beloved and controversial figures of the 20th century in "Evita," now showing at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



If the "weather outside is frightful," take a sleigh ride tour of Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Call (313) 271-1976 for information.

SUNDAY



Former Detroiters Susan Merson stars in "Family Secrets," a one-woman show at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (810) 788-2900.



Hot Tix: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Austrian conductor Hans Graf, celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert, Jan. 3-5 at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. Tickets range from \$40 to \$16 (box seats: \$58), call (313) 833-3700.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

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FOLK MUSICIANS FIND SANCTUARY AT THE Raven Gallery

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

The legendary Detroit folk music venue The Raven Gallery has had a profound impact on Tom Rice's life.

By going to the club which closed in the late-1970s, he schooled himself on the music that he loved. He and his wife, Rita, attended a concert there on their first date.

"I learned to love folk music by going to the Raven Gallery and seeing guys like Josh White and Ron Coden. People like Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot, Richie Havens, Jose Feliciano, Steve Martin, who used to be a banjo-pickin' comedian, all started there, although that was before I started going there," Rice said.

In honor of his half-sister Donna, who died from Huntington's disease, Rice held the second in a series of benefits for the disease in 1977. One of those who came out to see Josh White Jr. perform was Kitty Cohen, the wife of the Raven Gallery's owner the late Herb Cohen.

"We sat around and talked a little bit and reminisced about the old club. I told her how my wife and I had our first date there and got married a year later. It was a wonderful place for a first date. It was so intimate and cozy and comfortable. I never thought of it in my life but I said 'Wouldn't that be neat to open a club?'"

Kitty told him that if he ever did he could call it The Raven Gallery.

"It was one of those spontaneous conversations. I don't think she ever thought I would take her seriously. ... I think when she saw a young guy like myself who was really enthusiastic about folk music and acoustic music she thought I'd be the right guy."

Twenty years later Rice took that conversation seriously. After several unsuccessful attempts to buy another building in Northville, Rice opened The Raven Gallery and Acoustic Cafe in an old church at 146 N. Center St. in Northville. The folk/acoustic

venue is nestled in a 12,000-square-foot building with Rice's Gittfiddler music store and the Northville Academy of Music and Arts.

"Here's this beautiful sanctuary with incredible history, beautiful acoustics and great ambience. The stage was already built, the sound booth was already built. We came in and put it all together with a sound system and lights. We've been running shows and people are coming," Rice said.

The Raven Gallery opened unofficially on July 27 with Ramblin' Jack Elliott. The official opening read like a who's who of folk music: Ron Coden, Charlie Ladd, Dean Rutledge, Josh White Jr., Phil Marcus Esser and Barbara Bredius entertained the crowd.

The Raven Gallery offers local and national acts Thursdays through Saturdays with an open mic night on Wednesdays - all in a smoke-free atmosphere. Upcoming acts include folk artists Jan Krist and Tim Diaz on Friday, Jan. 3, David Folks on Saturday, Jan. 4, and jazz/pop musician Brad Hodge on Thursday, Jan. 9. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$12 for most shows. For more information, call (810) 949-9421.

"This is something I want to say very clearly. We will never allow smoking, even when we get a liquor license. It's not that I'm discriminating against smokers as people, I just want this to be a very clean, smokeless environment. It's very apropos for listening to music, staying in a room for a long time and being comfortable, and being able to breathe. It's also for the artist to be able to breathe and see their people."

To test market the idea of a new Raven Gallery, Rice held concerts at the Northville Recreation Center and a church in Salem, Wis. The Ark opening a new building, and the 7th House in Pontiac occasionally offering folk acts, Rice isn't too concerned about the competition.

"I believe that you don't want to have 100 of them. But

See RAVEN, E2



GALLERY PHOTO BY BILL BARKER

Strumming along: Raven Gallery owner Tom Rice doesn't play professionally any more but still picks up stringed instruments when he has the chance.

ART EXHIBITION

Popular printmaking exhibit gives peek at peasant life in France

Images d' Epinal

What: An exhibition of late 18th to early 20th century popular printmaking from the town of Epinal, France. Organized by the Museo de Quebec in conjunction with the Museo de Montreal, the exhibit features more than 170 woodblocks and lithographs disseminated as children's games, paper soldiers, illustrated stories, posters of political and religious figures, and fairy tales to the lower and middle classes, primarily in France. Admission is free.

When: Through Jan. 5. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, until 9 p.m. Thursday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State Street in Ann Arbor. For information call (313) 764-0335.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMEN

SPECIAL REPORT

Ever wonder what printed material existed for children and adults during the late 1700s, 1800s and early 1900s in France? The University of Michigan Museum of Art in Ann Arbor presents a rare look at life in this era with an exhibition of popular printmaking which continues through Jan. 5.

Images d'Epinal documents the printmaking industry during the late 18th to early 20th century in the village of Epinal, France. The exhibition features 170 woodblocks and lithographs illustrating the popular imagery that was disseminated as children's games, decorative wall-paper and clock faces, posters of historical figures and events, devotional pictures, paper soldiers, and fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood. It is considered "low" art because it was used primarily by lower class, but also middle class, French who had no access to original art. Visiting the exhibit raises such issues not only of the targeted audience's social class, but

the values underlying the messages in the imagery, and the relationship of "high" and "low" art.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see such a rich selection of images that evoke a lost era that actually has many connections to us today. The same fairy tales we read as children, they did. It's a great exhibit for families, from the littlest child who can't read but would love the images to parents who can rediscover many of the fairy tales they've forgot," said Annette Dixon, University of Michigan Museum of Art curator of Western art.

"Some of these are after engravings or paintings. Popular printmaking made access to art wider for the common person." Epinal prints have been studied extensively in France during the last decade but never shown in North America. Rediscovery of this art form allows exhibition visitors a look at a culture whose time has passed.

See PRINTMAKING, E2



French Imagery: Images d'Epinal allows visitors to revisit the lives of lower and middle classes from the late 18th to early 20th century via the popular prints of France. The exhibition continues through Jan. 5 at the University of Michigan Museum of Art.