THEATER

JET challenges audience with 'Unexpected Tenderness'

Unexpected Tenderness opens at 7:30 p.m. Sundoy, March 2 at the Jewish Ensemble Theater, located in the Auron Delkoy Theatr. 6:000 W. Maple, Nest Bloomfield. The play man shrough Sun, March 22, Wed. Thur. and Sun. performances at 7:30 p.m. Telest prices. \$13:25 p.m. Telest prices. \$13:25

Days before opening night and Evelyn Orbach could barely keep her eyes open. With her sweepingly effusive manner, she explained that she had just returned from a trip to Argentina. We went to explore a foreign culture, said Orbach, artistic director at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West

Bloomfield, "It's summertime down there anyway." It took about 18-hours to trav-

It took about 18-hours to travel back home, including a long layover in Miami. But Orbach became revitalized when talking about "Unexpected Tenderness," the upcoming Israel Horovitz play at JET, which opens this Sunday, "What's typical about Horovitz is that he's atypical," she said.

Horovitz is that hes atypica, she said.
Of course, Horovitz's plays, such as 'I Am A Fountain Pen and "A Rose By Any Other Name" demonstrate that few of his 50-plus plays fit any format. Horovitz divides his time in Israel, the U.S. and Europe. Currently, the prolific playwright is working on a French film.

PREVIEW

Since JET was established eight years ago, Orbach has sought engaging plays with broad themes about humanity, such as "The Diary of Anne Frank," and "Torch Song Trilogy." Or, she has presented provocative dramas that deal with social issues. Clearly, "Unexpected Tenderness' si in the latter class. By. Orbach's admission, Horovitz's provocative play about the travails of a hard-working, lower middle-class family will challenge audiences. Don't expect a pleasant stroll through

a Neil Simon sitcom. Set in a 1950s idyllic household with an unspeakable undertow. "Unexpected Tenderneas" unfolds as a troubling – and violent – story of domestic abuse.

When Orbach arrived from Argentina last week, the play was in its last phase of production. Although rehearsal was condensed into a three-and-a-half rehearsal schedule, Orbach has remained confident since the initial reading of the play. "A week to rehearse is a life time in theater," she said.

By opening night, audiences should see a JET production that aims for the provorbial "you"ll augh until you'll cry' standard. Tears won't flow from pathes or

maudlin situations. Rather, the emotional wrenching will come from hauntingly familiar scenes to typical family life, said Orbach.

to typical family life, said.
Orbach.
In one scene, the mother in the play grows incensed at her two teenagers. She yells for 'you' to got upstairs. When one starts for the stairs, the mother yells, 'Not you. 'You' Most stressed-out parents can relate to the difficulty in trying to recall their child's name in the heat of the moment. 'Herovitz has found the human elements of the drama that are universal, 'said Orbach.
The play features John Michael Manfredi, who won Best Actor in a lead role for his performance last year in JET's

"Torch Song Trilogy." Director Randall Forte returns to renew his longtime collaboration with Orbach. Forte directed "Bitter Friends" in 1991, JET's second

reiends in 1991, 3D1 a second
A dynamic interpretation of
"Unexpected-Tenderness" should
reveal that the truth of family
drama can be often found in the
swirling current spun by what is
not expressed — or repressed.
"These people are angry and
upset and they get through it,"
said Orbach.
If the quirky characters in

said Orbach.

If the quirky characters in
Horovitz's play can find solace in
a family that appears less than
serene, that indeed could be the
most "unexpected tenderness."

Deaf from page 1

ing programs at Oakland University, Madonna University, Wayne State University and Michigan State University.

With 90 perent of deaf children born to hearing adults and an aging population prone thenring loss, Booth hopes the play will bring together the deaf with hearing adult parents. "There's a need for more mentoring," she said. The multi-language play provides for a meeting ground.

After all, with the imaginative "Curiouser," reali-

"Curiouser and Curiouser," reali-ty can be suspended, and only

CHIGA

the rules of the imagination

apply.
"It's like watching a foreign
film with subtitles," said Laine
Dyer, spokesperson for the
National Theatre of the Deaf.

In one highly expressive scene, said Dyer, the play's lead, Alice, encounters a multi-handed caterpillar played by three actors. Their six hands sign in unison with the rhythm of Shakespearean verse, said Dyer. Many of the other eccentric characters are enhanced by sign language, including the fumbling Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Friday's performance also marks the homecoming of Jorjan Jeter, a 12-year-old actress from Detroit. Jeter, who is deaf in her left ear and uses a hearing aid in her right ear, plays the lead role, Alice.

Two years ago, Jeter was inspired to get into acting after aceing the national theater's performance, "Italian Straw Hat." With more deaf people entering the work force and arts, the lasting testimony of assimilation might just be that it's not unusual for Jeter to dream, and ask, "Why not?"

Local actors star in Stagecrafters thriller

Rochester Hills) methodically tries to drive his wife, Bella (Jeanine Motlow of Farmington Hills) to insanity. Once his wife is institutional-ized, Jack plans to rip open the walls to find the jewles. The plot thickens when Inspector Rough

of Scotland Yard (Pat Roid) enters the picture with a shock-ing secret about Jack A chilling game is then afoot. "Angel Street" also features Julie Christine Newcombe of Farmington Hills as Nancy, the Manningham's maid.



Psychological thriller: (Left to right) Inspector Rough (Pat Reid), Jack Manningham (Mark Stranger of Rochester Hills) and Bella Manningham (Jeanine Matlow of Farmington Hills) in a scene from Stagecrafters' "Angel Street."

ARTISTS and ART RELATED VENDORS <u>WANTED!!</u>

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR COMMUNITY ARTS OPEN

A Benefit for the '97 Michigan State Fair Community Arts Artist Exhibit Space:

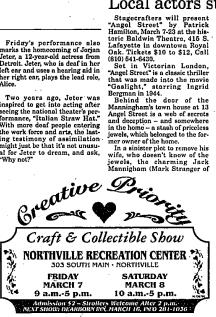
\$100 for a 10x10 Booth APRIL 18-20, 1997

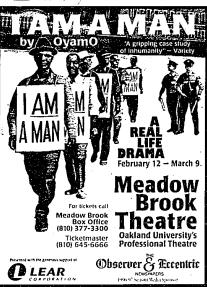
313-369-8486

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 19 NOON - 8 P.M. SUNDAY, APRIL 20 NOON - 5 P.M. (Preview Night/Invitation Only)

All Proceeds Donated to the Michigan State Community Arts PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD PUBLIC DOOR PRIZES









In one day you'll learn:
Internet Basics
Newsgroups, Remote Connect and File Transfers

Internet Surling: Gopher and World Wide Web Internet Security and Internet Culture Call OSE On Line!—

INFORMATION—(313) 953-2266 TO SUBSCRIBE— (313) 953-2297 TECH SUPPORT—(313) 953-2278



New Horizons (313) 525-1501 ext. 1132

SILVERDOME . STARTS TODAY



FTIL + 6:00, 7:00 BAT - 1:00, 8:00

EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME & GARDEN IS UNDER THE DOME HOME & : GARDEN SHOW

ANDSGARNGEND SIGN Patios • Decks • Pools • Landscape Design Idea