Bluesy from page E1

Rather it's across perceived racial and cultural boundaries. Yet clearly, this isn't a play writ-ten by a leading African-Ameri-can playwright such as Pearl Clage, Eugene Lee or Shay Youngblood.

without political rhotoric or racial overtones, "Thunder" offers an entertaining ploa, rather than didacticism, said Sherman.

"Prejudice is rected in ignorance," he said. "Maybo we can offer theater as a way to educate, to get people to open up by understanding where this kind of music comes from."

After watching a production of "Thunder" last year at Conter Stage in Baltimore, Sherman atudied the script, then called Gary Anderson, founder and executive director of Plowshares

Theatre Company, a small theater group with an exclusive African-American focus in its drama reportoire.

African-American focus in its drama repertoire. Meadow Brook attempted to collaborate with Plowshares on August Wilson's The Piano Lesson' early last season, and finally partnered with the Detroit-based theater group on the audacious "I Am A Man," written by OyamO (Charles Gordon), a

Michigan-based playwright who is also on the faculty in the University of Michigan Drama Department.

Based on garbage workers strike, TAm A Man was unmistakably confrontational about race and social justice. The play was also a shock and surprise to Meadow Brook typically reserved audience, many of whom expected the standard

fare of Neil Simon, Lillian Hellman and Arthur Miller.

During the run, Sherman received hato mall. He also noted, however, that he received many letters supporting his decision to produce plays of diverse contemporary playwrights.

In two years, Meadow Brook open new theatrical doors for an increasingly diverse audience. In two years, Meadow Brook has made major strides, It wasn't until last year's production of Wilson's "The Piano Lesson" that

Bugs from page E1

"Bone Appetit Tour" with a "Blue Year's Eve" celebration at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. This year's tour has been dubbed the "Gimme Five Tour" The Jogo is an oval with bright yellow streaks, white stars, and a manipulated drawing of Mick-ey Mouse's gloved hand. "Bone Appetit Tour" with a "Blue Year's Eve" celebration at the

"Since it's the 'Gimme Five' tour, we gave him extra fingers." The 1999 tour will be called "Bone Voyage Tour."

Elusive past

Elusive past
Beddow refused to talk about
his or his band's past saying
"wo're all active members of the
witness protection program. We
all look forward to the future."
Sources say he was born May
17, 1953, in Detroit to parents
Bill and Peg. He picked up the
trombone in 1962 and the fluta
eaven years later. Beddow grew
up in the "poor section" of
Franklin and graduated from
Birmingham Groves High School

in 1970.
Although his parents preferred that he become a dentiat, Beddow earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Northern-Michigan University in 1975. Upon graduation, he served as the head of the music department at Leland Public Schools for the next two years.
During the late 1970s, he performed with the "party funk R&B" band Newt and the Salamanders. Beddow also epent

time filling in for musicians who supported Maynard Ferguson. In 1982, he formed a jazz band and cut an album with jazz guitariet Earl Klugh. Accolades came in as Beddow enrued Detroit Music Awards for the best trombonist, and his band won best jazz album of 1992 for Yuda Man.

"Yuda Man."
After 12 years in jazz bonds, Beddow changed his tune and dove into the blues.
"People can always connect with singers and words, (With jazz) there's too much sameness, not enough variety," said Beddow, who appeared in the 1992 Oliver Stone film "Hoffo."
"I have five guys to work with. get every ounce of sound out of them."
The band's sound has given it

The band's sound has given it

the opportunity to open for Buckwheat Zydeco in front of 60,000 people at the Dearborn Homecoming Featival Aug. 2,

1997, and to share the stage with Lonnie Brooks, Spyre Gyra, Boz Seaggs, Eddie Money and Robert Cray.

For the last three baseball seasons, Beddow has played the national anthem at Tiger Stadium. The band has also performed as part of the OC4 Cable TV Awards for Southeastern Michigan since the show's inception 13 years age.

For 1998, the Buga Beddow
Band already has 23 of the year
booked but "we've loft some
options open," he said.
He and his band — guitarist'
vecalist Jannes Morse, drummer/vecalist Jannes Morse, drummer/vecalist Jim Pryor, and electric and string bassist' vecalist
Don Turner — are hoping to penform in Belgium, Aruba and Australia this year.
"We met some people who were
involved in the Detroit auto

show (the North American Inter-national Auto Show) last year. They hired the band for a private party and they want to bring us to Belgium, he said. "None of them may pan out. Those are just things on the burner. Money is always a fac-tor."

These are just things on the burner. Money is always a factor.

The band is going to spend the next six months bashing out new songs that will be included on the "Gimme Five" album, which will be recorded in June. While Bone Appetit was all covers, "Gimme Five" will include all original songs.

"It will have the signature Beddow sense of humor. There's nothing really deep there. We play concisely, accurately and full of feeling. We ce by no means a traditional blues band. We re the blues band of the '90a.

"We like to make people laugh and dance. We accomplish both of those at shows."

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A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

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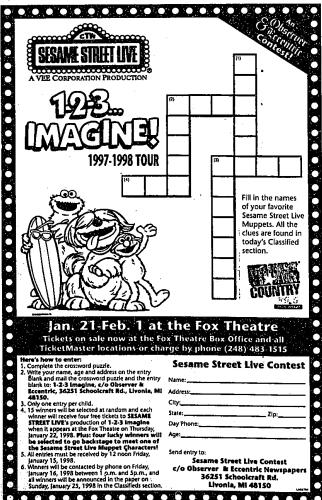
"Underground" (France/Germany) 19953. 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9; 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 10-11. When a man wakes up 50 years after the end of World War II, he discovers that his beloved Yugoslavia no longer exists. The Grand Prize winner at the 1995 Cannes festi-

val finally makes it overseas.
"Mondo" (France-1997. 7:30
p.m. Monday, Jan. 12. A gypsy
boy on the streets of Nice sees
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the director of the gypsy music
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"Wings of the Dove"

(Britain-1997). More Henry James. This time the turn-of-thecentury romantic entanglement occurs between a conniving woman (Helena Bonham Carter) and a handsome journalist (Linus Roache). They devise a plan to have him woo a dying woman and thus inherit has for man and thus inherit her

tune. "The Sweet Hereafter" "The Sweet Hereafter" (Canada-1997). A study in collective mourning from Canadian director Atom Egoyan in which an entire town feels the pain when most of its children are killed in a school bus accident.



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