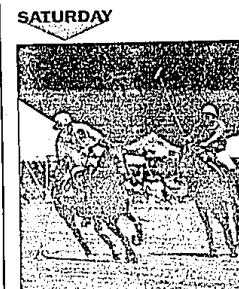


THE WEEKEND



FRIDAY

West End Productions presents "Sweet, Sassy, and Durang," a collection of skits by Christopher Durang 9 p.m. at the Wunderground Theater, 110 Main St., Royal Oak. Tickets \$12, call (248) 541-1763.



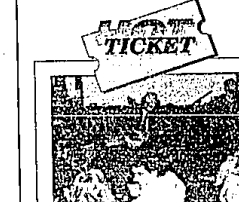
SATURDAY

The 10th Annual Southfield Gold Cup Polo Competition begins 2 p.m. at Word of Faith International Christian Center (formerly Dun Scotus) Nine Mile Road at Evergreen. General admission grandstand seating \$5 in advance, \$6 at the gate, call (248) 354-4854.



SUNDAY

Johnny Trudell performs 9 p.m. at the Michigan Jazz Festival, noon to 10:30 p.m. at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington Hills. Twenty groups perform on four different stages throughout the day. Admission, free, call (248) 474-2720 or (734) 459-2454 for information.



TICKET

Rot-Tix: The second annual Bluesfest International takes place Thursday-Sunday, July 16-19, at the Novi Expo Center and in the 200 block of Victoria Street in Windsor. More than 50 artists, including Mudpuppy (pictured), from six different countries perform at the world's only international blues festival. Call (888) 503-1188 or visit <http://www.bluesfestint.com> for more information.



World wind: Marcus Belgrave, considered a jazz institution by many in metro Detroit, is a featured performer, along with the R.I.K. Reunion Band at the Birmingham Jazz Fest. In background, bassist Dan Kolton and keyboardist Buddy Budson.

B'HAM JAZZFEST

A showcase of homegrown musicians bebops 'Straight Ahead'

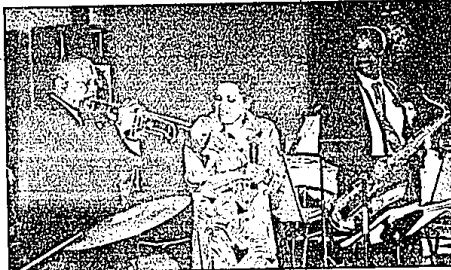
On an early July evening with a clear blue sky, a mild breeze and a sense that autumn will never arrive, there's a Hall of Fame gig going on inside an unlikely venue, the Polish Century Club on Detroit's eastside.

The R.I.K. Reunion Band features legendary trumpeter Marcus Belgrave and saxophonist George Benson.

Anyone who has mistaken the sugary sound of "smooth jazz" for the school of dissonant phrasings from Bird, Miles, Monk and Coltrane is about to get an education.

This gig, as these musicians who make up the R.I.K. Reunion Band are fond of saying, is all about straight-ahead jazz. Authentic. Spontaneous. From the soul. Not a preset channel on the melodic dial.

For the most part, it's the type of jazz that distinguishes next week's sixth annual Birmingham Jazzfest where the R.I.K. Reunion Band will perform during the second of three nights on the main stage in Shain Park.



Hall of fame: Marcus Belgrave, left, performs with local legendary jazz artists Ursula Walker and George Benson in the R.I.K. Reunion Band.

Please see JAZZFEST, E2

Birmingham Jazzfest

WHEN: Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25.
WHERE: Shain Park downtown Birmingham, south of Maple Road (between Henrietta and Bates Streets). Participating restaurants are located in or near downtown Birmingham. A trolley will be making regular rounds to each restaurant Friday and Saturday night.
FOR INFORMATION: Call (248) 433-FEST, 24 hours a day for up-to-the-minute information.

Shain Park Schedule

THURSDAY, JULY 23
7:30-9 p.m. - Alexander Zorjic and Friends

FRIDAY, JULY 24
7:30-8:30 p.m. - The R.I.K.'s Reunion Band featuring Marcus Belgrave, George Benson & Ursula Walker.
8:45-9:45 - The Sun Messengers

SATURDAY, JULY 25
noon to 1 p.m. - The Paul Ventimiglia Group
1:15-2:15 p.m. - Orquestra Fuego
2:30-3:30 p.m. - The Wayne State University Big Band
3:45-4:45 p.m. - SCool Jaz Prime
6-7 p.m. - The Julio Cocchilli Ensemble featuring vibraphonist Robert Phipps
7:15-8:15 p.m. - Millie Scott & The Dream Band featuring Perry Hughes on guitar
8:30-9:30 p.m. - Straight Ahead

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
8:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, July 24 on the steps of Birmingham City Hall, 151 Martin - "Summer in the City" featuring Modcat and Kane
10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 25, Shain Park - Chautauqua Express

At the Restaurants - Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25

Alton's Restaurant, 35064 Woodward, (248) 258-5788 - Shella Landis 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday.
Bad Frog Tavern, 555 Old Woodward, (248) 642-9400 - Robert Penn 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday.
Bates Street Cafe, 380 S. Bates, (248) 644-5832 - David Myles & Mylestones 9:30-11:30 p.m. Thursday; 9 p.m. to midnight, Friday-Saturday.
Big Rock Chop & BrewHouse, 245 S. Eton, (248) 647-7774 - Larry Nozaro 8 p.m. to midnight, Thursday-Saturday; Jazzody 6-10 p.m. Thursday-Friday, and 7-11 p.m. Saturday.
Dick O'Dowd, 160 Maple (248) 642-1135 - The Distractions 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday; Company of Strangers 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday; Odd Enough 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday.
Edison's, 220 Merrill, (248) 645-2150 - Gary Schunk 8 p.m. to midnight, Thursday; Sandra Bomar 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday; Dwight Adams 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday.
Forte, 201 Old Woodward, (248) 594-7300 - Ursula Walker, Buddy Budson 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.
Max & Erma's, 250 Merrill, (248) 258-1188 - Bugs Beddow 9 p.m. to midnight, Thursday-Saturday.
Midtown Cafe, 139 Woodward, (248) 642-1133 - Patty Richards Trio, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.
Ocean Grille, 280 Old Woodward, (248) 645-7001 - Kevin Glo Trio 7-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday.
Peabody's, 34905 Woodward, (248) 644-5222 - Michael Miller Trio, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday.
Phoenicia, 568 Old Woodward, (248) 644-3122 - Cliff & Stephanie Moneer, 7:30-11:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday.
Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, (248) 642-7900 - Kurt Kunzast, Keith Malinowski, 8 p.m. to midnight, Thursday-Saturday.
220, 220 Merrill, (248) 645-2150 - Paul Vornhagen 8 p.m. to midnight, Thursday; 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday-Saturday.

'Polish Wedding' full of controversy

Director Theresa Connelly's suite at The Ritz-Carlton is fit for a queen. Mouth-watering tortes are displayed atop silver serving trays. The strawberries burst with color so much that you'd swear they were injected with red dye. Step back to the window, near the table boasting several flavored coffees and the Renaissance Center stands majestically beyond the war-torn Southfield Freeway.

Still, reclining on an embroidered couch, Connelly is uncomfortable. The media have just reported that the Anti-Bigotry Committee of the Pol-

ish American Congress is unhappy with Connelly's portrayal of a Polish family in her debut film "Polish Wedding," which opens Friday, July 17. Committee chairman Frank Milewski called it blasphemous, offensive and "a deplorable depiction of the Polish-American community." Reviewers have also called it "schmalzy and immoral."

"Polish Wedding" tells the story of Polish immigrant parents Jazdzin and Bolek (Lena Olin and Gabriel Byrne) and their rebellious daughter Hala (Claire Danes), a high school dropout who becomes pregnant by a Hamtram-

ck cop Russell (Adam Trese).

"I'm still wondering if it is not one person who constitutes this organization. It's amazing that I've never been contacted," Connelly said, speaking as fast as an out-of-control speeding train.

"I'm quite chagrined about what was written in the Chicago Sun Times. The word that really bothered me was 'immoral.' I would expect to weather (a storm) of outcry if I had made an immoral movie. But since what is making love, conceiving a baby, getting mar-

Please see CONTROVERSY, E2



Director Theresa Connelly

MUSIC FESTIVAL

After hitting gold with 'Rock Spectacle,' Barenaked Ladies join H.O.R.D.E.

With innocent-looking crystal blue eyes, jet black goatee and affable style, Ed Robertson is ready to pick a fight.

Detroit and Windsor music listeners have long prided themselves as the biggest fans of Robertson's just-as-affable pop band Barenaked Ladies. But that may soon change.

"Detroit is certainly one of our biggest places. It was our biggest place. New Year's Eve was the biggest place we've ever done. But Boston's eclipsing you guys now," singer/guitarist Robertson said slyly, awaiting a response.

Well, he got his answer when Robertson and the rest of his Toronto-based band pulled up to Harmony House in Farmington Hills on Tuesday, July 7, for an in-store performance.



Pulling a "Stunt." The Ladies - including, from left, singer Steven Page, bassist Jim Creegan and singer/guitarist Ed Robertson - celebrated the release of its latest album "Stunt."

More than 1,500 people with umbrellas in hand were waiting in a line that snaked in front of Harmony House, around Kmart's garden area and down the side of the building. Another 500 who picked up special laminate passes were inside.

"It was great," an obviously thrilled Robertson said in the store's storage area shortly after the Barenaked Ladies set. "We're trying to get to all the places that traditionally have the biggest fan base for us."

Yes, Boston is included in that list. Barenaked Ladies fans have two more chances to show their enthusiasm for the band on Saturday-Sunday, July

Please see LADIES, E3

THE H.O.R.D.E. FESTIVAL takes place from 2:30-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, July 18-19, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets, \$33 pavilion and lawn, are still available. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacet.net>

THE LINEUP (subject to change)

On the main stage:

- Surfin' Pluto 2:30-3 p.m.
- Alone Davis 3:50-4:30 p.m.
- Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals 5-6 p.m.

- Blues Traveler 6:30-8 p.m.
- Barenaked Ladies 8:30-10 p.m.

On the second stage:

- Fighting Gravity 3:20-3:50 p.m.
- Chris Stills 4:30-5 p.m.
- Huffamoose 6:30-8 p.m.
- Gov't Mule 8:30-9 p.m.