

THE WEEKEND



Warner Brothers celebrates its 75th anniversary with a festival featuring 31 of their most beloved films, including "Casablanca," through Aug. 27 at the Landmark Main Art Theatre, 118 N. Main (at 11 Mile Road), Royal Oak. Call (248) 542-0180 for schedule.

SATURDAY

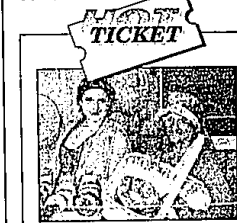


Dishwalla performs with Jack Drag, 6:30 p.m. at The Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$13 day of show. All ages, call (313) 961-MELT or http://www.961melt.com

SUNDAY



"The Invisible Made Visible: Angels From The Vatican," an exhibition of more than 100 rare works of art and artifacts from the 9th century B.C. to the 20th century, including "Concert of Angels," opens 10 a.m. at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue. Timed tickets (includes Acoustiguide audio tour) are \$10 adults, \$5 children. Founders Society members free; call (248) 645-6666, members call (313) 833-8499.



Baked fresh daily at the Monk's Village Bake Shoppe, fresh pastries and warm bread are only a few of the wonderful choices of fare at the Michigan Renaissance Festival, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and Labor Day through Sept. 27, off I-75 on Dixie Highway between Pontiac and Flint, call (800) 601-4848 for information.

State Fair

Something old...



On stage: Hall and Oates and Living Soul, perform Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Michigan State Fair.

at the fairgrounds, 1120 W. State Fair (Woodward Avenue at Eight Mile Road), Detroit. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$2 for children ages 11 and younger, and free for children ages 2 and younger. Parking is \$5. Call (313) 369-8250 for more information.

Special events

Concerts begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted are included with admission to the fair. Special gold circle reserved tickets to the concerts are available for \$10 at Ticketmaster outlets. The "Special Days" are in parentheses.

Scheduled for this year's fair are:

- Ray Charles with Jazodity, Tuesday, Aug. 25 (Carrot/Celery/Onion and "Natural Resources" Day)
- Bryan White with Cross Country, Wednesday, Aug. 26 (Asparagus Day)
- Tim McGraw with Scotty McPhee, Thursday, Aug. 27 (Cherry Day)
- Ginuwine with Hockey Diddy, 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28 (Christmas Tree and Governor's Day)
- Alice Cooper with Branded, Saturday, Aug. 29 (Twirling, Grape and Wine Day)
- The Whispers with Ray Potter, Sunday, Aug. 30 (Cheer, Pom-Pom, Twin and Organic Day)
- Bill Cosby, Monday, Aug. 31 (Senior and Potato Day)
- Steve Wariner and Scotty McPhee, Tuesday, Sept. 1 (Corn, AAA and Pepsi Discount Day)
- Hall and Oates with Living Soul, Wednesday, Sept. 2 (Country Fair, Homemaker, Food Safety, AAA, Kroger and Pepsi Discount Day)
- Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Thursday, Sept. 3 (Sugar Beet, Kroger and Pepsi Discount Day)
- K-Ci and JoJo and Funktelligence, 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4 (Apple, Husband and Wife Calling Day)
- Lakeside with Confunkula, Saturday, Sept. 5 (Veterans, Service Club, Ponytail and Soy Bean Day)
- Trace Adkins and Joe Meyer, Sunday, Sept. 6 (Crown Day)
- Beach Boys, Monday, Sept. 7 ("Miracle of Life" and Labor Day)

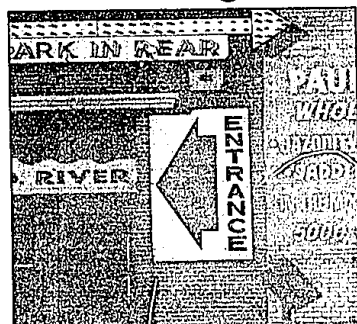
Discount information

- Senior citizens ages 62 and older will be admitted free from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, during "Blue Care Network Medicare Blue Senior Day." Ernie Harwell will make a special appearance during the day which also includes a senior awards ceremony, senior raffle and senior contests such as the oldest man and woman and the longest married couple.
- Saturday, Sept. 5, has been dubbed "Veterans' Day" when veterans in uniform or with veterans IDs are admitted free from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The special events take place at the Wall of Honor including musical selections at 10 a.m., a Veterans Memorial Service at 10:30 a.m., the "Veteran of the Year" Ceremony at 11:30 a.m., and a Feature Parade at 4 p.m. Veterans' organizations may participate in the Veterans' Day by bringing their banners to display on the site and carry in the parade.

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■ AAA members receive \$3 off the adult admission when a AAA card is shown Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 1-2. Kroger Discount Days are Wednesday-Thursday, Sept. 2-3, and with a coupon available at Kroger admission is discounted \$3. Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 1-3, are Pepsi Discount Days and adult admission is discounted \$3 when a specially marked Pepsi can is presented.

Something new...



Now release: Jazodity opens for rhythm and blues legend Ray Charles Tuesday, Aug. 25, at the Michigan State Fair. This is the cover from their debut release "In the Mix," which will be available beginning this week, Sept. 2.

Jazodity has had a blessed career. Members of the group, most of whom are only in their 20s, have studied with some of jazz music's greatest players, whether it be in person or on tape. One was schooled at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and others honed their skills with competitive marching bands. It's paid off. Although it has only been together since October, Jazodity has landed stellar gigs at the Motor Lounge, Clutch Cargo's, and has opened for Charlie Hunter and Groove Collective. On Aug. 25, the band opens for rhythm and blues legend Ray Charles at the Michigan State Fair.

Drummer Graham Mueller chokes it up to the band's reputation as a "jazz band with some kickin' hip-hop grooves." "I'd say it's because we take jazz and bring it into a form of hip-hop making it easier to relate to," said Mueller, a Berkeley resident. "A lot of people see jazz as this really exalted music form. We do it with hip-hop beats and that makes it really listenable."

Instead of using canned, computer-generated drum beats, he ran Mueller's chops through a computer and manipulated them. "He manipulated and rearranged the sound into a loop. (The song) 'In the Mix' is an example of that. It's a new idea in music. We're using sounds that are getting away from Sony keyboard sounds and using real drum loops."

On the jazz side, Jazodity recruited Greg Williams, whom Mueller describes as "a really underrated but obscure figure in jazz." Williams, who recorded with Jazodity under the name "Vibrations," has worked

Please see FAIR, E2

Joan Rivers seriously happy with her life

Happy is busy for Joan Rivers. She's a woman of many faces - mother, comedian, actress, jewelry designer, playwright and humanitarian.

Her daughter, Melissa, is getting married Dec. 12; "The Joan Rivers Show," which airs on nationally syndi-



Joan Rivers

cated radio in more than 40 markets is "going great"; and she has her own line of fashion jewelry, which has generated over \$100 million in sales through the QVC Network.

She's also host of E! Entertainment Television's Fashion Reviews, writing two books and a play about an older woman who wants to get married. On weekends she tours with comedian Don Rickles. They'll be at Pine Knob on Aug. 21.

"It's a good time in my life," said Rivers in a telephone interview from New York City. "It doesn't stop, and I say 'Thank God.'"

"Can we talk?" her signature question, and officially registered federal trademark, is something she does cautiously with strangers.

The biggest misconception people have about her is that "I'm on all the time," she said. "People think they'll hoot and holler if I'm at their table. They say 'oh boy, we've got Joan Rivers.' I get invited to a lot of places once."

On stage, Rivers lights up. Women especially love her.

"It's so much fun to get out there and talk to people, and hear their reactions," she said. "I love touring. We're going to have a good time. If you're looking for intelligence don't come to us."

She enjoys sharing the stage with Don Rickles. "I love him, his conductor, his stage manager, they're all very nice. We'll be very typical us on stage. Life is tough enough, come out, and we'll laugh together."

Being a comedian is easier now than it was in the 1950s when she started performing in clubs and lounges. "You can be more truthful," she said. "You can talk about things you could never have mentioned before like sperm on Monica Lewinsky's dress. It's wonderful."

Rivers admits a lot of women look to her for the truth, and she tries to tell it. "I'm writing a book about aging, which is lousy, terrible" she said. "We

Please see RIVERS, E2

FAMILY FUN



Puppet man: Greg Lester has created his own little world for "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Puppeteer takes his show on the road

BY JIMMY O'NEILL
STAFF WRITER

The puppeteer is like a god. He creates the setting and the people; he gives the people movement and voice; and he leads them through parables of ethical behavior.

It's the perfect job for someone who took a double major in acting and philosophy.

Lake Orion's Greg Lester, 27, had an idea when he graduated from Lake Orion High School that he wanted to be an actor, but when he got to Western Michigan University, he found he had other interests as well.

"I've been involved in theater all my life, since I was a kid and in high school," said Lester. "In college, I couldn't think of

a best job, so I pursued acting and took philosophy classes on the side. And then I became so interested in philosophy, I took a double major."

That didn't exactly open career doors when Lester graduated from Western in 1995. He visited his brother in Boulder, Colo., and became interested in the street performers near the university and thought he'd become a storyteller.

That inspired a call to a friend, puppeteer Brad Lowe, whom Lester had worked with during summers at the Oak and County Parks. Lowe is a two-time Emmy winner, creator of TV's "Hot Fudge" and operator of Fantasy E-Fox Puppets.

"He taught me how to make puppets, develop scripts, manipulate puppets,

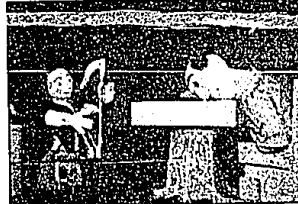
tricks of the trade," Lester said. He learned from other local puppeteers, as well, though he credits with Lowe with giving him his start.

Now Lester has his own one-man theater, Greg Lester's Puppet Adventures, combining his interest in acting with his commitment to ethical philosophy. He's been taking his show on the road to day camps, parties, nursery schools, festivals and school auditoriums.

"I developed 'Jack in the Beanstalk.' Sculpted the puppets, wrote the script, recorded the sound at a digital recording studio. The scenery is hand-painted. ...It's a one-man show," he said.

Though not an artist, Lester has been developing his sculpting skills to create

Please see PUPPETS, E3



Magie harp: Jack plays a soothing tune for the giant. Greg Lester designs and makes his own puppets.