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A working mother's creative balancing act

ust two-and-a-half weeks after giving birth to her first child, Nathan, Darlene Carroll was back

with the control was back to work.

But work — as nearly every new mother will attest — is never quite the same. Life goes from a point-to-point journey to a shifting mosaic.

Toting a portable crib, infant seat and ever-present breast pump, Carroll reported back to work as director of the Lemberg Gallery in Birmingham. A self-contessed Franklin Planner person," Carroll had called the gallery



Working mother: Darlene Carroll, director of the Lemberg Gallery in Birmingham.

a mere two hours after giving birth to check if painters had completed repainting the interior of the gallery. Giving birth to her son asveral weeks before the due date last August was an omen. Apparently, Carroll's newborn wasn't in the mood to wait for a place on his mother's schedule. And soon, Carroll learned that working mothers make neither concessions nor immovable appointments.

ments.
They make arrangements.

Curious obsession

Typically, Carroll makes the rounds, carrying young Nathan as she visits local artists in their studies.

Last spring, Carroll was invited to the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Centre to talk about the business of running a gallery.

She didn't have time to arrange for

She didn't have time to arrange for digerare. So, as she lectured on the realities of the gallery world, a BBAC instructor entertained young Nathan. "I don't work less," she said. "I just work differently."

How differently? How about sitting

Work differently? How about sitting at her computer, phone tucked between her and her computer, phone tucked between her shoulder and ean, while rocking frego, Jane the shoulder and ean, while rocking fittle Nathan as he site in his infant seat, strengling to land into the Graw, Stephen Magslg, Willim Mentor, Jennifer Reeves, Robert Schefmen and others. Where: Sa8 N. Woodward Avenue, Birmingham; (248) 642-6623 hours: 11 o.m. to 5 p.m. Tussday-Saturday while walled gallery.

day-Saturday gallery.
Then, after
several months, the inevitable happened. Nathan became a little guy, pened. Nathan became a many sinterested in touching, sucking, a pounding anything in his line of

vision.

The on-site dayeare ended when he started to crawl through the gallery where the paintings exhibited on the walls became a curious obsession.

A living example

A living example
Like all working moth a.c. Carroll
had to figure out who would care for
Nathan as sho worked.
"As a working mother, it comes
down to being more creative with
your time," she said, explaining the
"team approach" to childcare among

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Future of the arts is in the hands of the Conservatory

BY LENG ANN CHORMS
STAPF WAITEL

Corbin Wagner, a French horn
player with the Detroit Symphony
Orchestra and Detroit Chamber
Winds, thinks the creation of an arts
conservatory for Southeast Michigan
youths is long overdue.

Wagner taught at a two-week band
camp for junior high students hosted
by Southeast Michigan Arts Conservatory in July. Designed to give
hands-on experience, the camp is
indicative of the music and dance
programs the conservatory will offer
students when it opons Tuesday,
Sept. 8 in Canton. Wagner, an
adjunct professor at the University of
Michigan School of Music, attenddel Interlecthen Center for the Arts
and knows the importance of early
training and performance experience.

"There isn't anything quite like
"There isn't anything quite like
"There isn't anything quite like

training and periormance experi-ence.

"There isn't anything quite like what's being offered in Canton," said Wagner, a Bloomfield Hills resident. "It's important to molivate children to a higher level. These are young people who are serious about music."

to a higher level. These are young people who are serious about music."

Discovering a need

Director Jeff Myers decided to open the conservatory after discovering a need for private music instruction and ensemble experience for youths. Programs such as the Livenia Youth Philharmonic and the Detroit Symphony Givic Orchestra provide orchestral ensemble training, but there are few programs that incorporate orchestral and band music. After talking with band directors in junior and high schools in Livenia. Northville, Farmington, Ann Arbor, Novi. Plymouth, and Canton, Myers determined there are more than 16,000 students who could benefit from intensified training in an ensemble setting.

The idea expanded from there. In addition to private music, band and orchestral studies, the conservatory will offer classes in ballet, tap and junior private music, and the content of the programs for ages a newborn to seven. A dance studie, ensemble soft private hair and the studies for private instruction ensure plenty of space for the programs of a drama director to initiate a theater program in January.

There's ne place for kids to per-

drama director to initiate a theater program in January.

"There's no place for kids to per-form, and no attention to this type of education (music, dance and drama with hands-on professional training) in elementary and junior high schools," said Myers.

Private/public partnership
Training future generations in the performing arts was uppermost in Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack's mind when Arnoldt Williams Music announced it was closing its store. The conservatory will move into that space in September.
Arnoldt Williams sold pianes and employed a staff of music teachers. Concerned that Canton would be devoid of cultural education programming, Yack approached various arts institutions, such as the Center for Creative Studies, about the possibility of offering programs in the soon to be vacated building with no success: Myers, who taught trumpet privately in Plymouth, approached Yack with the concept for a conservatory. The approval of leuse and operating agreements for the conservatory by the Canton Board of Trustees not only assured the students would develop music skills but foundations in dance and drama. The township is leasing the building to the arts conservatory for one year. "Jeff came to us and really took the lead," said Yack. "We're offering encouragement by partially funding the center for a year. If you're looking at building quality of life, equally important is developing cultural opportunities within a community. With the schools cutting back on funding, and aging audiences, we need to develop young musicians and now audiences. I think the conservatory is a huge step forward."

Although expanded arts education programming at a single location does not exist anywhere but in Canton, elements of the conservatory can be found at a number of arts institutions in the arca.

Southfield Centre for the Arts At the Southfield Centre for the

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Southeast Michigan Arts Conservatory

What: Opens Tuesday, Sept. 8

Where: 5701 Canton Center Road and Maben, Canton, call (734) 453-7590.

Arts education programming is also offered at:

Southfield Centre for the Arts, (248) 333-7849

Michigan Opera Theatre, (313) 874-7248

Center for Creative Studies, (313) 664-7611



Average of the control of the contro

Shar Photo B Pall BYSERENS Planning ahead: Jeff Myers and dance director Michelle Lan-gley plan the Sept. 8 opening of the Southeast Michigan Arts Conservatory in Canton.

Arts, Marlowe Belanger began instituting dance and music programs for youth 19 years ago. Some 160 students ages six and up study ballet, tap and jazz at the centor. Middle and junior high students study violin, flute, piane and clarinet under the direction of Vladislaw Kavalsky. The Southfield Centre for the Arts is affiliated with 80 arts organizations including the Bel Canto Choral Group, Motor City Brass Ensemble, and Southfield Symphony so high school and college age students have the opportunity to continue acquiring performance experience.

"It's extremely important to offer arts education programs for youth because that's our future generations to continue the arts and to explore and expand the arts," said Belanger, manager for the cultural arts division. "There's a great deal of creative activity going on at the center."

Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre
Karen DiChiera, director of community programs at the Michigan
Opera Theatre, atresses that students, who may not excel in math or
science, could compose music or conceive of a set design if given the
opportunity. That's why programs
such as "Create Opera" nurture an
appreciation for the arts in the

young.
Developed by DiChiera while com-poser-in-residence in the Birming-ham Public Schools in the mid-1970s, the outreach program com-bines creative writing, music compo-sition, choreography, and perfor-mance.

sition, choreography, and performance.

We like to give the students that performance experience, not only learning about singing but costumes and painting sets, said DiChiera. They learn about theater.

Another Michigan Opera Theatre program for middle and high school students, The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber' and The Classics on Broadway, gives youth a "taste of professional performing."

"Students are directed in blocking of the performance and are invited to perform with the Michigan Opera Theatre on stage," said DiChiera.

Contar for Creative Studies

Center for Creative Studies
At the Jewish Community Center
in West Bloomfield, Center for Creative Studies Institute of Music and
Dance has extension classes in ballet
and East Indian dance. At the center
itself, programs such as ensemble
training for young musicians and
voice and jazz ensembles providestudents with a wealth of performingopportunities.

FILM Uncompromising vision in Podolsky's debut film

Midway through a shoot at Long Lake Market in West Bloomfield last November, Jady Podolsky recalls halt-ing production, feeling compelled to rewrite a scene in her debut film, "All of It."

or it."

Amid the tight schedule and grueling pace, Podolsky didn't forget the main reason for hustling together a script, east, sundry contributions and \$500,000 to finance her first film.

She sought refuge in the trailer of the film's star, Lesley Ann Warren, who portrays a middle-age mether with exacting expectations for her independent-minded 25-year-old daughter (Allana Ubach).

"I just sat there and started reread-

taliana Ubach).
"I just sat there and started rereading the script from the beginning," and Podolsky, 27, a graduate of Cranbrooks Kingswood School and University of Southern California Film School.
"That was a moment when it was Wow, this is really hoppening." Then I remembered where it all came from what it took to write and produce the film."

On Aug. 20, Podolsky's recently com-pleted film was shown at the Maple Theatre to an overflow crowd of finan-cial backers, friends, family and the host of supporters who loaned every-thing from food to clothing to physical locations. Many of the supporters on hand appeared as extras in the film.

Touch and be touched

Pouch and be touched Podolsky-Josen't flinch from subjects that other filmmakers might find too intelnse or lacking commercial appeal. The film's promotional materials characterize "All of It" as a slice-of-life, and compare its dramatic tone to the 1980 Academy Award-winning film, "Ordinary People," a story about changing relationships among a father, mother and son.

relationshipa among a lather, mother and son.
Although before producing "All of It" Podolsky had rapidly risen to vice president of development for Alphaville, a production company, at Universal Studies, she has taken a distinctively non Hollywood approach in creating her independent film.

Last fall, Podolsky and her longtime

friend, producer Darren Gold, formerly of Birmingham and also a Kingswood grad, returned to the area for a 26-day shoot that took them to Cranbrook, Townsend Hotel, Franklin Cider Mill, Tam O'Shanter Country Club and Congregation Shaarey Zedek.
"We set out to cultivate a community for the film," said Podolsky. "Whoever touched the film would be touched by it."

After shooting was completed late

After shooting was completed late hat fall, Podolsky spent five months in New York editing the film. It took another few months for post-production polishing.

Cherished deal

Cherished deal
After the premiere, Podolsky, Gold
and the film's stars were expected to
head to the Montreal Word Film Festival, which runs Thursday through
Sept. 5. The prestigious international
festival presents the top 200 films submitted from 65 countries.
Along with an international press
corp. a fleet of acquisition executives
are on hand, representing major stu-

Please see FILM, C2



Family drama: Actors Alanna Family drama: Actors Alanna Ubach, (left), and Michael Sil-ver star in Jody Podolsky's debut film, "Ali of It." The familiar location? The grounds of the Cranbrook Education Community.