

## THEATER

# Farmington Players begins season with musical revue

It could be curtains for the Farmington Players Barn if the Farmington Players raise enough money to build a new theater.

"We've raised in excess of \$300,000, and have \$150,000 to go before we can absolutely go ahead with our plans," said Cynthia Tupper, president of the Farmington Players.

This is Act II of a continuing drama that began last spring when the Players began discussion with Sunrise Assisted Living, Inc., which plans to build a senior assisted living facility on property next to the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills. The big white dairy barn that has been home to the Players for 45 years needs air conditioning, and is not handicap accessible. The Players want to work with Sunrise Assisted Living, Inc. to develop a unified plan for the property that would include a new theater.

Tupper said the Players want to raise half of the estimated \$900,000 needed to build a new theater before they make a final commitment. If they reach their goal, they want to break ground for a new theater in late fall.

With an eye toward the future, the Players will open their season Friday, Sept. 11 with a special production — "Broadway Banned — A Musical Revue." All proceeds from that show will go into the building fund.

The rousing revue features memorable songs from all your favorite Broadway shows — "Guys and Dolls," "Brigadoon," "South Pacific," "Anything Goes,"

**Farmington Players 1998-99 Season**  
Where: With the exception of "Broadway Banned — A Musical Revue," at the Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road (between Farmington and Orchard Lake Road), all shows will be at Tyndale College, 36700 W. 12 Mile Road (between Drake and Halsted) Farmington Hills.

Season tickets: Three shows for \$35, does not include "Broadway Banned," which benefits the building fund. Call (248) 563-2950.

## Schedule

### "Broadway Banned — A Musical Revue"

Performances: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 11-12, Sept. 18-19, and Sept. 25-26; 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20; tickets \$20.

■ "A Tuna Christmas" by Ed Howard, Joe Sears, and Jason Jason Williams.

Performances: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 6-7, Nov. 13-14, Nov. 20-21, and Nov. 27-28, matinee 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13; tickets \$12.

■ "The Fantasticks," book, music and lyrics by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt.

Performances: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 5-6, Feb. 12-13, Feb. 19-20, and Feb. 26-27, matinee 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13; tickets \$14.

■ "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti

Performances: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 23-24, April 30-May 1, May 7-8, May 14-15, matinee 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1; tickets \$12.

"Pajama Game," "Damn Yankees," and "How to Succeed in Business."

These are all shows the Players have presented at the Barn over the past 45 years.

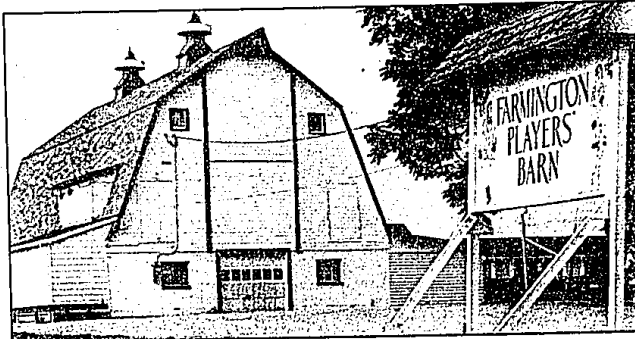
"We taken the show stopping numbers that everyone knows for our show," said Tupper, who is directing the show with Sue Rogers. It promises to be "Some Enchanted Evening."

"We have more talent in this show than we've ever had before," said Tupper about the ensemble cast of 24. "Everyone

wanted to be in this show. They'll get to do what they do best sing, dance, or be funny."

For the rest of its 45th season, the Players will present their shows in the Kregg Chapel at nearby Tyndale College on 12 Mile Road between Drake and Halsted.

"We had to find another place to perform, and we wanted to find a place that was close," said Tupper. "Their theater seats 240, which is what our new theater would seat. It's still quite inti-



**Players Barn:** This big white barn has been the Farmington Players' home for the past 45 years. The Farmington Players is raising money to build a new theater. They are opening their 45th season Sept. 11 in the Players Barn with "Broadway Banned — A Musical Revue."

mate." The Barn seats about 175 people.

Anticipating construction, and a temporary home, the Farmington Players chose shows that require small casts, and are easier to produce.

"We picked really entertaining shows so our audience will stay with us during the transition," said Tupper. "There's a lot of variety. We want to make sure we don't lose our patrons. We want them to enjoy making the move with us."

For the first time over, the Players will present a show during the Thanksgiving holiday — "A Tuna Christmas," a comedy by Ed Howard, Joe Sears and Jason Williams. It takes place during Christmas in the third smallest town in Texas where two men take on the challenge of portraying 22 male and female roles in as radio station news personalities Thurston Wheels and Arles Struvie report on various Yuletide activities.

The season continues with "The Fantasticks," — a story

about two people falling in love; book, music and lyrics by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt. "The Fantasticks" is the longest running musical in theater history.

To close their season, the Players chose a new farce, "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti.

"It's not really well known; it's a new comedy, a farce with lots of mistaken identities," said Tupper. "We thought it would be fun to present something new."

## Legendary Ramsey Lewis to play 'Jazz on the Lake' at St. Mary's College

Ramsey Lewis, one of our country's most popular jazz pianists, will join jazz flutist Alexander Zonjic 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13 for the third annual "Jazz on the Lake" at St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake.

The event opens 2 p.m. when a wide selection of complimentary gourmet hors d'oeuvres and wines for tasting from more than two dozen area merchants will be available, and silent auction

featuring numerous items from the world of sports, entertainment, recreation and fashion, will be held.

Tickets are \$50 per person, call (248) 653-1750 for more information. St. Mary's College is at Orchard Lake and Commerce roads on the east shore of Orchard Lake.

"One's style is one's style. It's there in every song you do, as are your fingerprints," said Ram-

sey, who has recorded over 60 albums, won three Grammy awards, and has five gold records in his four decades in the music business.

In the mid-1960s, Ramsey hit the pop singles charts four times with "The In Crowd," "Hang on Sloop," "A Hard Day's Night," and "Wade in the Water." Three of the singles, as well as the albums "Sounds of Christmas" (1961) and "Sun Goddess" (1975)

went gold, and he won performance Grammy's for "The In Crowd," "Hold It Right There," and "Hang on Sloop."

Currently, in addition to recording and presenting concerts, Lewis spends his time as Monday-Friday morning drive time on-air personality on WNUA-FM in Chicago. He's also

host of a syndicated weekly program, the "Ramsey Lewis Show," that's heard in over 50 cities in the U.S. (including 9-11 p.m. Sundays on Smooth Jazz 98.7 FM in Detroit); and host of a one-hour interview and performance program, "Jazz Central," for BET cable TV nationwide. Zonjic also hosts a Monday-

Friday drive-time program, 6-10 a.m. on Smooth Jazz 98.7 FM in metro Detroit.

After several years as a rock guitarist, Zonjic began a relentless pursuit to learn to play the flute at the age of 21.

He has toured and performed all over the world.

## Just because something is old doesn't mean it isn't valuable.



I can relate to that, maybe that's why I'm never in a rush with these guys. Sanding out a dent here and there, restoring the gears... soon I'll have all the time in the world for them, just like they have for me. That's the beauty of retirement. And now that it's almost here, I'm grateful that I started planning early — with U.S. Savings bonds. I started buying Savings Bonds when I got my first real job, through a Payroll Savings plan. I put aside something every payday. And little by little, it really added up. Bonds are guaranteed safe, too, and earn interest up to 30 years.

In a few more years, you'll find me out here in the workshop more and more, fixing a hinge or polishing a case. I know that there's a lot of life left in these old guys. I can relate to that.

Ask your employer or banker about saving with U.S. Savings Bonds. For all the right reasons.

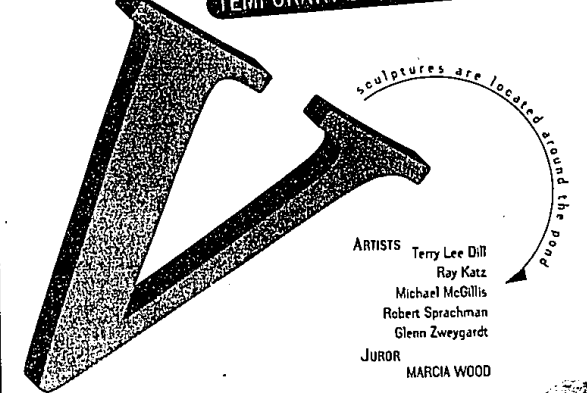


A public service of this newspaper

## Paint Creek Center for the Arts presents

# INSTALLMENTS

TEMPORARY Site-Specific Sculptures



ARTISTS Terry Lee Dill  
Ray Katz  
Michael McGillis  
Robert Sprachman  
Glenn Zweygardt

JUROR MARCIA WOOD

Rochester Municipal Park  
September 11-18  
1998

Opening Reception  
FRIDAY

September 11  
5:30 - 7:30 pm

made possible with the support of



michigan council for  
arts and cultural affairs

Observer & Eccentric

Paint Creek Center for the Arts

for information call: 248.651.4110  
407 pine street, rochester mi 48307