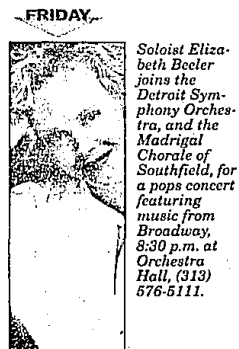
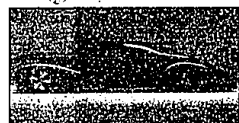


THE WEEKEND



Soloist Elizabeth Beeler joins the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Madrigal Chorus of Southfield, for a pops concert featuring music from Broadway, 8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, (313) 576-6111.

FRIDAY



See some of the hottest hot rods and wildest custom cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles of the past and present 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Autorama at Cobo Center. Tickets \$12 at the gate, children under 12, \$5.

SATURDAY



The Longhorn World Championship Rodeo comes to The Palace at Auburn Hills, 2 p.m. Tickets \$18, \$14 and \$12, call (248) 645-6666.



Dance Theatre of Harlem company members worked with students at Plymouth Salem High School as part of its outreach program. Dance Theatre of Harlem performs at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts through Sunday, Feb. 21. Tickets are \$41.50, \$36.50 and \$31.50. Call (313) 963-2366 for information.

CIRQUE INGENIEUX

raises spectacle to art

Avant-garde circus at Music Hall bound for Broadway

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzo@homecomm.net

Years after he left Broadway as a young scenic designer because the competition was too cutthroat, Neil Goldberg will make his return to Gotham City this fall.

In between leaving and returning to Broadway, Goldberg established himself as one of the industry's most sought-after big-event producers with a couple of Super Bowls and Miss America Pageants to his credit, not to mention a few thousand corporate shows.

But in the early 1990s, fed up with what he called "Band-Aid productions" and "safe" corporate shows, Goldberg ran off and joined the circus.

Actually, he created a circus, "Cirque Ingenieux," to be performed Tuesday-Sunday at the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

The avant-garde circus is partly an old-fashioned P.T. Barnum extravaganza, and partly European existential dream. A mix of outrageousness and a bizarre, voyeuristic intimacy.

For those who've watched "Cirque Ingenieux" on PBS, there's really only one word that sums up the troupe of contortionists, acrobats, aerialists and illusionists — spectacle.

Story of the circus

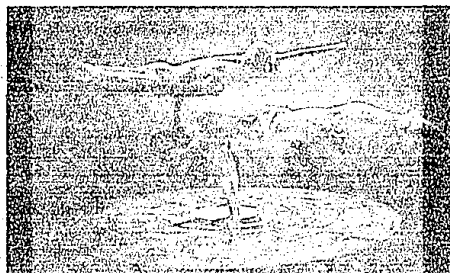
In the European tradition, Cirque Ingenieux relies on a single-ring circus in an intimate setting, not a three-ring set amid a canyon.

Unlike the mawkishness of a Disney production, Cirque rushes headlong into a wildly imaginative, and, at times, frightening universe.

The peculiar spectacle follows the story of Sarah, a young girl who becomes enthralled by the circus performers.

Please see CIRCUS, E2

WHAT: Cirque Ingenieux
WHERE: Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Avenue, Detroit
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 23-Sunday, Feb. 28
PERFORMANCE TIMES: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. Sunday
TICKETS: \$25-\$38.50, call (248) 645-6666 to charge tickets, or (313) 963-6611 for more information.



Held up: (Top photo) Circus-like athleticism offers a blend of gymnastics and body sculpture. (Photo above) Cirque Ingenieux offers a contorted view of aesthetic defiance.



War-time drama: **Sergeant Warvath** (Tom Sizemore), **Corporal Upham** (Jeremy Davies), **Private Jackson** (Barry Pepper) and **Captain John Miller** (Tom Hanks, right) are pinned down by an enemy sniper as they try to help a terrified little girl in a scene from "Saving Private Ryan."

W.W. II, 1500s vie for Oscar

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@homecomm.net

World War II and Elizabethan England dominate this year's Oscar competition.

Three Best Picture nominated films — "Saving Private Ryan," "Life Is Beautiful" and "The Thin Red Line" — examine the devastating effect of the war on soldiers and ordinary people. "Shakespeare in Love" and "Elizabeth" are, respectively, a costume comedy and a costume drama featuring the old and young Queen Bess.

It's hard to read any deep meaning into this other than coincidence. The biggest surprise and disappointment is that "The Truman Show" failed to win a Best Picture nomination, though director Peter Weir was nominated. The nominating process — in which everyone nominates in the Best Picture category while other nominations are made by these in the particular craft — makes these contradictions inevitable. "The Truman Show" might have offended the Hollywood crowd with its critique of media manipulation, or they might just be tired of the movie's star, perennial adolescent Jim Carrey, who didn't receive a Best Actor nomination.

I would have easily eliminated "Elizabeth," an entertaining but not spectacular political drama, in favor of "The Truman Show."

Carrey also deserved a nomination for reaching beyond his usual clown persona. The nominated actors — Tom Hanks for "Saving Private Ryan," Ian McKellen for "Gods and Monsters," Roberto Benigni for "Life Is Beautiful," Edward Norton for "American History X" and Nick Nolte for "Affliction" — are an outstanding group. Benigni's warm, Chaplinesque performance shows that he also can occasionally rein in a wild comic spirit.

Tom Hanks proves again his versatility and his talent for creating believable characters with small telling gestures. McKellen's performance as director James Whale has been sharing critics' honors with my personal choice for best actor, Nick Nolte. Nolte's performance in "Affliction" is raw, honest and complex and a cap to many years of fine performances.

Best actress

In the best actress category, the critics have chosen Fernanda Montenegro for her performance in the Brazilian film "Central Station." She is also my choice for playing a part that could have plunged into sentimentality at any moment. She keeps it totally honest as a retired teacher who helps a little boy find his family. Cate Blanchett is also excellent as a headstrong and incisive young Queen Elizabeth and

Please see OSCAR, E2

POPULAR MUSIC

Black Crowes hold up release

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@homecomm.net

Steve Gorman, drummer for The Black Crowes, knows that as soon as he and his bandmates wrapped up work on their fifth album, "By Your Side," they would regrettably write a great song.

"In the past when you make a record

and you finish it and you turn it in, the next song is always great. But it's too late and by the time you're ready to make a new record, you've written a bunch more," he said.

And it happened again. But this time, The Black Crowes had the clout to put the brakes on the September release of "Stand By Me" (American/Columbia).

After turning in the album to the record company, The Black Crowes headed out on a summertime club tour which inspired the rollicking "Go Tell the Congregation," and the lazy, New Orleans-inspired "Diamond Ring."

When the two songs surfaced, the band decided to return to the studio and rework the album.

"We were in no hurry to put the

Please see RELEASE, E2



Shake your moneymaker: **Black Crowes** — from (left), keyboardist **Eddie Hirsch** of Detroit, drummer **Steve Gorman**, singer **Chris Robinson**, guitarist **Audley Freed**, guitarist/vocalist **Rich Robinson**, and bassist **Sven Pipien**.