

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Surfin' Pluto (pictured), Duncan Sheik, Hooverphonic, and Jill Jack perform as part of the "Light Up Detroit!" concert, to benefit the America's Thanksgiving Parade. Doors open 7 p.m. with 8 p.m. showtime, State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$20 in advance, call (248) 645-6666.

SATURDAY



Jeanne DeLong stars as Amalia, and her sister, Patty Ward, is the choreographer, for the Village Players production of the musical, "She Loves Me," 8 p.m. at the theater, 752 Chestnut St., Birmingham. Tickets \$14, \$12 students, call (248) 644-2075. See story inside.

SUNDAY

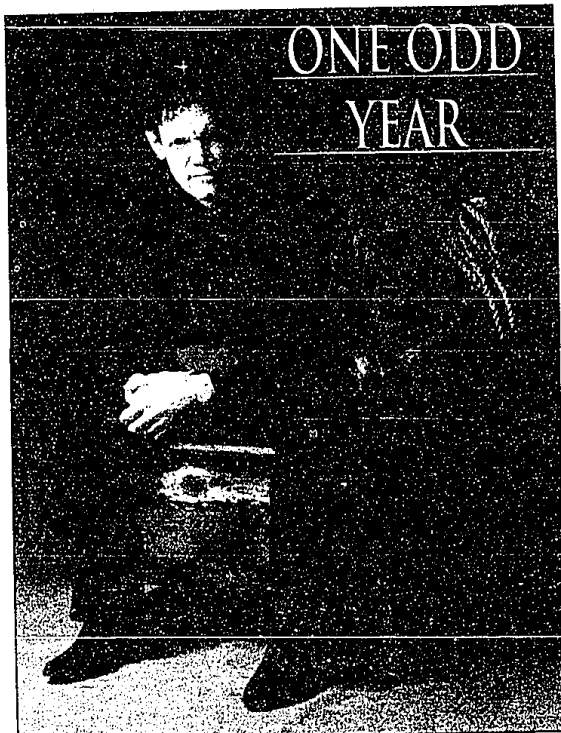


Youtheatre at Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, presents the classic "Black Beauty," a heart-warming new musical for families with children ages seven and above, by New York's Theatreworks/USA. Curtain 2 p.m., tickets \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door, call (313) 963-2366.

SECRET
TICKET



The Buffalo Soldier: The African American Soldier in the U.S. Army, 1866-1912, a new exhibit at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit, opens Saturday, Nov. 14, and continues through Sunday, Jan. 3. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Admission \$5 adults, \$3 children (17 and under), and free for members and children under 5. Call (313) 494-5800 for information.



Dual career: Randy Travis is taking time out from his busy film career to promote his latest album "You and You Alone" with a show at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

RANDY TRAVIS LOOKS AHEAD AFTER A SAD AND BUSY 1998

Dual career: Randy Travis is taking time out from his busy film career to promote his latest album "You and You Alone" with a show at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
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Country singer Randy Travis just can't wait for this year to be over. As the first country artist signed to DreamWorks SKG label, he's "You and You Alone." Travis wrapped up two films, "Black Dog" with Patrick Swayze, and "The White River Kid" with Antonio Banderas and Ellen Barkin. "This year has been going unbelievably fast. But when you work non-stop, it seems to go faster. We seem to be going from just one project right to the next, combining projects, writing music and recording," Travis explained.

On top of all that, death has surrounded Travis. "It's been a strange year. My horse, the descendant I had from Trigger died. My mom died in May. I had a little strange incident with a limo driver who picked us up a month ago, he died when we were leaving the Los Angeles airport."

"It's been an odd year. When told the year is almost over, maybe next year will be better. He responded with a hearty laugh, 'They have to be picking up.' Despite the ups and downs,

WHO: Randy Travis and Mark Willis

WHEN: 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14

WHERE: The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills.

HOW: Tickets are \$22.50 and \$10 reserved, \$32.50 for Superfan seating. The \$10 ticket price is in honor of The Palace's 10th anniversary. Groups of 20 or more receive \$2 off the \$22.50 and \$10 tickets. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 645-6666 or visit <http://www.palacenet.com>.

Travis was able to shooehorn time to record "You and You Alone."

"Because of the time restraints and filming, we recorded that while we were finishing filming 'Black Dog.' We recorded some in Los Angeles, some in Nashville, some in Las Vegas and some in North Carolina. Usually I don't do that. I usually record everything in Nashville," Travis explained.

Life was made a little bit easier, however, when he showed up to the "Black Dog" soundstage in Wilmington, N.C. There was a recording studio 100 yards away. All he needed then was material to record.

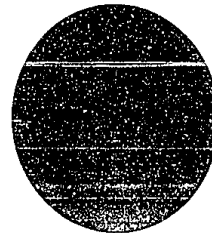
"We were looking for material throughout filming 'Black Dog.' James Stroud and Byron Galimore, the two producers, and myself constantly looking for material for 'You and You Alone' album. They would come and visit and we'd sit and listen to songs that they had found, or I had found. Slowly but surely, it took about five months, we put it all together," Travis explained.

While on the "Black Dog" set, Travis invited Patrick Swayze to sing background vocals on "I Did My Part," while Allison Krauss and Dan Tyminski lend their talents to "I'm Still Here, You're Still Gone."

Although Travis prefers to work at a slower pace, he is adamant about continuing his film and music career. Eight years ago, he and his wife, Lib, proposed the idea of venturing into film.

"I had some friends on the 'Young Guns' set and we visited them. I did a small little nothing part. I think 'fire' is the word that I said, or shoot or something like that. It was fun to do."

"But I've been a singer since I was 8 years old. I started working before an audience at 9. It's something I have to do," Travis explained.



Hayley Lauren Niederquell

Eight-year-old enjoys playing role in 'Evita'

BY KELLY WYAGONIK
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Hayley Lauren Niederquell tried out for "The Christmas Carol" at Meadow Brook Theatre and got called back. She didn't get the part, but she's not too disappointed.

"It's a blessing that she didn't get in," said Hayley's mom, Leslie. Something else came along - "Evita" playing at the Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit through Sunday, Nov. 22.

The stage manager of "Evita" called Shirl Harris, publicist for the Fisher and Masonic Temple Theatres, on Monday, Oct. 26, and said they were looking for two children between the ages of 7 and 9.

Harris called Terry Carpenter at Meadow Brook Theatre and Cate Foltin at Stagecrafters in Royal Oak to get the names of some children who might be interested.

Eight-year-old Hayley, a third grader at Martell Elementary School in Troy, was one of the 12 she talked to. "She was so adorable and seemed so at ease," Hayley and her mom met with Harris on Thursday, Oct. 29, and began a rehearsal for the Nov. 3 opening on Friday, Oct. 30.

While her friends were out trick-or-treating, Hayley was at the theater rehearsing for her three scenes - a girl scout at the Charity Concert and peasant girls in the Casa Rosada and Santa Evita scenes. She doesn't have any lines but has to know how to move on stage.

"I like the cast a lot and really like my director," said Hayley. "Everyone is so generous and nice."

Hayley and her family live near the Ridgedale Players playhouse in Troy, and enjoy going to shows. Hayley's been going to the theater since she was 2, and performed in her first show, a Junior Ridgedale Players production - "The Royal Easter Ball," when she was

"Evita"

WHEN: 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Sunday through Sunday, Nov. 22

WHERE: Masonic Temple Theatre, 500 Temple, Detroit

TICKETS: 8 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday performances, \$50, \$42.50 and \$30; Friday Saturday performances, and matinees, \$55, \$45 and \$32.50. Call (248) 645-6666, or (313) 832-2232 or (313) 872-1000 for more information.

Please see EVITA, E2

THEATER

'You ain't heard nothing yet': Burstyn plays Jolson

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
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Actor Mike Burstyn has appeared on stage as such bigger-than-life showmen as Mike Todd and P.T. Barnum but none bigger than his current role as "The World's Greatest Entertainer" - Al Jolson.

"He was gifted with an enormous God-given talent," Burstyn said. "He was unique for his time and any time. No one came up with the things he did. He simply used his talent and his ego to pioneer things in our business which we're benefiting from today."

Burstyn opens as the great singer in "Jolson: The Musical" Nov. 17 for a week run at the Fisher Theatre.

Burstyn said Jolson was to show business what the Wright Brothers were to aviation and Picasso to painting - an innovator who changed things forever.

He ticks off the Jolson firsts: first person to do a one-man show; first million-

WHAT: "Jolson: The Musical," a stage biography of the famous entertainer.

WHERE: Detroit's Fisher Theatre

WHEN: Nov. 17-22, 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

TICKETS: \$30-\$60, available at the Fisher Theatre Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (248) 645-6666.

nire entertainer, pulling down \$17,000 a week in 1912; first singer to have a million-selling record; first entertainer to entertain troops during World War II; first entertainer to have two movies made about his life while he was still living; and, of course, first movie star to talk on screen.

Jolson first stepped on the stage in 1899 when he was 13. By 1912, he was

Please see JOLSON, E2



Showman: Mike Burstyn performs "Sittin' On Top of the World" with the Rooney Sisters in "Jolson."