



Holiday classic: Booth Colman performs as Ebenezer Scrooge and Stephanie Kasimiski (left) and Joel Carpenter alternate the role of Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol."

Classic from page E1

life Scrooge, there are no better performances year after year than Booth Colman's.

Often forgotten by audiences is Dickens' stinging indictment of the perverse consequences of "progress" at the onset of the Industrial Revolution.

"If we wanted to be more historically correct, there'd be more rags and less beauty," said Meadow Brook costume coordinator Jenks, who redesigned the wardrobe two years ago.

More jewel-tone colors have been added to the current production, said Jenks, whose design for Meadow Brook's opening play, "Merry Wives of Windsor," merits the highest recognition for the year's best costumes.

After all the actors have been fitted and the costumes were neatly pressed, Jenks handed over responsibility to two other Hickeys to begin work on Meadow Brook's next play, "Scotland Road," scheduled to open in mid-January.

But neither will be far from the holiday celebration occurring on stage.

"This is a time of joy," said Jenks. "A lot of old friends come to the production, and a lot of people who might not be in any of this season's plays come back and do 'A Christmas Carol.'"

In theater, that's the closest thing to running like clockwork.

Treasure from page E1

sleeves of their ethnic costumes. Seven dancers personify a rainbow of colors, seen so often on the grassland of Qinghai plateau.

The dance Flowers and Youth in a Han Chinese dance "to express the true meaning of love

through a composition of gentle, graceful movements."

Tickets for "Bell and Drum of the Plateaus" are \$20, \$30 and \$40. For more information, call (248) 852-1886 or (248) 649-9844. Seasholm is at 2436 West Lincoln Road.

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Center holds festive holiday events

From youth theater, Judy Collins, to Gemini, there are lots of entertaining ways to celebrate the holidays in Southfield.

Youth Theater

The New Millennium Youth Theatre Company will perform Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairy-tale, "The Snow Queen," 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28 Dec. 12 and Dec. 19 at the Millennium Centre, 15600 J. L. Hudson Dr. (between Eight and Nine Mile Roads), Southfield. Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$4 for groups of 10 or more. Call (248) 552-1225.

Members of the New Millennium Youth Theatre Company, who come from all over metro Detroit, have been rehearsing since September. They will put on a show your family will remember for years," said Chris Guyotte.

Judy Collins

Judy Collins will perform a holiday concert at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24360 Southfield Road, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 per person, and available by cash or check at Southfield City Hall, 20000 Evergreen Road, at the main reception desk, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or at the Parks & Recreation Building, 28000 Evergreen Road 5-7 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster ticket centers, or call (248) 645-6666.

The Golden Mushroom is offering a special pre-concert dinner at 6 p.m. before the Judy Collins concert. The dinner is \$25 per person and begins with chilled chicken smoked chicken breast on mixed field greens, red wine vinaigrette, crumbled blue cheese and avocado.

Diners can choose between two main courses - smoke-roasted beef tenderloin with roasted garlic whipped potatoes, grilled vegetables and wild mushroom gateaux, or bronzed Atlantic salmon on lemon risotto with artichokes and tomatoes.

Dessert will be chocolate French flourless torte with strawberry sauce and mint cream. Call the Golden Mushroom (248) 559-4230 for dinner reservations.

In this concert, Collins will share her joy of the holiday season. Her concerts are well-known for creating a warm, enjoyable evening filled with traditional and new songs for Hanukkah and Christmas. She will be accompanied by the Southfield-Lathrup Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Robert A. Martin.

Her recordings of "Both Sides Now," "Amazing Grace," and

"Send in the Clowns," stand as classics for all time. Her 24 albums have sold millions of copies and have been certified gold and platinum.

Gemini

Internationally acclaimed children's folk singing duo, Gemini, will appear at the Millennium Centre in Southfield 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 for their annual Family Holiday Concert.

Winner of multiple Parent's Choice awards for their recordings, Gemini will perform songs from around the world and showcase the holidays of Christmas, Kwanza and Hanukkah as well as many cultures.

The Ann Arbor based twins have been performing and recording for more than 20 years.

Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$5 for groups of 10 or more, call (248) 552-1225.

Music Hall offers new Broadway series

(PRNewswire) - The concept of a Broadway series has been taken one step further. Olympia Entertainment and Don Thumrich in association with The Music Hall Theatre announce Detroit's 1999 Just Off-Broadway Series at the Music Hall, bringing you the best in world-

class entertainment straight from New York to Detroit.

The inaugural season begins Jan. 26-31 with Cirque Imaginaire. Penn & Teller complete their most successful season ever in a rare stage appearance from March 16-21, and "FAME - the Musical," completes its progress-

ion from hit movie, to TV series, to the hottest new musical of the decade, April 27-May 2.

Series subscriptions (\$68-\$115 for all three shows) for the Just Off-Broadway Series are on sale now. Call (313) 955-3030. To purchase group tickets (20 or more) call (313) 471-3099. Series

subscription prices range from \$68 to \$115.

Individual tickets for the first show of the series Cirque Imaginaire will go on sale December 14. For information contact Olympia Entertainment guest information at (313) 983-6611.

Dancer from page E1

School graduate, Rysdale tried out three times in San Francisco and Las Vegas before being asked to join the troupe.

"The first time I auditioned I walked into the audition really, really wanting the job. I got psyched up too high. I wasn't prepared for the disappointment," she explained.

But she did have enough confidence to give it another go.

"If you're ready to give up after one audition, you shouldn't be in this business. I knew it just by timing and just a matter of them seeing me and knowing that I wanted the job. I even heard of one of the line captains in the past who auditioned seven or eight times before getting hired."

The auditions, she said, were rigorous.

"They were very, very military. There were at least, I'd say, 160 girls there and they teach you a routine in two seconds and you have to pick it up as quick as possible," Rysdale explained.

The dancers were judged on a variety of categories including accuracy, how fast they learn the routines, and the strength of their backgrounds.

"That's all in a matter of four

'I hate to use the word 'military' but it is so military. There is no style. You can't just add a couple heads or a couple hips ... they're so particular. For this dance you have to have your thumb back, the next step you have to have it forward. They say if it's uncomfortable, you're doing it right'

Tracy Rysdale
Rockette

minutes. You have to look very confident, be confident in ballet, jazz and tap, and look like you are enjoying yourself. You're nervous and you're scared but they also have to see that you want to perform and that you want the job," she said.

The Las Vegas audition was the winner. For 3 1/2 years she had been a line captain for the American Superstars tribute to impersonators show at the Flamingo Hilton in Reno, Nev. When she got the call in June, she took a leave from that position and flew home to Michigan.

"The Radio City Christmas Spectacular Starring The Rockettes" runs from Friday, Nov. 27,

through Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Last year Rysdale watched the show from the audience, now she's a part of it.

"It's just so breathtaking. I go to church and I'm very into God. It's such an inspiration. It's absolutely beautiful," she said of the show.

The "Christmas Spectacular" is a variety-type show that features The Rockettes, its cast and live animals staging the "Living Nativity." Teddy bears dance in Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." There are a few new twists as well.

"We have now renditions of some of the numbers. We've switched some of the choreography. Overall, it's a Christmas spectacular."

The show involves a lot more than the trademark kicks, she added.

"The kicks are always the big thing for most people. But there is so much more to this show. You have to be disciplined to be able to mirror all 18 girls. You don't have your own style. The only style you have is your face," Rysdale explained.

"I hate to use the word 'military' but it is so military. There is no style. You can't just add a couple heads or a couple hips ... they're so particular. For this dance you have to have your thumb back, the next step you have to have it forward. They say if it's uncomfortable, you're doing it right."

One of the biggest challenges for Rysdale is working with props.

"You have to have a background in ballet, jazz and tap but you're also flipping wreaths and holding up canes, dancing on props, tapping with boxes and twirling sticks," she said.

"Never in my life have I ever worked with a prop. These things are 10 to 15 pounds each. I'm using muscles I never thought I had."

When she's not rehearsing for "Radio City Christmas Spectacular" starring The Rockettes, she teaches master classes at her former studio, The Dance Place in Waterford.

"I tell the girls, don't give up and don't think that you're not good enough. You are. One day it will be you. They're all going to audition now so they know it's hard business. But you have to be strong."

After the "Christmas Spectacular" ends its run, she will return to her position as line captain in Reno, Nev.

"I'll probably do that for another year. But I'll leave my schedule open for the next 'Christmas Spectacular.'"

"It's so much fun. I was telling my mom my feet are tired, everything aches. But I can't wait to do it again tomorrow."

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