

# 8 days a week

## A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

### THEATER

**DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
"Ad Altare Dei (Unto the Altar of God)," John Shea's play about faith, beauty and a priest who uses a hockey stick to straighten out sinners, through Dec. 31, at the theater, 13103 Woodward, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, \$15. (313) 868-1347 or DetRepTh@aol.com

**GEM THEATRE**  
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," through Jan. 3, at the theater's new location, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays (\$27.50), 8 p.m. Thursdays (\$27.50), 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays (\$32.50), 2 p.m. Sundays (\$27.50) and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$49.50). (313) 963-9800

**JET**  
"Resident Alien," an intergalactic comedy of love and acceptance by Stuart Spencer, through Jan. 3, at the theater, 6000 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. (248) 788-2900 or http://comet.org/jet

**MEADOW BROOK THEATRE**  
"Having Our Say," opens Jan. 6 and continues through Jan. 31 at the theater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Call (248) 377-3300 for ticket information.

### COLLEGE

**WSU HILBERRY THEATRE**  
"Scapin," in rotating repertory to Feb. 3; Charles Dickens' classic "A Tale of Two Cities," runs in rotating repertory to March 4, at the theater, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. \$10-\$17. (313) 577-2972

### COMMUNITY

**THE ACTORS' COMPANY**  
"Agnes of God," John Pielmeier's gripping adult drama, Jan. 8-10, 15-16, and 22-23, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sunday, at the Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile, between I-75 and Haggerty, Livonia. (248) 988-7032

**BIRMINGHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS**  
"Deathtrap," a mystery thriller, Jan. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-23, 8 p.m. evenings, 2 p.m. Sunday matinees, at the theater 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. \$12. \$10 children age 18 and under. (248) 644-2075

**RIDGEDALE PLAYERS**  
"The View from Here," a comedy a woman trapped in her house by agoraphobia, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Jan. 8, 9, 15-16 and 22-23, and 3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 17 and 24. \$11. \$10 seniors/students at Sunday performances. (248) 988-7049

### DINNER THEATER

**BACI ABBRACCI ITALIAN CHOPHOUSE**  
"Tony n' Tina's Wedding," an interactive theatre show with patrons having an Italian dinner, and dancing to a live band performing traditional Italian wedding songs, has an opening run, at the restaurant, 40 W. Pike St., Pontiac. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays. \$50 Thursdays and Sundays, \$55 Fridays and Saturdays, in advance at 8 W. Lawrence St., Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

### YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

**MARQUIS THEATRE**  
"Cinderella," 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at the theater, 135 E. Main St., Northville. \$8.50. (248) 349-8110

**VILLAGE PLAYERS**  
"Cinderella," 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at the theater, 752 Chestnut, south of Maple, east of Hunter, Birmingham. \$8 Wednesday and Saturday, free Thursday to anyone with a \$7 First Night Birmingham button. (248) 644-2075

**WILD SWAN THEATRE**  
"The Cricket in Times Square," through Saturday, Jan. 2, Anderson Theatre at Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. (734) 763-7873/(734) 995-0530/(248) 645-6666

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**DETROIT SOCIETY FOR GENETIC RESEARCH**  
Presents a special program consisting of a tour through the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the museum, Warren Avenue and Frederick Douglass Avenue, Detroit. Limited to 100 people, pre-registration is required. (734) 722-6305

**METRO-DETROIT WOODWORKING**



On stage: The Village Players of Birmingham present 'The Actors' Company, a professional children's theatre troupe, performing 'Cinderella,' a magical musical for the whole family, 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 during First Night '99 at the Village Players Theatre, 752 Chestnut St. (south of Maple, east of Hunter), and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2. Tickets for the Thursday performance included with \$7 First Night button admission. Saturday performance tickets \$8. Call (248) 644-2075 for information.

## Greet 1999 at First Night in downtown Birmingham

Welcome the new year at First Night '99, a celebration of the arts for the whole family in downtown Birmingham. Buttons are \$7 per person, children five and under are free. The button provides general admission to all indoor performances at First Night venues. Countdown to 1999 in Shain Park 11:45 p.m. with Steve King and the Ditties for a Midnight Celebration. Steve King and the Ditties will also be playing in a tent in Shain Park, 8:30-9:30 p.m. and 10-11:30 p.m. Visit the Nickolodeon Game Lab in the tent at Shain Park, 4:15-6:15 p.m.

For complete program listing, visit the First Night headquarters, 725 S. Adams Suite L-17, Birmingham, or call (248) 268-9075. Program guides will be available at all First Night venues. You can also get information from the website, [www.technomasters.com/firstnight](http://www.technomasters.com/firstnight)

Free parking will be available Dec. 31 in city-owned parking garages 3:30 pm to 12:30 a.m.

Here's a sampling of First Night '99 events:

- Baldwin Library 5-6:30 p.m. - Pandora's Puppets
- 7-9:30 p.m. - Robert Jones, blues
- Birmingham City Hall 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Main Detroit Sound Company, Barbershop Quartet
- The Community House Ballroom 5-6:45 p.m. - Children's Theater of Michigan
- 7:15-9:45 p.m. - Shawn Jacobs - Amazing Egghead, comedy
- 10:45-11:45 p.m. - Sheila Landis - Trio, Music, jazz vocal
- Club Room 5:30-7:15 p.m. - Classical Bella
- 7:45-10 p.m. - Chris Linn, magic
- First Baptist Church of Birmingham Fellowship Room 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. - Brad Lowe

Puppets 8:15 - 11:30 p.m. - David Laabs, music

Sanctuary 5:15 - 7:30 p.m. - Brainstormers, theater - kids

8-11:30 p.m. - Kathy Kosins, music, R&B

■ First Church of Christ Scientist Auditorium 6:30-8:30 p.m. - The Celtic Pipes and Drums

9:30 - 11:30 p.m. - Ginka Geneva-Ortega, flutist

Downstairs 8 p.m. - Make a New Year's Banner, hands-on activity for kids

■ St. James Episcopal Church Chapel 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. - Robert Dempster, violin, guitar, vocal

8:15 - 10:45 p.m. - Paul Vondiziano, classical guitar

Sanctuary 5-7:30 and 9-9:30 p.m. - David Syme, pianist

8 - 8:30 p.m. and 10-11:30 p.m. - W. John Clement, organist

**SHOW**  
Features demonstration and sales of machinery, power and hand tools and supplies, seminars, free workshops and more, noon to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 and until 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi. \$7, children age 12 and under free. (800) 826-8257

**PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL ICE SPECTACULAR**  
The oldest and largest ice carving event in North America features professional and amateur competitions awarding over \$10,000 in prize money, a free family winter festival, Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 13-18 in downtown Plymouth. (734) 459-9157 or visit the Internet site at <http://iceonline.com/plymouthice>

### BENEFITS

**CONCEPT: CURE FASHION JAM**  
Featuring cars designed by fashion designers such as a Chevrolet Cavalier Convertible by BCBG's Max Azria, an Oldsmobile Alero by Vivienne Tam, a Chevy Venture by Nicholas Graham for Joe Boxer, a GMC Sierra by Joseph Abboud, and a

Pontiac Grand Am by Dana Buchanan, music performances and visual displays to showcase the unveiling of five one-of-a-kind vehicles from GM. Sunday, Jan. 4, Detroit Opera House, Detroit. Benefits the Alexander J. Walt Comprehensive Breast Center at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. \$125; a limited number of 12-seat boxes are \$1,500. (248) 443-5800 before Dec. 29, or (313) 861-3500 afterward.

### FAMILY EVENTS

**DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**  
Holiday Art Programs consisting of puppet shows, animal sculpture and puppet workshops, and a tour of the "Beastly Delights for Children: Animals in Ancient Art" exhibit are sure to delight the whole family 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Thursday, Dec. 29-31 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 6200 Woodward Avenue. Programs are free with recommended museum admission of \$4. \$4 children. Founders Society Members free. (313) 833-4249 or (313) 833-7900

**DOUG COTLER**  
The singer/songwriter and Grammy

### ST. NICHOLAS LIGHT DISPLAY

The Domino's Farms show includes new scenes featuring an animated nativity, animated St. Nicholas set, miniature tunnel of lights leading to indoor activities, and the 1930s Coos Cole Santa Claus 6-10 p.m. nightly through Thursday, Dec. 31, along with the more than one million lights, visitors can see live reindeer, a collection of more than 20 custom decorated Christmas trees, the 13,000 square feet Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Around the World creche exhibit, an electric train big enough to give rides to children, and a children's hands-on art area, at 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, (off Earhart Road north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor. Minimum donation \$5 Thursday. Proceeds benefit metro Detroit children and charities this holiday season. (734) 930-4430

### CLASSICAL

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
"The Bell and the Swan," selections by Haydn, Paganini, Saint-Saens, and Brahms, featuring violinist Alexander Markov, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3. Ford CenterTalks begin one hour prior to all p.m. performances, this week's host is Charles Greenwell, former WQRS music director, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$13 to \$63. (313) 576-5111

### ORGAN

**MOTOR CITY THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**  
Winter Movie Series begins with Sean Connery and Robert Shaw in "From Russia With Love," 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 (organ overture by Ron Resegh at 7:30 p.m.), and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 (organ overtures start 30 minutes earlier), at the Historic Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser Road at Grand River, Detroit. \$2.50. (313) 531-4407

### ADDITIONS

**AVON PLAYERS**  
Open auditions for five women, nine girls and one male for Lillian Hellman's adult drama "The Children's Hour," 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 and 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at the playhouse, 1185 Tienken Road, east of Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. For performances March 5-7, 12-14 and 18-20. (248) 280-0206

**BLOOMFIELD PLAYERS**  
Auditions for "Wizard of Oz," 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, for children, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, for adults. Audover High School theater, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 433-0885

### PAPER BAG PRODUCTIONS

Auditions for two casts for the musical "Jack and the Beanstalk," be prepared to sing and read from script, no appointment necessary, auditions will be taken as they arrive, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 10, at the Historic Players Club, 3321 East Jefferson, between Mt. Elliott and McDougall, Detroit. For performances Saturdays, Sundays from Feb. 27 to May 24 at the Historic Players Club. (810) 662-8118

**PLYMOUTH ORATORIO SOCIETY**  
Rehearsals begin 7:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth. "Mass in G" by Schubert, and "Gloria" by Palestrina by Bernstein will be performed. Scores may be purchased for \$7 and \$9, respectively. No auditions required. (734) 455-8353

**ZAMIR CHORALE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT**  
The independent Jewish choir holds auditions for all voice parts during open rehearsals, 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 5 and 12, at the Agency for Jewish Education, 21550 W. 12 Mile, Southfield. (313) 861-8990/(248) 851-8500

### JAZZ

**SANDRA BOMAR TRIO**  
8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, Jan. 7, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (vocal/piano/bass)

**TERRY CALIER**  
With Straight Ahead, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, in the main auditorium at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave. \$25, \$20, \$15. (313) 833-4400

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS/NICHELE RAMO/TODD CURTIS

7:30-9:30 p.m. Sundays in January at the Coffee Studio, 600 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. (734) 419-9288, \$3 cover; 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays at Encore in the Quality Inn, 1801 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 335-3790; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, at Vic's Market, 42875 Grand River

Ave., Novi. (248) 305-7333 (vocal/piano/bass)

### JAZZHEAD

As part of the Detroit Rockers game, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, Jon Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Admission charge. All ages. (248) 645-6666

### BETTY JOPLIN

9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$5. 21 and older. (734) 662-6310

### JUBILATION RUN

The New WinCo/Detroit Jazz Club in cooperation with Steak 'N Ale presents New Orleans Jazz 3-6 p.m. beginning Saturday, Jan. 9, in the lounge at 14 Mile and I-75. \$4 cover. (248) 588-4450/(248) 478-2674

### MATT MICHAELS TRIO

With Cary Kocher, vibes, 8:11-30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, with Marcus Belgrave, trumpet, 8:11-30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. (248) 474-4800

### WALLACE RONEY QUINTET

8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 1-2, Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor. \$15 in advance. 21 and older. (734) 662-8310

### HARVEY THOMPSON TRIO

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (vocal/piano/bass)

### PAUL VORNHAGEN TRIO

8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Edison's, 220 Merrill St., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 645-2150 (sax and vocals/piano/bass)

### URSULA WALKER AND BUDDY BUDSON

With Dan Kolton, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursdays at Forte, 201 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. 21 and older. (248) 594-7300

### WORLD MUSIC

**IMMIGRANT SOUNDS**  
With The Hentchen and Faz, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, Maple Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Cover charge, 18 and older. (248) 544-3030 or <http://www.themag-icbag.com> (Eastern European/rock)

### FOLK/BLUEGRASS

**JAN KRIST**  
8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, Smitty's, 222 Main St., Rochester. Free. All ages. (248) 652-1600; 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9, Jimmy's, 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Free. 21 and older. (313) 886-8101

### DANCE

**CONTRA DANCE**  
The Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance presents a benefit dance, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 (\$8, please bring an item or service to donate for a silent auction), open jam for musicians of all levels 4-6 p.m. (free), at the Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor Saline Road, south of I-94. (734) 665-7704/(734) 332-9024

**TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY**  
8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Jan. 7-8, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. \$14, \$20, \$26 and \$30. (734) 764-2538 or <http://www.ums.org>

### COMEDY

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB**  
Hector Rezzano, Frank Turner, Alyce Faye and Joey Blaskas, Thursday, Dec. 31; Kevin McPeak, Alyce Faye and Rich Higginbottom, Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 7-9 (\$12), at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, 36074 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third level improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (new). (734) 261-0555

**JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PAISANO'S**  
Norm Suss, 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2 (\$10, \$22.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3 (\$6); Maryellen Hooper, 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9 (\$12, \$24.95 dinner show package), and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10 (\$10, \$22.95 dinner show package), at the club, 5070 Schoenfeld Road, Dearborn. (313) 584-8885

**MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE**  
Dan Wilson and Kevin McPeak, Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 31-Jan. 3, at the club, 269 E. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays (\$5), 8:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursdays (\$6), 8:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays (\$12), and 7:30 p.m. Sundays (\$6). Prices subject to change. (248) 452-9900 or <http://www.comedycastle.com>

### SECOND CITY

"Dancers are a Girl's Best Friend,"