

Entertainment

Farmington Observer

(F) Page 1, Section E

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Chevy Chase stars in "Snow Day" a family comedy opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Robert Jones, host of WDET's "Blues from the Lowlands," brings a sampling of blues guitar and vocals to Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Call (313) 271-1620 for more information.

SUNDAY

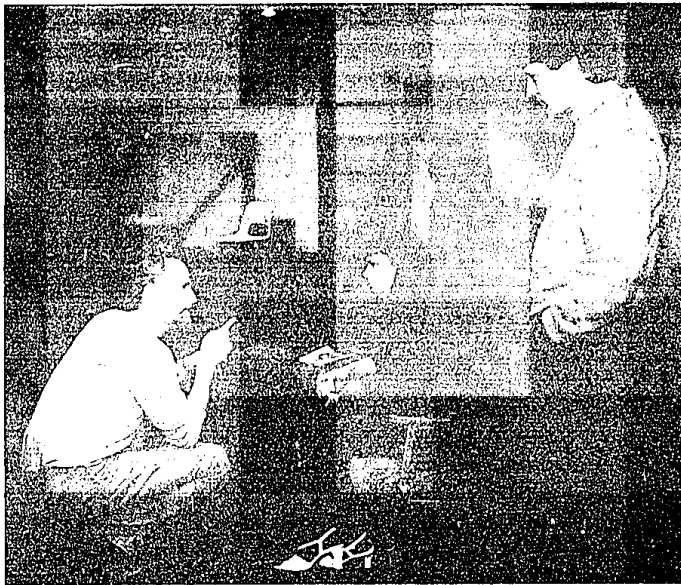


The Livonia Symphony Orchestra presents a chamber concert featuring romantic music for Valentine's Day, 3 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile Road, east of Farmington Road. Tickets \$10, call (734) 464-2741 or (248) 645-6666. Redford Civic Symphony Orchestra is also presenting a concert 3 p.m. at Hilbert Junior High School, 26400 Puritan, east of Inkster Road.



Hot Ticket Item: "Stars on Ice," featuring Olympic champions Scott Hamilton, Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Ilia Kulik, Ekaterina Gordeeva and others stops at The Palace of Auburn Hills 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Tickets \$60, \$48, and \$35 reserved available at the box office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Call (248) 645-6666 or online www.ticketmaster.com

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE PRESENTS
'ALL MY SONS'



Process of discovery: Director Henry Woronicz (left) consults with Robin Lewis and Ray Chapman during rehearsals of "All My Sons."

ARTHUR MILLER'S

CLASSIC

A CALL TO MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
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A week before the opening, and the cast of "All My Sons" was going through rehearsals with workman-like efficiency, much like the dogged style of Arthur Miller's first-acclaimed play set in World War II-era America.

While Miller's later work, "Death of a Salesman," offered an opus about the disintegrating soul of America, "All My Sons" is a winding sonata that pulls at the heartstrings that tie together the dysfunctional union of families.

The play is currently in preview performances at Meadow Brook Theatre with opening night on Saturday and a three-week run ahead.

In the ground-level rehearsal space next to the Meadow Brook stage, the actors with the guidance of Director Henry Woronicz sort through lines as they looked for the

WHAT: "All My Sons," a three-act play by Arthur Miller.

WHEN: Through Sunday, March 5. Previews: 8 p.m. Thursday Friday, Feb. 10-11; Opens: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. Performance times vary, this week, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16; 8 p.m. Thursday Friday, Feb. 17-18; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19.

WHERE: Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall, Oakland University, Rochester Hills.

TICKETS: \$19.50-\$35. Call (248) 377-3306, or (248) 370-3316.

appropriate emotional tenor of the multi-layered play.

Basically, the story involves a father whose son, a pilot, was apparently killed in action. The father, Joe Keller (Dennis Robertson), operates an airplane-parts

factory, and was responsible for approving defective material, resulting in the crash of 21 planes.

But Keller isn't taking responsibility. He denies any involvement, standing by as a foreman at the plant is convicted of the crime.

Meanwhile, guilt-ridden and tortured, the father ponders what remains steadfast in his life — his surviving son. He observes: "When you get older, you want to feel like you're accomplishing something... Well, I've accomplished my son."

The dramatic question, of course, is what is exacted when people fail to live up to their moral responsibility?

Timeless tale

Miller has created plenty of passages about generational differences, and offers a psychological portrait dissecting why people do not take responsibility for their

Please see **CLASSIC**, E2

Chronicles of the V-word

'Vagina Monologues' at OCC broadens awareness of violence against women

BY ALICE RIESEN
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Yolanda Fleischer has known about Eve Ensler's Obie award-winning play, "The Vagina Monologues," since it premiered Off-Broadway in 1996.

The West Bloomfield resident and associate professor of theater at University of Detroit-Mercy has also known that the controversy surrounding its title caused many newspapers to censor it, calling it the "V. Monologues" or simply "Monologues."

The play, based on interviews with more than 200 women, is part of a nationwide campaign to stop violence against women. It'll be performed Monday at the Oakland Community College Farmington Hills campus.

The impetus for Fleischer to direct the play came while she was eating breakfast one morning.

"When I can watch Bob Dole talking about erectile dysfunction on a morning talk show, that put it in perspective," she said.

"This play gives women the permission to talk and say, and to say diffuses the danger."

The danger is real. Every two minutes, a woman is raped somewhere in America. More than 500,000 women are raped in the United States each year according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

But for Fleischer, it goes beyond statistics. "In my 20 years of teaching, there has never been a year that I haven't had a student tell me about an experience with rape," she said.

When she heard about V-Day, Fleischer knew it was time to act. V-Day is a campaign to end sexual violence which began in New York in 1998 with a production of the series of composite interviews featuring such notable stars as Glenn Close, Winona Ryder and Calista Flockhart.

Fleischer sought assistance from Arlene Frank, program coordinator of the Womencenter at OCC. Together, the two pushed to bring the V-Day initiative to their campuses. More than 300 colleges nationwide have pledged to do the same this Valentine's Day.

Locally, the program will benefit three organizations fighting violence against women: HAVEN in Pontiac, and the Detroit-based Women Alive and Alternatives for Girls.

Frank said that even when she approached her campus about the performance, she felt it necessary to offer reassurance this was not some sort of clandestine, naughty production.

"It is very powerful," she said. "It's a chance for women to talk about things we don't often get to hear."

Please see **V-WORD**, E2

FAMILY EVENT

Rolling Stones fan will premiere his tribute to band

BY STEPHANIE ANGELO CASOLA
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When it comes to Rolling Stones fans, no one is more dedicated than Bob Harris. The 69-year-old Livonia resident takes pride in his long history working in the music business, and it was that career which led him to a chance meeting with the legendary rock band while on their first U.S. tour in 1964.

At the time, Harris was reporting for *Teen News*, a weekly newspaper. He was granted an interview with the rising stars who were performing at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

With his photographer by his side, he asked permission to take a picture with the band. That photograph has become one of his most prized possessions. For a man who's managed, promoted and worked with major talents like Wayne Newton, Bob Hope, Sonny and Cher, Bobby Vinton and The Temptations — just to name a few — he's never forgotten the details of that day almost 40 years ago.

He was even able to meet the Stones again and have the picture autographed on



Meet the Stones: Livonia's Bob Harris (right) met the Rolling Stones in 1964 on their first stop in Detroit. Keeping this photo as a memento, he met the band again last year and had it autographed. Harris has been called the oldest Rolling Stones fan.

their last stop in Detroit.

With the help of the Dearborn-based band Benny and the Jets, Harris' memories have been set to music. "Bob Harris: Oldest Rolling Stones Fan" is his story. Harris' voice can be heard talking throughout the

song, playing off Benny's lyrics. That song can be heard live at Livonia Mall as a highlight of the "Rockin' Family Valentines" extravaganza 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12. The mall is showing Harris' extensive collection of candid photographs with celebrities, including the famed Stones photo.

When Bobbi Gelman, promotions coordinator at Livonia Mall, heard Harris' story, she decided to show his souvenirs and couple the event with other family activities. Gelman said she's sure the crowd — especially parents — will enjoy the music and memorabilia. "I think it's great, very nostalgic," she added.

Benny and the Jets — including Bob's son Tony Harris on harmonica — will perform the song more than once, as well as play other original tunes.

Tony accompanied his father to meet the Stones when they were in town last year and posed a great suggestion. Bob Harris recalled:

"He went with me to meet the Rolling Stones and on the way there, he suggested

Please see **FAN**, E2

WHAT: Rockin' Family Valentines

WHEN: 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12

WHERE: Livonia Mall, 29514 Seven Mile Road, Livonia

HIGHLIGHTS: Meet Bob Harris the oldest Rolling Stones fan, and see his collection of music memorabilia; hear Benny and the Jets perform 4-8 p.m.; kids can make love bugs with Arts and Crafts 3-5 p.m.; Dream Weavers will take free digital photographs with proof of \$50 purchase from Livonia Mall stores and shoppers can win cash prizes at the mall's mystery stores. Call (248) 478-1160 for more information.