

# Entertainment

Farmington Observer

(F) Page 1, Section E

## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



Norm Stulz, Michigan's premiere story teller, performs 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. at Joe's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Admission \$12, call (734) 261-0555, or visit the Web site: [www.joescmcomedyclub.com](http://www.joescmcomedyclub.com)

### SATURDAY



The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presents "All That Jazz," featuring drummer Pete Siers, 8 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 1160 Penniman, Plymouth. Preconcert chat with director Nan Washburn and composer Harold Farberman at 7 p.m. Afterglow at the Outback Steak House, 42871 Ford, Canton. Tickets \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/college students. No charge for students through grade 12. Call (734) 451-2112.

### SUNDAY



The Phoenix Ensemble join the Gemini brothers for a magical, musical concert for children and the whole family 3 p.m. at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Festivities begin at 2 p.m. with an instrument petting zoo where children can touch and play orchestra instruments in the lobby. Tickets \$15 adults, \$10 students/children, call (734) 763-8567 or (248) 645-6666.



**Hot Ticket Alert:** The Martha Graham Dance Company will be on stage at the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in Detroit, Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 17-20. Tickets are \$30-\$60. For times and tickets, call (313) 963-2366 or (248) 645-6666.

# OLIVER!

STORY BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN • PHOTOS BY PAUL NURSCHMANN

**STREET URCHINS CONTINUE TO WARM HEARTS OF AUDIENCES**

Stacie Guerreso removed her cap to tousle what was left of her shoulder-length locks. The 12-year-old East Middle School student seemed almost matter-of-fact about "Oliver!" director Ralph Rosati cutting her hair before rehearsal. It was part of the deal if Guerreso accepted the lead role in the Plymouth Theatre Guild production, which opens Friday, Feb. 18.

Guerreso has made plenty of sacrifices since accepting her first role at age 7, Fern in "Charlotte's Web" at the Marquis Theatre in Northville. The long hours of rehearsal are well-worth the experience, including professional theater, that she's been able to list on her resume. In 1998, she played a young Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker" at Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester.

"It's still new," said Guerreso, a Farmington Hills resident who began dancing at age 3 at Encore Dance Academy in Westland. "But it's OK. The most difficult thing about the role is getting thrown around. I'm the youngest of five so I'm kind of used to it."

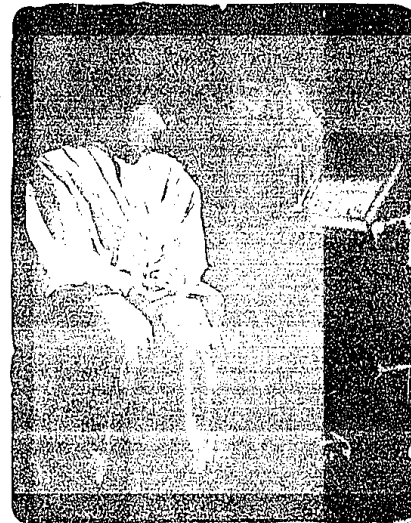
### Big production

Mary Lynn Kuna and Robert Czaplinski are teaming up to co-produce the show taken from Charles Dickens' story about an orphan who's headed for trouble unless he changes his ways. Set in the 1850s, the play by Lionel Bart, closely follows Dickens' "Oliver Twist."

"Usually musicals need two people," said Kuna, a Plymouth

### Steppin' out:

Director Ralph Rosati leads the cast members in a few steps for "Oliver!"



**Temptation:** Marc Rosati (Fagin) shows Stacie Guerreso (Oliver) some stolen goods as the two rehearse the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production about an orphan on the road to no good.

resident working on her 22nd consecutive show with the Plymouth Theatre Guild. "This is a large cast — 36 individuals including 16 children also musicians and choreographers. But we have fun. The music — there's a lot of it with familiar melodies like 'Consider Yourself' — and there's so many children in it. People like shows with children in it. They like to see shows with their children in it and bring their relatives."

This is Czaplinski's first time as co-producer so he's learning "a lot on the job." Czaplinski previously worked on the electrical and set construction for the

musical. The Plymouth Theatre Guild performs "Oliver!"

**When:** 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 18-19, Feb. 25-26 and March 3-4; and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27.

**Where:** Water Tower Theatre, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road, between Haggerty and Northville roads on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, Northville.

**Tickets:** \$12 adults, \$8 students ages 18 and under, call (248) 349-7110.

Guild's "Wait Until Dark" and "It's a Wonderful Life." "Being a co-producer is like construction," said Czaplinski of Plymouth. "You see the actors turn into the characters when they put on their clothes. But backstage has always interested me. You really get an appreciation for what it takes. Our storage space is limited so we keep reusing sets. To look at a scene or prop there's no telling how many lives it's had. All you can do is count the coats of paint."

Show choreographer Barbara Bloom designed the "Oliver" set. She's directed and choreographed over 70 shows, and was

Please see OLIVER, E2

## Dance ensemble makes 'entrance' at Smith Theatre

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
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Building on the momentum of its successful June debut at the Dance Theater Workshop in New York City, the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble is focusing on developing its local audience.

On Friday, you can see the group perform at the Smith Theatre on the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The program of repertory favorites, titled "Entrances and Exits: Dance for a New Millennium," will include works by artistic director Laurie Eisenhower and internationally known choreographers Colin Connor and Billy Siegfried.

A highlight is Siegfried's jazzy "Lunacy," an upbeat, fun new work the company commissioned earlier this year.

"I am looking forward to presenting my company once again at Oakland Community College's Smith Theatre," said artistic director Laurie Eisenhower. "It's a lovely little theater."

Eisenhower will present a section of a work in progress that takes a look at aging, and will lend her voice to "Moon Dances." This work, set to a Robert Moran composition, blends ensemble symmetry with lyrical virtuosity.

One of the more dramatic works on the program is Connor's "Pyre," set to the music of Gavin Bryars. "It's a deeper piece, a little more classical, that reflects on the impression one individual passing from this existence leaves on those remaining behind," said Anne Bak, a company member and associate manager. "But there's a real sense of

Please see ENSEMBLE, E2



**Hoofin' it:** Laura Cable (left), Darren Pierson, and Shannon Van Esley put on their dancing shoes for "A Chorus Line."

## COMMUNITY THEATER

### Actors kick up their heels in "A Chorus Line"

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Darren Pierson and Laura Cable have stars in their eyes. It may only be a dream now, but the two teenagers hope to one day dance their way onto a Broadway stage. In the meantime, they're singing up a storm in the Tinderbox Productions presentation of "A Chorus Line" opening Friday, Feb. 18 at the Masonic Temple in Detroit.

Pierson is already an old hand when it comes to theater. The Redford Thurston High School senior began acting in 1990 at the Redford Youth Theater. He's been involved with The Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford, Lunch Bunch Players and productions at his high school. He met Cable, a sophomore at Troy Athens High School, while playing Rooster in Tinderbox Productions' presentation of "Annie" earlier this year.

"I really like playing Mark Anthony in 'A Chorus Line,'" said Pierson. "He's 20 years old and this is his first audi-

**What:** Tinderbox Productions' adult ensemble presents "A Chorus Line."  
**When:** 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 18-19, Feb. 25-26, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27.

**Where:** Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, at 2nd Street, Detroit.  
**Tickets:** \$15 reserved, \$10-\$12 general admission; call (313) 535-6962.

tion. The musical is all about an audition. This is his first so it's very exciting. He's very optimistic. My favorite song is "What I Did For Love." It means a lot to me and shows what people have done for theater."

Falling in love with Val, the girl next to him in "A Chorus Line" came easy to Pierson as an actor. He did the show last year with The Theatre Guild of Livonia Redford. Tinderbox Productions' adult ensemble, in cooperation with Turn-Witmark, is presenting the original Broadway show directed and

choreographed by Michael Bennett. "The challenge for me is the ballet," said Pierson. "I haven't had much ballet. It's cool. I just wish I could do it better."

Cable is still adjusting her schedule to accommodate rehearsals for the show directed by Stephanie Stephens. The adult ensemble is practicing its steps every day.

"You have to make time for it," said Cable. "But I love theater. It's the sense that anything can happen because you have live people in front of you performing."

Cable plays Judy Turner in her second Tinderbox Production. Unlike the characters in "A Chorus Line," Cable was new at auditioning when she won a role in "Annie." Ballet studies since kindergarten helped her secure the part.

"It's been a challenge learning all the dances and polishing it up in time," said Cable. "Darren and other people in

Please see KICK UP, E2