

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Camps make art cool this summer

Given a choice, most kids would love to tackle Shakespeare. At least that's been Marcey Walsh's experience as producer of the Clarkston-based Michigan Youth Theater. Walsh and troupe director Lisa Hodge-Kander prove that theory again this summer when they bring a two-day workshop to Farmington Hills. It's just one of many art camp offerings for kids this summer.

Fun with Shakespeare

The Michigan Youth Theater is becoming well known in the area having performed at the Dickens Festival in Holly and the Michigan Renaissance Festival. For the first time this year, they'll introduce Shakespeare to crowds at the Detroit Festival of the Arts and Noel Night in the University Cultural Center.

"We've been working with students in Oakland County eight years doing Shakespeare in literacy programs in schools and street theater," said Walsh. "In the youth theater the kids have a choice of what they'd like to do but they always choose Shakespeare. Shakespeare was an actor so he made sure he always had a good scene."

The two-day theater workshop (9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday-Friday, July 6-7) allows students to learn from kids their own age. It's a fun way for kids ages 7-17 to develop a love for the bard's words and maybe even go on to join the youth troupe after auditions in fall. In addition to theater games, improvisation, costume, songwriting and scene writing, students will learn stage fighting from Ring of Steel, an Ann Arbor based group with 17 feature films to its credit.

"They did all the choreography for combat scenes in *Hook* for Robin Williams," said Walsh. "They show how to do safe stage combat. They bring all their armor. The kids have a blast. We break down the barriers. People think it takes years to do Shakespeare but it can be done in 10 minutes. It's all about love triangles and fighting."

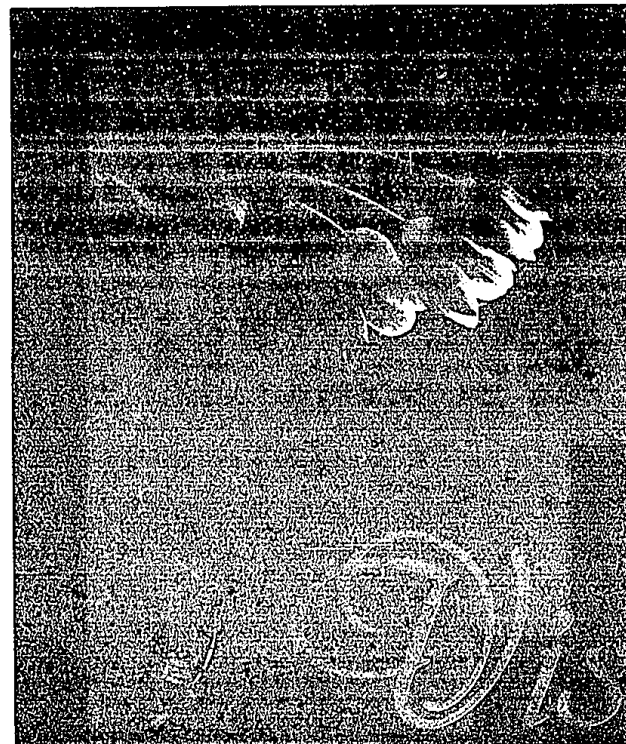
Along with the theater workshop, the city of Farmington Hills will for the first time offer an array of art programs this summer including "Watercolor Go Wild" with visiting artist Barb Cichelli from Blackberry Mountain Studio (teens and adults), *Castles and Dragons*, *Art From Many Lands* and *Book Making*. A mom, pop and tot class lets children make projects with a parent, grandparent or older sibling.

"We're hoping to build the workshop into a youth theater program with the Farmington Players," said Nancy Coumoundouros, coordinator of the newly-formed Cultural Arts Division for the city. "We're just beginning to develop our arts programming."

Plymouth Community Arts Council

Have a budding musician, artist or actor in your midst? The Plymouth Community Arts Council is offering a little bit of everything to make the dog days of summer a little cooler. Students, ages 5-15, in a performing arts workshop presented by the White Stop Players will learn to sing, dance, act and produce their own show 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 19-23, July 17-21 and Aug. 14-18. And to make sure no one is left out, scholarships are available "for kids in need."

"It's like a summer tradition," said arts council executive director Jennifer Tobin. "We even have cousins come from out of state to do it. We give them a good sense of what it is to be an artist."



Three tulips: This hand-colored image by Richard Schott won an Honorable Mention in the 1999 Fine Arts Competition at the Michigan State Fair.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Leo Price spent several weeks getting a photograph of a caterpillar after he found it branching on his garden one day. Taken with its color and form, the Livonia resident brought the moth larvae into the basement, made it a home out of a coffee can and fed it maple leaves until the moment was right.

Photography's a passion that members of the Livonia Camera Club take seriously. "It took a while because I tried to get the caterpillar on an arch, not

lying in a straight line on a leaf," said Price, a Livonia resident. "I like the creativity of photography. You'll be driving in the countryside and see a barn window with ivy growing across it and see if you can make a picture of it. But after 15 years I got tired of doing the same old things so I began working with colored pencil and oils to hand-color works."

Experimentation

It's evident by looking at the current exhibit by the Livonia Camera Club that many of the members like experimenting with photography. "Personal Visions," a more than 40-

piece show focusing on nature, architecture, still life, portraiture, and landscape, demonstrates a variety of styles and techniques used by the lensmen who range in age from 30 to 80.

From Larry Bollella's photograph of a rainbow shining through a dark and rainy above St. John's Seminary to Larry Diggs' image of Greenmead Historical Village in winter, members capture the beauty of subjects as they try out new methods.

Donald Getschman gives an impressionistic look to a hand-colored black and white photo of the Cotswold Gardens at Greenfield Village. Droplets looking like rain add an interesting touch to Price's photograph of a bather on a beach. Price created the image by taking a photograph of his photograph after introducing a pain of glass, sprinkled with water, between the lens and print. A sepia tone added to a black and white print of a vintage airplane makes it look as if it were taken early in the 20th century. Images enhanced with chemical stains, colored pencils and oils attract the viewer with their drama.

"I like experimenting," said Richard Schott, a Plymouth resident whose hand-colored tulips won an honorable mention in the 1999 Fine Arts Competition at the Michigan State Fair. "You can change the feeling of the photograph just by changing the color. A good color photograph shows the appearance of a person. A good black



Developing story: Leo Price spent several weeks getting this photograph of a caterpillar which he found in his garden.

Livonia Camera members make their art personal

visions

What: Members of the Livonia Camera Club exhibit their "Personal Visions" at the Livonia Camera Club. Through Friday, June 30. Hours are 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday. Where: Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, east of Farmington Road.

and white shows the soul." Like the majority of club members, Schott's interest in photography grew from his hobby of taking family snapshots. He became serious about the medium after joining the Livonia Camera Club 10 years ago.

"Livonia has a little more tendency to be competitive and I was interested in learning," said Schott. "You don't necessarily need a lot of expensive equipment. One of our members uses a simple point-and-shoot camera. It's the photographer's ability to concentrate and be able to see."

New horizons

Frank Adams agrees with Schott that it's the "eye" of the photographer, not the equipment, that develops a strong composition. Adams is happy to see that the club finally accepted digitally-manipulated prints into the competition last year. It allowed him to create "Satan's Stallions." The digitally manipulated print is alive with color and motion.

"On the computer I can do more creative things that I can't do in the darkroom," said Adams, a Farmington Hills resident who's worked in the medium seriously for 20 years, part of the time as a commercial photographer shooting portraits and weddings. "With the horses, I first photographed the carving of a single horse then elongated it, added two more heads and color. Finally, I added fire to the

Please see VISIONS, C8



Wildfire: Frank Adams manipulated a photograph of a single horse into this abstract work he calls "Satan's Stallions."

PERFORMING ARTS

Festival spotlights hottest new works

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

The Performance Network deserves a round of applause for bringing adventurous local works to the stage for a second summer.

In keeping with its mission as a professional theater showcasing the "hottest contemporary works" from September to May, the theater hosts a series of summer productions focusing on the newest plays, performance art and dance, weekends through Sunday, Aug. 27.

"We're trying to get a diverse group of works going that wouldn't get a chance to be seen other places," said David Wolber, co-producer of the festival. Wolber plays one of the

alien abductees in *Science Friction*, a comedy by Joseph Zettlemeyer. "They're basically all new works with a variety of styles from Elizabethan to modern. The idea is to facilitate new work and to give local groups a chance to produce those works."

Plymouth actor Rob Sulewski is having fun playing the psychiatrist in Ian Lawler's *The Session*, one of the two one-act comedies that look at the meaning of reality June 18-19.

"It's a nutty work about this fellow who discovers a woodchuck in his backyard who's unearthing his flowers and moving bricks around," said Sulewski. "It ends up being war-like. It's a funny play that pokes fun at therapists."

Reality seems to be a favorite theme of Lawler, who examines it again in the second comedy *Cage Din*. Winner of a 1998 Hopwood playwriting award, Lawler has written three plays since earning a bachelor's degree in the creative performing arts at the University of Michigan.

"It's definitely a fun evening," said Lawler, who directs the comedy that erupts around a wood-

Please see FESTIVAL, C8



Crossing 8-Mile: Sean Widener and members of the Mosaic Youth Theatre update Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors."