

ENTERTAINMENT

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Movie Review Inside

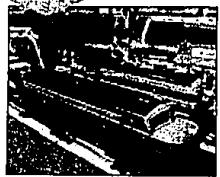
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Steve Nardella plays the blues 7 p.m. at Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills. The show is open to all ages and free. Call (248) 644-4800.

SATURDAY



Model and toy train enthusiasts are welcome 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the Detroit Historical Museum's fifth annual Glancy Train Show. Admission \$4.50 adults, \$2.25 senior citizens and students 12 to 18, and free for children under 12. Call (313) 833-1805.

SUNDAY



Steven Soderbergh's latest film, *Traffic*, is playing in metro area theaters. Catherine Zeta-Jones stars as Helena Ayala, the unknowing and pampered wife of a drug baron.

HOT TICKET



Art and contemporary culture collide in K. N. Samaan's *Art and Contemporary Culture: A Celebration of Detroit's Recent Exhibitions in Media and Contemporary Art*, on display through Jan. 14 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, 313-962-3600. Call (313) 962-3601.

DANCE

Peter Sparling dancers stop 'Traffic' with new work

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Peter Sparling marvels at the speed dancers move across the stage in *Traffic*. The new work dissects the colors red, yellow and green as dancers travel through a series of urban and rural landscapes.

This is the first time members of the Peter Sparling Dance Company have choreographed a work and Tim Smola, a Gardon City dancer, couldn't be more excited. He plotted out the cautious segment of the triptych titled *Yellow*. Lisa Catrett-Belrose creates a passionate, pulse-driven portrait of contemporary life in *Red*. Julianne O'Brien Pederse's *Green* is definitely a go as dancers leap at break-neck speeds across the stage.

Traffic
What: Peter Sparling Dance Company performs the world premiere of work choreographed by three of its members.
When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 11-13, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14.
Where: Performance Network, Ann Arbor.
Ticket: \$17 on Thursday-Saturday, \$12 Friday-Sunday.
Call (734) 663-0881.



Caution: Tim Smola choreographed this dance titled "Yellow." It is one of three sections in "Traffic," a new work by the Peter Sparling Dance Company.

its dynamic moves and steps, races into the Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor Jan. 11-14 as part of the Fireside Festival of New Work. The world premiere of *Traffic* is one of three works on the program which includes *Possibilities* and *Orfeo Suite*, both

choreographed by Sparling. *Orfeo Suite* offers two selections from a full-length production of Gluck's opera *Orfeo and Euridice*.

Commissioning company dancers to create *Traffic* gave Sparling the opportunity to choreograph the opera he

Anti-Freeze Blues Festival heats up

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
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Frigid temperatures in Ferndale can mean only one thing — it's time to turn up the heat and kick back with some blues.

The Anti-Freeze Blues Festival, an annual endeavor of Ferndale's Magic Bag, means more than just two sizzling nights of blues. It's also the biggest fund-raiser of the year for the Detroit Blues Society, an organization dedicated to keeping the blues tradition alive in the metro area.

Headlining this year's festival are Louisiana-born bluesman Lonnie Brooks and the "father of rock 'n' roll piano" himself Johnnie Johnson. Accompanying these legends are a host of local talents that range in age from the Detroit's original dive, Thermetta Davis, to the jump blues of The Millionaires, from The Alligators to R.J.'s Blues Revue, which features the vintage voice-work of Stanley Mitchell, Joe Weaver and Kenny Martin.

Coming up with a lineup like this takes careful consideration. "We start to talk about what headliners we'd like to have, who has CDs coming out," said Jeremy Haberman, owner of the Magic Bag and Royal Oak resident. "We try to make it fair for the local blues musicians."

It's the perfect spot to come in out of the cold. Howe's Bayou will provide Cajun fare to accompany the music. Originally called the Deep Freeze Blues Festival, it comes around every year at the onset of the Michigan winter. Two years ago, a heavy snowstorm forced organizers to cancel the second night of the event. But bad weather never stops Haberman, R.J. Spangler, chairman of the Detroit Blues Society, and guitarist Jeff Grand, who collaborate to bring together the best in local and national blues each year. "At this time of year, this type of festival can definitely be successful," said Haberman.

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Anti-Freeze Blues Festival
Where: 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 5-6.
Where: Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward and Royal Oak Ave., Ferndale.
Tickets: \$20 each night; call (248) 544-3030.



Johnnie Johnson, the "father of rock 'n' roll piano"

Please see DSO, B2

began working on while taking a sabbatical from teaching dance at the University of Michigan. *Orfeo and Euridice* will be performed May 19 in a workshop which includes students from the university's School of Music. The work will have its world premiere as part of the University Musical Society series in November at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

"The idea for *Traffic* was to challenge the dancers dramatically but also aesthetically," said Sparling who spent his teen years in Plymouth. "They really move. They hardly have time to catch their breath."

Written in three sections, the work explores contemporary social patterns.

"I commissioned them to freely associate on traffic and the three colors of the traffic light," said Sparling who was a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company for seven years before beginning his own company in New York in the early 1980s. "I wanted to celebrate the invention of the traffic light which was first implemented on the streets of Detroit in 1928. I thought it was an appropriate way to celebrate Detroit's 300th birthday because of the

Please see SPARLING, B2