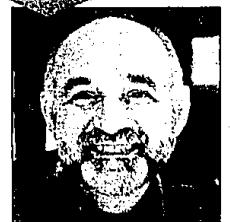


## THE WEEKEND



Jason Smith of Garden City and Kelly Rossi star in "Dancing at Lughnasa," opening tonight at Wayne State University's Bonstelle Theatre. Curtain 8 p.m., tickets \$8-\$10, call (313) 577-2960.

## SATURDAY



Canton Project Arts presents a Storytelling Festival featuring Syd Lieberman and other storytellers at Summit on the Park in Canton, 1 p.m. show recommended for ages 4 and up, tickets \$3; 7:30 p.m. performance for adults, tickets \$5. Call (734) 397-6450.

## SUNDAY



You'll find lots of vacation ideas at the Camper, Travel & RV Show 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Pontiac Silverdome. Admission \$6.50 adults, \$3 children (ages 6-14), no charge for children age 5 and younger, call (248) 456-1600.



New talent: Eddie from Ohio defies description with their blend of vocals and acoustic instrumentation.

## FOLK HELPS KEEP THE ARK AFLOAT



PHOTO BY ROBERT CORWIN

Long-standing tradition: Peter Yarrow headlines the 24th annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival, a major fund-raiser for The Ark.

## Folk festival carries on tradition of spotlighting new talent

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
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**P**eter Yarrow's music continues to create bridges and empower people by addressing human rights and societal issues. So it should come as no surprise that when Joan Baez had to cancel an appearance at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival due to an illness in her family, Yarrow stepped in to headline the major fund-raiser for the nonprofit Ark, an Ann Arbor concert venue that promotes upcoming acoustic musicians with lyrics as powerful as his.

Yarrow seems to be there whenever a call goes out for help. A social activist as well as a singer-songwriter and member of the legendary trio Peter, Paul & Mary, Yarrow co-organized the 1969 peace march on Washington, D.C., to stop the Vietnam War, and participated in Civil Rights marches. He's most proud to have been there for Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech and to have been on the front lines of the Civil Rights, peace and environmental movements, and later to fight apartheid.

### Empowering

Music empowers people to initiate social change and nurturing new songwriters to take up the pen is a necessary part of continuing the activism spawned in the 1960s.

"Folk music celebrates love and artistic traditions, and the losses, surprises, and joys," said Yarrow. "Songs like *Blowing in the Wind*, *If I Had a Hammer* gave the Civil Rights movement a central focus and to realize we're all in this together. The early '60s Folk Renaissance became part of the emotional underpinnings of the country. I'll be singing many songs from that time. The spirit I'll be bringing to the stage is in the tradition of Pete Seeger, Josh White, Burl Ives."

### Stop the violence

Never one to rest on past accomplishments, Yarrow will sing one of the songs from his latest battle to stop violence among children in schools. His fee for performing at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival will

go toward furthering the curriculum-related *Don't Laugh at Me* program. Founded three years ago, *Don't Laugh at Me*, which is also the title of a song, brings character education into the classroom. It helps young people develop skills to resolve conflicts while respecting their peers. And it accomplishes these tasks with music — a staple in Yarrow's life along with working for social change.

That's why fund-raisers such as the Jan. 27 festival for The Ark hold a special place in his heart. Yarrow served on the board of the Newport Folk Festival which introduced emerging artists like Buffy St.

Marie because at the time "there was no place on stage for these folks." It's also the reason he co-founded the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas 25 years ago.

### Honored

"I'm honored to be able to be there in Ann Arbor," said Yarrow. "I have a long standing commitment to traditional music and new performers who contin-

ue to enrich it with authentic reflection of their feelings. Folk music is written from the heart. Folk music has had a very important role to play in America for a long time."

The music continues to speak to the younger generation as well as the old at concerts such as the Ann Arbor Folk Festival Saturday, Jan. 27 at Hill Auditorium. In addition to Yarrow, Richard Thompson along with Weavermania, Eddie From Ohio, Todd Snider, Chris Buhala, Dave Carter and Tracy Grammer, Connie Kaldor, David Wilcox, and Plymouth's own Matt Watroba will take to the stage to carry on the tradition.

### New acts

"I always gets more excited about the new acts," said Dave Siglin, artistic director for the festival and The Ark. "Richard Thompson is a tremendous guitarist and songwriter but I like introducing unknowns like Todd Snider because they can appear before 4,000 people and knock them out. We'll have artists like Eddie from Ohio, and David Wilcox, who's kind of a James

Please see FESTIVAL, B2

**Ann Arbor Folk Festival**  
What: This major fund-raiser for The Ark features Peter Yarrow, Richard Thompson and upcoming artists such as Eddie from Ohio  
When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27  
Where: Hill Auditorium, 825 North University, Ann Arbor  
Tickets: \$25-\$35, call (734) 763-7475 or (248) 645-0888

## THEATER

## TinderBox Productions follows the yellow brick road to fun

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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Joseph Garreffa lets out a roar that ends in a whimper. The role of the cowardly Lion comes easy to the 19-year-old Redford resident. He originally began honing his acting skills after joining TinderBox Productions in 1990. Since then, Garreffa's performed in dozens of musicals and taken part in plays at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia and Michigan Opera Theatre productions of *The Magic Flute* and *Aida*.

Garreffa isn't expecting to have the jitters when TinderBox Productions' *Wizard of Oz* opens Saturday, Jan. 27 at Masonic Temple in Detroit. He'll feel downright comfortable in the 1960-like psychedelic lion costume with flying mane.

### Fun

"The part of the lion is fun," said Garreffa, a student at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. "I feel somewhat that it was unexpected. It fits a lot of me, like when he's a real human being. What I like best about the *Wizard of Oz* is they're all looking for something they think they don't have and then realize they had it all the time."

Courtney Kasperowicz's favorite part of the musical, popularized by the 1939 MGM film version starring Judy Garland, is wearing a pink dress for her role as a Munchkin. Like Garreffa, the 8-year-old Redford resident has plenty of experience. This is her seventh production with TinderBox and she's playing several parts including an Emerald City townspeople.

"I like being a Munchkin," said Kasperowicz, a third-grader at Fisher Elementary School. "You have to be little and have a squeaky voice and be a good dancer. I take jazz (dance classes) at school. I think dancing is cool because you can jump up in the air."

Kirk Kasperowicz doesn't worry about his daughter messing up a dance step in the *Wizard of Oz* or even getting stage fright as much as he does



Off to see the *Wizard*: Darren Pierson (left), (Scarecrow), Jody Florkowski, (Tin Man), Joseph Garreffa, (Lion), and Maggie Keenan-Bolger, (Dorothy), take a trip down the yellow brick road.

about Bridget, the family dog. Bridget, who's joining Courtney and son Cole, 5 on stage as Toto, has already jumped into the audience. That little problem aside, Kirk is looking forward to the production which has become some-

what of a family affair. Kirk has acted in a number of plays including *The Little Princess*. His wife helps teach the acting classes.

"It's amazing the talent you see in acting classes."

Please see WIZARD, B3

**HOT**

**Elmo and his pals from Sesame Street Live bring their musical production, The Muppet Show Day Camp, to the Fox Theatre in Detroit. Performances: Jan. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Tickets: \$10-\$15 and \$18. Call (313) 577-2960 for more info.**