## Phantom from page B1

catacombs of the Paris Opera House. He falls in love with Christine, an innocent soprano, and nurtures her talent as an "Angel of Music." Christine falls in love with Raoul, and the Phantom is outraged.

"The Phantom is a misunder-stood character," said Keegan.
"He has his own concept of right and wrong, and is never accepted by society."

### So many things to love

Romance, pyrotechnics, dancing, humanity, magic, spectacle, beauty, gorgeous costumes, music, there are so many things to love about "The Phantom of the Opera."

"There is humanity in the show that touches people," said Keegan. "It's very clearly written and easy to understand."

Winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, "The Phantom of the Opera" has mesmerized U.S. audiences since it opened in New York on Jan. 26, 1988.

"I think it's the mystery of the story," said Pitcher. "It's full of love, growth, it's just magical, it's a spectacle, people see it, and want to be a part of it."

That's certainly the case for Keegan and Pitcher, who both saw the play while they were in college and decided then that the Phantom and Christine were roles they wanted to play. "It was a dream," said Pitcher.

remember saying, 'Man this

I 'I think it's the mysm'i think it's the mys-tery of the story. It's full of love, growth, it's just magleal, it's a spectacle, people see it, and want to be a part of it.'

Rebecca Pitcher

is a show I would love to do and six years later I was doing it," recalled Keegan.

"The story itself is amazing; you'll fall in love with the characters," said Pitcher. "The Phantom is trying to capture and hold Christine. It's kind of like when your parents don't want to let go of you. Christine is really confused."

### Ted Keegan Sings

In addition to his work as the Phantom, Keegan recently recorded a CD "Ted Keegan Sings" featuring some of his favorite songs, including "Music of the Night."

To find out more about it, visit www.tedkeegan.com

"Phantom of the Opera" is directed by Harold Prince, and presented by The Cameron Mackintosh/Really Useful The-atre Company.

The City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department presents

## Ice Company 2001 April 25 - 29

Please plan to join us for our 30th (and final) ice skating spectacular, ice Company 2001!

For the past 29 years, some of the most skilled figure skaters in the Midwest and Canada have taken part in this one-of-a-kind show, many of em are returning for this special performance featuring former World Professional and U.S. Open winner Scott Williams!

Wed., April 25, Thur., April 26 & Fri., April 27

7:30 p.m. Sat., April 28 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sun., April 29 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$9.50 - \$8.50

Southfield Sports Arena, 26000 Evergreen Road

For tickets or information call Søuthfield (248) 354-9357



## Vaudeville from page B1

scene. My character is complete-ly broken down. The dog was his only companion in life."

The audience won't be in tears for long if David Thompson is anything like his character, Tim O'Reilly. The 30-something Irish tenor will have them in stitches.

"I like the role because it's not a stereotype," said Thompson of Fairhaven. "It's a brand new

character. And it's a simpler but harder time but they didn't know it because they didn't have cell phones back then."

## Keeping the nonsense rolling

Brian Johnson keeps the non-sense rolling as Jackson Wash-ington, the African American song and dance man. Johnson's

character is certain he'll make it, he'll be able to go legit if he only gets a break. Johnson knows how he feels. The Redford resident just finished playing with Wild Swan Theatre in "Along the Tracks." He has also acted with Detroit Repertary Theatre.

"He's one of the better acts," said Johnson. "I like that he's the underdog. It's a pivotal part. He doesn't go on until the final

act so he's one of the better acts. He says things like what went wrong with your wedding? The marriage."

Bloom expects a lot of the lines to bring out groans in the audi-

"Zingers go back and forth. It's what I call a groaner show. You don't really laugh you just sort of

# Enjoy a night out to help Gilda's Club

BY SHARON DARGAY

BY SHARON DARGAY
STATP WAITER
Gilda's Club, the cancer support group named after the late camedian, Gilda Radner, will trade stand-up for Motown sounds at its annual fund-raiser on May 3.

The club, based in Royal Oak, will keep the mood upbeat with Good, daneing, and music by KGB with Karen Harris, from 6:30 p.m., it of 10 p.m., at Andiamo Banquet Center, in Warren.

We looked at what we had done for the last two years and clit we wanted to take a different approach. The organization is young and doesn't want to feel locked into any one format," said Lisa Barrie, development director.

We talked about wasting to

"We talked about wanting to hold a big party where people could come to enjoy good food

MITCH

HOUSEY'S 28500 Schoolcraft

Music for dancing: KGB will keep the mood upbeat during Gilda's Big Night

■ Gilda's Big Night Out evolved from a comedy fund-raiser started in 1994 by the late Alyce Faye, a comedian and Farmington resident.

could come to enjoy good food and music.
Gilda's Big Night Out evolved from a comedy fund-raiser started in 1994 by the late Alyce Faye, a comedian and Farming-ton resident.
"It began with Alyce and bunch of volunteers, built around comedy. It morphed into the first Gilda's night out in 1999," Barrie said.
"When Gilda's Big Night Out

MONDAY, APRIL 30TH!

**LARRY NOZERO** 

QUINTET

**EVERY MÖNDAY NIGHT** 

Offering the azz Music in Town!!

hot dogs, slidors, Greektown favorites — as well as connpes and Andiamo specialties.

"It's an eelectic mix - fun junk food and Italian restaurant foods. There's an open bar."

General Motors Corporation is sponsoring the event and its chief Environmental Officer Denny Minane and his wife, Marty, will serve as honorary chairs.

Marty, will serve as honorary chairs.

The club will raffle a 2002 Buick Rendezvous, donated by General Motors, during the party, Raffle tickets are \$100 cach. Six hundred will be sold.
Gilda's Big Night Out is one of two major fund-misers that generate revenue for the club's program.

"This is responsible for almost a quarter of our budget. Our program is free, so all fund-raising is goared toward paying the bills."

Cancer patients, their friends

bills."

Cancer patients, their friends and family members, may attend weekly wellness group sessions, mentily networking groups, lectures and workshops, as well as social events, such as monthly potluck parties, for free at Gilda's Club.

"Today we've got pencil draw-

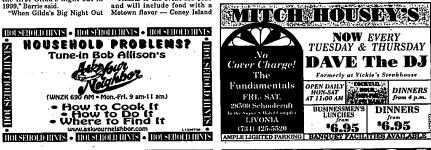
ing, a guided imagery workshop and journal workshops," Barric described a programming at the club. '11's also our monthly potluck party today. We did a Sound of Music party once and we all dressed up as nuns. '11's all rather kooky and funny and that is the essence of Gilda's House. The idea is to laugh through it all. Cancer is unfunny.'

Membera also come together for lectures and classes in more serious topics, such as developments in breast cancer treatment.

#### Making people feel at home

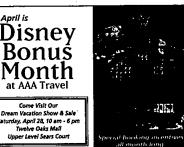
home

"We offer a lot, but it's within
the context of social and emotional support. Gilda's Club is
like being in a comfy home.
Everything here is non-medical.
People feel at home and they can
come here and take part in as
much or in as little as they want.
"Building community is what
happens hero."
Admission tickets to Gilda's
Big Night Out and car raffle
tickets are available by calling
Gilda's Club Metro Detroit at
(248) 577-0800.









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Weekdays 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Saturdays

Saturdays 8:30 am - 12:30 pm



