### Blue from page B1

designed. The kids are comfort-able with the characters."

In addition to Blue and Steve, the show will feature their friends Mailbox, Slippery Soap, Tickety Tock, Mr. Salt & Mrs. Pepper and some new characters

#### Serious about acting

Kidding aside, Miser 28, is a Kidding aside, Miser 28, is a scrious actor who enjoys working with children. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1983 with highest distinction acraing a double major in theater and English literature. He appeared in the Midwest premiere production of Lost in Yonkers, and the original awardwinning production, and Off-Broadway production, of Schoolhouse Rock Live.

He enjoys the interactive nature of Blues Clues Livel Kids play an active role in moving the play from one scene to another as they answer Stave's questions and solve Blue's Clues, Kids in the audience get a notebook to help Stave keep track of clues.

T talk to them and they talk back. Children let you know if you're doing well or poorly. They're honest. It keeps the show fresh and improvisational. If I'm not giving a 100 percent the kids won't shout an answer back, or clap."

Adults will also be enter-tained, and Miser believes they deserve to be more than chaper-ones along for the ride.

"I do a very bad Elvis and Frank Sinetra imitation," he said. "The kids just think I'm being silly."

### Falstaff

from page B1

sories of mistaken identities.

When Falstaff utters his buria — the whole world is but a jest, Verdi's final opera reaches its comedic climax.

But it wasn't just the libretto that was fun for Vordi. His orhestration, which has the tex-ture of chamber music, contains swift movements and instru-ments that double as vocal lines. It is in Falsaff where he makes the most of musical puns.

"He makes fun of Wagner and he laughs at himself, too," said Fortner.

And when Falstaff ends with what Verdi called a comic fugue, it is one of opera's finest moments.

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SWEET NOVEMBER (PG13)
FIFTEEN MINUTES (B)
SEE SPOT BURK (PG)

## 'eBay of Pigs' a laugh a minute

The Second City Detroit presents eBoy of Pigs through July 22 at the theater, 2301 Woodward Ave. Performances 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday with additional shows 1030 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Tickets \$15 Thursday and Sunday, \$20 Priday-Saturday. Call (313) 965-2222 or Ticket master (248) 645-6566.
BY KEELY WYGONIK
STATY WITHER KWYGONIK There were no "Pigs" in The Second City Detroit's 20th rovue eBoy of Pigs, unless you count Ted Nugent. Before you get all catilded. All the show, but Jeff Fritz does a grue-somely funny characterization of the Motor City icon known for his love of hunting.

This show, like other recent reductions valle as a feet size of the state of the

This show, like other recent productions, rolls at a fast clip, then gets a clever rewind at the end. You won't miss the intermission. It's over before you know it, 75 minutes passes in a flash.

Kirk Hanley of Farmington is Kirk Hanley of Farmington is a riot. As the curtain opens he educates the audience by explaining that this show is being presented by "professional" rele is at the theater. During his presentation he points to hilarious stickman figures. Hanley's talk is part of a film being shown to students at Detroit Country Day School.

#### On a roll

On a roll

Playing off of Motor City's infatuation with cars, Hanley falls into a relationship with his 'Onstar' navigator who tries to steer him in her direction. 'So is your girlfriend meeting you at the party and bringing a casserole?' she asks. You don't sea anyone, just hear the voice and Hanley pretends to be sitting behind the wheel of his car. 'No, I'm not in a relationship now,' he explains. 'Oh,' she replies sweetly, and then tegins to try and control his every move. 'What are you wearing?' she caks. Hanley tells her, and she tells him there's a Men's Wearhouse up the road that he might want to stop at. Then there's a battle between Onstar and the attendant at a Wendy's drive-in over Hanley's order. He wants a sandwich, but his Onstar woman, who is concerned about

Acting up: The cast of Second City Detroit, including Kirk Hanley, (seated, center) gets lots of laughs from the audience in "eBay of Pigs."

his cholesterol level, wants him to have water and a side salad instead.

Hanely plays the trombone in one of the groupe few musical skits. He's very cool as he sits and plays his chords, you wonder how he keeps a straight face during the song.

Keegan-Michael Key and Antoino McKay are soul brothers who rescue a damsel in distress from the audience who looks like she could use some real lovin'.

They steronach her with an

They serenade her with an outrageously funny song - 'It's a diggity darn shame. He's been neglectifying you. You come with us baby. I'll take you to the movies. We can see anything with Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.

Maribeth Monroe helps bring Maribeth Monroe neips oring the song to its hilarious conclu-sion, making an appearance as the brother's mamn as the lyrics and onstage anties roll out of control. "You scarin' the girl, boy," she says as she looks at the nervous woman onstage.

Imagine your family news broadcast live on cable TV. Hanbroadenst live on cable TV. Han-ley and Monroe cohost a crazy show about their family. Imag-ine a Christmas newsletter taken to extreme – Gracie Allen and George Burns they're not.

As in previous productions, the

cast visits familiar metro stomp-ing grounds to get their point across – a casino, Detroit Coun-try Day classroom, and suburban

#### Edgy humor

The humor is edgy and cuts to the point. Ted Nugent invites Monroe, a Make a Wish Child, to come to his compound and shoot anything she wants. "Every-thing's tied down to make it easy."

"Help us find a cure for menopause," Hanley pleads in another skit. Remember, "menopause is a pause not a stop." Cast members hit the audience up for donations run-ning through the aisle with can-

Then to the rewind, back to beginning and theater courtesy theme.

"That concludes our film about theater courtesy. Good-bye for now, and remember the magic word shut-up."

word 'shut-up."

There's lots to like about this production, and you might just want to see again and again with friends. The cast clicks and works together well as an onsemble. From beginning to end, eBay of Pigs is a high energy, laugh a minute show with lots of clever akits and gags.

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