Art Beat features various hap-penings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia MI 48150, fax them to (734) 591-7229, or e-mail (as a text file) to lchomin@oc.homecomm.net.

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

HOST FAMILIES WANTED
The Livonin Rotary Club and
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp's
International Exchange Progam
are looking for families or singles
to host a French jazz group Aug.
10.13

10-13. The 19-member Ecole de Musique d'improvisation Jazz will perform Sunday, Aug. 12 at Rotary Park in Livonia. Hosts will be responsible for the musiwill be responsible for the musi-cians from dinnertime Friday night until Monday. The only cri-teria is a friendly attitude. This is the fifth Blue Lake sponsored music group hosted by the Livonia Rotary Club. For more information, call Bill Cameron at (734) 522-2643 or send e-mail to bumpy@junocom.

DINNER THEATER

DINNER THEATER
The Great Ypsilanti Train Robbery of 1916: An Evening of Historical License returns 5:15 p.m. Priday, Aug. 3 to the Angel Food Cafe, 6 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$39.95 per person and include choice of three entrees. Advance ticket purchase

and meal selection is required.
Call (784) 483-0135.
The Great Ypsilanti Train
Robbery of 1916: An Evening of
Historical License is loosely
based on a real hoist, that's still
unsolved. Ample amounts of historical license allow for a creative blend of history, comedy
and music.

ative blend of history, comedy and music.

SYMPHONY CONCERTS

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, along with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, along with the Plymouth Historical Museum, the Plymouth Listorical Museum, the Plymouth Community Arts Council, and Canton Project Arts, kick off the Passport to the Arts & Culture program with two free family concerts 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 in Kellogy Park, Plymouth and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5 in Heritage Park, Canton.

The program features a chamber orchestra performing summertime music including ragime. waltz, a little Gershwin, Disney's Colors of the Wind, and the all American march — John Philip Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever.

For more information, call the symphony office, (734) 451-2112.

ART IN THE PARK

ART IN THE PARK

The Arts League of Michigan is looking for students throughout the metro Detroit area who have an interest in pursuing the arts as a career and are eager for an experience that will challenge and engage them.

Art in the Park, July 30 to Aug. 10, is a four-hour a day program offered at no charge to students in grades 7-12. Under the guidance of a professional artist, students will create art in the park at Namin Mills in Westland after lessons in the visual arts, poetry and photography. In 1999-2000, the Artists Men-

torship Program students worked in dance, literature, vocal and jazz music. For more information, call (313) 870-1680.

(313) 870-1880.

FINAL DAYS

Time is running out to view traditional black and white and contemporary color woodblock prints by Farmington Hills artist Michael McCullough. The one-man show, sponsored by the Livonia Chris Commission, continues through the end of July Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Dr., east of Farmington Road.

Center Dr., east of Farmington Road.

McCullough, who grew up in Redford, offers subjects that appeal to a variety of tastes. Nature scenes featuring endangered African animals, and women in veils, force the viewer think about the subject matter.

McCullough does decorative works as well including fruits, vegetables and dining scenes that can be placed on a kitchen wall. Look for them at local art fairs. Best of all, the works are reasonably priced.

For more information, call the Livonia Community Resources Department, (734) 466-2536.

Department, (734) 466-2536.

STILL LOOKINE

The Plymouth Community
Arts Council is looking for an
electric ceramics kiln to help
them build their art programs.
They could also use five easels
for their figure drawing classes.
If you can help, call Leslie
Greencisen, (734) 416-4278.

Greeneisen, (734) 416-4278.

WRITING SEMINAR

Are you tired of writer's block?

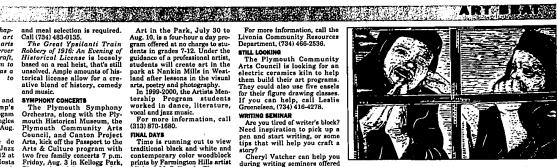
Need inspiration to pick up a pen and start writing, or some tips that will help you craft a

tips that will nep you can help you during writing seminars offered 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 28 at the Noble Public Library, 23:901 Plymouth Road, Livonia (\$40). and 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 24 and July 31 at the Plymouth Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, (\$34).

Coffee Bean, 884 Penniman, (538).

Coming up with ideas is easier than you think. If you've already formulated a story, and want to work on it, Vatcher will help you do that. Vatcher, a Plymouth writer who earned a master degree from University of Michigan's School of Education, has penned articles for several metro Detroit newspapers.

For more information, or to register, call (734) 414-8680.



Final days: Michael McCullough prods viewers into thinking about subjects ranging from endangered animals to ethnic traditions

MUSIC IN THE PARK

The Plymouth Community
Arts Council continues its Music
in the Park series with Liberty
Brass Quintet, which includes
members of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, at noonWednesday, July 25 in Kellogg
Park, Plymouth.
For information, call (734)
418-4278.

FILMMAKERS MEETING
The Metropolitan Filmmakers
Coalition is holding a meeting on

proposals and grants for film projects 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 at the Spees Howard School, 19900 W. 9 Mile Road, Southfield Morrie Washawski, author of Shaking the Money Tree, is hosting the meeting; copies of his book will be available for purchase. Call Nichole Sylvester (313) 492-4942, Alisa Lomax, (313) 492-3800 or visit filmcollective@aol.com for information. mation.

Madame X from page C1

both are originally from the area, they decided to bring the musical to Ann Arbor for its world premiere.

Heart touching

"One piece of advice," said Hammonds, who's directing the musical. "Bring plenty of Kleenex. The music and the story are riveting. Paul Bruce writes melodies that touch you

in the heart."

Hammonds has come a long way from studying theater with Gloria Logan at Plymouth Canton Educational Park. Years of Gloria Logan at Plymouth Canton Educational Park. Years of
experience with community and
professional theater prepared
him well for the challenges of
mounting a new production. In
fact, the years he spent as a
technical director for the Michigan Opera Theatre touring company led to his decision to move
to Chiengo in 1992, and audition
for professional theater. He
gained more experience after
forming the nonprofit Marquee
Theatre with colleagues.
"I learned that a lot of shows
can take seven to 10 years to
develop," said Hammonds. "Les
Mic was five hours long the first
time they presented it and just
last December they took it down
again."

Putting together a

Putting together a

musical
Dana Kraft knew from studying musical theater at the University of Michigan that productions go through a number of
revisions on the road to Broadway. Kraft, who plays the role of
Helene, eventually plans on
moving to New York for a career
on stare.

stage. The most exciting part was learning how a brand new musical is put together, said Kraft, a
graduate of West Bloomfield
High School. "In a workshop
there are changes constantly
being made in the script. Once it
goes to Broadway, it's frozen."
The Hammonds are working

Unscramble the answer to the

night and day to perfect Madame X before it reaches that point. Not that the two mind. Theater is a common love. Married in October 1999, the Hammonds met while performing in the Secret Garden with a touring children's company in Chicago. All of the hours traveling back and forth between Chicago and the Detroit area since March have only heightened their enthusiasm for the production they plan to open in Chicago within the next year.

"One of the first things he brought up when we met was Madame X," said Stephania, who plays the lead role. "We realized in the first draft it needed sketching in, needed to have the characters fleshed out," said Stephanie, who studied theater with Dean Cobb at North Farmington High School before moving to Chicago in the mid-1990s to pursue a professional career.

"We put a creative team together to strengthen the flow, Paul developed a new musical number. We wanted to see how audiences here would react to it, was the logical place to come back to before putting it up in Chicago. We've had several rewrites since rehearsal started June 26."

Audience Talkbacks, alon with ritten aurveys passed out

une 26. Audience Talkbacks, along with written surveys passed out after each performance, will lead to further adjustments.

to further adjustments.
"It's a great opportunity for them to help develop a Broadway show," said Stephanie. "And it's a chance for the performers to see how it works when you're in fast-paced rehearsals and to see the creative process and comment on it."

"It's not every day an actor gets to work on a musical and create a role without comparing it to someone else's," added Jeffery.

are happy about having the opportunity to help develop the professional production. Florkowski, director of the youth theater Tinderbox Productions, along with Plymouth Theater Guild members Ken Kuna and Cynthia Lewandowski, will be able to look back and remember their part in producing a hit musical. Kuna designed and built the set for the production which takes place between 1890 and 1910. Lewandowski is company manunger. Florkowski, as assistant director, is part of the evaluation process.

university musical society

International Theater series

assistant director, is part of the evaluation process.

"I study it as they're performing their lines, the spacing during the play, watching for audience reaction," and Florkowski, as Redford resident. "It be at all or most of the performances as we try to perfect it.

"It's a dynamic production. It challenges the emotions. I enjoyed the movie, but I enjoy musicals. It's the caliber of Les Miz. It's that strong. I'm proud to be part of this. It's as professional."

This is Leif Halston's first pro-

sional. This confirmation of the professional production and he's using every chance he gets to improve his acting technique. Halston, a West Bloomfield resident, plays Young Raymond, Madame X's son.

2nd Annual

"You have to watch people to learn to act," said Halston, who recently played the lead in Oliver, a Tinderbox production at Masonic Temple in Detroit. "I learned lots of times it seems like you're over reacting but you're not. And I learned to project.

ject.
"I'm pretty excited. When I first read it I didn't understand it but then I stayed for the read-through. It's a tragedy and a

it but then I stayed for the read-through. It's a tragedy and a good story.

Darren DeWitt's enjoyed the learning experience as much as Halston, even though he's already acted in productions at the Bonstelle and Studio theaters at Wayne State University for the last two years. DeWitt plays the grown-up Raymond fresh out of law school.

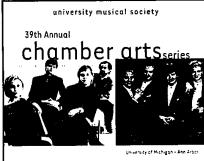
"I learned to attain a certain level of emotion quickly," said DeWitt, a Wayne State University theater major who recently danced in Seeping Beauty Baller with the Michigan Ballet Theatre based in Rochester. One of the best things I learned was to communicate honesty in your work and not to think about it. "I have to address the jury in two large monologues. Raymond doesn't understand the emotions he's feeling for this woman he doesn't know. I end un speaking

he's feeling for this woman he doesn't know. I end up speaking

from the heart and it has to appear off the cuff."

from the heart and it has to appear off the cuff."
Playing Raymond is helping DeWitt to learn how to do that. It's a skill he'll need upon arriv-ing in New York after gradua-tion. DeWit loves musical the-ater and plans to earn a living behind the bright lights. "It's really like a hometown

show that will be taken to Chicago and then New York, "said DeWitt, a Farmington Hills resident. "It brought a level of professionalism to the local theater scene. It's a good mix of well seasoned actors with actors from the community. It shows me what the professional world is like."



Hagen Quartet
Sunday, October 28, 4 pm
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
America a nemer of band Dának

St. Petersburg Conservatory Chamber Ensemble Tuesday, October 30, 8 pm Michigan Theater

received SESM

rentano String Quartet and Mark Strand pool aydn's Seven Last Words of Christ Sunday, January 13, 4 pm Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

Da Camera of Houston Marcel Proest's Paris Saturday, January 26, 8 pm Lyd:a Hendrissohn Theatre

received to Provide

UMS/UM Co-Commission!
Harolyn Blackwell survey
Florence Quiver sourcespers
from the Day of Sally Hemings
wednesday, February 13, 8 pm
Sunday, February 13, 4 pm
Lydio Mendelssahn Theatre

Da Camera of Houston Epigraph for a Condemned Book Sarah Rathenberg arress was Music by Frédéric Khapin Texts by Charlet Baudelaire Wednesday, March 20, 8 pm Power Certer

Emerson String Quartet and the Kalichsteln-Laredo-Robinson Trio Finday, April 5, 3 pm Michigan Theater

Takács Quartet and Robert Pintley port All the World for Love Saturday, April 23, 4 pm Aydia Mendelssohn Theatre

PARTITION OF THE PARTIES

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This was Duane Eddy's biggest hit and charted in June of 1960. It was also the title form the movie starring James Darren and Tuesday Weld. SABCEUE Y HTERE OGUYN

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in .

Theatre de la Jeune Lune

Molière's Tartuffe Directed by Dominique Serrand Friday, October 24, 8 p Saturday, October 27, 8 pm Power Center

The finding processing performance or supercored by Mactionnal Citys.

tallose-Residen's Dignet Funds out the Boardond Arts Food Pro

Three Performances in Ann Arba

Eugene O'Neill's Ah, Wilderness!

Saturday, March 9, 8 pm

Friday, March 8, 8 pt

Directed by Douglas Wager