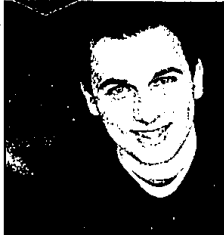


Thursday, August 23, 2001

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, presents John Heffron, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 door, call (734) 996-9080.

SATURDAY



Woody Allen and Helen Hunt star in Allen's new film, "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion." Check local theaters for show times and ticket prices.

SUNDAY



Second City Detroit, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit presents "Mayor-Go-Round" at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 call the box office (313) 965-2222, or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666

LIVE TICKET



Mingle with the villagers at the Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly, weekends through Sept. 30, including Labor Day. Hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m., rain or shine. Admission adults, \$14.95; students with identification and senior citizens, age 60 and over, \$12.95; children, age 6-12, \$6.95; no charge for children 4 and under. Call (800) 601-4848 or see www.michrenfest.com for details.



Native son: Saxophonist James Carter (above), will be leading two separate bands at the festival. At right is the official 2001 poster.

By MICHAEL MURPHY
SPECIAL WRITER

Detroit has seen more than its share of summer spectacles in the year of its 300th birthday, but one of its biggest annual events still looms on the horizon.

"We're not going to do fireworks and we're not going to do tall boats," Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival Artistic Director Frank Malfitano said. "We're going to do jazz giants."

In his first year as director of the former Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival, which annually draws about 750,000 music fans from all over the world to Hart Plaza over the long Labor Day weekend, Malfitano had his work cut out for him.

Over the tricentennial summer, millions celebrated Motown music and Detroit's contribution to the techno sound, but the city's deepest musical legacy could not be forgotten.

"When people think of jazz, they tend to think of New Orleans, Kansas City or New York, but Detroit is an incredible market as well," Malfitano said. "Its list of artists is as significant as any other market in the country."

Detroit's contribution to jazz is reflected in the lineup of the 22nd Annual Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival, in which 80 of the 100

acts performing have some connection to the city. Saxophonist James Carter, who will be leading two separate bands at the festival, is a native of Detroit as is jazz fest headliner and legendary jazz pianist Tommy Flanagan.

Detroit trumpeter Marcus Belgrave will be leading an 11-piece Detroit all star group in a tribute to Louis Armstrong. And the Detroit connections don't end there.

"Eighty percent of the artists have Detroit roots," Malfitano said. "I've programmed the festival so that it can be as Detroit-centric as possible. It should celebrate Detroit and it should celebrate Detroit jazz."

Malfitano, a native of Syracuse, New York, and the creator and founder of the Syracuse Jazz Festival, which has taken flight annually since 1982, came to Detroit last year with a hefty resume and a healthy respect for Detroit music. His first big introduction to Detroit came through John Sinclair, who, in his role as organizer of the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festivals of the

1970s, became a friend and mentor to Malfitano. Malfitano said he showed up at the Ann Arbor festival for three years in a row and stood in awe. "I was incredibly impressed with John's programming and presenting

skills," said Malfitano, who ranks Sinclair and the late Bill Graham as the most innovative event producers in the history of American music.

As luck would have it, Sinclair happened to be in town performing at Greektown's Music Menu Café when

Malfitano was in Detroit interviewing for the artistic director spot in the Spring of 2000.

"I went to see him to ask for his blessing," Malfitano said. "Then and there, he passed the baton. He seemed visibly relieved that one of his colleagues and students would be taking the reins."

Before graduating to festival production, as both an organizer in Syracuse and consultant in a host of major North American cities, Malfitano was a club and concert hall promoter and the associate publisher of Jazz Times, a national jazz magazine.

He said his infatuation with jazz began in college, when the former music major at Fredonia University in New York was waylaid by a con-



cert series presented by the dean of students, who also happened to play an upright bass. In short order, Malfitano was exposed to Maynard Ferguson, the Stan Kenton Orchestra and the Jazz Brothers featuring Chuck and Gap Mangione.

"I was immediately taken by the complexity and intelligence and energy of the music," Malfitano said. "After seeing those three jazz series concerts, there was no going back. The music and I found each other 40 years ago and it was a life changing experience."

Now, Malfitano is a jazz crusader, not to be confused with The Jazz Crusaders, who are also headlining this year's jazz fest. He describes

Please see JAZZ, B2

FAMILY FUN

Michigan State Fair rides on 153-year tradition

By STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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After 153 years, the Michigan State Fair is still going strong. The fair, held consecutively in the state since 1905, thrives on tradition. In the metro area, that tradition combines food, carnival rides, a petting farm and live music for 14 days.

Fair general manager, John C. Hertel, has seen many sides to this event.

First involved in state fair horse shows across the country, and now working behind the scenes of our own state fair, Hertel has high hopes for its continued success.

The 2001 Michigan State Fair began Tuesday and will run through Monday, Sept. 3 at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, on Eight Mile Road east of Woodward Avenue in Detroit. From the yearly highlights - the Miracle of Life exhibit, the giant stove built in 1893 and NASCAR's Go-Karts - to the excitement of rides on the Midway and sounds of live music in the band shell, the Michigan State Fair offers entertainment for all ages.

The future hasn't always seemed so bright. The fair itself fell to record low attendance in 1993, causing Gov. John Engler to step in with financial assistance from the state. That assistance ends this year, leaving the fair to survive on its own - despite a set schedule which always coincides with the onset of the new school year.

Growing attendance

Still, each year since 1994,

attendance has grown. Last year's count was 470,000. It's a fact Hertel is proud to share. "Things continue to improve, and we're improving our environment," he said. The goal is to operate free of debt, keeping the tradition a viable annual event.

Boasting safety and cleanliness, Hertel compares the Michigan State Fair to Walt Disney World. "We've brought back major entertainment and quality things for the family," he said.

There is a renewed emphasis on rides in the midway, rather than games. "We want people to enjoy their experience," said Hertel. "It's like going to three places in one. (It's) Pine Knob (now DTE Energy Music Theatre), Cedar Point and a day on your grandfather's farm - all in one day."

And the price remains the same - \$2 to \$9 with children 2 and under admit-

What: The 2001 Michigan State Fair
When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Monday, Sept. 3. Midway open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. weeknights, until midnight weekends.
Where: 1120 W. State Fair Ave., on the corner of Eight Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, Detroit.
Admission: Adults \$9, children 2-11, \$2; no charge for children under 2. Parking \$5, (313) 369-8250.



Country boy: Travis Tritt will entertain at the State Fair with his performance at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 23rd in the bandshell.

Please see FAIR, B3