

Hines from page B1

edy," he said with pride.
Hines prefers not to look back on his success however, having no intention of slowing down. He'd rather look to the future.

"Once I'm finished with Guys and Dolls, I'll start on the movie version of Yo Alice, a hip-hop version of Alice in Wonderland," he said. It was written, composed and arranged by metro-Detroiters Lee Summers and Timothy Graphen.

While Hines's busy schedule doesn't allow time for vacations, he does plan to make the most out of his three-week stay in Detroit.

"I am so thrilled to be coming to Detroit," he said. "I'm from the Motown era and I've wanted to come there for a long time. I plan to see everything and everyone."

Upon learning the company would perform in Detroit, he requested that complimentary tickets be sent to Aretha Franklin. "She is the Queen after all," he quipped.

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Bodyland from page B1

Opera House. While she was managing director at the Opera House, there were plans to build a small performance space.

"I was very disappointed that that phase did not go forward," Johnson said.

She thinks the Furniture Factory will spur commercial development of that area of Third Street and attract cutting-edge artists.

"Without it there, we really... in terms of cultural life, don't have it all," Johnson said of Detroit. "Definitely, it's very, very important for Detroit's national and international arts reputation. You can't have a great city without being able to attract great artists."



Hand to mouth: Hilary Ramsden (left) and Jeffrey Steiger have a hard time hiding their emotions.

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The Furniture Factory

Some \$650,000 in renovations were made to the old Weber Furniture Factory on Third Street in Detroit to make way for a performing space.

Money was raised through a serious capital campaign.

"We've done it very cost efficiently," said artistic director Erika Block, adding approximately \$150,000 was donated in services and goods.

Now Walk & Squawk, the resident theater company, is ready to open the first full season and it's packed:

■ **Walk & Squawk** is putting on two theater productions: *Bodyland*, a play about buying and selling body parts, which runs Oct. 11 - Nov. 11. *The Last Night Stand*, a comedy about humans, goldfish, entrances and exits, runs April 11 - May 12.

■ **On Tour** at the Furniture Factory is a presentation of national and international artists whose work pushes aesthetic and political boundaries. Shows in October and March.

The costs for On Tour and Walk & Squawk are \$18 on Sundays, \$24 Fridays and Saturdays or \$20 with 7-day advance purchase.

■ **WDET** at the Furniture Factory - Monthly live shows hosted by WDET personalities spotlighting emerging and established Detroit musicians Thursday nights beginning Oct. 26 in an intimate work space. Runs through April. Cost is \$10-12.

■ **Spoken Words** - A monthly reading series featuring three generations of writers of InsideOut, Detroit's poetry-in-schools project. October through April. Cost is \$5 per session or free for students with student card.

■ **Classes** at the Furniture Factory - Open Tech, a behind-the-scenes look at a technical rehearsal, offered Oct. 6. The Artist's Play Space, a weekly opportunity for "serious" actors, dancers and artists to play games and be silly (Oct. 16 - Dec. 17). Performance Workshop, Oct. 27. Living In the Body, a workshop for women on movement exercises and physical theater games (Oct. 30 - Nov. 6). Maskmaking (Nov. 10 and 17).

"I like the fact that we're doing mask making workshops for families and we're also doing one in the winter for the performers," Block said.

■ **Gallery** - Exhibit Nov. 6. In 2002, begin rotating exhibits four times per year.

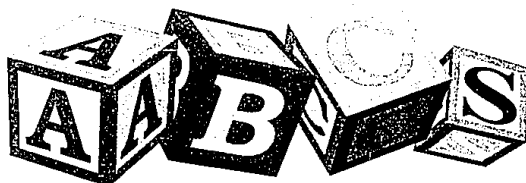
■ **Factory passes** are available for \$176. With the purchase of eight tickets, buyers can use the tickets for any performance they'd like and have free admission to open tech, free parking, and free drinks in the cafe.

For more information, call (313) 832-8890 or log on to walk-squawk.org.

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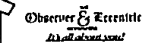
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