

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Ann Arbor's Trueblood Theatre presents "The Good Person of Szechwan." Call (734) 764-2538 for tonight's showtimes and prices.

SATURDAY



Elton John performs 8 p.m. at Joe Louis Arena, Detroit. Tickets \$47.50-\$87.50, call (248) 645-6666

SUNDAY



The Pernice Brothers take the stage with Kingsbury Manx, 8 p.m. at the Magic Bag, Ferndale. Tickets \$9, call (248) 544-3030.



Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn, is celebrating the colors of the season 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily now through Oct. 31 for its annual Fall Color Festival. Call (313) 271-1620 for details.

COMEDY



Kathleen Madigan

Kathleen Madigan finds fodder for laughter

By MIKE MURPHY
SPECIAL WRITER

Kathleen Madigan's life has been in disarray since September's terrorist attack, but the attacks aren't the only reason for the mess.

"Excuse all this construction noise," Madigan said over the phone from her home outside of Los Angeles. "It's very loud. They're building a house next door to me, and I'm hearing Spanish. Eight hours a day." Madigan is scheduled to appear at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Oct. 12 and 13 and she said she's had to revamp her act a bit since the September tragedies, which also caused her to be bumped off Late Night with David Letterman.

"The Bush jokes, you can't do them now," says

Madigan, in her raspy, smoker's voice. "The whole terrorist thing has affected everything."

Fortunately, it hasn't affected Madigan's ability to turn everything else in the world into a joke. Current events aside, the 35-year-old St. Louis native's still got popular culture icons like Martha Stewart, Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Walters to kick around.

"My dad always told me there's no such thing as a stupid question, and then I saw Barbara Walters interview Ann Heche. I said 'No Dad, there's about 500 of them,' Madigan said.

And then there's her family, which doesn't escape Madigan's humor.

The comedian said she called her mother and told her she was thinking of having Lasik surgery done

on her eyes because of her nearsightedness. Her mom told her to wait, she had a coupon for it.

Or how about the time she brought her family to the 1996 American Comedy Awards where Madigan was recognized as the year's best female stand-up performer?

"My dad saw Ben Arthur and said 'Look, there's Maude,'" Madigan said. "Even Grandpa knew she was on Golden Girls."

Growing up in St. Louis, Madigan had no intentions of becoming a comedian. She graduated from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in 1987 with a journalism degree and began working as a bartender and a freelance journalist for a suburban

Please See MADIGAN, B2

Reach for the sky

JAZZ FLUTIST HOPES TO RAISE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR RED CROSS

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Alexander Zonjic still seems stunned a month after terrorist attacks destroyed the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The loss of thousands of people prays on his mind as he talks about the tragedy in between taping his morning radio program for Smooth Jazz WMVM 98.7 FM in Farmington Hills.

Zonjic admits life changed for him and everyone that morning. Until then he'd been happily planning a release party for his new CD *Reach for the Sky*. It was to be a celebration for the flutist whose last solo recording, *Passion*, hit the store shelves in 1993. Saxophonist Kirk Whalum and keyboardist Jeff Lorber played on the new CD and were to appear on stage with Zonjic for the release.

"We were watching on a black and white TV at the radio station," said Zonjic. "It was so surreal."

Surreal and sad, so said Zonjic changed his plans for the CD release party. Instead, he'll donate the net proceeds from an Oct. 18 concert to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

New York holds special memories for Zonjic. Over the years, he's played everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the Blue Note in Greenwich Village.

"We were going about the process of setting everything up when everyone's life changed," said Zonjic. "Once the smoke cleared no one was thinking about new CDs. We'd lost the enthusiasm. I wasn't comfortable thinking about doing it. We started a dialogue. I said we had to change the focus of this. We had to have a reason to do this. How can we help? I talked with people at the radio station and we decided to present a benefit concert for the Red Cross."

Once all the musicians involved realized it was a benefit, Zonjic said "they wanted to participate even more."

That touched Zonjic deeply. He's been in the music business since the late 1960s and appreciated the fact friends such as Bob James, Whalum and Lorber wanted to help with the effort.

Reach for the Sky suddenly became more than just a title for a CD by the flutist who spent most of his career pushing the limits of musical styles. They were reaching for the sky to raise thousands of dollars to help victims of the terrorist attacks. *Reach for the Sky* now became part of the healing. But then so did one of the songs on the new CD. When Zonjic recorded *Amazing Grace* he never imagined the spiritual would have such meaning for the millions of Americans reeling from the tragedy.

"It's inspiring," said Zonjic. "I wanted it to be more upbeat, never realizing."

Looking back
Reach for the Sky was to be a celebration of Zonjic's career, and it is. There are early tunes like Carole King's *I'm Too Late*, which Zonjic played as a rock guitarist in Toronto 30

years ago. *Angela* (Theme from *Taxi*) pays tribute to James with whom Zonjic toured with for 10 years in the 1980s. James wrote the theme for the television comedy which took place in the heart of New York.

Chuck Mangione's *Bellaviva* is sure to be a favorite because of Zonjic's ethereal sound. The Beatles' tune *A Hard Day's Night* came out just as the Canadian-born Zonjic decided to become a musician at age nine. After playing several years in a rock band he bought a flute from a stranger on the street and at 21 became enthralled with the instrument. Before



Benefit concert: Alexander Zonjic introduces his new CD at a concert to benefit the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

long he auditioned to study classical music at the University of Windsor. After graduation Zonjic continued to study flute with Ervin Monroe, principal flute for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In addition to three CDs released with Monroe, Zonjic recorded several solo CDs including *Elegant Evening*, *Romance with You*, *When is it Real*, *Neon* and *Passion*.

He also recorded with James after meeting him while playing at Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit. Over the years Zonjic's not only recorded with prominent musicians but performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

"The CD's a mix of covers and originals, a result of musical collaboration through the years; if not on the CD these musicians helped in some way," said Zonjic. "All the tunes - there's nothing by chance. It's eclectic. It represents the new, old. It's different

songs that have significance in different points in my career. *It's Too Late* from the late 60s. I was playing guitar in a rock band in Toronto, Crostown Traffic. If it's a great song then, it's a great song now."

"There's *Swinging Shepherd Blues* by Moe Koffman who recently passed away. Moe was a big influence on me. There's only a handful of flute players that have made an impact on the music world like he has."

It's apparent a lot of thought went into selecting songs for the new CD, but so did time. Zonjic spent a period of 18 months recording *Reach for the Sky* in Los Angeles, Nashville and the Detroit area.

"When you're recording there's all the time involved and funds," said Zonjic. "It's a joyous event. It's like a musical child."

One Zonjic will proudly but modestly introduce to the public Thursday, Oct. 18.