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Madigan from page B1

St. Louis newspaper.

But neither job made the grade for Madigan, who said that while bartending was fun, it didn't offer much of a future. Working as a journalist was something she went into for lack of anything better to do. Besides, she was having a good time at it, she said.

"Everything was so serious," Madigan said. "I thought, 'I want to have fun,' and I always have fun going to clubs."

In 1989, she and a friend found themselves at the St. Louis Funny Bone Comedy Club on amateur night and Madigan had her epiphany.

"I thought, I could do that. I could be that bad," Madigan said.

Now, Madigan spends about two weeks each month touring comedy clubs across the country. She's made numerous appearances on television shows including *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night* with David Letterman and *Conan O'Brien*.

Other network appearances include VH1's *The List*, Comedy Central's *Presenters*, HBO's *Women of the Night* and her own HBO half-hour comedy special.

She's also entertained audiences in Hong Kong, Ireland and Canada and released her own comedy CD, *Kathleen Madigan Live*.

In a nutshell, she's been busy.

"I wish we were like rock stars, where you could go on tour for six months and take eight years off and have a nervous breakdown, but we don't have that luxury," Madigan said.

The now-veteran comedian writes all her own material and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I write every word of it. I want to say what I want to say," Madigan said. "I'm my own boss. I can fire myself, and rehire myself."

As a side project, Madigan is involved in the making of a documentary on early female comedians. The documentary traces female comedy back to its Vaudeville days.

Madigan and her associates are in the process of shopping the project to networks. As of yet, they haven't found a buyer, but Madigan said she's learned a thing or two about women and comedy.

When only three networks existed, female comedians didn't have to work as hard as they do now, but female stand-up comedians were fewer and farther in between, Madigan said.

"Once you got on TV, it was instant fame," Madigan said, citing classic stand-up artists like Phyllis Diller and Mame Malley. "Plus these people were making like \$60,000 a week in Vegas, which was the only place to

play."

Madigan doesn't think it's as hard for women to make it in comedy as it was back then, but she said her difficulty is in convincing men in the audience that she's different from a lot of female stand-ups.

"The hard thing for me is communicating to men that I'm not a male-bashing comedian," Madigan said. "Trashing men is just old."

When she's not performing, Madigan enjoys sporting activities like golf and surfing.

One of the highlights of her career thus far is that it gave her the opportunity to play with golf legend Arnold Palmer, but she's more likely to be seen playing in St. Louis with her mother's 9-hole golf league.

"It's a great thing to do to feel good about yourself," Madigan said. "Those ladies say things about me like, 'You can tell she's a good golfer because she looks for the flag.'"

Madigan ranks herself a rung lower when it comes to surfing, which she took up when she moved to California.

A storm in Hawaii was wreaking havoc on Pacific Coast waves when this interview was conducted.

"The waves are too big for me," Madigan said. "I don't think my health care insurance covers asinine behavior at the age of 35."

Detroit's Hilberry Theatre presents 'A Doll's House'

Hilberry Theatre will present Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in rotating repertory Oct. 19-Dec. 15.

This drama, which unintentionally helped fuel the women's movement of the late 19th century, follows Nora (Shelly Gaze) the perfect wife and mother who always has time for her children and satisfying her husband's every whim.

To Torvald, her husband, she is a little doll. A chain of events leads to Nora's conclusion that she controls her own future.

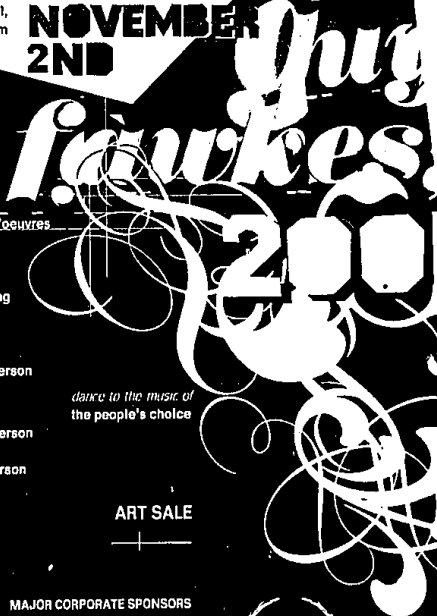
Edward Smith directs this production at the theater on the campus of Wayne State University. Performances 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. on select and Saturdays. Tickets \$12-\$20, call (313) 577-2972.



Drama: Shelly Gaze and Dallas Henry star in "A Doll's House."

location
the townsend hotel,
birmingham

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
2ND



schedule
6:30 cocktails & hors d'oeuvres
7:30 dinner & dancing

9:30 late night
buffet, open bar, dancing

tickets
benefactor
\$300 per person

patron
\$200 per person
late night
\$50 per person

dance to the music of
the people's choice

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3:00 P.M.

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- ◆ Special museum programs spotlighted
- ◆ Metro Detroit's best tutoring schools
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