# Art**s Le**isure Music from the '70s stars in new show

If your "Mama told you not to come," don't listen – 8-Track: The Sounds of the 70s, in an open run at the Century Theatre in Detroit, pulls people from all

"My dad's 84 and he loved it," said Rick "My dad's 84 and he loved it, said Rick Seeber who created and directs the show. Our core audience are boomers 35-55. It's nuthing but entertainment, esceptism of sorts. It attaches to people's hearts. You come into the show after a long day and it gives you energy. It does not take it away. The 1970-9? Wasn't that all about disco and 'young and free.. the dancing queen?' and 'party with the lights down low?"

and 'young and free... the dancing queen?' and 'party with the lights down low?'
Yes and no.

'I am woman hear me roar.' Women began breaking through the corporate glass ceiling. Marvin Gaye asked - What's Going On, and while some were content to 'Keep on Truckin' and survive 'the morning after,' others were busy Taking It to the Streets demanding an end to U.S. involvement in Victnam.

Platform shoes, elephant pants, and lawa lamps - thut was part of this decade too - and the funny thing is it's all coming back. Look at fall fashions, or listen to TV commercials, the '70s are hot.'

The show is designed so that you can take an emotional journey,' said Seeber. Michael Gribbin did the musical arrangements of the songs organized like an 8-track tape. Remember those.'

There are some great tunes that aren't disco,' said Seeber. I was interested in doing a show about the '70s because I lived through it. It was an amazing time. All of the seeds that were sown in the 190s sprouded in the 1970s. Feminism, hedonism, equal rights, you name it.'

Four characters - a seeker, lover, blossoming feminist and man who isn't quite sure where he fits in, lead the audience through a series of 'tracks' that include - Not sold in stores, a celebration of cheesy commercials, Beginnings, The Patry, War and Peace, and the Road I'ry. Mr.

In the seeds that were sown to the preduced of the seeds and the Road I'ry. Mr.

In the analyse of the cast connects songs to tell a tale through music. Afternoon Belight, I Want to Make it Wilth You, Brickhouss, sounds like a party to me. Breaker Breaker One-Nine - where's the CAT West?

Brickhouse, sounds like a party to me. Breaker Breaker One-Nine - where's the

Car Wash?
The cast might sing four or eight bars of a song, they've got a lot to cover - 58



Live the disco era all over again at 8-Track: Sounds of the 70s with cast members Liana Young, (left) Teddey Brown, Nik Rocklin, and Tonya Phillips, at the Century Theatre.

songs in 90 minutes. "We connect songs in interesting ways," said Seeber. "The cast is terrific, they have top level voices." Nik Rocklin, bartione, is the lover, a man who thinks he's God's gift to women. Tonya Phillips, soprano, the Seeker, Liana Young, alto is a blossoming feminist, and Teddey Brown, tenor, is trying to find out where he fits in. He's the guy in the Nehru jacke!

jacket.
Of course, there's a disco scene, wouldthe the '70s without it. 'Disco peaked in
1976," said Seeben. "But it's sort of what
people glob into when they think of the
70s."

'70s."
Listen closely, and you'll hear the
Carpenters, Elton John, Aretha Franklin,
Barry Manilow, K.C. and the Sunshine
Band, and others you forgot about. The
show premiered at the Milwaulke Rep in
September 2001, and is scheduled to
open in Minneapolis after its Detroit run.

#### 8-TRACK

### THE SOUNDS OF THE '70S

What: A journey through the decade in song When: Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, limited 1:30 p.m. Thursday performances, Open-ended run. Where: Century Theatre, 333 Madison, Detroit

Tickets: \$24.50-\$34.50, call the box office (313) 963-9800 or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666. Half-price preview tickets available for the first two performance weeks, Opening night is Friday, Sept, 20. Theater and restaurant packages available, visit www.gemthe-

## **Author** shares fears and joys of becoming a writer

MY SKY BLUE TRADES by Sven Birkerts (Viking, 24.95)

Michigan native Sven Birkerts (The Gutenberg Elegies) is subtitled Growing Up Counter in a Contrary Time. Born in Pontiae to Latvian refugee parents (his father, a successful architect, worked with Eero Saarinen). Birkerts grew up in Birmingham and Bloomfield



eventually immersed himself in the counterculture of the 60s on the University of Michigan

Beat of Michigan campus.
My Sky
Victoria Blue Trades
Dlaz from a line in Dylan
Thomas' Fern Hill) follows the sometimes-melancholic, rather circuitous route the rather circuitous route the aspiring writer took to reach his first publishing milestone in the New Boston Review at the age of

Boston Review at the age of 27.

Now nearing 50, Birkerts provides us a look back not only at his own beginnings, but also (more briefly) at the beginnings of his parents and grandparents, whose foreign culture would influence his own life in many important ways.

PLEASE SEE BOOKS, B5

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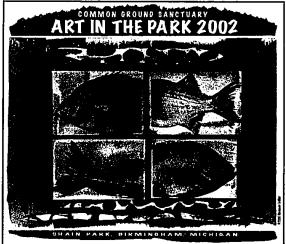
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