Arts & Leisure

Benefit shows 'That's What Friends Are For'

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It's 9 o'clock on a Thursday
morning and Dionne Warwick is
already doing interviews for her
upcoming concert at Music Hall
Center for the Performing Arts.
After 40-years on the popmusic charts the voice is unmistakable. Always the lady, Warwick is delighted about singing
with composer Burt Bacharach
Friday, June 28 in a fundraiser
for the nonprofit venue that
brings in internationally-known
performers.

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Even though they've been friends since the 1950s, it's been more than a year since Warwick and Bacharach have worked together – and the first time they've appeared on the same Detroit stage on the same night – with a 23-piece orchestra.



Some time ago, they decided to

go their separate ways.

Warwick, Bacharach, and composer Hal David were a dynamic hit making team from the early 1960s to early 1970s. As part of the Music Hall Cars and Stars fundraiser they will perform some of the songs from their 30-hit singles and 20-best selling albums from those years.

We've known each other a selling albums from those years.

We've known each other a toured with him on and off through the years until realizing we had individual careers. We haven't done anything in a while sel twill be fun.

From Don't Make Me Over, the first song recorded in 1962 to winning her first of five Grammys in 1968 for De You Know the Way to San Jose, Warwick has made a lot of friends in the



Regal couple: Colm Feore as Professor Henry Henry Higgins and Cynthia Dale as Eliza Doolittle make an entrance at the ball in "My Fair • Lady."



My Fair Lady worth a trip to Stratford Festival in Canada

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

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The Stratford Festival is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year with a stunning renovation of the Avon Theatre, a broad cross section of Shakespearean fare including a performance by one of the festival's most distinguished alums, an innovative studio theater and a "loverly" and sexy production of My Fair Lady.

The Stratford Festival was officially incorporated in October 1952. On July 13, 1953, Alec Guinness opened the festival in a production of Richard III in a tent theater. That season under the bigtop also featured a performance of All's Well That Ends Well. Both plays are being presented this season.

Shakespeare has always been central to the Stratford Festival and this year the

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Bard is well represented with both familiar works such as Romea and Juliet and some less familiar works such as the Henry VI plays. In August international star Christopher Plummer will take on the difficult role of King Lear under the direction of Jonathan Miller.

The Avon Theater, a traditional stage in a smaller venue than the Festival Theatre, has been given a facelift. The new white facade provides a dramatic entry to a larger lobby. The once cramped seating of the former vaudeville-movie house has been replaced with comfortable seating with lots of leg room. The 1,098-seat auditorium has also been refurbished with new heating and air conditioning and state-of-the art light and sound systems.

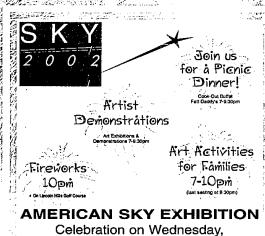
The new Avon also has room for another

theater, the 250-seat Studio Theatre. The idea for this intimate space is to allow the company to 'explore' theatrical ideas that might be too during or too limited for the larger venues. This year the theater will present seven works in short runs.

My Fair Lady

My Fair Lady
That famous curmudgeon George
Bernard Shaw hated the idea that his irastible Henry Higgins and the lovely Eliza
Deolittle would ever get together. His play
Pygmalion ends with Eliza walking out. He
later wrote that he thought Eliza and Freddy Eynsford-Hill would marry and open a
flower shop.
That would never do for an American
musical, so librettist Alan Jay Lerner had
Eliza returning to Higgins in My Fair
Lady.

Please see STRATFORD, B



July 3rd from 7-11PM!

Picaso RSVP by Friday, June 28 For ticket prices, reservations, or more info call (248) 644-0866 x108 Tickets will be mailed upon reservation.

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