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Hot tickets

Ha ha ha
Ron Shock tells funny stories about his shady and colorful past at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4 and 5, at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 East Liberty, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$5 advanced purchase, \$7 at the door on Thursday and \$9 advanced purchase and \$10 at the door on Friday and Saturday. (734) 936-9066.

Hospital benefit
The Manhattan Transfer performs at a fund-raiser for St. Mary Mercy Hospital's cancer services at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4 at Laurel Manor Banquet and Video Conference Center in Livonia. Tickets for the black-tie optional event are \$75 per person. VIP tickets are \$150 per person. Call the hospital for tickets at (734) 655-2907.

Opening Friday
A mysterious youth named Haku becomes Chihiro's friend and ally as she enters the spirit world in the new Disney film, *Spirited Away*, opening Friday in local theaters.



Kaboom!
Research fellow James Gleason of the University of Michigan Department of Geological Sciences will give a free lecture on "Meteor and Asteroid Impacts" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 9 in room 2009 at the Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes, Ann Arbor. Although Gleason will address his talk to adults, all ages are invited. Refreshments will follow. (734) 764-0478.

Modernist masters
Check out this painting by Picasso and works by other modernist masters, including Renoir, Matisse, Rodin, Degas and van Gogh, in *When Tradition Changed: Modernist Masterpieces*, an exhibit that continues through summer 2003 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Institute hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



Admission is a donation recommended at \$4 for adults and \$1 for children.

Curtain Up, Light the lights

Community theater



Farmington Players rehearse for their season opener *The Solid Gold Cadillac*, a comedy about corporate scandal.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

If the opening plays are any indication of what's to come in community theater, this season should reach new heights in entertainment. Openers offer everything from Broadway successes like *Jekyll & Hyde*, *The Musical* and *The Rocky Horror Show* to comedies about corporate business practices.

VILLAGE PLAYERS

Jason Landis compares *Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical* to "having a good suspense novel in your hands." Landis alternates between *Jekyll* and *Hyde* in the Village Players production opening Friday, Oct. 11, in Birmingham.

Adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's dark tale about the battle between good and evil, *Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical* has it all including a 10-piece orchestra and the dual personalities of the prim and proper doctor and the tortuous Hyde with his animal like movements and primitive drive.

"It takes the audience through the whole

spectrum from comedy to tears to shaking in their seats, to daring for people on stage," said Landis. "Dr. Jekyll is driven by things in his past. His father went insane and he wants to create a formula to take away the dangerous side of human beings. Hyde is the evil side that comes out instead. Hyde can go away and hide after he commits some evil act but Jekyll must remain to face the consequences."

Director Beverly Dickenson is placing her hopes on Landis and the other cast members to carry the show - that and the music directed by her husband John.

"There's not a lot of ways to create visual interest," said Dickenson. "There's not an opportunity to create grandiose sets because most of the times you're in the streets of London. We rely on characters like Jekyll and the music."

"One of the interesting elements is it's a period English piece with music that has a contemporary feel. It's very much like a contemporary musical. There's very little dialogue. The play evolves through music. It's very dramatic."



Above, Jennifer Dominick (left) plays Lucy Harris, the lady of the night who attracts the attention of Dr. Jekyll (Jason Landis) as Jekyll's fiancée (Susan Parree) vies for his attention in the Village Players production of *Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical*.

Concert series variety is spice of life

Ask Sylvia Rubach about Birmingham Temple's Vivace Concert Series then sit back and listen. The Livonia resident's enthusiasm is enough to inspire anyone to pick up the phone and reserve seats for the musical potpourri of programs in Farmington Hills. Variety is definitely the spice of the series which spotlights a clarinet and piano duo, classical pianist, and chamber ensemble.

A blend of jazz, classical, flamenco, and folk a little more to you're liking? Then mark Saturday Oct. 5, on your calendar. That's when the Gerard Edery Ensemble perform reper-

toire reflecting the musical traditions of three continents. Born in Casablanca to parents of Sephardic, Moroccan and Argentine origins, Edery charms audiences by singing folk songs in more than a dozen languages. His classical background (a master's degree from Manhattan School of Music) and more than

30 roles with U.S. opera companies enable him to easily interchange love songs of Renaissance Spain with French opera, music of the Sephardim, and melodies of Israel's diverse people.

George Mgrdichian, a master oud player (Middle Eastern lute) and percussionist Rex Benincasa join him on stage for a mesmerizing program.

"We seek out artists who bring something different, not just the usual symphonic approach," said Rubach who serves on the committee for the series. "You have to be excited about all of the concerts. Pianist Scott Holden (Nov. 23) is a

Juilliard graduate. April 13 is the clarinet and piano duo of Larry Liberson and Robert Conway of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and May 8 the Merling Trio plays elegant chamber music and will be joined by a jazz bass for a newly commissioned work."

Claire Levine's seen all of the performers and recommended them to the series committee she co-chairs with Sandy Altman. Artists on three of the programs have ties to Michigan including Holden, a professor at Utah's Brigham Young University, Liberman and

VIVACE CONCERT SERIES

What: Begins its 28th year with the Gerard Edery Ensemble

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5

Where: Birmingham Temple, 2861 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Tickets: \$18, \$15 Temple members. Call (248) 788-9338 or (248) 661-1348

2002-2003 Season

- 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23 - pianist Scott Holden
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 13 - clarinetist Larry Liberson and pianist Robert Conway
- 8 p.m. Saturday, May 3 - chamber music by the Merling Trio

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?

Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.