

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

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Hot tickets

Funny lady

Judy Gold brings her stand-up comedy act to Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty, downtown Ann Arbor, this



weekend. Gold plays Leslie, Ryan Stiles' girlfriend and waitress on the ABC hit comedy, *The Drew Carey Show*, and won two Emmy awards as a producer and performer on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*. Shows are 8 p.m. today, and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 18-19. Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$11 at the door for today's performance and \$11 in advance and \$13 at the door for the weekend shows. (734) 996-9080.

Labor poets

Jim Daniels, Diane di Prima, Larry Smith, Maria Mazzitelli Gillan and The Robert Jones-M. Liebler Poetry and Music Revue entertain with poetry readings at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at the Scarab Club, 217 East Farnsworth, located at John R across from the Detroit Institute of Arts. Admission is free. (313) 831-1250.

Klezmer music

Bruce Adler entertains with singing, dancing and vaudeville comedy at the Zionist Organization of America's Balfour 69 Concert, 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at the Millennium Theatre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. The concert, which is open to the public, honors Dr. Norman and Harriet Rotter with the organization's Justice Louis B. Brandeis Award. The Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, featuring Lori Lipitz, also will perform. Tickets range from \$50-\$100. (248) 538-6088.

Art fair

Check out custom-made clothing, pottery, fine art, jewelry and leather and more at the 8th Annual Fall Novi Sugarloaf Art Fair, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 18-20, at the Novi Expo Center. Take I-96 to exit 162. Turn south onto Novi Road and right onto Expo Center Drive.



More than 350 artists show and sell their works. Master crafts designers also demonstrate iron forging, metal spinning, glass blowing and other contemporary crafts. Admission is \$6. No charge for children under age 12. (800) 210-9900.

EVIL WOMAN

Medea role calls for enormous amounts of energy



Fiona Shaw plays the murderous Medea in the Abbey Theatre of Ireland production coming to the University Musical Society series in Ann Arbor.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Fiona Shaw leaves the stage drained from playing Medea, a vengeful wife with a history of murdering anyone who gets in her way. The British actress first took on the role in the Abbey Theatre of Ireland production two years ago but time hasn't made it any easier to slip inside the character Euripides created in 484 B.C. Even though Shaw has played dozens of roles with the Royal Shakespeare Company and London's National Theatre, this one requires enormous amounts of energy as Medea devises one twisted plot after another. Euripides wrote every imaginable evil into this woman. Medea cuts up her little brother for her father to find then tricks the daughters of King Pelias into boiling him in a cauldron - all for the love of Jason. When the Greek hero leaves her for a younger woman, Medea proves she's not someone to be trifled with.

Medea remains one of Euripides' bloodiest tragedies in the updated version the Abbey Theatre brings to the Power Center for the Performing Arts as part of the University Musical Society series Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 17-20, in Ann Arbor. It is directed by Deborah Warner who won the Olivier Award for the Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Titus Andronicus*. Warner had joined the Royal Shakespeare Company at the age of 28

as one of their few female directors. She made her American directing debut with T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* and won two Drama Desk Awards as a result.

"It's the story of Jason and Medea landing in a country they're not from and Medea murdering her two sons out of revenge after he flourishes and she doesn't," said Shaw.

"The play was first in Dublin then in London and is set in now. It's incredibly fresh and new. It's an exciting evening for the audience, emotionally and physically draining, 1 1/2 hours of excitement. All the scenes are enormous, fantastic to play but exhausting.

Curtain calls are a favorite of mine because it's over. It's such a relief." Shaw doesn't want to frighten audiences away from seeing the production. Medea does have a lighter side. That's what motivates Shaw to continue in the grueling role. If the production doesn't end up on Broadway (and it should after a rave review in the *New York Times*), Shaw returns to London for the holidays then it's on to Paris in February. In spring, she takes a break to film the third *Harry Potter*.

"It's a good play to do in America because America is such a welcoming country to immigrants like Jason and Medea," said Shaw. "It's very accessible, very easy to understand and there's a lot of humor in it as well. I hope it changes their life."

MEDEA
What: Abbey Theatre of Ireland brings its critically acclaimed production of Euripides' tale about a scorned woman to the University Musical Society series
When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Oct. 17-18, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20
Where: Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$42, \$40, \$28 and \$20.
Call (734) 764-2538

lchomin@oe.com or (734) 953-245

Social theater aims for change

These days theater is doing more than just entertaining audiences. Two local productions are using it as a platform to discuss the rehabilitation of criminals and America's drug policy. Gillian Eaton refers to the phenomena as social theater. As director of the Prison Creative Arts Project's *When Can We Talk?*, she says the process is as important as the play itself.

Eaton admits she's experienced a change in how she views the impact of



Artistic Expressions

Linda Ann Chomin

prison on a person's life long after they're released. Creating awareness is equal of the project which has produced 146 original plays since 1990, and an annual visual art exhibition by Michigan prisoners since 1996.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents the latest play *When Can We Talk?* Friday, Oct. 25. "I was asked to go into the prisons and detention facilities and create a play with inmates and juveniles," said Eaton. "It's all part of the Prison Creative Arts Project that works with prisoners, high school students, the underserved through creative writing and art and theater workshops."

PLEASE SEE THEATER, B5

All aboard

Michigan's dinner trains offer food, fabulous scenery

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

In the mood for an autumn dining adventure? Then check out a Michigan dinner train excursion.

Some feature mystery murder performances, others entertain with musical revues. And they all offer fabulous culinary choices coupled with a countryside painted in hues of



All aboard for dinner and a glimpse of fall color on the Michigan Star Clipper dinner train in Walled Lake.

crimson, scarlet and gold.

So, let's climb aboard! Fall is an ideal season to experience a rail feast on a dinner train!

PLEASE SEE DINNERS, B6

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.

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