



John Seibert as Tony Whitcomb (left) and Matt Sawyer perform in *Shear Madness* at the Gem Theatre, Detroit.

Bowling to square dancing: Different ways to ring in '03

BY MARY QUINLEY
CORRESPONDENT

If you're tired of celebrating New Year's Eve at the neighborhood tavern or crowded banquet hall why not try something different this year?

There's still time to make plans and buy tickets for a variety of non-traditional options:

— The Gem and Century Theatres and Century Club restaurant, 333 Madison Ave., Detroit, are offering a variety of theater/dinner packages. *Shear Madness* and *8-Track*, The Sounds of the 70's will be showing. A sample package includes theater, dinner, dancing, champagne toast and party favors for \$100 per person. Call (313) 963-9800 or visit: www.gemtheatre.com for times and more info.

— Kids of all ages are welcome to Michigan's first indoor water park for a Splash Bash at the Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet & Conference Center, on the southwest corner of Van Dyke and 15 Mile in Sterling Heights. The family package includes accommodations and water park entry for four people, pizza, hot dogs, soft drinks, entertainment and favors. Cost is \$395.50. For more info call (586) 979-1400 or check the web at: www.sterlinginn.com.

— Sit back and listen to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall, 3663 Woodward Ave. in Detroit, perform a concert of Viennese waltzes and American songs. Champagne toasts, dessert buffet and dancing on the stage will follow the performance. Tickets range from \$40 to \$190. Box seats, which include hors d'oeuvres and open bar,

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are \$195. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit the web at: www.detroit-symphony.com.

— Ring in the New Year with family and friends at First Night Birmingham 2003. The celebration offers puppet and magic shows, contra-dancing lessons, mask making, face painting, live music and lots more. Tickets cost \$5 or \$10 per person depending on the event. Before Dec. 31 buy tickets at TechnoMasters, 725 S. Adams, Birmingham. Or, Dec. 31 tickets will be available at the door of each performance venue. Cash or check only.

— The Holiday Inn Livonia, 17123 Laurel Park Drive will host a family fun night. The package includes children's entertainment, board games and a Holiday Inn fun until 1 a.m. Room rates run from \$169 to \$219 plus 14 percent tax. For information call (734) 464-1300.

— Swing your partner at a country western dance at the Italian Cultural Center, 2811 Imperial Drive south of 12 Mile and east of Hoover in Warren. Advance ticket sales only by calling (586) 731-8337. Cost is \$35 per person. Open bar, champagne toast, dinner and dancing will be provided.

— Hockeytown fans will cheer for the home team at Joe Louis Arena when the Detroit Red Wings play the St. Louis

Blues at 7 p.m. Call (313) 396-7544 for ticket information.

— If bowling is your game check out Oak Lanes, 8450 Middlebelt Rd. in Westland. Sign up for the no-tap doubles tournament from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. for \$40 per couple. Door prizes, party favors and pizza included. Or, rent-a-lane for two hours anytime between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. The cost of \$40 per lane includes a max of four bowlers per lane, party favors and one large pizza. Advance reservations are required for both events by calling (734) 422-7420.

— Head for the slopes at Alpine Valley, 6775 East Highland in White Lake to ski from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. A torch light parade begins at 8 p.m. and a fireworks display will start at 9 p.m. Call (248) 687-4183 or visit www.alpinevalley.com.

— Travel south of the Michigan border to the Walleye Capital of the World in Port Clinton, Ohio. At the stroke of midnight, Wylie, a 600-pound fiberglass fish will be slowly dropped from atop a pole. Food, music and dancing begin at 8 p.m. Check www.walleyecapital.com or call (800) 441-1271.

Mary Quinley is a Livonia resident and writes about food and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. You can reach her at MQuinley@aol.com.

Master the Art of Having a Good Time!

Art, food, shopping and more every Friday night from 6 to 9 p.m. Activities are FREE with museum admission unless otherwise noted. Fridays Hotline: 313-833-7530

Promotional support for Friday Nights at the DIA provided by:

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LOCAL 4

TOMORROW NIGHT!

Motor City
JAZZ FRIDAY
Friday, December 20

Nationally acclaimed Rodney T. Whitaker fills the museum with the sounds that earned him a spot on the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and Septet. Tours of the European collection, art workshops and drawing in the galleries are also on tap! Promotional support provided by:

WEMU 83.1

NEXT WEEK!
FAMILY FRIDAY
Friday, December 27

The Peter Sparling Dance Company treats you to dance inspired by the current blockbuster *Degas and the Dance* and storyteller Miz Rosie weaves tales of African folklore.

Celebrate the holidays at the DIA

Puppet shows, storytelling, dancers in the galleries and more!
December 26-31

Detroit PuppetArt Theater presents *Ondervelt* on Dec. 27, 28 and 29 at 3 p.m.
Visit www.dia.org for the complete holiday lineup.

Final Weeks!

Degas and the Dance

Exhibition Dates: December 19, 2002 - January 13, 2003. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Ticket prices: \$12.00 - \$22.00. The Detroit Institute of Arts, 1219 E. Warren Ave., Detroit, MI 48202.

For tickets call 1-866-DEGASTIX

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you going?

Friday Nights at the DIA

