

Arts & Entertainment

GALLERIES ■ THEATER ■ DANCE ■ DINING

THE FARMINGTON COURTHOUSE
FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT
32737 WASHINGTON ROAD
Farmington, CT 06030-3900

Hot tickets

■ Motown tribute

All aboard the Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train, Friday, Feb. 28, for a "Tribute to Motown." Enjoy a three-hour train excursion and five-course gourmet meal while listening to a trio of singers perform Motown hits. Board the train on Pontiac Trail just north of Maple Road, near the I-96 I-90 exit in Walled Lake, at 6:30 p.m., depart 7:30 p.m. and return by 10:30 p.m. Cost \$72.50 per person, reservations a must, call (248) 960-9440 or visit www.michiganstarclipper.com.

■ Fiddling

Mitch Masters stars as Teyve and Shannon Williams as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof* featuring a cast of 40 metro Detroit residents from Livonia to Clarkston, through



Saturday, March 8, at the new Starlight Theatre in Summit Place Mall in Waterford. Shows 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 4 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets \$15, call (248) 335-1788.

■ Rock on

Leon Russell has played on, arranged, written and produced some of rock and roll's most successful records. He's got four gold albums and two top 40 singles. He'll be at the Magic Bag in Ferndale, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Russell says he's happiest when he's on the road playing music. "It keeps me energized," he said. Tickets \$20, at the box office, 22920 Woodward Ave., or call (248) 645-6666, (248) 544-3030, or www.themagicbag.com.

■ Crack up

Margaret Smith, winner of the American Comedy Awards "Best Female Stand-up," will be at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 8 p.m. Thursday Feb. 27, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1. For tickets and show information, call (734) 996-9080.



Greg Hicks has received rave reviews in England as the tragic warrior Coriolanus.

Royal visit

■ By Linda Chomin Staff Writer ■

Shakespearean company returns to dazzle

Just when Shakespeare lovers thought nothing could top a University Musical Society presentation of his rarely performed history plays in Ann Arbor in 2001, the Royal Shakespeare Company is back dazzling audiences.

Royal Shakespeare Company

What: Perform Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Coriolanus*, and Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*

When: Saturday, March 1, to Sunday, March 16

■ *Merry Wives* - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1 & 8, Wednesday, March 5, 1:30 p.m. Thursday & Sunday, March 6 & 9

■ *Coriolanus* - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4, Thursday-Friday,

March 6-7, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 2,

and Saturday, March 8

■ *Midnight's Children* - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday-Saturday, March 12-15, and

1:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 15-16

Where: Power Center for the

Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St.,

Ann Arbor.

Tickets: \$30-\$60, (734) 764-2538

or www.ums.org

This is Shakespeare like he's never been seen before.

Director David Farr sets the tragic Roman *Coriolanus* in 19th century Samurai society while Rachel Kavanaugh places *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in a small town at the end of World War II. The trend to make Shakespeare accessible through the use of familiar settings is why his plays have seen a resurgence of popularity in the last several years.

Farr admits to being a huge fan of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's films about the Samurai. He reinvents *Coriolanus* as the fearless warrior who betrays his countrymen, and in so doing condemns himself to death.

Greg Hicks returns to Ann Arbor as the lead role as part of a 16-day RSC residency for the University Musical Society and University of Michigan. In addition to participating in related educational activities, Hicks and the rest of the 20-member ensemble perform a multitude of roles in *Coriolanus* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Farr insisted on Hicks playing the part of the tragic warrior *Coriolanus*, and so far critics agree on his choice. Both have been receiving rave reviews at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

"When I first read *Coriolanus* for the production I was struck by the un-modern world where a military aristocracy has a divine right to rule over citizenry," said Farr. "The impact it made on me was to stage it in a world unlike our own, where valor is the greatest virtue. I thought the warrior culture was terribly important and found a simple way to portray that. For the Samurai the world changed very fast and collapsed. This is abstract, minimalist, a pared down Samurai world. You don't have to know anything about it."

It's always a challenge for directors to make a story come to



Claire Carme (Mistress Ford), and Richard Cordery (Falstaff) in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

PLEASE SEE ROYAL VISIT, B2

Divine liturgy echoes in new Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus CD

My grandmother would have loved the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus' new CD *Golden Echoes of Kyiv - The Divine Liturgy*. Like many Ukrainians, she was devoted to the church, and the priests at St. John's for whom she cooked and cleaned. Grandmother was among the many Ukrainians immigrants who settled near the church in southwest Detroit, and on the city's east side, in the late 1940s. Some of the new arrivals, who longed for the music of their home-



Artistic Expressions

Linda Chomin

land, formed the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus. Many belonged to the chorus founded in 1918 in Ukraine.

Known for their more than 40 recordings of bandura, a Ukrainian stringed instrument,

and choral works, this is the first time the group's recorded *capella* style. Their deep male voices take visitors back to 16th and 17th century churches and monasteries, where the music and chants originated.

"It's survived all these years," said chorus member Bohdan Pryjma of Rochester. Pryjma's parents came here in the mid-1940s and regularly took him to Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus concerts while he was growing up. "I get the chills when I hear it." This music is centuries old

and survived all the things our country has gone through, the persecution. As a nation I think Ukrainians are very religious. It's dear to our hearts. I think it's what binds us together."

Generation after generation of Ukrainians have kept the religion and bandurist music alive. Several father and son teams like Wladimir and Anatoli Murha sing and play the lute-like instrument with the chorus.

"We went back to our roots. The music originated in

church. This is the actual liturgy you'd hear in a church," said Anatoli Murha of Livonia. "These are ancient chants of Kyiv where Christianity was founded in 988 A.D."

"It's identical to going to church," added his father Wladimir, who recently returned from a trip to Ukraine where he ordered costumes for an upcoming European tour. On June 25, the chorus leaves for concerts in England, Germany, Austria and

PLEASE SEE CD, B2

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.