Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 13, 2003 Copperfield says show is about fantasy and awe

Life for David Copperfield right now is about dreams that come true. Fantasy is his theme in perform-ances David Copperfield: An Intimate Evening of Grand Illusion coming to the Fox Theatre March

coming to the Fox Theatre March 14-16.

On his cell phone from a Las Vegus restaurant, the popular magician said the dreamy idea for his current tour makes sense to him.

'A good dream isn't about half of your fantasite coming true, it's about perfection.' Copperfield said. Everyone has dreams of finding the perfect love, driving the perfect car, winning the lottery. this show is about what it would look like if those dreams came true.'

He said the strongest reaction from audiences currently is the car

sequence of the show. He won't give away further details, but he will talk about the emotion he wants audiences to experience from his performance.

"Laughter, tears, joy, excitementits all in this show. It's about telling stories, in one segment an audience member will be reconciled with a long lost loved one."

But there's more. Reunion, he said, is one of the most startling illusions he's created.

While standing on the arm of a crane Copperfield will be suspended over the audience. The participating audience member will disappear and then will reappear moments later in the selected location of their dreams—be it Honolulu or Hackensack.

Hackensack.
And in typical Copperfield pizzazz,
the show will have sex appeal.
In the segment called



ShortChange Copperfield will dive into the dreams of men

dive into the dreams of men across America pages of a Victoria's Secret catalogue where he'll magically remove a personal piece of clothing from two women in the audience.

The illusion isn't too risqu', it's My shows are always suitable for the whole family but it's not white washed to the point of being uncost to it in a VHI or MTY sort or different with a VHI or MTY sort or different involves his magic with a black African scorpion. This illusion is the most dangerous he's ever performed he said.

With today's technology it takes a lot impress an audience, he said. Floating through the air, and through steel and making 13 audience members vanish are other highlights, But does the magician ever long for the days when pulling arabhit from a hat was impressive? Not at all, Copperfield said. In some ways today's technology can make things easier, but in more other it's more challenging. The lowed magic since I was a kid, Irn always looking for the most exiting illusions.

And is he a magician or an illusions.

And is he a magician or an inusionist;

'If you say you're an illusionist you get paid 20 percent more, he said.
'And it brings me to places like the Fox Theatre...it's a beautiful venue for a show."

What: "David Copperfield: An Intimate Evening of Grand Illusion"

When: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 14-15; 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15; 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

Where: The Fox Theatre, Detroit

Tickets: \$28-\$46; \$5 discount for kids under 12 and seniors over 65 at the Fox Theatre and Joe Louis box offices and Hockeytown Authentics in Troy without service charge - also at Marshall Field's. To purchase tickets by phone, call (248) 433-1515 or online at www.olympiaenter tainment.com or viww.ticketmaster.com.

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IRISH

FROM PAGE BI

have a half a dozen pipers from the Windsor Police Band led by Bill Baird, and a mixture of Scottish and Irish music.

We're going to celebrate on St. Patrick's Day itself just like we have for the last 18 years. There's something for everyone. It's really for families, but we have seniors, everybody. Children are welcome and we don't charge for children. We bring in a lot of musicians, dancers. The children can watch the dancing and then dance themselves. Mom and dad can have corned beef and cabbage and sit back and listen to the music.

The children can watch the dancing and then dance themselves. Mom and dad can have corned beef and cabbage and sit back and listen to the music.

When they're done eating, they might want to burn off the adories by kicking up their heels. Carolyn Brazzil makes Irish step dancing sound simple. She'lb eo nhand to show guests how it's done. And lessons are free with admission.

"All you have to be able to do is count to three and seven," said Brazzil, a Windsor resident who grew up in Reiford. Brazzil began dancing 15 years ago. By day she works in administration for Berkley Public Schools.

"Step dancing is Irish folk dancing," she said. "In Ireland its what people did on Saturday nights for entertainment. Different counties—Clare, Kerry – had different sets. It's the origin of American square dancing, changing partners, swinging, It's lots of fun. If you mess up, we just laugh."

Brazzil says if she could learn to step dance, anyone can. She didn't start until after years of shuttling her daughters to lessons with Michael and Tim O'Itare at their Irish dance school, then located in Plymouth. They now have locations in Birmingham and Westland.

Alter learning the basies, Irazzil traveled to Ireland to study at the Willie Clancey School in County Clare. Later she learned authentic steps during a tour of Ireland with San Francisco dancer Larry Lynch. Thurday nights she teaches dancing to ages 4 to 70 at the White Heather Club in Fernada, where sho offen shares a little history about the most celebrated Irish holiday.

"Lequate St. Patrick's Day in Ireland to our Thankegiving." Brazzil said. "People go to church and there are family eclebrations. Growing up in my house, St. Patrick's Day was a big holiday.



DaGavins play Celtic music at the annual Irish Fest on St.

You had to be dressed head to toe in green ar shamrocks. I was raised proud to be an Irish American. I'm 100 percent Irish American, fourth generation, and proud of it."

BRASS BAND

Deb Koepele is one-quarter Irish, and just as proud. The Canton resident plays flugelhorn with the Motor City Brass Band Sunday, March [6, at Southfield Centre for the Arts, The annual Irish Spectacular features songs like Molly on the Shore, The Girl Leß Bebind, Annie Laurie, Irish Blessing and an Irish medley including Cockles and Mussels, Irish Washerwonan, Danny Boy and Wearin' of the Green. Guesting on the program is the five-piece traditional Irish band Modesty Forbids.

Motor City Brass Band plays 20 to 30 concerts a year, including a series of four at the Southfield Center for the Arts. Members include lawyers, engineers, businessmen, a dentist, veterituarian and college students. Several members are music educators and retired band directors. Koepele is a music therapist.

a music therapist.

"It's become a tradition," Koepele said. "It's neat to celebrate. It's our most well-attended concert and appeals to all ages. There's music there for everybody."

REVELATIONS

FROM PAGE BI

ment in a way that gets audiences caught up in the ascen-sion, indeed, it's not unusual for audience members to respond with calls and shouts during the piece; It's very engaging. Bak said. 'It's one of those pieces that you always want to see.'

Hevelations is slated for all but Thursday evening's Detroit performances. Alvin Ailey Dance Theater has several neuer works set for its Detroit shows, too.

Apex, a one-act piece planned for Thursday evenings program, addresses the plight of refugees and topical themes like violence in society. Words are projected on to surfaces during the performance, and there's also a vocal tract. The piece unquestionably has a

dark tone with a finger pointed at corruption in society. Prayers from the Edge, a Romeo and Juliet story with a tribalistic tone, is slated for Wednesday and Saturday vening shows. Dancers don red or gold costumes, denoting group membership, And, while the piece begins with a "Frayer for Power," it ends optimistically with a "Trayer for Power," it ends optimistically with a "Trayer for Peace." The choreography by Lymie from Peter Gabriel's ablum Passion, befitting a company known for tapping the full spectrum of musical genera, from jazz to gospel to rock.

Such virtuosity is one of the traous audiences embrace the company with such excitement, said David DiChiera, general director at Michigan Opera Theatre, which hosted the troupe two years ago.

"The response is almost hysterical," he said. "I think it's the combination of how they build on such a great tradition of dance and bring together such an array of musical styles."

The Winter in Lisbon, planned for several Detroit performances, is yet another.

an array of musical styles.

The Winter in Lisbon,
planned for several Detroit
performances, is yet another
example of the company's fervery for music. The 1992 work
by choreographer Billy Wilson
pays tribute to jazz great Dizzy
Gillespie and is set to his
music. Colorful costumes and
sassy dancing make Lisbon a
crowd favorite.

"I'a a sweet, fun piece, very
high-energy. Bak said of
Lisbon.

Then again, everything
Alvin Ailey Dance Theater
does could be described as
high-energy, considering its
technical skill and passion, Bak
sdded. "They really pull something out of the choreography."

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