# **Schoolcraft Theatre** revives 'Lend Me a Tenor'

Jim Hartman can't stop laughing even after sitting through
seven weeks of rehearsals for
Lend Me a Tenor, the Schoolcraft
College Theatre production opening Friday, Maret S.
Hartman decided to revive the
Ken Ludwig comedy after it was
such a hit with audiences the last
time around.
"It's hysterical," said Hartman,
director and head of the theater
program." We did it six years ago
and it sold out before it was cast
and we had to add a show. I just
love the play, the zaniness. It's a
play of mistaken identity, very fast
paced, almost a farce. It's a funny
show, an adult show with adult
themes and some cursing, It's

paced, almost a farce. It's a funny show, an adult show with adult themes and some cursing. It's going to make audiences haugh until their sides hurt. Hartman's relying on the actors to deliver the color and fast-paced punch lines. Unlike the 1997 production, he's designed a stark white set as a neutral backdrop for the eight-member cast.

Tim looking for the costumes and actors to add color, said Hartman. They're bringing color to the performance through characterization. At rehearsals I'm constantly talling them to bring up the energy. They're learning if you're not tired when you go home you haven't done your job here. Brian Taylor knows the amount of energy it takes to play the Italian tenor superstar Tito Morelli. He was cast in the same role six years ago. A graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, Taylor's performing in his 16th



Carol Lipinski (left), Jessica Duffey and Joseph Fournier rehearse a scene from "Lend Me a Tenor."

'At rehearsals I'm constantly telling them to bring up the energy. They're learning if you're not tired when you go home you haven't done your job here.'

Jim Hartman director, Schoolcraft College Theatre

show at Schoolcraft College.
"I spend a whole act knocked unconscious," said Taylor. "It's so fun to do. The play's set in the

#### SHOWTIME

What: "Lend Me a Tenor"

When: 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 21-22, and 28-29 (dinner theater), and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 4-5 (performance only)

Where: Liberal Arts Theater. Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile roads, Livonia

Tickets: \$22 dinner theater, \$10 performance only, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5457

1930s at the Cleveland Grand 1930s at the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Tito Morelli has a lot of lady fans and brings his wife with him to the performance. They argue off and on and there's a mix-up with medication and alcohol and he's thought to be dead. Another actor takes over as Othello and wears his costume. My character comes around and goes and gets another costume and starts running around. People think they're talking to him and they're not. It's hilarious. "It's really fun, a fast, fun evening, You've heard the saying it's a laugh a minute." It really is."

### L LUKCE TT

FROM PAGE BI

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center on Saturday. The event is part of their 30th anniversary tour.

The group exploded into the music scene in the mid-70s after a successful reign in Barupe. They became one of the leading forcer in pop music with sales of more than 100 million records. KC and his Sunshines have captured three Grammys, nine Grammy nominations and the American Music Award for Best R&B Artist.

Casey said he first broke into the biz at age 17-18, writing songs with his musician pal Richard Finch, the band's basist who now lives in Europe. His biggest influences were rhythm and blues artists like the (Young) Rascals, Blood, Swat and Tears, Joe Cocker, and the Motown artists he listened to as a teenager.

He was, generally, a solitary listener. Twas the only white boy listening to this stuff, he said. "All my friends were making fun of me."

What: KC and the Sunshine Band

Where:

8 p.m. Saturday, March 22

Where: Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Dearborn

Tickets: \$45 -\$55, available at the box office, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 n.m. Monday-Friday. and 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. To charge tickets by phone, call (3(3) 943-2354

Visit KC online at www kcandthesunshineband.com

mirror ball' until the film Saturday Night
Fever was released, but the band was
already firmly entrenched in disco, and
could rest a bit on their laurels and record
some laid-huck ballads.
However, KC and the Sunshine Band are
best remembered for their funky, upbeat
thumpers. Figuring out their name was
casy. KC sounded like Casey and the group
was named the Sunshine Band in honor of
their nature Florida, the Sunshine State.
That was the proper name, 'Casey said, for
their sunny, catchy music.
Today, those happy thumpers – which are
a mainstay of many commercials and
movies these days – are needed more than
ever, he said, 'People are ready for it, with
all these bad things going on in the world.
It really lifts people.
He's looking forward to being back in
the Detroit area. Last time was two years
ago at Pine Knob (DTE Energy Music
Theatre). 'I just lowe what I'm doing and
I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in
Michigan.

The hairline has receded a bit, and Casey
longer wears his trademark shage. But it's

The hairline has receded a bit, and Casey The hairline has receded a bit, and Casey no longer wears his trademark shap. But it's still "dark brown," although some thought it was lighter during the band's heyday. The lighting in those days - much of it looming orange and yellow onto the disco stage "made it look auburn," he said.

## DANCE FROM PAGE BI

years ago in local nightclubs. Today, it's her primary source of entertainment; she dances every Friday and Saturday night. A few years, she danced three and four times a week. "It's my release, my therapy, it's my chance to let it all out and feel free," she says.

and and and feel free, she says.

While traditional dance clubs offer patrons the same type of recreational and social release, Cieslinski says, at 35, she's too old for the bar scene. "I need to have a more mature scene," she says. This is social, but it's not a booty ba where people are dancing by

themselves and getting picked up."

#### TWENTY-SOMETHINGS, TOO

Perhaps not surprisingly, Cheryl Hackett, a competition contender and 21-year-old University of Michigan student from Northville, appreciates balloom dancing for the same

"It's different from the clubs.
It's something you can do to be social," says Hackett, who donned a white ball gown for

donned a white ball gown for the competition.
"Here, you have people who actually know the steps," she says, "At a club, it's booty shak-ing."
Once more, women and men can dance together without

feeling it means something more, Hackett says.

## NEVER TOO OLD TO DANCE

The oldest Burn the Floor cast member may be 35, but today's ballroom boom draws older, as well as younger, generations. And many in the older crowd are beginners, too. Among those who turned out for the Burn the Floor preview and competition were 70-year-old Bill Zorney of Northville and his partner, 61-year-old Bobbic Kahibaum of Westland. The two have been dancing regularly for about Westland. The two have been dancing regularly for about three years. Recently, they began classes at Dance Elite Ballroom Studio. "We dabble in all styles,"

**HEART AND SOUL** 

As a white guy, who sounded black, he was told by a record company that 'I would never have a shot at it (fame)' but that didn't deter him. 'I didn't see it as a color thing, I just did it my way, with heart and soul.'

soul."

It was during that time that Casey picked up the keyboard. He'd already had a few piano lessons." I took some piano lessons as a kid until the teacher thought I knew more than her, he quipped. "That was the end of that." He admits to playing well by ear, and now relies on his DX-7 keyboard to plunk out types.

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Though KC and the Sunshine Band had their first R&B hits with Blow Your Whistle (1973) and Sound Your Funky Horn (early 1974), they didn't hit their stride until their number-one smash, Get Down Tonight. A history on the band says the Sunshines realized "they'd caught lightening in a bottle."

Thus began a string of hits and their.

Thus began a string of hits and their trademark funky sound. "We were the fore-runners of disco," Casey said. There was "no

Zorney says of the couple's ballroom odyssey. "Some day we hope to be able to do all the styles," Kahlbaum adds

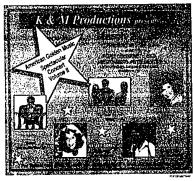
Natibush adds.

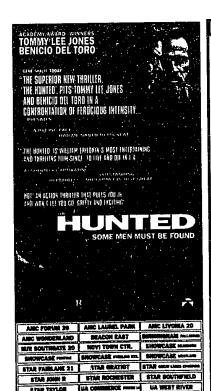
Neither are inclined to describe their progress on the dance floor, but both regularly take classes and attend open dances Friday and Saturday nights. Zorney frequently turns out for a Wednesday morning senior class followed by open dancing, as well.

"We like the music and the physical activity," he says. "It's challenging, but it's enjoyable." It makes you feel elegant and graceful," she says.

Who could ask for more? Neither are inclined to

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