

## Hot tickets

### On stage

Colin Gibbins and Jon Wright are busy rehearsing for the Michigan Opera Theatre production of *Dead Man Walking*, premiering June 7-15 at the Detroit Opera House. Gibbins and Wright have supporting singing roles, and are 10th-graders in the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School in Livonia. For tickets, or more information about the show, call (313) 237-SING or visit the Web site at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org). Look for Linda Chomin's article about *Dead Man Walking* on June 5 in our new filter entertainment guide.

### Military discounts

Military personnel and their families are eligible for buy-one-get-one-free lawn area tickets at Freedom Hill Amphitheater in Sterling Heights. Upgrades are also available. Offer applies to all branches of the military including active, reserve, retired and civilian and their immediate families. A valid military I.D. is required when purchasing tickets. "This is our way of saying thank-you to the defenders of our freedom, past and present," said Kevin Cassidy, Freedom Hill general manager. For more information, call the box office (586) 268-5100 or visit [www.freedomhill.net](http://www.freedomhill.net). Tickets on sale now. Season opens 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 24, with *Third Eye Blind*.

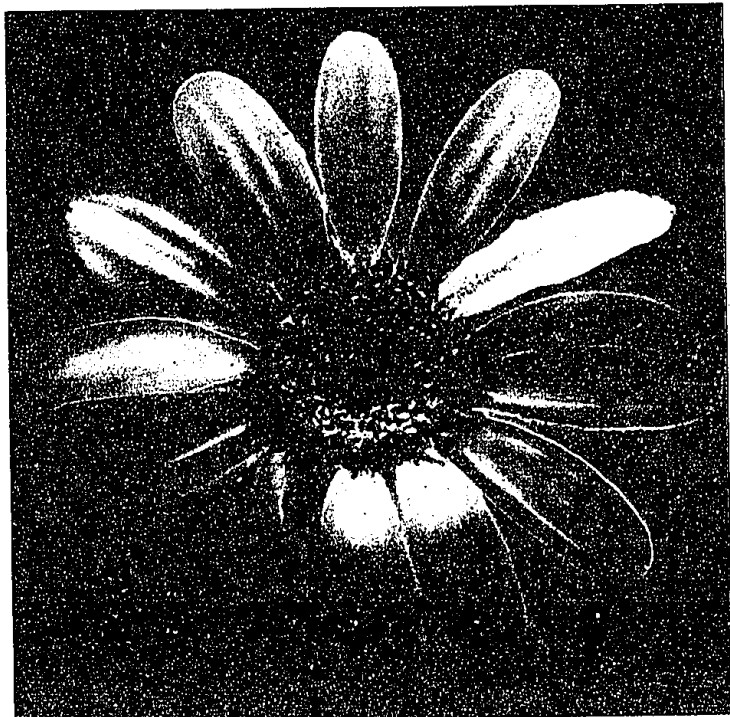
### Drum roll

In honor of *Blasf*—opening Tuesday, May 13, at the Fox Theatre in Detroit—Olympia Entertainment is calling on local drumlines who can make crowds dance to the beat of their drums just like the cast of *Blasf*. Interested drumlines who can explain in 50 words or less why they have what it takes to beat out the rest can enter the *Blasf* Drumline Exhibition by sending an e-mail to [Contests@OlympiaEntertainment.com](mailto:Contests@OlympiaEntertainment.com), with *Blasf* Drumline Exhibition in the subject line, by Friday, May 9. Include name of the drumline, number of members, representative's name, and evening phone number. Ten drumlines will be asked to report to Comerica Park 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. Each drumline will have a few minutes to perform a drumline dance-style cadence. The drumline with the most memorable beat and dynamic performance will win a prize package that includes the opportunity to perform outside the theater 6-6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 15, tickets to the show, and a meet and greet with the cast.

### Gallery tour

Tour 13 downtown Birmingham galleries 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 9. Cowboy Trader Gallery, 251 Merrill St., upper level, is hosting a reception for Susan Guy, an acclaimed painter of horses from Buffalo, Wyo., from 7-10 p.m. For more information about Birmingham Art Walk, and the reception for Guy, call (248) 647-8833 or visit [www.cowboytradergallery.com](http://www.cowboytradergallery.com). Other participating galleries are ArtSpace II, Avenue Gallery, Bloomfield Fine Arts Gallery, Bruce White Gallery, David Klein Gallery, Gallery Nikko, Habitat Gallery, Hill Gallery, Potner Gallery, Robert Kidd Gallery, Xaw Gallery, and Zoom Artistic Photography.

# Art in the park



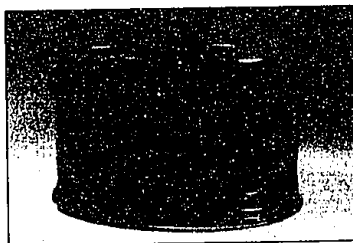
Call Hobgood-Lemme used an up close approach to create this multi-colored daisy photograph.

## First fair of season this weekend in Birmingham

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Just like daffodils and tulips popping up in area backyards are a sure sign of spring, the Birmingham Fine Art Festival heralds the arrival of the outdoor art fair season. Held Mother's Day weekend, the festival kicks off a string of art shows in Plymouth, Ann Arbor, Rochester, Farmington, and Franklin. (See related sidebar.) This year's 22nd annual event returns to Shain Park in downtown Birmingham Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11. Presented by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center and Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber, the festival spotlights 300 artists working in 17 media ranging from painting to jewelry, glass, sculpture, photography and ceramics.

"It's the first art fair of the season and the first art weekend of the summer in Birmingham," said Janet Torno,



Joe Smith creates wheel thrown functional pottery. He will be exhibiting the functional wares in the Birmingham Fine Art Festival.

PLEASE SEE ART FAIRS, B2



'L'Air d'Esprit' is a tribute to Russian ballerina Olga Spessivtzeva. The pas de deux is performed in *Encore*, Arpino.

## Dance in contrast

Joffrey troupe presents American, Russian works

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Think twice about attending just one Joffrey Ballet of Chicago performance.

The company has two decidedly different programs planned for their Detroit visit this weekend at the Detroit Opera House.

"Like night and day," said David DiChiera, DOH director. "And, ballet watchers are going to be fascinated by both."

The first, *Encore Arpino*, offered May 8-9, represents late 20th century dance. The second, *The Diaghilev Dynasty*, runs May 10-11 and recalls some of the great Russian choreography of the early 1900s.

*Encore Arpino* is comprised of signature works created by Joffrey Ballet of Chicago's founder and

artistic director Gerald Arpino.

Arpino, whose choreographic style has been described as youthful, passionate and precise, co-founded New York City's Joffrey Ballet with Robert Joffrey in 1956.

In 1998, Arpino established Chicago's Joffrey Ballet.

Among the pieces presented in *Encore Arpino* is *Light Rain*, the most requested work in the dance troupe's repertoire.

Arpino's choreography "is steeped in the tradition of ballet but has such youth, which gives it an American vitality," DiChiera said, adding, "It appeals to a very wide audience. It's not like an interpretation of an old-style European ballet."

In contrast, *The Diaghilev Dynasty* is rooted in the art form's legacy. The

### BALLET ON STAGE

What: Joffrey Ballet of Chicago presents two programs, *Encore Arpino* (May 8-9) and *The Diaghilev Dynasty* (May 10-11).

When: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, May 8-10; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11.

Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

Tickets: \$17-\$75, call (313) 237-SING, Ticketmaster (248) 645-5555 or [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org)

PLEASE SEE BALLET, B2