

Humor is theme for concert

leisure



ARE THESE massive stone carvings on Easter Island representations of superior beings who visited the enigmatic island thousands of years ago? This is one of many provocative suggestions posed in "Chariots of the Gods?"

'Chariots of Gods' comes to screen

"Chariots of the Gods?" the motion picture adaptation of author Erich von Daniken's international best-seller, will open a limited engagement at the Penn Theater in Plymouth, Wednesday, Jan. 23.

"Chariots," a winner at the 1973 Atlanta film festival, explores von Daniken's controversial theory that many ancient civilizations developed as the result of advanced knowledge brought to the earth by extra-terrestrial visitors.

An international cult has developed as a result of von Daniken's theories, which have rocked conventional theories of archeology and history. Three of his books, all dealing with the subject, have sold over 25 million copies.

The Sun International Productions release documents the theory with examples from countries around the world, including such archeological enigmas as the

statues on Easter Island, the pyramids, and cave drawings resembling modern-day astronauts.

Besides such physical evidence, von Daniken cites Biblical passages and other ancient writings to support his theory.

The book and film have produced great curiosity and interest around the world. A number of noted scientists, including Dr. Herman Oberth, father of the rocket, have substantiated part of von Daniken's ideas.

While many established archeologists tend to ridicule von Daniken, the iconoclastic author predicts that resistance in the scientific community will lessen as new knowledge is developed about the history of man -- and the sources of his knowledge.

"Chariots of the Gods?" was produced by a German film company, Terra Filmkunst, and directed by Dr. Harald Reinl.

Ali, Frazier fight for TV

Olympia Stadium management announced the completion of arrangements for the live, closed circuit telecasting of the Muhammed Ali - Joe Frazier 12-round fight from New York's Madison Square Gardens, Jan. 28,

to five Michigan locations and the Windsor Arena.

There will be no home television or radio coverage of the battle. In Detroit, the fight will be shown exclusively at Olympia Stadium and the Fox Theater.

"There's not much humor in music," says Plymouth Symphony Musical Director Wayne Dunlap, who nevertheless has found enough to fill an entire program.

"There's no humor to speak of in the 19th century, so most of the works are from the 18th and 20th centuries."

Humor will be the theme of the Plymouth Symphony's annual family concert Sunday, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m. in Plymouth's Salem High School, Joy Road west of Canton Center.

The overture to Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" has rollicking crescendos, Dunlap said. The *andante* (slow) movement earned Haydn's symphony No. 94 the subtitle of "Surprise" because it is interrupted by occasional loud chords that startled groggy noblemen.

Perhaps the funniest will be the presto movement from Mozart's "A Musical Joke." Says Dunlap: "Mozart always wanted to write a book on composition, but he never had time because he was always too busy composing. So he wrote this as an example of what NOT to do."

"There are phrases repeated once too often, wrong notes and an imitation of a group of village musicians. And it's full of sheer good animal spirits, charm and gaiety."

By tradition, the soloist for the family concert is young. Cellist Sarah Roth, a University of Michigan freshman, will perform the final two movements of Haydn's D major cello concerto.

"In the last movement, Haydn slipped in an English ditty called 'Here We Go Gathering Nuts in May,'" Dunlap explained.

Ibert's "Divertissement" opens with a strain from Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" that is interrupted by orchestral horse laughs -- "as if the composer is laughing at marriage. The finale has police whistles, and all sorts of unexpected instruments."

Walton's "Facade Suite" was written to accompany Dame Edith Sitwell's symbolist poetry, which contains more color and rhythm than common sense.

Richard Strauss' nose-twisting "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" tells musically of a sprite who rides a horse through a marketplace, poses as a preacher and mocks teachers, doctors and high officials. After his execution, his soul (the high E-flat clarinet) ascends to Heaven.

Tickets at \$2 for adults and

\$1 for college students are available in advance at Melody House and Heide's Flowers, both in downtown Plymouth, or at the door.

K-12 students are admitted free, but those below sixth grade must be accompanied by an adult. Babysitting by qualified girl scouts will be available.

Bus rides from the Tonquish Creek Manor senior citizens home will begin 45 minutes before concert time.

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