



Playing at Blue Parrot

Pamela Wise on keyboard and vocals appears with Wendell Harrison on woodwinds from 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Blue Parrot, 29121 Northwestern Highway and 12 Mile Road, Southfield. Ms. Wise, who was born in Steubenville, Ohio, was greatly influenced



by her father, Robert C. Wise, a jazz musician. She came to Detroit in 1979 and met Wendell Harrison, who took an interest in furthering her career.

Musical 'Zorba' opening long run

A Greek celebration of life will get underway when Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre opens its new musical "Zorba" by Joseph Stein, John Kander and Fred Ebb.

Authentic Greek folk dance and music will be featured in "Zorba." Performance are at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through March 28 at Will-O-Way, 775 W. Long Lake Road, between Telegraph and Lahser roads, Bloomfield Township.

Call 644-4119 for ticket reservations and theater party information.

Based on Nikos Kazantzakis' novel "Zorba the Greek," the musical steepes itself in the earthiness and anguish, the brutality and glory of life in a Cretan village.

Personifying these qualities is Zorba, a lusty man swept away by wonder at the world. He befriends and transforms Nikos, the bookish philosophy professor seeking spiritual renewal.

JOSEPH STEIN'S book for the musical is packed with action: a suicide, a feud, a murder, a speculative mining venture and romance. Music written by the John Kander-Fred Ebb team, who collaborated on "Cabaret," is true to Greek folk traditions.

Will-O-Way's "Zorba" is directed by Celia Merrill Turner, the repertory theater's artistic director. Mrs. Turner

founded Will-O-Way Apprentice Theatre, for 40 years a school for developing actors.

David Wilson of Pontiac is musical director for "Zorba." Southfield resident Michelle Levine choreographed the show, assisted by Greek dance coach Bill Anagnos of Bloomfield Hills.

Cast in top roles are Timothy Hall of Birmingham as Nikos, Joaquin (Jac) Cortes of Keego Harbor as Zorba, Shirley Boyas of West Bloomfield as Zorba's love interest, Hortense, and Eileen Weiss of Bloomfield Hills as the Widow won over by Nikos.

Others to play major roles in "Zorba" include Marc Tenenbaum of Farmington Hills as the street kid, Mimiko, and Buzz Turner of West Bloomfield and Merrick Williams of Troy as the brutish brothers Manolakas and Mavrodani. Henry F. Gesund of Oak Park is their covey nephew, Pavli.

IN A NOD to the chorus of classical Greek theater, Christina Ramona Lyeckjy of Warren, Melvyn Hardiman of Pontiac and Danielle Rene Blanchard of Waterford will portray the Leader and her trio.

Hardiman will join a quartet triple-cast as Admirals, Crows and Monks as well. He will accompany Birmingham resident David Carmichael, Richard Blanchard of Waterford and Bloomfield Hills resident Gustave J. Weltsch.

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