



Meadow Brook goes country with Loretta Lynn at 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

upcoming things to do

- AUDITION TIME**
First Theatre Guild of Birmingham will hold auditions for its fall musical production of "Oliver!" at 2 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Monday in the auditorium of the First Presbyterian Church, 1659 W. Maple, Birmingham. The large cast includes adult men and women, a dozen children 8 or older, a full chorus, vendors, runners and an enthusiastic crowd. For more information call 642-7564 or 360-1708.
- COMEDY CAPERS**
Bill Thomas from Comedy Korners will be the attraction at 8:45 and 10:45 tonight and Friday at Comedy Capers at Stafford's in the Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield. Open mike for new comics is at 9 p.m. Thursdays. Children's entertainment at Stafford's Kids Cabaret will feature Amazing Michael, magic with birds. For more information call 851-8952 anytime.
- READERS' THEATRE**
"Love in Literature and Song," a Readers' Theatre presentation, will be given at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Will-O-Way Theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Township. The show, featuring Shirley Benyas and Leo Mogill, is being performed as a scholarship benefit. Minimum donation is \$6 for adults and \$2 for students. The musical "Damn Yankees" continues at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Sept. 5. Tickets are \$5. For reservations and theater parties call 644-4418.
- DANCE BAND**
Tracer, a four-piece dance band, continues from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. through Saturday at Dewey's in the Michigan Inn, Southfield. Balletz, a five-member dance band, will debut in Dewey's on Monday, playing nightly from 9 to 1 a.m. through Sept. 5. There is dancing and no cover charge. The Michigan Inn is at 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive, next to the Northland Theatre.
- MUSICAL QUARTET**
The Joe Lu Duca Montreux Quartet will perform 2-4 p.m. Sunday in the center court at Benno's French Cafe in Somerset Mall, Troy. The concert, starring guitarist Lu Duca, is open to the public without charge. The quartet performing at Somerset also will appear Sept. 6 at the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival.
- WAGON WHEEL**
Radio City continues through Saturday at the Wagon Wheel Saloon in Troy. The Rick Hall Band opens Tuesday and plays through Sept. 5. The Wagon Wheel will host its first muscular dystrophy benefit from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sept. 6. Six bands will be featured for the event. These include Automatic, Doug Brown and the Ones, Bobby Lewis and the Crackenjack Band, Radio City, the Rick Hall Band and Alexander Zonic. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$8 or at the door for \$10. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to muscular dystrophy, along with a percentage of Wagon Wheel proceeds for that day.
- MEADOW BROOK**
Country star Loretta Lynn, with special guest star Johnny Russell, will appear at Meadow Brook Music Festival at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. The Charlie Daniels Band, with special guest Juice Newton, is the attraction at 8 p.m. Tuesday. For ticket information call 377-3910.
- BOOTLEGGERS LOUNGE**
A muscular dystrophy benefit party will be held from 3 p.m. till 7:30 Sunday at the Bootleggers Lounge on Grand River, approximately one-half mile north of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington. Entertainment will be provided by The New Minority, for dancing and musical comedy, and The Sound Partners, featuring Mark and Dave, country western.
- STATE FAIR**
The nation's oldest state fair will spotlight a variety of new attractions when the 1981 Michigan State Fair unrolls its 11-day schedule Friday through Labor Day, Sept. 7. Newly constructed exhibit facilities, as well as new displays and contests, await visitors to the 132nd State Fair. This will be the state fair's 76th year at the 167-acre state fairgrounds, Eight Mile Road and Woodward, Detroit. Admission is \$4 for adults, with children 11 and under admitted free when accompanied by an adult.
- MONTEUX JAZZ**
Detroit will host the second Montreux Detroit International Jazz Festival throughout downtown Detroit over the Labor Day weekend, Wednesday through Sept. 7. Opening day concerts will feature Donald Byrd and Lyman Woodard alternating sets, beginning at 6 p.m., Wednesday at the Hotel Pontchartrain, and the Little McKinney Cottonpickers and Earl "Fatha" Hines on a Boblo Boat Detroit River cruise, 8:30-11:30 p.m. The Pontchartrain concert is \$11. The Boblo cruise is \$25 per person, including dinner. For concert information 24 hours a day, call the Hotline at 298-6100.
- CASTING CALL**
The Michigan Opera Theatre has issued a casting call for chorus and featured roles in "The Mikado" and "Porgy and Bess" — the two musicals that will form the company's first winter season, opening Jan. 15. "Porgy and Bess" auditions are set for Sept. 3-4 in the ballroom of the Leland House Hotel in downtown Detroit. Auditions for Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" will be held Sept. 9 at the Leland House. For more information or to reserve audition time, call the MOT production office at 963-3717.

Fans adore lively puppet

Continued from last page

So what's it like to take a puppet out into public?

"It's a way of putting on a star," O'Connor explained. "When I go to the grocery store, nobody knows who I am and that's terrific. I have privacy. But when I put her on, I have anything but privacy. People come up to her and say, 'It's her — you know her.'"

But it isn't all roses, even for Mona. Once during a performance her leg fell off.

"She cried," said O'Connor. "She got very upset and yelled at me for not making sure that she was all together properly. I shouldn't have taken her out with a leg that was about to fall off. At first, everyone laughed at her. Then they felt very sorry for her."

"You see, no matter what, I have to make her real."

"What she has become to me, in a way, is an extension of myself and my daughter. I am injecting into her actually — especially on tour. There are no scripts. We do whatever is asked."

"But the main reason I like taking her out, she is the healthiest and happiest of all 18 odd characters on 'Hot Fudge.'"

"And what is most infectious about her is her laugh. You know, it is almost a dirty laugh, kind of a combination of a laugh and a snicker."

"I can't laugh like that. I'm a lady," O'Connor said with a smile. Always mixing the two worlds. That's Mona. Or is it Marilyn O'Connor?



second runs

Tom Panzenhagen

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad	\$1
Fair	\$2
Good	\$3
Excellent	\$4

"After the Fox" (1966), 8 p.m. Monday on Ch. 50. Originally 103 minutes. It was Randolph Scott, who said, "People told me I couldn't act and I made 50 pictures to prove it." But Victor Mature more aptly could have spoken those words. Mature, in a career that spanned four decades, certainly gave some of the worst performances in film history.

Part of the problem, though, was that he was so often miscast in Hollywood's backlot "epics" of the early 1950s — "Androcles and the Lion" and "Demetrius and the Gladiators" among them. Fast approaching 40, Mature was hardly convincing as the young warrior. And plot lines and supporting casts fared no better.

Finally, at the age of 51, Mature was called upon by director Vittorio De Sica to play the very part that he'd unintentionally immortalized: the bad, miscast actor. "After the Fox" has Peter Sellers as a phony movie director who uses a film set as a cover for a robbery.

Mature is the ham that Sellers features. Britt Ekland also stars; script by Neil Simon. Rating: \$2.95.

"Annie Hall" (1977), 9 p.m. Monday on Ch. 7. Originally 94 minutes. Think how seldom we've laughed at the movies since Woody Allen stopped making comedies.

Mel Brooks cannot carry an entire film with his vulgar, one-track brand of humor, and he lacks the directorial skill to do so even if he had a good script. Peter Sellers was more of an adept character actor than a creative film comedian. Laughing at Sellers really meant laughing at Blake Edwards or whoever wrote or directed a Sellers film.

Chevy Chase, Richard Pryor, Gene Wilder, Steve Martin and others simply haven't done enough to enable viewers to form much of an opinion.

Which leaves us with Woody Allen, who has left us in a void since he decided to shift his considerable talents away from comedy to drama.

"Interiors," "Stardust Memories" and especially "Manhattan" — Allen's best film — are wonderful pictures in their own right. But not since "Annie Hall" as Allen given his viewers as much to laugh about as he's given them to think about.

Diane Keaton, Tony Roberts, Colleen Dewhurst and Woody himself star. Rating: \$3.85.

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