



Holiday happenings

● KIDS STUFF

"Babes in Toyland," the Henry Ford Museum Theater presents the popular musical at 2 p.m. Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 26-31. For information, call 271-1820.

Holiday Party — For children 3-9 including a visit with Santa Claus, movie, games and stories from noon to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, Mercy Center, 11 Mile east of Middlebelt, Farmington.

"Spanish Folktales and Songs," folksinger Felix Pitre performs, including several Spanish Christmas song at the Recital Hall of the Detroit Institute of Arts 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1.

"Reynard the Fox," a children's tale for the whole family, Eastern Michigan University Theater of the Young, Friday, Dec. 7, through Sunday, Dec. 9. Curtain 8:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. For information, call 487-1221.

"Babes in Toyland," the Victor Herbert classic, is presented by Theatreworks for the Wiggle Club, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Tickets \$3.

"Shoemaker and the Elves" is performed by Chicago's Melikin Puppet Theatre for ages 5 to adult, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Tickets \$3.

"The Sleeping Beauty Ballet," Tchaikovsky's ballet is interpreted by the Pickwick Puppet Theatre, featuring 5-foot-tall puppets and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16, Plymouth Salem High School auditorium. Adults, \$6; senior citizens, full-time students, \$3.50. May be purchased in advance at Beitner Jewelry, Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, or at the door. For information, call 451-2112.

"Merry Cranberry," a holiday magic show with Danny Orleans for ages 7 to adult, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Tickets \$3.

"The Muppet Show on Tour," Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear and the others arrive in a live stage appearance at Cobo Hall Theatre, Dec. 26-31. For information, call 567-8000.

"Cinderella," the Prince Street Players perform the classic fairy tale for ages 5 to adult, 2 p.m. Dec. 26 and 30 and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 27, 28 and 29, at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Tickets \$3.

● IT'S ON STAGE

"Godspell," a theatrical re-creation of the gospel according to St. Matthew by Stephen Schwartz with many popular songs including "Day by Day." The Actors Alliance Theater of Southfield, Through Dec. 30. Curtain at 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 6:30 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information, call 642-1326.

"A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens' classic story of Scrooge's redemption by the ghosts of Christmas and the innocence of Tiny Tim. Meadow Brook Theatre, Nov. 29 through Dec. 23. For details and ticket information, call 377-3300.

"Blithe Spirit," Noel Coward's popular comedy about another kind of ghost, a woman who haunts her husband and his new wife. Hilberry Repertory Theatre, Wayne State University, Through Jan. 19. For information, call 577-2972.

"A Christmas Carol," another production

of the timeless story. Bonstelle Theatre, Wayne State University, Dec. 7-16. For information, call 577-2972.

"The Gift of the Magi" and "The Ransom of Red Chief," two popular O'Henry stories, are dramatized as a holiday offering. The first concerns a young married couple who show the true spirit of giving. The second is about an irascible boy who is kidnapped much to the regret of his abductors. Detroit Center for the Performing Arts, Dec. 14-22. For information, call 925-9292.

"The Magic Apple," a play by Glenn Hughes about three soldiers who fall asleep and are given magic gifts. University Players, University of Windsor, 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. For information, call (519) 253-4232.

"The Curious Savage," John Patrick's comic play about a woman committed to a sanatorium who finds people she can help. State Fair Theatre, Through Dec. 8. For information, call 961-7908.

"Habeus Corpus," a British farce by Alan Bennett involving mistaken identities. Nov. 30 through Dec. 8. Farmington Players. For information, call 626-5061.

● MUSICAL NOTES

Madrigal Choral of Southfield performs "Ceremony of the Carols" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at Kirk in the Hills with full orchestra and soloists.

Metropolitan Youth Symphony — Christmas concert, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, Southfield High School.

Concert in the Garden — Alexander Zonjic and Quintet Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2, atrium of Prudential Town Center, Southfield.

Viva La Dance — Farmington Community Band in concert with Michigan Ballet Theater perform excerpts from "The Nutcracker Ballet," 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, Harrison High School.

Meadow Brook Estate — Musical group performs Christmas Concert, 8 p.m. Dec. 6-9 and 3 p.m. Dec. 8. Varner Hall, Oakland University.

Plymouth Community Chorus — Festival of Christmas, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium, Joy Road west of Canton Center. Admission, \$4 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students at door or available in advance at Sideways, Forest Street, Plymouth, and Book Break, Harvard Square, Canton Township.

"Nutcracker Ballet" as performed by the Contemporary Civic Ballet under the direction of Rose Marie Floyd as part of the Oakway Symphony season, Sunday, Dec. 9, at Farmington Harrison High School, 12 Mile west of Middlebelt. For information, call 476-6544.

Oakland Community College Community Choral — Holiday concert, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, Smith Performing Arts Theater on Orchard Ridge Campus.

Oakland Community College Jazz Ensemble — Holiday concert, 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, Smith Performing Arts Theater, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.

Andy Williams — Popular singer brings his Christmas show to Premier Center in Sterling Heights, 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

The hurry-scurry season is here again. Gifts to buy, relatives to visit, friends to toast — how will we ever get it all done by Christmas Eve. The community calendar is as crowded as our personal calendars, featuring a wide variety of activities to commemorate and celebrate the year-end holidays.

For the second year in a row, Santa Claus will take up residence at the Detroit Institute of Arts Kresge Court following the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. From Tuesday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 23, Santa will dine with the little ones. On Tuesdays through Fridays at 9:45 a.m., he'll spend "Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast is a "Wassail Waffle" with milk at \$2.50 for children under 12 and Danish with coffee at \$2 for adults. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 833-2730. On weekends, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 1-4 p.m. Sundays, children and adults may snack with Santa on cookies and milk for \$1. No reservations are necessary.

● NOEL NIGHT

Wednesday, Dec. 5, is the date for the annual Detroit Cultural Center event. The museums in the area offer entertainment, refreshments and activities. The Detroit Institute of Art is presenting a production of Victor Herbert's "Babes in Toyland" in the main auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for children and adults. No one under 3 will be admitted. The production lasts an hour. The Detroit Historical Museum will offer Marilyn O'Connor with the puppet Mona of the "Hot Fudge" television show. Mime Patricia Judd will perform. Choral music will be presented by the St. John's Presbyterian Male Chorus, the First Christian Reformed Church Choir and the Cornerstone Choir of Bethesda Mission Temple. Refreshments, clowns and a photo opportunity with an antique sleigh are also scheduled. Other museums also will be offering entertainment and refreshments.

● NIGHT SKIES

Holiday Skies and the Christmas Star — Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium presents its annual program. Demonstrations are 1:30 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through December. Half-hour observatory demonstrations are Saturdays 8:30-10 p.m. For information, call 645-3134. Admission.

Ornaments — a laser-light show at the Cranbrook Institute of Science at announced times through December. Admission.