

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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Summer Stage: something delightful — a comedy tonight



Members of the cast of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," opening tonight at the Birmingham Theatre, include (clockwise from left) Chuck Storey, Catherine De Rome, Vince Pirrone, Nancy Kolton, Jon Carver and Barbara Hoag. For ticket information, call 644-3578.

Producers are hoping for something delightful when a comedy opens tonight at the Birmingham Theatre. Steven Sondheim's whacky musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" is the first in a series of SummerStage musicals at the Birmingham. It runs through Aug. 4.

Robert Moloney Productions, a company that produces entertainment for some parks, cruise ships and special occasions, is behind the project. "Hello, Dolly," also produced by Moloney Productions, is scheduled for an Aug. 7-15 run.

Raymond Allvin of Bloomfield Hills is executive producer of SummerStage and vice president of Moloney Productions. He also teaches at Oakland University, where he created the commercial music department and worked with the Meadow Brook Estate show choir.

In December 1983, he teamed with Robert Moloney, who wanted to use young talent in an entertainment production company.

In show business, most aspiring entertainers must resort to stop-gap jobs — driving cabs or waiting tables just to pay the rent during the inevitable months between jobs in the unpredictable entertainment business. It's a discouraging, unstable way to live.

FOR MALONEY, founding the entertainment company offered a way to bring stability and a steady income into the lives of young performers short on cash and long on talent. But the produc-



Cathie Breidenbach

tion company is also a business venture for Moloney, who owns Advanced Medical Research Center in Pontiac, a diagnostic medical laboratory.

Allvin does most of the musical training for the company. Moloney, whose longtime sideline is choral music, works with the groups to oversee development of the shows. "Mainstreet" was the first group created by Moloney Productions. Seven "high-energy, bright-eyed, American boys and girls next door" now travel all over the country performing. They project "youth and vitality with fast choreography and do a great deal of patriotic routines as well as solid-gold songs through the years."

A GIANT wall calendar in Allvin's office at the headquarters for Moloney Productions on Willow Road in Pontiac is covered with nearly non-stop bookings for the touring group.

"Mainstreet" probably will end up on television in a star-search kind of show," Allvin said. "We're thinking about it now."

Mainstreet performs shows for special events and business openings and charges \$2,000-\$20,000 per show, de-

pending on the costs to develop, costume, and stage the production. They put on a patriotic holiday show July 4 for 15,000 people at a park in Georgia. At the end of July, they're scheduled to play the opera house in Cheboygan.

MALONEY Productions auditions all over the Midwest for the singers and dancers in its shows. "We bring them in, house, train and costume them, then ship them to the site," said Allvin, a big man with silver hair and a Salvador Dali mustache. Boblo Island and Canobie Lake Park,

N.H., are the two theme parks for which Maloney Productions provides summertime entertainment. Each theme park group has 14 members, many college students who will return to school at summer's end.

The five-member group "Le Zaz" provides glittering Las Vegas-style song-and-dance shows on an Eastern Line cruise ship sailing out of Miami. "In the future, we hope to do the Las Vegas, Reno and lounge circuit," Allvin said, "and handle two more cruise ships."

IN JUST 1½ years, Moloney Productions has grown impressively. "Mainstreet," their premiere group, now tours extensively in their own bus with a road manager and technical crew. Two other groups work at theme parks, and another cruises the Caribbean.

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Theater posters on display

More than 100 theater posters from around the world are on display through Sunday, July 28, at the Chatham Cultural Centre in Chatham, Ontario.

The exhibition of international theater posters was organized by the Richmond Art Gallery of Richmond, British Columbia, to complement the recent

opening of a new theater facility in that city.

More than 1,000 letters requesting submissions were sent to theaters around the world. Of more than 100 from as far away as China, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Poland.

Gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. Admission is free.

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Seating: 1st 10 rows \$10, 11-20 rows \$8, 21-30 rows \$5, 31-40 rows \$3, 41-50 rows \$2, 51-60 rows \$1, 61-70 rows \$0.50, 71-80 rows \$0.25, 81-90 rows \$0.10, 91-100 rows \$0.05

FUN
...IN THE SUN

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STERLING HTS.
BARCLAY IN THEATRE DAILY 12-50 FIRST AT 12:00 SHOW ONLY
CONTEMPORARY SHOWS ONLY
SPECIAL PREVIEW FROM FIRST AT 12:00 OF THE BLADE RUNNER SHOW WITH "E.T."

THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE	E.T.
MAD MAX: THE ROAD WARRIOR	PALE RIDER
THE EXPLORE	BACK TO THE FUTURE
COCOON	ST. ELMO'S FIRE

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
BARCLAY IN THEATRE DAILY 12-50 FIRST AT 12:00 SHOW ONLY
CONTEMPORARY SHOWS ONLY
SPECIAL PREVIEW FROM FIRST AT 12:00 OF THE BLADE RUNNER SHOW WITH "E.T."

THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE	PALE RIDER
COCOON	SILVERADO
BACK TO THE FUTURE	ST. ELMO'S FIRE

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
BARCLAY IN THEATRE DAILY 12-50 FIRST AT 12:00 SHOW ONLY
CONTEMPORARY SHOWS ONLY
SPECIAL PREVIEW FROM FIRST AT 12:00 OF THE BLADE RUNNER SHOW WITH "E.T."

THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE	PALE RIDER
COCOON	SILVERADO
BACK TO THE FUTURE	ST. ELMO'S FIRE

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS
BARCLAY IN THEATRE DAILY 12-50 FIRST AT 12:00 SHOW ONLY
CONTEMPORARY SHOWS ONLY
SPECIAL PREVIEW FROM FIRST AT 12:00 OF THE BLADE RUNNER SHOW WITH "E.T."

THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE	PALE RIDER
COCOON	SILVERADO
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- Participate in the glory of Beethoven's Ninth. The Detroit Symphony. Hear it for yourself — this summer at Meadow Brook.

All concerts 8 p.m.

July	August
TONIGHT, JULY 18 Jerzy Semkow, conductor Italo Babin, cellist ROSSINI Overture to <i>L'italiana in Algeri</i> BOCCERINI Cello Concerto in B-flat Major SCHUMANN Symphony No. 2	THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 Gunther Herbig, conductor Alexander Tondar, pianist TCHAIKOVSKY Capriccio Italian TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 1 TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings TCHAIKOVSKY 1812 Overture
SUNDAY, JULY 21 Jerzy Semkow, conductor Ruggiero Ricci, violinist ROSSINI Overture to <i>L'italiana in Algeri</i> PAGANINI Violin Concerto No. 1 SCHUMANN Symphony No. 2	SUNDAY, AUGUST 4 Gunther Herbig, conductor Miriam Fried, violinist TCHAIKOVSKY Capriccio Italian TCHAIKOVSKY Violin Concerto in D Major TCHAIKOVSKY Serenade for Strings TCHAIKOVSKY 1812 Overture
THURSDAY, JULY 25 Yoel Levi, conductor Nathan Gordon, violist BERLIOZ, <i>Harold in Italy</i> , Op. 16 PROKOFIEV Excerpts from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 Gunther Herbig, conductor Ellen Shade, soprano Kathleen Segar, mezzo-soprano Cornelius Sullivan, tenor David Kline, bass-baritone The Detroit Symphony Chorus Eric Freedenberg, Director of Chorus BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 9, Chorus
SUNDAY, JULY 28 Yoel Levi, conductor James Toeco, pianist COPLAND Quiet City GERSHWIN Piano Concerto in F PROKOFIEV Excerpts from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	

Ticket Prices \$16, \$14, \$12, \$10 (law) Tickets may be purchased at the Meadow Brook Box Office or at Hudson's and other TicketWorld locations and all AAA branch offices (including Metro Detroit J.C. Penney stores). You may also call your VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS card to order tickets. For further information call Meadow Brook Box Office at **377-2010**.

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