

# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, September 11, 1986 O&E

(O17D)

## upcoming things to do

- DANCIN'**  
Bob Fosse's musical, "Dancin'," opens for a four-week run, Tuesday, Sept. 30, in the Birmingham Theatre. Tickets for the show, which runs until Sunday, Oct. 26, can be obtained by calling the box office, (414-3533; and at all Ticketworld outlets. The show features music of 25 composers from Bach to Neil Diamond.
- ZONJIC PLAYS**  
Alexander Zonjic brings his flute to the Rochester area; performances set for 9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 11-13, at Murdoch's, 2086 Crooks, Rochester. He moves on Sunday, Sept. 14, to Sheraton Oaks, 2700 Sheraton Drive, Novi, then at 9:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, to Panache, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham. He returns at 9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 18-20, to Murdoch's.
- NOZERO & FRIENDS**  
Larry Nozero and Friends play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 11-13, at Hunter's Run, 15800 Middlebelt, north of Five Mile, Livonia. Nozero's joined on Thursday by Dennis Tini, Ray Tini and Tom Brown; Friday-Saturday, Teddy Harris, Dan Jordan, Marcus Belgrave and George Goldsmith.
- WILLO-O-WAY**  
Registration for Willo-O-Way apprentice theater fall term takes place 2-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 13-14, at the school, 2253 Cole, Birmingham. Classes for adults begin Sunday, Sept. 21; children's classes begin Saturday, Sept. 20. For more information, call 644-4418.
- FUNNY GIRL**  
The musical based on Ziegfeld Follies star Fanny Brice's life, "Funny Girl," will be presented at 8 p.m. Saturdays, Sept. 13, 20; Thursdays, Sept. 18-25, 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14-21 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14-21, at the Jewish Community Center's Aaron Dero Theatre, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$10, general admission; \$9, senior citizens. Group rates available. For reservations and more information, call Michael Goodman, 557-5522. Nancy Gurwin plays the title role. "Funny Girl" will be directed by Edgar A. Guest III and Nancy Braser with musical direction by Barbara Anne Gowan. Alice Flis choreographed the play.
- FOLKTOWN**  
Gemini, made up of twins Sander and Lazzio, performs a variety of original, ethnic and traditional material at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, Southfield Civic Center, Civic Center Drive (10 1/4 Mile) east of Evergreen, north side of civic center complex. Admission \$6. Concerts co-sponsored by Folktown and the
- Southfield Parks and Recreation Department.
- CARILLON RECITAL**  
Dee Heinzerling, a member of Kirk in the Hills and a student carillonneur, presents two 30-minute concerts at 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Sept. 14, at Kirk in the Hills, 1000 Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.
- SOMERSET**  
Onita Sanders displays her barp and vocal abilities 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, at the center court of Somerset Mall, 2801 W. Big Beaver, Troy.
- AUDITIONS**  
Auditions for "Diary of Anne Frank" will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Sept. 15-16, in the Jewish Community Center's Aaron Dero Theatre, 6600 Maple, West Bloomfield. For more information, call Nancy Gurwin, 554-5545 or 552-2797.
- FIRST CENTER**  
The Johnny Trudell Orchestra performs from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, in the atrium of the First Center Office Plaza 26911 Northwestern, north of Lahser, Southfield. The free concert is sponsored by the First Center Office Plaza in conjunction with the Music Performance Trust Fund and the City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department.
- FOLKTOWN**  
Peter Alsop sings for his satire at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, in the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building on the north side of the Southfield Civic Center, Evergreen Road and Civic Center Drive (10 1/4 Mile). Admission \$6. For more information, call 855-9848 between 6 and 9 p.m.
- SOMERSET**  
John Allen Trio plays contemporary and jazz 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, during a free concert in the Center Court, Somerset Mall, 2801 W. Big Beaver, Troy.
- CARILLON**  
Dr. Frederick L. Marriott, carillonneur of Kirk in the Hills will give two 30-minute concerts at 10 a.m. and noon, Sunday, Sept. 21, at the church on West Long Lake in Bloomfield Hills.
- VILLAGE PLAYERS**  
The Village Players of Birmingham present "The Butler Did It" at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the playhouse, corner of Hunter Boulevard and Chestnut, south of Maple, Birmingham. Showtimes: 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, Friday-Saturday.

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STEPHEN CANTRELL/attf photographer

John Davidson, in his suite at the Troy Hilton, talks about the "Hollywood Squares" game show he hosts which is returning to television. Davidson may even get to sing a line, as he asks questions of the celebrities.

## Art of the game show

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

**S**HOW BUSINESS personality John Davidson, who is hosting the new version of "Hollywood Squares," describes TV games shows as "an American art form, like the American musical comedy."

That may be stretching it a bit, but Davidson generates nothing but enthusiasm as he talks about the upcoming syndicated program, to be seen in metropolitan Detroit at 7:30 p.m. weekdays beginning Monday, Sept. 15, on WXON-TV, Channel 20.

In a recent swing through the Detroit area, Davidson was interviewed in his suite at the Troy Hilton. His blue eyes are as bright as the "Hollywood Squares" T-shirt he wore that day.

"There's a trend to bring back the old game shows," he said. "Hollywood Squares" is celebrity entertainment. We're trying to be as funny as we can play the game. The game is secondary. We're going for laughs."

**TO ADD APPEAL**, to the game, "We'll give away a car a day," Davidson noted. And, "There are more surprises on the show."

Just to make sure the celebrities come up with hilarious responses to questions asked, some of the answers are arranged ahead of time.

"The only script they have is that some of the people are given funny answers. They don't know the questions," he explained. An answer might be something like, "Your grandfather's glasses."

Davidson declared, "Paul Lynde was great at reading one liners. He was all scripted. If you really want to be funny you have to be scripted."

For the new "Hollywood Squares," there won't be any regulars, at least at the beginning. "We are going to book nine major stars, eventually to develop a family," he said.

"We want to use the hot rock stars — the mix — a great athlete, star of a TV show, a major film person, major comedian."

**CELEBRITIES** appearing the first week include Betty White, Bronson Pinchot, John Byner, Lorenzo Lamas, Emma Samms, Mariette Hartley, Phyllis and Ahmad Rashad, Jackie Collins and Itzhak Perlman.

Week two will feature celebrities Milton Berle, Charlotte Rae, Lynn

Redgrave, Little Richard, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Louie Anderson, Jan Michael Vincent, Mike Connors and Heidi Bohay.

Although his show hasn't debuted yet, Davidson said, "I'm considering that we're a hit already. In 16 years, 'Hollywood Squares' won 11 Emmys. Peter Marshall (the original host) got at least four."

Davidson knows the new show has a lot to live up to, to satisfy old fans as well as offer something to please first-time viewers. "We have to come on like gangbusters. We have to be really funny," he said.

There may be guest stars asking questions about their careers — Johnny Carson did a cameo on the pilot — and film clips shown from someone's latest film. "Squares" may go on location to visit a star.

**DAVIDSON**, who was approached by Orion Television Syndication to do the show, first became a TV host in 1980 with "That's Incredi-

ble!" That program ran five years.

He also has starred on his own talk show as Mike Douglas' replacement for two and one-half years. He did another game show, "The Time Machine," which he said was turned into a mini-series and cancelled.

The versatile performer made a name for himself on "Inge," in concerts and clubs, "T," television, mainly as a star, singer and actor. "I've burned out on TV," he said.

He's always been on, but he still goes out occasionally. He recently played Las Vegas for six weeks, and Atlantic City for three weeks. His live show combines contemporary material and rock 'n' roll from the 1950s.

"On 'Hollywood Squares' I may sing a line, in asking a question," he said. "They're treating me as a performer on the show, not just a traffic cop."

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