

Sketch shows proposed renovation of Birmingham Village Players Theatre, built in 1928.

Birmingham players renovating its home

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threw a party just to burn the mortgage on the playhouse, which the group now owns outright.

Last summer the players held a Memorial Garage Sale to raise money for the building fund. This year eight members are sponsoring collection parties where guests bring merchandise to donate to the Silent Auction in June. Funchello's restaurant donated the use of its building for a party in March billed as "The Last Chance Collection" party

before the big auction Saturday, June 11. Players has already collected silver, crystal, architectural services, use of vacation homes and a stained-glass window that will be sold at the auction.

Even when renovations are under way, "The show will go on" in the best theatrical tradition. "We've never ever missed a performance in 65 years," said Masters, "not through wars or horrible storms, not through anything, and we hope that won't change."

upcoming things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming calendar is one week ahead of publication. Items must be received by Thursday, to be considered for publication the following Thursday. Send to: Ethel Simmons, Entertainment Editor, the Observer & Eccentric, P.O. Box 3303, Birmingham 48012.

MUSICAL REVIEW

The Jewish Community Center with Nancy Gurwin Productions presents "Starting Here, Starting Now" in the Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre at the center in West Bloomfield. Ginger Freers of Troy, Danny Gurwin of Southfield and Rita Jury of Birmingham star in the musical presentation, which begins Saturday, Jan. 23, and runs Saturdays and Sundays through Feb. 7. Tickets range from \$5 for students to \$8.50 general admission. Call 661-1000 for reservations.

HOT ROOF

Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer-Prize-winning play, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," opens a four-week run at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets may be reserved by calling the box office at 377-3300.

OUR SONG

"They're Playing Our Song," a musical romance written by Neil Simon with music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Carol Sager, opens as the first production of the new year at St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook. Debi Green is featured as Sonia and Joe Lanner as Vernon. Bill Kircher is directing the play. The show runs Fridays-Saturdays, Feb. 5-6, 12-13 and 19-20; curtain time 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students. Call 644-0527 for reservations.

PHILEMON AUDITIONS

The Main Stage Theatre Guild announces auditions for the musical "Philemon" Thursday-Friday, Jan. 28-29, 7-10 p.m. in Room S100 of the science building on the campus of Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield. Call 469-7548 for more information.

FARMINGTON PLAY

The Farmington Players will

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Ginger Freers of Troy (left), Danny Gurwin of Southfield and Rita Jury of Birmingham star in the musical revue "Starting Here, Starting Now," offered by Nancy Gurwin Productions at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.



Celebrity series

Julie Andrews will open the Celebrity Series at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 4-6, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. She will perform an anthology of her career accompanied by full orchestra. Tickets are \$40-\$30.



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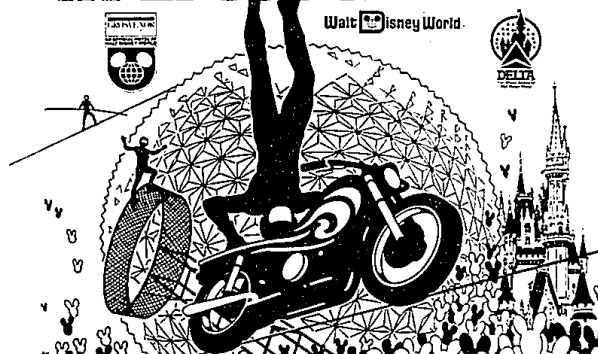
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