

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



(C)7C

Thursday, November 24, 1988 O&E

**'Mr. Dickens'**

Professor Bert Hornback, Dickens scholar, will appear as "Mr. Dickens" for a reading of Charles Dickens' holiday classic, "A Christmas Carol," at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Birmingham Theatre. Hornback is a professor of English at the University of Michigan and host of the 10-part TV series "The Dickens World." Tickets at \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for children 15 and younger are available by calling the Birmingham Theatre at 644-3533 or any Ticketmaster outlet.

Music and film shorts lead to feature movie

By Anne Y. Meyers
special writer

TRAINING AND SCHOOLING are important, said Los Angeles-based film director Jimmy Liffon, but hands-on experience is the best way to learn.

"Real knowledge comes from getting your hands-on experience and doing the work," Liffon said, from the Mt. Clemens office of Orphan Inc., a record and film production company.

Liffon's schooling trail led him from Southfield High School to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, to the Toronto Conservatory of Music and then to the UCLA Film School. Liffon began his career with music video and short films.

"We started with low-budget music videos," he said. "No one made any money, but we actually did things."

First of these projects for Liffon was a music video on which he was producer, director and star. Although it was a low-budget project, it was nominated for Best Independent Production by Billboard magazine.

"I graduated out of music video," said Liffon of his jump into film. "I

started directing. Then into commercials and then into film shorts. It was a natural growth into movies."

LIFFON'S LATEST project is a teen thriller called "Innocent Blood," to be filmed in Hollywood. "The movie centers on three teenage girls and an antique mirror given to one of the girls by her parents," he said. "Unbeknownst to the girls, the mirror holds captive a spirit who grants the girls' wishes."

"The film is based on an old story called 'The Monkey's Paw.' It is in the horror genre, more like 'Carrie' or 'Rosemary's Baby.' It's not a suspense thriller."

The script was custom adapted for Orphan Eyes, the movie division of Orphan Inc., by sisters Annette and Gina Cascone of New York. Orphan Records will release a soundtrack concurrently with the release of the film.

Liffon said the storyline is good, and they already have had a book offer on its distribution offers also are coming in for the film.

He cites several sponsors for the film. These include Pepsi Cola, Coty, Honda, Toshiba, Levi Strauss, Evian Water, Ray Ban Sunglasses and Shasta Pop.

Actors in the production include a

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— Jimmy Liffon



wide variety of experienced and inexperienced talent. Among local performers appearing in small roles in the film are James Earl Baker of Detroit and Scott Campbell of Harper Woods.

Liffon is pleased with the cast. "Zelda Rubinstein, the psychic from the 'Poltergeist' movies is in 'Innocent Blood,'" he said. "Allee Carter who was in 'Young Guns' and Alexis Arquette (brother of actress Rosan-

na Arquette) will star.

"WE WILL START shooting at the beginning of January for 23 days. It will be completed by spring."

Liffon divides his time 70/30 between Los Angeles and Mt. Clemens, working on projects for Orphan. Next step for Orphan Eyes is a five-movie package that is in the works now. Liffon said two of the five films will be shot in Detroit, the first one beginning this spring.

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, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

ANNUAL SHOW

Meadow Brook Estate, the Oakland University commercial music program ensemble, will present its annual holiday show Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 1-4. "It's a Small World... After All" combines the dreams and fantasy of Disney and Broadway with the hope and love of the holiday season. The show will be directed by Michael Naylor of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Dec. 2-3 and 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 4 in Warner Recital Hall on campus in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$8 general admission.

HOLIDAY REVUE

A new holiday musical revue is scheduled for Saturday evenings in December for the Novi Hilton's Bed & Broadway theater package. TAP Ltd. (Theatre Arts Productions), of Farmington Hills, will be performing this family-oriented revue in the Novi Hilton's Dinner/Theatre format. The show also includes TAP performers impersonating celebrities as they might sing some favorite holiday tunes along with the standards, a sing-along section and a version of "Name That Tune." For more information and reservations, call the Novi Hilton at 349-4000 or TAP Ltd. at 893-1827. Two shows will be presented, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., Dec. 3, 10 and 17.

SUNDAY SERIES

The free Sunday concert series

from 2-4 p.m. in the Center Court at Somerset Mall in Troy continues with December entertainment: Dec. 4 — Onita Sanders, harpist; Dec. 11 — Phil Marcus Esser, balladeer; Dec. 18 — Jim Perkins and Ann Larson, Christmas Past and Present.

CRANBROOK TABLES

Jewels, angels, miniatures and personal accoutrement will adorn varieties of tables to be set by area notables for the annual "Holiday Tables, 1988" celebration Friday-Sunday, Dec. 2-4, at Cranbrook House in Bloomfield Hills. Hours for the event are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. For information or reservations, call 645-3149. All proceeds benefit the Cranbrook House preservation fund.

SATURDAY SHOWS

Somerset Mall in Troy has planned Saturday holiday perfor-

mances: Dec. 3 — "The Night Before Christmas," presented by the Storybuilders at 1 p.m.; Dec. 10 — "Scheer Magic," by Doug Scheer as Jingle the Elf, two shows at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m., and Dec. 17 — "Toyland Capers," presented by Hip Squeak Puppets, four shows at noon and 1, 3 and 4 p.m. These are open to the public at no charge in the Center Court of the mall.

DINING ROOM

Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, presents its fall community and student production of "The Dining Room," a comedy by A. R. Gurney, Jr., at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3, 9-10, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Smith Theatre on campus in Farmington Hills. For reservations and ticket information, phone the theater at 471-7700. Tickets for evening performances are \$8 general admission, and \$6 for seniors and students. For the matinee performance, tickets are \$6 general

admission and \$4 for seniors and students. Group rates are available.

AT FOLKTOWN

Folktown Coffeehouse presents two Michigan folk entertainers, Joel Mabius and Ray Kamalay, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Southfield Civic Center. Both Lansing-based musicians have achieved renown locally and nationally. They offer hot swing, country blues and just about everything in between, singing and playing guitar, fiddle, banjo, and mandolin. Admission \$8. For further information, call 855-9848.

FOR CHILDREN

The Community House in Birmingham will hold its annual holiday afternoon for children and parents at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Entertainment will include a holiday family classic performed by Crossroads Productions. "The Not So Grimm Brothers and Their Sister" begins at 1 p.m. Following the performance will be a visit with Santa who will have a treat for everyone. Children under 5 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets at \$3 may be purchased in the Program Department at the Community House. For further information, call 644-5832.

'WONDROUS CHRISTMAS'

"A Wondrous Christmas at Meadow Brook Hall" opens Wednesday, Nov. 30, at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, continuing through Sunday, Dec. 11. Thirty-six florists and display artists from 21 cities will transform this auto baron mansion into a holiday fantasy. Public tour hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 30 and Monday-Friday, Dec. 5-9, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 1-4, and Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 10-11. Adult admission is \$6 weekdays, \$8 Saturday and Sunday. Senior citizens \$5 and over are \$5 all days. Students under 18 and OU affiliates are \$4 all days. Group rate is \$5 each for reservations of 20 or more. For further information, call 376-3140.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Farmington Community Chorus presents its ninth annual Christmas Concert, "The Very Best Time of Year," at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10, at the Harrison High School Auditorium in Farmington Hills. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for senior citizens and students. For further information, call 376-3140.

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