# Entertainment



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# Movie greats highlight mall series

By Kovin Lawrence special writer

HAT DO Elizabeth Tay-lor, Judy Garland, Debbie Reynolds, Doris Day, Bette Dav-is, Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart and Jack Lemmon have in common

and Jack Lemmon have in common beside being great actors?
They've all been seen at Livonia Mall.
Well, on the silver screen, that is. All these movie stars have appeared in recent months at the Livonia Mall Murchants Association and its free Classic Film Series. Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. The series, only one of its kind at an area mall, is the brainchild Bill Checks, Livonia Mall marketing director.
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ing director.

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Checks is an avid movie fan and memorabilia collector, whose office walls feature framed stills of many movie favorites, and whose personal movie collection numbers in the thousands.

"A few years back we used to do a customer appreciation day, with specials at the stores, along with a free movie – one of the films that was currently showing at the cinema," he said. "But that didn't work out and we dropped it."

A YEAR LATER. Checks decided to do something a little different. He conducted a survey of mall theaterpeers, asking them what type of movies they really like to see. Survey results were: the classics, the great musicals and Bette Davis.
"Most of the comments on the surveys centered on wanting to see

The series, only one of its kind at an area mall, is the brainchild of Bill Checks, Livonia Mall marketing

movies really made for the movie screen," he said, "Clean and, for lack of a better word, decent films that hint, leave things to your imagination. People really indicated they wanted to see something other than the explicit sex, violence and language that is in today's films."

Checks then came up with the concept of the monthly feature, showing four movies based on theme. Academy dward winners, for example. The series began with a modest audience turnout of some 80 people per show. When movingors began asking for securities stars, Checks witched entired star three high people per show. When movingors began asking for securities stars, Checks witched entired star per month. December is Jack Leonion. Most Tuesdays now, the therefor is filled to its 500-seat capacity.

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Just who is filling these seats every Tuesday morning?

Checks explained that roughly 60 percent are retirees or people who don't work.

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"But really the audience cuts across all age groups," he said. "In the summer we have more kids. It's really a nice mix. We even have a mother who's here every week with her baby. She brings a bottle, nurses her baby and watches a movie. It's great."

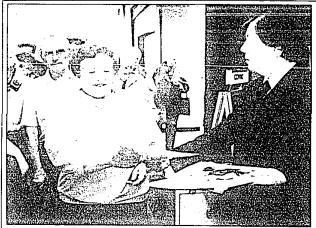
Livonia Mall Assistant Marketing Director Janice Morrow said.

"We get compliments every week. And people are always calling to see what's showing next week. Many folks are making Tuesday their day out — taking in the movie, lunching and shopping at the mall."

mail."

WHEN YOU ATTEND one of these classic film screenings, you come away with more than just a good feeling about the golden days of the silver screen. The first Tuesday of each month, when Checks greets theatergoers, he distributes an 11-by-14 sourcein movie-still of the month's featured actor or actress. The month's featured actor or actress. The month's chedule is printed on the back.
"Many folks like to collect the stills." Checks said. "If they can't make that first Tuesday of the month showing, they call or get fariend to pick one up for them?

One of the lew times that a scheduled film wasn't delivered to be them. Backday of the currently showing features—"When Harry Met Sally." starting Billy Crystal and Meg flyan. The film carried an "R" rating. Half the audience walked out, saying thanks but no thanks. Checks said there weren't any hard feelings but this seemed to bear out what his initial moviegoer prefer-



Tillie Sosnowski, waiting in line with her husband Jozef, receives a poster from "Some Like It Hot" and a month's schedule for the free

movie series from Livonia Mall marketing di-rector Bill Checks.

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Because response has been so good, Checks is planning to continue the classic film series Indefinitely. The month of December finishes up the Lemmon series with "The

Fortune Cookie" (1966), pairing Lemmon with Walter Matthau — showing Dec. 19, and "Some Like It Holf" (1959), starring Tony Curtis along with Lemmon — Dec. 26 Come January, if you hear re-

ports that Burt Lancaster has been seen at Livonia Mall, don't doubt it. You might even be able to catch more than just a glimpse of him yourself, Tuesday mornings on the movie screen.

### table talk

#### Garden room

Cafe Cortina in Farmington Hills has opened a new addition — the Enropean Garden Room. Rina Tonon (she and husband Adriano own the Italian restaurant) says the garden room is being used mainly for larger dimere parties, wedding showers and corporate meetings. The interior is European, with the use of French doors overlooking a small courtyard, where owner Adriano has planted Italian vines. The room scats 40-75,

and the private patlo may be used for serving beverages and appetizers out of doors. Cafe Cortina also has its own garden, to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers for the restaurant.

#### Holiday feast

An Old English Holiday Feast, featuring traditional English holiday fare, will be held at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 18-20, at the Lark in West Bloomfield. The menu include such courses as Oysters with

Periwinkles in Champagne Sauce, Atlantic Salmon with Salmon Caviar and Sour Cream Sauce, Roast Fresh Goose, and Yule Log with Rum Sauce. For more information call

#### Special menu

New Year's Eve will be celebrated, with a special menu, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Clarl.ston Cafe. Chef Gary Grzwacz plans dishes that include chicken Murat, grilled veal

chep, sauteed game, fresh seafood, rack of lamb and stir-fry shrimp. Among appetizers will be oysters on the hall shell, smoked salmon and clams casino. No reservations are required. For more information call 625-5660.

#### Great wine list

Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township is among 30 restaurants in the United States which have been honored with the Great Wine List

award by Nation's Restaurant News. David Page, manager at the Red Fox, was instrumental in preparing his restaurant's wine list.

## Holiday dinner

Christmas Dinner for the family will be offered from noon to 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25, at Elaine's Restau-rant at the Hotel Pontchartrain in downtown Detroit. Among entrees are roast turkey, sauteed pickerel, roast strip sirloin of beef, and roast

half duckling. Dinner is \$18.95 for adults, \$10.95 for children under 12, For reservations call 965-0200, ext. 3767 or 3768.

#### New Year

A black-tie New Year's Eve Gala will be held Sunday, Dec. 31, at the Grand Ballroom at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Music will be by ban-

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