

# Threading her way

## Seamstress creates own brand of magic

By Mario McGee  
staff writer

In her quest to bring quality children's entertainment to the area, theater owner Inga Zayti often gets help from unexpected sources.

Take, for instance, her current production of "Aladdin," a live stage production now going on at her quaint and charming — not to mention historic — Marquis Theater in downtown Northville.

For this show, Zayti accidentally acquired the volunteer services of an area businesswoman who just happens to be a talented seamstress who "signed on" to do the costumes for the show.

"I HAVE NEVER done anything quite like this before," admitted Linda Sharron, who is the owner of two area bridal shops, one in Livonia and one in Novi. "But I like challenges."

"I happened to see the children's holiday show presented at the Marquis and was impressed with what Inga was trying to do," Sharron said.

Because the bridal business is traditionally slow in the beginning of a new year, Sharron said she decided to contact Zayti to see if she could get involved in costuming future shows. The timing was right, Sharron said.

"Aladdin" was in the casting stage so she was included in the planning at its earliest stages by other technicians who were going about the business of set design, music and lighting.

Born in Detroit, Sharron learned to sew at her mother's knee, so to speak.

"My mother and dad owned the Allure Bridal Shop for many years, first in Detroit and then moving to Livonia. My three sisters and I learned the business from them."

THREE OF THE four sisters are still somewhat involved in the bridal business, which now includes a shop on Meadowbrook Road in Novi as well as the store on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

However, only two of them are seamstresses — and even that has changed over the years, Sharron said. Because the shop does a lot of custom work, she is involved in designing, particularly in the prom dress line. Another sister works mainly with bridal headpieces. A third sister is involved in a cake decorating business.

Their mother, Sid, retired from the business several years ago, but was pressed back into service when Sharron "became a little nervous about meeting the dress rehearsal deadline."

"It was a wonderful experience," said Sharron. As her mentor, "Inga was a wonderful teacher, pointing out many things like how lighting affects color and how it changes on stage. I learned so much from her."

What has resulted is a set of stunning costumes for the "Aladdin" cast. But more than that, Zayti has a new disciple in her efforts to bring good children's entertainment to the area at affordable prices in an authentic theater setting.



LEE A. EKSTROM/staff photographer

Linda Sharron (center) took on costuming of "Aladdin" as a challenge and wound up enjoying it. Shown wearing her handwork is Chris Berube (left) as the Genie; Joseph French as the Mean Magician; Meredith Jones as the handmaiden. French normally is in the role of the director — that's his position with the Greenfield Village Theater. But once in awhile, he yearns to hit the boards himself. Hence, his role in the Marquis production.

## briefly speaking

### Antique show

Westland Center will host its annual antique show and sale through Sunday. The show will feature antiques and collectibles from 25 dealers through the metro Detroit area, Ohio and Indiana.

Featured at this year's show will be the services of a professional furniture refinisher and a booth that specializes in replacement hardware. Visitors can also take advantage of a free verbal antique appraisal 1-3 p.m. each day of the show.

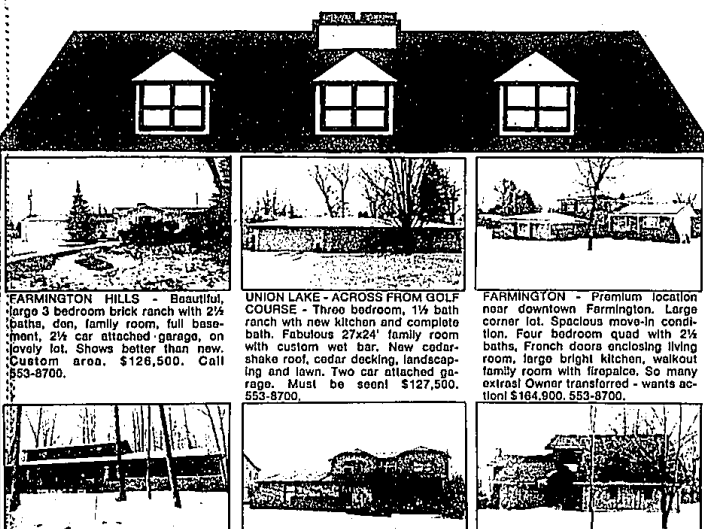
### April Fool humor

Madonna College's student recital will express April Fool humor by featuring works that are lighter than theme or humorous in text. To be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 8, in

Kresge Hall, the recital will also include some traditional pieces. Works by Bizet, Rossini, Joplin, Mozart and others will be performed by flute, piano, guitar and voice. The recital is open to the public and free of charge.

### Trail walk

At 2 p.m. Sunday, docents of Matthaei Botanical Gardens will lead a trail walk to explore the sights, sounds, smells and textures one encounters along the banks of Fleming Creek on the gardens property. Participants should meet on the steps of the main building. Dress for the weather and wear waterproof footwear. The gardens are at 1800 N. Dixboro, Ann Arbor, half-mile south of the Plymouth Road intersection.



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Remaining "Aladdin" performances are at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Saturdays, March 31 and April 7; and 2 p.m. Sundays, April 1 and 8. Tickets are \$6.50 for adults; \$3.50 for children under 12 (no children under three). Tickets may be purchased by phone or at the door or from Marquis Boutique, 132 E. Main, Northville. Box office phone: 349-8110.

*'I have never done anything quite like this before. But I like challenges.'*

— Linda Sharron  
'Aladdin' costumer

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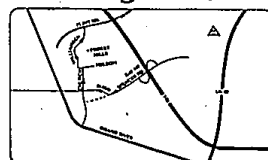
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