

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor 644-1100



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Play looks at nuclear war

Shown here are Beth Temple as Hilda Bloggs and Jeffrey Hedeon as Jim Bloggs in a scene from Act One of "When the Wind Blows," a play about nuclear war at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. Written by Raymond Briggs, the play will run at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from Jan. 11 to Feb. 2. The play was produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc. Tickets are \$7. The theater also offers group rates and special performances on request. The theater is at the northwest corner of I-275 and Six Mile. For reservations, call 464-6302.

Estonian folk singers to sing at Madonna College

Tarmo and Thomas Urb, a singing duo who recently defected from Estonia and have toured and entertained crowds in the U.S. and abroad, will perform a concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, in Madonna College's Kresge Hall.

"The Songmen," as the Urbs have been called throughout the Soviet Union and Scandinavia, are modern troubadours whose style of folk music has been compared with Simon and Garfunkel and Don McLean.

Their experiences of oppression, physical imprisonment, defiance and courage, expressed in the form of ballads and blues and combined with charm and humor, have delighted American audiences and critics alike.

Tickets are \$10. Call 591-0056. Madonna College is at I-96 and Levan Road, Livonia.



Thomas and Tarmo Urb, "The Songmen," are appearing at Madonna College

Try Windsor for new adventures in theater

By Bob Weibel
special writer

For all of you who promised yourself to seek out more adventurous theatre in the new year, I have a suggestion. Cross over (or under) the river to Windsor. That in itself is always an exhilarating experience, whether by bridge or tunnel.

Your destination is a new professional theatre — with the clever name of Stage Right. It's three blocks west of the tunnel at 161 Riverside Drive West in a row of buildings that includes the Comedy Korner. Park (free) at Dieppe Park, walk across the street, and go up one flight of stairs.

There you will find an intimate loft-type theatre (seating about 135 in real theatre seats). Stage Right is the sort of Off-Broadway venue typical of New York, Chicago and Toronto. As a bonus, you'll get a spectacular panoramic view of Detroit.

What you will see on stage is even more impressive. It is by all accounts a first-rate production of David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow." Edward Hayman, for example, in the Detroit News says, "Stage Right's 'Speed-the-Plow' serves Mamet's play knowingly and entertainingly. It's an admirable beginning for a new company."

STAGE RIGHT is headed by David Jeffery, long associated with the Detroit theatre scene. He plans to bring together the best performers on both sides of the river. The original cast of "Speed-the-Plow" featured performers who had acted at Hilberry, the U of D Theatre Company and many other local troupes. They have been in continuous production since October.

"We were originally going to open a world premier by an award-winning Detroit playwright after the first of the year," says Jeffery. "It's not quite ready, so we've recast two characters and are extending 'Speed-the-Plow' through Feb. 3."

Jeffery continues in the lead role of Bobby, a sleazy Hollywood producer. One of the new players is Jim Vezina, a Hilberry graduate who plays his equally slimy sidekick, Charlie. Also new to the cast is Peri Alan who recently completed a show in London, England. She plays a slightly daffy, bimboesque secretary, which incidentally is the same role Madonna, herself, played on Broadway.

"Speed-the-Plow" as you may surmise takes a satirical whack at the backstabbing, money-mad, power-seeking world for which Hollywood is famous. It's funny, black comedy at its best.

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Jeffery's second goal is to attract audiences from both sides of the border. "On any given night, our audience is about 90 percent American," says Jeffery. "In fact many are from the Detroit suburbs served by the Observer Newspapers."

All of which would seem to indicate that should you cross the border and sample new theatrical horizons, you may find yourself seated next to an equally adventurous neighbor from Observerland.

"Speed-the-Plow" will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Sundays through Feb. 3. Tickets are \$10 (American). A special two tickets for the price of one is available on Thursday only. For further information, call the box office at (519) 254-4622.

DIA hosts award-winning 'Cyrano de Bergerac'

The Detroit Institute of Arts' Detroit Film Theatre series will begin its 1991 season Friday, Jan. 11, with the Michigan premiere of "Cyrano de Bergerac." The award-winning new French film will have an exclusive area engagement at the DIA on Jan. 11-13 and 18-20.

Veteran actor Gerard Depardieu stars as the lovesick Cyrano, the poet with the big nose whose fear of rejection permits him to express his love only through the voice of another. Depardieu received the Best Actor Prize at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival for what many critics regard as the finest portrayal of his career.

THE NEW YORK TIMES' Vincent Canby called his performance "a magical achievement... expansive, funny, gross, dainty and always humane... the definitive Cyrano." Few modern actors have had busier careers. Depardieu's resume includes nearly 70 films.

With a \$17-million budget, "Cyrano de Bergerac" is the most expensive French film in history. Director Jean-Paul Rappeneau recruited hundreds of actors for the film's many large-scale and elaborately designed action sequences. Although the film is massive in scale, Rappeneau never



Gerard Depardieu as Cyrano de Bergerac and Anne Brochet as Roxanne star in the new French version of "Cyrano de Bergerac."

er lets his audience forget the delicate and fragile heart at the center of Edmond Rostand's classic tale of unrequited love.

Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 and 9:45 p.m.; Sunday performances are at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5, \$4 for students and seniors. Discount coupon books, valid for other DIA showings, are also available.

To obtain a new DIA schedule, or for information on purchasing advance tickets by mail or phone, call the DIA Ticket Office at 833-2323 from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.

table talk

• CHOP HOUSE

Special features geared to children and young adults are offered by the London Chop House, 155 W. Con-

gress, Detroit. Every evening from 5-8 p.m. the Chop House offers smaller portions and prices on some of their entrees for children. And every Saturday, beginning Jan. 19,

the restaurant will offer formal dining and dancing for families with children at 7 p.m.

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