

## upcoming things to do

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grandparents, too. At the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 Woodward at Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, Sunday, March 17 at 4 p.m. Tickets available ahead by calling 647-2380 or at the door, \$5 per ticket young and old alike.

### BENEFIT NIGHT

The 93-year-old non-profit Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan will sponsor a benefit theater production at St. Dunstan's Guild, Bloomfield Hills, on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. This will be the organization's first fund-raising event in more than 50 years. Tickets for "An Act of the Imagination" and afterglow featuring the play's cast are available by calling 876-8516. The ticket is \$60 each (four ticket value is \$110 with the balance tax deductible).

### PLAYS PALACE

Comedian Howard Mandel will perform in the round at The Palace Sunday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at \$40 Gold Circle, \$25 and \$10 reserved are on sale at The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets may be charged to Visa or Mastercard by calling (313) 645-0066.

### OSCAR WILDE

The Fine Arts Committee of Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills Campus will present Glen Alder Piretti in "A Picture of Oscar Wilde" on Friday, March 22. Written by Peter D. Seruta and directed by Thomas D. Mahard, "A Picture of Oscar Wilde" is a one-man show celebrating

the life and genius of one of the nineteenth-century's most heralded literary figures. "A Picture of Oscar Wilde" begins at 7:30 p.m. in The Performance Space, Building F, Room 199. General admission is \$7, \$5 for senior citizens over 65 and students. For further information, please call 340-6546.

### CONCERT CANCELED

La Casa Folk Music Series has canceled its Monday, March 18, concert with the Tom Russell Band, due to travel conflicts for the band. The show will be rescheduled in the near future. Next concert is with Steve Fisher, Texas singer-songwriter, at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills. Admission is \$10. For more information call 540-5031.

### GARDEN CONCERT

Southfield's Concerts in the Garden series will host the Edinborough Saxophone Quartet at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 17, at the Days Hotel in Southfield. Concert and brunch are \$9 and concert and coffee only is \$3.50. Brunch is served at 12 a.m. and the concert begins at 11:30 a.m. For information and reservations call 351-4717.

### DOLL HOUSE

The Attie Theatre presents Henrik Ibsen's classic, "A Doll House," in a new translation, running from March 14 through April 14. Ticket prices range \$10-22 and are available at the Attie Theatre box office, 875-8284. Special discounts are available for students, seniors and groups, call Deb McGarrah at 875-8295.

Performances of the Red Hat Players production of "Man of La Mancha" continue through Sunday, March 24, at the playhouse in Troy. For ticket information, call 644-8328.

The Hagedale Players production of "The Impossible Dream" is powerful and moving. Directed by Robin Martin Kearney and assistant Julie West, the seasoned troupe (moving into its 6th year) does credit to one of America's finest musicals.

Thomas J. Murphy turns in a brilliant performance as Miguel de Cervantes. Don Quixote, Alonso Quixano, Murphy moves through the complexities of the plot without a hitch. He manages to give us the poet Cervantes, jailed by the Spanish Inquisition, then, applying a bit of makeup, turns himself into Don Quixote, the wandering knight.

The entire play takes place in the common room of a stone dungeon, yet Murphy manages to make the audience believe we are watching Quixote engage in battle with a windmill. He makes us believe innkeepers are lords of castles, whores are great ladies and rough muleteers

are worthy enemies. Murphy understands Cervantes' vision of grace as the factor that enables us to rise above the level of animals.

Grace is the quality Cervantes: Quixote/Quixano share, and for a while, as the prisoners become involved in playing different parts, they (and we recognize the fact that generosity of heart can transform the landscape. Murphy's rendition of "The Impossible Dream" takes us to the core of the play.

PEGGY JONES is very strong as Aldonza Dulcinea, the kitchen slave whom Quixote transforms into the Lady Dulcinea. Jones has a wonderful voice and handles the vexation of "What Does He Want of Me?" and the anger of "Aldonza" equally well. Dulcinea, Quixote's only true love, moves beautifully from strumpet to the lady she becomes at Quixote's bedside.

Dave Sikkeloe as Sancio Panza, has a marvelous voice. The sweetness of tone we hear in "I Love Him and The Messias" echoes the faithfulness of Sancio Panza, the manservant who would rather be out adventuring on the road. Sikkeloe stays

## Players party in Cole Porter revue

Performances of the Red Hat Players production of "Red, Hot and Blue" continue through Saturday at the Troy Playhouse. For ticket information, call 679-1265.

By Sally Dubets  
special writer

Cole Porter often gave parties for his friends, writing songs for them and making each friend feel special. Many of his post-World War II Broadway smashes were the result of those parties.

The Red Hat Players musical production of "Red, Hot and Blue," which simulates a lavish Porter party, successfully lures audience members into the festivities.

Bill Holbeyek presents a likable, well-remembered Cole Porter, with a warm voice well suited to the 1930s Porter-style sophisticated. Holbeyek, in white tails throughout is equally comfortable while crooning or speaking forth facts about Porter's life and lifestyle.

Porter's mate, Linda, is portrayed by Lori Murphy who has a beautiful

soprano voice perfect for the romanticism of "In the Still of the Night." Her forte, however, is definitely soprano. Some of the earlier Porter melodies she sings require more range and volume.

As the party progresses, Porter's many friends are introduced to tell his story through the magic of his music and an ambience of elegance. Sharon Parrott does a wonderful job in the dual roles of Eliza Maxwell and Ethel Merman. As Merman, Parrott belts out a myriad of fun songs with zeal and soul, force.

EGALLY DYNAMIC is Holbeyek as the sexy, feisty owner of a Parisian cafe. Cole and Linda Porter frequented The grand piano on stage complete with candleabra is most appreciated when Kevit puts a smoky number wearing a feather hat.

Porter, more than any other musical comedy composer, loved the wit, use of words in his lyrics. John White as party guest Morny Woodley is the epitome of that quick wit and comedy during his rendition of "Miss Otis Regrets." Stephanie Wingate puts forth a whimsical Irene Castle



Helen Zucker

beautifully consistent.

Bill Grace is very funny as the unshaven prisoner who takes on the role of Padre. Grace subtly transforms himself into a padre who delivers a sonorous rendition of the Latin "Psalm" at Padre Quixano's bedside. He is dignified and the soul of kindness as he writes Quixano's will.

Patrick Barnard shines as the Governor Inkeeper, an exasperated fellow with a soft heart for the mad knight. Jim Patton is equally fine as the barber who allows his shaving bowl to be mistaken for The Golden Helmet of Mambrino. Mark Carley is fine as the "sane" Doctor In Carrasco.

The Red Hat Players - Tom D. O'Leary, Kevin T. Gordon, Jonathan Devereaux, Jim Huberts and Stu Pinksky - lend strong support as tough,

rapists, bores, Moors, prisoners and Knights of the Mirrors.

MARY ELIZABETH Lanesky, Denise E. Kasnee and Katherine L. Jensen are amusing as Quixano's niece and housekeeper and the innkeeper's wife. Mary Dugard and Hutan I. Gordon are graceful horses and Dawn Hooper screams long and loud as the prisoner who is taken away. Chuck Ray is frightening as the Captain of the Inquisition.

Kudos to the orchestra. Kathy Zukak on piano, Dan Gardner on guitar and synthesizer, Eric Shea on drums and Diane Metelaski on cello. No one missed a note.

Helen Zucker has many years' experience reviewing for newspapers and magazines in Michigan, New York and Massachusetts.

## review

while crooning "My Heart Belongs to Daddy."

A very special and romantic moment in the production is a performance of "Begin the Beguine." Porter's largest leg measures as compared to the usual 32, and probably most famous song. Specially chosen "Savage" and "Herald" are fine, and later, during the musical's finale, a truly lovely ballad in the hands of a true singer.

Director Gloria Patrick has chosen the best for the dark production, but some of her supporting cast cannot keep up with the top talent. Many times dialogue fails to provide the festive backdrop where it should enhance and add to the excitement. Although Patrick's direction does create many attractive pictures, improved by Denise Spicer's beautiful set design, the chorus sometimes looks like a chorus rather than an as-

semblage of guests mingling at a party.

Musical director and onstage pianist Margaret Wunschel does put romance into the evening with a quality interpretation of Porter's music, but she could have produced better results from the chorus had she not been hindered with both jobs.

CHOREOGRAPHED BY Nancy Carol Passalacqua, "Red, Hot and Blue" certainly has a lot of spunk in the group numbers, with top dancers and the Charleston providing excellent points of interest.

With classic tunes such as "I Love Paris," "Anything Goes," and "Just One of Those Things," a hit would almost be expected, but an effective display of slides also makes this a touching tribute to one of America's most commemorated musical comedy composers.

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**HILTON'S BOUNCEBACK WEEKEND**  
And end here.