

upcoming
things to do

Deadline for the Upcoming Entertainment calendar is three weeks ahead of publication. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wigton, Entertainment Editor, The Observer & Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

• NANCY GURWIN PRODUCTIONS
Auditions, mens' chorus "My Fair Lady" 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at the Jewish Community Center, Maple at Drake. Call 354-0545 for an appointment.

• BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony welcomes operatic artists, Glenda Kirkland, soprano; Shirley Love, mezzo soprano; George Shirley, tenor; and Ara Berberian, bass, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$12 adult.

• MUSICA VIVA!
Classical guitarist, Argentinian-born Ernesto Biletti performs at the Musica Viva! concert series, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at the Smith Theatre for the Performing Arts, Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. For reservations, call 473-2238.

• ROCHESTER SYMPHONY
Rochester Symphony Orchestra performs 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at Varner Recital Hall on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$10, call 651-4181.

• FARMINGTON PLAYERS
Auditions, four women, four men of various ages for a murder/mystery, "Murder by Natural Causes," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call 553-2955 for information.

• TRAVELOQUE
"World Travel & Adventure Series - Hawaii - The Wild and Beautiful" 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at the Southfield Civic Center Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen. Tickets, \$4, call 354-4717.

• LA CASA
Li Booth, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21 at La Casa Folk Series, at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward. Call 646-4950 for ticket information.

• BAL POLONAIS IX
Bal Polonais to benefit Polish arts at the Detroit Institute of Arts and Polish opera at the Michigan Opera Theater, 6:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison. Tickets \$125 per person general, patrons \$175 per person, benefactors, \$250 per person. Event chaired by Sophia Kafarski of Bloomfield Hills. For tickets, information, call 642-2730 or 352-1968.

• CHILDREN'S SHOW
Storyteller Jackie Torrence is appearing for a special children's show, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University. Call 377-5300 for ticket information.

• DANCE
Award winning works of six Michigan women choreographers, 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, Feb. 29 at Smith Theatre on the OCC campus. Admission \$5, students and seniors \$5. For information, call 477-7700.

• PAINT CREEK FOLKLORE SOCIETY
The Paint Creek Folklore Society presents "A Starry Night for a Ramble!" dance 7:10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Southfield Civic Center in the Parks and Recreation Building, 26000 Evergreen Road and Civic Center Drive. Admission \$5. Call 614-5496 or 682-1109 for information.

• ORGAN WORKS
Varied program of organ works by Bach, Liszt, Hoen and others, 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, downtown Birmingham.

'Flight' puzzles audience

Performances of the Jewish Ensemble Theatre production of "Flight" continue through March 1 at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6800 W. Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield. For tickets, call JET at 788-2900, visit any Ticketmaster outlet or call 645-6666.



Barbara Michals

Despite excellent performances by the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's talented cast, "Flight," their current production, is not a wonderful play. While some elements of British playwright David Lian's drama are thought-provoking, other elements are just plain puzzling.

is inexplicably fixated on her grown son's body. Only the mother, Hannah (Mary Bremer), seems above reproach, but how did she foster this bunch?

Barbara Michals is a retired Southfield English teacher. A theater critic for the last 17 years, she is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

HOW DID this family end up in Rhodesia after declaring their destination was the United States? No explanation is even hinted at in passing. What war is Rhodesia fighting in 1978? Better program notes would have here. More importantly, is 1970's Rhodesia with its oppressive racial policies equivalent to 1930's Russia and its oppressive policies? Perhaps, but most American audiences do not know enough about Rhodesian politics to make an intelligent judgment, and "Flight" offers little help.

Neither the cast nor director Hal Youngblood can be faulted for problems inherent in the play. In his third appearance with the JET as a Jewish father, Dobrowolski continues to be outstanding even if this time his character is much harder to fathom. His delivery is always superb, whether injecting some humor or displaying abject stubbornness.

Bremer and Logan are both wonderful at capturing their characters' accents and mannerisms. Manfredi, Galasso and Rossar are all fine in their roles, and Ron Mitchell ably conveys the inscrutable wisdom of the noble nativ.

WEAVING BACK and forth over a 50-year period, "Flight" follows three generations of the Levine family. Socialist Jews who flee Lithuania in the 1930's and settle in Rhodesia. There they take root and prosper, only to find that history has a habit of repeating itself and once again they must decide to stay or flee.

One overwhelming problem is that this is not a very likeable family. The father, Isaac (Tony Dobrowolski), claims family always comes first but risks letting his son go to jail to keep a youthful promise to a Socialist comrade. The son, Mike (John-Michael Manfredi), is a unpolished but who believes the pursuit of money is all that matters.

Grandson Paul (Tom Galasso) seems to have the social graces of a Neanderthal despite his qualities of conscience about soldiers firing on civilians. Aunt Lily (Laurie Logan) is stuck in the past, still mourning the loss of her youthful suitor because family had to come first. Daughter-in-law Rose (Jayne Trosser) snivels and whines and later



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