

ON THE
MARQUEE

Matt Brady's

Matt Brady's is celebrating the grand opening of its new tavern and expansion of its banquet services at the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 38123 West 10 Mile, 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24. The grand opening charity event will benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. On Saturdays and Sundays all hamburgers are two for the price of one from noon to 4 p.m., pianist Tom Altenburg will perform 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For information, call 478-7780.

La Casa

The second annual La Casa Music Festival will be 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward. Featured performers include David Rodriguez, Greg Trooper, Mark Germino, and Simon Honney. All tickets \$15. For information, call 646-4960.

Golden Mushroom

In honor of its 20th birthday, for five weeks the Golden Mushroom, 18100 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, is offering special six-course dinners along with their regular dinner menu selections. There are five different menus and each will be offered for one week starting Sept. 28. All dinners are priced at \$37 per person or \$47 per person with wine. Tax and gratuity are additional. For reservations and more information, call 559-4230.

Avon Players

Avon Players opens its 45th season with "Me and My Girl" a musical, Oct. 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 at the playhouse in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call 375-1390.

Spotlights

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre Guild is sponsoring "Spotlights," a series of arts and crafts show in the Shatwell-Gustafson Pavilion at Oakland University in Rochester. In addition to crafts, there will be informal modeling of costumes from past productions of Meadow Brook Theatre, a food court featuring a bakery, food demonstrations, tastings and other delicacies. Admission \$2, free parking. Call 656-9370 or 370-3316 for information.

Pianist to launch
music guild series

In a major musical event opening Cranbrook Music Guild's 41st season, the Detroit-metro area gets its first look at English pianist David Owen Norris, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the Library of Cranbrook House (Lone Pine and Cranbrook Roads).

Winner of the new Gilmore Festival competition in Kalamazoo, Mich., Norris will perform Haydn, Debussy and Messiaen on a Bosendorfer concert grand at Cranbrook House.

Season tickets, which include all five concerts, are \$65 each and patron tickets are \$100. Individual concert tickets are \$15 with students half price. For information, call 751-2435.

The Cranbrook Music Guild chamber music series offers concerts in the intimate library of the Booth mansion, a splendid English country manor house filled with art, antiques and beauty at every turn.

"The library has limited seating of 175 to 200 and is a haven for music lovers who savor the intimacy of salon-like concerts," said program director Elaine DeWolfe.

The Larson/Alvin Flute and Harp Duo, two young virtuoso soloists, will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24. The popular Christmas concert 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 features the DSO Brass Quintet.

An extraordinary ensemble, the Ying String Quartet will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16. Composed of three brothers and their sister, the ensemble won raves at their Lincoln Center debut in 1991.

The season will close 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16 with harpsichordist, Bradley Lehman, a doctoral student and 1992-winner of the Guild's scholarship award.

The Cranbrook Music Guild was founded in 1952, due mainly to the love of music and enthusiasm of the late Henry S. Booth, son of the founder of Cranbrook, said DeWolfe.

Shuttle bus service is provided from the Christ Church Cranbrook parking lot across the street to the mansion door. A candlelight reception follows each concert.



Musical event:
David Owen
Norris,
winner of the
Gilmore Festival
Competition, opens
the Cranbrook Music
Guild's 41st
season on
Oct. 27.

'Veronica's Room' fine performance

BY KRIS SPENCER
STAFF WRITER

Performances of the Plymouth Theatre Guild production of "Veronica's Room" continue through Oct. 3 at the Walter Tower Theatre on the campus of Northville Regional Hospital. For ticket information call 349-7110.

"Veronica's Room" belongs in the category of unnecessary plays," wrote critic John Simon when Ira Levin's thriller premiered on Broadway in 1973. Simon wasn't alone in his assessment. The show folded after 75 performances.

Nearly 20 years later, we find this "unnecessary play" opening the Plymouth Theatre Guild's 46th season. Con-

sidering the balance of the Guild's 1992 season including such favorites as "Matchmaker," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Noises Off," one must wonder why the group would open with a potential dud.

Taking a seat on opening night, I must admit I felt suspicious of what would follow. Then, in the true thriller fashion, I witnessed that all-important twist: it was a fine performance of a truly worthwhile play.

"Veronica's Room" is a fierce examination of incest and the dysfunctional family. Perhaps we weren't ready for it in 1973, but in this age of tabloid television and shock talk shows the play proves rather timely.

As the play begins, we witness a peculiar, yet seemingly innocent situation. An amiable elderly couple coaxes an open-minded young woman and her male acquaintance into following them home. It seems the young woman resembles another young woman who has since died from tuberculosis, Veronica was her name.

The couple tell the young woman of Veronica's psychologically-unbalanced sibling Sissy. Apparently a good deal of Sissy's problem revolves around her delusion that Veronica is alive and angry at her.

While showing the young woman a picture of Veronica, they convince her

that she is the answer to Sissy's problem. All she has to do is dress up as Veronica and reassure Sissy that she holds no animosity. With some hesitation the young woman agrees. But once she's prepared to act out of goodwill, she finds herself a prisoner in Veronica's room and in the dead girl's identity.

The evil to evolve in the play's second act involves the elderly couple and young woman's male acquaintances masquerading as Veronica's bitter, abusive parents and the well-paid family physician. What ensues is a mind game of truly twisted proportions, culminating in guilt trips, psychological breakdowns and murder.

On the Town
DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

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Oct. 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 (m), 25 (e), 26 (m), 27 (e)

JAMES BRENNAN and JEANNE LEHMAN III
THE MUSIC MAN
by Meredith Willson

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Oct. 16, 17, 18 (e), 21 (m), 22, 23, 24 (m), 25 (e), 26 (m), 27 (e)

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BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

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