ENTERTAINMENT

ON THE MARQUEE

"Broadway Bound"

he Birmingham Village Players production of Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound" opens at 8 p.m. Friday, May 14, at the playhouse on the corner of Hunter Boulevard and Chestnut Street, south of Maple, in Birmingham; call 644-2076. Shows 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 29. Sunday shows 7 p.m. May 16, 2 p.m. May 23. Thursday show, 7 p.m. May 27,

Auditions

isenhower Dance Ensemble will hold auditions at noon Saturday, May 15, in Room 132 of Varner Hall on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. Call 370-3024 or 632-7198.

"Steppin' Out"

roy Players present "Steppin' Out," written by Richard Harris, at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, May 14, 15, 21, 22; and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at the Troy Community Center, 520 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call 879-1285.

Classical Bells

he fourth annual Classical Bells in Concert will be presented at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia. A kaleidoscope of classical, accred, and popular music will be performed an English handbells and accompanying instruments. Tickets are \$7 cash, seniors over 65 and groups of 10, \$5; call 425-7861.

Youth orchestra

he Livonia Youth Philharmonic will hold auditions 9 a.m. to noon Saturdoy, May 15, at Churchill High School in Livonia. Mem-bership is open to young musicians from the De-troit metropolitan area. Call 261-5764 to schedule an audition appointment.

Jazz

he Ron English Quartet will perform at Laurel Park Place from 1-2:39 p.m. Sun-day, May 16, in the North Caurt. Upcoming Jazz and Pizazz concerts will include Corcovado, June 13: The Johnny Allen Trio, July 10; and the Steve Wood Quartet, August 15. Laurel Park Place is east of 1-275 at West Six Mile and New-burgh roads in Livonia.

Opera theater

be Verdi Opera Theatre will be featured in Southfield's Concerts in the Garden Series at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 16 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. 21000 Franklin Road, Southfield. High tea in the English tradition served at 3 p.m. with concert to follow. The program will feature Commendatore Dino Valle, baritone; Christina Romana Lypecký, mezzo-soprano; and Peter Antonio Soave, a virtuose of the bayan. The bayan is a member of the accordion family and has a keyboard range that covers the same range as a grand plano with an overlap. Tickets are \$7.50; call 354-4717 for reservations.

Lahser student makes MOT debut



Wall-to-wall mirrors at the Lascu School of Ballet in Bloomfield Hills reflected ballerina Kelly Knechtel's petite form in black tights and white leggings rehearsing the Grand Pas de Deux with her T-shirted partner, Dmitri Mikheyenko.

The famous dance is from Tchaikovaky's "The Sleeping Beauty" a production in which the couple debut as Aurora and Prince Florimund, with Michigan Opera Theatre in the 10 a.m. Thursday, May 27, student matinee.

Both are longtime students of lacob Lascu of West Bloomfield, Kelly is a beauty, but, despite the late hour and long rehearsals, she is not sleeping.

"This is the reason we need a ballet company in Detroit," said Lascu seated in front of an old magazine picture of him and Kelly when she was 11. "It each them and when they become good, they leave and go to other cities." The 20-year-old Mikhayenko, formerly of Southfield, recently joined the Miami Bellet as a principal dancer.

Last year Lascu, who has made his mark in Detroit as the choreographer of the ever-popular "Nutcracker" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestre, joined MOT to choreograph "King Roger" and "Samson and Delihah." This year he is working on "Aida" and the full scale production of "The Sleeping Beauty."

Drawing his professional talent from the vacationing National Ballet of Canada, whose dancers are available.

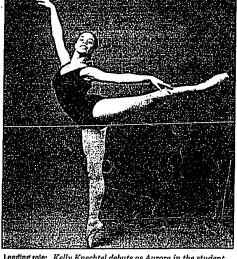
"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY"

Theater: Masonic Temple, 500
Temple, Detroit
Opens: Thursday, May 27
Thursday, May 30
Curtis Sunday, May 30, 730
Curtis Sunday, May 27, 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 27, 8 p.m.
Friday Sunday 30, 730
p.m. Sunday, May 30, 730
p.m. Sunday, May 30, 730
p.m. Sunday, May 36, 730
p.m. Sunday, May 36, 730
p.m. Sunday, May 36, 740
Tickets: Price range, \$12.50 to \$63.50. Box office, 874-SING,
Ticketmaster, 645-6666. Theater: Masonic Temple, 500

PREVIEW

able in May, Lascu has Karen Kain alternating with Kinberly Glasco and Margaret Illmann as Aurora (Sleeping Beauty), and Serge Lavoic dancing Prince Florimund (Desire), all from the CNB.

"I am not quite used to the idea of alternating with Karen Kain but I am so honored," said the 16-year-old Kelly, a sophomore at Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills. Since the and of April, Kelly has been going to school for two hours each day and then leaving for all day ballet rehearsals.



Leading role: Kelly Knechtel debuts as Aurora in the student matinee of the Michigan Opera Theatre's presentation of "The Sleeping Beauty," on May 27.

"I am trying to emphasize the story," said Luscu. "With so many dances the public loses the focus."

Anyone of the 80,000 people who saw Luscu's "Nuteracker' this year will expect him to add his magical tricks and clever buffoonery to this production. One advantage he has at Masonic Temple over the Fox Thestor is the larger stage. "I will use everything technically possible," said Lascun ot giving away secrets.

Another advantage Luscu has is Dr. Lesile Dunner, the DSO's expert ballet conductor, (conductor of the

Ridgedale Players hilarious in 'Lend Me A Tenor'



The Ridgedale Players cauberant production of Ken Ludwigs "Lend Me A Tenor" is hilarious. Directed by Ken Safron, assisted by Jacqui Saltz, this clever, endearing farce about life in the opera business could not be in better hands.

ZUCKER

Mark Hammell, a barrell-chested, large fellow with a voice to match, plays Tito Merelli, the world-class Clewell of the world-class Clewell of the world-class Clewell of the plays Tito Merelli, the world-class Clewell of the plays the world-class Clewell of the plays the plays the class of the world-class Clewell of the larger than if the his accept is wonderful, he need leoke like Othello. He never ransut of heath except when the police or too match women are chasing him. Hammell exdust women are chasing him. Hammell exdust alent and good will. He et otally believable as a performance even when he's out cold or presumed dead.

Laura Weidner as Maria, Tito's wife, is as wild, funny, and strong as

"LEND ME A TENOR"

"LEND ME A TENOR"
Theater: Ridgedele Players,
205 Long Lake Road, Troy,
Closes: Sunday, May 23
Clurian times: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 1415, May 21-22, 7 p.m. Sunday,
May 23.
Tickets: Tickets \$6, Sunday show \$7 seniors. Call
644-8328.

REVIEW

Hammell. When Weldner screams, "Come out or I keyl youl" she's every stormy Italian wife who ever put up with a husband who eats too much, drinks too much, is susseptible to flattery, and is totally dependent on her.

flattery, and a her.

Weidner's traveled look, her armswinging accusations make her part
of the wonderful Morelli duo.

Tom D. Coffey, who carries most of
May. Is quite marvelous.

Coffey manages to create a Max who rises from the depths of wimpdom to the towering heights of an Othello who can knock out an audience of 1,000. A few lessons from Tito help. Coffey as Max, also manages to win Maggie, amusingly played by Christa Alessandri.

Maggie, called "Muggio" by Tito, want to hear bells when she's kissed. Alessandri has an expressive face and she's very funny as Maggie duping her father to get time alone with the man she fancies she loves, or for any reason at all.

man she fancies she loves, or for any reason at all.

Joseph F. Logiudice, who resembles a handsome Peter Falk, is terrific as Saunders, the cynical promoter responsible for getting Thio to the hall. When Saunders lant cating waxed fruit, screaming at the beliboy, or threatening to kill people who ve died at an inconvenient time, he orders

Max around as if Max had been born to serve him. Logiudice is an inspired

to serve him. Logiudice is an inspired manic.

Kent J. Martini as the officious, singing bellhop, is always around when not needed, he's a dinghat who knows opera. So is Andrea Cleason as Julia, head of the opera board; she sweeps on-stage wrapped in silver, looking "like a Cadiliac." The tilming throughout is split-second.

The Victorian hotel set by Jack Tillotson is canny. As is Grace Ward's opera coaching. Lots of lovely music is scattered among the funny lines. What's to say? It's a crazy, fun night. A grand finale to a fine 61st season.

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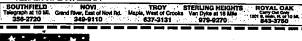
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