

ON THE MARQUEE

Jazz band

The Blue Lake International Jazz Band will perform 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1 at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2225 E. 14 Mile Road, four blocks east of Woodward, Birmingham. This will be part of the band's post-European tour. The program is free and open to the public.

Carillon duet

Former Christ Church Cranbrook Carillonneur Beverly Buchanan and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Carillonneur and Director of Music William De Turk will perform their 12th annual carillon duet 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1 on the Wallace Carillon at Christ Church Cranbrook on the corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine Roads, one mile west of Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. The recital is free and open to the public. Call 644-5210 for more information.

Birmingham Theatre

The following matinee performances of Stage Door Productions' "Godspell" at the Birmingham Theatre, 231 S. Woodward, have been canceled, 2 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 5 p.m. Saturday, July 31, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1. Shows continue at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays through Aug. 1. Ticket holders for canceled matinees can exchange their tickets for other performances or obtain a refund by calling 644-3553.

Classical Bells

Classical Bells will present a handbell program 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2, at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia to benefit First Step, a shelter for abused women and children. There will be no admission charge, but donations to First Step will be accepted. For more information, call 425-2031 or 425-7861.

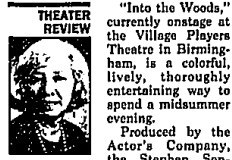
Local band

Renas Bernard and Nancy Douglas of Livonia — also known as 2 Iguanas From Earth, will be playing 7:30-9:45 p.m. Tuesdays at the Grand Cafe, 33316 Grand River in Farmington beginning Aug. 3. The 2 Iguanas From Earth will be playing the national anthem at Tiger Stadium in Detroit 6:57 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11 before the game begins. Bernard and Douglas describe their music as alternative acoustic pop with a touch of country.

Highland Games

The St. Andrew Society of Detroit will host the 144th annual Highland Games at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Shores, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. The Scottish event will include highland dancing, bagpipe bands, special programs for children, Scottish and American food. Tickets are available in advance by mail. Send check and self-addressed stamped envelope to: "144th Annual Highland Games, 26500 Cathedral, Redford Township, Mich. 48239-1809." Tickets \$5 in advance for adults. Children under 12 with adults will be admitted free. At the gate, tickets will cost \$8. Games will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., the bands will play noon to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 737-0000.

'Into the Woods' colorful, entertaining



VICTORIA DIAZ

Gravame, with musical direction by Martin Mandelbaum.

"Into the Woods" is a kind of behind-the-scenes peek at the lives of some of our most beloved fairy tale characters. Here is Little Red Riding-hood, on the way to visit you-know-who.

Here is the hard-working Baker and his wife, yearning for a child. Here is the witch. Here is Jack and his exasperated mother, along with that pooky Giant and all those magic beans. Here are Cinderella, Rapunzel, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, the handsome prince. You get the picture. All are wishing for something, and in order to see their dreams come true (maybe), all must venture into the metaphorical Woods, dark and mysterious as they are. What happens then? Ah, but what happens after even after?

The 16-member cast is not only talented and just plain fun to watch on-stage, it's also impressively disciplined by Gravame (who does impressive playing the hard-working Baker).

Leading the cast is Nancy Potts of Rochester Hills as the Witch who spends much of her time carrying a big stick (OK, a magic wand) and not

"INTO THE WOODS"  
Theater: The Actor's Company in cooperation with Village Players of Birmingham, at the Village Players playhouse on the corner of Chestnut and Hunter, two blocks south of Maple in Birmingham.  
Curtain time: 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 29-31.  
Tickets: \$12, call 644-2075.

speaking softly at all. Baubled, bangled, and sometimes bewildered, she's as bewitching as any witch you'll run across in dark, deep woods anywhere.

"I'm not good. I'm not nice. I'm just right," she sings at one especially telling moment in this play. Nancy Potts is just right in this role. Her stage presence is remarkable. She can be funny, wicked and touching in just the right measure at just the right times. And her way with a Sondheim song will knock you out.

Other knockouts: Marnie Baumer as the charming brat, Red Riding-hood; Lisa Brandow as the Baker's willowy wife with the sometimes-wandering eye; David Burka as the energetic Jack the Giant Killer; Allison Leigh as a melancholy Cinderella; Christopher Pearce as Rapunzel's agonizing Prince with the golden, gorgeous hair; and Nicholas A. Bean as Cinderella's Prince — the one "raised to be charming, not sincere."

To say that some performers stand out in such an excellent cast is certainly not to find real fault with the rest, however. In fact, the overall, first-rate team effort here — onstage and offstage — is essential to making this production the enchanting suc-



Adult fairy tale: David Burka of Canton as Jack (left), Michael Gravame as the Baker, and Tania Velinsky as Jack's Mother in the Actor's Company production of "Into the Woods."

cess is it. (In a non-speaking role, Milky White, playing herself, turns in a commendable performance, by the way.)

Speaking of offstage contributions, set designer Tim Hughes deserves special applause for his simple but fanciful backdrops. Done in basic earth tones, and punctuated with royal blues, purples, and fairy tale gold, they set just the right mood for Son-

dheim's storybook stew of sweetness, sadness and silliness.

Costumes, put together by a nine-member group (including Gravame) play such an integral, effective part here, one hesitates to refer to them as "peripherals."

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelancer who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

Symphonic Disney

BBSO will help present fantasy at Pine Knob

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra will join Disney to present a "Symphonic Fantasy" at the Pine Knob Music Theatre, July 30-31.

"A lot of people are coming to the show not knowing what to expect," said James Monaco of the BCL Group, presenter of the show with Walt Disney Special events Company and Concert Productions International.

"It's a full theatrical production with a live symphony orchestra, singers, dancers, lights and special effects. Each musical selection is acted out by the characters."

The BBSO is one of 40 local symphonies chosen by Disney to join the show as it travels across North America through September.

The BBSO will be accompanied by the AZUSA Pacific University Choir based in California. Monaco said 30 choir members were chosen from the 140-member group to perform with the Disney show.

DISNEY'S SYMPHONIC FANTASY  
Concert site: Pine Knob Music Theatre, Clarkston  
Concert time: 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 30, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 31.  
Tickets: \$22.50 and \$17.50 pavilion; \$12.50 lawn, available at the Palace and Pine Knob box offices and all Ticketmaster centers. To charge tickets, call 645-6666, for information, call 377-0100

PREVIEW

brings Disney's best-loved characters and the award-winning music of "Fantasia," "Snow White," "Mary Poppins," "Beauty and the Beast," "Ainida!" and classic Disney animated films to life.

The host of live Disney characters

includes Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto, Roger Rabbit, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and many more.

Music grants from Tchaikovsky to Alan Menken, and lyricists like Howard Ashman, Sammy Cahn and Tim Rice, are among the talents to be showcased in the two-hour show. Disney characters — 26 in all — will entertain along with 30 singers and 18 dancers, reprising 230 roles from Disney's greatest classics.

Audiences will see Mickey Mouse as "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," commanding a brigade of dancing brooms. "Some Day My Prince Will Come," will be danced to life in an enchanting ballet. And a happy ending comes for Belle with the Oscar-winning duet of "Beauty and the Beast."

"Little kids can hear an orchestra, and adults can hear the cartoon tunes they remember from childhood," said Monaco.



THE WALT DISNEY CO.

Symphonic fantasy: Mickey Mouse is in rehearsal for "Disney's Symphonic Fantasy," a live stage spectacular featuring more than 200 favorite Disney characters in performance with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra.

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