

ON THE
MARQUEE

First Theatre Guild

First Theatre Guild is holding open auditions for "The Man Who Came to Dinner," 7:15-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Thursday, Sept. 16 at Knox Auditorium, First Presbyterian Church, 1669 W. Maple, Birmingham. Roles will be cast for early college age and older looking actors and actresses. Show dates are Nov. 12-13, Nov. 19-21. For information call Roger Nowland, 635-8880 (days), 573-6762 (evenings).

Jewish Ensemble Theatre

Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents Wendy Wasserstein's "Is It Romantic," at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, through Oct. 3. Call 733-2900 for ticket prices and show times or TicketMaster, 645-6666.

Plymouth Theatre Guild

The Plymouth Theatre Guild will present Neil Simon's "God's Favorite," 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Sept. 17 and Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Water Tower Theatre, 4101 West Seven Mile Road, Northville. Call 349-7110 for tickets. Advance tickets also available at Sir Speedy Printing, 485 S. Main, Plymouth and Heavenly Bakery, 43053 W. Seven Mile Road, Northville.

Barbershop singing

Any man interested in singing "the good old songs" in barbershop style is invited to attend an open house guest night hosted by the Renaissance Chorus of western Wayne and Oakland counties, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The chorus rehearses there every Tuesday. Call 425-2727 or 478-8481 for information.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Find out what our theater critic has to say about Jewish Ensemble Theatre's season opener — "Is It Romantic."
- Armando's opens a new Mexican carry-out restaurant in Livonia.

'Evita' revolutionary wins battle of odds

■ Dan Cooney grew up in Westland, graduated from John Glenn High School, and stars as the revolutionary Che Guevara in "Evita."

By KEELY WYGNONIK
STAFF WRITER



In high school, he was "hell on wheels." He would change stuff in concerts," said Bruce Graden, his vocal music teacher at John Glenn High School in Westland.

Like the character Che Guevara he plays in "Evita" opening Sept. 14 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit, Dan Cooney has done some pretty revolutionary stuff.

"He's really paid his dues. He worked a lot of crappy jobs for years, just barely making it. He had great luck. He loved to sing, he's a very hard-working kid, very talented and a good actor," said Graden.

Cooney grew up in Westland, and launched his career doing dinner theater in Florida. It was the start of his title against the odds to become an actor.

Two of his friends, John Sartor of Dearborn, and Kent Dalian of Plymouth went with him. "We all came home with our tails between our legs. We kept trying and now share an apartment together in New York."

"EVITA"

Theater: Fisher Theatre, Fisher Building, 3011 West Grand Boulevard, at Second, Detroit

Curtain time: Show opens 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14 and continues through Sunday, Oct. 3. Performances 8 p.m. Tuesday through

Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets: Range from \$25 to \$42.50 Tuesday through Thursday, Saturday, Sunday matinees and Sunday evenings. Tickets \$30 to \$47.50 Friday and Saturday Evenings. Call Ticketmaster, 645-6666. For more information, call 872-1000.



Revolutionary: Dan Cooney, a John Glenn High School graduate, portrays Che Guevara in "Evita," opening Sept. 14 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

PREVIEW

We're best buddies, and we're all doing well."

With good friends, and a supportive family backing him, Cooney kept going to auditions, trying to get parts.

"My mom encouraged me," said Cooney in a phone interview from his apartment in New York. "She was real supportive, even when things were tough. I was ready to give it up when she bought me a plane ticket to go to an audition for 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' in New Hampshire."

Cooney got the part. He performed the role of Jesus and Judas in two separate productions of the show. Other parts followed. When things got tough, his family and friends stood behind him. "My brother sent me money in New York," said Cooney. "I would eat macaroni and cheese for three weeks."

Cooney was last seen performing the role of Maritus in the Broadway company of "Les Miserables." Getting the part was a lucky accident, according to Graden.

"He was trying out for 'Cats' and there were a lot of people at the audition. On the way he passed a room where they were auditioning parts for 'Les Miserables.' There wasn't anyone there so Dan asked if he could audition. He did, and got the part."

Cooney has been on the road with "Evita" portraying Che Guevara for the past four months. The show is booked through May of 1994.

"Evita" is based on the saga to riches story of Eva Peron who was born dirt poor and became one of the richest and most powerful women in the world when she married Juan Peron, president of Argentina in the 1940s. Eva Peron died of cancer at age 33, and her legend lives on.

"Evita" is like a documentary put to music," said Cooney. "We're going moment by moment to piece together pieces of Eva Peron's life. It's an amazing story, set to fantastic music."

Cooney read Eva Peron's, and some

of Guevara's biography to help prepare him to portray Che. "It's a fantastic role," he said.

Valerie Perri portrays Eva Peron. She premiered the role on the road in the First National touring company of the show in 1982; David Brummel plays Peron.

English choir to present benefit concert

The mixed voice Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, widely regarded as one of the leading university choir groups in England, will perform a benefit concert for Lighthouse of Oakland County at Christ Church Cranbrook 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12.

General admission tickets are \$20 for the general public, and \$15 for seniors and students. Donor, patron, sponsor and benefactor category tickets are also available.

Advance purchase of tickets is recommended, however tickets will be sold at the door. Christ Church Cranbrook (Episcopal) is at the corner of Cranbrook and Lone Pine Roads in

Bloomfield Hills, one mile west of Woodward. Call the church at 644-5210 for more information.

Lighthouse of Oakland County is a nonprofit emergency services agency with a tradition of helping people help themselves. The goal of every Lighthouse program and activity is the development of long-term solutions to clients' problems.

This concert at Christ Church Cranbrook is part of the choir's 1993 coast-to-coast North American tour, which includes 14 choral concerts and five performances with orchestra in churches, concert halls, and on college and university campuses from

Maine to Texas to California.

A highlight will be a recording project of Henry Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in San Francisco for Harmonia Mundi. This is the choir's third visit to this country.

The Clare College Choir sings choral evensong services in the college chapel three times weekly during the school term. In addition to regular duties at the college, the choir frequently performs in concert in the United Kingdom and abroad, and contributes to the Choral Evensong broadcasts on BBC Radio 3.

In 1983 the choir won the Gran

Premio "Citta d'Arezzo" at the 31st International Choral Competition in Arezzo, Italy; and in September 1991 toured the Soviet Union. The choir has recorded for a number of labels including Meridian and Harmonia Mundi.

Since 1979 the choir has been under the direction of Timothy Brown, who succeeded John Rutter, the choir's founder. Brown is the director of music and a fellow and director of academic studies at Clare College, where he also directs the Cambridge University Chamber Choir and the New Cambridge Singers.

— SECOND ANNUAL —



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• Sunday
September 19, 1993

9:00 am - noon

A walk to public art
and renovated architecture

• entry fee

\$10 adult pre-registration

\$5 children under 12
children in backpacks - Free

\$5 non-walkers -
building tour and party

• registration

Short & long walk

BBAA - 1516 S. Cranbrook
at 14 Mile
Birmingham, MI

9:00 - 9:30 am

5.5 mile walk • 1.4 mile walk

• Prizes — provided by:

- The Workout Co. • Jacobson's • Metro News Center • Gerald's of Franklin • Gayle's Chocolates • BBAA • Tennis Plus • Art Loft • Antonino Salon • Hanan Cosmetics • and more

• Party — food provided by:

- Coffee Exchange • Midtown Cafe • Nino Salvaggio • Phoenix • Stroh's • Whistle Stop • Ember's Deli • Birmingham • Kroger • Richard & Reiss • Buddy's Pizza • Absopure • New York Bagel Baking Co. • Tom Robertson • and more

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Family participation
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