

ON THE MARQUEE

Group dujour

Farmington area's Philharmonic presents "Buckaroo Holidays" a musical adventure to the Old West, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15 at Mercy Center, 28600 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. Call 478-2075.

Farmington Players

The hilarious "Lend Me A Tenor" 8 p.m. Friday Oct. 15 at the Players Barn, 32332 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Shows 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday, through Nov. 6. Matinee 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31. Tickets \$8, call 553-2955.

Nancy Gurwin

The music "Oliver" opens 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 in the Aron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Shows through Oct. 31. Call 661-1000 or 354-0545.

Anniversary gala

Pontiac Oakland Symphony kicks off its 40th season 8:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15 at the Strand Theatre in Pontiac. Concert will feature three conductors who have led the POS including David Daniels, Francesco DiBlasi, and Felix Resnick. Call 394-6024.

Musical Rhapsody

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony opens their season 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17 with a musical "Rhapsody," at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile at Telegraph, Birmingham. Call 645-BBSO for tickets.

Media extravaganza

Millennium Theatre Center announces the world premiere of "Life is A Beach," a multi-media comedy integrating videos and your favorite 1960s tunes, opening for previews Oct. 15-24 at the center, 16600 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Theater-goers will be able to plunk themselves into beach if they choose the lounge chairs in Sand Seating. Opening night is Oct. 27, with shows through Dec. 5. For tickets, information, call 552-7000 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Movie critic John Monaghan reviews "The Beverly HillsCop."
- Farmington Players open their season with the hilarious musical, "Lend Me A Tenor."

Concert showcases Irish song, dance

Get a Taste of Ireland without leaving home Oct. 16 when the Irish Comhaltas Concert Tour stops at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

By M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER



For centuries, the Irish have been known for their considerable talents in music, dance, and storytelling. Detroit-area audiences will be able to see and hear that Saturday, Oct. 16 at Mercy High School, 28300 W. Eleven Mile Road in Farmington Hills when the Irish Comhaltas Concert Tour stops in Detroit on its 19-city North American tour.

Tickets are \$12 per person, and \$10 for children and resale. Tickets may be reserved by calling 255-7677 or 338-6288.

Performing at 6:45 p.m., before the Irish Comhaltas entertainers take the stage at 7:30 p.m., will be local Comhaltas musicians.

An afterglow will follow the concert at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall at Telegraph and Grand River.

"The general public is in for a treat," said concert co-chair Mickey Neenan of Redford Township. "Audiences will hear traditional Irish music, not the pub kinds of things you hear on St. Patrick's Day. It really is a taste of Ireland with music, dance, and songs."

The All-Ireland performers hail from the four provinces of Ireland and represent the country's finest talent. "They're the best of the best," said



Irish talent: Thomas Martin, piper, (seated), harpist Mary Kelly, fiddler Joe Toolan (standing left to right), singer Niamh Nic Mhatuna, and dancers: Caoimhe Kilmurray, Denise Flynn, and Niall O'Leary are members of the 17-strong group that will be performing at Mercy High.

PREVIEW

Noonan. "The entertainers compete against each other across the country for the privilege of touring. It's very prestigious for them; an award actually, for the musicians to be chosen to go on this tour."

Each year, the colorful event draws heavily from the Irish and non-Irish population, Noonan said. "Comhaltas Ceoltuiri Eireann (the Musicians Association of Ireland) has been received very enthusiastically, even by people not accustomed to traditional Irish music. Many people know

children do step-dancing, but they're not used to seeing adults step- or cello dance. We have a storied this year as well who should be quite interesting."

Joining them will be fiddlers, harpists, singers, pipers, flutists and accordionists in traditional dress.

Comhaltas' local Irish musicians "are from both sides of the border; there are some who come from Canada, and we have some who come from Michigan," said Noonan.

Among the more than two dozen performers being showcased will be Marilyn Hotelling, a fiddler from Bloomfield; Jan Mordenski, a singer and tin whistle player from Westland;

and her husband Jim Consiglio, a singer and guitar player.

Comhaltas is offering instruction in music, song and dance Thursday evenings at the White Heather Social Club, 150 Vesper in Ferndale. There are fall, winter and spring sessions featuring lessons in traditional singing (new this year); the bodhran (percussion); concertina; fiddle, tin whistle, and cello dancing. Fees for most classes are \$25 or \$30.

New this fall are set dancing (there's no fee), and Irish language instruction by native speaker Eireag Kelly. Cost is \$15 for a 10-week session. For more information, call 288-3575.

SRO Production has 'Mass Appeal'



SALLY DUBATS

"Mass Appeal" has a wide range of human appeal that non-Catholics will appreciate as well. Each scene creates tension and defines the characters which furthers the story. Director Judie Rosati finds the delicate balance necessary to plant tension or laughter within the audience, all the while maintaining a brisk pace — a difficult task when directing a two-character play.

REVIEW

The serio-comedy expresses both conflict and warmth on a priest comfortable in his knowledge that he is beloved by his parish, and a young seminarian whose ideals clash with impatience to change the values of the people.

Father Tim Farley is performed with excellence by Ralph Rosati. Rosati's expressions often tell more of the story than the script, an important element in getting to know and believe in a character.

Early in the show, Father Farley is listening to and revising his tape-recorded sermon. As he reminisces about his early street corner sermons, the recorded words "I haven't been as close to Christ since" trouble the Father.

Rosati's troubled expression in this scene sets up the rest of the show as it indicates that Father Farley is no longer the type of priest he intended to be.

Humor also abounds in "Mass Appeal." As young Mark Holson becomes a deacon, he is told by Father Farley to step into the "rehearsal pulpit" for a few pointers.

In one scene, Mark, played with humor and intelligence by Kirk Hanley, speaks of his Catholic upbringing. His second grade teacher had read "The Gospel According to Peanuts" to the class. Hanley's dry interpretation of the character is enjoyed as he believed that "Jesus was a beagle."

SRO's "Mass Appeal" is a wonderfully written play which truly comes to life through the direction of Judie Rosati and her talented cast.

"MASS APPEAL"

Theater: SRO Productions in the White 1854 Church at the City of Southfield's Historic Park, "The Burgh" on the northeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph. Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 15, 16, 22 and 23 and 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 17, 24. Ticket: General admission, \$7, seniors and children under 12, \$6. Call 827-0700.

Sally Dubats of Royal Oak is an actress, director and teacher, who teaches at community theaters in the metropolitan area. She is artistic director of West End Productions headquartered in Livonia.

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