

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1994

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Vocalist to perform at POS cabaret concert

Warm up on a cold night by attending Pontiac Oakland Symphony's annual Winter Cabaret Concert, 7:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at the Northfield Hilton, (Crooks Road at I-75) in Troy. Tickets are \$35 per person. There will be an open bar before and after a concert featuring guest vocalist April Arabian-Tini and pianist Dennis Tini. Call (810) 334-6024 for tickets.

You'll feel like you're on an Italian cruise 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, when DePalma's and Travel Masters presents "Italian Cruise Night" featuring Costa Cruiselines classic Italian ship, the "Romantica" cruising through the Eastern Caribbean. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes two glasses of wine and a meal with your choice of Roast Veal DePalma, Shrimp Fettuccini Alfredo, or prime rib. DePalma's is at 31735 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Call 261-2430 for reservations by Jan. 21.

Camino de Rio, a new restaurant specializing in Mexican food, will open Jan. 24 at 19265 Victor Parkway at the intersection of I-275 and Seven Mile in Livonia. Recipes were developed by Phillip Torres who, with his family, operates four Mexican restaurants in Houston. The menu will offer beef, pork, chicken and seafood prepared using traditional methods and recipes.

Catch "The Wednesday Thing at Old Woodward Grill," 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham. Chef Chris Sirvinskis is featuring a variety of dinner and wine specials, beginning at 5 p.m. There will be a wine tasting at 7 p.m., and the Blues Disciples will perform 9 p.m. to midnight, call 642-9400. The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is joining forces with Shirley Love, mezzo soprano from New York's Metropolitan Opera in their second annual benefit called "Affectionately Yours."

A welcoming reception, dinner, followed by music and songs of love is the perfect way to celebrate Valentine's Day with your special one on Sunday, Feb. 13, at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills. Reception and dinner begin at 5:30 p.m. and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., call 645-2276.

Keely Wygonik is editor of the Taste and Entertainment sections of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She welcomes your calls and comments, 953-2105, fax 591-7279, or write: Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- Find out what's new at the movies.
- Make plans for Chinese New Year, Mardi Gras dinners.

Cole Porter musical revue sparkles



BARBARA MICHALS

Fifty-two of Cole Porter's sparkling songs form the essence of "Cole," the musical revue presented with panache by St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook. Ranging from Porter's early songwriting years at Yale to his last Broadway shows, the numbers are grouped thematically. Interspersed with the songs are bits and pieces about Porter's life, usually delivered with generous dollops of humor and dramatic flair.

The 10-member cast are all excellent vocally and do a great job of instilling personality into the songs and brief dialogue. Margery Brooks, Kimberly Brown, Peggy Lee, Andrew McMechan, Jamie Richards, Pamela Richards, Tom Spriggs, Gary Lee Temple, Barbara Voves, and Kendall White each get a chance to shine individually as well as in duets, combos, and ensemble work.

Among the stand-outs are Lee's saucy rendition of "Lost Liberty Blues," Temple's amusing tour conductor singing "Do You Want to Be Paris?" Brown's languid "The Laziest Gal in Town," and Brooks' feisty "Mrs. Loviborough — Goodbye." Spriggs belts out powerful versions of "I Happen to Like New York," and "Night and Day." The versatile Jamie Richards goes from the plaintive



"Dizzy Baby" (with Voves) and "Be a Clown" (with Pamela Richards), Temple, Spriggs, and Jamie Richards team for the always hilarious "Brush Up Your Shakespeare."

Under director Barbara Anne Gowans, musical director Tom Peterson, and choreographer Laura Ralsch, all flows smoothly, with enough stage movement to keep the show visually interesting.

The costuming colors of black, white, and red look sharp and should have been adhered to more strictly in

REVIEW

the second half.

Having the four-piece combo on stage works well, but the back-drop of tinsel curtains seems unimaginative and too unsophisticated for the show.

At Saturday night's performance, a few lighting miscues left some performers briefly in the dark. Otherwise, as Porter wrote, "It's O'Lovely."

Barbara Michaels is an inveterate playgoer who regularly catches up on all the New York productions.

ON STAGE

"Cole"

*Theater: St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, between Lahser and Cranbrook Roads, Bloomfield Hills.

*Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Jan. 29.

*Tickets: \$12, seniors and students, \$10. Call 644-0527.

Good performances in funny 'Nunsense'



SALLY DUBATS

An evening with the Avon Players is a sure-fire way to take the sting out of the winter blues. Their current diversion is Dan Goggin's "Nunsense," winner of the 1986 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical.

Directed by Debbie Schlutow, "Nunsense" provides Catholics and non-Catholics alike with an evening of frivolity sure to elicit a smile, especially as St. Christopher medals are awarded with fun audience participation. There are, however, a few

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moments in the show when energy seems subdued.

These moments do not, however, affect comedic timing. Flair is added to a fast-paced show by music director John Dierlein and choreographer John Mattiello; both dance and music interpretations enhance each other's style.

At the heart of the musical are five jovial nuns of the Order of the Little Sisters of Hoboken. The sisters are raising money to bury four "blue nuns" who have been temporarily stashed in the freezer. Unfortunately, 52 nuns contracted botulism from eat-

ing vichyssoise made by the convent chef, Sister Julia (Child of God).

Sister Mary Regina, the Mother Superior, is played well by Judy Privacky. Particularly funny is the exchange in dialogue when Sister Mary Hubert (Jean Garringer), who is second in command, chastises the Mother Superior for purchasing a VCR before financing the remaining four burials.

Garringer's performance is well-suited to the character of Sister Mary Hubert, and her personality serves her well during "Holier Than Thou," a song with a strong evangelistic style.

Kris Murrell-Diedrich is terrific as Sister Robert Anne, the street-wise sister bent on being the star vehicle of

ON STAGE

"Nunsense"

*Theater: Avon Players, Tienken Road, 1 1/4 miles east off of Rochester Road in Rochester Hills.

*Curtain time: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 5.

*Tickets: \$10, seniors and student discounts available. Call 375-1390.

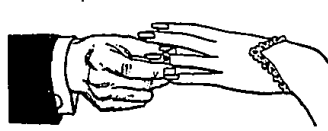
the show. Murrell-Diedrich's comedic timing is superb, and her rendition of "I Just Want To Be A Star" is filled

See "NUNSENSE," 6B



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I DO! I DO!



At last! A joyful, tuneful and delightfully optimistic musical comedy that chronicles a happy marriage from its first fumbling wedding night through the ups and downs of fifty years. "My Cup Runneth Over" is among the elegant songs by the creators of "The Fantastics".

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1994 - 8:00 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM THEATER

\$30.00 PER PERSON

AFTERGLOW - DOOR PRIZES

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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ ticket(s) for the February 10 performance of "I DO! I DO!".

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(Tickets will be mailed prior to the performance.)

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