

concert from page 4B

DAVID POLKE
With Jan Kist at Acoustic Avenue Coffeehouse at First United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.
(313) 548-1473

Saturday, April 23
HUGS REDWOOD BRIGADE
Blues, 30071 Plymouth Road, Livonia.
(313) 261-5500

CITY LIMITS BLUES BAND
Joe Flocks, 7935 W. Maple, West Bloomfield (blues).
(810) 824-7200

PAUL VORHAGEN QUARTET
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
(313) 662-8310

DISCIPLINE
Magic Bag Theatre Cafe, 22920 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale.
(810) 544-3030

RICHOKEET
With Locality at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Detroit.
(313) 334-9292

THE LOOK
Buster, 50935 Van Dyke, Utica (rock).
(810) 731-5755

THE LUDITES
With Nova Owens at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit (blues/noise).
(313) 832-2355

JIGAW JUNGLE
With Urvashi and Savor Soul at Finney's Pub, 3955 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
(313) 631-8070

GROOVE EPIC
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 996-8555

ROBERT NOLL
Sisko's, 5855 Monroe, Taylor (blues).
(313) 278-5340

GRETA
With Shoozy Groove and Varga at Harper's, Detroit (rock).
(313) 832-2355

(ROB) HARVEY
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
(313) 833-9700

PIERCE PETTIS
Mama's Coffeehouse at Birmingham Union Church, 651 Lone Pine Road at Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills.
(810) 427-6801

MOTOR CITY BLUES PROJECT
Speakeasy, 31410 Ford Road, Garden City (blues).
(313) 425-7373

CHISEL BROS. WITH THORNTON DAVIS
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn (blues).
(313) 996-8555

MINI HARRIS & THE SHAKES
Sports, 164 Maple, Wyandotte (blues).
(313) 258-5000

BLUES INSURGENTS
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn (blues).
(313) 996-8555

ROBERT JONES
New Sio, 41270 Hayes, Clinton Township (blues).
(810) 266-7788

CURTIS SMITH PROJECT
Carnegie House, 2400 Grand River, Detroit.
(313) 535-3440

Sunday, April 24
HUGS REDWOOD BRIGADE
Blue Goose, St. Clair Shores (blues).
(810) 294-0690

JERRY MACK AND THE TERRAPLAINS
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 996-8555

ADRIAN LEO
The Ark, 6371/2 Main St., Ann Arbor.
(313) 761-1451

Whirling from page 4B

...dodges grunge and funk, instead blends Beatlesque music, blues-like guitar riffs and Irish and country influences. Kevin Gill's raw vocals in "Whirling Road" are the best thing the band's ever done as a strong point.

The big thing for me is why we have the success in the melodic, that I'm extremely impressed by melodies. At least for me, it's where it's at," Gill said.

...the band has had sort of "it" with the record industry and his brother Chris Peters and his brother Drew Peters write about the "Michigan Review," a monthly journal published by the University of Michigan. The Birmingham native performs their own independent, Skillet Records, based in Ann Arbor. That, along with a finger on the pulse of the music industry, has given the brothers a good idea about the music industry works.

...up "Billboard" magazine every now and then. I read my butt off also. Being the editor of the (Review) publication here in town doesn't hurt. I always have an ear to what was going on. I'm a music freak. I've really been into what's going on and what's coming out," Chris Peters said.

That knowledge has proven to the band, which also includes bassist Nick Hamilton, that they still have a long way to go.

"We still have a lot of growing to do writing-wise. It was weird the first five songs we wrote we put on tape and that's what got our demo deal with Elektra. I'm hoping we'll be able to top them. People usually progress," Gill said.

Whirling Road and Rollinghead perform Thursday, April 21, at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. For more information, call (313) 996-8555. The band and Skillet Records can be reached at P.O. Box 8291, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

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...highlights of the show in Jackie Puritan of West... taking center stage for... salute to her breasts... to Right Mile Road just... interpretation, and a song... "Whiskey Come Back to... performed by Minor and... the Skillet in the role of... some lounge singers. An iron... in the song was a pot shot... Mayor Dennis Acher, ... by Skillet, the daughter... Anderson's opponent in last... week, Sharon McPhail.

...the show, Andrew Newberg... as an investigator of a... as an apartment complex... the sketch... of the best

'Serial Mom:' Madness is contagious

By JOHN MONAGHAN
Beverly Waters

MOVIES

Now that transatlantic superstar Divine has passed on, few would have pegged Kathleen Turner as John Waters' new leading lady. Yet, the husky-voiced actress is so amazingly good as "Serial Mom" that she almost makes us forget the movie's shortcomings. Like it isn't all that funny.

Turner's Beverly Sutphin is, even by Donna Reed standards, the perfect housewife. The attractive dentist's wife and mother of two serves perfect dinners, attends PTA meetings regularly and doesn't get mad when her hubby (Sam Waterston) has to cancel a treasured bird-watching outing.

Beverly has one little problem. She deals harshly with anyone whose behavior she deems rude. The young stud who dumps her daughter (Rikki Lake), a sloppy neighbor who refuses to recycle, a woman who wears white shoes after Labor Day — these are the targets of Beverly's one-woman rampage.

Turner is especially irresistible when she turns from that pleasant TV mom smile to the determined glare of an axe murderer. Cleaning the breakfast dishes might be followed by a session of obscene prank phone calls to a neighbor, the one who once stole her parking space at the supermarket.

"Serial Mom" seems a fitting counterpart for Waters, whose recent, nostalgic "Hairpray" and "Cry-Baby" were downright mainstream compared to his early works. His opening images of a supposedly perfect and normal family are quickly shattered by Beverly's obsession with a fly, which she eventually splatters in the gooiest possible closeup, just as Waters' name appears on the credits.

The man who once showed us Divine devouring dog doo-doo hasn't lost his desire to gross us out. Probably the biggest groans

come when a sickeningly syrupy older woman, one of Beverly's victims, takes her slippers off and urges her dog to lick her feet and make her toes all "squishy" while she watches her favorite video, the musical "Annie."

Another occurs when Beverly skewers her latest victim in the guts with a fireplace poker. When she pulls the murder weapon out, his liver is stuck to the end.

Despite his bizarre subject matter, Waters isn't a showy director when it comes to fancy camerawork or even pacing. He films "Serial Mom" documentary style, regularly displaying an exact time of day at the bottom of the screen. Baltimore, Waters' hometown and the setting for virtually all his films, is featured prominently, giving "Serial Mom" a sort of suburban authenticity.

Aside from "Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer," which is mentioned prominently near the beginning of the film, Waters' influences are evident in the videos watched by the Sutphin son Chip

(Matthew Lillard), a horror movie maniac. He's both appalled and excited at the prospect of his mother as a raving lunatic (actually more of the latter when the tabloids come calling).

By the time Beverly hits the courtroom, she is seen by some as an American hero, a brand of moralizing which doesn't work especially well in Waters' satire. Fortunately, Turner fills the main role with surprises that keep you watching, even when the premise starts to grow stale.

"Serial Mom" ultimately comes up short for two potential audiences. Mainstream moviegoers are likely to find it uncomfortably quirky and demented while die-hard Waters' fans may brand the whole affair pretty tame.

If you have a comment for John Monaghan, call him at 553-2947, mailbox 1866, on a touch-tone phone, or write to him care of Street Scene, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150.

SCREEN SCENE

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE
Detroit Institute of Arts, 5209 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 833-2323 for information. (\$5)

"Germinal" (France — 1992), 7 p.m. April 22-23; 1 and 5 p.m. April 24. Claude Berni ("Jean de Florette") directs this epic story of 19th-century mine workers who rebel against impossibly inhumane conditions. Gerard Depardieu stars in this film adaptation of Emile Zola's classic novel.

MAGIC BAG THEATRE
22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call 544-3030 for information. (\$5)

"The 24th International Tournee of Animation," 7:30 p.m. April 18-21. This annual event compiles the best short cartoons from around the world. Highlights include "Sandman," a stop-

motion child's nightmare, Mark Gustafson's "Mr. Resistor" and a lengthy tribute to claymation master Will Vinton.

MAIN ART THEATRE
118 N. Main St. at 11 Mile, Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday. Call 542-0180 for information and show times. (\$6.50; \$4 students; \$3 twilight/matinee)

Four Weddings and a Funeral (Britain — 1994). From Mike Newell, the director of "Enchanted April," an engaging story about a confirmed bachelor who runs across the same woman at the numerous weddings he attends. Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell star.

"The Hudson Proxy" (USA — 1994). The camera is the real star in this wacky account of a business graduate's rise from mail room to president's office in 1958. His invention, the Hula Hoop, becomes a Baby Boom phenomenon. Capra meets surreal-

ism in this latest from Joel and Ethan Coen ("Raising Arizona" and "Barton Fink"), co-scripted by former Detroiters Sam Raimi. "Savage Nights" (France — 1993). Cyril Colland is both director and star of this pretentious, autobiographical account of a young man's reckless love life even though he has the AIDS virus. The movie has some resonance (Colland has since died), but overall it's the kind of arty, overly stylized outing that gives French films a bad name.

MAPLE THEATRE
4135 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield. Films play through at least Thursday. Call 855-9090 for information. (\$5.75; \$3.95 matinee; \$2.95 twilight)

"Belle Epoque" (Spain — 1992). In this year's Oscar winner for best foreign film, a young army deserter tests the limits of his friend's liberal philosophy by pur-

suing each of the old man's beautiful daughters.

"Sirens" (Britain — 1994). John Duigan ("Flirting") directs this story of a young Englishwoman's sexual awakening when she visits the eccentric and bohemian household of a controversial painter. Sam Neill, Tara Fitzgerald and Hugh Grant star.

"Four Weddings and a Funeral" (See Main Art Theater listing)

MICHIGAN THEATRE
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens)

"Raining Stones" (Britain — 1993), through April 24 (call for show times). From Ken Loach, the director of "Riff-Raff," comes this winning new comedy about an out-of-work plumber obsessed with buying an expensive first communion dress for his daughter.

On the Town DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Cranbrook Kingswood School
Parents and Friends and the
Michigan Chte de Cuisine Association
invite you to attend

Le Gala de Cuisine

Sunday, May 1, 1994
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Cranbrook Campus Quadrangle
320 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
For tickets call 647-2847

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Call before 5 p.m., Monday, April 25, 1994
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