

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Reader applauds  
"The Not Mikado"

Don't miss "The Not Mikado" at the Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham through April 24. Call 644-3533 for tickets.

"It was magnificent. The cast did a superb job," said Lillian Thompson of Bloomfield Township who called me on deadline, and said please try to get this in. "It was one of the best plays the Birmingham Theatre has had in a long time. It was wonderful."

Hearing from readers like Lillian Thompson is one of the most enjoyable parts of my job. We really mean what we say — "This is your community newspaper." Please call 953-2105 anytime with comments about plays, movies, and restaurants to share with friends and neighbors in this column. You can also fax comments 651-7293.

Circle 1 p.m. Sunday, April 24 on your calendar to celebrate the month of the young child at "If We Dare To Care," a family benefit concert at Royal Oak Music Theatre. Tickets are \$6 children, \$10 adult, available at all Ticketmaster outlets or call (810) 645-6666. Over 12 children's artists including Josh White Jr., Marc Thomas, and Gemini will be performing to benefit the Michigan Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts. "If We Dare To Care," a musical cassette featuring narration by Ialah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons, and performances by over 27 artists including the Chenille Sisters, will be available for \$10 at the concert.

Robin Chichester of Livonia's "Taxes" an original play from the experimental performance group, The Fine Line Theatre, will be presented 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 27-29 at Alvin's Fine Delicatessen & Twilight Bar, 3755 Cass Ave., Detroit. Jon Diakin of Birmingham is one of the producers. Call (810) 645-6666 for ticket information. The play is a story about a man who fights the IRS and wins. You'll be hearing more about these talented guys this summer.

The Gap Band, famous for disco songs such as "You Dropped The Bomb on Me," will perform 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, April 29 at Industry Nightclub in Pontiac to benefit Orchards Children's Services. Tickets are \$50 per person. Call (810) 645-6666.

Cavali aficionados will have an opportunity to sample a wide variety of this delicacy, 6 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Golden Mushroom in Southfield. Each sampling will be accented with a different beverage. The cost is \$95 per person, not including tax or gratuity. Call (810) 659-4230 for reservations, information.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

- What's new at the movies.
- Upcoming plays and concerts in your community.

MOT's 'Turandot' showcases local talent



MARY JANE DOERR

When sportscaster Don Shane of West Bloomfield is executed as the Prince of Persia in Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot" opening 8 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Masonic Temple in Detroit, Linda Richman of "Purtan's People" will be



Prince: Don Shane of West Bloomfield is executed as the Prince of Persia in "Turandot."



Tenor: Fred Buchalter, who is not only Richman on "Purtan's People" will be toting a "tea cozy" singing tenor.



Supra: Denise Smith of West Bloomfield can't sing, but as a super she will be seen on stage in MOT's "Turandot."

No, Shane has not mistaken Fred Buchalter of Royal Oak, the voice of Richman on the popular morning radio show, for drag racing or Ping Pong, and to sing for the majors and minors. Shane knows it will be opening night at the opera where 4,000 people will witness his beheading.

The story of the Ice princess Turandot opens in ancient China with the beheading of her latest suitor, the Prince of Persia, who like all other suitors has failed to answer the three riddles posed by Turandot.

The penalty is death by beheading. An unknown young man (Calaf) attempts to flog in the opera for table tennis, or the music for the majors and minors. If she can learn his name by dawn, he will allow her to carry out the death sentence. At dawn, she is defeated, Calaf's kiss melts her icy heart, and the curse of Turandot is ended. "I wanted to be the executioner, but that takes more rehearsal," said Shane fielding questions about his operatic debut between broadcasts from Joe Louis Arena. His time is limited now with the Red Wings in the play-offs.

While Shane sees red at Michigan Opera Theatre's version of "Saturday Night Live," Fred Buchalter, who is not only Richman on "Purtan's People" but also Hans and Manny the Caterer, will be toting a "tea cozy" singing tenor. "Everyone will be able to recognize me since I will be the short guy wear-

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ing Q95 bumper sticker," said Buchalter.

Detroit's commuter comedy music coordinator is a veteran of six MOT productions, a former member of Meadow Brook's "A Christmas Carol," a voice student of Oakland University's Jan Albright, and an 18-year veteran of many theater groups. From folk to opera, and comedy to Shakespeare, Buchalter has done it all.

Shane may be unfamiliar with stage makeup and costumes, but Buchalter is a pro.

So is Eric Dion Moss. The 14-year-old Bloomfield Hills eighth grader is singing in the MOT Children's Chorus. He has done so many commercials (Kroger, Yes, Michigan, Kodak, Raisin Brand, and Ponderosa to name a few) and plays (he was in Japan last summer), he is already a member of ASTRA and Screen Actor's Guild.

"I have liked opera since I was little," said Moss who plans on majoring in heart surgery with a minor in voice.

Moss learned his major and minor keys early on but it hasn't stopped him from participating in track, football, soccer, and basketball as a student at Cranbrook. He is a sport's enthusiast like Shane. Like Buchalter, he can sing.

Denise Smith of West Bloomfield can't sing, but as a super this weekend she also will be sporting one of the Greater Miami Opera costumes, the company where her sister is director of education.

Smith was working out at a gym where she saw a MOT notice asking for "body builders." Not realizing the company wanted men, she went to the audition and got a part in last year's "Aida," her first opera.

Perhaps if Shane likes getting his head chopped off in this production, like Buchalter, Moss, and Smith, he will go on to star in more productions.

"Turandot," sung in Italian with English surtitle translations, is scheduled for four performances — 8 p.m. Saturday, April 23; 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 27; 8 p.m. Saturday, April 30 and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

Tickets range from \$11 to \$63, and family tickets are available for \$10 each with the purchase of one full-priced adult ticket. Call (313) 874-SING (7464) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, or Ticketmaster (313) 645-6666.

The cast also features soprano Ealynn Voss in the title role and Chilean soprano Crista Gallardo-Doman as the slave girl Liza. Russian born Metropolitan Opera tenor Vladimir Popov sings the famous aria "Nessu dorma" as Calaf, and Russian bass Victor Shost makes his American operatic debut as Calaf's father Timur.

Mary Jane Doerr of Troy is a full-time teacher and freelance writer who specializes in opera and musical theater.

Cranbrook Music Guild closes 42nd season

Cranbrook Music Guild will present a recital by violinist Carolyn Stuart, 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 26 in the library of Cranbrook House. Stuart, accompanied by pianist, Howard Watkins, will close the 42nd season with the traditional concert presented by the Guild's Betty Brewster Scholarship winner at the University of Michigan School of Music. Call (810) 751-2435 for tickets.

Stuart is a graduate of the Juilliard School where she studied with Kevin Leary. She pursued advanced studies in Boston with Bayla Keyes of the Mulr Street Quartet, and is now a graduate student at U of M.

Watkins earned graduate degrees at U of M and is a member of the accompanying faculty at the Aspen Music School and Festival and a lecturer in dance at U of M.

For her program, Stuart has select-

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ed Mozart, Sonatas in G major, K. 379; a group of contemporary Russian pieces by Stravinsky, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich; and the Franck Sonata in A major for violin and piano. A reception will follow the concert.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council presents Prelude's West, a luncheon concert series at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph at 14 Mile in Bloomfield Hills, 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 22 and May 20. The April 22 program features Philip Dikeman, flute and piano and Jeffrey Zook, flute and piano. Tickets are \$18.50 for lunch and concert or \$5 for concert only. Call 964-1000, Ext. 285 for reservations. Patricia Masri-Fletcher, harp, will perform May 20.

Musica Viva International Concerts presents piano duo Yuki and Tomoko Mack 8 p.m. Friday, April 22 at the Smith Theatre for the Performing Arts, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, off Orchard Lake Road south of 12 Mile and I-96. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call (810) 932-0400 or (810) 471-7700.

The Liturgical Enrichment and Resource Network presents David Haas, Jeanne Cotter, and Stephen Petrunak in a concert 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 22 at St. Thomas More Church, 4580 N. Adams, Troy. Tickets \$8 adults, \$4 children, \$20 family. Call 544-8957.

Balcom and Morris bring their kaleidoscopic repertory of contemporary American music to the Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile in Farmington Hills, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30. Call 288-3953 or 647-6632 for ticket information.



Scholarship winner: Violinist Carolyn Stuart will perform at the Cranbrook Music Guild concert on April 26.

**Buddy's PIZZA**

Secretaries TAKE NOTE: During Professional Secretaries Week April 23-30, 1994 FREE TICKETS TO CHAPLIN'S COMEDY CLUB - While Supply Lasts -

LIVONIA 33608 Plymouth Rd. (West of Farmington Rd.) 261-3550

Other Buddy's Locations:  
FARMINGTON 25450 Farmington Ave. (Corner of Farmington) 655-6800  
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Special opening night benefit performance for the Providence Hospital Craniofacial and Reconstructive Surgery Institute starting

**WORLD CHAMPION FIGURE SKATER ELAINE ZAYAK**

Wednesday, April 27 - 7:30 pm  
Tickets: \$15 rinkside • \$10 upper rinkside  
\$125 rinkside table for 4  
\$35 individual rinkside table seating  
\*Includes wine, cheese and show program

Thursday, April 28, 7:30 pm\*\*  
Friday, April 29, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, April 30, 1:30 pm\*\* & 7:30 pm  
Sunday, May 1, 1:30 pm\*\* & 5:30 pm

TICKETS: \$7 rinkside • \$6.50 upper rinkside  
\*\*Discounts for seniors 65 & older and children under 12  
To order tickets or for more information call the Southfield Sports Arena, (810) 354-9357

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