

Marquee from previous page

On May 12, the first of their movies to reach the screen will be on the USA Cable network. It is an original mystery entitled "The Spider and the Fly" set in the publishing world. The film stars Mel Harris, Ted Shaford and Prage Linton. The writing team is working on a screenplay for the best-selling novel "Surprise Party" by William Katz for the Zanuck-Brown Co., producers of "Jaws."

Keely Wygonik is editor of the *Observer & Eccentric News*. She welcomes your calls and comments, 853-2105, fax 591-7279, or write *Observer & Eccentric News*, Inc. 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150.

Noteworthy concerts feature variety of music

The 70 voice Farmington Community Chorus presents its annual spring concert 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 13-14 at Harrison High School on Twelve Mile Road between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt.

Tickets are \$5 general, \$4 seniors and students, \$3 children ages 10 and under at the door. Advance tickets are available at the city's Dept. of Special Services, 19300 Eleven Mile Road.

Sponsored by the City of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services, the chorus will present a program of popular favorites and long forgotten numbers focusing on Jazz including "Lulu's Back in Town," "Jump Shout Boogie," "It Don't Mean a Thing," "Mood Indigo" and more.

The last regular concert of the 1993-94 Southfield Symphony season will feature Metropolitan Opera coloratura soprano Ruth Welton 7 p.m. Sunday, May 15 in the Southfield Pavilion. Tickets are \$9 in advance or \$6 for students and seniors. Call 354-4717 or 851-7408.

Welton will perform Mozart arias including "The Marriage of Figaro." Also on the program will be selections by Mahler and Dvorak's "Carnival Overture, Op. 92." Guest conductor Marek Rachel-sky will lead the symphony.

The Rochester Symphony holds its final concert of the season 8 p.m. Friday, May 20 at Varner Recital Hall on the campus of Oakland University. Program includes Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93, and "Three Corned Hat" by de Falla. Tickets \$11, children 12 and under \$8. Call 551-4181.

Musica Viva! will present the Second Annual Michigan Flute Festival at Orchestra Hall in Detroit 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22. Over 40 flutists from more than 120 communities will participate. Tickets range from \$10 to \$30. Call 833-3700.

Youth orchestra to host auditions

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic will hold auditions 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 14 for its 1994-95 concert season at Faith Lutheran Church, 5000 Five Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, and to schedule an audition, call Pamela Scott, (313) 251-5734.

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St. Bede Players shine in operetta

BY EILEEN OXLEY
Staff Writer

No one nowadays would ever yell "Give us back 'The Mikado'!" like the audiences did back in the Victorian Age after viewing Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera "Ruddigore or The Witch's Curse." But they would undoubtedly leave it out of the duo's greatest hits list, which includes that Japanese operetta, "H.M.S. Pinafore," and "The Pirates of Penzance."

If those audiences dug a little deeper, they would appreciate the burlesque-like comedy that makes "Ruddigore" into a clever little mockery of facades in the 19th century that's just as appropriate today.

After a slightly flat and passionate overture by an orchestra conducted by Joseph Gamache, the curtain opens and the St. Bede Players production launches into the first libretto, "Fair is

REVIEW

Rose," with energy and enthusiasm and surprisingly good voices from a chorus of females who play "professional bridesmaids."

"They're waiting to marry off Rose Mayhew (Mary Sullivan), the choicest, comeliest maiden in the village."

Here, the story begins to unfold into an assortment of characters and situations that stage director/choreographer Collene Hackney says are "typically confusing Gilbert and Sullivan, like 14 things interweaving with each other."

Supra Mary Sullivan has a lovely, well-projected voice and adds a lot of humor and spunk to the Rosebud role.

Also effective are principal players Jay Peterson, a singer-actor-dancer who does a mean and limber burlesque as the sailor Richard. David M. Clark is a

properly creepy Sir Despard Murgosd.

Ruthann Logsdon Zaroff as Mad Margaret is an obvious caricature of theatrical madness and gives the operetta some of its best moments. Tongue-in-cheek, she makes the bridesmaids and the whole vehicle of opera by exclaiming, "They sing choruses in public, that's mad enough, I think!"

The staged production has two nice sets: a cottage scene for Act I whose green and violet tones seem to be color-coordinated to the villagers' costumes, and the picture gallery in Act II where Robin's ghostly ancestors step out of painted frames and threaten him with agonies if he doesn't fulfill the curse.

Hackney has added some creative touches like the strobe light that enhances the spookiness of the second scene. But it is the use of "A Wandering Minstrel, I" (from "The Mikado") sung off-

ON STAGE

"Ruddigore"

*Theater: St. Bede Players at Southfield High School, Ten Mile at Laker.

*Curtain time: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 13-14; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15.

*Tickets: Adults, \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door; Students and senior citizens, \$4 in advance, \$6 at the door. Call 557-7245 or 549-5943.

key by the ancestors as an affliction upon poor Robin, that steals the show. Gilbert and Sullivan would probably appreciate the witty addition.

Eileen Oxley of Lake Orion is a freelance writer specializing in arts and entertainment.

ENTERTAINING CHOICES

Entertaining Choices lists upcoming concerts, plays, dance performances and special events. Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment editor, the Observer & Eccentric News, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is 591-7279.

COMMUNITY THEATER

■ TEDD E. BEAR
"Teddy E. Bear Does Broadway," staged and directed by Nancy Gurwin, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22 at the Jewish Community Center, Jimmy Prentice Morris Building, 15110 West Ten Mile Road, Oak Park. Admission \$25 per family (3-5 people), \$10 general admission, \$5 seniors. Call 967-4030 or 661-7632.

■ VILLAGE PLAYERS
"Closer Than Ever," opens 8 p.m. Friday, May 13 and continues weekends through May 28 at the playhouse, 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. Call 644-2075 for tickets.

of I-275 and west Six Mile Road. Call 464-6302. Tickets \$17 at the door.

■ AVON PLAYERS
"Into the Woods," 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, through May 21 at the theater on Trienken Road, 1 1/4 miles east off of Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. Tickets \$10 with senior citizen and student discounts available. Call 375-1390.

■ TROY PLAYERS
"My Sister Sam," Markham" opens 8 p.m. Friday, May 13. Shows 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 20-21 at Troy Community Center, 620 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Call 879-1285.

■ FARMINGTON PLAYERS
"Les Liaisons Dangereuses" continues 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, through May 21; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at the playhouse, 32332 Twelve Mile Road, Farmington. Call 553-2955 for tickets.

■ PONTIAC THEATRE IV
"Fiddler on the Roof" in association with Music Theatre International, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, May 13-14, May 20-21 at Pontiac Northern High School, 1051 Arlene, Pontiac. Tickets \$7 adults, \$5 students, seniors. Call 335-4277 for tickets.

BARBERSHOP

■ CONCERT
Detroit City Lights with Wayne State Men's Glee Club, and Power Play International finalist quartet, 8 p.m. Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21 at Mercy High School auditorium, 11 Mile at Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

■ FARMINGTON COMMUNITY BAND
Summer concert in Heritage Park, 8 p.m. Thursday, May 19. The park is on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile. Call 476-0000 or 489-3412 for information.

■ DETROIT CONCERT CHOIR
Tapestry of Song, luncheon concert, 1 p.m. Sunday, May 22 in Greenfield Village's Lovett Hall. Concert choir will perform classical and folk selections after lunch at 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$30, call 882-0118. Advance reservations required, limited seating.

■ TRIBUTE CONCERT
A "Tribute to Mischa Kottler," 5 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at the Shrine of the Little Flower, 12 Mile at Woodward, Royal Oak. Pianist Kurt Kuntz of Troy will be performing works of Mozart, Chopin, Gerwinin and Rachmaninov. Donation \$5 per person. The donations will be used for the much needed repair of the Shrine's very old organ.

■ ANNEASADOR CHAMBER PLAYERS
Concert 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at Troy Public Library, 610 West Big Beaver, between Livernois and the Civic Center Complex. No charge.

■ LUNCHEON CONCERT
DSOH Volunteer Council Preludes West concert and luncheon 12:30 p.m. Friday, May 20 at Temple Beth El, Telegraph at 14 Mile, Bloomfield Hills. Features DSO harpist Patricia Maari Fletcher. Cost \$18.50 for lunch and concert, \$5 for concert only which begins 1:30 p.m. Call 962-1000, Ext. 285.

■ CHAMBERWORKS
A Family Named Mozart, 4 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at Grosse Pointe

Unitarian Church, 17160 Maumee, 8 p.m. Friday, May 20 at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 643-7788.

■ CLASS ACT
The Class Act Singers, Kazimierz Brozowski, guest pianist Sunday, May 15 at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2976 E. Maple, Troy. Champagne luncheon 3 p.m., entertainment 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$23, patron, \$30, entertainment only, \$13. Call 689-3636 or 558-3624. To benefit Polish Scouting, APCS Library, cultural presentations.

■ EVENING OF ELEGANCE
Paul Zim and his Simcha Klezmer Band, 7 p.m. Sunday, May 22 at Congregation Beth Achim, 21100 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield. Call 352-8670 for details.

■ CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY
The Kronos Quartet, 8 p.m. Friday, May 13 at Detroit's Music Hall. Call 645-6666 or 963-2366 for tickets.

■ BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA
Russian folk music and song, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 14 at Berkley High School, Catalpa at Coolidge. Tickets \$12, call 644-4988 or Ticketmaster, 645-6666.

PROFESSIONAL

■ BIRMINGHAM
"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," directed by Worth Gardner continues through June 12 at the theater, 211 S. Woodward. Call (810) 644-3533 for tickets or Ticketmaster, (810) 645-6666.

■ MEADOW BROOK
Neil Simon's "Broadway Bound," continues through May 15 at the theater on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Call (810) 377-3300 for tickets or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666.

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