

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1994

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ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGNIK

Like Feinsteen? Give us a call

Win a pair of tickets (lawn seats) to see Michael Feinstein perform with the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony at Pine Knob 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23.

Call (313) 953-2023, leave your name, address, and daytime phone number. The first 50 callers will win a pair of tickets. One pair of tickets per household. Only winners will be contacted. Observer & Eccentric employees and their families are not eligible.

I saw Feinstein perform at the former George Burns Theatre in Lincoln and enjoyed the show. He puts a lot of heart into his performance. Paired with one of our area's finest orchestras — the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony, it promises to be an evening to remember.

Feinstein is inspired by artists such as Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and George and Ira Gershwin. Feinstein's catalogue of albums includes "Pure Gershwin," "Live at the Algonquin," "Michael Feinstein Sings Irving Berlin," "Isn't It Romantic," and the children's record "Pure Imagination."

His latest album, "Michael Feinstein Sings The Jerry Herman Songbook," features medleys from "Hello, Dolly!," and "Mame."

Tickets range from \$22.50 and \$17.50 pavilion, and \$12.50 lawn. Call (810) 645-6666 to charge tickets.

■ It promises to be "An Affair to Remember" an elegant evening featuring a live dance band, hors d'oeuvres, a sweet table, gourmet coffees and cash bar 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, June 25 in the restored historic Burgh Church, 26068 Civic Center Drive (at Berg Road) in Southfield.

The event is a benefit for Standing Room Only Productions, a non-profit civic theater that continuously produces outstanding productions. Tickets are \$25 per person, or \$40 per couple. Black tie optional. Call 354-9362.

■ Be sure to let me know about summer concerts in your community so I can spread the word. Bir.

See MARQUEE, next page

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Entertainment next week:

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

One-ring circus comes to Meadow Brook



Run away to the Big Apple Circus at Meadow Brook, June 18-28. Under the big tent, no one sits more than 50 feet from the action in the ring. The production incorporates aspects of traditional theater with classical circus elements.

Internationally-acclaimed Big Apple Circus makes its Michigan debut June 18-28 at Meadow Brook on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$25 and are on sale now at the Birmingham Theatre and Fisher Theatre box offices, and at all Ticketmaster outlets. To charge tickets, call (810) 645-6666.

Performances will be presented 7 p.m. Saturday, June 18; 1 and 6 p.m. Sundays, June 19 and June 20; 1 p.m. Monday, June 21; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 22-25 and Monday and Tuesday, June 27-28.

There will be an opening night gala to benefit the International Freedom Festival, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 18. Call (313) 923-8239 for Big Apple Circus ticket information and gala details.

The Big Apple Circus performs in an intimate 1972 seat circus tent where no one sits more than 50 feet from the action in the ring. The production incorporates aspects of traditional theater including aerial, clowning, mime, juggling and acrobatics. There's a special focus on classic equestrianism.

Each season the show is centered around a theme. This year's show, "Carnegie in Venice" recreates the splendor and spectacle of Venice during its most festive season as the circus ring is transformed into Piazza San Marco.

Circus founder and artistic director Paul Binder and his design team create visual splendor with Donna

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Zakowaka's extraordinary Commedia costumes, James Leonard Joy's Venetian set, complete with bridges and canals and Ian Kroese's innovative lighting. Michael Christensen, director of clowning, applies his comic touch infusing the show with a spirit of merrymaking.

Music by composer Linda Hudes draws from both Italian folk song and opera.

Carnegie in Venice stars an international roster of the world's most exciting circus acts. Highlights include:

■ From Italy, Romano and Alfredo Colabaiotti, one of Europe's best loved comedy teams, present classic clown routines with a contemporary twist and freewheeling improvisations, co-starring audience members.

■ From the People's Republic of China, the internationally acclaimed Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe, the country's most prestigious troupe, will thrill audience members with their original aerial act using trapeze and bungee cords.

■ From the United States, elephant trainer Ben Williams presents a heartwarming family act featuring his wife Darlene atop incomparable elephant star Anna May and teaming six-year-old elephants Amy and Ned and Ben's daughters, eight-year-old Stormy and five-year-old Sky.

■ World-renowned Danish equestri-



Acrobatics: The internationally acclaimed Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe, will thrill audiences at the Big Apple Circus with their aerial act.

enne Katja Schuman, joined for the second season by her father, legendary 78-year-old master equestrian Max Schuman, presents a high-spirited comedy act featuring Katja's

stallions. The circus' Michigan debut is being presented by Gary Wasserman as a Detroit-Windsor International Freedom Festival event.

Children's entertainer opens music festival

Meadow Brook Music Festival, the 7,500-seat outdoor amphitheater on the campus of Oakland University opens Saturday, June 18 with a concert featuring children's superstar Fred Penner in concert at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$12.50 pavilion or \$7.50 lawn. Call (810) 645-6666 to charge tickets.

An acclaimed recording artist and star of Fred Penner's Place (as seen on Nickelodeon), Penner has been recognized internationally by parents and teachers alike for his continuing contribution to family entertainment. His latest album "Happy Feet," a tribute to the swing era, gave Penner his third Parents' Choice Award. The season continues Saturday,

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June 19 with a concert featuring Dionne Warwick. Tickets are \$22.50 pavilion, \$12.50 lawn. Ray Charles with special guest Tower of Power performs June 21 and Melissa Manchester with the Meadow Brook Festival Orchestra on June 23.

Unless otherwise noted, shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at The Palace and Pine Knob Box offices, and all Ticketmaster centers including Hudson's, Harmony House and Great Stuff stores.

Arena Associates, Inc., owners of The Palace of Auburn Hills and Pine Knob Music Theatre, will operate and manage the Meadow Brook Mu-

sic Festival this summer.

"Meadow Brook Music Festival is already a beautiful facility full of traditional charm, cultural qualities and character," said Thomas S. Wilson, president of The Palace and Pine Knob Music Theatre. "We are confident by doing many of the things that we have been successful at Pine Knob we can make Meadow Brook even better."

Jim McCue, director of events for The Palace and Pine Knob, sees the addition as another opportunity to deliver quality entertainment to the people of metro Detroit.

"We foresee keeping many of the traditional types of shows that have become Meadow Brook staples — the children's shows, jazz, classical con-

certs, rock and roll revues and cutting edge type new music," said McCue.

This year's schedule includes a concert featuring Little Richard on July 3, Laser Mania '94 with the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony performing the music of Pink Floyd on July 10, Art Garfunkel with the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony on Aug. 6, Ballet Gran Folklórico de Mexico, Aug. 16 and the Everly Brothers with Kris Kristofferson on Aug. 27.

"We hope to bring to Meadow Brook the type of shows which will benefit from its intimate size and charming setting," said McCue. "Family shows and comedy acts fit well here since everyone is near the stage."

NEWS & INFORMATION

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