

## STREET SCENE

## Primitive Radio Gods lend song to 'Cable Guy'

When the Primitive Radio Gods' Chris O'Connor was first approached about putting his

song "Standing Outside A Broken Phone Booth With Money In My Hand" on the soundtrack to the movie "The Cable Guy," he wasn't exactly sold on the idea.

"I told them, 'There's no way,' I just envisioned 'Pot Detective Three.' I didn't see how the song would work so I said no. They kept calling me back saying it's going to be a big movie. Finally, I guess the director (Ben Stiller) wanted to use some of the song in the movie. I talked to him about my reservations and he assured me that it was going to be a departure, a dark comedy."

He read the script which "didn't



CHRISTINA FUOCO

look like it was going to be a real standard. Jim Carrey flick" and since he wanted to make sure that his song was heard, he agreed to let them use the song, a complacent pop/hop ditty that samples B.B. King's "How Blue Can You Get."

The video for "Standing Outside A Broken Phone Booth With Money In My Hand" soon became a MTV "Buzz Clip" and

the single popped onto adult alternative and alternative radio stations. The Primitive Radio Gods' first album "Rocket," on which the song can also be heard, hit No. 1 on the Billboard alternative radio charts; No. 14 in Alternative Album Sales; No. 25 on Retail Album Sales; and No. 1 on adult alternative radio. That's not bad for a man who nearly quit the music business all together.

O'Connor began his musical career with the California band, the I-Rails, who released four indie albums between 1988 and 1990. O'Connor was busy working on the band's fifth album

when the other I-Rails - including current Primitive Radio Gods' members drummer Tim Lauterio and bassist Jeff Sparks - left the band to take day jobs. He finished recording what would be "Rocket" in a broken-down '69 Ampex 16-track tape-deck on a \$1,000 budget.

After a three-year break from the music industry, he decided to release the album himself. Record companies had a lukewarm response to the album so he quit the music business and returned to his job as an air-traffic controller. A year later, on a whim, he blindly mailed out a few more copies of the album.

Columbia Records heard it and immediately decided to release the album.

Now the band, which also includes guitarist Luke McAvillia, is touring in support of "Rocket." Primitive Radio Gods perform Thursday, Aug. 15, at the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$7.50 in advance. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT.

If you have a question or a comment for Christina Fuoco, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130.

## Theater program helps students get a 'Jumpstart'

During the summer, a lot of people come home to visit mom and dad, and rest. Not Broadway actor Daniel C. Cooney. He's putting in 12 hour days, teaching, rehearsing, and helping build sets for Jump Start the Arts presentation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Evita!" 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 22-24; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25 in the Louis E. Schmidt

Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road, (between 7 Mile and 8 Mile Roads) Livonia. Tickets are \$18 adults, \$14 senior citizens and children, available in advance by calling (313) 425-6782 or Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Cooney, a 1985 graduate of John Glenn High School in

Westland, and his friend Michael J. Sawaya started the program last summer to give high school students an opportunity to develop their skills by working side-by-side professional stage actors. Twenty-eight students are selected during April auditions, and attend a two-week summer acting workshop taught by Jim Bonney, one of New York's finest acting instructors, and Cooney.

"Evita!" follows the rise to power of Eva Peron, once the leader of Argentina, whose death on July 26, 1952, was a shock to her people.

In addition to Cooney, the production will star Stephanie Myre formerly of Farmington Hills as Eva Peron.

## BOOK BEAT

**BORDER BOOK (BIRMINGHAM)**  
Judith Diana Winston, author/artist, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, will be giving a talk 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, and signing copies of her book,

"Meditative Magic, The Pleiades Glyphs: A Workbook of Mandalas for Spiritual Self-Reliance," (Chewit Press, copyright 1994, \$29.95). The book is easy to use for both seasoned

meditators and those new to meditation. Borders is at 32250 Southfield Road, at 13 Mile Road. Learn about channeled meditation, using Winston's book.

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Color this picture and fill in the entry form above. Then bring your entry to the Somerset Collection's Sneak Preview celebration on August 15th. You'll have a great time -- and a chance to take your family to Paris.

Place your entry in the box located across from The Disney Store on the third level of Somerset North the evening of August 15th, before 8:45 p.m. No purchase necessary.

Grand prize drawing at 9:00 p.m. on the Somerset North main stage. There will be additional drawings for prizes from The Disney Store and The Walt Disney Gallery.

During The Somerset Collection's Sneak Preview Celebration on Thursday, August 15th, Disney Entertainment will be performed throughout The Somerset Collection, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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