

FRIDAY



Walt Disney's *D3: The Mighty Ducks*, starring (left to right) Marguerite Moreau, Garrett Ratliff, Henson and Elden Ryan, opens at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Tommy Chong who will always be remembered as one half of the American counter-culture comedy team "Cheech and Chong," will be appearing at the Mainstreet Comedy Showcase in Ann Arbor, call (313) 996-9080.

SUNDAY



Pianist Leszek Bartkiewicz presents a program featuring Polish composers 4 p.m. in the Shrine of St. Mary's on the campus of the Orchard Lake Schools. Tickets \$12 at the door, call (810) 683-0428.



**HOT TIX:** Don't miss the "Greatest Show on Earth," Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary at Joe Louis Arena. Children of all ages will enjoy the excitement, dazzling color, humor and unparalleled artistry, call (810) 645-6666 for tickets.

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

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Rehearsing: Evelyn Orbach (left to right), Elif Celebi and Hilary Ramsden in a scene from "Kindertransport," Jewish Ensemble Theatre's season opener.

## Moving drama opens JET season

STORY BY KEELY WYGONIK • STAFF WRITER

A woman's efforts to bury her past detail in Jewish Ensemble Theatre's presentation of "Kindertransport" by British playwright Diane Samuels opening Wednesday for previews.

Samuels' play, set in modern times, explores a little-known episode of Jewish history, the "Kindertransports" — 10,000 Jewish children sent by their parents on trains to safety before the outbreak of World War II. Most of these children never saw their parents, or relatives again.

The Movement for the Care of Children from Germany was formed after the Nazi pogrom "Kristallnacht," in which thousands of Jewish businesses were destroyed, and Jews were assaulted, killed, and sent to concentration camps. From 1938-39, Jewish children, ages four to 16, were allowed out of Germany and sent on trains to England. Many children were adopted by English families, others went to the United States or Paraguay.

Some grew up feeling guilty about being spared from the Holocaust, or angry they were sent away.

"My husband was one of those children," said JET artistic director Evelyn Orbach who is cast in the play. "Some, like my husband, were fortunate, and reunited with their parents. But many parents didn't get out, and were murdered in concentration camps."

"Kindertransport" is based on the real-life accounts of these children. Samuels interviewed a number of "Kinder" while researching the play, and weaves their experiences together to tell the story of Eva who

is seven when her mother, Helga, sends her away.

She is taken in by Lil, an English woman, and buries her Jewish identity. Eva has Anglicized her name to Evelyn. She is a middle-class English woman in her 50s who has a daughter, Faith, (portrayed by Elif Celebi) who knows nothing about her Jewish past.

The play takes place in a spare storage room in Evelyn's house in an outer London suburb in recent times. Faith is in her 20s, and getting ready to move out. Mother and daughter are in the storage room looking for dishes and other things for Faith's flat when she discovers a box containing papers from her mother's Jewish past.

"A lot of people keep parts of their life hidden," said Hilary Ramsden, Director of the Ann Arbor-based Walk and Squawk Performance Project who portrays Evelyn. "They're afraid of what people will say, that they'll be punished. Evelyn has become totally English, she keeps a stiff upper lip, she's totally destroyed her memory of what happened in the past — her mother sent her away, and she doesn't trust herself. She's afraid of losing her daughter."

The past cuts into the present. When Faith questions her mother, "Eva's subconscious bubbles up like mud from the bottom of a pond," explains Ramsden.

She starts the play at nine years old, and finishes it at 17. Dana Acheson, a junior at Roper School, who played Cosette in the first national tour of "Les Misérables" portrays young Eva.

Looming menacingly throughout is The Ratcatcher, (Chuck O'Connor) a mythical character who also portrays the Nazi Border Official, the English Organizer, the Postman, and Station Guard.

"The Ratcatcher, 'Pied Piper,' was one of Eva's favorite stories; her mother used to read it to her. Children who follow the Pied Piper never see their parents again," explained Orbach, who portrays Lil, Evelyn's English foster mother. "The Ratcatcher becomes the monster of all things that happened to her, and frightened her."

Cheryl Williams, last seen at the JET in "Social Security," portrays Helga, Eva/Evelyn's mother. "I don't say there's a war, my daughter is not sure about what's going on, but she knew her parents were in danger. Helga writes to her little girl before she goes to camp. She was doing what is best to protect her child — sending her to a strange land to foreigners. It was a choice she had to make. This story explains the devastating effects of war on a personal level."

"Eva buries her past in a box in the attic. My character asks her, 'why have you lost yourself?' She denies it, 'I have a new life, I can't go with you,' but she struggles with her demons."

Seasoned Israeli director Rivi Feldmesser-Yaron brings Samuels' story to life. Metro Detroit is home to many children who were passengers on the "Kindertransports." They have been invited to opening night, Oct. 13.

### On Stage

#### "Kindertransport"

by Diane Samuels  
• Previews Oct. 9 (opening night Oct. 13) continues to Nov. 3.

Where: Jewish Ensemble Theatre presentation, Aeron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 West Maple, West Bloomfield.

Tickets: \$13 to \$23, senior, student, group discounts available, call (810) 788-2900 for season and ticket information. To charge tickets call Ticketmaster (810) 645-6666.

#### Upcoming shows

■ "Family Secrets," hilarious, warm comedy by Sherry Glazer and Greg Howell

• Previews Dec. 11 (opening night Dec. 15) continues to Jan. 12.

■ "Unexpected Tenderness," a strangely disturbing story about a loving family who control sometimes gets out of control, by Israel Horowitz

• Previews Feb. 26 (opening night March 2) continues to March 23.

■ Festival of new plays in staged readings

• March 26 to April 17.

■ Diary of "Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett

• To be presented to school groups at the Millennium Theatre in Southfield, 10 a.m. Monday - Friday, Jan. 13 to Feb. 7.

Performances 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2 are open to the public. Call theater for ticket information.

### COMEDY

#### On Stage

"One Nation Undecided"  
Where: The Second City - Detroit, 2301 Woodward, Detroit.  
Performances: 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays, with additional shows on Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. The cast performs a free show of improvisational comedy after every performance.

(Friday and Saturday improv sessions occur after the late show only.)  
Tickets: Saturdays, \$10; Fridays, \$16; Thursdays, \$14; Sundays, \$12; Wednesdays through October, \$8 - call (313) 955-2222.

## Revue campaigns for 'Undecided'

BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER

You'll laugh, and want to return for more giggles, after watching the Second City - Detroit's eighth revue, "One Nation Undecided," which received a standing ovation on opening night, Sept. 26.

The talented cast — Joshua Funk, Grant Krause, Rico Bruce Wade, Larry Campbell, Kim Greene and Angela Shelton delivers steady laughs, and there's never a lull or dull moment. Celebrating its third anniversary, Second City - Detroit has put down roots. Without a doubt, this high energy revue is Motown all the way. Second City - Detroit has finally found a voice of its own.

"There ain't nothing wrong with being 'One

Nation Undecided.'" is the theme of this revue, which gleefully gallops through a variety of controversial political, social, and cultural issues including racism, homosexuality, suicide, smoking, AIDS, and the presidential election.

Musical direction by Chad Krueger is first-rate. Krueger, who spent four years with the Second City National Touring Company, has acted in plays, and jumps into the action adding a dimension that wasn't a part of previous shows.

The stage is seasonally dressed in red, white and blue, there's an American flag in the background. "All the crazy people come

See UNDECIDED, 2E



"Undecided:" Second City cast members Angela Shelton (standing), Kim Greene (seated left to right), Rico Bruce Wade and Larry Campbell in "One Nation Undecided."

CONTEMPORARY LARK