

Entertainment

The Farmington Observer

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Page 1, Section E

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Comedian Bernie Mac performs 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$35 and \$27.50, (248) 433-1515.

SATURDAY



Fisher Theatre presents "Les Misérables," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Fisher Theatre in the Fisher Building, Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$58, (248) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



Last chance to see Dein Perry's Tap Dogs at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Curtain 7 p.m., tickets \$32.50 and \$22.50, (248) 645-6666.



Hot Tix: Detroit blues, R&B and soul singer Thornetta Davis and her Sharecroppers of Soul are on this year's lineup for the Anti-Freeze Blues Festival at the Magic Bag in Ferndale Friday, Jan. 2-Saturday, call (248) 544-3030.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Rodeo rides into town with 'World's Toughest Bulls & Broncs'

The New Dodge World's Toughest Bulls & Broncs Championship Rodeo

Where: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. Where: Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. Tickets: \$16, \$15, \$12 and \$10 available at the Joe Louis Arena and Fox Theatre box offices, and all Ticketmaster outlets, call (248) 645-0666. For more information, call (313) 983-0006, for 24-hour information on accessible seating and special needs call (313) 306-7902.

■ Highlights: By Herndon presents a concert after the conclusion of the rodeo Saturday night. Free with the purchase of a Saturday night rodeo ticket. ■ Children ages 12 and under get 1/2 price tickets and free pony rides on Sunday.

Looking Ahead:

When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22.

Where: Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets: \$16, \$14 and \$12 reserved. All seats opening night are \$10. Seating 60 and over and children 12 and under will receive \$2 off \$14 and \$12 tickets on Sunday, Feb. 22. Kids under two years of age admitted free. Call (248) 645-0666; groups of 15 or more receive \$2 off all seats, call (248) 377-0100.

By KEELY WAGONIK
STAFF WRITER

"Mamas don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys, let 'em be doctors 'n' lawyers 'n' such," goes the famous song by Willis Nelson, but if given the chance, a lot of us would jump at the chance.

"Not everyone can put their foot in the stirrup and ride off into the sunset, but you can ride off in your pickup truck," said Steve Gander, president and executive producer of the "The New Dodge World's Toughest Bull's & Broncs Championship Rodeo" riding into Joe Louis Arena Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 3-4.

"We use a lot of pageantry in our rodeo," said Gander whose company is celebrating its 20th year. "Our sound effects are unique. We use '2001 Space

Odyssey' and a lot of rock while the action is going on."

The athletes will be joined by the world's smallest cowboy, Whiplash (a five-pound Capuchin monkey) who saddles up on his "horse," a Border Collie, and rounds up wild Barbado sheep.

"The key is to get the dog to accept the monkey," said Gander. "Whiplash is almost human. Sometimes he gets mad and throws dirt at the audience, or he waves at them."

By Herndon will present a free concert immediately after the rodeo Saturday, Jan. 3, and perform his hits including "I Have To Work."

Fans will see four pro teams (consisting of nine athletes per team) competing in bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull

riding and barrel racing. There is no calf roping or steer wrestling.

Each performance has a winning team and individual event winners. The top two scoring contestants in each event will return for a winner-take-all "let 'er rip" championship round.

Cowboys and cowgirls will compete for \$25,000-\$30,000 in prize money.

All the action is captured on a huge screen so fans can see instant replays of the action.

"Rodeo is the original extreme sport," said Gander. "When it's played back in slow motion you can see the power of the athletes and animals. You can see their muscles rip and when they turn direction in mid-air. We aim a

Please see RODEO, E2

Cowboy fun:
Barrel Racing is just one of the events you'll see at the New Dodge World's Toughest Bull's & Broncs Championship Rodeo.



Musician's gotta thing for swing

"It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing."

- Duke Ellington

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Jon-Erik Kellso, 33, had pretty much the same idea when he was growing up in Allen Park.

The cornet/trumpet player admits his interest in swing was "strange" for a kid.

"I started playing when I was 10 years old in school and was primarily interested in the older style jazz," Kellso said by telephone from his home in New York City. "My parents had this collection of records from the swing era - Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Harry James."



But Kellso Jon-Erik Kellso wasn't alone in his interest. Schoolmate Mike Karoub, a cellist and bass player, was also interested in the music of the 1930s and '40s.

"We were pretty ambitious kids," Kellso said. "He's a year older than me. He put together a big band, and here we were junior high kids playing the swing classics."

Kellso and Karoub will be together again, joined by pianist James Dapogny 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Birmingham Borders, 34300 Woodward Ave., to promote Kellso's new CD of small combo swing "Chapter 2: The Plot Thickens" on the Arbor Jazz label. On Sunday the trio will be joined by bass player Paul Keller at 4 p.m. at Ann Arbor's Schoolkids Records, 523 East Liberty.

Kellso and Karoub performed in the International Youth Symphony and as they grew up they began playing in small combos, swing bands and dixieland groups around Detroit. Karoub still lives in metro Detroit.

Kellso played with some of the best jazz players in Detroit and moved from Hamtramck to New York in 1989 when he got an offer to play with Vince Giordano's Nighthawks.

"I had fallen in love with New York and thought in the back of my mind to give it a shot. This way I didn't have to go there as a starving artist," he said. "I've been very happy. It's an exciting place, a lot going on with great musicians and history."

Kellso has been a popular sideman with many groups and has played with some of the biggest names in the business (veteran jazz bassist Milt Hinton played on his Kellso's CD as a leader). He also finds himself in the middle of a swing revival, especially among young musicians and listeners.

"I personally like a lot of styles of music, I'm not close-minded about it," he said. "The things I love about this music are what I love about other kinds of music. It has a great beat, it was originally designed to be

Please see SWING, E2