

# Rugrats from page E1

"We celebrate the episodes, but we wanted the stage show to be different," said Hochwald. "The characters are six feet tall. It's almost a 'Honey I shrank the Kids' effect. It's purely magical. The parents are kept on a different level so they don't appear out of proportion. They're separated from the kids who are in their own world. We chose a rainy day because it creates an atmosphere where the imagination could fly. We snuck in Chuckie's fear of thunder."

"This is not a skip and wave presentation. The cast of 22 actors, dancers and singers portray over 30 characters. Cast members range in age from 21-29."

"They're amazing," said Hochwald. "They capture the essence of the character even though they're buried underneath layers of costume."

"It's a show designed for older kids, ages 5-11. Younger kids will enjoy it too, but they might not 'get' everything in the story."

There's lots of dancing and the live music includes disco, rock, salsa, funk and opera performed by a three piece band. Dovo frontmen Mark and Bob Mothersbaugh, composers for the TV series, composed the live tour music and lyrics with show co-authors and co-lyricists Jon Cooksey and Ali Marie Mathison.

Danny Herman, winner of the Joseph Jefferson Artisan and After Dark Awards is the choreographer.

"It has the feel of a kids' rock concert," said Hochwald. "The same people who built the stage for the Rolling Stones tour built our stage. It's a three story stage structure. There's a lot to look at. Kids familiar with the show

**'Our biggest fear was that kids wouldn't get it, but we've had incredible experiences. There's some interaction, but it's very spontaneous. It's cool when the curtain goes up. The show absolutely will not be tortuous for parents.'**

**Jonathan Hochwald**  
executive producer

will recognize some of the references to previous episodes. "They'll remember what happened to the different characters," said Hochwald.

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Like the TV series, Hochwald hopes the live show develops a loyal following. "We hope to have new episodes out every 18 months."

The tour starts in the United States and they plan to take it to South America and Europe.

Hochwald said he is looking forward to visiting the Fox Theatre again. "I played there three years ago with David Copperfield," he said. "It's just a fabulous place, one of the really noteworthy, landmark theaters. There's a spirit of place, almost haunting. It's so cool."

# Pianist from page E1

Van Dyke, one Picasso and seeing a whole exhibit of Monets or the Picasso show last year where you could study all the paintings from the early part of his life. It's like the difference between taking a highlights tour and staying awhile," he said.

Ohlsson said he was surprised by the total success of the project, though he said he knew Chopin was popular.

"It was tremendous. It went far beyond ego gratification, though ego gratification is always nice, but it doesn't last," he said.

The Chopin cycle was atypical for the busy pianist who has

built a career on playing a broad repertoire of classical music as a soloist, chamber player and with symphonic orchestras.

"Solo recitals are more challenging, you have to create the atmosphere, everything," he said. "It's like a poetry reading or a monologue by an actor. With an orchestra, it's more like a play, a cooperative effort. There is nothing like playing a great concerto with a fine orchestra and a great conductor. You are stimulating each other."

Ohlsson said he has a "standard seven" of great composers for the piano - Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert, Debussy,

Liszt and, of course, Chopin. But, he said, he plays many more not on that list, including contemporary composers.

"You can't play everything," but I tend to do a wide range," he said. "I play as wide a repertoire as any concert pianist."

He said he plays contemporary music because "music doesn't exist unless it's played" and it can't be judged if no one ever hears it.

Ohlsson, like most concert pianists began playing as a child. He said playing piano and violin are so complicated that you almost have to shape your body

to the instrument, and it is hard for someone who doesn't begin as a child. Though he sometimes gets challenged.

"Occasionally I'll run into someone in their 30s who says they're going to buy a piano and take lessons so they can play like me. Well, good luck," he said.

Following his fate, Ohlsson will be making trips to New York, Spain and Italy before flying home to San Francisco and a three week break before the summer music festival rounds. He has scheduled recording dates with Arabesque to perform works by Beethoven and Liszt later this year.

# Gilda Meets 'Godzilla' at movie premiere

PRNewswire - Two huge entertainment icons, Gilda Radner and Godzilla, will join forces Wednesday, May 20 at the Star Southfield Entertainment Center when General Motors presents "Gilda Meets Godzilla," a movie premiere of the TriStar Pictures action thriller, "Godzilla."

The event, which begins with refreshments at 6 p.m. in the Old Detroit Lobby, is a benefit for Gilda's Club Metro Detroit,

the free cancer support community named for the comedian and former Detroit, Gilda Radner.

While Gilda once made a "monster" movie called "It Came From Hollywood," she never crossed Godzilla's path before. Monies raised at the benefit will help fund the program at the recently opened clubhouse in Royal Oak, which features social and emotional support for men, women and children with all

types of cancer, as well as their families and friends.

"Godzilla," starring Matthew Broderick and produced by Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin, of "Independence Day" fame, will begin at 7:30 p.m. General tickets are \$25 and reserved patron tickets are \$100. To order tickets, send check or Visa/MasterCard number to Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, 3517 Rochester Road, Royal Oak,

Mich. 48073 by Friday, May 15. For information, contact Gilda's Club, (248) 677-0800.

Star Southfield Entertainment Center, at 25333 W. Twelve Mile, between Telegraph Road and Northwestern Highway, has been integral in helping raise over \$400,000 for dozens of charities since its June 1997 opening.

"Gilda Meets Godzilla" will be Star Southfield's 11th charity benefit.

# Ballet Company showcases guest artists

The Michigan Classic Ballet Company has announced the guest faculty and participating companies for the 1998 Regional Dance America Mid-States Festival.

The Michigan Classic Ballet Company will host the Festival in Ann Arbor, on the campus of the University of Michigan, with performances at the Power Center, Friday-Saturday, May 22-23.

The companies are featured in performances of world premier ballets at the Mid-States Festival. Kimberly Glasco and Anthony Randazzo of the National Ballet of Canada will perform, as guest artists, in the Festival Gala Program, Saturday, May 23.

Performances take place at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23 at the Power Center in downtown Ann Arbor. Tickets

are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door. For further information, call the Michigan Classic Ballet ticket hot line (248) 661-4349 or the Power Center, (734) 763-3333.

Michael Uthoff, founder of Hartford Ballet, and Artistic Director of Ballet Arizona, is the Adjudicator for the 1998 Festival. The faculty includes:

Jonas Kago - Artistic director, Ballet West, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Denise Schultze - Former Ballet Mistress, Ballet West and Nevada Dance Theatre, and noted guest teacher  
Anthony Randazzo - Former Principal Dancer San Francisco Ballet, and Guest Artist in Residence, National Ballet of Canada  
Kimberly Glasco - Principal Dancer, National Ballet of Canada

William De Young - Faculty, University of Michigan, freelance

choreographer and teacher  
Christian Kammüller - Former Principal Dancer, Guaira Ballet Theatre of Brazil  
Rene Grammatico - Original member, Dance Gallery/Peter Sparling & Co., noted choreographer, and jazz dance master teacher

Veronica Green - Member, Dayton Contemporary Dance II, and two-time recipient of the Regional Dance America Craft of Choreography Award

Master classes will be offered in classical ballet, jazz and modern dance. Seminars will include: Dancing on the Worldwide Web - Dr. Jeffrey Lockledge, Wayne State University  
Careers for Professional Dancers - Mark Kappel, Manager of Dancers, choreographers and teachers

Psychology of a Ballet Dancer - Libby Balter Blume Ph.D., University of Detroit Mercy, an authority on child development

Pilates, Capzio dancewear, and Artistic Directors Roundtable

The participating companies include: Michigan Classic Ballet Co., West Bloomfield, Mary C. Geiger, Artistic Director; Alexandra Ballet Company, Chester-

field, Mo. Alexandra Zaharias, Artistic Director; Anderson Young Ballet Theatre, Anderson, Ind.; Lou Ann Young, Artistic Director; DanceWest Ballet Company, Naperville, Ill.; Ricardo and Regina Moyano, Artistic Directors; Flint Youth Ballet, Karen Mills Jennings, Artistic Director; Fort Wayne Ballet, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Radmila Teodorovic, Artistic Director; Greater Lansing Ballet Company, Barbara Banasikowski Smith, Artistic Director; Interlochen Dance Ensemble, Interlochen, Sharon Randolph and Michael Tovin, Artistic Directors; Kalamazoo Ballet, Kalamazoo, Terry Bullard, Artistic Director; Minnetonka Dance Theatre, Minnetonka, Minn.

Marianne Simons, Artistic Director; Salt Creek Ballet, Westmont, Ill.; Patricia Sigurdson, Artistic Director; Wisconsin Dance Ensemble, Monona, Wis.; Joleen Retrum, Artistic Director

The Regional Dance America/Mid-States Festival is underwritten in part through grants from Dayton-Hudson Target Stores, Botsford Hospital, Chrysler Corp., Capzio Dancewear and Comerica Banks.



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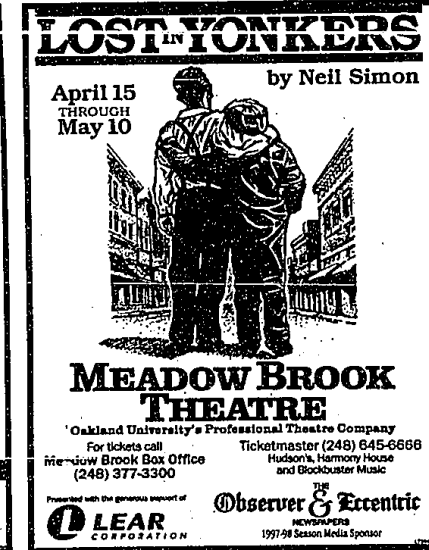


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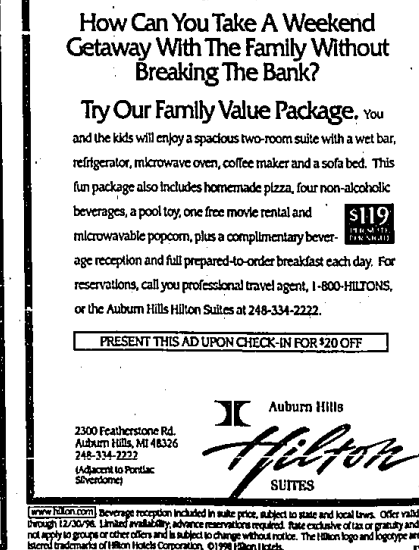
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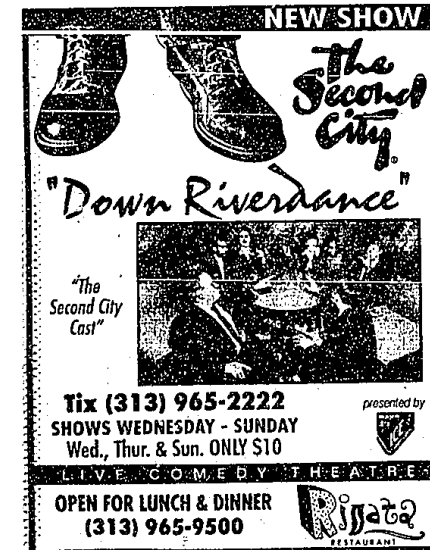
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