

THE WEEKEND



Christopher Lloyd (left), Jeff Daniels (center) and Daryl Hannah star in "My Favorite Martian" opening today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

FRIDAY



SATURDAY



In honor of Black History Month, the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University presents "Death and the King's Horseman," 8 p.m. in the Varner Studio Theatre on the Rochester campus. Tickets \$10 general, \$8 seniors, \$5 students, call (248) 370-3013 or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666.

SUNDAY



"Classics on the Lake" features the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Bassoon Quartet, 3 p.m. in the shrine-chapel on the campus of St. Mary's College, 3635 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake. Tickets \$15 and \$25, call (248) 683-1750.

Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn explores America's musical roots weekends during Black History Month. In addition to musical performances, visitors will have a chance to make traditional kufi hats, watch dramatic presentations and African-American family cooking demonstrations. Call (313) 271-1620 for more information.



Thriller: David Ellenstein (left to right), Susan Marie Arnold and Denise Michelle Young in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "Scotland Road."

On Stage

"SCOTLAND ROAD"

WHEN: Previews 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 11-12. Opens 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13 and continues through Sunday, March 7. Performance times vary, call the theater for information.

WHERE: Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University.

TICKETS: \$24 to \$35, call (248) 377-3300 or Ticketmaster (248) 645-6666.

"NEVER THE SINNER"

WHEN: Previews through Sunday, Feb. 14. Opens 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, continues through Sunday, March 7. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday; 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

WHERE: Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road (corner of Maple and Dixie Roads) West Bloomfield.

TICKETS: \$13 to \$23, with discounts for seniors and students. Call (248) 788-2000.

HIGHLIGHT: Community Forum to discuss some of the issues raised in "Never the Sinner" after 7:30 p.m. Thursday performances on Feb. 18, Feb. 25 and March 4, and after 2 p.m. Sunday performances on Feb. 21, Feb. 28 and March 7.

BY KEELY WYGNOK
STAFF WRITER
kwygnok@homecomm.net

Interrogation, intrigue, suspense, drama, describe two productions opening this week at Meadow Brook Theatre, and by the Jewish Ensemble Theatre in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre.

Meadow Brook presents the Michigan premiere of "Scotland Road," by Jeffrey Hatcher, through March 7. Jewish Ensemble Theatre explores capital punishment, the media and judicial system in "Never the Sinner," by John Logan, which continues through March 7.

Both plays are edge-of-the-seat dramas where the audience isn't quite sure what will happen next.

David Ellenstein portrays John, the great grandson of John Jacob Astor, the richest man in the world when he perished with the Titanic in 1912.

Ellenstein's wife, Denise Michelle Young, plays a young woman found in the present day clinging to an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean. She says only one word, "Titanic," and claims to be a survivor. She is wet, cold, and wearing clothes from 1912.

Astor intercepts the woman, who is on her way to a hospital in Boston, and questions her story.

"I am obsessed with every detail about the Titanic and pre-

Meadow Brook JET present intriguing dramas

serving its pristine memory," said Ellenstein about his character. "The woman thinks she's in 1912."

Astor takes the woman to a clinic and interrogates her, with help from Halberoch, a female clinician portrayed by Susan Arnold, in an attempt to prove the woman is a fraud.

"It's not a play about the Titanic," said Ellenstein. "It's about loneliness, desperation, reincarnation. What it means to be alive at a certain time, or are we part of a collective unconscious?"

Ellenstein described "Scotland Road" as a taut drama, that has a lot of twists and turns. "It questions more than it answers," he said. "There's some humor, and it's fun trying to figure out what is going on. You're left guessing for a long time."

Young's character is silent during the first part of the play. "She refuses to speak," explained Young. "She's someone who was on the Titanic. It's part science fiction, part Twilight Zone. Much of the play is a mystery."

"Scotland Road" takes place over a number of days. Astor tries to interrogate the woman, but she doesn't respond. "It's interesting how the relationship play out," said Young. "I really liked the part. She's an interesting, strong character. As things unfold it becomes more confusing."

Please see JET, E2



Photo by Lois Greenblatt

Sounddance: This work features Glen Ramsey, Frederic Gafner, Jennifer Weaver and Michael Cole and was originally performed in 1975.

Cutting edge dance company challenges rules

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@homecomm.net

Banu Ogan was a biology student at the University of North Carolina when she was called by the lord of the dance, Merce Cunningham.

"I had been in ballet dance and I was missing it, so I took a modern dance class. My teacher worshipped Merce and showed this videotape. ... I just fell in love with his ideas. The technique I thought was quite amazing."

Ogan gave up biology for dance and after graduation she went to New York where she eventually joined the Merce Cunningham Dance Company.

The company, now in a weeklong residence at the University of Michigan, will give performances Friday and Saturday at Ann Arbor's Power Center.

Cunningham, 79, is a legendary figure in modern dance, credited with changing the rules of dance as a dancer, beginning with Martha Graham in the early '40s, and as a choreographer who merged modern dance with new music and design.

"He broke away from traditional dance," Ogan said. "Dance had been narrative and he made it just pure movement. He separated music from dance and decor and then all the elements come together on opening night."

For Cunningham, dance was no longer tied to a literary concept or even to the rhythms and melodies of a com-

Please see DANCE, E2

WHAT: Merce Cunningham Dance Company
WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12; 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13
FRIDAY PROGRAM: Rondo, Pond Way, Scenario
SATURDAY PROGRAM: MinEvent, Ground Level Overlay, Sounddance
WHERE: Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor
TICKETS: \$10-\$34, Call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Benefit certain to make 'news'

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER
fprovenzano@homecomm.net

Depending on the audience's response at this Sunday's Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra concert, one local news anchor may never again be considered as "just a broadcast journalist."

Preceding the concert of "light and warm" classical music, honorary host Devin Scillian will serenade patrons with "Two Long in the Rain," a country style song written by the WDIV-TV news anchor.

News anchor turned crooner? Well, it might sound a bit surprising, but it's hardly a novel performance for Scillian, who has compiled a couple of commercial cassettes of his own.

Please see BENEFIT, E3

WHAT: "Think Spring," the Annual Valentine's Day Benefit Dinner & Concert for the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra
WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 14 - dinner at 5 p.m., concert at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Temple Beth El, 14 Mile & Telegraph Roads, Bloomfield Hills
TICKETS: Concert - \$20/adult & \$15/student; dinner - \$40/person; (248) 645-2276



Guest artist: Violist Hart Hollman performs with the Wayne State Singers in Sunday's benefit concert.

Families enjoy 'Sound of Music'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@homecomm.net

The set was half-finished behind Brooke Andres, and the rest of the actors playing the Von Trapp children during a rehearsal for "The Sound of Music," but that didn't seem to matter. They sang "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" as if it were opening night.

Like the Von Trapps, the Plymouth Theatre Guild prides itself on being a family affair. Brooke, who plays Liesl, is just one member of the Andres family involved with the production. Mom

Please see SOUND, E3

"The Sound of Music"

WHAT: The Plymouth Theatre Guild presents the Rodgers & Hammerstein production about the Von Trapp Family Singers.
WHEN: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 19-20, Feb. 26-27, March 5-6, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28
WHERE: Water Tower Theatre, 41001 West Seven Mile, (between Haggerty and Northville Roads) on the campus of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital.
TICKETS: \$12 at the door, \$11 in advance, \$8 for students age 18 and under when purchased on the spot. For more information, call (248) 349-7110.



Confidence: Cast members rehearse a scene from the Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "The Sound of Music."