OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
248-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP STAR WAS: EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
10:30, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40, 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
10:45, 11:15, 11:45, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:10, 3:30, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:10, 9:40, 10:10
NP INSTINCT (R)
11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:00, 11:30, 1:45, 2:15, 4:20, 4:50, 6:50, 7:35, 9:30, 10:15
BLACK MASK (R)
12:30, 7:50
TRIPPIN (R)
3:00, 5:10, 10:05
ELECTION (R)
11:40, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 9:00
THE MUMMY (PG13)
10:40, 1:15,3:50, 6:40, 9:20,
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30
MATRIX (R)
12:15, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm.
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
10:30, 11:30, 1:10, 2:10, 4:50, 4:50, 7:30, 7:50, 9:50, 10:20
NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
10:45, 11:15, 12:50, 1:40,3:15, 4:20, 5:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:40, 10:10
NP INSTINCT (R)
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:00, 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
THE MUMMY (PG13)
10:45, 1:20,3:55, 6:50, 9:30
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:15, 1:30, 3:50, 6:30, 9:00

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
248-332- 0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
+ All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs, Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:10, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:10
THE TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R)
11:00, 7:10,
THE MUMMY (PG13)
10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
MATRIX (R)
1:10, 4:00, 9:20
ELECTION (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
248-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
+ All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
10:45, 11:15, 11:45, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:10, 3:30 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15
NP INSTINCT (R)
11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:00, 11:30, 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 4:50, 7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:20, 1:45, 4:15, 6:55, 9:20,

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME P-G13
10:45, 1:15, 11:45, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:10, 3:30, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15
THE TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R)
11:00, 7:20
THE MUMMY (R)
12:40, 1:10, 3:20, 4:10, 6:30, 9:20, 10:10

THE MATRIX (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

Showcase Westland 1-8
6500 Wayne Rd.
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

NP DENOTES NO PASS

NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:10, 4:00, 5:05, 7:00, 7:40, 9:40, 10:20
NP INSTINCT (R)
10:55, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:10, 11:40, 1:40, 2:10, 4:10, 5:00, 7:40, 9:30, 10:15
THE LOVE LETTER (PG13)
11:55, 2:55, 3:55, 7:05, 9:25
ELECTION (R)
11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:20, 1:45, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star Great Lakes Crossing
Great Lakes Shopping Center
248-454-0366

NP AUSTIN POWERS 2 (PG13)
10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:05 11:40, 12:20, 12:40, 1:10, 1:35, 2:05, 2:40, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 4:35, 5:10, 5:45, 6:10, 6:40, 7:00, 7:40, 8:10, 8:40, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1 (PG)
10:10, 10:50, 11:20, 12:00, 12:40, 1:20, 1:50, 2:20, 3:00, 3:40, 4:20, 4:50, 5:25, 6:00, 6:50, 7:20, 8:00, 8:30, 9:10, 9:45, 10:20, 11:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP INSTINCT (R)
11:30, 12:30, 2:30, 3:45, 6:15, 7:10, 9:15, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
10:05, 11:50, 1:00, 2:50, 4:00, 6:20, 7:30, 9:20, 10:50
THE TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R)
10:15, 12:45, 4:05, 6:30, 8:50
THE LOVE LETTER (PG13)
12:35, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:25
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)
11:45, 3:15, 6:35, 9:25
THE MUMMY (PG13)
10:30, 11:35, 12:15, 1:30, 2:15, 3:20, 4:30, 5:40, 7:05, 7:50, 8:45, 10:05, 10:45
ELECTION (R)
10:35, 1:25, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:10,2:10, 5:00, 7:35, 10:35
THE MATRIX (R)
10:25, 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:55
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
12:10, 3:05, 6:05, 9:05
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)
12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:50

Star John R at 14 Mile
32259 John R. Road
248-585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP AUSTIN POWERS (PG13)
10:50, 11:20 12:00, 12:40, 1:20, 2:00, 2:40, 3:20, 4:00, 4:40, 5:20, 6:00, 6:40, 7:20, 8:00, 8:40, 9:20, 10:00, 10:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NP BESIEGED (R)
11:10, 12:30, 1:30, 3:50, 3:50, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:30, 9:50, 10:50
NP STAR WARS: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
11:00, 11:40, 12:20, 1:00, 1:40, 2:20, 3:00, 3:40, 4:20, 5:00, 5:25, 6:10, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:00, 9:40, 10:20, 11:00
NO VIP TICKETS
LOVE LETTER (PG13)
12:50, 3:30, 6:30, 9:10
TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10
ELECTION (R)
11:25, 1:50, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30,
THE MATRIX (R)
12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:40

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
248-853-2260
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 6 admitted for PG 13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP AUSTIN POWERS (PG13)
11:15, 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:15, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP BESIEGED (R)
12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:30, 10:50
NO VIP TICKETS

NP INSTINCT (R)
10:40, 1:40, 4:30, 7:45, 10:40
NO VIP TICKETS
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:30, 1:00, 2:15, 4:20, 5:30, 7:30, 8:45, 10:10
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE ONE, THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
11:00, 11:45, 12:30, 1:20, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30, 4:10, 5:00, 6:15 ,6:45, 7:15, 8:00, 9:00, 9:45, 10:20, 11:00
NO VIP TICKETS

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm
FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE
CALL 248-372-2222
www.STAR SOUTHFIELD.com
NP FEATURES - SORRY NO VIP DISCOUNT TICKETS ACCEPTED

NP AUSTIN POWERS : THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
10:30, 11:00, 11:30 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30,2:00,2:30,3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30
NP STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG13)
10:45, 11:15, 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:15, 3:15, 3:45, 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:45, 8:15, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45
NP INSTINCT (R)
10:45, 11:45, 1:45, 2:45, 3450, 4:45, 5:45, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:40
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:10, 1:10, 2:10, 3:10, 4:10, 5:10, 7:10, 8:10, 9:10, 10:10
NP THE TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R)
12:45, 6:45
THE MUMMY (PG13)
10:30, 1:20, 1:00, 4:20, 7:20, 9:00, 10:20
LIVE (R)
12:00 & 6:00
THE MATRIX (R)
12:10, 6:10 ONLY
ELECTION (R)
10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
ENTRAPMENT (R)
10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd.
Winchester Mall
248-656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

THE MUMMY (PG13)
12:00, 2:30, 6:50, 9:30
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
THE LOVE LETTER (PG13)
11:40, 2:20, 4:30, 7:00, 9:00
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (PG13)
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45
TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20
ELECTION (R)
12:10, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20
MATRIX (R)
12:40 3:50, 6:30, 9:15

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - No VIP tickets accepted

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
248-968-0786
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R) NV
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
BLACK MASK (R) NV
7:10, 9:30
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:05 7:25, 9:45
ENTRAPMENT (PG13) NV
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:15, 9:55
DOUG'S FIRST MOVIE (G)
12:20, 2:10, 4:00

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
248-349-4311
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS.

STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG) NV
12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15
INSTINCT (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:50
A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM (PG13) NV
1:10, 4:25, 6:55, 9:45
A WALK ON THE MOON (R)
12:50, 2:45, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Middlebelt
248-788-6572
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13) NV
11:30 12:15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00 7:45, 9:15, 10:00
STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG) NV
12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:15, 9:30, 10:15
INSTINCT (R) NV
1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40
THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)
2:55, 7:25
NO SHOWS 6/15; NO 2:55 6/16
BLACK MASK (R)
12:30,3:55, 9:45; NO SHOWS 6/15
NO 12:30, 5:05 6/16
THE MUMMY (PG13)
1:15, 4:10, 6:55, 9:50
ENTRAPMENT (PG13)
12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:05; NO 12:05, 2:35, 5:10 6/16

United Artists-Commerce-14
3130 Springside Drive
Adjacent to Home Depot
North of the intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty
248-960-5801
Bargain Matinees Daily for all Shows starting before 6 pm
Same Day Advance Tickets Available
NV-No VIP Tickets Accepted

AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13) NV
10:35, 11:20, 12:10, 12:45, 1:35, 2:20, 3:00, 3:50, 4:35, 5:15, 6:10, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:20, 10:00, 10:50
STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG) NV
10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15, 10:45,
INSTINCT (R) NV
10:05, 10:50, 12:40, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:40, 7:25, 9:35, 10:10
NOTTING HILL (PG13) NV
10:15, 11:15, 12:50, 2:15, 3:45, 4:50, 6:45, 7:40, 9:45, 10:25
THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R) NV
11:45, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
ELECTION (R) NV
10:30, 12:45, 3:10, 5:45, 8:15, 10:30
THE MUMMY (PG13) NV
10:55, 1:25, 4:15, 7:30, 10:05,
ENTRAPMENT (PG13) NV
11:55, 2:35, 5:20, 8:10, 10:40,

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-FILM
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements
PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE! CALL (248) 644-FILM AND HAVE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS READY. A 75¢ SURCHARGE PER TRANSACTION WILL APPLY TO ALL TELEPHONE SALES

MATINEE MOVIES $5.00

NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
SUN., MON., WED. 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10;
TUES., 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 8:50;
THURS. 12:05, 2:15, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20
NOTTING HILL (PG13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45
NP STAR WARS: EPISODE 1, THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
12:30, 1:30, 2:05, 3:15, 4:15, 4:40, 6:30, 7:00, 7:20, 9:00, 9:35, 9:55
NP BESIEGED (R)
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
NP INSTINCT (R)
12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 9:55

MJR Theatres

$1.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 Til 6 pm
After 6 pm $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
(SUN. Kids children under 6 after 6 pm except on G or PG rated films)

FORCES OF NATURE (PG13)
SUN. 12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
MON-THURS. 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
ANALYZE THIS (R)
SUN. 12:30, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
6/13 - 9:30 INSTEAD OF 9:45
MON-THURS 5:15, 7:30, 9:30
SUMMER MATINEES START FRIDAY

Waterford Cinema 11
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
248-666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS #551
Stadium Seating and Digital Sound
Makes for the Best Movies

NP AUSTIN POWERS: THE SPY WHO SHAGGED ME (PG13)
12:00, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, (4:30 & 5:00 @ $3.50) 6:45, 7:15, 9:15, 9:45
NP INSTINCT (R)
12:45, (4:10 @ $3.25) 7:10, 9:50
NP NOTTING HILL (PG13)
11:50, 1:10, 2:15, (4:00 & 4:50 @ $3.25) 6:40, 7:20, 9:20, 9:55
NP THE TRIDTEENTH FLOOR (R)
9:50
NP STAR WARS EPISODE 1: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
12:00,12:30, 1:00, 2:30, (4:00, 4:30, & 5:00 @ $3.25) 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00
THE MUMMY (PG13)
12:10, 1:00, 2:30, (4:15 & 5:10 @ $3.25) 6:40, 7:30, 9:20, 10:00

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Terrace Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd.
313-261-3330

All Shows $1 Except shows after 6 p.m. on Friday & Saturday & 75¢ all shows Tuesday.
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only.
Call Theatre for Features and Times
I.D. required for "R" rated shows

Main Art Theatre III
318 Main at 11 Mile
Royal Oak
248-542-0180
call 77-FILMS ext 542
Phone Orders 2 pm -10 pm call (248) 542-5198

(DISCOUNTED SHOWTIMES!!)
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

LIMBO (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35
GET REAL (R)
(1:30 4:00) 7:15, 9:45, 12:00
THE WOKSLOW BOY (G)
(1:00, 3:45) 6:45, 9:15
COOKIE'S FORTUNE (R)
(1:30 4:00) 6:45, 9:15

Maple Art Theatre III
4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
248-855-9090
(DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!!)

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)
SUN (1:30 4:00) 6:45, 9:15
MON-THURS (4:00 6:45), 9:15
KING OF MASKS (UNR)
SUN. (1:45 4:15) 7:15, 9:30
MON-THURS. (4:15) 7:15, 9:30
THE CASTLE
SUN. (2:00) 7:00
MON-THURS 7:00
NO 7:00 6/15
ENDURANCE (G)
SUN. (4:15) 9:00
MON-THURS. 9:00

Oxford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C.
Downtown Oxford
Lapeer Rd. (M-24)
(248) 628-7101
Fax (248) 628-1300
Detroit's Lowest First Run Prices
including Twilight Pricing
$3.00 4-6 pm

STAR WARS (PG)
11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25,
AUSTIN POWERS (PG13)
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 7:00 9:10
THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR (R)
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

3 FREE 46 OZ. POPCORN
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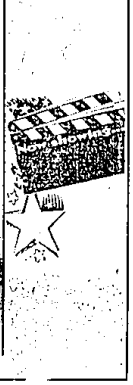
Haggerty & 7 Mile
734-542-9909

Call the etre for Features and Times.



BOOKS

Join Bobbie Ann Mason on her fascinating journey

VICTORIA DIAZ

Clear Springs: A Memoir
By Bobbie Ann Mason
(Random House, $25)

As Thomas Wolfe once reminded us, you can't go home again.

Maybe he was wrong, though. Maybe we can return after all. Or maybe if we can't go all the way back, maybe we can come close enough.

Critically acclaimed Kentucky author Bobbie Ann Mason ("In Country," "Spence + Lila," et al) has not only returned to her roots, she's written about the round trip with such sensitivity and high color that readers of this memoir will feel as if they've shared in person this sometimes-funny, sometimes-sad, always-fascinating journey.

For those of us who grew up in rural communities during the 40s and 50s, and longed to live in a big city that would take us away from all the rustic "charm," Mason's memoir offers a special mother lode of nostalgia.

For any and all of us who have admired her memorable fiction through the years, "Clear Springs" provides a taste of the rich background that has inspired her work and nurtured her development as an individual and as a writer.

In an indirect way, the Motor City made an early but distinct impression on the farm girl who would go on to win the coveted PEN/Hemingway Award for first fiction in 1982 with "Shiloh and Other Stories."

"In the summer of 1949, when I was nine," she writes, "my mother and I traveled to Detroit to visit ... Aunt Mary.

"I want you to see them big buildings,' Mama said. 'They're so tall your eyes'll pop out.'"

Young Bobbie Ann never saw the buildings. A bus strike thwarted the family's plans to visit downtown landmarks, and she spent most of her visit at her aunt's suburban tract house in Wayne. Nevertheless, the experience seemed to whet her appetite for a world beyond her rural beginnings, and she never forgot her stay here, often wanting "to go to Detroit, where there were concrete sidewalks and tall buildings and traffic ... an intriguing place, with Yankees, who spoke another language."

After graduation from the University of Kentucky, Mason (despite her family's trepidation) heeded an English professor's advice and set out not for Detroit, but for New York.

"My folks and their country culture were always present in the deepest part of my being," she tells us. "Yet I was estranged from them." She found herself, however, "a stranger ... in the North ... an exile in both places."

This account of how Bobbie Ann Mason finally came to resolve her feelings has about it an almost-cinematic quality (not surprising, maybe, when we learn of her devotion to film). The popular songs of the day serve as a kind of haunting background music to her highly visual, thickly textured story of a family that is often beset by mental and physical illness, backbreaking labor, isolation, and deep-seated, mixed feelings because they are "country."

Music "saved us all," she says, calling up memories of helping her father plant corn as strains of "Ruby" or "The Song From Moulin Rouge" wafted through her girlish daydreams, relieving the heat and the boredom.

She eventually became National President of the Hilltoppers (remember "P.S. I Love You"?) In her teens, she would spend countless hours listening to the radio and escaping her "ordinary" existence via the "strange music" that was early rock-and-roll.

Maybe most important, she discovered new worlds through reading, a habit that apparently marked her as an outsider, not just at the rural school she attended, but even with some members of her own family. Often books like the Bobbsey Twins series, Nancy Drew mysteries, or Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" appear to have served as a perfectly adequate substitute for human companionship, as far as Bobbie Ann was concerned, though. Later, she would delve into such books as "The Search for Bridey Murphy" and "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects." (One assumes her reading lists have grown more sophisticated over the years, although this is not really examined here.)

While Mason may have felt isolated, and never quite understood by her own family, she seems never to have felt unloved. Much of the strength of "Clear Springs" lies in its depiction of the "characters" who made up her colorful family. From Mason's feisty (though sometimes mentally ill) grandmother, to her Bible-reading grandfather, to her hard-working father, to her highly energized mother -- all of these (and more) appear as real as Mason herself. In fact, in a sense, this books seems to focus more on her ancestors and her surroundings than on her. Especially as she reaches middle-age, we aren't shown much of her personal life at all (she discusses next to nothing about her marriage, for example).

It's only a small frustration, though. Maybe it's a story for another day.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia freelance writer who specializes in book and theater reviews. You can reach her by voice mail at (734) 953-2045, then press 1854.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various events at suburban bookstores, libraries and literary gatherings. Send news leads to Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or fax them to (734) 591-7279 or e-mail to kwygonik@oc.homecomm.net

BOOK SIGNINGS

Farmington Observer reporter and Livonia resident Tim Smith will sign copies of his new book, "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies – Little Thumbs Up!" at the following locations:

■ 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 17, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Orchard Lake Road south of Maple Road in West Bloomfield.

■ 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 20, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Haggerty and Six Mile roads in Northville Township.

■ 2-4 p.m. Saturday, July 3, Little Professor on the Park, Main Street in Plymouth.

■ 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 14 Mile and John R roads in Troy. Smith can be contacted directly at (248) 477-5450.

BALDWIN LIBRARY (BIRMINGHAM)

Students in middle school or high school can beat the heat this summer June 14-Aug. 20 by joining the Young Adult Summer Reading Club at the library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham. Participants who read selections from eight out of the 12 reading categories will be entered in a grand prize drawing. Weekly prize drawings will also be held for those who turn in short book reviews. Interested patrons will receive a special gift when they register at the Adult Reading Department. (248) 647-1700.

BARNES AND NOBLE (TROY)

Authors Key Olson and Elise Arndt, and family counselor Kevin Clothier discuss "Everyone Has at Least One Great Relationship, Discover Yours," 3 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at the store, 396 John R Road, Troy. (248) 577-5056

BORDERS (ANN ARBOR)

Sonia Choquette reads from her book "The Wise Child," 7 p.m. Friday, June 18; British-born Galaxy Craze reads from her book "By the Shore," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15; The group 2 of a Kind performs a children's show, 11 a.m. Saturday, June 19, at the store, 612 Liberty St. (734)668-7652.

BORDERS (AUBURN HILLS)

Disney celebrates the release of "Tarzan" with a party, games and prizes, 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 19; Baffling Bill the Magician and his bunny Gus perform a magic show, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, at the store, 3924 Baldwin Road, Auburn Hills. (248) 335-5013

BORDERS (DEARBORN)

John Misfuit and Bob Vance discuss "Boyhood: Growing up Male: A Multicultural Anthology," 7 p.m. Monday, June 14; Craig Karges discusses "Ignite Your Intuition," 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, at the store, 5601 Mercury Dr., at Ford Road, Dearborn. (313) 271-4441.

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS)

Discussion group for the "X-Files" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15; Borders Business Book Group meets, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 16. The featured book is "Rich Dad Poor Dad: Leave the Rut – Find Financial Security;" "Evolve Yourself," book signing and discussion by local author Rich Rahn, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17; Rabbi Marla Feldman discusses "The Tribe of Dina," as part of the Rosh Hodesh Series, 7 p.m. Sunday, June 20, at the store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. (248) 737-0110

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS)

"Amelia's Notebook," an American Girls program geared toward girls ages 7-12, 2 p.m. Sunday, June 13; "Toddler Time," 10 a.m. Mondays; Open mike night, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15; Journal workshop with Iris Underwood, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 16; Camp Borders program Puppy Talk," and the adult program "Women Who Run With Wolves," both at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 17, at the store, 1122 Rochester Road, Rochester Hills. (248) 652-0558.

PAPERBACKS 'N THINGS

Toni Carrington, also known as Lori and Tony Karayianni, signs copies of "License to Thrill," the first of a series, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 19; at the store, 8044 Wayne Road, in the Oak Plaza, Westland. (734) 522-8018.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY

Linda Grekin, a librarian at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills, will read from her book and talk about the research and interviews she did for "I'll Never Get Lost Again: The Complete Guide to Improving Your Sense of Direction," 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, at the library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth. After Grekin's talk, Dixie Cocagne will be the guide for a literary tour of Michigan. Members of the audience will receive maps and book lists for discovering books with Michigan settings or those written by Michigan authors. (734) 453-0750.

ROCHESTER HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library Summer Used Book Sale, 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 13, at the library, 500 Olde Towne Road, Rochester. (248) 650-7178.

ROYAL OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bruce Jenvey author of "Handy Harbor Guide: The Bays and Waterways of the Great Lakes," will sign copies of his book 7-8:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at the library, 222 E. 11 Mile Road.

SOUTHFIELD LIBRARY

Book discussion series at the library, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield features the works of Edith Wharton. Registration is required and participants will be responsible for providing their own books. Register at the Fiction Desk, or call (248) 948-0470. Discussion dates are 1-3 p.m. Thursday, June 24, "Ethan Fromme;" 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, July 28, "Summer;" and 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, "The Mother's Recompense." Series is part of the Summer Humanities Program.