

Have some fun before summer slips away

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Remember that sinking feeling you got as a kid when the month of August was approaching? The complaint went something like this: "School's about to start and I haven't had enough fun." It was a comment that parents usually reacted to with a roll of the eyes, a

lengthy reminder of your recent summer vacation activities, and a verbal overview of what it was like to work for a living. As a kid, that approach may have provided an important lesson on the value of free time, which there was less of due to the well-meaning lecture.

As an adult, you realize that no one is immune from the "summer's almost over" blues. So let's play a little catch-up with some cultural activities you can easily fit into your schedule.

First Fridays

How about checking out the First Fridays at the Detroit Institute of Arts event on Friday, Aug. 6? Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS program visited a recent First-Friday affair at the Detroit Institute of Arts for a segment that airs 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 1.

It will explain why the monthly event has become such a hit with families. The August program at the DIA starts at 6 p.m. and features a workshop on mosaic techniques, an informal

drawing session with artist Vito Valdez, a quilting demonstration, and reggae with Universal Xpression. While you're there, don't miss the Knight Gallery exhibition of artist Ben Shahn.

Summer music series

Another activity that won't burn up precious vacation time is the summer music series at the Detroit Zoo. Beginning each Wednesday at 6 p.m., you can talk with the animals or sing with some outstanding performers, such as blues standouts Alberts Adams and Thornetta

Davis, two BACKSTAGE PASS alumni to be featured in August. Bring a picnic basket, Yogi. Time is running out for you to experience Cranbrook Art Museum's excellent exhibit, "Contemporary Art From Cuba: Irony and Survival on the Utopian Island." Look into the summer jazz series concert on Friday, July 30 and Aug. 13, too.

Century Club

"Forbidden Hollywood" continues to generate fun at the Gem Theatre's Century Club during its run that extends through

August. Or, consider a trip to Jackson for the expanded Michigan Shakespeare Festival.

Two bands especially worthy of broad exposure are the jazz group Blackman and Arnold and the wild rock band Cowboy Mouth. Both perform on BACKSTAGE PASS on Aug. 1, an edition which also features metal sculpture artist Chris Turner, who was recently commissioned to build a millennium bell in Detroit's Grand Circus Park.

Summer hasn't slipped away. It's waiting for you to grab.

Stagecrafters begins 1999-2000 season on a musical note

Season tickets are now on sale for Stagecrafters' upcoming 1999-2000 Main Stage Season at the historic Baldwin Theatre, in downtown Royal Oak at 146 South Lafayette.

Season tickets are \$68 for Thursdays and Senior Sundays, or \$68 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday regular performances. Individual tickets are \$14-\$16 for musicals and \$12-\$14 for nonmusicals. Individual tickets go on sale Aug. 21.

To purchase season tickets, call (248) 641-6439. Draf patrons may call Stagecrafters TTY at (248) 641-6439. For more information about Stagecrafters

productions and membership, visit our website at www.stagecrafters.org.

Kicking off Stagecrafters' 44th season is the electric Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." This high-tech, high-powered musical will explode onto the Baldwin stage in a flash of energy, voices, dancing and lights. "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" will appear on the Baldwin stage for 14 performances from Sept. 17 through Oct. 10 with a signed performance for the deaf on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Then as autumn slips into the

darkness of winter nights, Stagecrafters presents "Dracula." In this dramatic re-telling of this classic, as the light of the moon peers through the fog, the slow creaking of the lid will be heard and a dark figure will rise from his lair. The howl of a wolf will comfort him, as he knows the night will offer him another feast of blood. Diabolic laughter will echo from the depths of the theatre as the Count hunts for yet another victim. "Dracula" will take you into the ultimate battle between good and evil for 11 per-

formances Nov. 5-21. A signed performance for the deaf will be held Thursday, Nov. 18.

The beginning of a new year brings the timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale in a miraculous kingdom of dreams-come-true in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." The hearts of children and adults alike will soar when the slipper fits. Bring your glass slippers to the Baldwin for 14 performances of Cinderella Jan. 14 through Feb. 6, with a signed performance for the deaf on Thursday, Jan. 27.

What better way to welcome Spring than going "Barefoot in the Park?" One of Neil Simon's best comedies, "Barefoot in the Park" begins as a new lawyer and his bride have just completed their six-day honeymoon and are moving into the new high-rent apartment that she has chosen just for him — at the top of six grueling flights of stairs. There's no furniture, the wrong paint, leaky skylights and room only for a twin bed. The situation is enough to break the hearts and burst the lungs of the

newlyweds, but will leave the audience laughing for 11 performances March 24 through April 9, with a signed performance for the deaf on Thursday, April 6.

Stagecrafters closes the season with "The King and I." This Rodgers and Hammerstein tale complete with gorgeous music, extravagant costumes, romantic settings and unforgettable music, plays for 14 nights May 12 through June 4, with a signed performance for the deaf on Thursday, May 25.

"THE WOOD" IS A WINNER... AN ACROSS-BOARD DELIGHT.

"Hilarious, Rick Famuyiwa masterfully and realistically recreates an era where hip-hop was being born."

"A knockout coming-of-age film."



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SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR TAYLOR	STAR WINCHESTER 4	STAR 12 OAKS
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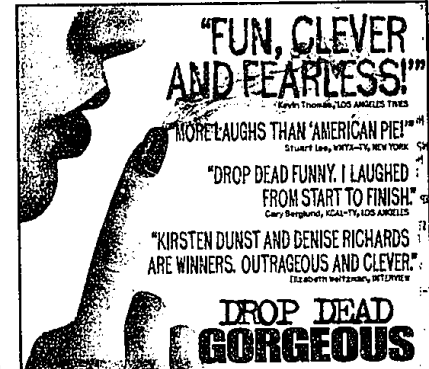
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CRUISE KIDMAN KUBRICK EYES WIDE SHUT

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BEACON EAST	BIRMINGHAM 8	NOVI TOWN CTR. 8
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK
STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
AMC COMMERCE TWP. 14	AMC WEST RIVER	FORD WYOMING

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AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC LIVONIA 20
QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE 4	STAR SOUTHGATE 20
SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING
STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14
UNITED OAKLAND	UNITED 12 OAKS	

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JULIA ROBERTS RICHARD GERE RUNAWAY BRIDE



AMC EASTLAND	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
BIRMINGHAM 8	STAR SOUTHGATE 20	SHOWCASE 4
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR 12 OAKS
STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	STAR WEST RIVER	

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EXPERIENCE THE EYE-POPPING, MIND-BLOWING THRILL RIDE OF THE SUMMER!



AMC EASTLAND 5	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	STAR 12 OAKS	STAR WEST RIVER
STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	STAR WEST RIVER	

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"BIGGER, BETTER, AND MORE FRIGHTENING THAN 'JAWS'!"



AMC BEL AIR	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC LIVONIA 20
AMC SOUTHFIELD	AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND
BEACON EAST	BIRMINGHAM 8	CANTON 6
MIR SOUTHGATE 20	NORWEST	NOVI TOWN CTR. 8
QUO VADIS	RENAISSANCE	SHOWCASE 4
SHOWCASE 4	SHOWCASE 4	STAR GRATIOT
STAR GRATIOT	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING	STAR JOHN R AT 15 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR ROCHESTER	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STAR COMMERCE TWP. 14	STAR WEST RIVER	STAR WYOMING

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