

Play's the thing: Laurie Kohlman, Irene Hublick and Richard Dziuban star in "Rumpelstiltskin" at the Marquis Theatre in downtown Northville.

Rumpelstiltskin comes alive on stage

Have a grand old time this summer as you watch an entertaining production of the musical "Rumpelstiltskin" with the Marquis Theatre Children, live, on stage at the Marquis Theatre through Sept. 28.

"Rumpelstiltskin" is the well-loved tale of that wily, cackling old mischievous gnome who magically turns straw into gold

for a very high price. A bargain is a bargain.

Performance dates and times are weekdays, Tuesday through Friday at 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20. Also Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sept. 11, 18 and 25 and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 29, Sept. 12, 19 and 26.

Tickets to all general perfor-

Performances run Aug. 13 through Sept. 26 at the Marquis Theatre.

mances are \$8.

For information on birthday celebrations, group rates and available school performances, call 349-8110. No children under age 3 allowed.

The Marquis Theatre is at 135 E. Main Street in downtown Northville.

Chat room from page B1

was it a smirk? A voice from behind encouraged me to take the "granny seat" aside the raft operator at the rear. Avoid the front, which takes the biggest brunt of each wave, he said.

The trek begins

Snuggly fitted into life jackets we trudged with dozens of others down the steep bank to the river. I was dismayed to see speedily by, also sitting in the coveted "granny seat" in the raft we were assigned to. Shamelessly announcing my wimpiness (to the great embarrassment of my children) I asked the friendly looking rafters if I could change places with them when the going got rough. They assured me I could.

Eight to a raft plus our guide, we chatted with the two 30-something male friends and two college-age women pale who would be our raftmates. Learning the two young women lived only an hour's drive away, I said to one of them, "You must've done this several times then."

"Oh, no," she shot back. "Mum would never let me go. It's too dangerous." What kind of mother am I, I wondered, looking at my 13-year old happily perched on the front of the raft.

Hookay. Turning to the guys for what I'd hoped would take my mind off the treachery ahead, I discovered one of them, a physical therapist, was treating a doctor who broke both her ankles rafting on this river a week earlier. "Help" I bellowed inside my mind.

The first hour downstream was peaceful. The river was only two-feet deep, a fact illustrated

by our guide who stuck an oar into the water. Along shore, we saw a half dozen bald eagles who took up residence in huge nests in the treetops. That sight alone made me glad I came along for the ride.

At one point as we turned a wide corner we hopped out of our rafts and walked along a sand bar. Some rafters laid on their backs and floated apudally by, enjoying the increasing tempo of the water as it rushed out to meet the Atlantic Ocean.

Huge tides

In the funnel shaped Bay of Fundy, the tide enters at its widest point. As it passes along toward the head of the bay, it's squeezed by the ever narrowing sides and constant shallowing of the bottom.

This advancing tide becomes a wave referred to as a tidal bore. It varies from a ripple to 10 feet in height depending on the phases of the moon. According to our guide, nowhere else in the world can a tidal bore of this magnitude be seen. The incoming wave flowing over outgoing water creates the rapids. That we were almost at full moon meant the waves would be big—seven feet.

The tide literally began to turn as guides announced it was time to hop back into the rafts. Already the water had risen quite a bit (eventually the two foot deep river would become twenty feet deep—water marks along the cliffs verified this fact for any doubters).

I was the last one back into our raft and felt like I was running in slow motion like in a dream, pushing mightily but barely moving, thanks to the rapidly swirling water. I was

holding my shoes and dropped one sock into the river. It swirled away with such speed, I decided it wasn't worth trying to retrieve.

As promised, the courteous Canadians let me have the "granny seat." Within a couple of minutes we were bouncing madly over huge swells of water. I clung mightily to the tiny wisp of rope that circled the raft. I held it so tightly for the next hour that it was the middle of the next day before I regained feeling in my fingers.

Rolllicking fun

The waves not only hit us head on, they surprised us on all sides. Powered by a heavy duty motor, our guide kept us churning in the thick of things for close to an hour. Rocking forward and back and practically airborne at times, I narrowly missed the fist of the guide several times as he worked the motor. We were all soaked to the bone and I have to admit, I found the experience both fun and exhilarating.

Not the same could be said for the friend of the physical therapist. As the ride on the rapids progressed, he turned greener and greener. Finally we deposited him in the raft of a photographer who accompanied the entourage. He collapsed like a giant tuna.

When the river met its level and we headed back to our starting point at a less frenetic pace, saltwater dripping from our hair and stinging our eyes, I felt a true sense of accomplishment. I had conquered my fear, and lived to tell about it.

Mary Rodrigue is the Community Life editor of the Farmington Observer.

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Thank You For Your Understanding

Meals on Wheels needs help

The Farmington Hills home delivered Meals on Wheels program needs volunteers for packing meals and especially for delivering them.

This service would require about 90 minutes of time one day a week. This program serves seniors 60 years of age and older who are homebound and unable to prepare meals.

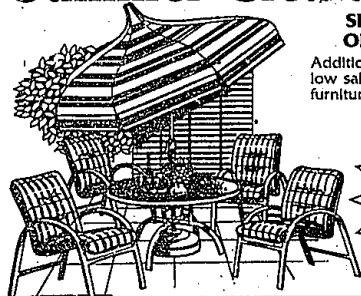
Noon meal deliveries, including hot and cold meals, are available six days per week. This program is part of the Farmington

Hills senior adult nutrition program which is funded through the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

Also part of the nutrition program are onsite meals which are available in the senior center Monday to Friday at 12:15 p.m. Register by 11:30 a.m. to be assured a meal.

Additionally, senior adult residents may obtain the liquid supplement Ensure at a reduced cost. If you or someone you know is in need of this service or can volunteer call 473-1826.

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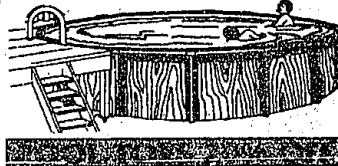
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