

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



The Festival of the World in the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen, features hundreds of ethnic performers, artists and vendors. The International Institute's Original World Market, Festival of the World, continues through Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$3 adults, \$2 seniors/children. Call (313) 871-8600.

SATURDAY

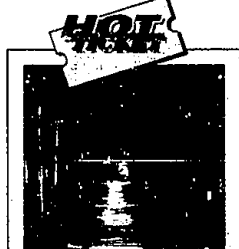


Erich Kunzel leads the Detroit Symphony Pops in a program of arrangements by Nelson Riddle, featuring performances by swing dancers and vocalist Michael Gough, 8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Tickets are \$14 to \$68. Call (313) 576-5111.

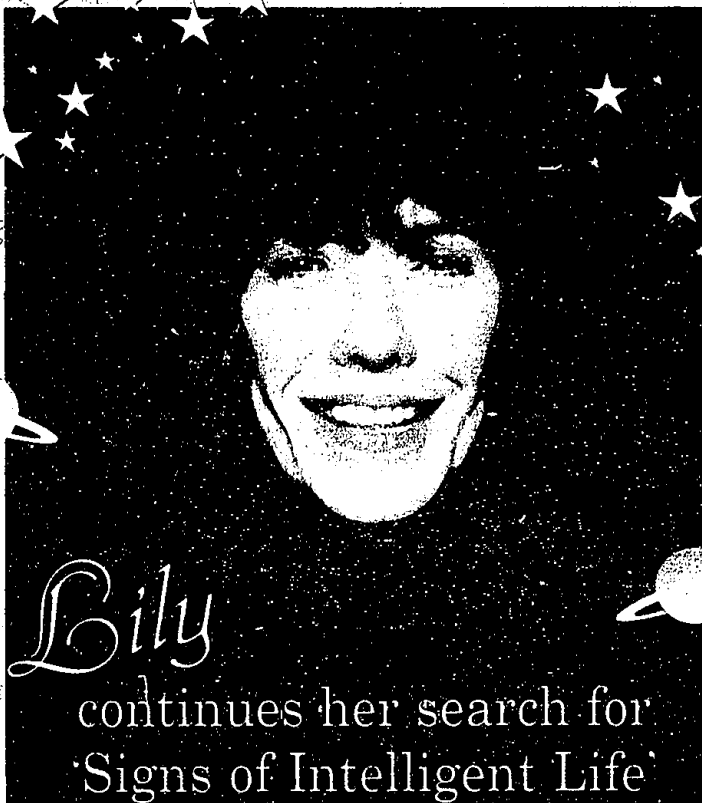
SUNDAY



Jody Ellison and Greg Trzaskoma star in the Jewish Ensemble Theatre's presentation of "The Immigrant" by Mark Harelik, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call (248) 788-2900.



David Whitman of Bloomfield Hills is one of 163 artists from 65 communities featured in the Our Town Art Exhibition and Sale, Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 14-17, at the Community House, 380 Bates St. in downtown Birmingham. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. Special artists' demonstrations will be held Thursday-Saturday. For more information, call (248) 644-5832.



Lily continues her search for 'Signs of Intelligent Life'

BY JULIE YOLLES
SPECIAL WRITER

Thirteen years after she took home a Tony Award for Best Actress for "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe," Lily Tomlin is back touring the universe — or at least 29 cities — with her one-woman show written by Jane Wagner, Tomlin's long-time collaborator and partner.

Tomlin and her multiple personalities — including Trudy, Chrissy, Kate, Agnes Angst and her parents, Marie and Lud, Paul the sperm donor, Tina, Brandy, Lyn, Edie and Marge — bring their cosmic insights to the Fisher Theatre stage Oct. 22-24 in Tomlin's hometown of Detroit.

"The Search" is more relevant to me now in looking back over the last dozen years or so," said Tomlin from her current home base of Los Angeles. "With all the division, polarization and hate between groups, all of us as individuals seems more timely now than it ever has. Trudy, L., bag lady and narrator throughout 'The Search' says, 'We all time share the same atoms.' One of my favorite quotes about 'The Search' appeared in a review: 'The audience was on its feet applauding its higher self.' Applause and accolades became official for Tomlin at a very early age. It was at Crosman Elementary School in Detroit where the then Mary Jean Tomlin won her first oratory contest.

Wonderful teacher

"Kay Pollock was a wonderful teacher," Tomlin recalls fondly. "She'd read broad dialect poems before we'd

go home on Fridays. They were poems that I'm sure would not be considered politically correct in schools today. I was just crazy for this stuff. They were written phonetically. She'd read these poems and I'd just be entranced because it was like creating this world with just her voice. "I had do props and I wasn't in costume," says Kay Pollock Goldberg, who retired in 1976 after 33 years with the Detroit School system and now lives in Livonia with her husband, Donald. "Today you wouldn't dare do poems like that, and it's too bad because there's a lot of good literature that still should be read. I would read from James Whitcomb Riley, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and others and do Negro, Italian or, what I call, 'back woods dialects.' "Mary Jean was showing signs at an early age, when she got the poet-

ry contest, that she was going to get some here," Goldberg says. "I have been very touched by the fact that Mary Jean has been so gracious about remembering me. So many people, when they get where they want to be, or near the top, forget everybody else and she doesn't."

Nearly 50 years later, Tomlin still treasures her prize, the slim volume of poetry with the dark red cover and Kay Pollock's hand-written inscription.

"From Kay Goldberg's Friday afternoon poetry readings, I got an inkling of what it was and I suddenly saw a form for it when I performed socially topical bits for Wayne State University's annual variety show," says Tomlin, who permanently moved from Detroit in 1965.

"As a child, I'd make the other kids in my old apartment house at Hazelwood and Byron in Detroit be in my shows," Tomlin says.

"They'd walk off the stage or wouldn't show up, and here I was completely excited and devoted to it. When I was 10, I wrote this skit for two kids who had moved into our apartment house from Georgia who both had curly red hair and freckles. I'd make up sketches and I wanted them to be Howdy Doody and Arthur Godfrey because they looked like them. I would play the other characters like Holly Lokey, the Hawaiian dancer and Princess Summerfallwinterspring."

Resourceful

A very resourceful Broadway pro-

ducer wannabe, Tomlin did everything she could to get a proper costume for her epic plays. She'd borrow

clothes from her mother's closet. She'd take her mom's blankets and make draped

"I wanted a stage. I wanted ticket buyers. I wanted an audience." And now she's got it all.

"That's how it is when you really love something," Tomlin adds. "You do it unconsciously and voluntarily. I did it constantly."

Tomlin honed her skills at Crosman Elementary, Hutchins Intermediate School and Cass Tech, where she was the co-captain of the cheerleading team. But the turning point came at Wayne State University when she earned kudos improvising each night as the capitalist wife and mistress in the "Madwoman of Chailot" at the Bonstelle Theatre.

"The drama kids thought I was really funny and I thought, 'Well, gee, I have some natural knack for doing this.'"

With that revelation in mind, Tomlin chucked her medical school ambition for a life in the spotlights. And Mary Jean Tomlin gave way to Lily Tomlin.

"I changed my name one day at an audition in New York. I'd always loved my mother's name and, standing in line outside a club where I'd heard they were looking for English people for a review, I decided I would pretend I was English to get the job. And Lily Tomlin sounds English so, when my turn came, I said in a very British accent, 'My name is Lily Tomlin.'"

Please see LILY, E2

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Fighting fun: Keith Prusak (standing), Mario Razo and Arana Prusak in a scene from SRO's production of "Dracula."

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@pc.homecomm.net

Don't get spooked this Halloween season. If haunted houses make your skin crawl and the sight of circling bats makes you cringe, seek a safer alternative this spooky season — and one more suitable for the kids. Try one of the following theatrical events with a Halloween theme.

The Marquis Theatre's production of "Halloween Soup," a comical melodrama set to music, has a cast of 20 children between the ages of 8 and 14. The theater is located at 135 E. Main Street in downtown Northville.

"Halloween Soup" tells the story of how a lawyer named Fleasom attempts

to evict the Ghoul family from their mountain retreat. To save their swampy home, Granny Ghoul tries to persuade the freaky lawyer to marry one of her daughters. But Fleasom is in love with another, the lovely grand-daughter Ada Mae.

Carol Kullman, assistant producer of the show, said the production has been well-received in the past. "Halloween Soup" was last shown in 1996, but now includes new costumes and music. "These kids are so talented," she said.

Inge Zayti, producer of the show, agreed: "It is one of the best Halloween shows you can see," she said. "These kids are very polished. They can sing and act and they are very dedicated to the theater."

Children like to see other children on stage, added Zayti. Performances are 7 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sundays in October. Tickets are \$6. Group rates are available. Not appropriate for children under 3. Call (248) 349-8110 for information.

Dracula

More mature audiences can take an up-close and personal look at Dracula himself. SRO Productions presents "Dracula," a story adapted from the Bram Stoker novel by Robert Smyth and Kerry Meads. Hank Bennett directs a cast of seven for this October treat: Barbie Amann, Tamara Gries,

Please see HALLOWEEN, E2

Scary plays, tales appeal to kids