

## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY



The Rising Stars present "Tales from the Brothers Grimm" 7:30 p.m. at the Andover High School auditorium in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$3. Call (248) 433-0885.

### SATURDAY



Kid Rock performs with Twisted Brown Truckers, Powerman 5000, DDT and a special surprise guest, 8 p.m. at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance, \$25 the day of show. Call (248) 377-0100.

### SUNDAY



At 3 p.m. the Imperial Swing Orchestra takes the stage at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, to kick off the 20th season of the Concerts-at-the-Centre music series. Tickets are \$8 per person. Call (248) 424-9022.



**Hot Tip:** The fifth annual Fall Sugarloaf Art Fair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 22-24, at the Novi Expo Center, features 325 craft designers and fine artists from throughout the U.S. and Canada including Ohio potter Elaine Lamb. There will be craft demonstrations and entertainment. Admission is \$6, children under 12 and parking are free. Call (800) 210-9900 for more information.



Break: "The Heidi Chronicles" cast takes a break from rehearsal. Pictured (left to right, standing) are Scott MacDonald, Linda Parker Watson, Marnie H. Diehm, Jill Ross, and Nicole Stacey. In the (front row, left to right) are Chris Steinmayer, Amy Smith, and Joshua S. Dawson.

## THE Heidi CHRONICLES

### St. Dunstan's presents an insightful dramedy

BY JULIE YOLLES  
SPECIAL WRITER

Ten years after playwright Wendy Wasserstein won a Pulitzer Prize for "The Heidi Chronicles," St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook is opening its 1999/2000 season Friday, Oct. 23, with the insightful dramedy. "I heard a lot of feminists saying they were not happy, and that was the impetus for this play," Wasserstein once said. "I wanted to parallel a political life with a personal life, to show how movements can influence a person's life."

Wasserstein does exactly that with Heidi Holland's odyssey over a quarter of a century, from 1968 through 1989. We meet Heidi, a very successful art historian, in 1989 at the opening of the play. Through a flashback, Heidi takes us through the '60s idealism, the McCarthy campaign and her feminist affirmation at an Ann Arbor consciousness-raising rap group to the career-minded, have-it-all "Me Decade" and on to the rise of the yuppie in the '80s.

As in all of Wasserstein's plays — "Uncommon Women and Others," "Isn't it Romantic," "The Heidi

Chronicles," "The Sisters Rosensweig" and "An American Daughter" — it's all about choices.

And for Amy Lynn Smith of Birmingham, who takes on the title role in St. Dunstan's production, it was the easiest choice of all.

"Without a doubt, the first time that I saw this play, I wanted to play the part," said Smith, who's a writer by day, just like her alter ego Heidi.

"No one articulates the challenges of women better than Wasserstein, because she does it with insight and humor at the same time so it's never too heavy. Many of the experiences that Heidi had rang very true for me. There were things that I could specifically relate to in my life, whether it's been career or relationships. Certainly there are things about her that are different from me, and that's part of the challenge of acting."

With more than 20 roles on her resume, including her days at Cranbrook Theater School and Kingwood, Smith's getting the challenge down pat. When she's not acting at St. Dunstan's, she's directing plays there, including Wasserstein's "The Sisters Rosensweig," which was successfully mounted in March of 1996.

"There are a lot of similarities in the two plays and their messages," Smith said. "Having directed 'Sisters,' it gave me a really good foundation to start with of understanding Wasserstein's work and her point of view. A lot of critics consider 'The Sisters Rosensweig'

Please see HEIDI, E2

**What:** St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook presents "The Heidi Chronicles" by Wendy Wasserstein.

**When:** 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 29-30; 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 4-6.

**Where:** St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook, 400 Lone Pine Road, between Cranbrook and Laber roads, Bloomfield Hills. Shuttle service available from Christ Church parking lot across from the theater.

**Tickets:** Adults \$12, seniors and students \$10, call (248) 644-0527 for information.

## THEATER

### 'Tintypes,' a musical recollection of innocent past

BY FRANK PROVENZANO  
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After the Civil War, and before the agony of two world wars and the Great Depression, the steady influx of immigrants into America gave heat to the term "cultural melting pot."

The story of early 20th century America is a tale whereby immigrants were both transformed upon arriving in the new world, and, in turn, transformed the cultural path of the country.

It's the spirit of high adventure, novelty and boundless patriotic pride that

resounds through the period musical, "Tintypes," which previews tonight and Friday at Meadow Brook Theatre.

On Saturday, the play opens a three-week run.

"Tintypes," a musical with star-spangled fervor and plenty of cheerful nostalgia about the country's ragtime past, is set in America from 1890-1917.

The musical, described as "unadulterated fun from the age of the nation's innocence," is an endless unfolding of songs, costumes and action.

Among the 50 songs are some standards, including "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis," "The Wabash Cannonball," "Bill Bailey, Won't You Please Come Home?" And, of course, there's the patriotic standby, "The Yankee Doodle Boy" and "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The play centers on five characters: President Teddy Roosevelt; a descendant of slaves; a prominent social activist; a musical hall star; and, a vaudeville performer named Charlie. Through each character's perspective, an amalgamated view of America as the slumbering giant emerges. Through song and patriotic posturing, "Tintypes" conjures the shimmering, idealistic America of folklore and legend.

Like most nostalgic-laden endeavors, however, the broad theme often



obscures stark realities.

While the late 19th century might have been a time of "industrial innocence," the country was still reeling from the political divisiveness of the Civil War.

The days before mass media, sprawling urban centers and weapons of mass destruction are often inspirational because of their perceived simplicity and innocence. It's worth noting that the post Civil War also saw some of the most heinous cases of raw racism

and economic inequities.

In "Tintypes," the African-American domestic servant, Susannah, is apparently a symbolic device to remind audiences that all that shines isn't stained.

But all in all, "Tintypes" is intended to be a smooth musical ride. A time to appreciate the boundless promise of the land of the free.

At the turn of the 21st century, Meadow Brook hopes the timing couldn't be better.

**Star-spangled musical:** From left, Leisa Way (Anna), Stacy White (Emma), Bart Philip Williams (Charley), Christopher Howe (T.R.) and Lea Charisse Woods (Susannah) in a scene from "Tintypes."

## Happy Halloween haunts



BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA  
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Are you seeking a spine-tingling way to celebrate the most frightful holiday of the year? Here's the guide to Halloween haunts, for both the squeamish and brave:

### The Tunnel of Terror

The Rochester Area Jaycees host this haunted house 7:30-11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday in October. It is at North Pine Street, one block west of University in downtown Rochester. Admission \$6, call (248) 852-7777.

### Downtown Farmington Halloween Fun Fest

The Farmington Downtown Development Authority hosts this event 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, in downtown Farmington area. Trick-or-treating, live entertainment and a costume contest are highlights, (248) 473-7276.

### Halloween Magic

Hosted by Madonna University in Livonia, this event begins at noon Sunday, Oct. 24, in the Activities Center on campus. Free admission. Look out for games, prizes and refreshments that ensure safe, spooky fun. Call (734) 432-5425

### Halloween Concert

Featuring the music of Broadway, Hollywood, the movies and the '50s and '60s, dress up because the musicians will be in costume; also a children's costume parade, 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, in the Community Room, Radcliff Center, 1761 Radcliff, south of Ford Road, between Wayne and Merriman roads, Garden City. No charge, but donations will be accepted. (734) 462-4770

### Halloween Musical Fun

A celebration of songs and puppets by Rita Kirsch, for ages 2-7 with a parent, wear a costume, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. \$4. Call (248) 644-5832 for reservations.

### Hayrides/Storytelling

7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday in October, at Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill. \$12, \$7 ages 4-12, and \$3 under age 3. (734) 461-1128.

### The Farmington Community Band

Will present its 14th annual "Spooktacular" Halloween concert 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Costick Activity Center on 11 Mile Road, east of Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome. Call (734) 261-2202 or (248) 469-3412 or visit the Web site [www.mystery.com/fcb](http://www.mystery.com/fcb) for more information.

This year's concert will include a parade of children in costume. Treats will be given to every child who attends.

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