Gallagher II *from Entertainment front*

followed. "As soon as I hit the stage dressed like my brother I was accepted, so I started putting some of my own stuff together. His show is now different than mine because he's gone off in a different direction from what his cable specials were. He does more of a lecture-based show."

As a result, Ron maintains that "I'm more the Gallagher the audience wants to see. Anybody who loves Gallagher will love my show. I do 'The Best of Gallagher.'" He doesn't consider himself a pretender to the throne but an inheritor of it. The problem is, big brother's not ready to abdicate.

"When I was doing smaller clubs I wasn't a threat to him," says Gallagher the Younger. "The minute he heard that I was doing the Fisher Theatre he went completely nuts. He said 'I don't want the competition; you're invading on my territory.' And I said, 'You created me, why can't you take credit for me? We're two brothers out there who love each other; let's collaborate, let's do shows together, let's have fun.'"

> ■ **'We just look at the world with Gallagher eyes. The audience laughs not only at the joke but for not seeing it that way in the first place. The Gallagher humor is to whack you in the brain, to throw things at you so fast you're going to still be laughing at the last joke while I tell you the next one.'**
>
> *Ron Gallagher*
> *Comedian*

That's unlikely to happen for now. Meanwhile, Gallagher II seems genuine in two things: an admiration for his brother and a pride in himself. "I use a lot of my brother's old stuff that he doesn't use anymore because it's classic," he says. "But I do it in my vein. I encourage everyone to see his show and then see my show and see if it's the same. It's not."

No matter which sibling delivers it, the Gallagher humor is a hybrid of George Carlin without the language and Jerry Seinfeld with props.

"We just look at the world with Gallagher eyes," Ron explains. "The audience laughs not only at the joke but for not seeing it that way in the first place. The Gallagher humor is to whack you in the brain, to throw things at you so fast you're going to still be laughing at the last joke while I tell you the next one."

What can audiences expect on New Year's Eve at the Fisher? "We're going to have our own indoor fireworks," Ron promises. "But instead, it's food flying through the air. New York City has the ball; I've got the hammer. And the hammer will drop at midnight." Protective covering is strongly suggested.

Opera *from Entertainment front*

ners in Greenfield Village. Everything from the lack of electricity to the authentic seven-course meal offers the experience of a special Christmas Dinner at the former Inn which was built as a stagecoach stop in 1830.

Opera Lite acts as performers who must sing for their bed and board. A guitarist, pianist, magician and musical quartet are all part of the show, which varies from one year to the next.

This year, Pulice took it one step further. He gave the green light to 33 1/3 records to create a CD of music from the Eagle Tavern show. Al Jacquez, partner at the Ann Arbor-based label, worked on the album. "I felt it deserved to be documented. The songs are great; it's an interesting niche, 1850s style."

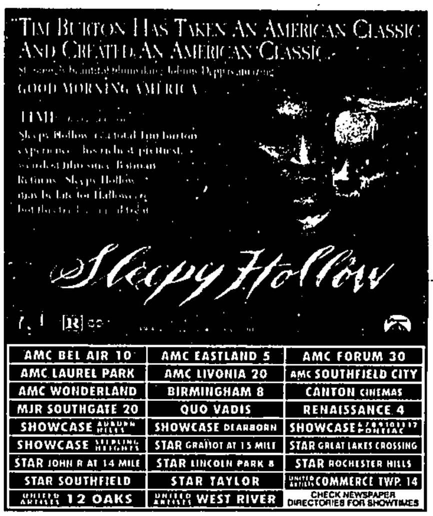
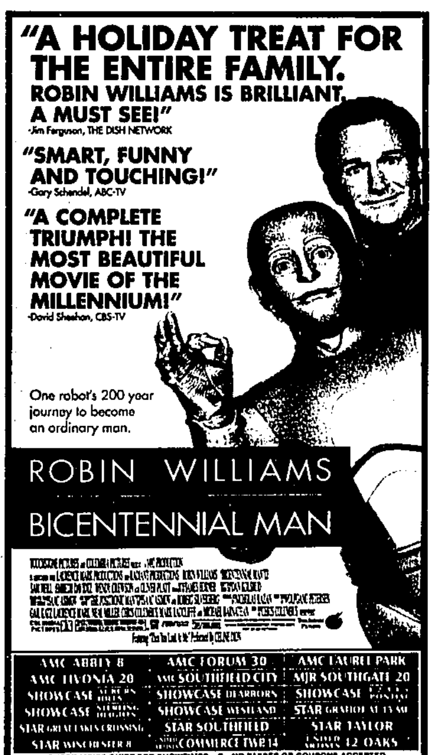
The CD offers a true live performance, without overdubbing of any kind, he added.

"Everyone doing this enjoys the holidays," said Pulice. "They're in good spirits."

Suzanne Robb, a Redford resident and vocalist with Opera Lite, agreed and said it's her business.

"I can't imagine Christmas without it," she said. "Being part of the music really does make Christmas."

Opera Lite has captured the sound of good cheer on the holiday CD titled "Christmas at the Eagle Tavern," a 33 1/3 Records Release. Buy it at any Harmony House or Desirable Disc location, or Dearborn Music in Dearborn or Canton. Call (734) 761-1920 or visit www.amazingmusic.com.

See Opera Lite perform Tuesdays through Sundays in December at Eagle Tavern, Greenfield Village in Dearborn, or catch daytime caroling: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 24, 27-31 at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, and 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in December at the Southfield Town Center. Call (248) 888-7640 for information or booking.

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