

# Mosaic Youth Theatre makes amphibians fun

If you're looking for a memorable family holiday activity, go no further than the Detroit Zoo. Two entertaining 30-minute plays, commissioned by the zoo and performed by Mosaic Youth Theatre, will enlighten young audiences about the global plight of endangered amphibians and the diversity of life on the coral reef.

Mosaic's trilogy of short plays, entitled "AM-TV: All Amphibians, All the Time," will be presented 11 a.m. Saturdays through March 25 in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery Theater at the zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile at Woodward and I-696, Royal Oak.

The trio of kid-friendly works includes "Leave It to Tadpole,"

"The Case of the Vanishing Amphibians" and "The Jerry Hopper Show." "Leave It to Tadpole," a lively take-off on the 1960 TV classic, teaches metamorphosis.

"The Case of the Vanishing Amphibians" is an engaging detective whodunit that uncovers reasons for disappearing amphibians. Lastly, the rollicking "Jerry Hopper Show," features an amphibian and rep-

tile couple as the blabbering talk-show guests.

The second play, "Rain Forests of the Ocean," will be presented in the gallery's theater at 1 p.m. Saturdays through March 25. The play, filled with soap opera drama, introduces basic science concepts important to life on a coral reef. The actors are staged as fish pretending to be actors. Characters such as Damselfish and Fox Face end the play with a lively rap about pollution and conservation.

"We use performing arts at the zoo to make concepts like metamorphosis easy," said Gerry Craig, curator of the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. "Mosaic is such a hip, humorous, high-energy troupe that visitors remember the information without any con-

scious effort."

A troupe of talented Metro Detroit teens, the Mosaic Youth Theatre has received numerous state and local accolades including the prestigious 1998 Governor's Award for Arts and Culture.

*There will not be performances on Christmas and New Year's Day. Two additional plays will be performed Thursdays, Dec. 23 and 30. There is no additional fee for the performances. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Zoo admission is \$7.50 adults, \$5.50 seniors/students, and \$4.50 for children ages 2-12. For more information, call (248) 541-5835.*



PHOTO BY TIM TRAYER

**Detroit Zoo: Watch the Mosaic Youth Theatre perform "All Amphibians, All the Time," and follow this detective who solves "The Case of the Vanishing Amphibians."**

## STAY TUNED

In its seventh year, Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Animation Festival returns to Ferndale's Magic Bag with 20 brand new cartoons and a few returning favorites. Take your sweeties to this film festival, which spawned unlikely successes for Mike Judge ("Boovis and Butthead") and Trey Parker

and Matt Stone ("South Park").

This year's list of gut-wrenching fun includes "Horned Gramma," who invites friends for cookies and chats about Satan, "Die Hard in Under Two Minutes," a short spoof of the Bruce Willis action movie, and "Tyson, I Am Not an Animal," which

features the boxer getting into more violent mischief. It runs until Sunday, Jan. 2. Call (248) 544-3030 for more dirt.

As if that isn't sick and twisted enough, former Motley Crue drummer Tommy Lee is back — and hitting the mike — with a new project, Methods of Mayhem. Collaborating with the likes of

Lil' Kim, Kid Rock, Crystal Method, George Clinton and Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst, Lee and rapper TILO are melding hip-hop, punk, techno and aggression into a sound of their own. The first single, "Get Naked," is heating up MTV as we speak. The album is available on MCA Records.

December marked a comeback for Mr. WHAM himself, George Michael, who announced a North American recording contract with Virgin Music Group. "Songs of the Lost Century" seeped its way into the states Dec. 14, and features remakes of hits like Nina Simone's "My Baby Just Cares for Me" and a

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tune made popular by Frank Sinatra, "Wild is the Wind."

—STEPHANIE ANGELINA CABALA

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