OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase Auburn Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
Between University & Walton Blvd
248-373-2660
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

AMERICAN HISTORY X (R)
11:20, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:20, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20
RUGRATS (G)
10:30, 11:00, 12:40, 1:10, 2:50, 3:20, 5:00, 5:30, 7:10, 7:40, 9:20
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:30, 10:10
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
11:40, 1:00, 3:10, 4:30, 6:50, 8:00
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
9:40
SIEGE (R)
11:10, 1:50, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
WATERBOY (PG13)
10:40, 11:10, 12:50, 1:20, 3:00, 3:10, 5:40, 7:20, 7:50, 9:30, 10:00
WIZARD OF OZ (G)
11:30, 3:30
BELLY (R)
8:10, 10:15
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:10, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
ANTZ (PG)
12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
9:00

Showcase Dearborn 1-8
Michigan & Telegraph
313-561-3449
Bargain Matinees Daily.
All Shows until 6 pm.
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
11:00, 1:00, 1:40, 4:00, 4:30, 6.50, 7:25, 9:40, 10:20
I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
11:30, 12:30, 1:45, 2,50, 4:10, 5:10, 7.00, 8.00, 9:20, 10:30
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
12:00, 3:45, 7:20
WATERBOY (PG13)
11:45, 1:50, 4:20, 6.40, 9.00
WIZARD OF OZ (G)
11:00, 1:15, 3:30
BELLY (R)
12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:25
RUSH HOUR (PG13)
5:45, 7:50, 10:00

Showcase Pontiac 1-5
Telegraph-Sq. Lake Rd. W Side of Telegraph
248-332-0241
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:20, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20
I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
SIEGE (R)
11:15, 1:40, 4:10, 6.45, 9:30
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:00, 1:15, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20
BELLY (R)
9:30

Showcase Pontiac 6-12
2405 Telegraph Rd. East side of Telegraph
248-334-6777
Bargain Matinees Daily
• All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Thurs. Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30
MON. 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 10:30
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
WATERBOY (PG13)
12:30, 1:10, 2:35, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30, 7:20, 7:50, 9:30, 10:00
WIZARD OF OZ (G)
12:15, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
9:20

Quo Vadis
Warren & Wayne Rds
313-425-7700
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
THRU THURSDAY

ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:10
SIEGE (R)
11:15, 1:45, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
BELLY (R)
9:10
GHOST OF DICKENS (G)
10:45, 12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:00
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
9:00

Showcase Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.,
One blk S. of Warren Rd.
313-729-1060
Bargain Matinees Daily
All Shows Until 6 pm
Continuous Shows Daily
Late Shows Fri. & Sat.
THRU THURSDAY

RUGRATS (G)
10:30, 11:00, 12:40, 1:10, 2:50, 3:20, 5:00, 5:30, 7:10, 7:40, 9:20
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
9:50
WATERBOY (PG13)
11:45, 1:50, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:40, 9:40
ANTZ (PG)
10:30, 12:15, 2:00, 3:45
WIZARD OF OZ (G)
11:00, 5:30
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

Star Theatres
The World's Best Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily $4.00 All Shows Starting before 6:00 pm
Now accepting Visa & MasterCard
"NP" Denotes No Pass Engagement

Star John R at 14 Mile
32289 John R. Road
248-585-2070
CALL FOR SATURDAY SHOWTIMES
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP RUGRATS (G)
10:50, 11:30, 12:20, 1:10, 2:00, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7:00, 7:40, 8:40, 9:30, 10:20-NO VIP TICKETS
NP ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
11:10, 12:10, 1:00, 2:10, 3:20, 4:10, 5:10, 6:20, 7:10, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00-NO VIP TICKETS
NP CELEBRITY (R)
11:40, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:50
NO VIP TICKETS
SIEGE (R)
11:20, 12:30, 1:50, 3:00, 4:20, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30
WATERBOY (PG13)
11:00, 11:50, 12:40, 1:30, 2:20, 3:10, 4:00, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:20, 8:10, 9:00, 9:50, 10:40
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
12:00, 3:30, 6:40, 10:00
ANTZ (PG)
12:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:55
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (PG13)
11:45, 2:40, 6:00, 9:10
NO 2:40 TUES. 11/24

Star Rochester Hills
200 Barclay Circle
248-853-2260
SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
No one under age 6 admitted for PG 13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
11:30, 12:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP CELEBRITY (R)
12:45, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15
NO VIP TICKETS
NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
10:50, 1:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:00, 8:15, 9:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
11:45, 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10:15
NO VIP TICKETS
THE WATERBOY (PG13)
11:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
THE SIEGE (R)
11:15, 12:15, 1:40, 1:55, 4:10, 5:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:30

Star Southfield
12 Mile between Telegraph and Northwestern off I-696
248-353-STAR
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm
FOR SHOWTIMES AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE
CALL 248-372-2222
www.STAR-SOUTHFIELD.com

NP THE ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP RUGRATS: THE MOVIE (G)
10:30, 11:20, 12:40, 1:20, 1:40, 2:20, 3:20, 3:40, 4:30, 5:30, 6:20, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:20
NO VIP TICKETS
NP CELEBRITY (R)
10:30, 1:20, 4:20 7:20, 10:10
NO VIP TICKETS
NP I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
10:30, 11:30, 1:00, 2:10, 3:30, 5:00, 6:10, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:20
NO VIP TICKETS
NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG 13)
10:30, 12:20, 1:20, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15
6:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
NP I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:00
NO VIP TICKETS
WATERBOY (PG13)
10:30, 11:30, 12:15, 1:00, 2:00, 2:40, 3:30, 4:45, 5:15, 6:00, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30
NO VIP TICKETS
THE SIEGE (R)
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 9:45, 10:20
THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
10:50, 1:30, 3:50,
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
6:20, 9:15
JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
8:30 PM ONLY
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
10:50, 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
ANTZ (PG)
10:30, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15

Star Winchester
1136 S. Rochester Rd,
Winchester Mall
248-656-1160
No one under age 6 admitted for PG13 & R rated films after 6 pm

NP RUGRATS (G)
11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00
NO VIP TICKETS
NP AMERICAN HISTORY (R)
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50
NO VIP TICKETS
NP I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
11:30, 1:30 3:30, 5:30, 7:30
NO VIP TICKETS
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:40, 8:30
THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
12:30, 3:10, 6:10, 8:50
ANTZ (PG)
11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
JOHN CARPENTER'S VAMPIRES (R)
10:00 PM ONLY
PRACTICAL MAGIC (PG13)
9:30 PM ONLY

United Artists Theatres
Bargain Matinees Daily, for all shows starting before 6:00 PM
Same day advance tickets available.
NV - No V.I.P. tickets accepted

United Artists Oakland
Inside Oakland Mall
248-988-0706
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV
12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:10, 7:00, 7:40, 9:20, 10:00
BELLY (R) NV
12:50, 5:20, 9:45
BELOVED (R)
12:40, 4:10, 7:50
RUSH HOUR (PG13) NV
1:00, 3:30, 7:10, 9:30
URBAN LEGEND (R)
3:05, 7:30

United Artists 12 Oaks
Inside Twelve Oaks Mall
248-349-4311
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS.

RUGRATS (G) NV
12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00
THE WATERBOY (PG13) NV
12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:55
THE SIEGE (R) NV
12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
LIVING OUT LOUD (R) NV
12:15, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:30
ANTZ (PG)
12:30, 2:30, 4:20, 7:15, 9:15

United Artists West River
9 Mile,
2 Block West of Middlebelt
248-788-6572
ALL TIMES SUN-THURS

ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) NV
1:00, 4:10, 7:30, 10:05
RUGRATS (G) NV
12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13) NV
12:30, 4:05, 8:00
I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV
12:10, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:50
THE WATERBOY (PG13) NV
1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
WIZARD OF OZ (G) NV
12:15, 2:40, 5:10
THE SIEGE (R) NV
1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) NV
12:40, 3:30, 6:50, 9:30
RUSH HOUR (PG13) NV
7:25, 9:35
ANTZ (PG) NV
12:45, 2:50, 5:20, 9:20

United Artists-Commerce-14
3330 Springvale Drive
Adjacent to Home Depot
North of the intersection of 14 Mile & Haggerty
248-960-5801
Bargain Matinees Daily for all Shows starting before 6 pm
Same Day Advance Tickets Available
NV-No VIP Tickets Accepted

CELEBRITY (R) NV
11:50, 2:30, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30
ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) NV
11:35, 12:15, 2:20, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:30, 10:40
RUGRATS (G) NV
11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:10, 7:00, 8:10, 9:00, 10:05
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13) NV
11:30, 12:30, 3:15, 4:15, 7:05, 8:30
I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) NV
11:40, 12:25, 2:05, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:40, 7:45, 9:10, 10:10
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG) NV
10:55, 12:55, 3:05, 4:55, 7:15
THE WATERBOY (PG13)
12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:05, 10:00
THE SIEGE (R)
11:15, 1:50, 4:40, 7:35, 10:15
THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
10:30, 2:45, 3:00
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
7:25, 9:50
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) NV
5:15, 8:15, 10:35
ANTZ (PG)
10:45, 12:50, 2:55, 5:10,

Birmingham Theatre
211 S. Woodward
Downtown Birmingham
644-FILM
NP Denotes No Pass Engagements
PURCHASE TICKETS BY PHONE! CALL (248) 644-FILM AND HAVE YOUR VISA, MASTERCARD OR AMERICAN EXPRESS READY. A 75¢ SURCHARGE PER TRANSACTION WILL APPLY TO ALL TELEPHONE SALES

NP ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
NP RUGRATS (G)
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
NP CELEBRITY (R)
12:00, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55
NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
12:05, 12:45, 3:15, 4:15, 6:35, 8:00, 9:50
PLEASANTVILLE (PG13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
THE WATERBOY (PG13)
2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50
THE WIZARD OF OZ (G)
12:00

MJR Theatres

$1.00 Ford Tel $1.50
313-561-7200
$1.00 Til 6 pm
After 6 pm $1.50
Ample Parking - Telford Center
Free Refill on Drinks & Popcorn
(SUN. No children under 6 after 6 pm except on G or PG rated films)

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R)
SUN. 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MON-THURS. 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
MASK OF ZORRO (PG13)
SUN. 7:00 & 9:45
THURS. 3:30, 7:00, 9:45
AIRBUD GOLDEN RECEIVER (G)
SUN. 12:00, 1:45, 3:30, 5:15
MON-WED. 5:15
THURS. 3:30, 5:15

Holiday Matinees through Sunday

Waterford Cinema 11
7501 Highland Rd.
S.E. corner M-59 & Williams Lake Rd.
24 Hour Movie Line
248-666-7900
CALL 77 FILMS #551
Stadium Seating and Digital Sound Makes for the Best Movies

NP THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G)
12:45, 2:45 (4:45 @ $3.50) 6:45, 9:10
NP THE ENEMY OF THE STATE (R)
12:50 (4:10 @ $3.50) 7:00, 9:50
NP I STILL KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R)
1:40 (4:10 @ $3.25) 7:30, 10:00
NP I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (PG)
1:10, 3:10, (5:10 @ $3.50) 7:15, 9:15
NP MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
1:00 (4:30 @ $3.25) 8.00
WATERBOY (PG13)
1:00, 1:30, 3:00, 3:30, (5:00 & 5:30 @ $3.50) 7:00, 7:40, 9:00, 9:40
WIZARD OF OZ (G)
1:10 (4:00 @ $3.50) 6:50
THE SIEGE (R)
1:15, (4:20 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:55
PLEASANTVILLE (R)
1:30 (4:15 @ $3.50) 7:10, 9:45
ANTZ (PG)
1:15, 3:15 (5:15 @ $3.50) 7:15, 9:15
LIVING OUT LOUD (R)
9:20

Visa & Mastercard Accepted

Terrace Cinema
30400 Plymouth Rd.
313-261-3330
All Shows $1 Except shows after 6 p.m. on Friday & Saturday & 75¢ all shows Tuesday.
Box Office opens at 4:00 pm Monday - Friday only.
Call Theatre for Features and Times
I.D. required for "R" rated shows

Main Art Theatre III
118 Main at 11 Mile
Royal Oak
248-542-0180
call 77-FILMS ext 542
Phone Orders 2 pm -10 pm call (248) 542-5198

(DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!)
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICE OR PHONE 248-542-0180
VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

ELIZABETH (R)
(1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
AMERICAN HISTORY X (R)
(1:30 4:30) 7:30, 10:00
VELVET GOLDMINE (R)
(4:00) 9:40
HAPPINESS (NC17)
(1:00) 7:00

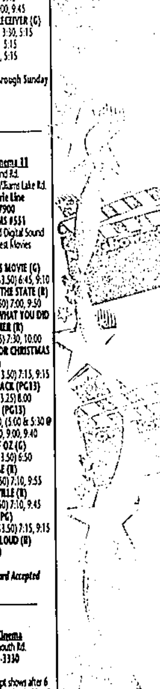
Maple Art Theatre III
4135 W. Maple, West of Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
248-855-9090
(DISCOUNTED SHOWS!!)

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG13)
(1:00 3:30) 6:00, 8:30
NO 1:00 MON-WED
CELEBRITY (R)
(1:15 3:45) 6.15, 8.45
NO 1:15 MON-WED
THE CRUISE (PG13)
(1:30 4:00) 6:30, 9:00
NO 1:30 MON-WED

Oxford 3 Cinemas, L.L.C.
Downtown Oxford
Lapeer Rd. (M-24)
(248) 628-7100
Fax (248) 628-1300
Detroit's Lowest First Run Prices including Twilight Pricing
$1.00 4-6 pm

WATERBOY (PG13)
SUN. TUE. THURS. 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:15,
MON, WED. 5:00, 7:15, 9:15
RUGRATS (G)
SUN. TUE. THURS. 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7.00, 9.00
MON., WED. 5:15, 7.00, 9.00
MEET JOE BLACK (PG13)
SUN. TUE. THURS. 11:30, 2:45, 6:15, 9:30
MON, WED. 6:15, 9.30
FREE KIDS SHOW SUN. ONLY
JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)
11:00

AMC Livonia 20
Haggerty & 7 Mile
734-542-9909
Call theatre for Features and Times.



BOOKS

Scrapbook about Trapp family tells real 'Sound of Music' story

ESTHER LITTMANN

We all recognize the power of music to soothe, uplift, and communicate. It's been called the "international language," an instrument of peace and harmony. So when a group of accomplished musicians not only produces a blend of beautiful sounds but also lives the values of goodness and solidarity that music inspires, that group is bound to capture our attention.

I'm referring, of course, to the Trapp Family Singers – seven daughters, three sons, and their parents – who gained world-wide fame in the '40s and '50s through their unbeatable vocal and instrumental performances and the personal magic they created on the stage. But it was through "The Sound of Music," first a Broadway play and then a movie seen by over 220 million people, that the Trapps became a household word.

We all know how Maria, a 22-year-old orphan and aspiring nun, became the wife of a wealthy aristocrat and the mother of his seven children. We're also aware of the family's clandestine escape from Nazi-occupied Austria to the United States. But movies are, by necessity, forced to condense and distort, leaving many viewers curious about the facts and, in the case of the von Trapps, interested in the future life of this indomitable family.

For those who missed reading Maria von Trapp's engaging accounts (between performing and parenting, she managed to write six books), a delightful pictorial history is now available entitled "The World of the Trapp Family." Written by Michigan historian and teacher William Anderson ("Laura Ingalls Wilder Country," "The World of Louisa May Alcott"), this 168-page , notebook-size volume records the entire family saga, starting with its 19th century progenitor (grandfather and naval hero Auguste von Trapp) and ending with current news of the surviving members of the family and their numerous offspring. It clarifies the events that occurred in Austria and describes the family's varied experiences in the United States. Truly, it is a story that inspires us with examples of human virtue: courage, love, and adaptability.

As family friend, Anderson had access to the personal memories of family members as well as to hundreds of photographs in the von Trapp files. These pictures, along with professional color photos of Austria and the Trapp home in Vermont, add interest to an already lively text. It's like having the family album in your hands!

Significant road markers in the saga include:

•Music influenced the von Trapp children long before Maria arrived. Their mother, nee Agathe Whitehead (whose grandfather invented the torpedo) played piano and violin and sang folk songs with her sisters.

•Maria was engaged to assist only one of the children, the ailing second daughter whose name was also Maria. Anderson writes, "Although her role was to be young Maria's tutor, she quickly bonded with all seven children. She seemed like a big sister, telling interesting stories, playing games, answering questions, and joining in with their singing."

•The Trapp Family began its singing career in Austria during the Depression. Financial collapse left them with little more than their home in Aigen. Along with taking in boarders, the family began to entertain professionally, first in their native land and then throughout Europe.

•The von Trapps did not leave Austria through the mountains but by train to Italy.

•The talented and industrious family members were extremely versatile, producing various types of folk art, working their own farm, and establishing a summer music camp.

•After World War II, the family founded a relief organization, sending hundreds of packages of donated food and clothing to Austria.

Commenting on a von Trapp *Christmas concert, a critic from* the Washington Post wrote: "Love of family, love of music, love of God, and longing for peace and good will combined so powerfully in the music offerings of this family that they transferred their emotion to the audience." The Trapps were a family whose whole life was a work of art, and Mr. Anderson's book, addressed to readers of all ages, is worthy to represent it.

On Dec. 5, Mr. Anderson will sign his book at Borders Books in Novi at 1 p.m. and at Waldenbooks in Troy at 4 p.m. Autographed copies are also available at Barnes and Noble in West Bloomfield.

Esther Littmann is a resident of Bloomfield Township. She is a private tutor in English and German You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (734) 953-2047, mailbox number 1893. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book Happenings features various happenings at suburban bookstores. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313)591-7279, or e-mail him at hgallagher@oe. homecomm. net

BORDERS (BIRMINGHAM, WOODWARD)
Discussion of Rebecca Wells' "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22; Former governor and ambassador to Canada James Blanchard discusses his new book "Behind the Embassy Door," 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23; at the store 34300 Woodward, (248)203-0005.

BORDERS (ROCHESTER HILLS)
New Age Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22; women's reading group discusses Marge Piercy's "Fly Away Home," 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the store, 1122 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, (248)652-0558.

COOPERSMITH'S (LIVONIA)
Gus Mollasis signs his book "On A Wing and a Prayer," 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at the store, Laurel Park, Six Mile and Newburgh.

BORDERS (FARMINGTON HILLS)
Chaim Potok signs and discusses his book "Zebra & Other Stories." 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the store, 30995 Orchard Lake. Road, Farmington Hills, (248)737-0110.

BARNES & NOBLE (BLOOMFIELD HILLS)
Mitch Albom signs his best selling book "Tuesdays With Morrie," noon Friday, Nov. 27; Arthur the Aardvark appears 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, at the store, 6575 Telegraph Road.

SHAMAN DRUM (ANN ARBOR)
Phil Cousineau reads from "The Art of Pilgrimmage: A Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred," 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at the store, 313 South State Street, Ann Arbor (734)662-7407.

'Need a Little Christmas' see 'Mame'

The Players Guild of Dearborn presents "Mame," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 27-28, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 and Nov. 29 at the theater, 21730 Madison, near the southeast corner of Monroe and Outer Dr., Dearborn. Tickets $14, call (313) 561-TKTS. Reservations are recommended.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

On stage: *Paul Luoma (left) as Young Patrick, Michael Lopez as ITO, Denise Kowalewski-Albright as Mame, and Megan Meade-Higgins as Agnes Gooch.*

The Players Guild of Dearborn's production of the lighthearted, high-spirited musical "Mame" is a kaleidoscope of colorful characters with the flamboyant Mame Dennis played by Denise Kowalewski-Albright of Westland as its focus.

"Mame" begins in the roaring Twenties when orphaned 10-year-old Patrick Dennis goes to live with his Aunt Mame Dennis who decides to give him an exciting if unconventional upbringing. The second act continues 10 years later. when Mame, back from a grand tour of the world, decides the grown-up Patrick has become too conventional and needs some unpredictable Mame mischief to shake things up.

Kowalewski-Albright was born to play Mame – she fills the stage with her effervescent presence and natural exuberance. Despite being overpowered by the orchestra during her opening number, she is a strong vocal treat as well. Kudos go to Diana Reynolds and her costume committee for Mame's spectacular costumes – and for dressing the rest of the cast to the nines as well.

Paul Luoma, a 13-year-old from Farmington Hills, is wonderful as young Patrick, Mame's nephew, portraying both incredulity and unabashed delight at being thrust into the middle of such an unorthodox world. Whether mixing his staid trustees a dry martini (shaken, not stirred) or fighting fires with New York's finest, Luoma brings exuberance, talent and a strong singing voice to his role.

The cast is full of talented performers. Annette Hissong of Westland is polished perfection as the tippling actress and Mame's "bossom buddy" Vera Charles. Tom Morgan is every inch the Southern gentleman and oozing with charm as Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside, Mame's love interest. Sally Hart Goodman elicited laughter in a humorous cameo as Mother Burnside. Megan Meade-Higgins of Southfield had some funny moments as Agnes Gooch, Patrick's nanny and Mame's secretary, whose life is turned topsy turvy by Mame's well-meaning but avant-garde advice.

The set was very versatile, which facilitated the quick scene changes. The main set served as both a living room and bedroom with some clever set piece changes, and front drops set the scene for New York City, a Southern plantation, a Broadway theater and other locales.

The chorus made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in volume. Audiences will enjoy the title song "Mame" as well as the familiar holiday classic, "We Need A Little Christmas," Bossom Buddies," sung by Mame and Vera, provided a humorous vehicle for the talented Kowalewski-Albright and Hissong team.