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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"The Prince of Egypt" a full-length animated musical about the life of Moses opens today at metro Detroit movie theaters.

SATURDAY



Mannheim Steamroller's holiday ice show - "The Christmas Angel," featuring the talents of Olympic and World skating champions, comes to Joe Louis Arena for one show only, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$50, \$35 and \$20, call (248) 645-6666 or (313) 983-6606.

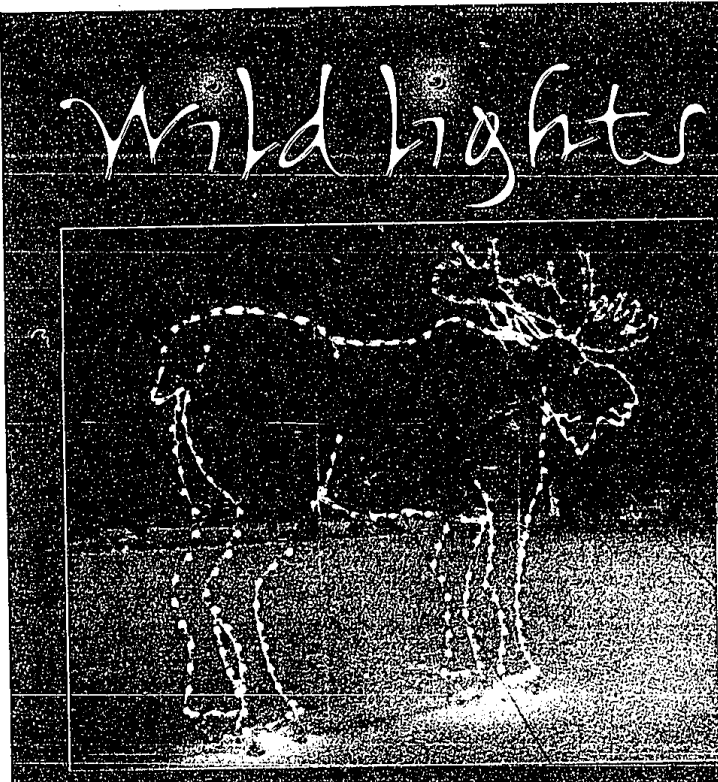
SUNDAY



Placebo (pictured) along with Beck, Garbage, Kid Rock, Everlast and Marcy Play-ground perform 6 p.m. as part of "The Night 89X Stole Christmas" at Joe Louis Arena. Tickets \$20.89, \$25.89 and \$30.89. Call (248) 645-6666 for more information.



Spend some time with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Snoopy and the Peanuts gang at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit where "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," is playing through Sunday, Dec. 27. Tickets \$26.50 to \$49, call (248) 645-6666.



Wild lights

"Wild Lights"

WHAT: A dazzling display of animal sculptures formed by more than 400,000 lights.

WHEN: 5:30-8 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays, until 9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

WHERE: The Detroit Zoo, 8450 West 10 Mile Road at Woodward Ave., Royal Oak.

COST: \$3 adults, \$2 children ages 2-12, \$2 Detroit Zoological Society adult members, \$1.50 children members. Parking is free. Call the Wild Lights hotline for group rates and more information, (248) 541-5835.

Drive through light show

The Wayne County LightFest is a sight to behold with 30 giant displays created with nearly a million lights. Now in its sixth year, the show runs nightly (7-10 p.m.) along four and one-half miles of Edward Hines Drive from Merriman Road in Westland to Dearborn Heights through Friday, Jan. 1. Drivers should enter at Hines Drive and Merriman.

The \$5 minimum donation per car goes toward keeping the lights on. For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

Domino's Farms' St. Nicholas Light Display includes new scenes featuring an animated nativity, animated St. Nicholas set, miniature tunnel of lights leading to indoor activities, and the 1930s Coca Cola Santa Claus 6-10 p.m. nightly through Thursday, Dec. 31. Along with the more than one million lights, visitors can see live reindeer, a collection of more than 20 custom decorated Christmas trees, the 13,000 square foot Winter Wonderland, a Christmas Around the World creche exhibit, an electric train big enough to give rides to children, and a children's hands-on art area.

Minimum donation \$5 Monday-Thursday, \$7 Friday-Sunday, \$50 for buses. Proceeds benefit metro Detroit children and charities this holiday season. At the end visitors can stop by Santa's Shelter at the Warrendale Picnic Area for refreshments, gift shopping or to have a photo taken with Santa. Domino's Farms is at 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, (off Earhart Road north of Plymouth Road), Ann Arbor, call (734) 930-4430.

Walk through display

Herry Ford Health System Lightfest features animated displays composed of a million lights nightly 6-10 p.m. Fridays-Sundays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays until Christmas Day at the Wyandotte Shores Golf Course and BASF Waterfront Park on Biddle Avenue, (south of Eureka Road) in Wyandotte. Performances by Cat in the Hat storyteller, choir, and dulcimer player through Tuesday, Dec. 22. For schedule, call (734) 324-4504 or (734) 282-6233 or visit the website at www.wyandotte.net/lightfest.

The cost is \$2.50 adults, \$2 seniors, and \$1 children.

Zoo brightens the night with color

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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"Lion" shouted Katie Adams excitedly as she neared the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the Detroit Zoo. It was dark but the five-year-old Birmingham girl wasn't scared. She and her mom Nancy had just walked through an enchanted forest of 400,000 lights with no real lions in sight.

Pink and blue trees, a bear and bunny playing horns, dinosaurs and a volcano - these were some of the scenes the two oohed and aahed over in "Wild Lights," an awe inspiring production, sponsored by the Detroit Edison Foundation and supported by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, at the

zoo in Royal Oak. "It's so beautiful," said Nancy Adams. "They add to it each year."

Half way down the path the lights lead visitors to the Reptile and Amphibian House where a blue Cuban lizard, gold Jamaican boa and green iguana add their own dazzle to the evening.

Sherrill Jackson, a Rochester Hills resident, was one of several docents in the house answering questions about the slithering creatures and telling about the hog nose snake that had shed the skin she was holding up for visitors to see.

"We want to show they have ribs and backbones just like we

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Hangin' around: This red panda bear waits for the move to its new digs at the Detroit Zoo.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Hark the herald pop bands sing

By CHRISTINA FUOCO
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The pine scent of fresh Christmas trees, sparkling lights, lit Mearha snowmen and Santa Claus are enough to welcome someone into the holiday spirit.

But a non-traditional holiday celebration inspired Karen Newman, the flaxen-haired Detroit Red Wings "National Anthem" singer, to record her debut holiday album, "What Christmas Means to Me" (High Heat Records).

Last Christmas, WCSX-FM morning personality Jim Johnson invited Newman to sing with his Moron Tabernacle Choir at a local bar.

"It's just a bunch of listeners drinking beer at 7:30 in the morning. I had such a good time singing Christmas songs that I thought I wouldn't mind doing a Christmas album," said Newman, a Southfield resident.

So for eight to 10 weeks in July, Newman laid down tracks in a studio lined with Christmas lights to set the mood. "Once we started to sing the songs, the feelings were so strong and so inspirational that we didn't need any of the trappings (to set the mood)."

The 10-song "What Christmas Means to Me" features traditional songs



New release: Karen Newman performs songs off her new holiday CD at Borders Books and Music in Birmingham.

"What Child is This?" "Ave Maria" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" as well as three originals. A friend of hers from college, Phyllis Wolfe, wrote "From Bethlehem."

"I always felt that I would do this song. She came in to be there for sup-

port. When I sang the song, there were a lot of tears," Newman explained.

Keeping it in the family, Newman's goddaughter Katie Masters of Cave Creek, Ariz., flew in to sing back-up on "Christmas Eve on Woodward Avenue."

A portion of the proceeds from "What Christmas Means to Me," which is available in area record stores, benefits the Vlady/Sergei Family Trust Fund. Newman will sign copies of "What Christmas Means to Me" during the Dec. 18 and Dec. 20 Detroit Red Wings games, and from 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, at Best Buy, 21051 Haggerty Road, in Novi.

"Winter Wonderland"

The jazz/pop duo of Sheila Landis and Rick Matle fought sweltering heat to get into the holiday spirit to record "Winter Wonderland" (SheLan Records).

"It was about 90 degrees out. We really had to work hard to get in the Christmas spirit. We called it 'Sweltering Christmas.' We just got into the music and pulled down the shades," said Landis, who along with Matle lives in Rochester Hills.

Landis and Matle concentrated on

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Top 25 holiday songs

As a prelude to the upcoming 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, President and Chairman Marilyn Bergman announced the Society's 25 most-performed holiday songs.

"These classic songs brighten the season year after year and are a cornerstone of the ASCAP repertory," she said. "Most of them have been recorded in renditions by artists in every genre, yet each song retains the original stamp of its creators."

1. "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin
2. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie
3. "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)" by Mel Tormé and Robert Wells
4. "Winter Wonderland" by Felix Bernard and Richard B. Smith
5. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" by Johnny Marks
6. "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish
7. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by Ralph Blane and

Please see SONGS, E2