

Ice show celebrates 75 years of Disney magic

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When: Tuesday, Feb. 29-Sunday, March 5; performances 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; additional shows 11 a.m. Thursday, 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday; 1 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday.
Where: Joe Louis Arena, Detroit.
Tickets: \$35, \$18.75, \$16.75 and \$13.75. Opening night tickets \$10, call (248) 645-6666 or online www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, call (313) 983-6600 or online www.olympicentertainment.com

The show features pair skating, moving solo and production numbers designed by Emmy Award-winning choreographer Sarah Kawahara.



Magical: See Buzz Lightyear, Woody, and all your Disney friends at "Disney on Ice Celebrates 75 Years of Disney Magic."

All your favorite Disney characters are coming to town Tuesday and they're not worried about the weather. This Disney extravaganza is on ice, and Jamie Loper, who portrays Shang, has one word to describe the show - magical.

fun. We do a battle scene. It's a pretty good workout." Buzz and Woody and your other "Toy Story" pals are in the show. Of course, there's Minnie and Mickey, and enchanting moments from "A Bug's Life," and "The Lion King."

The most memorable music ever recorded including "When You Wish Upon a Star," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Can You Feel the Love Tonight." "Lights, magic, pyrotechnics, it's all there," said Loper. "Everybody does a terrific job." For Loper, the show offers a chance to do what he loves - skate and travel - and get paid for it. "It's the best," he said.

Minnie looks stunning in a Bob Mackie original dress. Other highlights are characters from "A Bug's Life" and "The Lion King" who are appearing for the first time ever on ice. "Narrowing 75 spectacular years of Disney into a two-hour production that doesn't blur the mind was the greatest challenge of all," said costume designer Scott Lane. "But I think we've really captured the heart of those 75 years in a way that will dazzle and delight audiences of all ages."

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Picasso from page C1

who graduated from Walled Lake Central High School, plays two characters in the 90-minute play - a young woman who's had an encounter with Picasso and a countless friend of Einstein. Seitzman is a student in theater performance and biology at the University of Michigan.

the move. The Network simply outgrew the space as audiences steadily grow 25 percent over the last four years. The new theater will have 147 seats compared to 102.

Sulewski plays Gaston, a regular frequenting the Lapin Agile. The role is quite a departure from his "real life" job of teaching writing to engineers at the University of Michigan.

Executive director Johanna Broughton said the Performance Network has come a long way since she came on board in 1987. The budget was \$60,000 then. Today, the Performance Network, working with a \$300,000 budget, presents a six-play professional season spotlighting "the hottest contemporary works" and a 13-week summer festival showcasing productions by non-professionals. The Network, which went professional in 1997, provides the space, staff and marketing and splits the ticket receipts for the summer Tree Town Theatre Festival.

"He's a grumpy old man but a funny guy," said Sulewski. "He functions as Everyman. He asks Picasso, 'How do you draw?' He's not really a bright character."

"The new space is our salvation," said Broughton. "It's going to have a 16-foot ceiling that will enable us to have two-story sets. No one will be craning their necks over other people's heads. It will not only be a real home for professional theater but to all of these other companies. We'll be able to rehearse in the same space and be able to offer classes for the first time."

Expressions from page C1

berchip and this fund-raiser is the way we support all of our programs. We provide arts programming for the community 300 and some days a year. This is the one day a year we ask the community to give back to us."

'We're mindful of how we spend people's money. We want people to feel good about what they give and that it's going to support a variety of arts.'

The arts council's catches its \$180,000 annual operating budget a long way to provide ongoing exhibits, concerts and lectures series, a cultural diversity series, the arts volunteer program that brings art and culture into the school system, and the "Members First" series, which continues this fall with a concert by Josh White Jr. and a Shakespearean evening with Gillian Eaton. The budget also subsidizes art education classes. These are just some of the ways the arts council provides arts programming in the community.

Stella Greene
Development director,
Plymouth Community Arts Council

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musician Josh White Jr. for humanities students in Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools at the end of March. Theater students will benefit from a residency with members of the Purple Rose Theater this spring, also. "We've got to keep rethinking what we do," said Greene. "We're trying to expand the Whistle Stop Players summer workshop because of the demand for young people to have theater experience. We're working with different organizations such as Purple Rose to bring an experience to the schools. It gives young people the opportunity to get to know these artists and ask questions. We eventually want to have sequential programming in place from taking every fifth grader to the DIA to the artist residency."

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