

Entertainment

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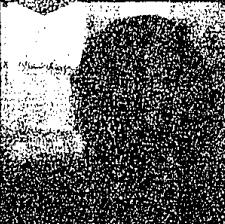
THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Irish music, dancing and fun 4 p.m. to midnight at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, (east of Newburgh) in Westland. Event features over 30 local performers including Sean Gavin (left) and Tyler Duncan. Admission \$8 at the door. Call (313) 537-3489 for information.

SATURDAY



James Brown and his band will heat up Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, at 8 p.m. in a concert to benefit the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Tickets \$25-\$60, call (734) 764-2538. Tickets for a pre-concert hors d'oeuvre dinner at Rackham Auditorium and post-concert dessert reception in the second floor auditorium of Hill Auditorium are \$150. Call (734) 617-2278 for details.

SUNDAY



Go treasure hunting at the 10th annual Community House Antiques Festival, noon to 5 p.m. At the Community House, 380 South Bates, downtown Birmingham. Admission is \$10, call (248) 594-6403 for information.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM MARSH

Star-crossed lovers: Brian Taylor and Brenda Lane trade bars in the "Cactus Flower."

Blossoming theater students to present 'Cactus Flower'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
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Headset placed against one ear, Jennifer Hartman sat in the middle of the theater, cueing lights and music for Abe Burrows' comedy "Cactus Flower." It was the first sound run-through for the production opening Friday, March 24, in the Liberal Arts Theatre at Schoolcraft College. Songs by The Byrds and Lovin' Spoonful transport the audience back to the 1960s when the story takes place.

Hartman, a professor and chairman of the college's theater department, directs the show about a dentist caught in a series of lies he told to a girlfriend with whom he's fallen in love.

"Abe Burrows has written so many funny lines," said

Hartman. "It's a great situation comedy that we might find today on TV. Some of the older audience will find it nostalgic because of the time period and the music and dances, like the swim and the pony."

The Lovin' Spoonful's "Hot Town, Summer in the City" sets the mood for the darkened scenes which open the first act. Igor (Christopher Curd of Canton) rescues Toni Simmond (Jerri Doll, a Livonia Stevenson graduate) who has just tried to commit suicide because her boyfriend Dr. Julian Winstein is married, or so she thinks.

"The most difficult part has been the sound and lighting changes,"

said Hartman. "There's so many of them and it takes so long to record and mark all the sound."

Dressed in an all-white uniform, Brenda Lane is the picture of everything cold and sterile. Lane, a Northville resident, plays Stephanie Dickinson, the nurse who blossoms like a cactus flower when she steps out of her starched uniform. This is Lane's fifth play at Schoolcraft College. She has had roles in "All My Sons" and "A View From the Bridge." A full-time mom with two sons, Lane majored in theater at the University of Wisconsin.

"It's the story of a dentist who's a

Please see CACTUS, E2



Helping heart: Igor (Christopher Curd of Canton) rescues and then tries to reason with Toni (Jerri Doll, Ann Arbor) who has just tried to kill herself.

MUSIC

Plymouth Symphony showcases accordion artist

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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When Nan Washburn premiered "Cafes de Melbourne" a few years ago in California, she and composer Janika Vandervelde wanted to have Peter Soave as guest accordionist. On Saturday, March 18, they'll both get their wish as the Farmington musician joins the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and conductor Washburn in a concert spotlighting "Scenes and Landscapes."

Washburn and Vandervelde will discuss "Cafes de Melbourne" during a pre-concert chat. Vandervelde wrote the piece after spending three months in Melbourne where she thought she'd discovered the equivalent of Paris in the 1920s with its artists and theater companies.

"The work depicts the coffee house culture in Australia," said Washburn. "There's a new-age feel to it. The second movement is all about the cool counter culture and has jazz. It's very unusual because people still think of the accordion as just playing polka music but accordionists can play many different timbres. In terms of folk music, accordion is popular in many cultures."

Soave grew up listening to Italian music played on the accordion. Born to Italian immigrants, he began playing the accordion at age 5 and by 16 was entering international competitions.

But Soave quickly learned the piano accordion's limitations. He noted that most of his competitors were playing the bayan, a chromatic button accordion developed in Russia for classical music. Soave had to research the keyboards, but in doing so gained 60 percent more range for his right hand and 300 percent for his left.

His repertoire expanded. Soave competed in Europe, winning first place in four major international competitions.

What: The Plymouth

Symphony Orchestra is

joined by guest artists

Peter Soave and the

Choirs from Our Lady of

Good Counsel Church

and "Scenes and

Landscapes."

Where: 8 p.m. Saturday,

March 18; 7 p.m. pre-

concert chat with

Director Nan Washburn

and composer Janika

Vandervelde. After show,

hosted by Our Lady of

Good Counsel Auxiliary,

follows the concert.

Where: Our Lady of

Good Counsel Church,

1690 Fernside,

Plymouth.

Tickets: \$12 adults,

\$10 seniors/no charge

for students, \$5 for grades

2-12. Call (734) 451-

2112 for more

information.

Peter Soave

Deeply inspired by the music of Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, he then took up the bandoneon, the tango accordion used by Piazzolla. In June, Soave was appointed professor of bandoneon at Wayne State University. A

The Observer

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Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mom-daughter having fun acting up

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Beth Gryniewicz could use some of the time management techniques Frank Gilbrath Sr. employs in Tinderbox Productions' "Cheaper by the Dozen." It's been a grueling week for the Canton resident and her 5 1/2-year-old daughter Elyse. The mother-daughter duo are rehearsing two productions for Tinderbox at Maconic Temple in Detroit.

The first, "Cheaper by the Dozen," opened March 11. Gryniewicz's 4 1/2-year-old daughter Lindsey joins mom and Elyse on stage in Tinderbox's "The Little Princess" opening in April.

"It's crazy because we're rehearsing two productions at the same time," said Beth Gryniewicz. "The most difficult part for Elyse is all those late night rehearsals. Sometimes she just doesn't end until 11:15 p.m. She brings her costume and plays dress-up before she leaves for home, but she's enjoying it. To her it's playing and going to play with her friends."

Based on a true story written by two of the children, "Cheaper by the Dozen" follows the Gilbrath family through its daily routine. An industrial time-motion expert, Frank Sr. shows the children how to shave seconds from buttoning a vest by doing it from the bottom up. Originally released as a film by 20th Century Fox in 1950, "Cheaper by the Dozen" starred Clifton Webb and Myrna Loy.

Gryniewicz plays Mrs. Fitzgerald, the Gilbraths' housekeeper. "She gets to do all the dishes and housekeeping for the 12 kids," said Gryniewicz. "Her character is very much like Alice of the Brady Bunch. My favorite line is, 'Lincoln feed the slaves - all but one.'"

Please see TINDERBOX, E2



Mother-daughter duo: Elyse (left) and Beth Gryniewicz perform in Tinderbox Productions' "Cheaper by the Dozen."

frequent performer in Europe and America, Soave returned from Italy on Friday, March 10, in time for the Plymouth Symphony's "Scenes and Landscapes" concert.

In addition to "Cafes de Melbourne," Soave will solo on the bandoneon in Piazzolla's "Oblivion." Soave has recorded Piazzolla's "Concerto for Bandoneon and Orchestra" with the Moscow Philharmonic, and the Argentinian composer's "Tango Sensation" with the Klima String Quartet of Zagreb. His own recording, "Pride and Passion," also features works by Piazzolla along with those by Haydn, Bölling, Brahms and Boellman.

It features the Argentinian tango works which are becoming so popular, and for which Peter's becoming famous," said Washburn.

The orchestra will also play two compositions about calm seas by Mendelssohn and Beethoven. The Our Lady of Good Counsel choir, under the direction of Michele Johns, will join the orchestra for Beethoven's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Journey."

The orchestra ends the evening with Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite," an audience favorite that's evocative and descriptive even without the dance.

