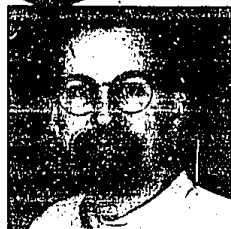


THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia, 36071 Plymouth Road, presents Billy Ray Bauer 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 per person, dinner/show package \$24.50 per person, call (734) 261-0555.

SATURDAY



The Swedish Club presents its annual Midsummer Festival at the club, 22398 Ruth Street at Freedom Road in Farmington Hills. The event begins 9:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast. Maypole raising at noon followed by Scandia (pictured) and Arpi Chorus performances, folk dancing and children's games. Baked goods and Swedish imports offered for sale. Dinner served 1:30 p.m. Call (248) 646-4073 for information.

SUNDAY



Over 120 artists, including Katherine Wickersham, will gather 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Northville for "Art in the Sun." The juried fine art show also offers live entertainment. For more information, call (248) 349-7640.



New media: The Peter Sparling Dance Company presents a trio of dances including the multi-media performance spectacle "The Ariel Web."

VIRTUAL DANCERS



Sparling Company ventures into new arena

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
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Through all the years of dancing with Martha Graham's company, Peter Sparling partnered with dozens of fine and lovely female dancers. Technology changes that when Sparling steps onto the stage of the Power Center Friday, June 30.

"An adventure in new media, Sparling whisks across the boards in a blue with cameraman Jonathan Ryan. *The Ariel Web* is one of a trio of dances the Peter Sparling Dance Company will perform during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, which opens Friday, June 16.

A collaboration with Sparling's colleagues at the University of Michigan, the performance spectacle layers poetry, music and dance in a celebration and exploration of arts and technology. Sparling, Richard Tillingham, Jim Cogswell, Andrew Mead and Fred Bookstein, assisted by the technical wizardry of Tom Bray, first produced the work in March at Rackham Auditorium.

"You've got to see it to believe it," said Sparling who danced with Martha Graham from 1973 to 1980 before founding his own company in New York in the early 80s. "It pushes the boundaries. Each time we do it, the meanings shift between the text, visual and movement. It's like a series of overlaid metaphors that take on meaning as they align themselves."

Sparling, who spent his teen years in Plymouth, choreographed the work on two separate stages. As Sparling takes the angular movements across the Power Center stage, his company will dance at the Media Union across campus. The virtual dancers' video projected sequences will appear all together on the Power Center stage.

"It's going to be fun to do and 'tricky,'" said Tim Smola, a Canton resident and one of the company members dancing in the remote location. "There will be 20-foot video monitors allowing

Adventures In New Media
What: The Peter Sparling Dance Company presents a trio of modern dances during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival.

When: 8 p.m. Friday, June 30. An informal performance review begins at 7:30 p.m. in the lobby.

Where: Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor

Tickets: \$26, \$20, \$14, call (734) 764-2538
See Ann Arbor Summer Festival schedule inside

all of us to appear simultaneously on stage. A van will be waiting to speed us to the Power Center to complete the dance."

World premiere

The second work on the program, *Possible Dances*, returns to reality with a vignette of recollections written by Sparling. Set to a score by New York composer Paul Epstein who uses electronic music and Sparling's recorded voice to create a soundscape, the six poems run the gamut of emotions from mourning the loss of a friend to the wonder of being alive. In the choreographer's own words, it "explores relationship of movement imagery with text imagery, how words signal images in our mind and how movement imagery can create words."

"It's very surreal," said Smola. "It

Please see DANCERS, E3

COMMUNITY THEATER

Vengeful ghost haunts audiences at Trinity House Theatre

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
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P.W. Henry warns theatergoers to sleep lightly to their cars after seeing *The Woman in Black*. The ghost in the Parlour Theatre production could be lurking in the graveyard behind Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

"She's not a friendly ghost," said Henry, a resident who plays one of the two men in this British story. "The graveyard out back adds to the eeriness and mystery and they'll probably want to do a double take."

A play within a play, *The Woman in Black* is a thriller novel by Henry) haunted by

a vengeful ghost. Fearing he's going mad, the character begs to an actor for help. Arthur Kipps believes if he can just get his story told, the curse will be reversed.

"He wants to exorcise this vision," said Henry. "We put on this play where I'm doing the part of five or six characters, most with British accents and one with a Scottish accent. It's a challenge to remember which character is next and which tone I'm using." Even if Henry broke character it



British thriller: P.W. Henry (left) and Brian Catton try to rid themselves of a vengeful ghost in "The Woman in Black."

"Our theater group usually does comedy but we were fascinated with it," said Ed Moade, who founded Parlour

Theatre Productions with his wife Jeannine. The couple lived for many years in Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills before moving to Northville. "We saw it in London three times. It's a good story. It's not entirely gothic. It takes place in post Victorian times with horses and buggies running alongside automobiles in the streets. The sound effects create the mood. As the story evolves it becomes an integral part."

Mystery ghost

Jeannine will reveal little about the ghost she plays. Dressed in a floor-length black cape, her actions tell the story.

"I have no lines so it's pretty easy," said Jeannine. "But as everyone knows, actions speak louder than words. Her movements really are quite terrifying especially when they're seen through all the fog coming up from the ground," said Brian Catton who plays

Please see GHOST, E2

More than 500 vehicles from 1933 to 1979 will be showcased at Greenfield Village in Dearborn 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, June 17-18 during Labor Muster. Events and other special events are scheduled throughout the weekend. Call (313) 971-1630 for more information.