

THE WEEKEND



The modern adaptation of a Sophocles classic, *Antigone* opens 8 p.m. at Hilberry Theatre, on the campus of Wayne State University, Detroit. Tickets \$16, call (313) 577-2972.

SATURDAY



Featured violinist Joshua Bell performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Neeme Jarvi, 8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward, Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$71, call (313) 576-5111.

SUNDAY



Doctors Joseph Kaufman (left) and Tor Shwayder present a classical music concert at 2 p.m. in Kresge Hall, Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia. Suggested adult donation \$20, call (248) 788-1500.



ICELAND

Carvers dazzle crowds as they brave the cold

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Cold weather doesn't bother Ted Wakar. The Canton carver bundles up in layers and layers of clothing year-round, to create three dimensional ice sculptures for his business — Frozen Images.

Monday, Jan. 8, was no exception as Wakar worked in the parking lot of the new 35th District Court in Plymouth. For the last 19 years Wakar has withstood sub-zero temperatures to pursue his passion for carving in competitions at the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Festival. He was about to rev up his chain saw to begin carving 60 sculptures from solid blocks of ice for display at the free family festival, Wednesday-Sunday, Jan. 17-21 — and the sun was shining.

By the end of the week, the refrigerated truck would be filled with space ships, the Grinch, fighter planes, and a Detroit cityscape for the 2001 *An Ice Odyssey* exhibit in The Gathering. His eagles and horses will line the streets of downtown Plymouth. Westland carver John Fitzner will carve a char-



PHOTO BY PAUL HUNTCMAN



Wildest fantasy: (Above) Carvers create everything imaginable at the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular. At night the Motor City Casino Light Show makes the ice sculptures glow in a rainbow of colors. (Below) Tajana and Paul Raukar, a husband and wife carving team from Plymouth, took a silver medal in the professional team division for this unicorn.



iot with two horses for The Gathering.

Crowd pleasers

"We want to do things that are pleasing to children," said Wakar who on a daily basis carves golfers, swans and custom logos for functions at the Novi Hilton, golf courses and other businesses around town.

An award-winning carver, Wakar also wants to please the crowds as they watch him compete with his partner Jim Bur Jr. in the Professional Team division. Dozens of carvers will spend anywhere from 8 to 20 hours creating sculptures they hope will win part of the \$15,000 in prizes. Mark Scofield of Livonia and Plymouth artist/architect Dennis Jones are two of the judges for the competitions sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation.

"I like that I'm creating something in a crystal state — the clarity and the facets," said Wakar, who teaches the art of ice sculpting at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. "There's a freedom to create what I want. I bring to ice sculpting the three-dimensional artistry that many of the carvers don't."

"Besides, this is my home playing field. The crowds are in my favor. It's also a community effort that I feel a part of."

Please see ICE, B1

Film theater raises curtain on 27th season

BY STEPHANIE ANGELIN CASOLA
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Recent accolades showered onto the film *Yi Yi*, directed by Edward Yang, prove one thing — Elliot Wilhelm surely knows his business.

His business is film. As curator of the Detroit Film Theatre, Wilhelm chose the Japanese work to open the DFT 27th season only recently to discover that The National Society of Film Critics Association honored *Yi Yi* as best picture of the year — coming in just above Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic*.

Wilhelm first saw the drama, which tells of daily trials encountered by a middle-aged businessman, when he attended the Toronto Film Festival last fall.

One of more than 300 films shown at the intense 10-day event, Wilhelm chose to see *Yi Yi* because it seemed like the antidote he needed from a barrage of action flicks. "It is a rich story, close to three hours long," said Wilhelm. "It's like reading a good book."

Innovative

At a time when films are likely to fall victim to Hollywood-induced formulaic storylines and recycled rather than innovative camerawork, the Detroit Film Theatre shows work that can be quite the antithesis, work that reminds moviegoers it is possible to leave the theater feeling like they just read a good book.

"It really reminds us of what movies

DETROIT FILM THEATRE

What: Winter film series begins Friday, Jan. 12 and ends Sunday, May 21.
Who: Films are recommended for adults. Children under age 5 are not admitted.
Where: At the film theater, behind the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Tickets: \$6, \$5 for DIA members and students with valid I.D. Discount coupons available in books of five for \$20. Call (313) 833-3237 for more information.
Reservations also available. For complete details, see www.dft.org.

Please see FILM, B1



DAVID STENZEL

Dark Days: Director Marc Singer takes viewers into the tunnels under Manhattan in his unflinching documentary, screening Monday, Feb. 12 at the Detroit Film Theatre.

CONCERT

Youth orchestra plays world premiere honoring Dr. King

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Charles Burke just received the last movement of Patricia Rushen's *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* and couldn't wait to conduct the first rehearsal of the score commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Burke was excitedly awaiting the arrival of Rushen, an internationally acclaimed recording artist and composer, to work with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra before they perform the world premiere on Sunday, Jan. 14, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit.

This is Burke's second full season as conductor of the youth training orchestra consisting of 100 students from 72 high schools, colleges and universities in the metropolitan Detroit area. "Commissioning a work is a really fantastic



Celebration concert: Koli Givens (left) a student at Wayne State University, Bill Baxtresser, Farmington Harrison High School, and Ryan Dolan, Eastern Michigan University, rehearse for a Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra concert featuring a world premiere of "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory."

experience," said Burke, a Canton resident. "One of my missions is not only to play great pieces of the past by Brahms, Schubert and Beethoven but

living composers. We want the performance of Rushen's work, which is in three movements, to have a true Detroit feeling and highlight Dr. Mar-

tin Luther King's life."

Excited

Concertmaster Margaret Kim, a 15-year-old student at Troy High School, is as excited as Burke about performing the world premiere of Rushen's composition. Rushen is best known for writing scores for *Men in Black* and *Waiting to Exhale*. One of the world's top jazz pianists, Rushen has performed with and produced such artists as Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Lionel Hampton, Carlos Santana, George Benson, Jenn Luc Penty, and Michael Jackson. She also holds the distinction of being the first woman in 43 years to serve as composer/musical director for the Emmy Awards.

Rushen was appointed by the DSO as Visiting Composer for its African American Composers Program 2000. She will compose a total of three original symphonic works, all of which will premiere in Detroit between now and June.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Kim who's in her first year with the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. She is also a member of the Troy High

Please see YOUTH, B1