

Midwest from page B1

lowing.
For singer Jasper Unfriendly of Detroit punk trio The Unfriendly, this also means competition. "We're definitely gonna make it one of our more memorable shows because so many other great bands will be playing in Hamtramck and downtown at the exact same time that we'll be onstage."

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*Jasper Unfriendly
Singer*

More than music

"Ticket sales for the festival will benefit HAVEN, a Pontiac-based non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating domestic violence, child abuse and sexual abuse through prevention and counseling. Satellite offices exist in Rochester, Farmington Hills and Southfield. "We are always excited when people in the community think enough of

our organization to give, and we are appreciative of all efforts," said Nicole Johnson, HAVEN spokesperson. "It's very important the funds are used for counseling and to help people gain control."

HAVEN was chosen as beneficiary because of its service to the community and honorable reputation. "We just had a shelter burn down," added Frezzato.

The organization is recovering from the loss of one of its Pontiac shelters, which experienced a fire in November 1999. Residents were moved to another donated location while the shelter is being renovated into counseling center. "We're hoping to use some of the funds for building a bigger facility," said Johnson.

Organizers hope to raise

approximately \$10,000. Fifty percent of the profits will go to HAVEN. The other half will go to the performers.

"It's just the simple fact that the bands are making it happen," said Frezzato. "They should at least have the option of getting paid. It's a job like any other job."

The performers have the option of donating their share back to HAVEN, and Frezzato said many have already agreed to do so. One of the first musicians to do so was Tim Vulgar, singer and guitarist of the Clone Defects. "With a big festival like that, it's good to give it to the charity," he said.

The musicians scheduled to

perform are among some of the area's best in rock, pop, punk, hip hop and electronic music. "So far people seem really responsive," said Hansen.

Fans of all-country will want to check out Alvin's on Saturday night, while punk rockers might congregate at the Old Miami on Friday night. The Lager House and Bitterroot Cafe will draw the electronics set with Women on Wax and sets by DJ's like Derek Plaslaiko and Planet E's Tony Olivetti.

'Family' reunion

The festival has spurred several reunions. The Mood Elevator, a pop trio that went on hiatus last year, will return in altered

form. Singer Chris Plum and bassist Eric Post will be joined by Brendan Bonson, Atomic Numbers' guitarist Zach Shippa and (bassist) Jeff Hupp who will play drums. A fan and friend of The Mood Elevator and Bonson, Shippa said, "We're just doing a favor for a band we like."

Hansen said the reunion will be part of one of the festival's strongest bills. Also returning to the stage are a reunited Rocket 455 and The Junk Monkeys. Craig "Bones" Maki (formerly of Big Barn Combo) will debut his new project.

"The downtown scene is a little bit like a family," said Hansen. "This is sort of a celebration of that."

Cinderella from page B1

really fun to see a married couple play a married couple."

And that's exactly what Marilyn and John Hirtzel do. The Livonia couple play the Queen and King. Like Kuykendall, the Hirtzels got hooked on the church troups when they took roles in the first musical the *Sound of Music*. After all these years, they're still in love with acting and each other.

Happy family

"It's one big happy family that do these in the church," said Marilyn who never acted until the church production of *Sound of Music*. "I like my role. She's a typical mother worrying about her son, who at 21, isn't married yet. He falls in love with this beautiful creature that has never been seen before and may never again."

The magic of the fairy tale makes *Cinderella* one of John's favorites. Even more so is the fact he's singing for the first time, and he's not doing it alone. The Hirtzels' song, as well as the rest of the show, is done with accompaniment by Jack Pierson, director of the jazz band at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Like the Hirtzels, acting is a family affair for Pierson. His wife Cindy plays one of Cinderella's stepsisters.

"This is the first time in 30 years my wife and I got to sing a song together, a love song," said John Hirtzel, who also worked on set construction. "I originally joined about two weeks after, but I didn't act and because she said, if you don't you're not going to see me for the next six weeks."

"But I really enjoy it. I do mostly character parts. The King is very self important but loves his son. When Marilyn says 'I love you,' the King replies, of course you do, I'm the King."

Playing the King is quite a departure from John's first role as the mean-looking Nazi soldier in the *Sound of Music*. Kathy Benton on the other hand is Cinderella's step mother. Benton, in real life, is the mother-in-law of Rebecca Benton who plays Cinderella.

"It's a risk going outside yourself but it's a good character role," said Kathy Benton who hadn't acted since she was a charter member of the thespian society at her high school in Farmington, Mo. "She's very demanding of Cinderella. She's a status seeker who would love for one of her daughters to marry the prince. It's good family fun. "The hardest part is I'm demanding of Cinderella and I

have this tendency to say thank-you when she brings me a foot stool. It's difficult becoming the character."

It may not be much of a challenge to become the character, when actors don their costumes and stand in front of the set painted by Caroline Dunphy, a Northville artist who was assisted by Ellen Niemist of Livonia. "The horses and coach are like magic they look so real," said Benton.

Bringing a story to life

"It's wonderful what she can do," added Kuykendall.

And it's amazing how a dedicated group of theater lovers can bring a fairy tale to life after only six weeks of rehearsal.

"Our congregation is very supportive of us; we wouldn't be able to do it otherwise," said Kuykendall. "We hold auditions but all are automatically included in the show in some way. It's been a wonderful way of recruiting for our church too. We've had people become members of the congregation."

"As far as *Cinderella*, it's a light show, not a long show. It's a fairy tale. It's just like opening your storybook and reading *Cinderella*. And like all fairy tales, they live happily ever after."

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

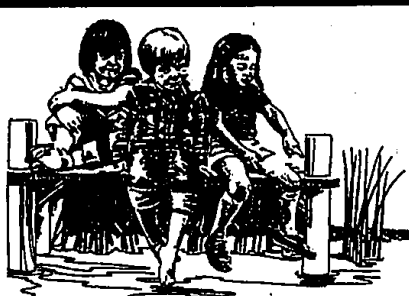
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