

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2001

## THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"Glitter," starring Mariah Carey (above), tells the story of a young girl who defies the odds to pursue her dreams of becoming a singer. The movie opens today.

SATURDAY



Bobby Collins (above), known for hilarious appearances on HBO and VH-1, performs two shows, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. tonight at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Tickets \$20, call (248) 542-9900.

SUNDAY



Cellist Truls Mork (above) performs with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra 3 p.m. today at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. Call (313) 576-5111 for more information.



Experience "3-D Mania - Encounter in the Third Dimension," featuring Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, at Henry Ford Museum's IMAX Theatre in Dearborn. Tickets \$8.50-\$10, call (313) 271-1570.

# TANGO

## Dance of love, passion



## Show brings Opera House audience to its feet

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Stafford@oe.homedcomm.net  
Training: Exposure to tango may result in urge to attend a milonga, Argentine for tango dance party.

In other words, if you're planning to see the Argentine dance musical, *Tango Passion*, slated for Sept. 20-23 at the Detroit Opera House, it's time to dust off your dancing shoes.

And since organizers at the opera house and members of Argentine Tango Detroit will host a milonga fol-

lowing each evening performance, you may want to bring your dance shoes to the show.

Accompanied by one of the best tango orchestras in the world, the musical traces the evolution of the dance from its beginnings in the late 1800s in Buenos Aires where it emerged in the city's brothels and gradually made its way into middle-class saloons at the turn of the century.

Today, Argentine tango — which differs from but is the basis of tango performed by ballroom dancers and competitors — flourishes as a social activity in cities across the world.

"In Detroit, it's very slow in coming," says Southfield native Lori Burton, founder of Argentine Tango Detroit in Utica where milongas occur every Wednesday and Friday nights and there is a regular schedule of tango classes for students of all levels.

"It's been growing in popularity since the 1980s," says Burton, due in part to productions like *Tango, Argentina, Forever*, *Tango*, and *Tango Passion*.

Burton originally taught and competed in ballroom dance. In 1993, she took up and fell in love with Argentine tango.

"I left everything else behind because the tango drew me in." Though Burton once

computed in the form, she only teaches and promotes non-competitive, social tango today. To truly appreciate Argentine tango is to understand the dance not through its steps but its spirit, she says.

"To me, tango is a way of connecting with people through movement. It's a way of expressing yourself," says Burton, who tells couples in her classes to think of themselves as one body with four legs.

After all, tango is a dance of love, seduction and sensuality.

"It's like sex," jokes Troy resident Kathy Seymour, who along with husband Joel, attends milongas and takes classes at Burton's studio. "You breathe each other's breath, you have the same pulse, but in a very quiet, silent kind of way."

In other words, that old adage — it takes two to tango — is a bit misleading. At the heart of the Argentine dance form is the conviction two bodies were meant to be one.

**What:** *Tango Passion*, an Argentine dance musical featuring the Sexteto Mayor Orchestra

**When:** 8 p.m., Sept. 20-22 and 2 p.m. Sept. 23

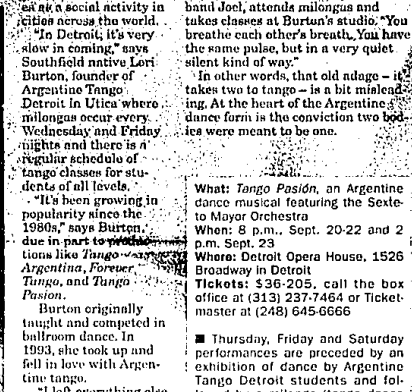
**Where:** Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway in Detroit

**Tickets:** \$36-205, call the box office at (313) 237-7464 or Ticketmaster at (248) 645-6666

**■ Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are preceded by an exhibition of dance by Argentine Tango Detroit students and followed by a milonga (tango dance party). Milonga tickets are \$15 per person.**



**Passionate Dances:** Two become one as Argentine Tango dancers move in sync.



### Tango lessons

■ Argentine Tango Detroit, 7758 Auburn Road in Utica, (810) 254-0560: Beginner tango, 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday followed by milonga (open dancing) from 9-11:30 p.m.; Argentine tango basics, 11 a.m. Tuesday; classes for all levels available throughout the week

■ Argentine Tango Club of Detroit (of Dearborn Heights), (313) 251-3236: group classes, 8 p.m. Monday at La Casanova, 5658 West Fort St. in Detroit; 8 p.m. Tuesday at DanceSport Academy of Michigan, 23666 Park in Dearborn; 7 p.m. Thursday at Pittsfield Grange, 3338 Ann Arbor-Saline Road in Ann Arbor; and 8 p.m. Friday at Farmington YMCA, Farmington Road, just north of 12 Mile Road.



**At the Opera House:** The tango was born in the brothels of Buenos Aires and became a socially acceptable as ballroom dance at the turn of the century.

## Ann-Margret in starring role at Fisher

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

skowalski@oe.homedcomm.net

Ann-Margret plays the madam in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, but looking as good as she is at age 60, one might think she's cast as one of the Chicken Ranch's sexy young recruits.

The still-sultry veteran of 62 films who has been nominated twice for the Academy Award and six times for an Emmy, makes her theatrical debut as Miss Mona in the Broadway musical-comedy that runs from Sept. 18-Oct. 7 at Fisher Theatre in Detroit.

According to Peter Masterson, co-writer of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, the ageless wonder's role in the script is long overdue.

"I wanted Ann-Margret to do *Whorehouse* since

1983," he said. "That's how long I've been thinking about her playing Miss Mona."

This is Ann-Margret's first time back to Detroit since the early 1990s when she appeared in concert at the Fisher Theatre.

The concert coincided with a snow storm, which extended her stay and brought back memories of her childhood in the Chicago area where she moved with her family from their native Sweden.

"I loved it," said Ann-Margret, who lives in Los Angeles. "We don't see much snow."

Ann-Margret, a five-time Golden Globe award winner who three times was named "Female Star of the Year" by the United Motion Pictures Association, enjoys playing Miss Mona — who is considered classy as madams go.

When a prurient television reporter discovers the Chicken Ranch and demands its closing, the state's hypocritical politicians (and frequent

Please see TEXAS, B2



**The Stage:** Ann-Margret in a publicity photo for *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, now playing at The Fisher.

## Community theater

# Trinity House Theatre opens 2001 season

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
SPECIAL WRITER

Nestled within a collection of trees and an office building, the red-painted Trinity House Theatre isn't easily noticeable while driving down Six Mile Road.

Its unassuming facade and nature of its shows lends to the theater board's nickname for its venue — "the best kept secret in Livonia."

"It's easy to drive by and not know we're there," said Kathy Kitzmann, president of the Trinity House Theatre board of directors.

"For years, even before the freeway was there, Six Mile and Haggerty roads was the country. Not anymore. It's certainly in a prime area and it's easy to get to now."

But, she admitted, it's discouraging that few folks are familiar with the theater, which specializes in offering Christian music and theater performances. But it is sticking to its mission to provide "brave, truthful, neces-

### Trinity House Theatre 2001 schedule

**Around the House:** a multi-media variety show celebrating the arts begins 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 21-22. Tickets \$8-\$10.

**Denton Wiltner** performs 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23. Tickets \$7

**Jack Henderson** performs Friday, Sept. 28. Tickets \$10

**Matt Watroba** and **Robert Jones** perform Saturday, Sept. 29. Tickets \$12

**Monk** performs Saturday, Oct. 6. Tickets \$10

**Evening of One Acts** begins Friday Oct. 19 and runs through Sunday, Nov. 11. Showtimes 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. Call for prices.

**The Lost Dogs** perform 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. Tickets \$18

**Claire Holley** performs 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. Tickets \$10

**Chris Williams** performs 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17. Tickets \$10

**Miranda Stone** performs 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24. Tickets \$8

**Jason Dennis** with **David Mosher** on 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30. Tickets \$10

**Ticklepenny Corner** with **Bekki Hemingway** perform 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. Tickets \$10

The theater is located at 38840 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

For more information, call (734) 464-6302.

sary works of art."

"We want artists who are artistically excellent. There's also a real passion for artists that explore, through their music, issues of faith," said Bill Keith, who has served on Trinity House's

board of directors for two years.

"We somewhat stay away from the typical contemporary Christian music artists. There's not a lot of interest in doing that. We're more interested in artists where the faith aspect weaves

through their music as an undercurrent, but not a dogmatic thing."

Trinity House is celebrating those beliefs during its 21st season, which began Sept. 7. Local favorites Matt Watroba and Robert Jones, as well as an "Evening of One Acts" and "Around the House," a two-day multi-media variety show are among the events on the unusually busy Trinity schedule. Like last season, Trinity House's board decided to concentrate more on music than theater.

The centerpiece of this year's schedule, however, isn't musical, according to Keith. It's "An Evening of One Acts," featuring *Babel's in Arms* and *Time Flies*, by David Ives, and *The Picketers* by Jeffrey Adams. It runs Oct. 19 through Nov. 11.

"The board looks at wherever there's a passion at a particular moment. We tried out a few concerts a couple years ago and had some pretty good success. There's been a snowballing process

Please See TRINITY, B2