

## THE WEEKEND

### MUSIC



**Christmas Around The House** features drama, spoken word, storytelling and music by Delta 88 (pictured), Katie Geddes, Trip the Light Fantastic and more, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, Trinity House Theatre, Livonia. Tickets \$8-\$10, call (734) 464-6302.



**Tis the season for holiday performances, including a broad-cast-style reading of It's a Wonderful Life, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9 at Second City Theatre, Detroit. Tickets \$8-\$12, call (248) 645-6666.**

## 'Stuart Little' star shines brightly

BY LAURIE HUMPHREY  
SPECIAL WRITER

On the tail end of a 6-week run, Heather Poppof has celebrated several firsts in her role as Stuart Little in the Paper Bag Productions performance.

Poppof, of Canton Township, leads cast members in a 90-minute production about a mouse taken in by a human family. Weekly performances began Sunday, Nov. 4.

This is her first run as lead performer. Perhaps more memorable, however, is the fact that Poppof's debut coincided with her 10th birthday.

"Her whole family was in the audience," said Christine Poppof, Heather's mom.

Despite 21 sets of familiar eyes, the younger Poppof insists she was not nervous when she took the stage that first Sunday last month. She focuses on the character rather than the faces in the audience.

"She told me I'm not up there to impress the people, I'm up there to play the character," said Christine, who admits her daughter has more self-confidence than most girls her age.

Poppof's performing career began at age 2 in the form of dance. She started with tap and ballet, but has since added to her repertoire.

"I also do Cecchetti (an advanced form of ballet) jazz and Pointe (a form of ballet where they spend most of their time on the toes of the ballet slippers)," she said.

Aside from her dance schedule and acting, she plays on the Canton Select soccer team, oversees school activities as Bentley Elementary's school president, and sings in her church choir. In addition, she maintains a high academic standard.

"I know homework comes first,"



Heather Poppof

she responded when asked how she keeps her grades up.

Standing a mere 4-foot, 1-inch (the fifth grader is much smaller than the rest of the Sunday performers), it is important to note that Saturday performances of *Stuart Little* involve a different cast. Yet she insists she is not intimidated by her taller and older cast mates.

"They have been nice to me," she said.

When asked what has been the most challenging part of this performance, she did not say remembering 86 pages worth of lines or singing eight of the nine songs in the show. Instead, she pointed to the props.

"Remembering which ones to bring out at the right time," she answered.

Considering Poppof's young age, it is not unreasonable that she does not yet know where she will attend college, but she is certain about a career path. She wants to sing and dance. She is already working on her next role.

"I was asked to play the Grinch



**Singing and dancing:** All dressed up as *Stuart Little*, Canton Township's Heather Poppof took the title role at the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford last month, for her most challenging performance yet. Just 10 years old, she's off to a promising start in theater.

in *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*," she said. "We started practicing (two) weeks ago."

*Stuart Little* is in final performances at the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford, 15138 Beech Daly, across the street from Redford

Township Hall. Admission is \$8.50, but includes a paper bag lunch served by the performers. Showtimes are 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. Lunch begins one hour prior to show time on both days. Call (810) 847-7774 for more information or to make reservations.

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