

THE WEEKEND

DANCE



Rennie Harris brings his energetic hip-hop ballet, *Rome and Jewels*, to the University Musical Society on Friday and Saturday. Shows are at 8 p.m., at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$36, \$34, \$24 and \$18, from the UMS ticket office, (734) 764-2538.

STAGE



The Dearborn Youth and Dearborn Family Theatre present *Peter Pan* at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, located at Michigan Avenue and Greenfield, Dearborn. Tickets are \$13 and \$15, available by calling the box office at (313) 943-2354.

MUSIC



Zydeco master C.J. Chenier and his Red Hot Louisiana Band heat up the *Magic Bag*, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale. Doors open at 8 p.m., Sunday. Admission is \$15. (248) 544-1991.

TICKET



In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Smithsonian exhibit of visual arts dedicated to the celebrated civil rights leader, opens Sunday and runs through July at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, age 5-17. (313) 494-5800.

20 years of COLD CARVED

Carvers turn ice into award-winning sculptures



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DASILEX

Fantasy in ice: Dan Rowlson uses a chisel to capture the magic of the Harry Potter character.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Ice that glistens like diamonds on Dan Rowlson's black knit cap as he carves a sculpture of Harry Potter behind the J Building at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. The work is one of hundreds on display at the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 16-21, so after it's completed he uses a dolly to wheel it into a large freezer in the culinary department on campus.

It's no wonder Rowlson's come a long way with his carving skills since the first ice festival in Plymouth 20 years ago. He's spent the last 22 years honing chisel and grinder techniques as a chef instructor at OCC. He and his students will decide whether to carve a multi-block sculpture featuring characters from Harry Potter or Monsters, Inc. in Kellogg Park next week.

"We did Smurfs that first year, that's how long ago it was. The Smurfs were popular," said Rowlson, a registered dietitian. He teaches culinary arts and nutrition at OCC. "Multi-block is a couple of any process. You first have to stack the blocks and then freeze them together with water overnight. It's a lot like a construction project but it's worth it all the work. I like seeing the children's reactions. They enjoy it."

Rowlson's seen a lot of changes in ice carving since the Plymouth festival began, most of them for the better. Gone are the gas chainsaws. Electric 12-inch Makitas have found favor with the carvers because they're lighter in weight. Crystal chisels now allows carvers to create sculptures they couldn't have 20 years ago when feathering inside the blocks left the ice opaque. In fact, the only element of ice carving Rowlson isn't happy about today is the loss of his partner. OCC chef

instructor James Stawara won't be helping with the carvings for the first time in 19 years. The Livonia resident was killed in an auto accident so Rowlson will supervise students by himself.

"When I began carving there weren't any classes. I learned by doing it," said Rowlson who was a pastry chef at Franklin Hills Country Club for nine years. "Now saws and chippers, everything's electric. It's part of the chef profession. It's very decorative and helps to keep foods cold on a buffet until it's started."

It seems Rowlson likes talking about carving almost as much as creating art from ice.

"It's very artistic and time consuming," said Rowlson, a Farmington Hills resident. "You're working against the clock. It's an interesting medium because there's no color so you try to use texture and detail. You make things bigger like Harry's broomstick. There's a lot of exaggeration in it."

OCC students, in addition to carving ice for display, will compete in team and individual categories. Richard Teeple, executive chef instructor at Henry Ford Community College, is directing the educational activities including the competitions between students from Schoolcraft College, HFCC, OCC, and high schools in the Wayne-Westland, Livonia, Romulus and Pontiac districts.

"We're helping the carvers to develop the art of



Up close: Specks of ice fly from a die grinder as Dan Rowlson refines the broomstick on which Harry Potter is riding.

ice carving," said Teeple who's been involved with the Plymouth ice festival since the beginning. "After 20 years I've seen so much development and growth."

With the students, if I see something that will cause the piece to fall I make suggestions. The object is to make them feel good about their piece when it's finished. If their piece crashes and burns, they'll still continue to go on and be successful and have a job skill that's very marketable."

Tajana Raukar's found ice carving so profitable

Please see ICE, A2

Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular

What: A free winter festival featuring ice carving competitions and displays of sculpture
When: Open 24 hours daily Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 16-21. Competitions take place Friday-Sunday, Jan. 18-20
Where: Kellogg Park, The Gathering and Central Parking Structure in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 459-9157 or visit the Web site at www.wattsupinc.com/



Early years: Ice carving has evolved since the Plymouth festival's early years when sculptures tended to be less defined and bulky. Pictured here is a work by Oakland Community College students from 1984.

DANCE

Producer spotlights Tchaikovsky's classic swan tale



Swan Lake: Alexandra Siutsova of the Grigoriovich Ballet dances in Tchaikovsky's classic.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Andrew Grossman knew the minute he watched Odette glide across the Bolshoi Theater stage 12 years ago in Moscow, that one day he would bring The Grigoriovich Ballet production of *Swan Lake* to the U.S.

Grossman knows talent when he sees it. For the last 15 years he's produced performing arts tours around the country.

On Sunday, Jan. 13, he introduces Yuri Grigoriovich's dance company to Detroit area audiences with two per-

Swan Lake

What: The Grigoriovich Ballet presents *Swan Lake*
When: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13
Where: Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit
Tickets: \$27.50, \$37.50 and \$45.
Call (248) 433-1515

formances of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. Grigoriovich was artistic director and chief choreographer of the Bolshoi Ballet from 1984 to 1994. He formed The Grigoriovich Ballet in 1990.

Dancers are graduates of Leningrad, Kiev, Perm and Novosibirsk ballet schools, and the Moscow Choreography School.

"Yuri Grigoriovich is the greatest living ballet master," said Grossman from his offices at Columbia Artists Management in New York City. "He just turned 76 and still travels with the company, attending to every detail. I wanted to bring his ballet here while he was living and for it to be as exciting for the audience as if they were sitting in the theater of the

Please see SWAN, B2