

THEATRE

FROM PAGE B1

ST. DUNSTAN'S THEATRE GUILD OF CRANBROOK

Director Jamie Richards bills The Rocky Horror Show as "a big, fun, campy, rock musical, a takeoff on a bad sci-fi movie or one of the screen queen movies with a sick twisted edge." The production opens the season for St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook Oct. 11.

Richard O'Brien's book centers around a typical 1950s couple who are about to marry when they get a flat tire and end up in castle inhabited by the transvestite Frank 'N' Furter and his two servants. In the end Brad (played by Scott Macdonald of Berkeley) and Janet (Nicki Stacey) find out they're all aliens from the planet of Transylvania.

"When it was in London in the mid 1970s it was a hit," said Richards of Birmingham. "They brought it to Broadway and it flopped and then they made a movie and it flopped. They re-released it at a mid-night show and people started coming, dressing up, throwing things like rice during the wedding and it became a cult hit. It was revived on Broadway for the 25th anniversary and it was a big hit when they added throwing things like in the movie. It brought theater and movies together in a way that hasn't been done before."

While Richards invites the audience to join in on the fun by throwing confetti or toilet paper (don't throw the entire roll for safety's sake), there will be no food, rice or toast allowed in the theater. For notices who've never experienced Rocky Horror before a \$10 kit will be available at the door. "The challenge for me has been overcoming some of the worries the older members of St. Dunstan's have about the production. There are adult situations in the show," said Richards. "But overall there's been so much excitement and buzz in the community over doing this. Businesses have stepped up. Antonio Salon of Birmingham is sponsoring the show including an Oct. 30 per-

formance benefiting AIDS Partnership Michigan. "For me personally directing the show has been a sick kind of fun. The actors have done nothing like this. My job is releasing their inhibitions so they can put on corsets, fish net stockings, and high heels. The show definitely has a punk rock feel with the costumes and makeup."

FARMINGTON PLAYERS

The Solid Gold Cadillac, a comedy written in the 1950s, is very timely according to Cynthia Tupper who's co-producing the Farmington Players show with Paula Myers in their temporary theater at Barnes & Noble in West Bloomfield. On Jan. 25, the acting troupe celebrates the opening of their new barn theater on 12 Mile west of Orchard Lake Road.

The Farmington Players have planned a season of laughs to christen their move to the state-of-the-art theater. Even a fundraiser with Bob Sheets incorporates comedy into a series of magic tricks and things never change. "Ellen Akins agrees with Tupper that the play parallels the scandals plaguing corporations today. The West Bloomfield resident plays Laura Partridge, a 10-share stock holder trying to learn more about her investment. Akins has 25 years in theater to her credit.

"There's a lot of relevance to today," said Akins. "She's an actress and her horseplay tells her to look into her finances so she goes to a stock broker meeting and finds out how much the board of directors are making and starts asking questions. "She's really a great character. It's fun to see her handle the four board of directors who think they're snowing everybody. She's not the brightest but knows what questions to ask. It's good versus greed. We're playing it in the 50s but 50 years later things haven't change with big corporations. It's about the little guy making it right. It's good versus greed."

RIDGEDALE PLAYERS

Heaven Can Wait takes the theme of good and evil straight to heaven where boxer Joe Pendleton has arrived 50 years too early after a plane crash. That's when the antics begin in the Ridgedale Players production opening Friday, Oct. 4, in Troy.

Warren Beatty starred in the 1978 film filled with plotting lovers and a bungling assistant. "A messenger comes down and takes his soul out of his body and takes it to heaven," said director Kyle Hentkowski. "It's the messenger's first day on the job and he says he didn't want him to suffer but it's too late to put his soul back into his body and the search begins for another body. "What's comical is trying to convince someone you're that



St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook puts on The Rocky Horror Show, the campy, rock musical opening Oct. 11 in Bloomfield Hills.

Tupper. "We want to make people realize this has been going on for a long time and things never change. "Ellen Akins agrees with Tupper that the play parallels the scandals plaguing corporations today. The West Bloomfield resident plays Laura Partridge, a 10-share stock holder trying to learn more about her investment. Akins has 25 years in theater to her credit. "There's a lot of relevance to today," said Akins. "She's an actress and her horseplay tells her to look into her finances so she goes to a stock broker

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person in a different body and when you're a soul people don't see or hear you so things move on their own."

SRO PRODUCTIONS

It's a Scream blends horror and comedy in a play about a man who inherits his father's film studio. SRO Productions opens the show Friday, Oct. 4, in the 185+ church at Burgh Historical Park in Southfield.

Spencer thinks he knows how to produce movies better than his late father. He decides not to renew the contract of the studio's biggest star who sets out to demonstrate he still has what it takes to scare Spencer out of his wits. What happens next is thrilling.

STAGECRAFTERS

The Royal Oak troupe continues its main stage production of Pirates of Penzance through Sunday, Oct. 6 at the historic Baldwin Theater. It opens its 2nd Stage season with Stop Kiss on Saturday, Oct. 19. The poignant and funny play tells the story of Callie and Sara who meet and unexpectedly fall in love. Their first kiss provokes a violent attack in this drama about the ways lives can irrevocably change.

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ON STAGE

Farmington Players

The Solid Gold Cadillac 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26 and Thursday, Oct. 17 and 24, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, 13 and 20, at the theater inside Barnes and Noble on Orchard Lake Road, between 14 Mile and Maple, West Bloomfield, 513. \$6.50 senior citizens on Oct. 6 only. (248) 219-0900

Ridgedale Players

Heaven Can Wait Oct. 4-6, 11-13 and 18-20, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, at the theater, 205 West Long Lake, Troy, 512. \$16 seniors and students on Sundays. (248) 988-7049

St. Dunstan's Theatre Guild of Cranbrook

The Rocky Horror Show 8 p.m. Oct. 11-12, 17-19, 24-26, 31 and Nov. 1-2; dinner package available for Oct. 11 midnight show in addition to regular show on Oct. 26; benefit for AIDS Partnership Michigan, Oct. 30; Halloween performance, Oct. 31. \$16. 53 seniors/students. Rocky Horror Survival Kits, filled with props, available for \$10 at the theater, 400 Lane Pine Road, between Cranbrook and Lahar roads, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 644-6327 for tickets; (248) 593-3090 for Oct. 11 dinner package.

SRO Productions

It's a Scream 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 4-5, 12 and 18-19, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, 13 and 20, in the 185+ church located at Burgh Historical Park, Civic Center Drive and Berg Road, one block east of Telegraph, Southfield, 510. 58 students and seniors ages 50 and over. (248) 827-0700. For information, call (248) 827-0710

Stagecrafters

The theater wraps up its run of Pirates of Penzance this weekend with shows at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4-5 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. Tickets are \$14 and \$16. See Stop Kiss in the theater's 2nd Stage, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, Thursday-Friday, Oct. 24-25; 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20; 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27. Tickets are \$10. The Baldwin Theater is located at 415 South Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak. (248) 541-6430 for tickets. For information call (248) 541-6027

Village Players of Birmingham

Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical opens 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11. Show continues 10 Oct. 6, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 and 20, at the playhouse, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham, 515. (248) 644-2075

Advertisement for Evening Showcase Series at Melrotimes. Features 5 hot nights in Oakland County. Season tickets/club rates call 249-557-PLAY (7529). Shows include In The Mood (Oct 24, 2002), Vicki Lawrence (Nov 24, 2002), Jammin' w/Pops (Feb 8, 2003), Shanghai Circus (Feb 23, 2003), and Three Men & a Tenor (Apr 5, 2003). All shows are presented at The Millennium Centre, Southfield, located at 15600 J.L. Hudson Dr. Next to Providence Hospital. Free parking.

Advertisement for Georgian State Dance Company. Direct from Russia... The New York Times says "The Greatest Dance Company of Them All". Company of 90 with 18 musicians! Detroit Opera House. Saturday, October 26, 2002 8:00 pm. On Sale at the Opera House Box Office. Group Sales info 313.237.3409. Tickets available at all Ticketmaster ticket centers including Marshall Fields. Charge by phone 248.645.6666. ticketmaster.com

Advertisement for Youth Theatre Millennium Centre 2002-2003 Season Opener! October 12 & 13, 2002. Alice in Wonderland. Shows: Sat, Oct. 12: 11:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.; Sun, Oct. 13: 2:00 p.m. only. Tickets \$10 each. Join us for the Mad Hatters Tea Party! One the characters from "Alice in Wonderland." The party will feature food, games, riddles and a silent auction. Saturday, October 12th, 2:00-2:30 p.m. Kids—\$8 each Adults—\$11 each. Price does not include cost of performance ticket. Coming soon: November 2 & 3, 2002 Sheila the Great; November 9 & 10, 2002 Charlotte's Web; December 15, 2002 Only! The Christmas That Almost Wasn't.