CHRISTMAS

FROM PAGE BI

"With 100 cast and crew members, it's crazy back there, but you meet a lot of interest-ing people, 'said Fiandt. The amazing part is how much passion everyone has for the show." Merric Parr lad so much fun skating in the show in 1999 abe contacted the producer to come back this year. The Bloomfield Hills resident not only skates with partner

not only skates with partner Scott Corbin in the New York City scene but is the "stunt Mary" who rides the donkey in for the living Nativity. Parr and Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx arena in



The thing about a donkey is when they don't want to go, they don't want to go. You have to pull really hard."

Producer Brian Kauffman shares his excitement for behind the scenes. Here the technical crew rehearses the part where Santa arrives in New York. animals were calm and well-behaved, one of the camels nibbled on a reporter's note-book and rail no cat while Lincoln, the Sicilian donkey looked on. "Keeping him in line can be difficult sometimes," said Trimmell who was holding onto

City scene but is the "stund Many" who rides the doubtey in for the living Nativity. Par and Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practicing for the nationals at Onyx scene in Corbin are practically a capacity of the Corbin and Corbin are practically a capacity of the New York City department store from twould son be replaced by 20 Rockets in sparkling red Santa suits.

"Unlike as touring production, whose challenges like housing and transportation becausing and transportation b

Der Fliegende Hollsender, opera in three acts by Richard Wagner (Tablec Classies, S33.98) by soprano Jane Paglen, bartione Falls Strucknann, with Daniel Barenboim conducting the Stataksapelle Berlin.
Does the world really need another recording of Wagner's first mature work, Der Fliegende Hollsender, a retelling of the legend of the Dutchman who must sail the seas for eternity unless he

sail the seas for eternity unless he finds a woman faithful unto

finds a woman faithful unto death?

The answer in this case may depend on your devotion to Daniel Barenhoim, who has issued his second complete Wagner recording in less than a year — with two of the same singers in leading roles.

Jane Eaglen, the English soprano renowned for her Bruenshilde and Isolde, is heard here as Sents, the Norwegian maiden obsessed with the Dutchman's story, She acquits herself admirably — though Barenhoim's decision to restore Sentia Ballad to its original key of A minor does expose her tendency to thin out on very high notes.

But while it's nice to hear her as Senta and as Elisabeth on Barenboim's recent Tannhaeuser,

AUDIO BITES

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a record of her two signature roles
would be more to the point.

Then Peter Seiffert, who took the tilde role in the Tanahaeuser
album, returns here in the smaller
part of Erik, Sentá sjilde aluilor,
and sounds uncomfortable.

Baritone Falk Struckmann is
an impressive Dutchman, darktoned and soild, while bass
Robert Holl is warm and hearty as
Senta's father, Daland. In the
small role of the Steersman, tenor
Rolando Villacon reveals a rich
voice of uncommon delicacy.

Barenboim's interpretation is
fast-paced and musecular, in keeping with the full-speed-shead
nature of Wagner's score. But the
doesn't slight the introspective passages like the Dutchman's soiloquy or his Act 2 duet with Senta.

- Mike Silverman, AP Writer

The Best of 1990-2000 (Island,

\$24.98) by U2
Two years after U2 roared back to life with All That You Can't

Leave Behind, they've gone and reminded us just how little rele-vant music they produced during

reminded us just how little retevant must they produced during the 1950s.

As with the band's first best-of collection released in 1998 (covering 1980-90), this two-disc set, The Best of 1990-2000, is heavy with overplayed this (A) sterious Ways, Beautiful Day). But there aren't many of the obscure nuggets that made the earlier compilation such a pleasure. The old disc had inspired covers such as the Righteous Brothers' Unchlande Heighteous Brothers' Unchlande Good Heighteous Heighteous Brothers' Unchlande Good Heighteous Heighteous Brothers' Unchlande Good Heighteous Heig

some More Dignity Nit vessily necessary?
But The Hands That Built
America, the theme from Martin
Soorsee's upcoming film, Gangs
of New York, is absolute drivel.

- Landon Hall, AP Writer

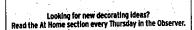
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