

Arts & Entertainment

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Hot tickets

One-man show

You've seen Jeff Daniels act in major movies; now hear him sing in *Onstage & Unplugged*, a limited engagement one-man show from Friday, Dec. 27, to Saturday,



Jan. 4, at The Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park, Chelsea. Daniels will take to the stage with his acoustic guitar and a repertoire of humorous and touching songs. Tickets range from \$45 to \$60. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Thursday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. (734) 433-8052.

On the big screen

Simba is back in the Disney animated film, *The Lion King*, which has been re-formatted for the IMAX screen. See it through Feb. 4 at the IMAX theater at Henry Ford



Museum, Dearborn. Tickets are \$10.50 for adults and \$6.50 for senior citizens and children, age 12 and under. Show times are 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (313) 271-1570.

Get outdoors

Learn about those black and white dynamic hawk stop at your winter bird feeder—chickadees—at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester. Pre-registration is required. (586) 761-4621.

Visit the Ice Age

Explore the mystery of climate change from 1-4 p.m. Thursday through Monday, Dec. 26-30, at Cranbrook Institute of Science, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. The Institute's Ice Ages program includes a lecture at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. daily about the glacial extinction of large animals. Visitors may touch mastodon teeth and bones, experiment with flowing glacier models and make ice cave art. Ice Ages is free with museum admission: \$7 adults; \$5 children, 12 and over; children under 2 admitted free.

Super Start

Arts community starts the new year with a bang

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The first few months of the new year traditionally is a time when the pace of arts and entertainment events slows and everyone catches his breath before spring, 2003 is going to be different not only on the regional level but in Observer & Eccentric communities. Blockbuster exhibitions at the Detroit Institute of Arts and New Detroit Science Center, a gala opening of the Farmington Players new barn theater, and the Shaw Festival coming to Meadow Brook Theatre promises an exciting time for all.

Theater not to your taste? How about the outdoor activity of ice carving? A new Detroit Symphony commission based on the DLA's Diego Rivera murals, classical music concerts, and jazz festivals later in the year should put everyone in the swing, so pull out your new calendar and start marking the dates.

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

For the first time, the Shaw Festival travels from its home at Niagara-on-the-Lake to present *Candida* at Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. One of the largest repertory companies in North America, the Canadian-based festival focuses on plays by one of England's most prolific playwrights George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) and his contemporaries. The show opens with previews Wednesday, Jan. 8, and continues to Sunday, Feb. 2. For tickets and information, call (248) 377-3300.

"This is the first time we've presented another theatre company on our stage in our entire 36-year history, so why not one of the most renowned companies in North America," said managing director Gregg Bloomfield of Birmingham. "I can't wait to share all this artistry. It's an opportunity to see what Shaw does in their home theater in Niagara-on-the-Lake. People in this area are much less familiar with Shaw than Stratford, another renowned theater festival in Ontario."

Set in Victorian times and using comedy to tackle heavy subject matter, *Candida* tells the story of a marriage that's challenged when a young poet enters the scene. As part of Meadow Brook Theatre and the Shaw Festival's commitment to education, related lectures, post-show Sunday matinee conversations, and films accompany the nearly five-week residency by the theater and its artistic director, Jackie Maxwell. Activities are free and open to the public. The first features a panel discussion with Maxwell and Oakland University English professor Brian Murphy noon to 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, in Vandenberg Hall's Honors College Lounge. The Shaw Film Festival runs 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 (*The Devil's Disciple*), Jan. 22 (*Cesare and Cleopatra*), and Jan. 29 (*Najjar Barbara*).

PLYMOUTH INTERNATIONAL ICE SCULPTURE SPECTACULAR

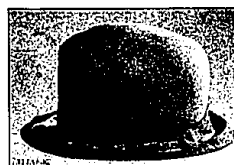
If outdoor events are more to your liking, bundle up and head over to one of the oldest and largest ice carving competitions in America. The Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular takes over the downtown streets Wednesday-Monday, Jan. 16-20. Watch as dozens of professional and student carvers create hundreds of figurative and abstract works. For the 21st anniversary, a Farmer Jack Fantasyland treats children as well as adults to frozen images of the cinema in *The Gathering on Penniman*. For more information, call (734) 459-9157 or visit the Web site at www.wattsupinc.com.

Can't sit around and wait till the middle of the month to brave the snow and cold of a Michigan winter? Then you won't want to miss world-champion carver Ted Wakar from Canton strut his



Eleanora of Toledo and Her Son is one of the works in "Magnificenza: The Medici, Michelangelo and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence" coming to the Detroit Institute of Arts March 16. Agnolo Bronzino painted the portrait around 1545.

stuff with a chain saw and chisels 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, as part of the 20th anniversary celebration at the Hands-on Museum in Ann Arbor. Rather not watch from the sidelines? Then dig right in and try your hand at carving a block of ice in a workshop at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Learn how to create ice sculptures like the professionals with Chef Richard Teeple, director of the ice carving program at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. The cost for the 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, sessions is \$35 arts council members, \$40 non-members. All tools provided. Call (734) 416-4278 by Jan. 17.



This felt bowler hat is one of more than 250 artifacts in an exhibition opening Feb. 8 at the new Detroit Science Center.

THEATER OPENING GALA

Join the Farmington Players in celebrating the opening of their new Barn Theater, a building project that cost the nonprofit group \$1.8 million and hundreds of volunteer hours.

The Saturday, Jan. 26, gala includes a silent auction (they still need money to pay for the parking lot and landscape), hors d'oeuvres, the first performance in the barn theater of Noel Coward's comedy *Present Laughter*, and an afterglow reception at the theater, 32332 W. 12 Mile, west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$100. Call (248) 219-0800.

Housed for more than 40 years in a converted dairy barn on the same site, the new theater, in addition to offering a season of plays, will house community programming in its multi-purpose cultural and education center. The possi-

bilities (including starting a youth theater) are endless.

"I've been five years, so it's a thrill," said Cynthia Tupper, who's chairing the event. "Every time I step into the building, it goes beyond our expectations. We recently retrieved the seats from the George Burns Theater (in Livonia), which is going to be demolished in January. The donation is a Christmas gift to the Players because we basically had run out of money. We're still looking for sponsorship."

NEW DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

On a more somber note, the New Detroit Science Center gives pause for thought when it opens an exhibit of more than 250 artifacts from the wreckage of the Titanic Saturday, Feb. 8, at 5020 John R in the University Cultural Center. For more information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit the Web site at www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

The Titanic sank 663 miles northeast of New York in April 1912.

"There's everything from small perfume vials and money to a door from D Deck that's believed to have been an escape route," said Kelly Fulford, director of marketing and PR. "We'll have a new planetarium show, *Night of the Titanic*, that shows the stars as they were that night and how they contributed to the disaster."

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Dozens of classical concerts, too many to mention, offer world premieres, themed concerts and young talent. Watch this section and the Going Places calendar for dates and locations. Here are a few of the highlights.

Mezzo-soprano Irina Mishura gives a recital of favorite Russian songs and operatic arias Feb. 26 as part of the Pro Musica Society of Detroit Series in the Recital Hall at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Mishura began her career here when she emigrated from Russia several years ago. Now she performs regularly with the Metropolitan Opera of New York and Michigan Opera Theater. For tickets (\$65), call the DIA Box Office at

PLEASE SEE NEW YEAR, B7

Take a Washington Insiders art tour with the BBAC

Mahatma Ghandi once wrote "Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live forever."

These words have inspired me to incorporate the twin goals of living and learning into my daily life and into the art history lectures and tours that I have given over the years at Princeton University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and currently at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

Thinking about an upcoming BBAC lecture series and tour entitled "Washington Insider" brought back my fondest memory of sitting on a rooftop terrace of the Hotel Washington in D.C. at sunset. The experience stands out for two reasons.

First, the panoramic view of the city, which includes the White House, Treasury Building and the National Mall, is spectacular, particularly at night.

Second, the spot is the ultimate insider's hang-out. After all, the Hotel Washington has hosted countless national and international dignitaries since it opened its doors in 1918.

The tour and lecture series will offer a variety of new perspectives on D.C.'s oldest and newest cultural attractions. The concept originated in my long-standing interest in women and the arts, a theme which I first explored in a BBAC

PLEASE SEE BBAC, B6



Edgar Degas' wax sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* is one of the works on the Washington Insiders Tour in May. The bronze is currently on display in Degas and Dance at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Degas incorporated hair, ribbon, a linen bodice, satin shoes, and a muslin tutu in the original yellow wax sculpture.

WASHINGTON INSIDER TOUR

What: The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center presents a Washington, D.C., tour guided by Princeton-educated art historian Deborah Kawsky

When: Friday-Sunday, May 2-4

Details: \$675/person, includes roundtrip airfare on Northwest, all museum entrances and guided tours by Kawsky and other art experts, Friday and Saturday nights (double occupancy) at the historic Hotel Washington, buffet breakfast each day, lunch at Hillwood House Café, minibar transportation on Friday and two-day Metropark for public transportation to all tour sites on Saturday and Sunday. For more information on the tour and lecture series Thursday nights in March, call the BBAC at (248) 644-0866, Ext. 106.

Ballet Shoes or Wing Tips?



Makes no difference as long as you take time to put your feet up, get comfortable and spend some time with us.