

## 'Cowgirls' stomp at Baldwin

Classic trio goes country in new comic musical

Classical and country music intermingle in a Kansas honky-tonk music hall in *Cowgirls* opening Friday at Stagecrafters' 2nd Stage in Royal Oak.

As the show opens, the Coghill Trio, pregnant pianist Rita, a "new age" lesbian violinist Lee, and upright violinist Mary Lou, are practicing Beethoven in Hiram Hall, a rickety saloon in Rexford, Kansas home of the world's largest ball of twine. The trio soon learns that the bar's salty owner, Jo who is not very good at discerning accents, thought she booked the Coghill Trio.

Desperate for a gig, the ladies insist they can rise to the occasion. Equally desperate is Jo who needs a hit act for the make-it-or-break-it grand re-opening of her cash-strapped bar. With only 24 hours to go, Jo, with a little help from barmmaids Mickey and Mo, set out to transform the Coghill Trio into the Cowgirl Trio.

*Cowgirl Trio* is a success as the three women trade their piano and violin for a mandolin, guitar and fiddle and cut loose with their newly-honed honky-tonk stylings. Suddenly classical and country music don't seem so apart.

All six cast members play multiple on stage. They play piano, violins, guitars, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, tambourine, autoharp, harmonica and a couple of surprise country instruments.

"These actors are musicians too and some are learning to play instruments for the show that they never played previously," said Dolly Scheibelhut who is directing the production. "The two violin players are both learning the banjo and ukulele."

Scheibelhut describes the show as a truly entertaining musical comedy experience. It's based on the book by Betsy Howie with music and lyrics by Mary Murrill. David Meinhart of Beverly Hills choreographed the show. Lorie Janick of West Bloomfield is the producer and Karie Silecock of Troy, assistant producer.

Suzanne Tutak of Birmingham mans the lights, and Mark Hammel of Lathrup

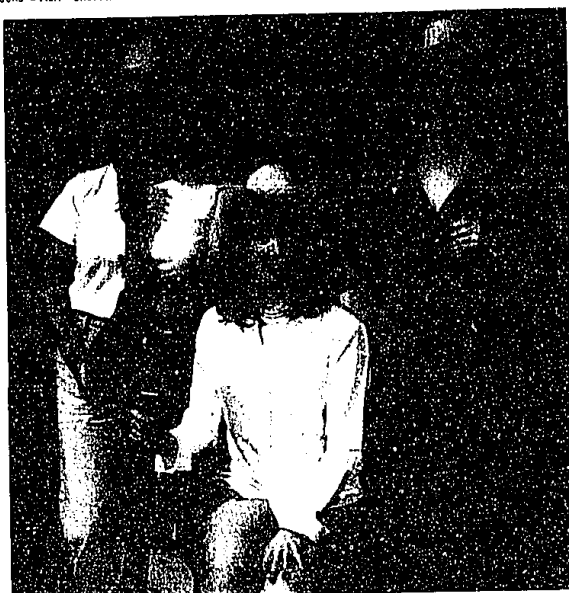
### 'COWGIRLS'

When: April 25 to May 11. Performances 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 25-26, 7 p.m. Sunday, April 27 and May 4; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, May 1-3, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 9-10, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 11. Where: Stagecrafters 2nd Stage at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lalayette, Royal Oak. Tickets: \$10, call (248) 541-6430

Village did the sound design. Tom Daniel is master carpenter and John Kosik, did the light design. Both live in Southfield.

The cast includes Kim Renfrew Gebbie of Rochester Hills as Jo.

Stagecrafters' 2nd Stage is an intimate 100-seat theater carved out of the balcony of the Baldwin Theatre. The group uses the space to mount a season of three productions, usually with a bend toward contemporary American works, in addition to their regular season performed in the Baldwin Theatre.



Lisa Kimmel (left to right), Susan Parce, and Lia Ann Smith are featured in Stagecrafters' 2nd Stage production of 'Cowgirls'.

### WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If where a product is sold or where it is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

### WHAT WE FOUND

- Correction - Family Buggy restaurant does not sell Maurice salad dressing they make their make their own called Marty's.  
- The Transfer Zone in Oak Park transfers Bamm film into DVD or videocassettes. They do not sell the machines to purchase.

- For the Halo way sucker (or Stou-Pond) order through the Vermont Country Store catalog (802) 362-8470. Item #183D-PDK two one pound bags for \$9.90.  
- The following stores sell: Lemonhead candies, the Marathon service station at Ann Arbor Trail & Merriman; the Bark Food Warehouse on Oak Drive and Michigan Avenue; Amoco on Maple and Telegraph and Stiglich's on Merriman and Cherry Hill.  
- For a light with an attached magnifying try Needle Arts on Monroe in Dearborn (313) 278-6266 or on the Internet at www.needlearts.com.  
- Blaise's pies are sold at Maria's Deli & Bakery on Hoagerty & Cherry Hill and Nino Salvaggio on Rochester Road in Troy.

### FIND AND SHARE

- An organization or company who can donate poly-fill to make Sojourn Bears.

Made to distribute to cancer survivors or cancer patients. Contact on the Internet at jlwjg@ameritech.net.  
- Redford Township Historical and Genealogy Society are looking for doll and adult size mannequins. Call (313) 937-0300.

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- A store that sells one-quarter size glass thermos filter for Mary.  
- A store in the Farmington area that sells Simply Soda for Janice of Farmington Hills.  
- A store that sells a flag lapel pin was sold at the Halfmark store at Laurel Park. There are a couple of versions with a Navy Seal in blue; Marine Corps seal in red. Army seal in green.  
- The size over an inch high and inch wide, seal is approximately 1/2-inch in diameter for Robert of Canton.  
- Someone to knit or crochet an outfit for an 8-inch Weipole doll for Carmen of Livonia.  
- A store that sells BVD T-shirts

- A store or company that buys used computers and monitors for Joyce.  
- A person who makes teddy bears from old chenille bedspreads for Pat of Troy.  
- A store that sells Enchanted Apple hand & body cream (formerly sold by Victoria's Secret) for Donna.  
- A store that sells no fat Henri's Tattlee salad dressing for Jeanne of Bloomfield (Meijer's used to sell it).  
- A store that sells a plastic and canvas shoe holder (holds 30 pairs of shoes) the top fits over a door and it has Velcro on the bottom to hold to a door for Cindy of Canton.  
- A store that sells Secret unscented antiperspirant roll-on for Kathy.  
- A business that buys used opera 12-inch vinyl records for John.  
- A store that a used flat duck boat for fishing in shallow waters for Leo of Livonia.  
- A store that sells the Coca-Cola hats and scarf for the Coca-Cola teddy bear for Fran of Farmington.

- Compiled by Sandi Jaračak

## Win tickets and go have a 'Blast!'

We've been having a blast putting our new Arts & Entertainment section together. Premiering Thursday, June 5, the section will be called Filter, and include stories about music, comedy, clubs, movies and upcoming productions like Blast! running May 13-18 at the Fox Theatre.

To celebrate, we're giving away seven family packs of four tickets to the 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, performance of Blast!

Dazzling and breathtaking, Blast! is a celebration of movement and music that evolved from the drum corps Star of Indiana. Musical numbers include Bolero, Everyone Loves the

Blues, and Gee Officer Krupke. Winner of the 2001 Tony Award for Best Special Theatrical Event, you and your family and friends are sure to have a Blast! watching the show. To enter our contest, send a suggestion for the types of stories, restaurants, events, and venues you'd like to read about in Filter along with your name, address, and daytime phone number to Keely Kaleski, Assistant Managing Editor Features, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or e-mail kkaleski@oe.homecomm.net. Entries are due by Thursday, May 1. Winners will be notified by phone.

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