

ENTERTAINMENT

B¹

Thursday, June 14, 2001

THE WEEKEND

MOTOWN



The Shirelles team with up with The Crystals and The Chiffons for the Sisters of the Sixties concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the DTE Energy Music Theatre, in Clarkston. Tickets are \$26.50, pavilion and \$16.50, lawn, available through Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (248)645-6666.

DANCE

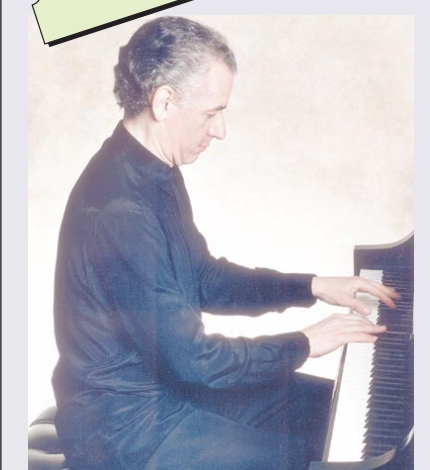


Michael Flatley, Celtic dance king, is back with a hot production, *Feet of Flames*. The extravaganza includes dozens of dancers, pyrotechnics and electrifying lighting. Show time is 8 p.m., Saturday at Joe Louis Arena, in downtown Detroit. Tickets are \$88, \$68 and \$38. Call (248) 645-6666.

ROCK



Songwriter, guitarist and vocalist, Ani DiFranco, performs at 7:30 p.m., June 20, at Meadow Brook Music Festival, on the Oakland University campus, in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$28.50 for pavilion and lawn, available at The Palace and DTE Energy Music Theatre box offices, all Ticketmaster outlets and by calling (248)645-6666.



The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival begins 8 p.m. Saturday with pianist/festival artistic director James Tocco joined by other musicians at Kirk in the Hills on Long Lake Road, about one mile west of Telegraph, in Bloomfield Hills. The festival continues through Sunday, July 1. Call (248) 559-2097 or visit www.great-lakeschambermusic.com for more information.

A CREATIVE LEAP

You can bring improvisation to everyday life

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

It looks a little like the old party game, *Twister*. But the three adults who weave their arms, heads and legs around, over and under each other during a creativity exercise in Ann Holdreith's class, play on chairs rather than a polka dot tarp.

They clasp hands, break apart, strike poses, shout nonsense words, whisper gibberish, sometimes moving fluidly and sometimes with robotic precision, all while touching the furniture and their partners.

Fireseed Class

What: Creativity, play, spontaneity and expression with Ann Holdreith
When: Five weeks, beginning June 27. Classes meet from 7-8:30 p.m.
Where: First United Methodist Church of Ferndale, 22331 Woodward, south of Nine Mile, in Ferndale
Cost: \$195 Call Holdreith at (248)583-7765 or e-mail her at aholdreith@aol.com

"Really tune into each other and create a drama out of it. Allow for surprises. Stay committed to your actions."

Scott McWhinney, Sandi Nigosian and Nicole LaDouceur move confidently, guiding the improvised piece to a conclusion and the applause of classmates.

Holdreith, who has taught creativity for nearly two decades, learned the chair exercise several years ago while studying with a California-based improv artist, Ruth Zaporah. The game reinforces

"Remember how important timing is. In theater. In life. Timing is everything," coaches Ann Holdreith, creativity teacher from Royal Oak.

"It's in the pauses that you really get a sense of what the drama is and where you start to really connect with what's going on around you."

And they are connected. As the human sculpture moves and changes, Holdreith tells players a non-verbal story will unfold naturally from the gesture and sound that create this performance game.



Like a sculpture: Scott McWhinney, Sandi Nigosian and Nicole LaDouceur improvise a pose during a creativity exercise about timing and listening.

■ 'Fireseed is a metaphor for passion. Either it's dormant or needs to be fanned.'

Ann Holdreith
—Instructor



STAFF PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLINSKY

Raw creativity: Ann Holdreith, instructor, complements physical movement with an expressive sound during an exercise in her creativity class.

listening and timing skills.

"It's about being aware and not feeling like you have to get in there and just keep talking or doing something," she explains. "You're choosing what you do. And then it becomes like any art — what's happening just takes over and you could never plan it to be as good as it is."

"It's all about timing. Improvisational musicians know it's all timing. And so is acting or any performance. So is life. Everything that goes on in class is a metaphor for life."

Passion for life

Few of the adults who sign up for the \$195 course plan to apply their creativity training to the stage or film.

For most of them, Holdreith's five-week *Fireseed* workshop, held in a Ferndale Sunday school classroom, is a learning lab for self-expression and presence in their daily lives.

"*Fireseed* is a metaphor for passion. Either it's dormant or needs to be fanned," Holdreith explains.

She fans the flames with playful exercises that

help students break limiting patterns and awaken their senses. Students practice spontaneity, listening, timing, commitment to an idea and focusing on the present moment. They let go of self-conscious and critical thoughts that block authentic feelings and expression.

As a result, they develop self-confidence, are willing to take risks, be more playful at work and try new experiences.

"I feel everybody has this (passion) but in our contemporary world, it's difficult for people to access it because of our programming. We're programmed in childhood, by our families, jobs, educational and religious institutions," Holdreith says.

"We're so afraid to make a mistake, that we'll be embarrassed or look stupid. We stop trusting ourselves so that we can fit in. What happens is people start shutting down natural instincts. They aren't in touch with that aliveness, that spark."

"What the work in my class does is shut off the mind, because it's the mind that holds these belief systems. You allow the body and intuition to take over."

Please see IMPROV, B2

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Annual zoo benefit offers glimpse of new polar bear digs

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Look out for icicles dripping overhead and bear prints tracking across the paths in the new Arctic Ring of Life exhibit at the Detroit Zoo. Fortunately for visitors, the tracks and most of the ice, are simulated. The exhibit only makes visitors think they're roaming the tundra with the polar bears and Arctic fox.

When it opens in September, the new \$13.6 million exhibit, which is housed on more than four acres, will be the world's largest polar bear den. Until then, visitors will have only a handful of opportunities to view the new digs designed by architects Jones & Jones of Seattle.

One of them is *Sunset at the Zoo* on June 19, a fund-raising event when guests will get to glimpse the three pools even before the bears do.

Lucky for the foxes Scott Carter said "it will only appear as if the Arctic foxes are living together with the bears but a dry moat will separate them." Carter, curator of mammals, recently

Sunset at the Zoo
What: An annual fund-raising event featuring a live auction, raffle, preview of the Arctic Ring of Life polar bear exhibit, and strolling supper by 18 of the area's finest restaurants
When: 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 19
Where: Detroit Zoo, 8450 West 10 Mile Road at I-696, Royal Oak
Tickets: \$125-\$500, call (248) 541-5717

led a tour of exhibit which will also be home to snowy owls as well as harbor and harp seals.

"It begins with an early 1900s Inuit village and the first view of polar bears in the southern range of the Arctic and moves north," said Carter.

Trek north

The Arctic region encompasses two continents whose southernmost edges form a ring around the top of the globe and give the exhibit its name. Designers thought of everything to mimic the environment there, including cooling pads to give bears places to go in the summer. Inukshuks, sculpture-like rocks assembled by the Inuits as way finders, guide visitors as they make

their way from the summer tundra past a fresh water pool where cubs could learn to swim if the zoo decides to do captive breeding.

On the trek north there will be opportunities to see bears in the southern tundra, open water and on pack ice. Just follow the trail where fox and bear prints descend to the seals in the pool at the bottom.

The first indoor exhibit teaches visitors about Inuit culture. Nunavut Gallery is filled with Inuit art and artifacts curated by Gerry Craig. Alongside the stone sculptures of polar bear, caribou, wolf, seal, falcon and an Arctic fox, floor to ceiling glass panels give visitors their first underwater view of polar bears and seals who are separated from each other by acrylic panels.

Polar Passage

Then it's on to the Polar Passage. The 70-foot long underwater tunnel allows bears to swim around visitors. Carter says not to worry, the acrylic is four-inches thick.

Please see ZOO, B2

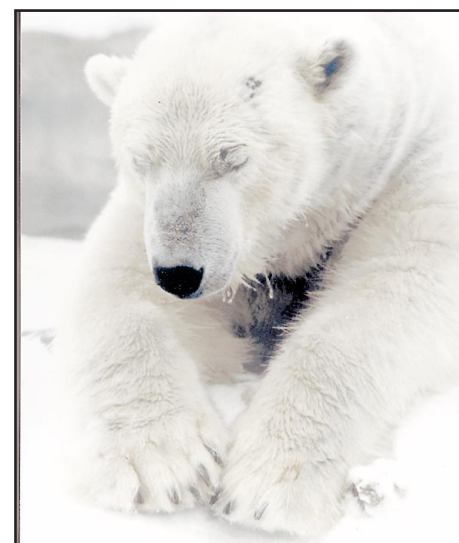


PHOTO COURTESY DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Polar bear affair: This polar bear is one of seven awaiting completion of the Arctic Ring of Life. Guests of the Detroit Zoo's annual fund-raiser will see the new digs even before the bears do.

Improv from page B1

It worked for Kari Jones of Ferndale. The freelance writer needed to be more confident when presenting her writing to an audience and she wanted to explore other forms of creativity. "As we grow up we put all these walls around ourselves where we're afraid to try something different. I wanted to get

rid of that fear," Jones said. "Now I'm thinking about taking a painting class this summer. This really opened my mind to the level of creativity I have inside. In the first class, we walked around, bumped into each other and made funny faces. I didn't know I could do that. It's such a simple thing."

Jones said she felt like a child, but didn't worry about looking foolish. She was so focused on the playful exercise that judgmental thoughts simply disappeared. That's when some of the simple movement and sound games, like the *Twister*-like chair exercise, start to resemble perfor-

mance art. "They have no background in theater or anything like that. But you become absolutely fascinated with what they are doing. They are totally present, not holding back at all," Holdreith explains. "That's the thrill of improvisation. There's so much energy and it's so connected that you can never plan it."

"It's all about trust. You trust yourself, the moment, your interaction with each other," she added. "Creativity is a leap. You're leaping into the unknown. You have to trust you'll land on your feet. You're willing to leap into unknown territory. This is my life lesson. That's why I teach it."


Creative journey
Holdreith taught art in Royal Oak schools for 15 years, before becoming restless with both her career and creative vocation, painting. She took a leave of absence from her job, shelved her brushes and headed to Hawaii. On a trip to California, Holdreith visited an improv class. "It was so raw, so alive," she recalls. "I came back here and found a performance group. That's when my whole life opened." She left teaching and became lead vocalist for Zulu Brake Torque. She also resumed her painting, started composing poetry, began acting and direct-

In good company...

Ann Holdreith's *Leap Unlimited* teaches innovation and team-building in the business world. A sampling of her clients:
 ■ Aero-Motive (UK) — Working with company presidents, she trained teams in innovation
 ■ Valeo
 ■ Ford Financial — Holdreith worked with an Internet group, led by senior vice president, Pat Dunbar. Chairman and CEO Don

Winkler includes fun in his "10 principles for effective leadership," which are posted throughout the Dearborn headquarters: #10. Last but not least. Play! You can't accomplish anything unless you're having fun.
 ■ Shostak Brothers
 ■ Volkswagen of America — In an "open enrollment" setting, she worked with a variety of employees




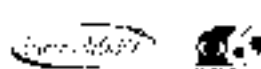
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ing in theater and took performance classes after creating her own course, *Playshop*, the forerunner of *Fireseed*. "Eventually I went into the corporate arena. I taught root-cause analysis at Chrysler, which brought the balance of logic to the creative world." Her experience at Chrysler laid a foundation for her current work in the business world. Through *Leap Unlimited*, the business counterpart of her public *Fireseed* classes, Holdreith helps employees and managers improve communication, build teams, manage stress, innovate and find fresh solutions using creative brain-storming techniques and action plans. Play becomes vital to their productivity. "When I do the corporate work, I spend some of the first day getting them opened up and out of the box and into creative, fluid fun. It really breaks through barriers," she says. "The second day they identify the issues, opportunities and barriers they want to work with. We prioritize them. And I teach creative brainstorming techniques." Holdreith has worked with product design groups, sales teams and entire companies. While working with a manufacturing firm in Wales, Holdreith convinced the company presidents to participate in team-building and innovation exercises. "I know it was hard for them. The higher up you go, the harder it is because more is at stake in their image," she says. "But we did the training. It really opened communication. People were expressing what was going on and management got to hear it. And management shared what they were up against. It was incredible team-building." Holdreith also coaches individuals in expression and creativity. She hopes to expand the *Fireseed* and *Leap Unlimited* training to health and wellness organizations.

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A towering T.rex

Sparks fly in musical *Moulin Rouge*

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn is to love and be loved in return."

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN
STAFF WRITER
jgrossman@oe.homecomm.net



Role playing: Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor co-star in *Moulin Rouge*.

The mysteries of romance resonate throughout *Moulin Rouge*, an electrifying movie that uses modern-era pop tunes to tell the story of two star-crossed lovers during the turn of the 19th century in Paris.

From Madonna to Nirvana, the movie juxtaposes a variety of hit songs and choreographic styles to create one of the most unusual cinematic experiences in years. Imagine the Police song, *Roxanne*, played to a classic tango. It's here.

Director Baz Luhrmann welcomes you to the Moulin Rouge, a nightclub for the underworld where dark red lipstick and smoldering glances intoxicate revelers like a cheap carnival ride.

It's here we meet Satine, played by Nicole Kidman, the city's most famous courtesan who longs to be

an actress in a real theater. Ambitious and glamorous, it seems nothing will stop Satine from reaching her dream - until she meets Christian, played by Ewan McGregor, a dashing young writer from America who lands in Paris to learn about love and freedom.

Through his words and enthusiasm, Christian manages to convince Satine that nothing is more important than love itself. Her career is quickly at stake when she's forced to choose between the poor Christian and a powerful Duke, who wants to finance her theater dreams.

Both Kidman and McGregor provide wonderful song and dance performances. The chemistry between

these two is terrific, similar to Meryl Streep and Robert Redford in *Out of Africa*.

Adding yet another tragic touch to this whimsical tale, we learn from the opening scene that Satine, the "Sparkling Diamond" of the Moulin Rouge, is dying from tuberculosis.

Moulin Rouge brings fireworks to the big screen. It's not a movie for everyone - some might find it a bit too gaudy without enough substance.

But if you're searching for some passion, some love and some romance, this movie is definitely for you.

I give it four cigars and a snifter of brandy.

Zoo from page B1

"It was designed to be able to withstand the 300,000 gallons of water or a bear standing on top," said Carter. "Staff will be trained to dive in the pool and keep the acrylic clean."

Next visitors exit to an ice cave to cool down from the exhilarating experience of bears swimming overhead. Real ice covers the walls.

"This is state of the art and addresses what bears need," said Carter. "Bears by nature are curious."

Carter hopes that curiosity will help when it comes time to move the seven polar bears from the old exhibit behind the Arctic Ring of Life.

"We've been training the bears to go into crates which will be picked up and moved," said Carter. "Others will wake up from their annual physical exam in a new exhibit."

Then it's down another path and into the exploration station where a big panel looks into the bear pool. Here, docents will share exciting stories about research while visitors experi-

ence first-hand how radio telemetry is used to track animals. Research equipment, such as a thermal imaging camera, provide hands-on learning opportunities.

Small icebergs

On the other side of the wall, an ice machine turns out six 300-pound cubes every couple of days. It will be hoisted into the bears environment and should last a while in the 50 to 60 degree water. Smaller blocks of ice with fish in them are meant to amuse bears.

"Bears are very manipulative," said Carter. "Ice is a good indestructible toy we can give them to play with."

Next it's on to the tundra or pack ice. Designers have incorporated environmental stimulation into the artificial ice which looks cold and barren.

"There will be food hiding spots and gravel beds for digging," said Carter.

Sadly, this is the last view of the bears before the tracks lead off to a building where life sup-

port technicians monitor the quality of water in the three pools. Here, heat exchangers maintain the temperature between 50 to 55 degrees. While bears probably won't care if the water warms a degree or two, one of the design elements they will love is the live fish which will be piped in from a trout holding system.

"It will be interesting to see the polar bears reactions," said Marcus Zevalkink, life support technician. "They'll have to catch the fish."

Fishing is just one of the experiences bears will enjoy as if they were living in the wild.

Polar bear affair

Ruth Glancy thinks the natural habitat is what makes the Arctic Ring of Life a special addition to the zoo. In fact, Glancy is so convinced the exhibit will favor bears as well as visitors that she's chairing "Sunset at the Zoo" with hopes of raising \$150,000.

"There's so many educational components," said Glancy, chairman of the Detroit Zoological Society which has already raised \$10 million for the Arctic Ring of

Life. "We're hoping to build Sunset into a major event. There'll be a live auction with Joe Walker which includes an opportunity to name an animal, a safari to Kenya, and birthday parties at the zoo."

A strolling supper will feature tasty treats from the Rattlesnake Club, Gayle's Chocolates, Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, the Golden Mushroom, and NO.VI. Chophouse & Lobster Bar, to name a few. After they've eaten, visitors can tour the exhibit, and watch Inuit sculptor Charlie Inuk turn a chunk of granite into a 9-foot tall standing bear for the entrance of the exhibit.

Those are just some of the highlights of the evening. Bear Benefactors (\$500) receive an invitation to the future Polar Bear Splash Party to swim in the pool before the bears do.

"It's a wonderful evening in the park with lots of different restaurants, an auction, raffle and music," said Glancy. We're asking people to wear (ice) blue or (polar bear) white to tie in with the theme.

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Comic Stew, an improvisational sketch and comedy troupe, will help raise money for Avon Players' building and improvement fund this weekend.

The benefit show, which includes musical guest, Lipsonnet, starts at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, at the Avon Playhouse, 1185 Washington, east of Rochester Road and off Tienken Road in Rochester Hills. Lisa Jeffwein, from the Dick Puritan show on Oldies 104.3, WOMC-FM will host the event.

Lisa Jung, an Avon Players member, said proceeds will go toward paving the parking lot at the playhouse.

"We're paving the parking lot with laughter," she said.

Admission is \$10 at the door. Cash or credit cards will be accepted. Call the playhouse at (248)608-9077.

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