DOWNTOWN MICHIEL STATE OF THE STATE OF THE

Film Festivals Fill Screens for Springtime

Freep's Third Year at Downtown Venues

Now in its third year, the *Freep Film Festival* will once again offer a slate of films that are about or relevant to Greater Detroit, the region and the State of Michigan to foster engagement and discussion about the issues and challenges we face, while at the same time celebrating what makes Greater Detroit unique.

The Freep Film Festival is produced by the Detroit Free Press and Michigan.com.

The event's venue partners are the Fillmore Detroit, the Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA, Cinema Detroit, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the Elizabeth Theater at the Park Bar.



Openers Marc Bernardin and Kevin Smith

The Festival's Opening Night event, features filmmaker and comic book maven Kevin Smith (R), bringing his take on pop culture to the Fillmore Detroit for the *Freep Film Festival*'s opening night, with a standup performance based upon his popular podcast *Fatman on Batman*.

Smith's appearance arrives the week after the opening of *Batman v Superman: Dawn* of *Justice* and will feature his *Fatman on Batman* cohost, comic book writer Marc Bernardin.

Doors open at 7 p.m., and Smith and his cohost take the stage at 8 p.m., Thursday, March

31, at the Fillmore Detroit. Tickets, depending upon seating, range from \$20-\$60.

The Fillmore Detroit is located at 2115 Woodward Ave., in the Fox Entertainment District of Detroit.



Gold Medal Winner Claressa 'T-Rex' Shields

Also screening the opening night of the *Freep Film Festival*, is the documentary, *T-Rex*, which chronicles the journey of a then-17 year-old Flint native, Claressa 'T-Rex' Shields as she pursues her goal of winning the gold in women's boxing at the 2012 London Olympics. Doors at 6 p.m., film at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31 at the Detroit Film Theatre inside the DIA. Tickets are \$20. After the film, Rochelle Riley leads a discussion with Olympic gold-medal boxer Claressa 'T-Rex' Shields, director Zackary Canepari and participants in the Detroit Boxing Gym Youth Program.

The Detroit Film Theatre at the DIA is located at 5200 Woodward Ave., in Midtown Detroit's Cultural District.

Italian Film Festival

The Italian Film Festival USA of Metro Detroit takes place March 30 – April 24 at various locations across Greater Detroit. In addition to the local premieres of 14 award-winning contemporary Italian films, a highlight of the festival features special appearances by director Matteo Bini (I, Harlequin) and Brunella Fili (Emergency Exit: Young Italians Abroad) who will lead discussions after screening their films. Admission for all events is free and open to the public.

"This year's edition of the *Italian Film Festival USA of Metro Detroit* presents the best comedies, dramas and documentaries of recent Italian cinema." said Pietro Sarcina, metro Detroit festival

organizer.



An Alfa Romeo-based Comedy Opens the Festival

Opening night of the 2016 Italian Film Festival USA Metro Detroit is Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Detroit Film Theatre with multiple award-winner Noi E La Giulia (The Legendary Giulia and other Miracles). Diego, Fausto and Claudio are three forty-somethings who flee the city and decide to open a rustic holiday farmhouse in the countryside. The trio joins forces with Sergio, a man stuck in the '60's, and Elisa, pregnant and totally zany. A local mobster, Vito, who arrives in a vintage Giulia – Alfa Romeo hits the group up for protection money, causing them to rebel in a daring and funny way... All films will be shown in Italian with English subtitles. Weekend screenings will continue throughout the month of April at various locations. For a full schedule and locations of screenings, see

italianfilmfests.org or call (248) 930-6017.

CINEMA CULTURE

The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience

Starting April 4, guests will get a re-invented cinematic experience complete with new 4K digital state-of-theart projection, sound, screen and seating when *The Henry* Ford Giant Screen Experience opens. The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience will feature unique programs including a venue for the Cinetopia International Film Festival in June, a Thursday Night Flix series and feature films that further explore the people, places, themes and ideas that bring the American experience to life.

"This new digital platform with a state-of-the-art projection system provides our guests with the most stunning and lifelike cinematic experiences out there," said Patricia Mooradian, president of The Henry Ford. "It also provides a more versatile venue where we can expand on the type of innovative programming and mission-fit

films we can offer." To kick-off the opening of the Giant Screen Experience, The Henry Ford will be showing MacGillivray Freeman Films' National Parks Adventure *3D*, an immersive film that takes audiences soaring up exposed rock faces, hurtling down steep mountain cliffs and exploring otherworldly realms found within America's most legendary outdoor places. Narrated by Academy Award® winner Robert Redford, the film is an action-packed celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service. Next up is the *Living In The Age*

Of Airplanes reminds us how the airplane has profoundly changed the world and our lives. Beautifully filmed in 18 countries, across all 7 continents, the film renews our appreciation for one of the most extraordinary and awe inspiring inventions in the modern world.

Produced and directed by Brian J. Terwilliger (One Six Right), Living In The Age



National Parks Adventure 3D, Narrated by Robert Redford



Living in the Age of Airplanes, Narrated by Harrison Ford

Of Airplanes is narrated by Harrison Ford and features an original score by Academy Award® winning composer James Horner (Avatar, Titanic).

The upgraded *Giant Screen* Experience system features the first museum-based ultrahigh resolution 4K projection system in the greater Detroit area.

When the Giant Screen *Experience* opens, members of The Henry Ford will now have the added benefit of seeing traditional documentary films for free, including new films - National Parks Adventure 3D and James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenge 3D. Members will also receive discounts to any special popup programming, classic feature-length films and more moving forward.

Tickets for the *Giant Screen* Experience will be available for purchase beginning March 25. For information see thehenryford.org/visit/ giant-screen-experience/, or call (313) 982-6001.

The Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience is located at 20900 Oakwood Ave., in Dearborn.

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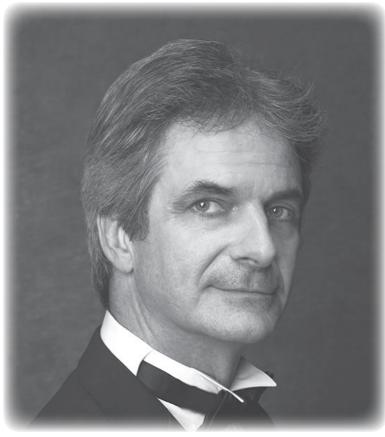
Ruth Crystal-ZarompSymphonic News

This week, on Thursday, March 24, the lewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield is presenting the first play of their spring season, the Michigan Premiere of Mark St. Germain's Dancing Lessons, directed by JET Executive Director Christopher Bremer and running through April 17. The show deals in communication problems between an autistic person and a person who is a dancer but incapacitated at the present time. During the time of the play, we are drawn into analyzing these two people from our own point of view. Award winning actors Sarab Kamoo and Michael Brian Ogden are returning to the JET stage for this event. For more information, check jettheatre.org or call the box office at (248) 292-3244.

On Saturday at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, noted violinist Gil Shaham will be presenting Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001-1006. In this special event, Gil Shaham collaborates with video artist David Michalek to open up new avenues for listening to and interpreting Bach's towering masterpieces while preserving Bach's message.

Easter is upon us and there are no programs with the DSO this week. Next week, though, the William Davidson Neighborhood Concert Series is featuring Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony (No. 6), in addition to Piston's Ballet Suite from the Incredible Flutist, Vanhal's Double Bass Concerto, and Dvorak's Carnival Overture. Kevin Brown performs solo double bass and Michelle Merrill will conduct.

The performers of the DSO today are of great quality. Of them, Peter McCaffrey, cello, performed this past weekend with the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra as soloist in Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, *Op. 85.* McCaffrey



The American Ballet's Kevin McKenzie

has served as Principal Cellist and soloist in several different orchestras. He was very impressive on this occasion. Clark Suttle was Guest Conductor, and together with this exemplary leadership, the orchestra provided an exceptional program at Dondero High School. Their next program will take place at Berkley High School on May 13.

For further information, call (248) 549-0262 or check RoyalOakOrchestra.org.

The American Ballet Theatre will be performing Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty at the Opera House on March 31 through April 3. Kevin McKenzie is the Artistic Director for this ballet. The portrayal of this story in ballet leaves a vivid impression in us. The quality of the American Ballet Theatre should provide even more of an enhancement.

On the 2nd of April, at 8 p.m., the Vivace program at Birmingham temple presents Alta and Drake Dantzler from the Music Department at Oakland University. Their

program will feature songs from the world of opera, operetta and musical theater. The Dantzlers bring a world of experience performing on stages throughout Michigan and many other states, including Carnegie Hall in N.Y.

They will be accompanied by Lois Kaarre, pianist, also from Oakland University. Tickets available from Joyce Cheresh, (248) 788-9338 or Ann Sipher, (248) 661-1348. Mr. Dantzler sang last Sunday Schumann's Dichterliebe at Kerrytown Concert House with Steve Wogaman accompanying on the piano. Wogaman, who is the President of Chamber Music Society of Detroit, performed other Schumann works on that inspiring program. Their joint portrayal of Heinrich Heine's words together with Schumann's music brought out the changes of meanings that happens depending on the aura that is created at the time.

I am looking forward to hearing Mr. Dantzler again in the upcoming Vivace event.

Will Leather Goods Dinner Series In Midtown

Yum Village in association with DineDrinkDetroit is bringing chef Brent Foster, a finalist in *Rachel Ray's Great American Cookbook* competition to Will Leather Goods located in Midtown Detroit, on Thursday, March 31, 7-9 p.m.

Foster, a rising star known for his themed menus and attention to detail, is responsible for menu revamps at Ferndale's Woodward Avenue Brewery and The Emory. William Adler, a Michigander himself, opened Will Leather Goods in September of 2015. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience the unique displays of Will Leather Goods while enjoying a carefully curated menu celebrating



Chef Brent Foster

the local and seasonal ingredients of Michigan along with beer and wine pairings. Vegetarian options will be available upon advanced request. Tickets are \$60 app.gopassage.com/events/dinnerwillswithbrentfoster or call (313) 309-7892 for more information. Will Leather Goods is located at 4120 2nd Ave., in Midtown Detroit, just west of Cass Ave.

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Matrix Theatre's 25th

In honor of Maxtrix Theatre Company's 25th anniversary, the Teen Company's spring show, Collage *2016*, will be comprised of scenes from some of the theatre's most memorable plays. The youth artists carefully selected passages from nine of the original shows. Performances run from April 8 through April 17 and take place Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Members of the Matrix Teen Company include: Zaria Bell, Gabby Clayton, Tanai Dawson, Ivory Lena Hinojosa, Autumn Johnson, Celvnah Kirkland, Hassan Marong, Josh Mosley, Yasir Muhammad, Airyana Robinson, Joelle Sanders, Alondra Vazquez, April Wilson, Heavyn Word and Dwayne Wright. All Collage 2016 performances are at Matrix Theatre Company, located at 2730 Bagley in the heart of Detroit's Mexicantown, with ticket prices \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

Call Amy Thomas at (313) 967-0999, ext. 3 for tickets and more information, or see matrixtheatre.org.

Good Friday Service Seven Last Words of Celebration March 25, 12 noon - 3 pm

1st Word: Rev. Dr. Mary Pettaway, Pulpit Associate, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church 2nd Word: Rev. DJ Reed,

Pastor, Chilson Hills Baptist Church, Brighton, Mich. 3rd Word: Rev. Charles C. Adams,

Presiding Pastor, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church

4th Word: Rev. Dr. Steven Murray, President, Ecumenical Theological Seminary

5th Word: Rev. Dr. Wilma Johnson, Pastor, New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church

6th Word: Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL

7th Word: Rev. Dr. Charles G. Adams,

Pastor, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church

The Hartford Cathedral Choir will perform "The Seven Last Words" by Duboise with soloists, harp, organ and percussion. The music will be rendered between each preached word.

Easter Sunday Service

Resurrection Sunday Services: 6 am, 8 am & 11 am (Sunday School Easter Pageant after the 8am service) The Hartford Easter Sunday Service will air on NBC-TV and Affiliates at 11 am For information call (313) 861-1285 or see hmbcdetroit.org

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Good Friday - March 25th

12:15 PM - Service with Requiem by Gabriel Fauré Featuring Choir and Orchestra

Easter Day - March 27th

8:00 AM Easter Vigil and Eucharist 11:00 AM Festival Eucharist with Choirs and Brass Easter egg hunt following the 11:00 AM service

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DOWNTOWN MONITOR

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10:15 a.m. Prelude 10:30 a.m. Festival Service Choral, Brass and Organ Meditation: "Belonging to God" Rev. Dr. Nancy DeVries, preaching

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8:30 am - The Holy Communion 11:00 am – Blessing of the Fleet with Holy Communion Holy Week Services, March 24 – March 27 Maundy Thursday – 12:10 pm – Holy Communion Good Friday – 12:00 – 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross Easter Sunday - Festival Choral Eucharist- 8:30 & 11:00 am

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SHOWINGS

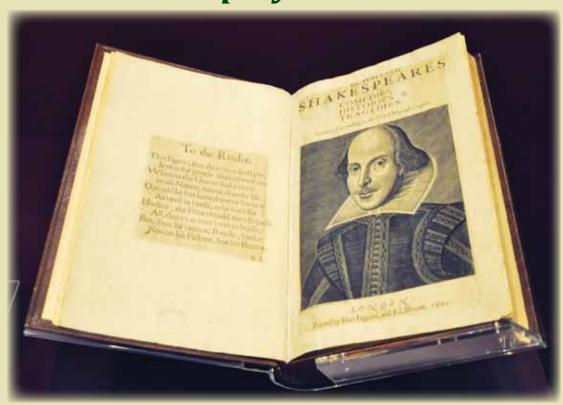
Shakespeare First Folio Exhibits on Display at WSU and DIA

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, original 17th century First Folio and renaissance panels from copy of the most famous compilation of the Bard's works – *The Shakespeare First Folio* – will be on public display at Wayne's Adamany Undergraduate Library atrium, now through Monday, April 4.

The Folger Library in Washington, D.C., has been circulating 18 of its 82 copies to one site in each state and Wayne State University, in collaboration with the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Public Library, was selected to host the First Folio in Michigan. WSU will display the exhibition panels while the First Folio is on display at the DIA.

The First Folio includes 36 Shakespeare plays, 18 of which had never been printed before they were compiled seven years after Shakespeare's death in 1616 by two of his friends and fellow theater colleagues. Without the First Folio, all of those plays — including Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, As You Like It, and more — might have been lost forever.

The Shakespeare First Folio is considered one of the world's most influential books. First published in 1623, a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio sold at auction in 2006 for \$5.2 million. Only 244 copies exist. The panels can be viewed during open library hours. For more information, call (313) 577-5121, or see library.wayne.edu for complete schedule. The David Adamany Undergraduate Library is located at 5150 Anthony Wayne Drive, on the campus of Wayne State University, in Detroit.







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Influential African American Women Honored

Laydell Harper City Culture

Women celebrating women can be powerful. And, it was a pretty powerful list of women designated as, The Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit at the Women's Informal Network (WIN) 21st Anniversary Luncheon last Saturday. There have been exciting events all during the month of March and each one highlights women in fields that you would never imagine.

The honorees were just as diverse as the audience of more than 300 women business owners and executives from every industry. These kinds of events set an example for young women that have a desire to select an out of the ordinary career, while learning that women are already in these careers. Women's History Month can bring examples of those careers to life.

Patricia A. Cole, founder of WIN, comments, "Women now make up 52% of the population and have been historically left out of the decision making process that govern our daily lives when it comes to business, politics and even community. We are still striving to reach equal footing in all these areas."

The Mistress of Ceremony, Donna P. Stallings, Councilwoman, City of Lathrup Village was inspirational, outspoken and confident as she spoke about the accomplishments of African American women. "Black women are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs. Black women opened up 340,000 jobs since 2007."

She then asked all of the women elected to political office to stand. Ten women stood; several judges, state representatives, Wayne State University Board of Governors, and others.

The keynote speaker, Carla Walker-Miller, President and CEO, Walker-Miller Energy Service, is an engineer by degree and is proud to say that she got through engineering school on her own, "I wasn't anyone's girl," she said. "If we



Keynote Speaker Walker-Miller

intentionally work together, we would be so much further ahead."

The twelve honorees were: Robin M. Cole, President & CEO Professional Medical Centers (PMC); Sherry Gay Dagnogo, Michigan State House of Representatives; 8th District, Denise "Dody" Johnson, Station Manager, Radio 910-AM Superstation and WADL TV 38; Charlotte Knight, owner State Farm Agency since 1989; Canequia Coco Moulder, Outreach Director Oakland Primary Health Services (OPHS); Gloria Rhodes CEO, DES Services, LLC; Vickie Thomas, City Beat and Morning Drive Reporter WWJ Newsradio 950; Dr. Velonda Thompson, WIC Program Manager, Detroit Health Department; Kimberly A. Trent, Education Policy Manager, Michigan Future Schools; Dr. Keefa Lorraine, "Ayanna" Weatherspoon Founder and Director of Golden Ray, Inc. and Sankofa LIFE; Tahirih Ziegler,

Executive Director, Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and myself Laydell Wood Harper. It was an honor to be honored with this fine group of professional women.

As each honoree accepted her award as one of The Most Influential African American Women in Metropolitan Detroit, each brought a different, but powerful message to the women in the room; Kim Trent a member of Wayne State University board of Governors, appealed to the audience to make a donation to help with ongoing testing of the remaining rape kits. The cost is \$490 to test each rape kit.

Canequia Coco Moulder, Outreach Director informed the audience of available healthcare in Oakland County. She actually goes into the community to educate people about healthcare resources. Vickie Thomas, WWJ Radio City Beat Reporter and National Association of Black Journalist Regional Director spoke about her job at WWJ. And, Michigan State Representative Sherry Gay Dagnogo brought a message that was both passionate and powerful. Her gestures and tone brought the audience to their feet in support of her message to save Detroit Public Schools and the Flint water problem.

Each one of the honorees brought a special message of experience, knowledge and hope to the audience.



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Downtown Street Eats Returns to Campus Martius Park



Trucks Are Downtown Every Lunchtime Weekday, Spring to Fall

For the 4th season, *Downtown Street Eats* is back in Cadillac Square at Campus Martius Park featuring some of the best bites in Detroit. The season of rotating food trucks and vendors is now open and will be available for the Downtown lunchtime crowd every weekday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., through

October 28.

The 2016 Downtown Street Eats lineup will showcase over 35 local food trucks offering more than 20 types of cuisine with prices ranging from approximately \$5 to \$10. Returning local favorites include Pita Post, Mac Shack and Norma G's.

This year's new eats include the Rolling Stoves, High Octane Food Truck and El Charro.

Each week the featured food selections will be posted on the Campus Martius Park website, campusmartiuspark.org, and the park's social media channels.

channels. With the 2016 Quicken Loans Summer in the Parks on the horizon, Downtown Street Eats is only one of the hundreds of the programs, activities and events included at the five Downtown parks in this exciting and action-packed season of programming. Featuring international and Detroit musical artists, the 12th annual season will energize the heart of the city with a wide variety of activities all summer long and into the fall.

Summer programming begins June 1. Campus Martius is located at the intersections of Woodward and Michigan Aves., in Downtown Detroit.



LIVE THEATRE



Sexy 'Sex With Strangers'

By Paul Arlon

Downtown Detroit's newest black box venue, the Detroit Public Theatre, is advantageously located in the Max M. Fisher Music Center – one of the legitimate hubs of culture in the City.

Opening an experimental stage directly across from the entrance to Orchestra Hall could be deemed just a wee bit presumptuous, as if any theatre within the 'Max' could be nothing but great. But, as the freshman stage's productions have proved, the Detroit Public Theatre has met the high standards that its location demands.

The third show of its inaugural season is the adults-only *Sex with Strangers*, a most-compelling journey through the high and low points of a complicated relationship between two talented writers, each a product of their times.

Here's the set-up: A nearing forty-year old Olivia (Hallie Bee Bard) lounges on a sofa, quietly reading, in an isolated rental cabin during a Northern Michigan snowstorm. Suddenly, and without any advance notice, a car arrives and a young, late twenty-something man (Matt Lockwood) loudly announces himself at the door.

Suspicious at the disturbance, and very reluctant to share her space, Olivia finally relents and lets the young man barge in, struck by how brash he is. And, once he's in, he boldly brushes aside all of Olivia's relaxation, and exclaims how massively distressed he is at the lack of internet and cell service at the cabin.

Olivia states firmly that she believed she'd have the cabin to herself and would use the quietude to write. She's a teacher from Chicago and she's finishing her second book. He tells her that that's exactly why he's there, too. He's a writer as well and his intention for staying at the woodsy retreat is to meet a deadline for one of his works.

After some back and forth, Olivia finally learns that the young man in front of her, named Ethan, is a wildly successful blogger and best-selling author – of a



Hallie Bee Bard and Matt Lockwood Make Out in Public

scandalous series called 'Sex With Strangers.' He also tells her that he's read her first book, twice, from start to finish, and that he thought it was brilliant. Olivia is taken aback. She knew that her work had merit, but at the time it was published and released to the public, there were no such things as Kindles and blogs – her book was adrift in a world that would

never find it.

Olivia's writing – significant and profound – is hard copy, paper and ink. Ethan's writing – commercial, lurid and low-brow – is viral and known worldwide. She is old-school brick and mortar, he is new-school digital cloud. How coincidental that Ethan should be at this remote cabin at the same time as her!

REPERTORY

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by Fengar Gael

Directed by Leah Smith

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THRU

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So, that's the basic conflict between the two, they are from different ages, but with similar passions. Ethan desperately wants to be accepted as a legitimate writer, and Olivia, with her mastery of the author's craft, has not developed an outlet for her work to be acknowledged.

In their encounter, passion consumes conflict, and the two seemingly mismatched writers fall into a sex-charged relationship. Was Ethan really there by chance? And, will Olivia allow herself to be brought up to mega-byte speed, and eschew her dreams of being a traditional book-in-hand author? Will Ethan, by association with Olivia's true talent, be able to up his game to overcome his cheap reputation? The play, written by Laura Eason, and directed by Frannie Shepherd-Bates, answers many of these questions, with some delicious ambiguity along

Hallie Bee Bard and Matt Lockwood have very believable stage chemistry, and I greatly liked the story they so aptly told. For anyone that has been a writer (or anything else, for that matter) in the analog age, and still thinks that the original and aged business tenets of publishing (or anything else) are the most relevant, this play is not only interesting and educational, but it's a sincere wake-up call. Nothing will ever be the same and there's no way to completely disinvest from current technology. And, on the other hand, good old-fashioned sex hasn't changed a bit.

This is a terrific play, and the Public Theatre is a terrific space. Sex With Strangers, runs now through April 3. Tickets are \$35-\$60 on sale at detroitpublictheatre. org, by phone at (313) 576-5111, or in person at the DSO box office. Detroit Public Theatre is located in the Robert A. and Maggie Allesee Rehearsal Hall inside the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center at 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural District.



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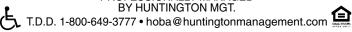
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Bunnyville includes a golden egg hunt with more than 100 eggs hidden throughout the Zoo each day. New this year is an additional egg hunt for children ages 2 to 5. The festivities also include the Jelly Bean Jamboree, Funny Bunny Games, whisker painting and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny (available for purchase). The Off Broadway Productions musical The Bunny Follies will be performed in the Main Picnic Grove at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Bunnyville visitors are encouraged to bring a canned or other non-perishable food item to be donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank. Each guest with

a food donation will receive a reduced admission price of \$9. Admission for Detroit Zoological Society members is free, but members are encouraged to bring food donations.

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