

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

24th Woodward Dream Cruise Gears Up

In August of 1995, Ferndale's Nelson House and a group of volunteers planned to recreate the nostalgia of the chrome-plated 50's and 60's, when Detroit's carmakers ruled the world and their muscle-bound engines roared down the modern world's first paved road—Woodward Avenue.

That year, 250,000 drivers and spectators participated in what was deemed the **Dream Cruise**—nearly ten times the number expected.

Today, the *Woodward Dream Cruise* is the world's largest one-day automotive event, drawing well over a million people and nearly 50,000 classic cars each year from around the globe—from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the former Soviet Union.

North American cruisers from every US state, Canada and all points in between, caravan to Greater Detroit to participate in what has become an annual rite of summer.

The *24th Woodward Dream Cruise* will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 18 and run north on Woodward Ave. from Ferndale through to Pontiac's Downtown.

Communities along the Cruise route will host special events all weekend, with a number of cities hosting events on Thursday and Friday, August 16 & 17.

For more information about each city's events, see their accompanying web site in the following listings:

- City of Berkley. 12 Mile between Coolidge and Greenfield. See berkleymich.org/cruiseifest.
- City of Birmingham. Downtown and on Old Woodward. See BirminghamCruiseEvent.com.
- City of Bloomfield Township. 36600 Woodward. See bloomfieldtwp.org/events.
- City of Ferndale. West Nine Mile area. See FerndaleDreamCruise.com.
- City of Pontiac. Downtown - Saginaw St. See Pontiaccruise.com.
- City of Royal Oak. Memorial Park and the Cruise epicenter of Woodward and 13 Mile.

Also on Saturday, August 18, 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., the sixth *Cruise In Shoes 5k Run/Walk* at Shrine High School Athletic Field.



SHOWINGS

Living Arts Open Arts Festival

Living Arts will present their first annual *Open Arts Fest* on Saturday, August 18. The event will take place from 2-6 p.m. at the Ford Resource & Engagement Center at the Mexicantown Mercado.

Open Arts Fest is a youth-led, teen focused art party featuring Detroit DJ and SPOT teaching artist Sterling Toles, open mic, dance performances and art-making. The event is free and is hosted by The SPOT, Living Arts' teen open studio class.

Torta Express and Mangonadas bel Barrio will be on hand with a wide range of Mexican food and desserts available for purchase (cash only).

The SPOT is a weekly open visual arts studio initiative that facilitates self-directed art-making for middle and high school students. Through collaboration, students serve as mentors to their peers and receive feedback on their own work.

The SPOT is part of the Living Arts' Out-of-School Arts program, a series of youth classes and workshops including year-round visual, performing, literary and media arts education programs for youth ages 3 months to 18 years.

For more information, see livingartsdetroit.org or call (313) 841-4765. The Ford Resource & Engagement Center is located at 2826 Bagley Ave. in Southwest Detroit.



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SUMMER IN THE CITY

Buzz on Over to Belle Isle 'Bee Fest'



The Belle Isle Nature Center will be buzzing with excitement on Saturday, August 18, for the *Third Annual Bee Fest* in celebration of *National Honey Bee Day*.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature beekeeper talks, drawings by chalk artist David Zinn, arts and crafts, local honey tasting, demonstrations on planting and maintaining a bee-friendly garden and a children's bee costume parade.

Musical performances by singer, songwriter and earth educator Joe Reilly will complement an exhibition of images by macro photographer Joseph Ferraro, offering a close-up glimpse at the tiny pollinators found in and around local flowers. Harding Honey will offer balms and soaps made from local beeswax.

"Honey bees are facing many serious challenges in today's environment, including mites, viruses, diseases and pesticides," said Amy Greene, nature centers director for the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS). "This event is a fun way to educate the community about what is happening with bees and how we can all help."

Admission to the Belle Isle Nature Center and all Bee Fest activities are free. The Belle Isle Nature Center features an observation beehive which provides a close-up view of the busy daily lives of honey bees.

Sealed tightly within a double-sided glass case and with a tunnel providing the bees year-round access to the outdoors, the hive allows guests to watch the bees do what they do best...work.

Located at the east end of Belle Isle near the Blue Heron Lagoon, the Belle Isle Nature Center is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A state of Michigan Recreation Passport is required for all personal vehicles to enter Belle Isle State Park.

For more information, see belleislenaturecenter.org. Belle Isle is located off of E. Jefferson, near Mt. Elliott, in Downtown Detroit.

Book Beat's New Moon Party



One of the oldest and still most vital independent bookstores in America, Oak Park's Book Beat, will celebrate a *New Moon Party* and their 36th year in business on Saturday, August 11, from 10 a.m. to midnight.

There will be New Books, New Music, Art & Authors and a Midnite Madness book sale. The reborn experimental '70s Ann Arbor band EMPOOL with brothers Benjamin Rush Miller and Laurence Bond Miller (from Sproton Layer, Destroy All Monsters) will perform from 9-10 p.m.

Artists Jackie Strez, Gwen Joy, Tom Carey, Marcia Hoveland and Leni Sinclair will be selling artworks and Street Corner Music will be spinning vinyl and having a late-night record sale. Printmaker Amos Kennedy will be on hand to demonstrate letter press printing.

Aaron Foley author of *How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass* and *The Detroit Neighborhood Guidebook* will appear from noon to 2 p.m.

For more info see thebookbeat.com or call (248) 968-1190. The Book Beat is located at 26010 Greenfield, between 10 & 11 Mile Roads in Oak Park.

15th Detroit Fire Dept. Fill the Boot

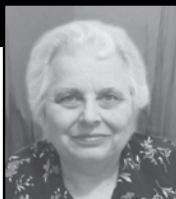
The Detroit Fire Department (DFD) is showing their support for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) with their *15th Annual Fill the Boot* fundraising campaign to help kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle-debilitating diseases, live longer and grow stronger.

DFD will hit the streets with boots in hand asking pedestrians, motorists and other passersby to make donations to MDA on August 14-17.

Firefighters will be at various locations across the city including: Livernois and Davison, 7 Mile and Livernois, Mack and Moross, Grand Circus Park, Campus Martius and many more.

Contributions also help fund groundbreaking research and life-enhancing programs and send more than 100 local kids to "the best week of the year" at MDA summer camp at Camp Cavell, all at no cost to their families. For more information contact Sergeant Darnell McLaurin at (313) 410-0904 or Kendra Kroll at (734) 416-7076 or see mda.org.

SYMPHONIC NEWS



Ruth's Music Notes

Ruth Crystal-Zaromp



Arbor Opera Theater announced its 2018–2019 Opera Season, with Austin Stewart's first season as Artistic Director.

This season includes New Partnerships and Three New-To-Michigan Productions of *Moon-drunk Madness*, *Ricky Ian Gordon's Orpheus & Euridice*, and *Offenbach's The Tales of Hoffmann*.

These productions will appear between September 2018 and May 2019 at the Riverside Arts Center (Ypsilanti), Kerrytown Concert House, and Arthur Miller Theatre (Ann Arbor).

Moon-drunk Madness (September 7 & 8) is a theatrical mash-up of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* & Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King* created in collaboration

with ÆPEX Contemporary Performance.

Ricky Ian Gordon's modern retelling of *Orpheus & Euridice* (January 11 & 13) is being co-produced with the Kerrytown Concert House.

A fresh adaptation of *The Tales of Hoffmann* by Offenbach will take place at the Arthur Miller Theatre, Ann Arbor, on May 17–19.

Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) has added two directors to its leadership team.

MOT appointed Andrea Scobie (pictured, left) to Director of Education and Arthur White (pictured, right) to Director of External Affairs. Both newly-created positions aim to enhance MOT's community presence and offerings.

MOT President and CEO

Wayne S. Brown said the appointments serve to strengthen and expand the company's commitment to educational programs and community partnerships.

Andrea Scobie was promoted from her role as MOT's Manager of Education and Community Programs, which she has held since 2015.

She was previously the Director of Education of Matrix Theatre Company as well as the director of the Matrix Teen Company.

She has also been an active arts educator, leading training and classes for youth and adults in performance, playwriting, vocal music and pedagogy.

As Director of Education, she will lead MOT's growing education pro-

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grams, including MOT's expanded partnership with the Detroit Public Schools Community District's Cultural Passport program bringing all district fourth-graders to an opera or dance performance at the Detroit Opera House.

Arthur White returns to MOT in September after previously serving as the organization's Audience Engagement Coordinator from 2013-2015.

He is currently Artistic Director of the *M on the Bund Opera Series* in Shanghai and has held previous roles as an artist manager for performers with opera companies, orchestras and

other presenters.

As Director of External Affairs, White's position will serve MOT's community programs, marketing and development teams by building new relationships with organizations and institutions throughout the region.

Formed under the leadership of Karen DiChiera, MOT's Education and Community Department has been serving Metro Detroit for more than 30 years with programming that includes bringing touring operas into schools, summer performance workshops and community presentations.

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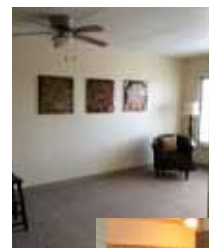
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LIVE THEATRE

Wicked Begins 4 Week Run at Opera House

As part of its extensive North American tour, *Wicked* comes to Downtown Detroit's Opera House as its last stop for the year.

The Tony Award winning musical closes out its summer run with a four-week engagement, now through September 2.

Wicked, presented by Broadway in Detroit, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz ... but from a different angle. Long before Dorothy arrives there is another young woman, born with emerald-green skin- smart, fiery, misunderstood and possessing an extraordinary talent. When she meets a bubbly blonde who is exceptionally popular, their initial rivalry turns into the unlikeliest of friendships ... until the world decides to call one "good," and the other one "wicked."

Based on the novel written by Gregory Maguire, the musical is the prequel to the *Wizard of Oz*. For ticket information and showtimes, call (313) 872-1000, or go on-line to broadwayindetroit.com.

Detroit's Opera House is located at 1526 Broadway, Downtown.



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A Review by Paul Arlon

CINEMA CULTURE

Don't Pooh-Pooh 'Pooh'

Christopher Robin, the latest take on the venerable stuffed bear Winnie and his toy chest crew, entered the crowded field of summer movies last week up against the biggest blockbusters of the season.

With a budget of \$75 million, this gentle fairytale story is wedged into a release schedule with action-adventure thrillers (like *Mission Impossible* and the upcoming *The Meg*) costing two and three times as much. But, movie tickets are the same price at most theatres and whatever couple of hours you sit through, as always, content is king, no matter how much money gets spent to make a film. And, sometimes half the budget can equal twice the story.

There's a good chance that a majority of people everywhere circling the known universe have encountered *Winnie the Pooh* and his cadre of fabric friends – Eeyore, the sullen and pessimistic donkey, the little pink acorn-glutton, Piglet, Tigger, the all-too-energetic Tiger-on-springs, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo and Owl.

These characters, owned and used by Disney since the 1960's, were created in the 1920's by English author A. A. Milne, originally as stories for his young son, in real-life named Christopher Robin. Milne based his characters on his little boy's favorite animal at the London Zoo, a female black bear called Winnie, which Christopher had liked so much that he named his stuffed bear after her. The rest of Milne's fantastic creations came out of Christopher Robin's toy chest, as well.

In this live-action, CGI version of Milne's creation, the story centers upon a grown-up Christopher



Robin (Ewan McGregor), back from the first World War, married (Hayley Atwell) with a daughter (Bronte Carmichael) and stuck solidly in a consuming and unsatisfying job at a barely afloat luggage factory.

As a hard-working efficiency manager, Robin is tasked by the company owner's sniffingly elitist son to cut their operating budget by 20%. And, that means that unless the company can create a better revenue stream, employees will be tossed to the curb.

Robin had planned to take his wife and daughter on a much-needed weekend getaway to the family cottage near the *100 Acre Wood*, until his work hammer fell so dramatically. His apologies are sincere, but his wife and little girl are beyond disappointed. Robin's job is interfering with his real life, and it's created a wide division in his most important relationships. As his wife and daughter leave for their country house, Robin settles down to his tedious, dismal work.

Then, we see that deep within the *100 Acre Wood*, Pooh has just finished his last drop of honey, and with growling stomach, he makes his way from his tree-trunk home to look for his friends. And, he can't find them. None of his

companions are anywhere to be seen. Eeyore, Piglet, Roo, Tigger, and the rest of them have disappeared.

Pooh is panicked. He has a slow brain to begin with, and now, he really doesn't know what to do. He does remember, though, that any time there was trouble for him or his friends, like when the Wood's mean

and scary monsters, the Heffalumps and Woozles, came around, that one person always saved them — Christopher Robin.

So, Pooh, not knowing where his friends are, fearing the Wood's scary monsters, and becoming increasingly hungry, decides to go to London to find Christopher Robin. He

knows that Christopher Robin will fix everything.

Pooh finds Robin in London, and a startled Robin immediately makes a beeline to return him back to the *100 Acre Wood*.

Still carrying his heavy-hearted work tasks in his briefcase, Robin and Pooh journey back to a reality when the pressing problems of the adult world become more solvable the further away one gets from them.

A child's imagination can often overcome the harsh situations of adulthood, and sometimes all that's needed to ease a worried mind is a little playtime.

Directed by Marc Forster and written by Alex Ross Perry and Tom McCarthy, this is a shiny bright movie. Full of gentleness and kind humor, its message is simple: relaxation is necessary medicine and it's best to do it with people you love.

★★★



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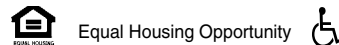
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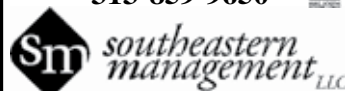
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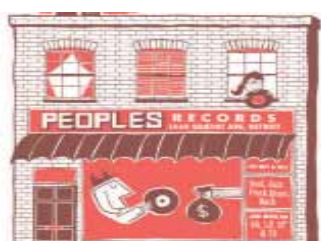
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