

stage

NOW PLAYING

Here are major area offerings in theater, dance and comedy at a glance. For details on tickets and curtain times, refer to the calendar, which begins on Page 14.

COMEDY JAMM NIGHT

Rookie comedians and known pros working on new material or auditioning to perform at the venue tend to all kinds of funny business at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase on Thursday nights. Antics from the improv group Beer Money conclude each show. June 26 at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.

COMEDY WORKSHOP WITH DOREEN CALDERON

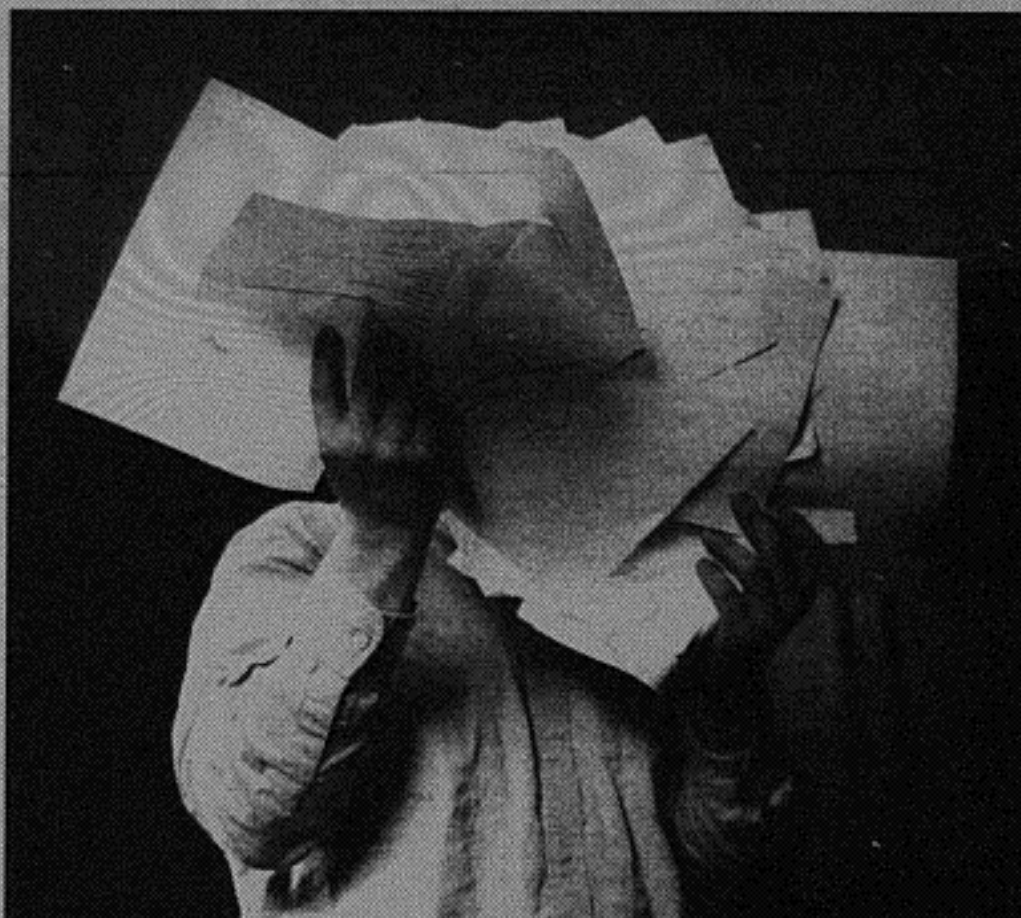
Improv comedy like that seen on the TV show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" taught by actress/Second City alum Calderon. June 26 at the Ann Arbor District Main Library.

PLAY: "THE OCTETTE BRIDGE CLUB"

Set in 1934-44 Rhode Island, this comedy focuses on the domestic intrigues of eight very different Irish Catholic sisters who meet every other Friday night for cards, pie and gossip. Presented by P.T.D. Productions at Riverside Arts Center June 26-28.

CHILDREN'S PLAY: "FROG AND TOAD"

Based on Arnold Lobel's stories by the same name, "Frog and Toad" is perfect for children ages 3-8. Hilary Cohen is Frog, Sandy Ryder portrays Toad. American Sign Language-interpreted. June 26-28 at Towsley Auditorium, Washtenaw Community College.



"A Work in Progress": June 25-29, July 3-6 at Performance Network.

PLAY: "BLITHE SPIRIT"

Guy Sanville directs Noel Coward's classic comedy about a writer haunted by the ghost of his late wife, who shows up during a seance and refuses to leave. Worse — she may be planning murder. Malcolm Tulip, Janet Maylie and Michelle Mountain star. Preview June 26, then June 27-Aug. 30 at Purple Rose Theatre Company, Chelsea.

PLAY: "A WORK IN PROGRESS"

Brass Tacks Ensemble presents local playwright James Ingagiola's new work, about a man trying to liberate his creativity (and himself) only to find that he is being held back by the very people he thought were supporting him. Tensions rise and secrets are revealed, as the playwright are left wondering who his friends really are. And for that mat-

ter, who he is. Cast includes Anne S. Rhoades, Rob Sulewski, Jeffrey Steiger, Gulshirin Dubash and others. June 26-29, July 3-6 at Performance Network, as part of the TreeTown Performance Festival.

COMEDY: J.R. REMICK

Remick brings his fascinating conglomeration of characters back to town, including Bowling Elvis. June

27-28 at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.

DANCE: SOLOS WITH PIANO WITH MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV

Dance legend performs an evening of solo contemporary movement by American and European contemporary choreographers, including Lucinda Childs, Tere O'Connor, Michael Clark and Cesc Gelabert, under the auspices of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. He's accompanied by pianist Pedja Muzijevic, recipient of Juilliard's coveted William Petschek Award. July 2-3 at Power Center.

COMEDY IMPROV NIGHT: BEER MONEY

Antics from the improv group Beer Money. July 3 & 5 at Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.

PERFORMANCE: THE CAPITOL STEPS

Would the Ann Arbor Summer Festival's 20th season be complete without the comic fireworks of The Capitol Steps? Back again, playing an ever-shifting and always topical zany brand of political satire. The Steps have earned the reputation for being the only group in Washington funnier than Congress. Get your tickets early — these shows usually sell out. July 4 (two shows) at Power Center.

SHANGRI-LA CHINESE ACROBATS

Under the direction of acrobatic legends the Hai Family, this Taiwanese troupe interprets the precision and grace of an art form honed by more than 25 years of training and discipline. Expect a flamboyant mixture of daredevil movement, magic, dance, comedy, and extraordinary stunts. July 5 (two shows) at Power Center.