

Dinner and a movie is Academy Award-winning date night

By MALISSA MARTIN

Special to The Oakland Press

Planning a date can be a handful. You want something special, fun and local.

Dinner and a movie is a retro date that usually happens in two locations. But Uptown Entertainment, which owns Palladium 12, Birmingham 8 and Ren Cen 4, takes the task of planning for a night with that special someone or a group of friends.

Palladium 12, 250 N. Old Woodward Ave., Birmingham, has offered the dinner and a movie package in its Premiere Entertainment Auditorium since opening in 2001. The package includes one movie ticket, salad and dinner buffet before the movie and unlimited soda and popcorn with designated seating for \$29 per person. The Premiere Entertainment Auditorium seats 162 people and has exclusive

high-back seats with custom Tempur-Pedic cushions.

Palladium 12's in-house Executive Chef Ian Forrest, and his team of 12 create new menus monthly.

"We try to do something that's outside the box that you wouldn't be able to get next door or down the street," Forrest said. "We put in the extra effort to go above and beyond."

He also tries to incorporate movie themes in the menu when possible. Forrest has extensive experience in four-star restaurants as well as corporate dining. He was the executive chef for Ford Motor Co. for seven years. For the past two years he's been the executive chef for Palladium 12 and Ren Cen 4, which also offers the dinner and movie package.

The August menu was created with summer in mind. The salad bar includes fresh fruit and berries,



Palladium 12 offers first-run movies and first-rate meals.

mixed green salad, tossed Caesar salad with roasted garlic Parmesan dressing, Mediterranean orzo salad, southwest bean salad and redskin potato salad with bacon and bleu cheese. The dinner menu includes pan-seared breast of chicken piccata with fresh garlic,

lemon, capers and artichokes served in a white wine-butter sauce; grilled center-cut pork chop stuffed with Boursin cheese, caramelized onions, apples and cherries in a port wine demi-glace; blackened tilapia set in a pool of sweet and spicy tomato sauce and topped



Popcorn's included, too.

with pineapple salsa, fresh cilantro and lime; grilled late-summer vegetables and oven-roasted redskin potatoes with rosemary. The dessert menu includes miniature root beer floats and plum and blueberry upside-down cake.

Laura Bayoff-Elkins, director of marketing at Palladium 12, says the theater is unique with having an in-house chef. "He uses his own creativity with the menu. His flair for food is exquisite," she said.

Dinner and a movie takes place every Friday and Saturday night throughout

the year. Beginning Aug. 26 and throughout September, dinner and a movie will debut "Colombiana" starring Zoe Saldana, "Apollo 18" starring Lloyd Owen and Warren Christie, "Contagion" starring Matt Damon and Jude Law, "Straw Dogs" starring James Marsden and Kate Bosworth, "Moneyball" starring Brad Pitt and "50/50" starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen.

Tickets for dinner and a movie go on sale the Tuesday before the event, and can be purchased at the Palladium 12 box office or by phone.

For more information, visit www.uptowntertainment.com or call 248-723-6240 to make a reservation. You can also find Palladium 12, Birmingham 8 and Ren Cen 4 on Facebook and Twitter.

Ren Cen 4 is at the GM Ren Cen, Tower 200, Level 2, Detroit; 313-259-2370.

Mega-Weedge Weens the Magic Bag; Planet D Nonet honors Sun Ra

■ The fourth annual People's Arts Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 27-28, at the Russell Industrial Center, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. The daylong free event includes exhibitions by some 140 artists, more than 40 musical acts — including the **Bell Beat**, **Rattletrap**, **Bastion**, **Jere Stormer**, **Michael Bermudez** and more — locally produced films, food, fashion and "unusual performers." Call 313-872-4000 or visit www.rccadetroit.org.

■ **Mega-Weedge**, a Ween tribute band from Detroit, plies its idiosyncratic craft on Friday, Aug. 26, at the Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. **Catfish Mafia** and **Miss Katie Grace** also perform. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Call 248-544-3030 or visit

www.themagicbag.com.

■ Veteran trumpeter and band leader **Johnny Trudell** and his orchestra will be featured in Jazz at Ford House: A Prelude to the Detroit Jazz Festival at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets are \$12-\$25, with some proceeds going to the Detroit Jazz Festival. Call 313-884-4222 or visit www.fordhouse.org.

■ The **Planet D Nonet** has its third annual tribute to the late **Sun Ra** at 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, at the 3rd Bar, 699 W. Forest Ave., Detroit. This year's special guest is trombonist **Vincent Chandler**, who's performed with **Joe Henderson**, **Wynton Marsalis**, **James Carter** and others. The Nonet's CD from the first

two Sun Ra tributes was named Best Jazz Recording at this year's Detroit Music Awards. Call 313-833-0603 or visit www.eastlawnrecords.com.

■ Guitarist **A. Spencer Barefield** and his **Super String Quartet**, featuring his daughter **Jannina** on violin, will headline a Summer Soiree concert in Detroit that will also feature locally grown organic foods and beverages. The

show takes place at the Imagination Station, which is set up in two formerly blighted houses at 2230 14th St. in Corktown. The show runs 3-5 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$50. Call 248-953-0469 or visit www.facethestation.com.

■ The Stone House Concerts series in Detroit's Palmer Park hosts a Folk Fest from 4-10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, featuring **Derek Daniel**, **Sigrid Christiansen** with David

Mosher, **Potter's Field** and **Billy Brandt and Sarana Verlin**. Suggested donation is \$20. To make reservations

call 313-345-1225 or visit www.stonehouseconcerts.com.

— Gary Graff