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Ex-Charleroi man has chance to 'Be A Star'

By ISABELLE HURLEY
Making them laugh on "Be A Star" on TNN July 20 and 22 will be Charleroi's Alan Fisher. He will have the same opportunity on the same cable network on Jan. 18 and 20, 1994.

Alan and his wife live at 98 Millwood Drive in Nashville and he is billed as comedian, actor, magician and AFTRA member. He was formerly a Mon Valley and Pittsburgh performer before spreading his wings to the Tri-State area. I have seen him in action many times particularly with the Don Brockett shows. He has earned praise from critics: The Cleveland Journal called his performance "hilarious." Others said, "An outstanding job. The crowd loved you" and "Excellent — his talents should always be center stage." Alan's mom Mary and his grandmother still live in Charleroi.

I saw Alan perform time after time and I remember when he entertained for the senior girls at Belle Vernon Area High School. He brought down the house.

Alan has been an entertainer since he was nine years old some 24 years ago. He started out as a magician but when he finished high school he had added the actor, singer and comedian to his talents. He has a bachelor of fine arts degree and worked four years at the Pittsburgh Playhouse before joining the national touring company of the off-Broadway "Big Bad Burlesque" in 1982. He worked up to the starring role of "Top Banana." He was with the show six years before pursuing the comedy club circuit. He has headlined shows in the northeast and really kept them laughing as he went on in television, films, commercials and industrials.

At the Pittsburgh Playhouse he played the role of Sir Anthony in "The Rivals" and he did Lelio in "Androcles and the Lion." He has done two films, magic features and trade shows.

Always glad to hear a success story about Valley people — OK Alan "Be A Star."

AT LITTLE LAKE — "The Trip to Bountiful," Horton Foote's gripping story of the adventures of a delightful runaway who just happens to be a senior citizen, opened over the weekend at Little Lake Theatre on the shore of the Canonsburg Dam just off Route 19. It will reprise Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. Director Sunny Disney Fitchett has added her own personal touch to the life of the aging widow, Carrie Watts.

Carrie wants to return to her girlhood home in rural Bountiful, Texas. She is portrayed by Theresa Courtney, a favorite at the Lake who recently understudied at the City Theatre for Ann B. Davis of The Brady Bunch.

The ever-so-patient son of the hardly-ever-patient daughter-in-

law, Lude and Jessie Mae Watts are portrayed by Michael and Karen Slavin and also featured are Shawna Glad, Paul Johns, Phillip Bower, Ray Trance, David Van Deever and wife Shirley, Daren Mrenak, David Wilson and Marissa Carrillo. Reservations can be made by calling 745-6300. New type delicacies have been added to the between-acts menu.

ANOTHER OPENING THAT will reprise — "Never Too Late" by Sumner Arthur Long found the Valley Theatre Company of California University of Pennsylvania center stage at the Performing Arts Center of the Elmo Natali Student Center on campus. With Dr. Richard Heildobler as company director, the group moved from The Loft at Linden Hall to the new center. The play is set to run July 21-24 and Aug. 19-21 and 26-28.

NEVER NEVER LAND — From July 20-25, the West Virginia University Creative Arts Center will be transformed into Never Never Land for the Lakeview Theatre production of "Peter Pan" starring Marguerite Lowell, who will be

making her third appearance at Lakeview. She is widely known for performances on afternoon soap operas. Roger Jerome will play the indolent Captain Hook and Paul Mochnick will be Hook's sidekick.

Kirsten Wyatt, a 17-year-old actress from Clarksburg, W. Va., won the part of Wendy in competition with New York and Pittsburgh professional performers.

Two intermissions have been arranged (especially for children) and there are also special rate tickets for the younger set. Check on it by calling 304-293-3020.

THIRD PLAY OF THE SEASON — Opening July 20 in the Johnny Appleseed Children's Theatre of the Apple Hill Playhouse at Delmont is "Hansel and Gretel" and all performances begin at 11 a.m. on July 22, 24, 27, 29 and 31. All seats are reserved at \$3 but reservations should be made by calling 468-5050.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Isabelle Hurley is a former society editor of The Valley Independent.)



'OLIVER' IN JENNERSTOWN — Fifteen young people from the Western Pennsylvania area bring to life the world of Charles Dickens' "Oliver" playing through Aug. 8 at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown. In the group pictured above, one artist is from Belle Vernon R.D.3, Erin Matson, 11-year-old daughter of Rick and

Edwina Matson is bottom row. She has "The Music Man" Fayette County Theatre School "Oliver" Call 311 and tickets

Things looking up for actress

By SUSAN L. PENA
READING, Pa. (AP) — The last time Berks Countians had a chance to see actress Lucy Lee Flippin was last November when she served as grand marshal of the Thanksgiving parade.

In an interview then, the former Douglassville resident said she, like many other professionals in the Los Angeles area, was having trouble finding work.

Since that time, things have been looking up for Flippin, who recently returned to Berks County after a week in Austin, Texas, working in the latest Clint Eastwood movie, "A Perfect World," starring Kevin Costner, Eastwood, and Laura Dern.

The Oscar-winning director chose Flippin to play a small part after she sent him an audition tape.

"The audition was kind of unusual," she said in a telephone interview. "He doesn't like to meet actors, because he wants to hire everyone he meets. So everyone auditions on videotape."

The movie, scheduled for release around Christmas, is a comedy with tragic elements in which Costner plays a convict who escapes with an 8-year-old boy as hostage. Eastwood plays a sheriff, and Dern plays an FBI agent. Flippin describes it as a sort of buddy movie, similar to "Thelma & Louise" in tone because of the relationship that develops between Costner and the boy. The film is set in the early '60s in Texas.

At one point, Costner and the child stop at a small town and enter a drygoods store called Friendly's to steal some clothing.

"One is very young and sexy, and then there's me, who's very schoolmarmish," Flippin said. "But both characters change, and at the end I'm screaming at the kid for stealing a Casper the Friendly Ghost costume. I even use a four-letter word."

Because the scene was complicated to shoot (they had to break a plate-glass window, among other things), Flippin spent two days sitting around in costume and makeup in Martindale, a little Hill Country town 50

miles southwest of Austin. The townspeople were real friendly, she said. They would set up bleachers and come to watch. One little girl made me a necklace, she called me 'Mrs. Lucy'.

When she finally began working on the scene, she found Eastwood unusual to work with.

He's very quiet as a director, with no extraneous movement or chatter," she said. "He doesn't use the typical studio language, instead of saying 'cut,' he'll just say, 'OK.' Or he'll be talking and start walking away, so you can't hear what he's saying. You really have to pay attention and use your instincts a lot."

When Costner enters the store, he points a gun at her, then moves to the side and shoots a window, she said.

"I had a gun pointed at me before, and it was not pleasant," she said. Kevin Costner holding the gun at

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