

SRO: PEOPLE TO WATCH

All about Christine

Margo Channing? Yes, the role of fictional Broadway star Margo Channing will be enacted by two-time Tony Award-winner and Winnetka native **Christine Ebersole**. The character was originated by Bette Davis in the film "All About Eve." Later the story became the musical "Applause" in which **Lauren Bacall** played Channing and won her first Tony. "Applause" runs Feb. 7-10 as part of the City Center of New York's 15th annual Encores! season. Ebersole's recent Tony-winning star turn was in "Grey Gardens," in which she played the mother Edith Bouvier Beale in the first act and the daughter "Little" Edie Beale in the second. The run ended July 29 after 307 performances on Broadway, and there are plans to open the show in London's West End. Will Ebersole's winter engagement in New York be a problem? Let's hope not.



Teenage drama: **Fawn Johnstin**, who completed her freshman year at Loyola



Fawn Johnstin

Academy in Wilmette this spring, is spending the summer acting in one of Chicago's most critically acclaimed plays, "August: Osage County," at the Steppenwolf.

Johnstin, a Hoffman Estates resident who previously attended St. Theresa School in Palatine, plays a pot-smoking teen surrounded by the dysfunctional adults of an Oklahoma clan in Tracy Letts' play, which continues through Aug. 26.

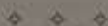


Opening dazzler: No less than **Sir Andrew Davis**, music director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, will conduct the opening concert of the Chicago Philharmonic's 17th season at 7 p.m. Oct. 28 in Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. Those musicians do have an inside track, as a significant number of them play in the Lyric Opera Orchestra. "He'll recognize many familiar faces," admitted **James T. Berkenstock** of Evanston, president of the Chicago Philharmonic and principal bassoon of that orchestra and Lyric's. The program includes Schumann's Symphony No. 3 ("Rhenish") and the Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 1 with **Daniel Mueller-Schlott**.



Bunnies in Soup: Deerfield writer **Ruth Spiro** has contributed a piece to Chicken Soup for the Child's Soul: Character Building Stories to Read with Kids Ages 5-8 — the latest title in the ongoing series. Spiro's story is called "Sometimes, Babies Get in the Way" and it's about a girl discovering a nest of baby

bunnies near her new swingset and decides to hold off playing near it until the rabbits get bigger.



Shikago? Sound it out and you'll recognize the name of this new restaurant, bar and take out at 190 S. LaSalle St. a block north of the Board of Trade. It is owned by brothers and Glenview natives **Alan and Kevin Shikami**, who also run the restaurant Kevin at 9 W. Hubbard St. Their new enterprise features modern Asian cuisine and its Loop location makes it ideal for catering. The brothers eventually plan to host wine events in the Library, which is the private dining room on the building's 40th floor.



Half-pounders: **Carol Goldman** of Highland Park, creator of Carol's Cookies, has just announced her first new flavor in two years. Available this month, it is called Toffee Crunch, with dark chocolate chips and all natural toffee. Goldman cooked up her secret recipe almost three decades ago and she now runs the company with her son **Jeff Goldman**. Check out Sunset Foods, Whole Foods, Ghirardelli Chocolate Shop, and Neiman Marcus. If you're not crazy about toffee, Carol also makes classical chocolate chip, old-fashioned sugar, oatmeal raisin, and her famous snickerdoodle, laced with cinnamon sugar, to name a few of her 10 flavors.



Fables almost finished: This is the last weekend to see the Chicago Shakespeare Theater's fresh new musical "How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back?" with book, music and lyrics written by Northwestern University graduates **Michael Mahler** and **Alan Schmuckler**. The 60-minute show based on some of Aesop's most beloved fables is geared for children 6 years and older, and it is highly entertaining for adults as well. It played at the CST on Navy Pier in the spring and was so successful that it was brought back for the summer. Final performances are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a 4 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Call (312) 595-5600.



On the air: WFMT (98.7FM) will carry three programs related to the Ravinia Festival this week. At 8 p.m. Friday music director **James Conlon** will speak about his Mahler cycle, which included a stunning performance of the composer's Sixth Symphony on Aug. 1. To know more about Zemlinsky's "The Mermaid" before you attend the 5 p.m. performance Sunday of the work in the festival's pavilion with the CSO, tune in Conlon discussion of the tone poem at 5 p.m. the same day and the Tafelmusik performance Monday night in the Martin Theatre will be broadcast live beginning at 8 p.m.

— *Compiled by Dorothy Andrie and Michael Bonestee*