

Thunderbirds highlight international air show

The 1989 Pennsylvania International Air Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 16-17 at Harrisburg International Airport.

The featured performers will be the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Air Force's Premier aerial demonstration squadron.

Other performers include the popular two plane formation team "The French Connection," World-War II Luftwaffe Ace Oscar Boesch, and a newcomer to Harrisburg this year, the Holiday Inn Aerobic Team.

The Thunderbirds will stream through the sky in six high-performance F-16 Fighting Falcons, multi-role combat fighters.

The F-16 is one of Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. Since its introduction ten years ago, it has proved itself a highly maneuverable aircraft in air-to-air combat and is considered one of the world's best precision tactical bombers.

They will be presenting maneuvers ranging from the graceful Diamond Roll to the thrilling Cross-Over Break.

Highlighting the show will be the breathtaking Bomb Burst maneuver as the diamond formation dissects the sky into four equal parts.

All members of the Thunderbirds are volunteers. In addition to flying the red, white, and blue F-16s, Thunderbird officers must fulfill their roles as America's "Ambassadors in Blue", visiting hospitals, speaking to school groups and signing autographs are examples of what is required of them.

Selection to this elite corps is a rare honor. Currently, 11 officers of a possible 100,000 are assigned to the squadron.

When a vacancy occurs, a thorough screening of each applicant is made. Flying background and experience are closely scrutinized by current Thunderbird members.

As the field is narrowed, extensive personal interviews and thorough medical examinations, are conducted.

If selected, a Thunderbird enlisted member begins a 21-day training and orientation period, where they learn important facts about the squadron's operation, history and aircraft.

Pilots start with two ship formations, adding other aircraft as they progress, until they can achieve their famous diamond formation.

"An element of safety is planned

into each and every maneuver we perform," said Lt. Col. Steve Trent, commander of the Thunderbirds.

In three short months, new and experienced Thunderbird pilots must appear as if they've been flying together for years.

The name Thunderbird comes from the Indian tribes. It was believed to be a powerful deity controlling the forces of good over evil and light over dark.

The French Connection, made up of Montaine Mallet and Daniel Heligoin, will perform the closest formation aerobatics to be seen anywhere.

They blend a unified presentation of loops, rolls, hammerheads, and the astounding back-to-back "mirror formation" 360 degree turn.

Both also fly exciting and breathtaking solo acts. Montaine Mallet is one of the country's leading female air show performers.

In "The Fascination of Silent Flight", Oscar Boesch flies his Schleicher AS-W15 sailplane to the music of "Amazing Grace" and the words of J.G. Magee Jr.'s immortal poem "High Flight".

The AS-W15 is made entirely of fibreglass. With its wingspan of just over 49 feet and length of about 21 feet.

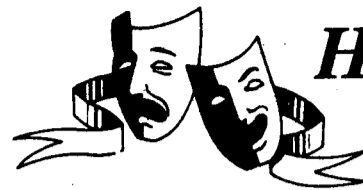
The Holiday Inn Aerobic Team, a group of real-life "top guns" who dazzle air show fans from coast to coast with their skill and daring.

The team also represents the most decorated group flying today. The members of this four pilot team hold a total of 12 Distinguished Flying Crosses from their U.S. Air Force careers.

In addition, a static display is being planned, which will include fighters, helicopters, transports, and unusual aircraft to see and tour along with military tactical demonstrations. Music and entertainment will be featured throughout the pre-show hours.

General admission prices will remain the same as last year: Adult tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$9.00 at the gate; children's tickets (ages 6-12) are \$2.00 in advance and \$3.00 at the gate. Bleacher seating has been discontinued but the Box Seat area has been increased and will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For further information, please call the Air Show office at 948-5760. The Pennsylvania International Air Show benefits the American Cancer Society and several other local charities.



Harrisburg theatre makes casting call

Here is a list of audition and performance dates for the Harrisburg Community Theatre 1989-90 Season. Taking into account the Mainstage Series and the Second Stage events, there are many outstanding shows in store and numerous challenging roles available for hopeful and enterprising actors and actresses.

HCT holds open auditions. That means that no parts are cast in advance, anyone may audition, and equal opportunity is always operative. They are now on the lookout for fresh and talented new faces as well as "veteran" ones! Last season, in a total of eleven productions, 60 performers made premiere appearances at HCT (from a total of 154 available roles in the 1989-90 season).

Musical auditions require that you prepare a song to sing. Bring your own music and the theatre will provide an accompanist. Scripts for comedies and dramas are available on limited library loan prior to audition time. **FAMILIARITY WITH THE SCRIPT IS RECOMMENDED AND, INDEED, IMPROVES YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT ANY AUDITION.** Those who wish to work backstage may come to auditions and ask for the Producers of the show. Call us at 238-7382 for further information and answers to your questions. Remember: Carefully prepare a song for a musical audition, read the script in advance whenever possible, and recollect that everyone (including the Director) gets nervous for an audition!

Mainstage Series

Amadeus by Peter Shaffer
September 15-October 1, 1989

Was Mozart murdered? This acclaimed and imaginative drama speculates vividly on an unsolved riddle. A high-powered evening at the theatre! Cast: 11-13 men, 4-5 women.

Auditions: July 30 and 31 (7 p.m.)

Little Shop of Horrors

Book and lyrics by Howard Ashman. Music by Alan Menken
Oct. 27- November 12, 1989

From a B-movie classic comes this rock'n'roll monster music smash about a jive-talking, maneating plant. Horrific, hilarious fun for the entire family! Cast: 5 men, 4 women.

Auditions: Aug. 27 (2 p.m.) 28 (7 p.m.)

Wait Until Dark By Frederick Knott
January 12-28, 1990

Three murderous criminals terrify a blind woman in one of the scariest thrillers ever written. Riveting suspense and jump-out-of-your-seat surprises abound! Cast: 5 men, 1 woman, 1 girl (age 10)

Auditions: November 5 and 6 (7 p.m.)

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 by John Bishop
February 23-March 11, 1990

The Stage Door Slasher is on the loose! You'll never guess whodunit in this hilarious mix of mystery spoof, knockout comedy and jack-in-the-box homicide. Cast: 5 men, 5 women.

Auditions: Dec. 17 and 18 (7 p.m.)

The Front Page by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur
April 27 - May 13, 1990

Theatrical mayhem at its best. A raucous, rowdy circus of a play, set amidst the rogues and riot of a Chicago pressroom in 1928. Classic skulduggery! Cast: 17 men, 5 women

Auditions: March 4 and 5 (7 p.m.)

Into the Woods

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Book by James Lapine
June 8-24, 1990

Once upon a time... there was a show with giants, a glamorous witch, Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, a magic cow, a singing wolf, several princes and some beanstalks. A magical musical for children and adults. Cast: 7 men, 11 women, 1 girl (age 14)

Auditions: April 1 (6 p.m.) and 2 (7 p.m.)

Second Stage Series

Cat's-Paw By William Mastrosimone
Dec. 1 - 3, 1989

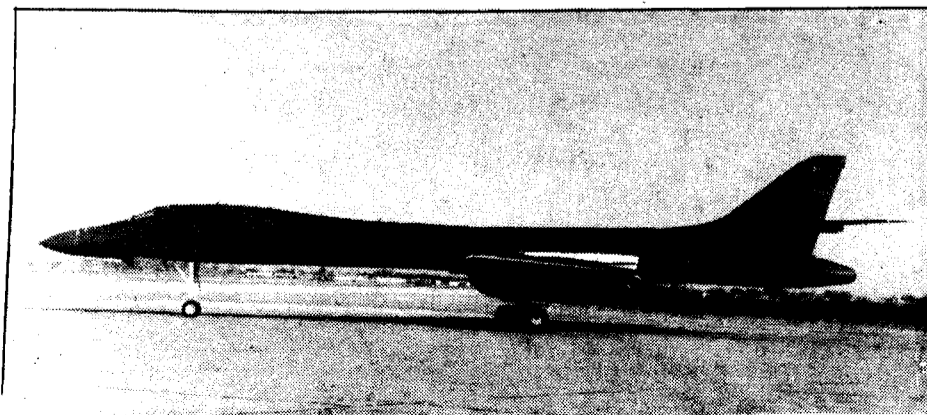
An ambitious TV news reporter matches wits with a terrorist whose cause is the pollution of the earth's water supply, in this taut new thriller from the author of "Extremities." Cast: 2 men, 2 women

Auditions: October 21 (2 p.m.)

Blue Window by Craig Lucas
March 30 - April 1, 1990

Contemporary urban life and its disconnections are examined in this unusual, nearly poetic comedy of manners with a bittersweet aftertaste. Cast: 3 men, 4 women.

Auditions: February 17 (2 p.m.)



file photo

A B-1 bomber, like the one above will be displayed at the International Air Show.