



DR. ZOOT

SUN NOV 5 2000

## Reg Lenna Civic Center Hosts USO/Swing Show For Veterans Day

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, at the **Reg Lenna Civic Center**, a jumping and jiving good time will be going on. **Yankee Bush Productions** will present a **USO/Swing Show**, a musical Celebration for Veterans Day. The afternoon's entertainment will begin with a USO Show. Some very talented local artists will take you back in time when most things (all except music) moved a little slower. If you just close your eyes while these young people sing these songs, you'll almost be transported back in time. Michele Constantino will be portraying Sophie Tucker. Dan Okwumabua will be Nat "King" Cole and Rachel Gerstel. Ashleigh Oram and Stephanie Saullo are very believable as the Andrew Sisters. There will be some swing dancing on stage from this lively group as well.

The fun will continue with a gang of seven Zoot Suiters from Pittsburgh, calling themselves Dr. Zoot. They describe their band as neo-swing. They rev up their instruments and play everything from classical swing like "Take the 'A' Train" and "String of Pearls" to jump 'n jive like "Go Daddy-o" and "Caledonia"

to Latin swing like "Tijuana Taxi" and "Hernando's Hide-away." And mixed in there will be several original swing compositions like "Jump, Jive and Shake" and "Ghosts of Swing," title song of their first CD. The seven members of Dr. Zoot begin with band leader, pianist and vocalist, Sal Ventura. He holds a degree in music from CCAC and has been a professional solo artist for more than 15 years. Chris Goodman is a graduate of Berklee School of Music in Boston and comes to Pittsburgh after performing all over the world. He plays the saxophones with Dr. Zoot, but he is also an accomplished clarinetist and flautist. Another multitalented musician, Al Peden, plays the upright bass with the Zoots. Peden holds a bachelor's degree in music from West Virginia University and has taught bass guitar professionally for 12 years. Mark Snyder is a trombonist who has worked with several noted big bands like the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He holds a master in music from CMU. Another degreed musician from CCAC is drummer and vocalist, Dave Klysz. His swinging drums are the heart-

beat of the band's sound. Section leader of the DZ horns is Smokin' "O," Oscar Menosky. He is an excellent soloist and a master of the Harmon mute. Rounding out the swing sound on guitar is John Shannon. He is an extremely creative guitar player and has studied with Joe Negri and other great Pittsburgh guitarists.

Dr. Zoot came to be when Ventura was requested to put together a swing ensemble for the Club Cafe on the South Side of Pittsburgh. The popularization of swing among the younger generation kept the band moving forward. Today the band's repertoire boasts over 20 original compositions. Their originals have are compiled of two CDs, *Ghosts of Swing* and *Ragtop*. Three of their original compositions have been included on compilation Swing CDs as well.

Take a break from the Sunday doldrums and come jump and jive at the Civic Center in downtown Jamestown. Reserved seats are available now at the Reg Lenna and JCC Box Offices, Jamestown and at Wise Apples, Second Street, Warren. Charge by phone at 484-7070.