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August 2007  
Vol. 10 No. 12

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## COVER STORY

# The Asheville Lyric Opera's 9th Season Romance, Madness & Comedy

BY ANDREA HELM

Sometimes when you're trying to figure out where you're going, it helps to consider where you've been.

The Asheville Lyric Opera company will be entering its tenth performing season next year with the theme "Let's Celebrate!" The last nine

years have changed lives in ways that no one could have envisioned, especially not artistic director David Starkey. He first learned of the Asheville area from his parents. His mother's family were missionaries, and his father's family members were also in the ministry. They knew missionaries in the Black Mountain and Montreat communities who had come back to the states after serving abroad. At the time, Starkey didn't realize how much the Asheville area would ultimately shape his destiny and musical career.

After graduating from Indiana as a master vocal performer, Starkey spent his first summer at the Brevard Music Center in 1994 and spent three more years there, traveling back and forth to New York City and making the transition from graduate school to a professional singing career. It was his dad — himself a singer — who showed Starkey the Diana Wortham Theater during a visit home. "The lights were barely on, but it was perfect," Starkey recalls.

He was living in New York City, but he was still coming back to Brevard. "I was immersed in the singing world and was on the road eight to ten months out of the year. But in order to make it as a performer, I still needed to make money. I started working in theater and

music production in Indiana and I was able to successfully get into production in the Northeast. I worked with the Yale University opera, the Manhattan School of Music, the University of Connecticut, and I performed and produced opera with the New York City Opera. I met a lot of amazing people, had a lot of support, and doors opened for me."

It was when Starkey met Paul Kellogg of the New York City opera that the idea of starting his own company first occurred to him. "We started talking and developing this idea: what if we had the chance to change the world?" Starkey said. "What if we started an opera company based on all the ideal scenarios of performance? Both of us had a running list in our head of how it should be. So we talked to these veterans of the opera world and asked them what they would do. Paul and I worked on setting up criteria on how we could best identify the most perfect and best scenario in which to start a successful opera company."

These were the five most important ones they came up with:

- ✓ There had to be an artistic community.
- ✓ There had to be academic institutions,

or some aspect of higher education in the area.

✓ There had to be a community of giving and a spirit of philanthropy.

✓ There had to be a desire for entertainment.

✓ There had to be a "center of energy," or localized focus in the city.

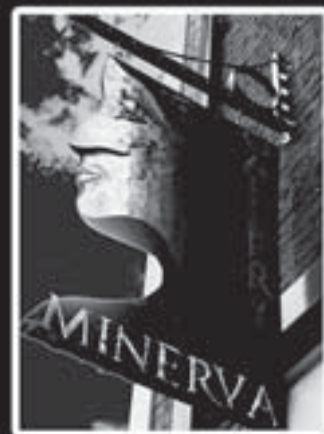
The next step was to find the place that most closely matched their needs. "I became this grunt who traveled the country digging in the mud to find this special place," Starkey

'Opera' continued on pg 24



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## MOUNTAINS OF ART

## The ABCs of Asheville's Art Scene

BY BYRON BELZAK

Of course I'm going to leave out many who deserve to be mentioned in this primer of today's vibrant art scene in the Asheville area. But given that this is a column - not a book - who could expect anything more? So here it goes with a quick look at the must-sees and people to know in and around artful Asheville, the unofficial capital of Western North Carolina.

**A ...** Ariel Gallery, downtown Asheville's only contemporary craft cooperative, has come into its own as one of the region's powerhouse galleries. Twenty co-op members create and sell handmade crafts that are nothing short of exquisite. And just down the street facing Pritchard Park (home to panhandlers, drummers and afternoon lunchers) is Asheville Gallery of Art, Asheville's oldest and largest fine art cooperative, with its 30 (plus or minus) member artists. "A" is also for the Asheville Art Museum, located in Pack Square. And if you have access to a computer, visit [www.ashevilledowntowngalleries.org](http://www.ashevilledowntowngalleries.org) for a gang of other art and craft galleries.

**B ...** Blue Spiral 1, founded by art mogul and community activist John Cram, is the fine art gallery that every local gallery aspires to be - or at least compete against (whether they admit it or not). It's a must see, and its bigger than ever. Of course, "B" also stands for Biltmore Village, just down from downtown Asheville and across from Biltmore Estate, where wonderful shops, galleries and cafes are many, including Blue, a must-see jewelry store of one-of-a-kind designs and New Morning Gallery. And minutes away on Wall Street, there is Beads and Beyond, founded by Barry Olen, who knows more about beads than most others.

**C ...** Crucible Glassworks, billed as "Asheville's hot spot," is just that. Most days visitors can watch Michael Hatch and his band of merry glassblowers create magic at the kiln.

**D ...** Downtown Asheville's art scene is established, but Downtown Waynesville's art scene in Haywood County is growing faster than many realize. It's worth the 45-minute drive from Asheville, and is known for its small town charm.

**E ...** Eagle Street in downtown Asheville is ever changing and full of funky and artful stores.

**F ...** Fine Arts League of Asheville trains artists at its Rankin Avenue facility and shows the works of both students and instructors at its Haywood Street gallery. And, of course, "F" stands for FESTIVALS, of every ilk and fancy, from bluegrass music to cloggers to blues, jazz

and rock-n-roll, as well as a film festival that is struggling to be noticed nationally.

**G ...** Grovewood Gallery near the Grove Park Inn, located in north Asheville, is fabulous with its quality selection of unique handmade crafts. And downtown off of Church Street is Gallery Minerva, known for its fine art and increasingly for its photography.

**H ...** The Haen Gallery (just down the street from Blue Spiral 1) is one of Asheville's newest fine art galleries, specializing in both flat art and sculpture.

**I ...** "I" is for independent street artists who perform music and mime on the streets of Asheville. They can be found virtually on every downtown corner on weekend evenings. "I" is also for all the independent photographers who enjoy the thrill of the hunt locating every facet of Asheville's popular art deco architecture, from the Flat Iron building on Battery Park to Asheville City Hall.

**J ...** Jewels That Dance, owner by designer Paula Dawkins is one of Asheville's finest and oldest jewelry stores of distinction. Another jeweler, J. Kimmel, a couple of blocks away, is renowned for its quality as well.

**K ...** Kress Emporium, truly an emporium, carries an eclectic grouping of crafts, art, photography and whatnots.

**L ...** Lexington Avenue is the edgy art side of Asheville, full of outrageous fashion and shopping fun. It is home to the annual Lexington Avenue Art Fun Festival (LAAFF), which rears its wacky wonderful head again this month. Go if you can stand the unexpected and love lots of local flavor.

**M ...** Malaprop's, an independent bookstore/café located in the heart of downtown Asheville and across from Ariel Gallery, houses some of the most wonderful books of poetry, art and architecture that you'll find anywhere. Attend its many book readings and other free events in the store's café. "M" also stands for Merrimon Galleries, which is located on Merrimon Avenue in north Asheville, truly one of Asheville's best up-and-coming fine art galleries, which is managed by curator Heidi Foss.

**N through Z ...** That's to be continued next month.

Unquestionably, the Asheville area art scene of today is sophisticated, diverse, and powerful. Its continuing vibrancy is a testament that this success has grown well beyond any one person or organization taking most of the credit.

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# FINE ART

## 'Personal Icons' exhibition August 3-31

BY BONNIE RASH

Carol Beth Icard's new paintings continue to reveal her emotional responses and introspective observations of Italy and its culture. "Italy evokes in me an appreciation for what life's simple pleasures," Icard said. "I appreciate the food, the colors and the music, and the beautiful landscape, but also the gratitude and generosity of spirit I've seen embodied in the people I meet there."

Icard resides in Landrum, South Carolina and has won numerous awards in regional juried art competitions. Primarily an oil painter, she has also produced mixed media works incorporating Venetian plaster, transfers of her photographs, and other alternative materials and supports. Her work has been represented by Silver Fox Gallery for five years at 508 N. Main St. in Hendersonville.

The Silver Fox Gallery is open seven days a week, Monday through Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday to 10 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



"A New Day", by Carol Beth Icard, 24" x 24" oil on canvas, contains personal icons used by the artist to express universal emotions such as gratitude and generosity.

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## FINE ART

# Penland School's 22nd Annual Benefit Auction – August 10 & 11

BY LINDSAY HEARN

Penland School of Crafts, a national center for craft education located in the North Carolina mountains, hosts a gala auction weekend August 10 and 11 featuring the sale of more than 190 works in books, clay, glass, metals, textiles, wood, and two-dimensional media.

The Penland auction is one of the most important craft collecting events in the Southeast.

The weekend offers ample opportunity for purchasing outstanding contemporary crafts including two live and two silent auctions as well as sales at the Penland Gallery and Resident Artist Studios. Alex Bernstein, Cynthia Bringle, Lisa Clague, Cristina Cordova, Vittorio Costantini, Karen Karnes, Paul Stankard, and Toshiko Takaezu, among others, have donated pieces to Penland in support of the studios and programs.

Among the signature pieces are Jun Kaneko's ceramic Untitled Dango and Rick Beck's cast glass Reamer. The live auctions and meals take place in an air-conditioned tent with Dan V. Klein, formerly of Christies & Phillips, conducting the sales.



of Collaboration." Saturday's events begin with coffee at Penland's resident artists' studios, followed by a silent auction, lunch, and the second live auction.

The 2007 auction highlights Penland's print and letterpress programs and is celebrating the opening of the Paul Hayden Duensing Letterpress and Print Studio. The studio, opening in June, greatly expands Penland's programmatic capabilities in these areas and enables the school to offer outstanding workshop opportunities in a new 6,000 square foot building.

The 2007 auction also features a special tribute to Norm and Gloria Schulman, with guest speaker Jun Kaneko. Norm Schulman, a respected ceramic artist and a beloved teacher, has influenced several generations of American ceramists. Gloria is a photographer and a dedicated community servant. Both have been active members of the Penland community for several decades.

Tickets for the weekend of events are \$350. Tickets may be purchased separately for Friday for \$150 and Saturday for \$200. Tickets may be purchased by calling (828) 765-2359, x 45, or by emailing

auction@penland.org. Absentee bids are accepted with a \$25 bidder fee.

*Sponsors for the weekend include A&B Construction, Blue Ridge Printing, Expressions of Culture, Inc., producers of the SOFA Chicago and SOFA New York expositions, Our State Magazine, Progress Energy Carolinas, Wells Fargo Insurance Services of North Carolina, and WNC magazine.*



Penland's campus, a mountaintop of breathtaking beauty in rural Western North Carolina located near Asheville, is the atmospheric setting for the auction. Exhibitions of the contributed work form the centerpiece of the weekend that includes a collectors' lecture, cocktail reception, dinner, live and silent auctions, and party on Friday. Phil Sanders, Director and Master Printer at the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in New York, will present the Collectors' Lecture entitled "Making Art: The Craft

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# OUR AUGUST POET

JEFF DAVIS, POETRY EDITOR

This month's Rapid River poet is Ingrid Carson. She's a native of Indiana, but is now a rising senior literature major at UNCA, where she was awarded the Comfort Scholarship in Creative Writing for 2006-2007. She has been a featured reader in both the Fresh Air and Velcro reading series, and has also read at the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center. She has also been featured on WPVM's Wordplay, which airs each Sunday at 4:00 PM at 103.5 FM, but is best heard as a stream from the station's website (www.wpvm.org). She is currently poetry editor for Metabolism magazine.

## Gesturing

Gesturing for something,  
I sometimes breathe and catch  
you still upon me.  
Or else this salt-mud scent  
is the water of my childhood creek,  
the balm on my back  
after grandma's rooster tore into me.

All memories become the same  
as the edges fade—that creek water,  
the same as the water of the raft in  
the story you told me,  
the word rooster two syllables that  
might curl up and nest for you  
or slash a blood-fine line  
across my palm.

We are nothing more than  
blood and tissue,  
or the words our blood and tissue  
long to make.  
Straining to shape you of words,  
I draw only the curve of you —  
a penumbra in the half-light  
of an hour when even my  
own name is just  
a hiss on the tip of you.

All the tattered words turn  
translucent beneath the weight of  
you — your ideas and tendons,  
the eyes that widen and close  
to try to echo you, never sufficing  
never sufficing.

In the presence of such chords, I see  
the broken meaning of all the words  
too much misspoken,  
I say instead mud, creek,  
rooster, bear,  
or nothing,  
drowning instead on a teaspoon  
of these brackish, unbounded  
waters.

- INGRID CARSON

# BILTMORE VILLAGE

## Contemporary Landscapes

BY SARAH MEAD

In the post-renaissance period the landscape painting genre has morphed into a broad field of concentrations. Four artists, presently showing at Bella Vista Art Gallery, speak to the broad new field of landscape art in the 21st century.

Painters who moved their studio out into the landscape itself and became known as plein-air painters formed one of the first major branches of post-renaissance landscape painting. Bethanne Cople and Sarah Linda Poly are two modern plein-air painters.

Bethanne Cople has traveled extensively, to the west coast to capture the wind, and fury of the rugged California Coast, and to the islands and bays of the East coast to breathe in and share the calm summer sanctuary of the Assateague Island ponies. She has taken her easel into blizzards in the Wasatch Mountains in Utah, and onto steep cliffs in Monhegan Island, Maine. Her paintings capture not only what she sees with her eyes, but also the heaviness of the humidity in the air, and the lightness of the breeze as it whistles through the trees.

In Bethanne's scenery the water is often an impressionistic reflection of the verdant land and sultry skies above. The water calms and centers her scenes echoing the harmonious themes of the classic renaissance landscape artists.

Sarah Linda Poly centers her images on the salmon colored clouds of sunset and the rich blue and gray skies that hang over her pulsing green landscapes of hills, valleys, and farmland. The rolling hills of the east coast gently support the splendid skies above them in scenes that draw you across the room.

In one of Sarah's pieces, 'Mountain Glory', you can feel the distance in the sky as it skims just above the horizon and picks up the haze off the Appalachian Mountains to give the air a thickness that only great distances can give it. In another piece, 'Clouds and Long Shadows', you can almost feel your soul being lifted like the clouds sweeping up across the sky and casting rich dark green shadows on golden fields.

Kathleen Burke's encaustic landscapes marry the ancient technique



Above: Peter Alberice "Piazza-del-Campo-II"  
Left: Kathleen Burke "Westmoreland County December"

of Beeswax based paint with the second major branch of landscape painters, the impressionists. Her pieces are both representational and abstract. She points out "The wax can be scraped smooth and burnished to the sheen of highly polished marble, pulled roughly in broken layers to resemble fresco, or built up quickly into the thickest sculptural impasto." It is the surprisingly fresh result of an ancient technique combined with a post-renaissance genre like impressionism that makes here pieces such noteworthy and truly modern pieces.

pieces, which is titled "Wait", depicts a winter field with heavy winter skies. Everything is dormant and quiet, waiting for spring and warmer days to come. Her delightful pixie-like spring colored piece titled "Light and Shadows" depicts the warm sun poking through the trees and tossing shadows across the forest floor.

Up close Kathleen's pieces are layers and texture, but when you step away the detail in the landscape emerges. While the plein-air painters are very loose and quick, the encaustic paintings require a slow patient buildup of layers to achieve their results.

Urban Landscape painting solidified into a separate genre first in the Netherlands, then Venice became a center for urban landscape painting in the mid 18th century. Architectural landscapes are a sub-set of urban landscape that centers itself on man-made edifices.

Peter Alberice's architectural landscapes rests their foundation on the great Swiss architect Mario Botta's statement that architecture begins not with a stone being placed on a stone but a stone being placed in the land. Peter suffuses his images with the rich colors of the earth that caught his eye in Italy. His palate is rich in yellow, ochre and smoky olive-green colors of the Tuscan landscape, as well as the light creamy hues of ancient, degenerating buildings that reveal their

many layers of multi-colored plaster. Though Peter begins the journey that leads to each of his images in the vertical and horizontal spaces of modern architecture he layers onto each structure a milieu of ancient



Sarah Linda Poly "Clouds and Long Shadows"

Sometimes Kathleen's paintings are deceptively serene but she notes that they are rooted in psychological and existential questions that she sees in the "complex relationships between individuals and between humanity and nature".

One of Kathleen's large horizontal

'Landscapes' continued on pg 32



## JEWELRY

# Alexander & Lehnert Fine Jewelry Opens in Grove Arcade

BY LINDSAY HEARN

**M**ichele Alexander and Bill Lehnert, two talented jewelry artists with more than fifty years of combined experience in jewelry design and manufacturing, opened Alexander & Lehnert Fine Jewelry, an exciting new gallery in the Grove Arcade, on June 1. The two artists create outstanding original pieces utilizing completely different design approaches.

Michele Alexander creates pieces in sterling and 18K gold that are fresh and inspiring with a loose and organic presentation. A fine degree of intricacy blends with her contemporary flair to create exquisite jewelry. A piece might be designed around an unusual stone or textured element or it might yield to the natural flow of a particular metal fabrication technique. This freeform approach yields unstructured pieces that are enduring. Her design goal is to bring a smile to the wearer and custom work is her specialty.

For the opening of the store and also to celebrate her 20th year as a full time jewelry artist, Michele is recreating select pieces from her classic 80s and 90s collections of mixed metals including silver, gold, and copper. For collectors, it is a chance to get that piece they missed ten years ago.

Bill Lehnert began creating jewelry media more than 35 years ago through a long-term interest in field geology and cutting precious stones. While these interests remain, today he designs and

markets pieces that are structural or architectural in presentation and usually feature a precious stone and accent diamonds when appropriate. Symmetry and surface texturing are important design elements and a reflection of his engineering background. Casting in gold is his primary metal technique although construction and fabrication have become increasingly important.

"Quality is essential and each piece is unique in design, construction and presentation. Working with each client to select an appropriate design and primary stone is essential to customer satisfaction and custom orders generally take 3 to 4 weeks. I also utilize the services of several American Gem Trade Association award winning cutters throughout the country insuring the customer of the finest in materials and cutting." Lehnert specializes in rings, pendants, and earrings in all the precious stones including natural emeralds, sapphires,

tanzanites, tourmalines, and garnets. Alexander & Lehnert joins a growing list of specialty shops and galleries in



Pendant by Bill Lehnert



Earrings by Michele Alexander

**"Quality is essential  
and each piece is  
unique in design,  
construction and  
presentation."**

- BILL LEHNERT

the Arcade that offer a variety of jewelry styles including the Grove Arcade ARTS & Heritage Gallery, Mountain Made, Enter the Earth, Jazzy Giraffe, Morning Star Galleries, Roberto Coin Jewelry and Stevenson Rare Coins and Jewelry.

The Grove Arcade is located at One Page Avenue at the heart of the Battery Hill neighborhood in downtown Asheville and offers unique shopping, dining and regional crafts in one of Asheville's architectural jewels. Parking is available in the Wall Street, Rankin and Civic Center garages as well as on the street. Directions to the garages and the Grove Arcade can be accessed at [www.grovearcade.com](http://www.grovearcade.com). For additional information, call (828) 252-7799.

**Lehnert specializes in rings, pendants, and earrings in all  
the precious stones including natural emeralds, sapphires,  
tanzanites, tourmalines, and garnets.**

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## FESTIVALS

## A Good LAAFF

By M.C. SMITH

“We’re having a world record attempt this year,” says Kitty Love, executive director of Arts2People, the arts organization that orchestrates the annual Lexington Avenue Arts and Fun Festival. “Michael Mooney [another event organizer] has built an enormous, 40-foot high bicycle that he’ll attempt to ride 100 feet to break a world record.” If watching Mr. Daredevil dodge power lines isn’t reason enough to head out to this year’s festival, perhaps an opportunity to participate in a deluge of new and off-the-wall interactive art events is. That’s in addition, of course, to the several stages of live music, public art, and costumed street performances, all colorfully sprinkled amidst the local food, beer, and art and craft vendors spanning the length Lexington Avenue.

LAAFF, as it is simply called, is the quintessential celebration of the creative, funky, expressive, and eclectic culture that characterizes our beloved city. It’s been called, by some, “the best street party in town,” celebrating all local arts-visual, performing, musical, culinary, and healing. Now in its sixth year, organizers—all of whom are dedicated volunteers—are continuing to grow the festival while staying true to their original mission of promoting local artists and businesses.

Money raised for the festival benefits the programs and operations of Arts2People, a non-profit organization specializing in arts education and outreach, professional development for artists, and serves to promote Asheville as an arts haven.

## The Catalyst

Kitty, an artist and arts activist, birthed the idea for LAAFF. “I owned a business on Lexington, and back then there was still a lot of empty, but promising, space,” says Kitty. She saw the festival as a cohesive project that would promote and create an identity for the street. “I think Lexington is a bastion of grassroots creative funk,” Kitty says. “My personal feeling is that the interest

in Asheville that has spread nationally is firmly anchored in what Lexington represents—the funky, off-kilter, never-know-what-you’re-gonna-see, artsy, fringy, exciting, and individualized artistic expression.”

Realizing that, for legal purposes, she needed a vessel—an organization—through which to funnel funds for the project, she turned to Arts2People. Alexis Gault, the founder of the organization, embraced the idea. After gathering a handful of volunteers and months of planning, the first LAAFF came to fruition in 2001 and was an immediate success, drawing an estimated crowd of 10,000. A small percentage of the profits are set aside for the next year’s festival, and the rest funds Arts2People’s programs and operation costs.

## All About Art

Arts2People operates with a board of nine selectively chosen volunteers and an executive director. Aside from hosting the LAAFF festival, Arts2People operates two outreach programs—The Asheville Mural Project and R.E.A.C.H.

Through the R.E.A.C.H. program, which stands for Responsive Education Accessing Creativity for Healing, Arts2People offers arts education and outreach for working artists, disadvantaged populations, and the public. “The R.E.A.C.H. program has been defunct for a couple of years, but we’ve recently started it back up and we’re going to be focusing on women’s issues,” Kitty explains, “using the creative process to heal victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.”

They hope to collaborate with several area non-profits.

The Asheville Mural Project (AMP) exists to beautify and diversify Asheville’s urban landscape and provides artists and the local community an opportunity to design and implement their art publicly. The project’s murals can be seen at Downtown Books and News on Lexington Avenue and on the historic West Asheville Bank on Haywood Road. AMP’s next ambitious pursuit is the Lexington Gateway Mural, which will



beautify the supports of Interstate 240 at Lexington Avenue and Broadway. The nearly 6000 square feet of bare concrete will be adorned with themes of arts and culture, sustainability, and “Asheville Saints,” which will be standing portraits of real-life Asheville residents. Painting is expected to begin this month.

## LAAFF Out Loud

This year’s LAAFF, happening Sunday, September 9th, promises all the same great music, eats, and activities as years past, but with more interactive art and one great big bike. “We’ve offered mini grants to the community this year,” says Kitty. “We’re introducing eight new art activities that represent the creative work and unique vision of eight individuals.” One such activity is an interactive recording project, and another is a sonic junk sculpture. Festival-goers can also experience an art Happening—a full-immersion, sensory art experience.

As always, the entertainment lineup features richly diverse and all local performers on several stages.

“We’re showcasing more bluegrass acts this year in addition to a wide variety of other genres,” says Erin Scholze, the chair for the music and performance committee. A few of this year’s musical highlights include the Trainwrecks, The Big Money Band, Speedsquare, CX1, and a special bluegrass all-stars jam to kick off the

day. Performing acts include the Unifire fire spinners, Baraka Mundi bellydancers, the Hunab Kru break dancers, and the red hot Rebels. The increasingly popular bike jousting tournament is happening again, as well as art car painting and a medley of other creative eye candy that brings the street to life. LAAFF is a free event, but any money spent goes to a good cause—art!

## If you go

*What:* Lexington Avenue Arts & Fun Festival (LAAFF)

*When:* Sunday, September 9, 2007 from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

*Where:* Lexington Avenue, between College Street and Interstate 240 overpass, in downtown Asheville

*Cost:* Free  
[www.arts2people.org/laaff.html](http://www.arts2people.org/laaff.html)  
 (828) 582-0431.



Michael Mooney





## NOTE WORTHY

## Austin-Based Band Returns to North Carolina



BY MANNY MOSS

Green Mountain Grass, the improvisation-driven genre-bending bluegrass band from Austin, TX will be returning to the Asheville area this August. Following a string of appearances in Vermont and New Hampshire they will be spreading their brand of gonzo grass far afield from their home base deep in the Texas Hill Country. Having recently been judged finalists in the TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL Band Competition, and following an engagement at the NORTHEAST KINGDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL on August 3rd and 4th, Green Mountain Grass will be appearing on August 25th at Hannah Flanagan's (27 Biltmore Ave.) at 10pm.

The four band members in GREEN MOUNTAIN GRASS are Dave Wilmoth (29, mandolin), Adam "Pickles" Moss (24, fiddle), Trevor Smith (18, banjo/guitar), and Jesse Dalton (25, upright bass). Together, they are folding together the sounds of traditional bluegrass, gypsy swing, folk, funk, reggae, and jazz to create their own stew of so-called gonzo grass.

In the spirit of the late-great gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson and inspired by the most vital endeavors in life, gonzo grass is described by the band as "melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic mastery with heavy elements of sarcasm,

quotes, humor, and exaggeration." Bassist Jesse Dalton goes further to call it "a self-induced psychedelic frenzy of quick-witted talent as seen from the other side of the musical looking-glass."

Originally hailing from the Midwest's grass-roots-music hub, Champaign-Urbana, IL where they passed licks around front porch picking circles with folks that would go on to join Yonder Mountain String Band, Cornmeal, Leftover Salmon, and the How to Grow a Band, GMG has been picking their way into the acoustic bluegrass jam scene since 2001. That seems to have become much easier for them since they relocated in 2006 to Austin, TX with its reputation for live music.

Since their move they have added Jesse Dalton, of San Marcos, TX and Trevor Smith, of Tucson, AZ, to their lineup and have maintained a frenetic tour schedule that keeps them moving from coast to coast. "We love being home," says Dave Wilmoth, "but touring is really the only way to play for all the audiences we want to be in front of." Eighteen-year-old banjo phenom Trevor Smith loves the adventures of being on the road too, but laments the fact that "we haven't really gotten a chance to explore the rest of the galaxy yet."

GMG has been playing well over 200 shows a year, most of which are on

the road and a vast majority of which are within this solar system. In that time they consider themselves fortunate to have shared the stage with Hot Buttered Rum String Band, Billy Bright and the Two High String Band, Jeff Austin of Yonder Mountain String Band, Tony Furtado, Dubconscious, and have opened for acts such as the legendary Wailers, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Leftover Salmon, Peter Rowan, and Jazz Mandolin Project. They have also managed to appear on dozens of radio shows across the country, and have lent their talents to numerous benefits supporting causes they believe in.

Having recently acquired a 1977 MCI tour bus with an attitude and a small hard-working crew (also with an attitude) to assist them with their road shows, they look forward to continuing to tour in support of their album "Both Sides of the Mountain" as well as returning to the Zone Recording Studio in Dripping Springs, TX to focus on a new album that should be released in autumn of 2007.

Beyond that, they say that they will continue doing what they've been doing: strengthening themselves as a dynamic touring band, traveling far and wide to discover and regenerate an explosive sound that will "program bodies to dance from the first song to the encore, night after night."

## OUR AUGUST POET

## Still Life

Still life –  
The blue vase of yellow  
And red flowers  
Leaned against the wall of  
the spare bedroom  
Your hands were there,  
Must be there still –  
Not your baking, kneading hands  
Not the hands that make lunch for  
your husband in the morning  
Or the hands that drive you to work-  
Not the veined, worn hands  
The red hands damp with dishwater  
But-delicate hands  
The precise, cool, careful hands of a  
painter  
moving, hungry hands  
swollen with wanting  
And,  
The red hands damp with dishwater  
the hands that want to paint  
a violence of flowers.

- INGRID CARSON

## Memory of Waking

Waking with the rags of a dream  
clinging, I reach for you –  
still, warm, and solid.  
The curtains hang on the windows.  
The chair stands in the corner.  
I want something harder to describe –  
Something earthen, dark, and strange.  
Damp clay; the incense thick stale air  
of a church where only one woman  
kneels –  
That kind of silence.  
In winter, we covered our hands  
with socks and bread bags.  
We lurked in the twilight  
until our cheeks and chins were  
numb, until longing distilled into the  
sensation  
Of cold itself, a glass globe thin as  
paper in front of us,  
For the breaking.  
Now, in this warm room,  
a womb whose windows are edged  
with the breath of winter –  
I want to be thrust out there  
where memory crystallizes into  
something fragile as our bones  
themselves,  
Until we cannot look away.

- INGRID CARSON

## MUSIC

## AUGUST CD REVIEWS BY JAMES CASSARA

Great songwriting that, despite period or locale, stands the test of time.

*Be it two stars or five anything rest assured anything reviewed here in is worth listening to. What a month this is, with a truly impressive array of new discs. Let me know what you're thinking. Email me at JJCassara@aol.com and I'll be delighted to send you a free disc or two.*

### Robert Forster and Grant McLennan

**Intermission: The Best of the Solo Years 1990-1997** Beggar's Banquet Records

When Grant McLennan suddenly passed away last year, the Australian group the Go-Betweens — perhaps the greatest band of the original indie pop era — lost one of its two songwriters and vocalists. That the band was, following a period of lull, in the midst of a triumphant artistic comeback made McLennan's death even more tragic. It must have been particularly devastating for Robert Forster.

His gentility walks the line between luscious pop, and a kind of particularly Australian country-folk-rock. He offers stories of broken love, missed opportunities, and malaise, though somehow, because of his skill in writing hooks and melodies, these never seem particularly dour or depressing. As for quality, this really is the best of the best. He has chosen to include the demo and released versions of "Falling Star," which, despite the words remaining the same, are very different songs.

Also captured are the gorgeous "Baby Stones," the twelve string-drenched "The River People," and the bluesy rocker "121." His reading of "Frisco Depot" is the best version done outside of Newbury's and a testament to his talent as an arranger.

McLennan's volume is a wide-ranging and restless set, containing three cuts each from 1991's Watershed, 1994's Fireboy, and 1997's In Your Bright Ray, and four from 1994's majestic Horsebreaker Star. While Forster choose to group his songs aesthetically McLennan's are sequenced chronologically, making it easier to chart his artistic growth. "Easy Come, Easy Go" features a Rickenbacker electric 12-string guitar, a Wuritzer, crackling snare drums, and a thumping bass—all that's needed to illustrate a song about detachment, where the protagonist moves between what he's learned and passing it on to another.

This collection is as good as it's going to get, not just for those that love The Go Betweens but for anyone interested in truly great pop songwriting that, despite genre, period, or locale, will most certainly stand the test of time. \*\*\*\*

### Roky Erickson

**You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone**, Palm Pictures Recordings

In the liner notes for his documentary *You're Gonna Miss Me*, director Keven McAlester acknowledges what many critics told him all along: the music of Roger Kynard "Roky" Erickson speaks for itself.

This excellent soundtrack of all original material by the artist in his various guises—as lead singer of the 13th Floor Elevators and as a solo performer—beautifully chronicles the life and music of a creative force whose descent into mental illness, as well as his eventual return to productivity, is both

heartbreaking and inspiring.

From the title track and "Fire Engine" by the Elevators to "Bloody Hammer," to such uncommon gems as "Two-Headed Dog," and "Cold Night for Alligators" the music is effusive, passionate, and simply revelatory. The rattle folk-rock of "You Don't Love Me Yet" amply shows why Peter Buck counts Erickson among his musical idols while the homemade acoustic recordings of "For You I'd Do Anything," and "Goodbye Sweet Dreams," present the savant genius of the songwriter in all its starkness. Had Erickson played "For You (I'd Do Anything)" to any number of hip producers of the day the might have made him a star.

As it is he remained largely unknown for far too many years. The more current "Unforced Peace" is one the most haunted songs in recent history while the album's closer "Goodbye Sweet Dreams," is as beautiful as it is haunting. See the movie. Buy the soundtrack. Be converted. \*\*\*\*

### Carolyn Mark

**Nothing Is Free**, Mint Records

The strength in her music lies in her voice—forceful yet restrained—and in her inherent ability to match the mood to the song. Such hushed joys as "Get Along" and "Point O' View" work well within the due largely to Mark's somewhat mordant sense of humor and willingness to throw caution to the wind. Best of the bunch is "Honest Woman" in which the singer kicks out with a bit of much needed oomph. A couple of rollicking sing-a-longs finish out the set; not one to overstay her welcome Mark keeps things brief, wisely leaving the listener wanting a bit more and making *Nothing Is Free* all the better for it. But that cover... \*\*1/2

### Jesse Malin

**Glitter in the Gutter**, Adeline Records

Anyone's whose had the thrill of seeing Malin in concert, or at the least snuck a listen to any of the many live shows floating around the internet, knows what energetic and ramshackle (in all the right ways) affairs they can be. Even his acoustic shows have all the quiet reserve of a wrecking ball set loose.

On his third solo album Malin has at last fully assembled the record he's been trying to put together since his deservedly acclaimed debut. *Glitter in the Gutter* is a fully realized collection of solidly crafted pop/rock songs that are as lyrically substantive and poetic as the music that goes with them, showcasing Malin's reputation as the epitome of the street rocker with a poet's heart.

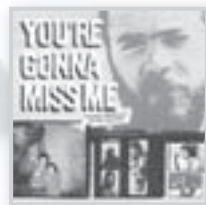
Having emerged from the hardcore punk scene, Malin has grown artistically without loosing any of the desperate energy of his past: he has no illusions about what's happening these days, either to himself or the music he loves. Speaking of which, he even has the chutzpah to cover The Replacement's fierce anthem "Bastards of Young" turning it into a piano-laden ballad that gives way to screeching feedback guitars, and darned if he doesn't nearly pull it off.

That brave misstep aside *Glitter in the Gutter* is more than just a colossal leap forward for Malin. Like Samuel Beckett, from whose writing the title track is derived, Malin is holding out for the glimmer, even when it's obscured by shattered dreams, lost souls, and night roamers who cannot bear to see the sun come up and face their own shortcomings. Malin may not be Dylan or Springsteen, but he doesn't need to be; that was a different time and too much has changed. But much has stayed the same; the promise of rock and roll has not yet been realized, but neither has it been abandoned. For that, as well as astonishing albums such as this, we should all be grateful. \*\*\*\*

### Nick Drake

**Family Tree**, Island Records

In the years after his death unreleased home recordings by Nick Drake have repeatedly made their way into the hands of collectors. So prolific was his output, particularly in the period just prior to his 1974 passing, that his official releases



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Take a walk on the WILD side with *Rasputina*

BY JAMES CASSARA

Describing the music of the New York City based trio Rasputina is high impossible. Few references come close to capturing the mystical/discordant/beautifully constructed and haunting sound they emit.

Fronted by singer/songwriter Melora Creager, a classically-trained cellist who backed Nirvana on the group's final tour, the band simply has to be heard to be understood; and even that might not be sufficient. The trio was formed in 1992, when Creager placed a want ad seeking other cellists to form a rock band; among those responding was Canadian musician Julie Kent, and with the later addition of Polish native Agnieszka Rybska,



Rasputina was born.

The three cellists' image further developed by the addition of tightly

laced vintage Victorian costumes; their gothic chamber-pop soon caught the attention of Sony Records who issued the group's debut *Thanks for the Ether* in 1996; *Transylvanian Regurgitations*, an EP featuring remixes by fan Marilyn Manson, appeared a year later, and in 1998 Rasputina resurfaced with *How We Quit the Forest*.

By the new millennium, Rybska and Kent had been replaced with Nana

Bornant and K. Cowperthwaite. A deal with Instinct surfaced in 2001 with *Cabin Fever* appearing the following spring. Bornant's stay was brief; she left in June 2002 and Cowperthwaite followed four months later. Cellist Zoe Keating and Jonathon TeBeest, the first male member of the group, were quickly added to the band just in time for the 2003 release of the *Lost & Found* EP.

Frustration Plantation, their most cohesive work to date, appeared in spring 2004. In 2007 the group released *Oh Perilous World*, a loosely-connected song suite culled from newspaper clippings that lead singer Creager gathered over a two year period, then juxtaposed with the band's signature 18th century steam punk imagery.



**My Brightest Diamond (shown above) opens for Rasputina at The Grey Eagle, Thursday, August 2, 9pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of the show. There will no seating, standing room only.**

### 'CD's' continued

simply couldn't keep up. Coupled with his increasing psychiatric episodes, resulting in cancelled session dates and lengthy periods of isolation, much of Drake's material was either never completed or simply not committed to tape.

The 28 songs on *Family Tree* add up to an extensive (though not quite complete) compilation of such homemade efforts cut just prior to *Five Leaves Left*, his 1969 debut. The bulk of it—and the part that's been often bootlegged—was recorded on a reel to reel at his family home sometime between the spring and fall of 1968. That was a particularly fertile time for Drake: it coincided with the height of the British Folk movement and clearly demonstrates the influence Fairport Convention and Bert Jansch had on the fledgling songwriter.

Less familiar, and hence probably new even to many hardcore Drake collectors, are eight songs put to cassette during his spring 1967 excursion to France as well as a trio of nascent recordings made with producer Robert Kirby sometime in 1968. There is even a pair of quaint efforts by performed on piano and voice by his folksinger mother, Molly.

Many Drake fans will already be familiar with the songs he taped at his family home, but the cleaned-up sound here makes this disc much easier to listen to than those earlier unauthorized releases. Be clear however that, given the sources, these are still rather lo-fidelity efforts. It's a very pleasant and listenable portrait of Drake's folk roots, though not intended to be on par with his studio releases.

For one thing he was, at this point, playing little of his own material; most

of the songs herein are traditional folk tunes, or covers of compositions by contemporary folk songwriters. Also, both his guitar work and singing are more derivative of the likes of Jansch, Donovan, and country bluesmen such as Blind Boy Fuller (whose "My Baby's So Sweet" he covers here) than they would be by the time he settled into his own style.

His folk guitar work is exceedingly nimble, but more striking are his vocals, which already boast his characteristic mixture of assured slight smokiness and English reserve. And the few Drake compositions included, especially the Donovan like "Strange Meeting Pt. 2" put his reclusive yet poetic world view in clearer focus.

The trio of albums Nick Drake completed during his lifetime—each of them sonically gorgeous, vaguely haunting, and emotionally overwhelming—have gone from cult treasures to consistent sellers. That in itself justifies the release of this collection, and if the music doesn't always stand with his best recordings so be it.

This collection is hardly a jumping on point for the newly initiated but it's not intended for them. Hardcore Drake fans will embrace it and everyone else will just have to nod in polite agreement. \*\*\*

### Bryan Ferry Dylan-esque, EMI

Like the subject of this tribute Bryan Ferry has one of the most recognizable



voices in rock: A quavering, vulnerable tenor that can shift from complete indifference to totally awe struck in a single phrase.

Recorded with Ferry's touring band, *Dylan-esque* dresses up Dylan classics for a night on the town with Avalon-style atmosphere while the tone is kept hasty and loose. Such familiars as "Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues," "Positively 4th Street" and a heartbreaking "Gates of Eden" are reinvented as reverb-soaked lost Roxy classics; on "Baby, Let Me Follow You Down," Ferry even plays a bit of Dylan like harmonica.

There are a few missteps: A meandering "Simple Twist of Fate" sounds like it was inspired by the Jerry Garcia Band version, while the closing "All Along the Watchtower" tries much too hard to rock. Of course in typical Dylan (and Ferry) ironic fashion little of *Dylan-esque* sounds much like the Bard. There are no solo acoustic guitars, no swirling organs, and none of the tumbledown approach that suggests much typically associated with Bob Dylan. This is neither a good nor bad thing.

What is a plus is that after two decades of cautious, deliberate conceptual albums, Ferry has rediscovered the subtle joys of sympathetic support. His band may not push him the way that Roxy did in its prime—nor does this have the meticulous ambition of his own original work—that's half the charm.

Ferry has never felt quite so comfortable as he does here, and if that may not be exactly what all listeners are looking for it is the quality that makes *Dylan-esque* a small understated gem for certain segments of his die-hard fans. \*\*\*

### The Dreadful Yawns Rest, Exit Stencil Records

While the Dreadful Yawns have been described as a psychedelic-influenced group, that's a somewhat misleading indication of their intent; on *Rest*, their third album, they're content as a roots rock band whose music is both intelligent and pretty.

If you think that dressing up country-folk-rock with well-placed organ, strings, bells, autoharp, and jangled Byrds by way of Teenage Fan Club guitars are psychedelic, there's no harm done. But these touches are not used to draw attention to the band or make the songs sound deliberately obtuse and unusual. Instead, they're employed in much the same manner as the best folk-rock and country-rock bands of the 1960s did: to enhance the songs texturally and draw out their inherent subtle, shifting shades of mood. If the vibe occasionally recalls that of the Beau Brummell's or Buffalo Springfield they do so in a good, non-reverential way.

The album doesn't add up to a major statement, but there are plenty of pleasurable low-key delights along the way, usually offering a slightly whimsical, but not quite world-weary, brand of introspection. To be certain it's more Americana than neo-psychedelia but not nearly as dry and unduly earnest as the typically alt-country or Americana band of their age.

In short, it's a welcome respite from the tedious expectation that every alt-country album needs to make a statement while furthering the movement. Sometimes a step back is indeed two steps forward. \*\*\*



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**Sunday 8/5 3:00 PM**

**Poetrio - This month's featured poets are Janice Fuller Elizabeth Hadaway and Mark Smith-Soto.**

**Friday 8/10 7:00 PM**

**Sarah Colton presents her book "Tilt 68: From Vietnam to the Pill."**

**Saturday 8/11 7:00 PM**

**Bob Carlin will read from and sign his book "The Birth of the Banjo."**

**Friday 8/17 7:00 PM**

**Welcome L.D. Russell author of "Godspeed: Racing is My Religion."**

**Saturday 8/18 2:00 PM**

**Join local children's book writer Gladys Scheffrin-Falk.**

**Sunday 8/19 3:00 PM**

**Malaprop's is proud to present favorite writer Sharyn McCrumb.**

**Thursday 8/23 6:30 PM**

**Blind Date with Poetry with host Matt Moon -- open mic event.**

**Saturday 8/25 7:00 PM**

**Author Karen Abbott reads from her book "Sin in the Second City."**

**Tuesday 8/28 7:00 PM**

**Organized Rhyme Youth Poetry Night -- open mic for young people.**

**Friday 8/31 7:00 PM**

**Neal Thompson returns to sign his new book "Hurricane Season."**

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## BOOKS & HUMOR

### 3rd Annual Book Mania – Saturday, August 4, 10-5pm

More than fifty writers of just about every genre – fiction, history, mystery, young adult and children's books, poetry, travel and adventure, romance and more – will be part of the 2007 Book Mania on Saturday, August 4. Scheduled from 9am to 5pm at the Haywood County Justice Center on Waynesville's Main Street, this year's Third Annual Book Mania book fair promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Co-sponsored by the regional writers' group Mountain Writers Alive and local independent bookstore Osondu Booksellers, Book Mania 2007 will feature author readings and signings as well as topical presentations and panel discussions throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public with public parking available adjacent to the book fair site. Given attendance of more than 1,000

visitors last year, advance planning and early arrival are advised. Box lunches will be available for purchase.

Among the many celebrated writers attending this year will be recent prize-winning poet, novelist and short story writer Robert Morgan; Catalogue author Wayne Caldwell; Rob Neufeld, author of A Popular History of Western North Carolina; Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette; popular mystery writer Vicki Lane; children's author Kerry Madden; AC-T columnist and humorist Susan Reinhardt; and, Waynesville writer John Malone whose Heading South is hot-off-the-press, just in time for the book fair.

"On the Friday evening before Book Mania this year," said book fair coordinator and bookstore owner Margaret Osondu, "we've planned a reception for visiting authors and ticketed patrons. It should be a gala event, complete with

hors d'oeuvres, drinks and music, well worth the \$15 ticket price. And, a great opportunity to mingle with the writers that readers love."

"And, on Saturday," added Mountain Writers' Alive member JC Walkup, "people will have all day to mix and mingle with their favorite authors, have purchased books signed personally and join in discussion with writers and readers." Fair goers will also be able to take part in a book drive, with donated books to be distributed locally and through an African literacy project. Masha Hamilton, whose novel The Camel Bookmobile inspired our drive, will be on hand to tell readers more about the Kenyan bookmobile effort to reach nomadic tribes with the printed word.

Presented by: Mountain Writers Alive! & Osondu Booksellers

## THE WORLD OF QUAM

### The Camping Test

BY BILL QUAM, A SYNDICATED COLUMNIST OUT OF CHARLESTON, GA

There are probably thousands of tests to determine an individual's psychological or physical fitness or ability to perform on a job. Throughout my life, I've been pretty successful at passing most tests. That is, until I ran into my wife's "camping test."

This "camping test" hadn't been invented when Cheryl and I decided to do a little paddling on the last day of a relaxing long weekend in Camden, South Carolina. We cruised onward into the beautiful bald cypress canoe trail. The swamp began to turn dark and creepy when Cheryl asked me to turn around to check out some scenery. I turned around and she yelled in mock horror, "The gator is heading right for us!" My heart rate barely rose as she cackled like a loon. Minutes later Cheryl asked me to turn around again. As I turned back, she calmly warned me that we were about to glide through a large web. "Yeah, right!" I huffed.

As I turned to resume paddling, I had about two seconds to duck under a chest high spider web between two trees. The spider in the middle of the web was the size of a canned ham. I didn't have time to yell. I instinctively leaned back as far as I could go and twisted hard to the right. "You're gonna tip the boat, you boob!" screamed Cheryl.

"No need to thank me for saving your life," I snapped. "I'm sure you had to notice the size of that spider and the possum and blue heron trapped in its web!"

Not amused or grateful, Cheryl chose this very moment to inform me that I was banned from any and all future camping trips, with or without her. I was completely shocked by her proclamation.

"A true camper would and could walk right through a spider web without blinking," Cheryl insisted. And the camping test was born.

For weeks after the Camden experience, I studied the spider webs scattered about our yard. I read stories about the great spider web walkers of the Ngoni tribes in Zambia. I was battle tested and ready. When I confidently approached my wife to set up a test date, she threw me a curve. Cheryl graciously decided to take me out to Capers Island on a kayaking and camping trip.

"What about the camping test?" I asked.

"You can take the test out on Capers," she replied.

God knows what kind of spiders dwell on islands off the South Carolina coast near Charleston. But this was my chance. If I chickened out, I would never know the joy of stinking to high heaven after three days of no showers, the pleasure of eating sand-covered food out of a can, the feeling of waking up with a stiff neck after three hours of restless sleep, the intimacy of watching my wife disappear behind a bush to relieve herself and then chasing me down the beach for a smelly snuggle. No, I had to pass the test or risk missing these joys of camping.

Time flew by and it was the night

before our departure. I put the finishing touches on what I thought was an outstanding packing effort. Before we turned in for the evening, I called Cheryl in to inspect my camping gear. I just wanted to make sure I had everything I needed.

I began with my facial supplies. I had my morning and evening moisturizers, skin toner, astringent scrub, cotton applicators and of course, my "faces only" oil-free sunscreen. I could tell by Cheryl's wide-eyed silence that she was impressed.

I then carefully went through my hair essentials and choice of understated cologne. Why stink if you don't have to?

I pulled out my travel humidifier with three fine Dominicans. Those smokes were going to go nicely with the bottles of Oregon Pinot Noir and New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.

My dumbbells, boom box and selection of CDs were next.

And just as I opened the ice cooler to describe each night's selection of smoked meats and cheeses, Cheryl yelled, "ENOUGH!"

"There is another more obvious camping test," Cheryl sputtered, "and you just failed it."

To this very day, I have not been camping. Those Capers Island spiders don't know how lucky they are.

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## LOCAL MUSIC

# 80th Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival featuring the Steep Canyon Rangers

BY JAMES CASSARA

Steep Canyon Rangers, one of the hardest working and most dependable bands in contemporary bluegrass music, will headline the 80th Annual Mountain Dance & Folk Festival with a trio of shows from August 2 through the 4th.

Lead by Graham Sharp on banjo and vocals the band, which includes Woody Platt on guitar and voice, Charles Humphrey III on bass, Mike Guggino on mandolin, and Nicky Sanders on fiddle (all members contribute to the group's rousing harmonies) have steadily gained the respect of the bluegrass community.

On the eve of Lovin' Pretty Women, the band's first CD since winning the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) "Emerging Artist" award, the band promises to "dig even deeper in a traditional Bluegrass sound" in hopes of reaching an even broader audience. "Traditionally bluegrass bands have gotten by playing all the standards," says Sharp. "Most of those songs have all been done and they've been done really well. Why try to recreate something that you can't outdo? So that was our motivation, to just be original. It gave us the opportunity to figure out how to be unique within a format steeped in convention." Hit songwriter and fellow IBMA award-winner Ronnie Bowman produced the album, which is set to be released on August 14.

The Rangers have written their own material since they first started jamming together in a stairwell on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill. The group is blessed with artistic vision, a gift for songwriting and an intense desire to create their own unique sound. That's why the Rangers have been able to honor the bluegrass masters who came before them while nudging the genre forward in new and exciting ways. The new album showcases a band at the top of its game, whether dipping their banjos and guitars in the gospel water of "Be Still Moses" or telling stories from the coalmines in "Call The Captain" and "Cumberland Moon." The band's compelling harmonies are a testimony to their belief that the voice is as vital a musical instrument as anything with strings.

Those same harmonies and unique style caught the ear of legendary artist manager Don Light, known for his work with Jimmy Buffet, Delbert McClinton, Keith Whitley, and the Oak Ridge Boys. Light built his reputation by spotting music visionaries early in their careers. He saw the same spark and intense desire in the Steep Canyon Rangers and signed on to manage their career.

Together the Rangers and Light

have been taking the band's music to an ever-widening audience. In fact, the Rangers will soon be exporting their uniquely American music across the Atlantic when they tour Europe for the first time.

This fall they'll also be hosting the 2nd Annual Mountain Song Music Festival, a festival they started to benefit the Boys & Girls Club in Brevard, N.C.

But here's an opportunity to see the band and hear the new songs prior to the new CD. It is certain they will offer the same timeless acoustic music that honors tradition, while boldly moving it into the future, upon which they have built their reputation.



Nicky, Mike & Graham in a musical conversation.

*Steep Canyon Rangers at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival Thursday, Friday & Saturday: Adults \$15 - Children \$8. Package ticket for all 3 nights: Adults \$36 - Children \$24. For more information call (828) 257-4530*

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R A P I D R I V E R A R T S

## NEW EXHIBITS

### Tim Frain ~ Pottery Vessels, Cast Paper, and Watercolor Paintings

WICKWIRE fine art/folk art proudly features artist Tim Frain throughout August. Tim is a prolific artist working in nine different mediums and, in each, he strives for uniqueness. Meet Tim Friday, August 3, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at 330 North Main Street, Historic Downtown Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Tim Frain is a native of Indiana. When he tried painting, he says, "Art just 'made sense' and felt very natural."

Tim presently works in nine different mediums. In addition to sculpture, papermaking, watercolor and oil, acrylics, and egg tempura painting, he works in printmaking and photography. His primary focus since moving to East Tennessee in 2001 has been pottery and watercolor paintings. During his years in the Midwest he was affiliated with the Fort Wayne, Indiana Museum of Art, the Anderson Fine Arts Center the Brown County Arts Association, the Northern Indiana Arts Association and The Hoosier Salon.



Pottery by Tim Frain

### WICKWIRE

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Tim has been honored with solo exhibitions at The Jewish Community Center in Indianapolis, The Anderson Fine Arts Center, The Honeywell Center, Tusculum College and James-Ben Studio Gallery. He has also taught art classes for Indiana University and Anderson University. He is a member of Tennessee Arts and Crafts Association, Foothills Craft Guild and Carolina Mountain Artists Guild. His original art is in many private collections in the United States, England, Finland and Russia.

#### Saturday, August 11

Meet the Artist RAY CONAWAY... masterful creator of Windsor Chairs. He will demonstrate furniture making from 1 - 5pm at 329 N. Main Street.

### If you go

WICKWIRE fine art/folk art features: TIM FRAIN and RAY CONAWAY. August 1 - 31, 2007. Two locations 330 and 329 N Main Street in historic downtown Hendersonville offering wonderful new works of traditional, transitional art and contemporary folk art of the highest quality designed to provide inspiring ideas for year 'round decorating and gift giving.

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## NEW EXHIBITS

### Quilt Dialogues – Vintage Inspired Art Quilts

August 20 through September 14  
Opening Reception August 24, 5-9 p.m.

The Transylvania Community Arts Council announces the exhibit “Quilt Dialogues/Vintage Inspired Art Quilts.” The show is curated by nationally known quilt artist Bernie Rowell, who paired 15 art quilters with locally owned vintage quilts. The exhibit, showcasing both the vintage quilts and art quilts, will open Monday, August 20 and will be on view through Friday, September 14. The public is invited to a reception for the artists at the TC Arts Center on Friday, August 24 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. as part of Brevard’s Fourth Friday Gallery Walk. During the reception, author Laurel Horton will be signing copies of her book *Mary Black’s Family Quilts: Meaning and Memory in Everyday Life*.

Art Quilts are a relatively new form of art expression. Much discussion abounds concerning this topic—are they art or are they quilts? One undeniable fact is: Traditional quilts were the jumping off point for most quilt artists. To honor the relationship between the two aspects of quilting, “Quilt Dialogues/Vintage Inspired Art Quilts” showcases art quilts alongside the vintage quilts that inspired them. Sheila Rauen, of Knoxville, used as her inspiration a Sunbonnet Sue quilt owned by Sarah Wallace. A Dresden Plate quilt owned by Pat Childress became the foundation for Fairview resident Judy Simmons’ art quilt.

Donna Cook Edwards generously offered three of her family quilts; a Pinwheel quilt interpreted by Barbara Hooley from Asheville, a Lattice quilt translated by Bets Ramsey of Nashville, and a Bowtie Variation as inspiration for Niki Bonnett of Asheville. Caroline Manheimer used an X Block quilt loaned by Karen Swing. Bernie Rowell, the curator for this show, offered three quilts from her own collection for inspiration— a Civil War Era quilt was the muse for Jimmie Benedict of Reno, Nevada; Lynne Harrell of Greenville, South Carolina was influenced by an Optical Star quilt and Murray Johnson from Birmingham, Alabama designed an art quilt inspired by a Pinwheel quilt.

Karen Swing of Brevard reinterpreted Diana Venters’ Trip Around the World. Kathy Spencer from Asheville used a yellow and lilac block quilt, also owned by Diana Venters, as her vision. Janice Maddox from Asheville used her own Grandmother’s Garden quilt as inspiration. A 19th century Friendship Quilt owned by Brevard resident Mary Sauerteig was the basis for the quilt made by Dottie Moore of Rock Hill, South Carolina. All quilts will be exhibited.

#### Your Quilt’s Place in History

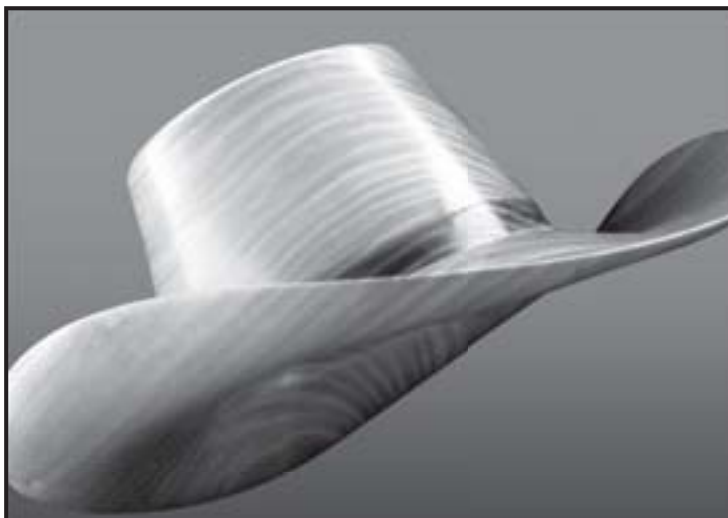
In addition to the quilt exhibit, TC Arts is sponsoring “Your Quilt’s Place in History” August 25, from 1–4 pm. Quilt expert and author Laurel Horton will examine and interpret quilts brought by participants, providing historical information and cleaning and storage suggestions. Cost for participants is \$10.

#### Women’s Stories/Women’s Creativity

Fabric Artist Dottie Moore will teach a class titled “Women’s Stories/Women’s Creativity: A Journey of the Imagination” September 8, from 9 am – 4 pm. Participants will engage in a day of creative exercises and interactive discussions celebrating women’s stories and women’s creativity. Class cost is \$45 for TC Arts members and \$50 for the general public.

#### If You Go

Transylvania Community Arts Center is located at 349 South Caldwell Street, in Brevard. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Transylvania Community Arts Council at (828) 884-2787 or visit us on the web at [www.tcarts.org](http://www.tcarts.org). TC Arts is a nonprofit organization with the mission to “Celebrate and Nurture the Creative Spirit in Transylvania County.” The Arts Council receives support from TC Arts Members, the City of Brevard, Transylvania County Schools, and the North Carolina Arts Council.



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Through Sept. 1, Studio B proudly presents "Fresh Paint/New Works" an exhibit of new oil paintings by Timothy Charles Jacobs, a native of Western North Carolina. The landscape of Texas affected his perception of patterns, shapes and colors in the local landscape. The opening reception will be held at Studio B on Thursday, July 19, 5-8pm.

### Merrimon Galleries

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*- BYRON BELZAK - MOUNTAINS OF ART, PAGE 7*

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## WINE &amp; DINE

## Sangria for Summer – and how fine wine foiled a Capitol crime

BY MICHAEL PARKER

The international press went wild for a day in mid-July when a terrifying Capitol Hill robbery got nullified by an intuitive guest and a glass of fine wine. An armed man crashed an outdoor Soirée, pointed the gun at the

head of the fourteen year-old daughter, and demanded cash.

One guest, Christina “Cha Cha” Rowan said to the robber: “We were just finishing dinner. Why don’t you have a glass of wine with us?”

It worked. He accepted a glass and stuck the gun in his waistband. “Damn, that’s good wine,” he said. This story does not end before the robber asked for a group hug, and got one. He left with a generously filled glass, which was later found empty in a nearby alley, unbroken.

The media made the wine, Chateau Malescot St-Exupery, the hero in this tale rather than the quick-thinking Cha Cha. The wine alone is not due the credit – it took an ambassador from the world of wine (and probably one who goes by the name Cha Cha) to transform this potentially deadly situation. Either she possesses amazingly accurate intuition, or she is a damn lucky risk-taker who deserves a good slap from a specific fourteen year-old girl.

I still wonder if she was trying to distract him so another guest could have the chance to knock him over the head. In a group-hug setting like that, there must have been a least one little concrete garden Buddha within reach. But then again, that would explain the absence of anyone with the fortitude to use it. Further, Cha Cha did offer the robber the whole bottle. Perhaps she really did deserve a good slap.

The press did not report the vintage, but there will be people who buy this label for its temporary fame and a good story, a story that will surely be mangled at most of the dinner parties where it will be told. I am interested in its age just to know whether it was drunk too soon. The current release needs a decade of ageing. Will the robber return when he finds out he drank this wine before its time?

This took me back to a robbery in a downtown Asheville loft in the fall of

2005. In that case, the burglar entered the house while the owner was away and made himself quite at home. As he drank a bottle of white wine, he put a premium Silver Oak Cabernet in the freezer.

The liquid expanded during the process, as water-based liquids do, and pushed its way through the neck and oozed down the outside of the bottle, creating the frozen ring. Perhaps the burglar’s first bottle of wine lent to his forgetfulness. Whatever, it was a shameful, stupid waste that may have been prevented if Cha Cha had been there to keep the red out of the freezer.

While it may not foil an armed robbery, there is a highly recommended summer wine drink for those who gather in places besides Capitol Hill gardens with Margaux-sized budgets: Sangria.

Mistakes in making sangria include spending a fortune on pre-cut fruit. You really need to know how to slice and chop it on your own. If the knife scares you, go to the kitchen store and buy a cheap mandolin for twenty dollars. It will pay for itself before two batches, and slice the fruit thin so more flavors get combined in the mix.

The wine for sangria should be cheap. Do not hesitate to buy it in a box, and ask your retailer if there is any Beaujolais Nouveau at throwaway prices. This is that time of year that wholesalers give up on selling what’s left. I got a case this time last year for less than sixty dollars.

Soak your sliced apples, pears, and oranges, add sugar, fizzy water, and lemon juice or fizzy lemonade, and then pick a secret ingredient. Some people add vodka, some add a little anisette. Even adding dark spiced rum is a good idea.

This is why I am not providing an exact recipe, because sangria invites you to leave your own mark, the goal is to be known for “your” sangria. If possible, make two batches with different

ingredients and make a few notes.

One important thing is to leave the ice out while the flavors blend, otherwise you get diluted sangria. Also, if you like soda water, add it to your glass rather than the batch.

- A 4 liter jug of “Rhine” wine for \$11
- 2 cups sugar
- juice of two fat oranges
- juice of two fat lemons
- 4-6 oz of cheap Gallo brandy
- 4-6 oz of cheap triple sec
- two thin-sliced oranges
- two thin-sliced lemons
- two handfuls of thin-sliced watermelon

Let it sit for a while for the flavors to blend. Hold the ice and club soda until serving time.

Watermelon: most people agree it is one of the best foods on the planet, but when you decide to buy one for the group, it rarely gets totally eaten. I suppose people don’t like the mess. Fortunately, it also works very well in the red sangria, here’s how:

- A 1.5 liter bottle of cheap red
- One cup sugar
- 3-4 oz brandy (dark spiced rum is good, too)
- 2 apples, thin-sliced
- 2 pears, thin-sliced
- 2 handfuls of thin-sliced watermelon

Let it stand for several hours and hold the ice and club soda until serving time

Even if these recipes don’t stop crime, I think Cha Cha would still approve.

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## FESTIVALS

## 80th Annual Mountain Dance and Folk Festival

BY ELLY WELLS

The nation's longest running folk festival. The 80th annual edition of this three-day event showcases the best of the region's old-time and bluegrass musicians, mountain dance groups, cloggers, and ballad singers.

The Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, the country's longest running folk festival, now in its 80th year of highlighting mountain culture, announces the performance line-up for this summer's festival. The Festival runs for three full evenings, Thursday, August 2 to Saturday, August 4 at the Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place in downtown Asheville.

Held 7:00p.m. nightly, the Festival formally showcases an amazing repertoire of mountain performers — old-timers as well as the newest generation of bluegrass and mountain string bands, ballad singers, big circle mountain dancers and cloggers who share music and dance that echo centuries of Scottish, English, Irish, Cherokee and African heritage. The Festival begins Thursday, August 2 with Hometown Appreciation Night; in keeping with the grassroots flavor of the

festival, local families and individuals are encouraged to attend to help kick off the first night of the Festival.

Audiences at each of the three performances will see an extensive line-up of the best musicians, ballad singers and dancers; each evening features at least four dance teams from the very young to the young at heart. The popular and long-standing house band the Stoney Creek Boys returns to perform each evening of the 2007 Festival. Some feature performers representative of the high caliber of entertainers during the three nights of the Festival include:

The Steep Canyon Rangers, performing Thursday evening, boast energetic playing and a wide repertoire of "new traditional" and "kicking old favorites." In 2006 the International Bluegrass Music Association voted Steep Canyon Rangers the Emerging Artists



Laura Boosinger

of the Year, and during the past year their title track "One Dime at a Time" rose to #1 on the Bluegrass Unlimited National Bluegrass Survey. [www.steepecanyon.com](http://www.steepecanyon.com)

On Thursday evening, thirteen-year-old Seth Taylor — already a talented and accomplished musician plays banjo, guitar, and Dobro with the bluegrass band Reel Tyme. Taylor began playing the guitar at age three and currently holds the title of 3-time Junior National Champion in

banjo, 2-time guitar and Dobro. [www.sethtaylor.net](http://www.sethtaylor.net)

A master banjo player and more, Laura Boosinger performs with Scottish folk musician, Flora MacDonald Gammon on Friday evening. Boosinger's concert performances and recordings have earned her a well-deserved reputation as one of North Carolina's most talented

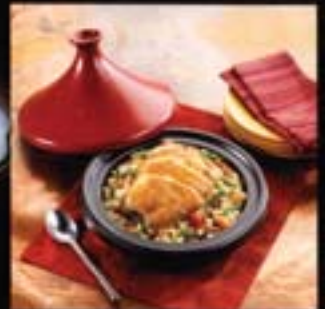
singers and interpreters of the music of the Southern Appalachian region. [www.lauraboosinger.com](http://www.lauraboosinger.com)

The renowned Cockman Family, performing Saturday night, has a distinctive, bluegrass gospel style that has garnered fans throughout the Southeast. Their tight harmonies and original songs are applauded for their uniqueness and their arrangements of old gospel songs are widely popular. [www.cockmanfamily.com](http://www.cockmanfamily.com)

Under the direction of Jeff Atkins the Cole Mountain Cloggers, performing on Saturday night, is a group of young dancers from Madison and Buncombe Counties. Ranging in age from 7 to 15, these dancers are dedicated to preserving Southern Appalachian Freestyle Clogging while entertaining the audience with advanced footwork, great showmanship, and well-choreographed routines.

*Thursday through Saturday, August 2 - 4, 2007. 7:00p.m. nightly at Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place in downtown Asheville, NC. Tickets: Regular \$15, Children 12 and under \$8, 3 night package \$36. (828) 257-4530. Info: [www.folkheritage.org](http://www.folkheritage.org).*

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## COVER STORY

# The Asheville Lyric Opera's 9th Season

'Opera' continued from pg 5

said. "We tried to identify cities that met these criteria and came up with a list of about ten. We didn't look at corporate support as a criteria," he said. Companies come and go, but people don't. People buy the tickets. The people are the reflection of their community. When we looked at Asheville, we found a really strong sense of community. We kept coming back to Asheville as potential site ... it met all of the criteria. Asheville had it all."

During this time, Starkey was forced to stop singing for awhile due to a medical condition.

"I took that opportunity to think about where I was and what I wanted to do," he said.

"I came back to the Asheville area to spend some time with my parents, and that's when I met Dr. Robert C. Moffatt, who's the current North Carolina Medical Board president. He's a celebrated oncology surgeon in this area and he LOVES classical music and opera. He became my champion. Dr. Moffatt gave me a lot of encouragement and support, and by having that champion, I was able to start putting the idea of starting an opera company in Asheville into action. We had our first event in April 1999, just to see if the community would respond. Angela Simpson, who's a dramatic soprano with the Metropolitan Opera, performed the first show with me in a joint recital. Attendance and audience response was very strong. We used the money we raised from that event to bring in Susan Dunn, who's a Verdi soprano also with the Metropolitan Opera and a faculty professor at Duke University. We considered these two events to be our first season, and that's how Asheville Lyric Opera was born."

Starkey says they only had an 80-foot closet space, a card table, a folding chair, and a telephone with which to get started on scheduling and producing their second season. "We had a desire to experiment with an eclectic offering, operettas and classical musical theater like Rogers and Hammerstein," Starkey said. "Our biggest event at that time was Live from Broadway with performers from Le Miserable and the Phantom of the Opera. I knew early on that we had to get the best singers we could afford."

Starkey says they tried to get Francisco Cassanova, who was at that time Luciano Pavarotti's cover performer.

"We were thrilled thinking we were going to get this guy ... but he called two weeks before the show was scheduled and canceled. Pavarotti was sick and Francisco had to stay in New York to go on for Pavarotti at the Met. We were very fortunate to be able to get Rockwell Blake instead. This was almost even better ... he's considered the finest Rossini tenor in the world. He was here for a week and just blew everyone away. He was the best advocate we could ever have. His impact was enormous. For the first time, we could feel that there was real excitement about the idea of a permanent opera

Steven Hageman says he is an avid opera fan himself and supported Starkey's fledgling company as much as possible in the early years when they collaborated on projects and performed together. "During the production of La Boheme, we didn't want to stick our orchestra in the pit, so we used them in the performance," Hageman said. "They were on stage dressed in black, and we used a children's chorus for some of

**"When we looked at Asheville, we found a really strong sense of community. We kept coming back to Asheville as potential site ... it met all of the criteria. Asheville had it all."**

- DAVID STARKEY

company in downtown Asheville."

In 2000, Asheville Lyric Opera's first full production was La Boheme with in conjunction with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra at Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. "Several days before the opening," Starkey said, "tickets for almost all of the 2,400 seats had been sold, and there was a blizzard the morning of the opera. It had been snowing all day long. We got the word that the local emergency management people were considering declaring the city a disaster area. If they did that, there would be no way that we could go on, since the Civic Center was a city building and they would surely close it. The artists were all booked to fly out the next day, so we decided to postpone the opera until that Sunday night. Since the airport was closed, most of the artists were stuck in the hotel, so we gave a mini-concert in the lobby Saturday night. The next night at the performance, nineteen hundred people showed up! It was through the roof."

Blown in by a cold wind, opera had arrived in Asheville.

"That's when everything became official," Starkey said. "I was already the general director, and the board of directors were so enthusiastic that they asked me to stay and be artistic director, too. Now I had a major life and career decision to make. I had contracts with opera companies and I had just gotten married. I said to myself that I started this and maybe I needed to stay with it. I didn't have a business background, but I knew music. I gave up my contracts, gave up my apartment, kept the wife, and moved to Asheville in 2000."

Asheville Symphony Director

the vocals. My daughter was in that chorus at the time, and she got to be part of it, too. It was a great experience," Hageman says. "David does a great job, and he is a delight to work with. We would love to do something with them again in the future. Because of him, I go to every opera I can."

The next production the two collaborated on was the Pirates of Penzance. "That was great fun, too," Hageman remembered. He is also very enthusiastic about the possibility that Asheville will one day have its own performing arts center that is better equipped to meet everyone's needs. "We would love to have something better than what we have now," Hageman said, referencing their current home at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. "We would like a more comfortable and attractive performance space with better seats and much better acoustics ... both for the patrons and performers alike."

The opera collaborated with the symphony for two more years, but it was decided that Thomas Wolfe was not able to accommodate the full-scale

**"David does a great job, and he is a delight to work with. We would love to do something with them again in the future. Because of him, I go to every opera I can."**

- ASHEVILLE SYMPHONY DIRECTOR  
STEVEN HAGEMAN



productions that they both wanted to do. In season five, the opera began touring, and to this day continues to be the only opera company in the country that tours. In their eighth season, they produced three full operas and they have had a great response to doing three shows a year. "Season ticket sales keep going up every year," Starkey said. "We had some funding fall through this year and we called on our donors for help. They responded amazingly."

Over the last eight years, Starkey said, he realized that their audience really wanted more classical opera, and they have responded to audience demand. Now in their ninth year, they're trying to grow and reach new audiences while at the same time stretching their own performing wings by taking on bigger projects. Starkey says their premier production this season, Don Giovanni, is what audiences can expect from the



# PERFORMANCE

Asheville Lyric Opera in the future. "This show has lots of scenes, a lot of cast members, and it is a complicated and layered show," Starkey said. "We're stretching ourselves to be able to do it. It is probably Mozart's finest piece ever and it is a great challenge for us to accomplish." The Barber of Seville is the company's touring show, with dates in six cities in five states.

Looking ahead to their ten-year milestone, Starkey says they want to continue to grow and expand as performers, but to also encourage every regional company in the south to do the same. "Any way we can help them prosper can only bring sustainability to us," he said. "What we've learned along the way is that we have to take the time to invest in our future and challenge ourselves to grow a little bit. We can't be fearful to move and grow. Many people are afraid to grow because they don't want to leave anyone behind. That's not a bad way to be. But there comes a time that you have to decide whether to stay the course or move and grow. We're going into our tenth year strong, and we know that next year's going to be even better."

Starkey talked about Paul Potts, the

recent winner of England's "Britain's Got Talent" television program. Not only did Potts win the chance to perform before the Queen of England, but he also won the hearts of millions of people all over the world with that one brave appearance. When the chubby, ordinary looking Potts walked on stage before perpetual persnickety person Simon Cowell, you could see the judges' eyes rolling at one another when Potts announced that he was going to sing opera -- "Nessun Dorma" from Torandot.

When Potts opened his mouth full of imperfect teeth and the voice of God came flowing out, eyes opened wide in amazement at the flawless tenor operatic voice this young man possessed. He received a standing ovation from the audience, and one female judge seemed especially affected. You could literally see her entire being light up with delight, and tears shone in her eyes as Potts sang. As Starkey put it, "There is something about the voice of opera that erases the human appearance. You could see her falling in love with him." (Log onto youtube.com to see video clips of his performances.)

There are few forces on earth powerful enough to inspire a life or

move a human to tears, and no matter the genre, great music is one of them. It is rare that a city the size and demographic of Asheville can support an opera of this caliber. We are fortunate to live in a city that values and supports this form of artistic expression.

Whatever the next ten years holds for this dynamic company, Asheville Lyric Opera will continue to grace our big little town with a growing roster of local talent along with the best-known voices that classical music and opera have to offer. All we have to do is show up and wait for the very large lady to appear.



**For more information and updates on the 2007-2008 Season, child and adult education programs, and special events please visit [www.ashevillelyric.org](http://www.ashevillelyric.org).**

## ~ Schedule of Performances ~

### Don Giovanni

by Wolfgang A. Mozart  
October 13 & 14, 2007

### Lucia di Lammermoor

by Gaetano Donizetti  
January 25 & 26, 2008

### The Barber of Seville

by Gioachino Rossini  
April 4 & 5, 2008

The Asheville Lyric Opera (ALO) is pleased to announce its 9th season for 2007-2008. The new season features three powerhouse shows with new, full productions: Wolfgang A. Mozart's Don Giovanni, October 13 & 14, 2007; Gaetano Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor, January 25 & 26, 2008; and Gioachino Rossini's The Barber of Seville, April 4 & 5, 2008. All three productions will include English super titles.

"The celebration of ALO's 9th season will showcase the company's dedication to opera's finest classical compositions. We are very excited to

announce that Lucia di Lammermoor will be a co-production with The Opera Company of North Carolina and that The Barber of Seville will tour five states through -out the southeast," said ALO General Director David Craig Starkey. "We have a fabulous line-up of talented singers, directors and conductors joining us this season. Plus, we are planning a special pre-season party at Harry's on the Hill, our season sponsor, featuring the cast of Don Giovanni."

ALO's 2007-2008 season features several important debuts and many happy returns including ALO principal guest conductor Dr. Robert Hart Baker and New York City Opera conductor Tim Myers; stage directors James Marvel from New Orleans Opera and Washington National Opera's David Toulson; and world renowned singers Cheryse McLeod, James Taylor, Branch Fields, Tim Kuhn, Daniel Lickteig, Benjamin Bunsold, Daniel Webb, Jonathan Ross, Roderick George, Roberto Flores, and Kristen Yarborough, plus many additional leading opera singers.

All 2007-2008 mainstage productions will be performed in The Diana Wortham Theatre located at 2 South Pack Square in Asheville's Arts District; the home of the Asheville Lyric Opera since 1999.

Founded in 1999, the Asheville Lyric Opera is recognized for its excellent artistic productions of lyric repertoire that entertain and inspire audiences, featuring emerging operatic talent and an outreach programs division that brings opera to 8,000 young people each year. ALO opera productions tour throughout the southeastern United States, reaching over 5,000 opera lovers in 6 states. The company will celebrate its history in 2008-09 when they celebrate their 10 year anniversary.



### Subscription & Ticket Information

- Subscription prices range from \$99 to \$120. For a season brochure, call ALO ticket services at (828) 236-0670.
- Single ticket prices for Don Giovanni, Lucia di Lammermoor, and The Barber of Seville go on sale to the public on September 1, 2007 with prices ranging from \$35 to \$45. Single tickets will be sold exclusively through the Diana Wortham Theatre box office at (828) 257-4530, [www.dwtheatre.com](http://www.dwtheatre.com) or in person at The Diana Wortham Theatre, 2 South Pack Square in Asheville.
- Discounts on group tickets are available to groups of ten or more by calling the ALO office at (828) 236-0670.
- Preview Dress student tickets are now available in advance at the opera office.

## ARTFUL LIVING

## The Wheel of Karma

BY BILL WALZ

At its simplest, karma means the law of cause and effect, and it is wise to be mindful that what we do always has effects. As with everything in Buddhism, there are layers upon layers of meaning for karma. Staying for the moment at the level of the most obvious, it is not hard to understand that if you bring strife and violence of attitude or action into the world, you will be surrounded by strife and violence, and this can never be a peaceful or friendly way to live. You may be the victimizer rather than the victim, but the quality of your life is one of strife and violence, and often, the victimizer eventually must pay as violence then is visited upon them in retribution.

My concern, however, is with karma at a subtler level, at the level of the evolution of consciousness. The cause and effect to be considered here is with the relationship between mind and behavior. Not so difficult to understand. As we construct the world in our minds, so we act in the world, and as we act in the world, so we reinforce the ideas we have about the world.

This can be a way of understanding what Buddhism refers to as "The Wheel of Karma". Returning to the violent person, as they construct a violent world in their minds, so they behave, and in that behavior and people's responses, they justify that the world is a violent place, and so their violence is justified, even required. So it is with a fearful mind, that finds reason for fear in the world, and the angry

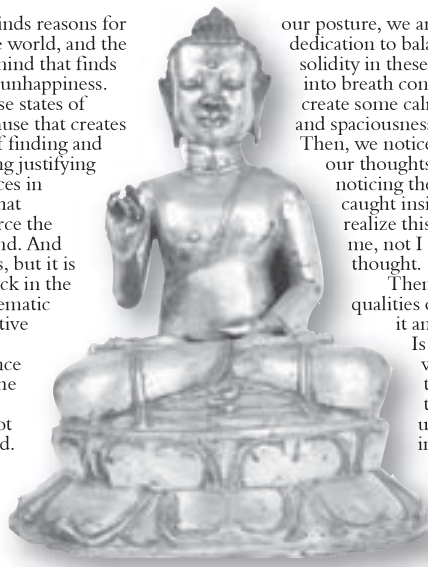


Bill Walz

mind that finds reasons for anger in the world, and the depressed mind that finds reasons for unhappiness. Each of these states of mind is a cause that creates the effect of finding and even creating justifying circumstances in the world that then reinforce the attitude in the mind. And so the wheel turns, but it is only spinning, stuck in the mud of our problematic thoughts and reactive behaviors.

The importance of meditation in the resolution of this conundrum cannot be overemphasized. Meditation, first of all, is a stopping. As we are carried along, caught in the momentum of the turning wheel of karma, constructing a world in our minds as it has been conditioned into us by life training and circumstances, we keep recreating in the circumstances of life the reasons to continue creating our mental world in the same limited patterns. The momentum of this circular feed-back keeps our consciousness stuck at a very primitive level. So, first of all, we must stop.

By sitting, we are stopping. Then, in



our posture, we are settling into a dedication to balance, stillness and solidity in these moments. Shifting into breath consciousness, we create some calmness, subtlety and spaciousness to our awareness. Then, we notice the arising of our thoughts, and as we are noticing them, we are not caught inside them. We realize this thought is inside me, not I am inside the thought.

Then, we notice the qualities of the thought. Is it angry? Is it fearful? Is it unhappy? Then we experience the pull of the thought to carry us with it, but instead we return to awareness of our breathing and the balanced stillness of our sitting and we have stopped the wheel.

We discover that we are not caught pursuing the impulses of our thoughts, but rather are calm, subtle and spaciously present, able to make calm, subtle and creative responses to our life situations. With this practice, we begin to evolve, that is to expand, our consciousness of the possibilities for who we are and what life is about.

From our meditation experience, we can then begin to be more mindful in the

world, replicating the inner experience of meditation in our outer actions and responses. We begin to resolve, to evolve, our Karma, moving from fearful, reactive separateness to a more spacious, inclusive connection with life as it is.

We are able to forgive ourselves and others for past harms, to find what there is in life to experience in gratitude, and begin to be increasingly responsible in our personal conduct. This grows us spiritually and psychologically. The wheel now turns steadily and surely - advancing us towards a healthier and more fulfilling life.

*Bill Walz is a UNCA adjunct faculty member and a private-practice teacher of mindfulness, personal growth and consciousness. He holds a weekly meditation class, Mondays, 7pm at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood.*

*He will hold a meditation class, lecture and discussion on the Omega Journey, Healing Through Personal Evolution on Saturday, August 18, 2-5pm at the Friends Meeting House. Info on classes and personal growth and healing instruction or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail at [healing@billwalz.com](mailto:healing@billwalz.com). Visit [www.billwalz.com](http://www.billwalz.com)*

## Storytelling Festival 2007 at Historic Johnson Farm

The second annual Johnson Farm Storytelling Festival will take place at Historic Johnson Farm in Hendersonville NC on September 21-22, 2007.

At the Saturday festival, storytellers will be John Fowler, musician and storyteller from SC; North Carolinian Joe Ferguson, and California storyteller Carl Weintraub. There will be an Open Mike opportunity for adult storytellers in the audience. A Friday night session of scary tales for ages 11 through adult, will feature Michael "Badhair" Williams. Saturday's stories are appropriate for all ages. All proceeds to enhance and continue the farm's educational programs for Henderson. Co. students.

Fowler is a friendly, energetic storyteller offering traditional yarns and folktales of the Carolinas with a delivery described as a blast of old-time energy. He is also a musician, playing old-time mountain banjo and harmonica master. He is a member of the renowned SC Community Scholars Institution, founder of the Carolina Old Time Music Network and a member of the SC Storytelling Network.

A past guest star on "Barney", Joe Ferguson is a nationally known storyteller and humorist. He "blends his humor and acting ability to show how learning can be both natural and exciting." He is an early childhood consultant known for his warmth and captivating personality. He

is the first male graduate of NC A&T State University in the field of Early Childhood Education. He "uses games, music, and movement to provide creative adventures in oral communication through his storytelling."

Television viewers may have spotted Carl Weintraub as Cagney's blue-collar boyfriend on "Cagney and Lucy", or even recognized him as a mob boss on "Days of Our Lives. But Weintraub is equally well-known as a storyteller. He was the first recipient of the Los Angeles PASA Award for life achievement in professional artistry in schools. He was also the first artist to receive the Los Angeles Music Center's Bravo Award for achievement in the

arts, for founding a story-type theatre company - We Tell Stories - that has toured across American for 25 years

The festival begins on Friday evening, with a session of scary tales and marshmallow roasting around the campfire for ages 11 and older, and will be enjoyable for adults as well. Michael "Badhair" Williams from Zirconia, NC will tell ghost tales. Williams' performances "become a window to history where stories were told around the cabin's fireplace to teach and entertain." He is a past performer at the Smithsonian and the Walt Disney Concert Hall at the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County.

continued on pg 32



## ARTFUL LIVING

# QIGONG: A Teacher's Journey

BY MICHAEL CLARK

Recently, the National Qigong Association interviewed me for their newsletter. Since the discussion shed so much light on my path and teachings, I decided to share it with you. For first-time readers, Qigong (pronounced "chee gung") is a mind-body exercise that combines movement, meditation, massage and breath.

## How did you discover Qigong?

My mother made me do it. No, really. I had been studying Tai Chi for years when Mom called and said I should try Qigong. I was married, had a demanding corporate job and said, "Yeah, right, I don't have time for anything else in my life right now."

Mom called again in 2000 and said Michael Winn was leading a Qigong study trip to China. She sent me the itinerary and as soon as I read that we would watch the sun rise on the sacred Taoist mountain of Hua Shan on my first birthday of the new millennium, I knew I had to go. Before dawn, we joined thousands of Chinese scaling the rock-hewn steps of the mountain. Then the whole procession stopped and faced east to watch the fiery ball of the sun emerge from a sea of clouds. That magical moment is cemented in my memory forever.

My roommate on the mountain was Roger Jahnke, who would later become



Michael Clark

my primary Qigong teacher. On that trip we visited Xi Yuan Qigong hospital in Beijing, where Dr. Cai taught us a form he did to increase his energy before treating patients. I felt currents of heat surge up and down my body. I couldn't explain it, but I was hooked on Qigong.

## What has Qigong done for you?

It has transformed my life and helped me through several crises. I had a high-stress corporate career as a media spokesperson for an energy company in San Diego, Calif., when rolling blackouts caused millions of customers to lose electricity. For 18 months, my life consisted of pagers blaring to signal our rush to the Emergency Operations Center. My job was to tell the TV cameras why people's electricity was off. Needless to say, I was not the most loved face on television. At the same time, I was going through a painful divorce. Tai Chi and Qigong were my life rafts during this period.

During the first blackout, my stomach churned before a live TV interview broadcast to 3 million people. I desperately wanted to do Tai Chi to calm myself down, but that would have looked really weird in the middle of a crisis. So I just practiced standing meditation and sank my breath to my dantien, or lower energy center. I breezed through the interview. When I returned to the war room, all the top executives, who had been watching the news, applauded! I

never told anybody that it was my first live TV interview.

Qigong gave me the clarity and awareness to change my career and follow my heart. I quit my corporate job to found Heaven and Earth Tai Chi in Asheville. Now I help others lead healthier, more balanced lives. I feel like I am fulfilling my life's purpose.

## What people and teachers have influenced you?

My two greatest influences are Chris Luth, a two-time national Tai Chi and Push Hands champion, and National Qigong Association co-founder Roger Jahnke. Chris turned me on to the internal energy of Tai Chi and how to use push hands as "energetic listening." His motto of "loving students into learning" has stuck with me forever. Roger influenced my teaching style by encouraging me to simplify and change forms as needed and to use "baskets of practice" (movement, meditation, massage and breath) in my classes. He also showed me it is possible to relax, teach and talk from the Qigong state.

## Have you created any type of Qigong or special program?

I have blown away a lot of people with my Qigong Rap! The song carries a positive message about the essence and philosophy of Qigong, and if kids don't watch out, they might learn something before it's over. I also created two simplified forms for beginners. Tai Chi Three has three movements that can be

Michael Clark is a certified Qigong instructor and founder of Heaven and Earth Tai Chi in Asheville ([www.HeavenAndEarthTaiChi.com](http://www.HeavenAndEarthTaiChi.com)). He can be reached at (828) 252-6851 or [michael@HeavenAndEarthTaiChi.com](mailto:michael@HeavenAndEarthTaiChi.com).

done sitting, standing or walking, and Circle of Water Qigong consists of three movements using healing water imagery. People gain a sense of accomplishment quickly, which makes them want to learn more.

## Where and what do you teach?

Heaven and Earth Tai Chi is an itinerant school that uses other people's space in five cities around Asheville. I teach the Cheng Man Ching form of Yang-style Tai Chi, and numerous Qigong forms. I have taught in hospitals, chiropractic clinics, schools, parks, YMCAs, fitness clubs, churches, health food stores, and perhaps most surprising of all...an Indian Casino!

## How do you spread the word about Qigong?

I still use my corporate public relations training and consider myself an unofficial spokesperson for Qigong. I have been interviewed by television, radio and newspapers, especially for my efforts to organize the Asheville celebration of World Tai Chi and Qigong Day for the past four years. I also write a monthly magazine column on Tai Chi and Qigong and produce a monthly cable TV show called "Conscious Movement."

# HEALTH FACTS: It's Just a Mosquito Bite

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

One of the newest diseases to arrive in the United States is West Nile fever. In the late 1990's it took up residence in the wild bird population and in the mosquitoes that bite those birds. Since 1999 there has been an epidemic outbreak of West Nile fever every summer in the humans who are bitten by these same mosquitoes. While this is the newest, it is only one of the many diseases which can be transmitted by the bite of a mosquito.

A major health risk around the world is mosquitoes and the diseases they carry, killing more than a million people every year. In Africa and Southeast Asia malaria and dengue fever are two of the major killers of children. Other diseases carried by mosquitoes in other parts of the world include Rift Valley fever, chikungunya, and Japanese encephalitis. The control of mosquitoes and the control and eradication of these diseases is one of the

major health goals of the WHO.

In the US there are over 60 mosquito species. All are capable of carrying these illnesses: malaria (which has been reasonably eradicated in the US), eastern equine encephalitis (a killer of one third of those infected), western equine encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis, and now West Nile fever (the least severe infection but can lead to a weeks-long recovery).

All of these illnesses are characterized by fever, malaise, headache, muscle aches, nausea and vomiting, delirium and coma. There is no vaccine for any of these illnesses and no direct treatment for any of the encephalitides. The best treatment is to avoid getting bit by a mosquito.

Most mosquitoes bite at sunset and at sunrise. These types of mosquitoes can carry malaria, which is quite rare these days, but can also carry the encephalitis viruses and the

West Nile Virus. But several types of daytime biting mosquitoes also carry the encephalitis viruses and the West Nile Virus. Therefore, protection from mosquito bites is always a concern at any time of day.

Although DDT was effective in almost completely eradicating malaria, today control of mosquitoes is by destroying egg-laying areas - mainly still or slow moving water stands. This is difficult to do as most of the prime breeding areas are deep in protected wet lands, marsh lands, swamps and forests.

Around the home eliminate standing water in flower pots, pans, tires and tree stumps. Cut drain holes in tire swings and be sure that water does not collect in pools near air conditioner units and at the bottom of eave troughs. Keep pools and spas chlorinated and empty children's wading pools when not in use.

Mosquitoes are attracted to:

movement, heat, dark colors (hotter), sweat, carbon dioxide and smells like old shoes, socks, and perfumes. The person who is moving quickly, is sweaty and smelly and is breathing hard will be an instant attraction to mosquitoes.

When it is necessary to be outdoors during peak mosquito-biting time, protection includes wearing long sleeves and pants and using insect repellants. DEET 25-50% is required to be effective as are slow release lotions with lower DEET concentrations. DEET is safe for children and pregnant women so long as it is kept out of the mouth and the eyes. When window screens are not available, over bed mosquito nets treated with permethrin should be used. The very best protection is to treat clothes with permethrin and put DEET on the skin.

It is not just a mosquito bite; it is a potentially lethal disease. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Avoid the mosquito.

# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

## How to place an event/classified listing with Rapid River Art Magazine

Any "free" event open to the public can be listed at no charge up to 30 words. For all other events there is a **\$9.95** charge up to 30 words and 10 cents for each additional word.

160 word limit per event.

Deadline is the 19th of each month. Payment must be made prior to printing.

Email Beth Gossett at: [ads@rapidrivermagazine.com](mailto:ads@rapidrivermagazine.com) or mail to: 85 N. Main St, Canton, NC 28716. Or Call: (828) 646-0071 to place ad over the phone.

### - DISCLAIMER -

Due to the overwhelming number of local event submissions we get for our "What to Do Guide" each month, we can no longer accept entries that do not specifically follow our publication's format. Non-paid event listings must be 30 words or less and both paid and non-paid listings must provide information in the following format: date, time, brief description of what your event is and any contact information. Any entries not following this format will not be considered for publication.

## Colburn Earth Science Museum

Raffling \$1000 Jewelry Piece to Benefit Educational Programs

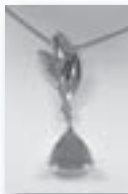
Donated by Susan Marie Designs of Biltmore Village, the piece, worth more than \$1,000, features a gold necklace and a gold pendant with a dazzling garnet and diamond.

Tickets are \$5 each, and you can buy six tickets for \$25. The drawing will be held August 1. All raffle proceeds will benefit Earth science education programs at the Colburn Earth Science Museum, an Asheville institution since 1960.

Located in downtown Asheville in the Pack Place building, the Colburn Earth Science Museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum will be closed July 27 through 29 for Bele Chere.

To buy a raffle ticket or get more information, stop by the Museum or contact Colburn Earth Science Museum Communications Manager Felicity Green at 254-7162, [fgreen@colburnmuseum.org](mailto:fgreen@colburnmuseum.org) or [museum.colburn@gmail.com](mailto:museum.colburn@gmail.com).

[www.colburnmuseum.org](http://www.colburnmuseum.org)



## Free Yoga Day at the Waynesville Recreation Center

Thursday, August 2

Come enjoy one hour of FREE Ashtanga Yoga to celebrate the beginning of a new series of classes at the Waynesville Recreation Center. This will take place from 9 - 10 am.

Ashtanga Yoga (Power Yoga) is a hot, fun, challenging and flowing form of Hatha Yoga which brings the body, mind and spirit into alignment and function.

The class will take place on Thursdays from 9 - 10 am beginning August 2. Participants will need to bring water and a mat. Also, wear comfortable clothing. The cost for the class will be \$5 per class for members of the Waynesville Recreation Center and \$6 for non-members. For more information please call Rebecca Boswell at 456-2030 or email her at [wrcasst.programs@charterinternet.com](mailto:wrcasst.programs@charterinternet.com) or call Mary Alice at 280-7599 or email [prana\\_alice@yahoo.com](mailto:prana_alice@yahoo.com)

## Family in the Park Day

Saturday, August 4

From 9 am - 3pm at Vance Street Park. Great fun for all ages!

The event is free to the general public. There will also be door prizes for a free one month membership to the Waynesville Recreation Center. This event is free to the general public. For more information please call Tim Plowman at 456-2030 or email [wrcprograms@charter.net](mailto:wrcprograms@charter.net)

## Chamber Music Concert

Sunday, August 5

The Biltmore Brass Quintet will present a concert on Sunday, August 5 at 3:00 PM at St. Matthias Church in Asheville. The program will include works by Monteverdi, Gabrieli and Peter Warlock. The players are: Bill Ross and Casey Coppenbarger, trumpets; Hobart Whitman, horn; Linda Davis, trombone; and Kermit Solesby, tuba.

There is no charge for the concert, but a free will offering will be taken for the restoration of the beautiful and historic church. St. Matthias' Church is over 100 years old and is on the

## Upcoming Events at Osondu Booksellers

(All events at Osondu Booksellers, 184 N. Main, Waynesville unless otherwise noted.)

Friday, August 3, 6-8:30pm

Gala Authors Reception at Osondu Booksellers - an evening of good music, good drink and good company as Book Mania authors meet and greet ticketed patrons in our tea and wine café. Tickets at \$15 each may be purchased at the store, by phone at 456-8062 or online at [www.osondubooksellers.com](http://www.osondubooksellers.com).

Monday, August 13, 7pm

Osondu's Women's Book club will discuss *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchette, an immensely readable novel in which opera and terrorism make strange but ultimately compatible bedfellows.

Saturday, August 18, 7-9pm

Osondu Booksellers and Mountain Writers Alive will host a party for Book Mania volunteers at our tea and wine café. The many local patrons who help move books, tables and chairs, prepared and brought authors' lunches, commandeered authors to and from presentations and book fair guests around the premises will deserve a special night of food and fun. Audrey Lawrence will be our guest musician.

Monday, August 20, 7pm

Our Non-Fiction Book Club will meet to discuss their month's selection.

Tuesday, August 28, 7pm

Our All Gender, All Genre Book Club will meet to discuss their month's selection.

[www.osondsubooksellers.com](http://www.osondsubooksellers.com)

national historical register.

The church is located in Asheville just off South Charlotte Street at Max Street on the hill across from the Asheville Public Works Building (1 Dundee St.). Shuttle parking is available from the Public Works parking lot on South Charlotte St.

## The Many Faces of Asheville Tour

Wednesday, August 8

8:45 - 3:30, \$30.00 a person (includes lunch). This day long trip looks at the historic and contemporary immigrant communities with stops at Houses of Worship, historic cemeteries and a downtown walking tour. For more information call 232-5024. Presented by the Center for Diversity Education.

## Rockin' River Fest

Saturday, August 11

The annual Rockin' River Fest and Raft Race is back again with

lots of family fun in store! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 11 at French Broad River Park - the fun starts at 11:00am.

The public will be invited to bring a raft, homemade or store bought, and float down the river to French Broad River Park. Non-profit organizations entering a raft in the race are eligible to win free radio advertising campaigns!

Rafts will be welcomed by great music provided by Musician's Workshop Battle of the Bands, local food vendors, local artists, face painting and games for kids, a pet social, fishing and boating demos, and much more. Everyone's invited to the park for a fun time!

Please see [www.riverlink.org](http://www.riverlink.org) for raft race registration. Please see [www.965woxl.com](http://www.965woxl.com) for sponsorship information, and vendor and band applications.

Sponsored by Classic Hits 96.5 WOXL and RiverLink

## WANTED:

## Writers Who Just Want to Have Fun

The Rapid River is searching for talented writers who enjoy interviewing performers, talking to film actors, and writing stories on up-coming plays.

## Interested?

Call 828-646-0071, or e-mail [info@rapidrivermagazine.com](mailto:info@rapidrivermagazine.com) with samples of your work.

# AUGUST EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS



# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

## Blue Ridge Performing Arts Center

**August 4:** Reagan Boggs

**August 10:** Buddy Carol Jamie

**August 11:** The Cold Mountain Bluegrass Band

**August 17:** David Childers & The Modern Don Juans (WNCW is the media sponsor)

**August 18:** David Wilcox

**August 24:** GAG ORDER!

**August 25:** Dave Desmelik

**August 31 - September 2:** A Waste is a Terrible Thing to Mind: A one man play starring local actor/comedian Jason Denton

Our theatre is smoke-free. Purchase tickets via telephone by calling (828) 693-0087.

538 N. Main Street, corner of 6th & Main, across from Mast General Store. Hendersonville, NC 28739. (828) 693-0087

www.BRPAC.org

## Quilting Class at Old Armory Recreation Center

Thursdays from 9 am - 2 pm.

The Old Armory Recreation Center will offer a quilting class. There is no charge for the class.

For more information please contact Georgia Guidroz at 926-0118 or Michael Huffstetler at 456-9207.

## Volunteers Needed for Anne Frank: A History for Today

September 30 - November 9

Biltmore Square Mall, www.annefrank-wnc.org or call 232-5024. Presented by the Center for Diversity Education.

## Ultimate Frisbee

Sunday evenings at 7 pm

The Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department will offer the exciting sport of ultimate frisbee on Sunday evenings at 7

contact Michael Huffstetler at the Old Armory Recreation Center at 456-9207.

## Art Classes for Adults at River's Edge Studio

We are pleased to announce summer's end classes in Painting and Drawing for Adults in a working artist's studio in the River Arts District of Asheville. Painting is taught by Fleta Monaghan, and drawing by Constance Humphries. Explore your creativity, draw the figure and learn art history with others!

Classes are for all levels of experience, from beginner and up. Our aim is to help the aspiring artist improve skills and develop a unique personal style.

## Self Portrait/Figure Drawing -

Sat. Aug 4th from 10:00 To 4:00, \$70.00 includes model fee.

## Cubism and Modernism -

Fri. and Sat. Aug 17th and

## Ongoing Studio and Critique Classes

10:00 to 3:00, \$25.00 each session, call or email for dates.

For more information call Fleta Monaghan at 828-776-2716 or email fleta@fletamonaghan.com. See summer class schedule and registration at www.fletamonaghan.com

## Neil Simon's JAKE'S WOMEN

Aug. 31 - Sept. 9

The Haywood Arts Regional Theater presents "Jake's Women" the story of a man haunted by the various women in his life.

Performances are Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 6, 7, and 9, 7:30pm, and Sundays Sept. 2 and 9 at 3pm.

For reservations call the HART Box Office beginning August 22,

at (828) 456-6322, Monday through Friday from 1-5pm. The Performing Arts Center is located at 250 Pigeon St. in downtown Waynesville.



## THE FINE ARTS LEAGUE OF THE CAROLINAS

Announces Open Registration for Fall Intensive Workshops September 3-7 September 10-14

with Noted Australian Artists

Kasey Sealy	<i>Plein Air</i>
Joseph Zbukvic	<i>Watercolor</i>
Todd Whisson	<i>Plein Air</i>

& FAL Faculty Member

Michael Smith	<i>Drawing the Figure</i>
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For a Brochure and Application call 828.252.5050

For Additional Information on Artists and Classes visit www.fineartsleague.org

## Free Planet Radio

Sunday, August 19

4:00 pm (early show!) \$10 admission. \$10 CDs will be available. Grey Eagle Music Hall, 185 Clingman Ave, Asheville, NC. (828) 232-5800, www.thegreyeagle.com

## Howl-In

Saturday, August 25th

Full Moon Farm Wolfdog Rescue and Sanctuary will hold a howl-in and open house for the public. Tours start at 3:00 pm and potluck supper will begin at 5:00pm. Cost \$5.00 includes Perry's Barbecue and soft drinks. For more information and directions call 828-669-1818 or 669-0706.

## Corgi Tales by Phil Hawkins



By Amy Downs

## Callie & Cats



pm until dark at the Waynesville Recreation Center Athletic Field located at 550 Vance Street in Waynesville. There is no cost to play and all ages are welcomed. For more information please

18th 10:00 to 4:00, \$130.00 includes all material. Learn about Cubism and other important art movements and create an art work in the tradition of early 20th century art.

## Asheville Area Arts Council

### eight0seven – Sean Pace and Brian Mashburn

Friday, August 3rd

Please join us in the Front Gallery at 11 Biltmore Avenue on Friday, August 3rd at 5:30 p.m. for the opening of sculptors Sean 'Jinx' Pace and Brian Mashburn in their show entitled eight0seven.

Sean 'Jinx' Pace has had a prolific local career since graduating with distinction from the University of North Carolina in Asheville. His work blurs the lines between art and life as he engages the imagination of his audience. With every piece he writes a specific artist statement that explains that piece alone. Sean covers political, spiritual, social and personal content with his work.

This will be the first exhibit in Asheville for Brian Mashburn. A graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BFA in 2D design, he maintained a booth space at Kress Emporium for 2005. Brian embraces many ideas and motivations into an ambiguous aesthetic.

CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS

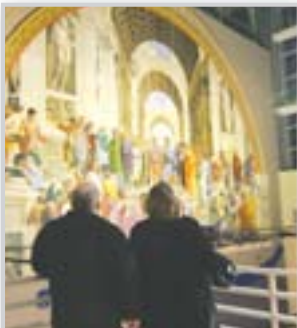
# FINE ART

## UNCA Home to "School of Athens"

Soaring 47 feet above UNC Asheville's Highsmith University Union Café is a stunning recreation of Raphael's masterpiece painting "School of Athens." The large mural, considered to be one of the biggest recreations in the world, was unveiled in February. Since then, no tour of Asheville's art scene is complete without a stop at UNC Asheville to experience the "School of Athens" vibrant colors, expansive scale and exquisite detail.

"It is truly difficult to understand and appreciate the grandness of this work of art without seeing it in person," said S. Tucker Cooke, lead artist on the project and retired UNC Asheville art professor. "Most art lovers have seen photos of 'School of Athens' in books, but those images are so small – barely bigger than a postage stamp. Seeing this painting depicted in consistent scale with the original is very special – and you don't have to travel to Rome to experience it!"

The "School of Athens" mural is just one example of Cooke's talent for inspiration and collaboration. Cooke conceived of the project more than two years ago when the University asked him to create artwork for the vast wall space in the Highsmith University Union Café. Cooke, a talented painter, chose to reproduce Raphael's 1510 fresco for its "beauty, depth and



content," he said. "It is a celebration of learning and the liberal arts."

And like so much of what happens in the liberal arts, Cooke didn't work alone. For more than 18 months, some 50 students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members worked together for over 15,000 hours on the project. The mural is made up of 4-foot-square panels, each painted by different artists. The completed mural is 40-by-37 feet, comprising 60 separate canvases. It is positioned 10 feet above the floor of the café and reaches to the skylights.

"This is something I have always dreamed of doing," said Asheville artist Gloria Gaffney. "When I heard that Tucker had gotten started, I wanted to join in. It was like working in a Renaissance atelier."

While tradition reigned, the painters did make one addition to the original. Two English bulldogs were added to the lower left-hand corner of the mural in tribute to Rocky, UNC Asheville's mascot.

In the center of the "School of Athens" stand Plato and Aristotle who exemplify the liberal arts tradition, one to which UNC Asheville is deeply committed. Surrounding Plato and Aristotle are some of the greatest philosophers, scientists and mathematicians of the classical world. Though scholars disagree on the

identity of some of the figures, others are recognizable, including Epicurus, Pythagoras, Heraclitus and Ptolemy.

Under the watchful gaze of these great thinkers, students eat, relax and study. UNC Asheville's liberal arts tradition encourages students to take advantage of every learning opportunity – both inside and outside the classroom. And therefore, the Highsmith University Union Café has become UNC Asheville's own "School of Athens," where students debate and discuss topics ranging from current events to the arts to sciences until the wee hours of the night.

The Highsmith University Union is open 7:30 a.m.-midnight weekdays and 9 a.m.-midnight weekends when classes are session. Visitors who wish to view "School of Athens" may park in the 15-minute visitor parking spaces in front of the building. Those who wish to stay longer are invited to obtain a parking pass from the Campus Police Office.



### If you go

A campus map is available online at: [www.unca.edu/campusmap/](http://www.unca.edu/campusmap/). Driving directions to UNC Asheville are available online at: [www.unca.edu/welcome/directions.html](http://www.unca.edu/welcome/directions.html). For more information, call the Highsmith University Union at 828/232-5000.

## The Appalachian Artisan Society Gallery (TAAS) expands

The TAAS-Gallery punched through the adjoining wall between its current 3,000 sq. ft. gallery space and the adjoining building to open up a new Fine Art gallery space. The new space adds an additional 1,500 sq. ft. of retail space.

"This new addition has an entirely different feel to it," explains co-owner, Dru Heldman. "We are calling the new building the TAAS-Fine Art Gallery. We have fitted the open floor space with room for 70+ new artists. The artist displays are designed to be non-intrusive and blend into the background, an authentic old brick building. This building is brimming with magnificent character with a very warm and relaxed feel to it. The open room has original hard wood floors and bead-board wood ceiling."

### TAAS-Fine

Art celebrates local talent and intends to provide art buyers with a large selection of original art from a wide variety of quality local artist and styles. Already, in the new gallery are 20 artist displays with local landscapes, caricatures, contemporary art, wild-life paintings, warm cozy pastels and vivid watercolor paintings. TAAS-Gallery's main gallery now is comprised of handcrafts, pottery,



woodworking and jewelry from 63 members.

On August 25, 2007, TAAS-Gallery will celebrate the new expansion with a Grand Opening. With only a short history under its belt, TAAS-Gallery is already well known for its

commitment to the community. During the grand opening day celebration, they will draw for the grand prize, a limited edition framed print by Bob Travers,

nationally recognized wild life artist and member of TAAS Gallery. The drawing is a fundraiser provided by TAAS-Gallery for the rebuilding of Davidson's Fort, a project of local residents banding together to recreate the historic Fort, the namesake of Old Fort. Once completed, the Davidson's Fort will be a historic tourist destination and educational centerpiece for the WNC region.

This project is important for all WNC residents as it will help preserve and educate generations to come of the struggles that took place here. Tickets are on sale now for \$5 and all proceeds go toward the Davidson Fort project. The prize has been donated by the Gallery and is valued at \$595.

'TAAS' continued on pg 32



# AUGUST MOVIES

with MARCIANNE MILLER

## SIZZLE AND SPLASH

- Fantastic
- Pretty darn good
- Has some good points
- The previews lied
- Only if you must
- Forget entirely

*A hankie-weeper with style, a hilarious retro-musical, a magical coming of age tale, a feel-good straight comedy about being gay, and a blistering action blockbuster — it's a great mixed bag of movies for summer's end. Guest critic Marcianna Miller fills in for vacationing Beth Gossett.*



### Evening

■■■■1/2

**Short take:** A dying woman's revelation of a secret love affects her grieving daughters.

Critics claim Evening shamelessly rolls out more varieties of victimhood than a 12-step marathon. But for people who have cared for a dying parent, the movie packs a painfully true emotional wallop. Evening makes us uncomfortable because it dramatizes what most of us prefer to repress — the admission of our mistakes in life. But as the movie reveals, when dementia releases inhibitions, pent-up regrets come rushing out like a raging flood and God help those who can't run fast enough to escape.

In her dying days, thrice-married Ann Grant Lord (Vanessa Redgrave) fades in and out of reality, calling out for an unknown man named "Harris," claiming he was the only man she ever truly loved. Needless to say, this confounds her two daughters gathered at her deathbed. Older daughter Constance (Natasha Richardson, real-life daughter of Redgrave) is even-keeled and mature, married, and the mother of two. Nina (Toni Collette) is a commitophobe who flaunts her hurts like neon nose rings. The sisters' bickering is annoyingly paint-by-number, but it's relieved, mercifully, by some truly touching intimate scenes each has one-on-one with her mother. As Ann sinks ever closer to the white-sequined Angel of Death, she flashbacks to her most life-affirming time — the weekend of her aristocratic friend's wedding and a passionate one-night love affair.

She remembers when decades ago the youthful Ann (Claire Danes) revels in her vitality and optimism. Her friend and bride-to-be Lila (Mamie Dugger, Meryl Streep's lovely real-life daughter) is a wreck with pre-wedding jitters because she's in love with her childhood friend, Harris (Patrick Wilson) not her fiancé. She feels obligated to go through with the wedding that her mother (Glenn Close) has so meticulously arranged. Accompanying Ann is Lila's brother, the oh-so-charming but dyspeptic Buddy, played with unforgettable poignancy by charismatic Hugh Dancy.

The weekend proceeds with love and tragedy achingly intertwined amidst gorgeous scenery wrought by Hungarian cinematographer turned director Lajos Koltai. Arriving in the nick of time to give a final girly hug is the contemporary Lila played by Meryl Streep. Though at times disjointed, treacly and predictable, moments in Evening linger, thanks to the intensity of its performances. Don't miss it when it comes out on DVD.

**Rated PG-13 for some thematic elements, sexual material, a brief accident scene and language.**

For the latest reviews, theater info and movie show times, visit [www.rapidrivermagazine.com](http://www.rapidrivermagazine.com)



**Luna Lovegood stars in Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.**



### Hairspray

■■■■■

**Short take:** Baltimore survives the growing pains of integration in the 60s with stiff hair, fabulous jewelry, singable tunes, and wild interracial dancing.

It's sweet. It's silly. It's subversive. Hairspray is totally wonderful. Grab your goofy friends and rush to theatres. This updated version of John Water's 1988 paean to the early 60s is the most delightful flick of the year.

During the JFK years, Baltimore is a grubby metropolis confused about racial equality. Teens roost in front of their black-and-white TV sets to watch the Corny Collins show and get their daily infusion of the latest fashions and dance steps. Dreaming about dancing on the show is irrepressibly plump Tracy Turnblad (vivacious newcomer Nikki Blonsky). Mom Edna (John Travolta in hilariously believable drag), and Dad Wilbur (Christopher Walken) aren't sure how to handle their daughter or the changing world outside their apartment. Punished in school for her "inappropriate hair height," Tracy is sent to detention — which is where the African American students gather — and from them she rapidly makes new friends and adds cool steps to her dancing repertoire. Trouble brews.

Society's problems are played out at the TV station. Station manager Velma Von Tussel (Michelle Pfeiffer in sublime bitchiness) hides her reactionary nastiness behind the best jewelry in movie history.

An equally beautiful blonde (yes, blonde) leading the forces of change is none other than Motormouth Maybelle (dazzling Queen Latifah), the hostess of the station's "Negro Day." The young guys are all adorable: TV host Corny Collins (Greg Marsden), too-cute heartthrob Link (Zac Efron) and suave dancemeister Seaweed (Elijah Kelley). Everyone sings up a storm and dances their hearts out and no one cries too much — it's the most fun I've had a movie in years! With a palette of eye-popping hues, drop-dead gorgeous costumes and electrifying performances, choreographer/director Adam Shankman has created a perfect summer bonbon. Enjoy!

**Rated PG for language, some suggestive content and momentary teen smoking.**

### Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

■■■■1/2

**Short take:** Teenage wizards learn that growing up means taking responsibility.

Like adolescents everywhere, Harry Potter and his friends have reached an age where showing off and talking about how brave they are just won't cut it anymore — harsh reality is looming and growing up means they have to learn one major life principle — some things are worth fighting for. In their case, Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) is looming on Hogwart's horizon, but Harry has trouble getting anyone to believe the threat is real because the ostrich-in-the-sand Ministry of Magic refuses to face the truth. Instead they've set up a Kafkaesque new bureaucracy at the school, imposing endless restrictions and making life miserable for poor Harry and all the other students who are struggling to pass their final exams.

But Harry and his brave band form the rebellion and together they learn the skills they'll need to defend the world against evil. Just because they live

**'Movies' continued on pg 32**

## 'Landscapes' continued from pg 10

agrarian earth-tones that softens and smoothes the structures into almost organic constructs. Many of his paintings originate from plan, section or elevation sketches, but as layers of paint are built up onto the original sketches they become abstract and organic. Ultimately Peter creates paintings that wed the rich natural earth, upon which they rest, with the man-made buildings, which originally inspire his paintings.

The wide range and allure of contemporary landscape painting including plen-air painting using traditional oils, impressionistic landscapes using encaustic, to abstract architectural landscapes are on display at Bella Vista Art Gallery in Biltmore Village.

## 'Storytelling' continued from pg 26

### Farm History

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Johnson Farm was a late 19th century tobacco farm that became a popular summer tourist retreat. Today it is owned by the Henderson County Public Schools.

This heritage education center is a project of the non-profit Henderson County Education Foundation. It was a gift to area schoolchildren by the late Vernon and Leander Johnson. Call 828-891-6585 for info, or [www.historicjohnsonfarm.org](http://www.historicjohnsonfarm.org) Address: 3346 Haywood Road, Hendersonville, NC 28791.

## If you go

### Storytelling Festival

Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 am to 4 pm

Admission prices and hours:

Scary Stories around the Campfire

- Friday: Sept. 21, 7:30-9 pm.

\$3 Adults, \$2 Grades K-12.

\$18 adults all day, \$10 morning or

afternoon session. Students K-12 \$9

all day, \$5 morning or afternoon;

Preschool free.

Food information: Catered by Perry's BBQ of Black Mountain for purchase. \$5 for full meal and beverage.

Bring a folding chair or blanket. Please no pets, coolers, alcohol or tobacco.

## 'TAAS' continued from pg 30

## If you go

Event Details: Saturday, August 25th from 10:00 - 6:00 TAAS Gallery members will be demonstrating their art or crafts. Hors d'oeuvres, music, and the drawing for the Davidson's Fort grand prize. For more information call (828) 668-1070 or visit [www.taasg.com](http://www.taasg.com). TAAS-Gallery is located on Hwy-70 East Main Street in the heart of downtown Old Fort.

## 'Movies' continued from pg 31

in a magical world doesn't mean war is any less scary--in fact it's worse. Their enemies aren't terrorists who can just kill your bodies; they're monsters who can steal your souls as well.

So it's on to the classic hero's journey for the young wizards and the result is a marvelous tale--beautiful, touching, charming, sweet and thoughtful--not to mention downright scary. Everyone does an amazing job and new Potter director David Yates proves he's up to the monumental task. (See Sierra Bicking's review below.) My only complaint, and thus a deduction of half a point, is that in the

rush to be compact, (this is the shortest Potter film yet), a few holes were left unfilled and some characters, such as Hagrid, and Sybil Trelawney were given short shrift and of course there's never enough time given to cinema's favorite nasty, Alan Rickman who plays Professor Severus Snape. The newest entry, white-haired Luna Lovegood (Evanna Lynch) is so lovely however, that she makes up for almost all my complaints.

Rated PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images.

## I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry

Short Take: Straight guys take loyalty and male bonding to the limit and overcome anti-gay discrimination.

Based on the previews, I never thought I would like this movie. Surprise — I loved it! Which is saying a lot for a movie that happens to be, at times, moronically stupid. But Chuck and Larry did something surprising — considering that its premise is two straight single guys have to act like a gay married couple

## FILM REVIEWS

in order to protect the children of one of them — the movie never took cheap shots, never descended to the offensive, never got smirky. It came close, but never did. Plus I have this thing about firemen — you'd think at my age I'd have outgrown it, but, well, I haven't — thus any movie about firemen automatically goes up a point or two!

Because of a quirk in the law, Brooklyn firefighter Larry Valentine (Kevin James, the sexiest chubby guy on the planet), grieving widower and father of two, can't change the beneficiary listing in his pension — so if he dies on the job, his kids won't get the money due them. He convinces his best friend and firefighting partner, Chuck Levine (Adam Sandler), who is a notorious womanizer, to sign a domestic partnership agreement that will insure benefits for the kids. It's supposed to be a secret. But because, in truth, it's potentially fraudulent, they end up triggering an investigation that sets life-style snoop Clinton Fitzer (Steve Buscemi) on their trail and life turns into a grievous gay witchhunt. To their rescue comes traffic-stopping gorgeous attorney Alex McDonough (Jessica Biel) who Chuck falls madly in love with, but of course, can't touch because he's supposed to be gay.



With shades of Mr. Deeds Goes to Washington, Some Like It Hot, The Odd Couple and every buddy movie ever made, director Dennis Dugan manages to pull off a comedy that's actually funny most of the time and even has some meaning. For no matter how severely

Chuck is tempted to be disloyal to his friend Larry — not half-naked Jessica Biel, not discrimination from fellow firefighters, not even being thrown in jail — nothing can make him renege on his agreement with his good friend. Hokey? Yes. Nice? Yes — and that's why I loved it.

Rated PG-13 for crude sexual content throughout, nudity, language and drug references.



## Live Free or Die Hard

1/2

Short take: An aging bald cop partners with a young wimp hacker to save the world from techno greed-meisters.

Does the fourth entry in the Die Hard franchise regain the greatness of the 1988 debut that starred a hunky 33-year-old Bruce Willis and major British bad guy Alan Rickman (whose character, Hans Gruber, was recently voted one of the best villains of all time)? No, it doesn't. Die Hard One remains supreme with its setting, cast of characters, and newness.

But this latest entry is a helluva good action flick with the stunts just as outrageous as the competition, Bruce Willis is just as engaging old and bald as he was in his younger years, Justin Long makes an appealing second banana, and bad guy Timothy Olyphant, although not as memorable as Rickman, is certainly more impressive than the villains in most action flicks days. The bottom line is — you get your money's worth.

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, language and a brief sexual situation.

By now you've no doubt heard how the Potter series of books ended, who lived, who died, how the Muggles and the wizards will learn to live together. A tip for adults: If you've avoided reading the Potter books because of time, don't deny yourself any longer. Read them on tape while you drive/clean house, etc.

English actor Jim Dale is positively a wizard himself, creating the voices for over 200 characters since the series began. You can buy the books on tape or rent them for free at the library.

Should you spend your money on a recent theatrical released movie that's now out on DVD? Check our previous movie reviews at [www.rapidrivermagazine.com](http://www.rapidrivermagazine.com).

Marcianne Miller is an Asheville-based writer and movie critic. Contact her at [marci@aquamystique.com](mailto:marci@aquamystique.com)



## Hendersonville Film Society: August 2007

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

Romance is in the air for the month of August at HFS as we present four films that celebrate a love of things past, a love that reaches out from beyond, real life star-crossed lovers and soul mates from different class backgrounds.

### AUGUST 5 RADIO DAYS

Woody Allen's highly imaginative (and largely autobiographical) look at the era when radio was king features an ensemble cast and glorious 1940s music. Part tribute, part memoir **RADIO DAYS** is above all a very special film. With Mia Farrow, Diane Keaton, Jeff Daniels and Allen himself as narrator.

*DIR: Woody Allen.*  
1987 USA Color 96 minutes.

### AUGUST 12 PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES

This beautifully mounted period piece is like a cross between **FAIRY TALE** and **SOMEWHERE IN TIME**. A young photographer who has recently lost his wife specializes in exposing fake spiritualists. When a picture offers proof of a world of fairies and spirits, he is drawn into a web of passion and intrigue. With Toby Stephens, Emily Woof and Ben Kingsley.

*DIR: Nick Willing.*  
1998 England Color 107 minutes.



### AUGUST 19 MAYERLING

One of history's most tragic love stories became one of the cinema's most exquisite romances in this original French version of the story of Archduke

Rudolph and Marie Vesteria. Filmed with a dream like beauty and filled with music, **MAYERLING** made a matinee idol out of Charles Boyer and showcased the beautiful French actress Danielle Darrieux.

*DIR: Anatole Litvak.* 1935 France English w/subtitles B/W 90 minutes.

### AUGUST 26 THE STUDENT PRINCE

Sigmund Romberg's beloved operetta about a prince in love with a barmaid is given the royal Hollywood treatment in this 1954 adaptation that features the voice of legendary tenor Mario Lanza (whose weight problem kept him off the screen). Well known songs include "Golden Days", "Serenade", "Deep In My Heart", and "Drink! Drink! Drink!" With Edmund Purdom (standing in for Lanza) and Ann Blyth (who sings her own songs).

*DIR: Richard Thorpe.*  
1954 USA Color 107 minutes.

## FILM REVIEWS

## Lillian Gish: Film Pioneer and Film Preservationist Now on Dvd

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

Lillian Gish (1893-1993), who died just short of her 100th birthday, had the longest career of any major star in movie history. She made her first screen appearance at the age of 19 in D.W. Griffith's **AN UNSEEN ENEMY** in 1912 and made her last in 1987 in **THE WHALES OF AUGUST** when she was 94. Do the math and you'll see that adds up to an unbelievable 75 years in front of the camera.

Yet not all of those years were in front of a camera. She was also an accomplished stage actress who spent most of the 1930s in New York after her movie career had come to a sudden halt. It wasn't that she couldn't make the transition from silents to talkies but because as one of the most independent women in Hollywood (she had her own production unit at MGM as well as script and director approval) she frequently was at odds with Louis B. Mayer who wanted women to be stars but little else and so she was let go.

By the 1940s she had returned to Hollywood as a much in demand character actress and it is for these performances in movies such as **DUEL IN THE SUN** (1946), **PORTRAIT OF JENNIE** (1949), and especially **THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER** (1955) with Robert Mitchum that she is best



remembered. That is until now. Today's video technology makes it possible for her great performances from the silent era to be seen in restored editions that capture not only the picture quality but the range of her acting ability as well. Films such as 1919's **BROKEN BLOSSOMS** (the movie that made her a full fledged star in her own right), **WAY DOWN EAST** (1920) and the soon to be released **TRUE HEART SUSIE** (also 1919) are now available for everyone to see.

Living as long as she did, Gish was not only a survivor from the silent era but became a tireless advocate for film preservation both silent and sound. I had the good fortune to see her in person at a press conference in Charleston S.C. in 1980. She was 86 years old at the time and had come to Charleston to make a TV movie called **THIN ICE** with Kate Jackson who was then at the height of her fame as one of **CHARLIE'S ANGELS**. I was a sound technician for the local public radio station and told

our reporter what questions to ask. I have been a fan of silent films since 1962. She talked about her long career and the need to preserve films for everyone. Fortunately she lived long enough to see the video revolution and was able to add introductions to her greatest films.

In addition to the aforementioned silent films, there are several of her later sound films now out on DVD as well. They include **THE UNFORGIVEN** (1960) with Burt Lancaster and Audrey Hepburn, alongside Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton in **THE COMEDIANS** (1967), and the recently released Robert Altman's **A WEDDING** (1978) featuring an all-star ensemble cast headed by Carol Burnett. Check out these titles if you get the chance to see what a wide variety of films she appeared in. After all how many actresses can say that they worked for D.W. Griffith, John Huston, Lindsay Anderson and Robert Altman. None.

**Chip Kaufmann is President of the Hendersonville Film Society and hosts a classical music program Thursday nights from 7-10 on public radio station WCQS.**

## TEEN CORNER:

### Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

**Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Imelda Staunton, Ralph Fiennes, Michael Gambon, Gary Oldman.**



Film fan and movie critic Sierra Bicking lives in Asheville

Wizards, witches, and Muggles alike, want to see a movie that will leave you spellbound to your seat? A film that makes you want to fly right over to the bookstore to buy the sixth book in the series, as well as the seventh when it conveniently comes out two weeks after the movie opens? Then apparate right into the theaters, for this is a movie you will not want to miss.

Oh yes, Harry Potter has returned in the fifth movie of the series, Harry

## Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, and this time he's faced with even more evil. Wicked Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has indeed returned, and is even more powerful. Harry, (Daniel Radcliffe) who has been Lord Voldemort's target for a long time, joins up with the Order of the Phoenix, a group of wizards and witches formed to fight Lord Voldemort's forces.

And just to add a little flavor to this spinning cauldron of mystery and fear, the Ministry of Magic has sent viciously sweet Professor Umbridge (Imelda Staunton) to Hogwarts to gain control over the school. Harry soon learns the meaning of friendship, as he and his friends battle the evil both within the school and without.

This movie is fantastic. It has everything: magic, suspense, mystery,

romance, impressive acting, and special effects. You name it, this film has it. Somehow the director managed to pack an 870 page book into a 138 minute movie, the shortest movie of the series so far. Its only shortcoming was that at times it was really hard to understand what the actors were saying, since they spoke so fast and with accents. Also, the movie is confusing for people who have not read the Harry Potter series, or haven't seen the movies. But even if you're unfamiliar with Harry Potter, the movie will still be enjoyable because of the magic and suspense. So grab your broomsticks and fly over to your local theater. Even if you don't believe in magic, it's worth entering the magical world of wizards, even if it's just for two hours.

*Rated PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images.*

# STAGE PREVIEW

## 35below Closes Season with 11 Performances Over 17 Days!

BY JENNY BUNN

The Late Night Comedy Series at 35below blazes into August with 11 different performances over 17 days from 4 different local comedy troupes, a local stand-up comic, and the funniest teenagers in Asheville. Performances will occur on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 9:00 pm from August 2 – August 18. The Feral Chihuahuas, The OxyMorons and Gag Order will rotate performances over three weekends. They are joined by stand-up comic Greg Brown, a sketch show starring Tom Chalmers and Scott Bunn, and a performance from ACT's Comedy For Teens class. The final performance for the series will be an OxyMorons/Gag Order improv extravaganza, with both groups performing together in one big show. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold in advance through the Asheville Community Theatre Box Office. Remaining tickets will be sold in the 35below lobby.

Asheville resident and stand-up comic Greg Brown will perform Saturday nights August 4, 11 and 18 at 9:00 pm

prior to the improv shows on those nights. His clean, intelligent set has been seen throughout the Southeast with frequent performances in Charlotte and Atlanta. Greg is the founder of the Laugh Your Asheville Off festival.

New for August are two performances of Laugh Free or Die Hard, a two man sketch show starring Tom Chalmers and Scott Bunn. Most recently seen at North Carolina Stage Company's No Shame Theatre, Tom and Scott will perform sketches that are peppered with original songs and unusual situations. Laugh Free or Die Hard will be performed on Wednesday, August 8th and Wednesday, August 15th.

Asheville Community Theatre's Comedy for Teens class will perform improv comedy on Thursday, August 2nd. These seven rising stars range in age from 13-15 and have a sharp, smart

humor which is perfect for an audience of all ages. This fast moving, funny show is just the thing for families looking for a unique night out together.

The Feral Chihuahuas are an Asheville based sketch troupe with a wickedly funny brand of sketch comedy. This summer, they have frequently sold out their 9:00 pm performances, so don't wait to get your tickets for this hilarious and successful troupe. The Feral

Chihuahuas will perform Friday, August 3rd, Friday, August 10th, and Friday, August 17th. These shows

will be filmed and broadcast on URTV to embrace an even larger audience.

The OxyMorons Improv Comedy Troupe has performed approximately one thousand shows at seven different, steady venues, as well as numerous charity events, special parties, and at least one major improv comedy festival. It may

seem like a hobby, but they treat it like an art form! The OxyMorons bring their brand of boisterous comedy to the stage on Saturday, August 11th and Thursday, August 16th and Saturday, August 18th.

Gag Order is a Hendersonville based improv troupe formed by actors associated with the Hendersonville Little Theater, ranging in age from twenties to sixties and by profession from a salesman and a marketing specialist to educators, a singer, a pediatrician and more. Gag Order will bring the laughter on Saturday, August 4th, Thursday, August 9th and Saturday, August 18th.

### If you go

*Tickets for any show during the Late Night Comedy Series are \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. Box office hours are noon - 6 pm, Monday-Friday. For more information please call 828-254-1320.*

## Asheville Community Theatre Announces 62nd Season

Asheville Community Theatre is proud to announce their slate of six Mainstage productions, three 35below productions and two Special Events that will make up their 62nd season. This season includes another World Premiere and two North Carolina Premieres, a large scale musical, a small musical, an American classic, a thriller, a farce and an adaptation of a well-known television show.

The 62nd season of the downtown playhouse will open with Disney's Beauty and the Beast on Friday, September 14th. Asheville Community Theatre will continue their tradition of a reception with complementary champagne and light hors d'oeuvres for each Opening Night. Tickets for the season are currently on sale for subscribers, and will go on sale for the general public on Wednesday, August 1. For the first time, patrons will be able to purchase tickets online at [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org).

Following Disney's Beauty and the Beast is the World Premiere comedy Southern Hospitality, by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten. This Southern farce picks up with the Futrelle

sisters attempting to throw together "Fayro Days," a huge festival to impress a visiting V.I.P.

Up next is the spine-tingling Wait Until Dark, which starred Quentin Tarantino in the Broadway revival. Asheville Community Theatre welcomes back Ralph Redpath to direct this suspenseful thriller that builds toward an electrifying, heart-stopping end.

The fourth show of the Mainstage season is Schoolhouse Rock Live! Based on the popular television show, this pop culture phenomenon is infectiously fun!

The Philadelphia Story, the classic screwball comedy about an upper class society beauty, is fifth on the Mainstage, followed by the hilarious farce I Hate Hamlet in which a soap opera actor wrestles with his conscience, the ghost of John Barrymore, his sword, and his potential failure in the role of a lifetime.

### If you go

*For more information about scheduling, ticket availability and pricing please call Asheville Community Theatre at 254-1320 or visit the Web site at [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org).*

## Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance To Host Creative Auction

Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance is hosting a very unique auction where those who participate go home with more than just a nice dinner and theatre tickets.

The highest bidders also get to purchase their companion for the evening! On Wednesday, August 1st at 7:30pm in the downstairs lobby of the Diana Wortham Theatre, Terpsicorps will hold a fundraiser auctioning off local celebrities for a night of dinner, wine and the company's latest show, The Scarlet Letter.

"We really wanted to make this fundraiser different, since it is benefiting such an original performance," said Terpsicorps Managing Director, Lucia Del Vecchio.

The production of The Scarlet Letter is back by popular demand from last season. The show combines ballet, live strings and electronic music, a 16-person choir, and state of the art multimedia projections that the dancers interact with onstage. Shows are August 9-11 at Diana Wortham Theatre.

Seven fabulous, infamous, talented, and highly sought after Asheville personalities have agreed to participate in order to benefit Terpsicorps and the

upcoming production. Each auction winner will receive dinner and bottle of wine with their companion, as well as two tickets to The Scarlet Letter.

The auction will be emceed by Asheville's "Unsung Hero" (Mountain Xpress, 2006) and NC Stage Artistic Director Charlie Flynn-McIver. Auctionees up for grabs include songbirds Katie Kasben and Molly Kummerle (from Ruby Slippers), Harry Brown and Terpsicorps' own Heather Maloy. Music will feature the sounds of DJ Bowie and food for both the event and the dinners will be donated by a variety of Asheville's finest restaurants. Sponsors include Biltmore Wine Company, Asheville Pizza and Brewing Company, Zambra, Vigne, Grover Corner Market, Laurey's Catering.

### If you go

*August 1, 2007 at 7:30, Lower Lobby, Diana Wortham Theatre, Pack Place 2 South Pack Square, Asheville 28801*

*Tickets available at Malaprops and The Reader's Corner. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Call 828-252-6342 for information*



## STAGE PREVIEW

# Powerstories Theatre presents: "Bernadette's Bravo!"

"Bernadette's Bravo!" by Powerstories Theatre of Tampa, Florida is a show about women seeking and finding their life messages... or Bravo's. Seven girlfriends meet for their annual Dream Big Club and decide to enter a writing contest in hopes of getting their words displayed in New York City. While seeking their bravos, they make enlightening discoveries about themselves and life.

This is reality theatre at its finest in a wonderful full-length show punctuated with a variety of original songs. Thousands of audience members from Florida and Georgia wildly applauded at the show's end and left asking themselves... "What is MY 'bravo'?"

The show is written and directed by Fran Powers with music by Janet Scaglione. Performers have written their own stories that are then intertwined within the script and the songs.

Performers include Rose Bilal, Linda Blume, Karen Brown-Blonigen, Janice Creneti, Kathryn MacWatters, Janice Nepon-Sixt, and DanaWhiting. Come see these seven women dreaming big on stage, further empowered by the messages of women from all over the globe.

At the show's end Powerstories Theatre displays Bravo's from women and girls around the world. So, we invite you to send in your Bravo. To have your Bravo considered for the August 17, 2007 show, please send your personal message in seven words or less along with a photograph that best depicts your message to [info@powerstories.com](mailto:info@powerstories.com) or

Powerstories Theatre, P.O. Box 18021, Tampa, FL 33679. Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. All entries must be received by August 10, 2007.

Powerstories Theatre of Tampa Bay, Inc. is a non-profit theatre that stages true stories of women and girls worldwide to open minds and hearts. "Bernadette's Bravo!" is the third show by Fran Powers and the first one to tour nationally. The first two, "Let the Stories Move You" and "Clarity Cometh" performed for 5 years in the Tampa Bay area. Our theatre productions, workshops and seminars demonstrate and teach the uniquely powerful role that personal story telling can play.

The Powerstories philosophy is that every person, organization, corporation and community has a powerstory to discover and share with others. The discovery and the telling of the story creates new-found success, invests lives with more meaning, and connects us more vitally with others. Each production and workshop is designed to use true stories to increase courage and confidence, deepen appreciation for diversity, emphasize our common journeys, and open minds and hearts.

Powerstories serves hundreds of young girls in the Tampa Bay area. In April, 2007, they received national recognition from the President's Committee of the Arts and Humanities as one of the top arts and humanities passed programs in the country.

Because of our commitment to young women and girls, Powerstories will be donating 10% of tickets back to the community of Asheville, N.C.



Janice Creneti

## If you go

Date: Friday, August 17, 2007  
Time: 8:00 PM.

Location: Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place, Asheville, N.C.

Tickets: \$23.00 for general admission.  
\$20.00 for students and seniors (60 +).

Tickets: (828) 257-4530

or visit [www.dwtheatre.com](http://www.dwtheatre.com).

For more information: (813) 831-3118  
or visit [www.powerstories.com](http://www.powerstories.com).

**Powerstories Theatre of Tampa Bay, Inc. is a non-profit theatre that stages true stories of women and girls worldwide to open minds and hearts.**

# North Carolina Stage Company showcases a 10-hour "performathon"

BY AMANDA LESLIE



Clockwise from upper left: LYLAS, Moving Women, NCSC's production of The Syringa Tree (2005), The Redundant Theatre Company Theatre.

North Carolina Stage Company presents an all-day theatre marathon Saturday August 25th, at its theatre in downtown Asheville. This homegrown mini-festival features all local performers, with theatre, dance, sketch comedy, and more. Beginning at 3:00pm, patrons can see a show every hour, on the hour, until 1:00 in the morning.

Featured companies and artists include Jynormous Theatre Company, acclaimed storyteller David Novak, dance troupe Moving Women, The Redundant Theatre Company Theatre, Monday and Karen Carter, Scapegoat Theatre Collective, Zeat, enigmatic theatre company, all-female sketch comedy group LYLAS, and Barbara Bates Smith adapting the work of southern writer Lee Smith. At 11:00pm, NC Stage presents "The Best of No Shame Theatre," a collection of original five-minute plays culled from the past season.

With the statewide Stoneleaf Theatre Festival now on hiatus, NC Stage decided to mount its own mini-festival, presenting twelve performances in one day, all in one venue. "We want to capture the excitement of a festival atmosphere," says Artistic Director Charlie Flynn-McIver, "That's why we're offering rush tickets at the door, and pairing two different theatre companies in one-hour slots. We want people to take a chance on a company

they've never seen before, and not just stick to their favorites."

NC Stage will also be serving hot dogs and veggie dogs outside the theatre, for patrons who want to grab a quick bite between shows. In the 7:00pm slot, NC Stage will take over the stage for the Best of NCSC "Alley" Awards. Named after the alley in front of the theatre (now called Stage Lane), these awards will honor the best artists and productions of the past five years.

North Carolina Stage Company performs in a 99-seat theatre in the heart of downtown Asheville. Its programs include a year-round season of professional theatre, with an emphasis on producing the classics, as well as artist residency programs in the schools, master classes, and the Catalyst Series, which supports local, grassroots theatre companies.

## If you go

All-Access Passes are \$20, available in advance. Tickets for each one-hour block are \$10, available only at the door, 15 minutes before show times. All proceeds benefit the programs of North Carolina Stage Company. Visit [www.ncstage.org](http://www.ncstage.org) for a full schedule of events, or call the box office at (828) 350-9090.

# AUGUST 2007

## Events & Workshops

**August 4, 11, 18, 25**

Earthaven EcoVillage Tour  
Black Mountain, NC  
Call first: (828) 669-3937  
www.earthaven.org

**August 15, 1-5pm**

Intro to "HealthyBuilt Homes," part of Green Building 101, statewidegreen builder program; NC Arboretum;  
Contact Rachel Della Valle  
rachel@wncgbc.org  
(828) 254-1995  
www.wncgbc.org

**August 18**

Canary Coalition 2007  
Relay for Clean Air  
"100-mile civil rights march"  
Along Blue Ridge Parkway;  
Walkers, runners, bike riders wanted.  
info@canarycoalition.org  
(828) 631-3447  
www.canarycoalition.org

**August 24, 10am-5pm**

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete  
(AAC Block) One-Day Workshop  
at SafeCrete, Ringgold, GA;  
(706) 965-4587 \* www.safecrete.com

**August 24 - 26**

7th Annual SEE EXPO  
Southern Energy & Environment  
Expo \* at WNC Ag Center  
10 miles south of Asheville  
Near Asheville Regional Airport  
www.seeexpo.com

**August 29, 9am-5pm**

Solar Workshop for Installers:  
PV & National Electrical Code  
Instructor: John Wiles, Renewable  
Energy Initiative (WNCREI)  
Appalachian State Univ., Boone, NC  
wind@appstate.edu (828) 262-7333  
wind.appstate.edu/workshops

**September 8, 10am - 6pm**

OrganicFest \* Celebrating everything  
organic. Next to Grove Arcade in  
Downtown Asheville (828) 253-2267  
www.organicfest.org



Sustainable Living Resource for WNC • Vol. 2, No. 3 August 07

## 7th Annual Southern Energy and Environment Expo Expects Record Crowds

BY BYRON BELZAK

When Ned Doyle, founder of the Southern Energy and Environment Expo, speaks about how to achieve a greener world and use alternative energy systems, people listen.

"The Southern Energy and Environment Expo is a public event that is designed to bring together environmental issues and sustainable energy," said Ned Doyle.

And more people each year are listening to Doyle and others who are part of this ever-growing energy and environment fair, nicknamed SEE EXPO.

It will be held August 24 through August 27, 2007, at the WNC Ag Center, which is located near the Asheville Regional Airport on Hwy. 280. The Ag Center is located 10 miles south of Asheville at Exit 40 off I-26.

For three consecutive days this year, August 24, 25 and 26, SEE EXPO, now in its seventh year, will likely experience record crowds.

"Each year is bigger than the last," Ned Doyle told The Greener Home in an exclusive interview in late July. Last year over 8,000 people attended this annual event. The increased interest is easy to understand, given rising costs of energy and the negative consequences of pollution and climate change.

### More People Get It Now

Ned Doyle was ahead of his time when he first came up with this informational event that dealt with both energy and the environment. Most people didn't understand the connection.

"Back in 1999 when we first started working on this project, when I proposed that energy policy was directly related to environmental issues, I got a lot of sideways glances from people who didn't believe me."

Now, most people understand the connection.

"The success of the Southern Energy and Environment Expo over the last seven years has been in large part due to this growing awareness that all these different aspects are interrelated," said Doyle. "We have to look at all issues in a holistic sense."

During the show, there are many workshops and presentations that cover a wide range of topics. Each is approximately a 45-minute introduction.

For example, there is a popular presentation about solar hot water heating. "It's an extraordinary cost-effective environmental friendly way to reduce electrical demand on the utility grid," said Doyle. Also covered are independent power systems, such as photovoltaics and small-scale wind power.

"There are many programs on



Ned Doyle

activism," he said, such as getting involved with environmental issues, getting involved with the political process, getting your community or region organized to work towards sustainability.

"There are a whole range of programs offered at SEE EXPO, such as green building techniques, energy efficiency for the home, natural building, and

'Energy Expo' continued on pg 37



**The Greener Home**  
"Greener is Better"

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ART DIRECTOR: Simone Bouyer

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# THE GREENER HOME

## 'Energy Expo' continued from pg 36

other alternative building techniques. It's all geared around providing the visitor and attendee with a real comprehensive introduction to each of these topics."

### The Time Is Now

"It's time to go with sustainable energy and with energy efficiency," said SEE EXPO founder Doyle. He pointed out that North Carolina spends close to \$10 billion every year - and most of that money goes out of state for coal, oil, gas and nuclear services.

"So turning this into an economic flow that stays in North Carolina, that stays in the region - and stays in any area

of the country, we're not unique - makes it possible for a huge economic boom occur," said Doyle.

The only downside in going with clean energy and distributed generation is that the few corporations and their shareholders who are making a lot of money from coal, oil, gas won't be making as much if we switch.

"With sustainable energy, everyone wins," said Doyle. "Society wins. The environment wins. Our children win. The future wins."

Unfortunately, pollution and global warming remains a serious problem, one that is literally challenging our planet and human survival.

### Moving In The Right Direction

"The good news is that on a regional level and on a community level, there is a huge up-swell and grassroots movement that is happening," said Doyle. "People realize that corporations and the federal government are going in the wrong direction."

Doyle considers Western North Carolina's new U.S. Representative Heath Shuler to be a friend of the environment.

"Congressman Heath Shuler has turned into a very effective representative for environmental and energy issues. He has demonstrated an awareness, understanding and support for clean energy systems and environmental impact.

He understands sustainable energy sources and technologies are huge economic booms, especially to the Western North Carolina region, which is in his district.

"Congressman Shuler has been moving this nation in the correct direction." Shuler has a booth at SEE EXPO.

## If you go

For more details about the Southern Energy and Environment Expo for August 24 - 26, 2007, visit [www.seeexpo.com](http://www.seeexpo.com).

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# Canary Coalition Doubles Membership in One Year

BY BYRON BELZAK

On June 28, 2007, Canary Coalition executive director Avram Friedman reported that the membership of Western North Carolina's grassroots clean air organization had nearly doubled in one year.

In his annual "State of the Canary" address as part of the annual membership meeting of the Canary Coalition, which was held at the Montford Community Center in Asheville, NC, Friedman said, "This past year our membership has virtually doubled to more than 1,450 members." The previous year's count of 780 members represented a 15 percent increase over the prior year.

He attributed part of the "dramatic increase" to several key factors, including the "remarkable work" of the Coalition's lone field staff employee, Mike Cherin, who "spent endless hours ... signing up people and businesses," along with the efforts of many volunteers.

Another key reason, said Friedman, was that the Coalition had "something to sell," which was increased public interest

in matters of air quality and climate change.

Reading from a prepared statement, Friedman said to the small but enthusiastic group who attended the annual meeting: "Our country and the world are under attack as the energy and transportation industries sell the use of more and more energy and are making plans to build and operate hundreds of more polluting power plants to accommodate their projected growing demand.

"There are also plans to build more highways to blindly encourage expanded use of automobiles at a time when we are approaching - or maybe even past - the world's period of peak oil production as many third world countries are beginning to emerge as newly industrialized nations competing for the remaining global petroleum reserves.

"These misguided industrial agendas and the energy policies that are emerging from our state and national governments to appease the interests of large energy corporations are helping to motivate grassroots involvement."

He went on to say, "Our reputation as a strong, uncompromising advocate for meaningful and sweeping energy policy changes has attracted considerable public attention and increased our influence within the environmental community as we command respect in powerful political circles and in the news media."

Friedman cited several of the group's successes, such as working with the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and Ned Doyle of the Southeast Energy and Environment Expo to bring the Energy at the Crossroads Tour to North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. This was done, said Friedman, to attempt "to codify the costs of health and environmental impact, full-fuel cycles and the decommissioning of power plants when evaluating the least-cost method of meeting future energy demand."

He also said that the Canary Coalition "was instrumental" in coordinating an ad-hoc, bi-weekly council of more than a dozen environmental organizations in Western North Carolina that "worked closely together to defeat the effort by

Progress Energy to build an oil-burning power plant in Woodfin." Also, he said that the Coalition had elevated wind energy as an issue on the state level.

Friedman concluded his State of the Canary Address on a philosophical note, saying, "We're bigger as an organization. We've developed important alliances. We've gained further influence. Our issues have gained a new prominence in the public mind and within the halls of state and federal legislative bodies. We should all be encouraged to carry on our work, assured that we are making a difference."

The full text of Avram Friedman's speech can be found on the group's website at [www.canarycoalition.org](http://www.canarycoalition.org).

"The Greener Home," which is published monthly in print inside Rapid River Magazine as well as online at [www.thegreenerhome.com](http://www.thegreenerhome.com), was apparently the only media outlet that attended the Coalition's press conference and 2007 annual meeting.

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## THE GREENER HOME

## Perfect World

By ANDREA HELM

In my perfect world, all of downtown Asheville would be closed to traffic. Visitors - both local and tourist - would park in one of several parking facilities located on the outskirts of downtown and then ride a streetcar shuttle in. Parking would be free, so that if you wanted to walk into downtown from the parking area, it would cost you nothing to be in the city all day.

If you so desired, you could take the trolley that runs from the parking area to the many drop-off points in downtown. Trolleys would run all day from seven in the morning until 11 in the evening, seven days a week, from the Grove Park Inn, the Biltmore Estate, and from the hotels and lovely bed-and-breakfast establishments across the city.

A one-day trolley pass would cost five bucks and give the rider unlimited access to transportation in the downtown core. The city might generate more revenue from this system than from parking meters and parking garages, which are visually unappealing anyway.

## Try Auto-Free Zones

Banning cars from downtown would serve many purposes and fix many problems at the same time: less noise pollution, less air pollution, less traffic congestion, and more foot traffic and human interaction.

Cities in Europe have auto-free zones, and they manage to carry on their business just as well. In some Latin American countries, the entire central city plaza is a pedestrian-only zone. This would also help us get more exercise.

Places like New York and Paris, where people walk much more than they drive, have lower rates of obesity than do other cities. Besides, downtown Asheville is relatively small; maybe all of 12 square blocks. Sorry darlings, if this sounds harsh - but if you can't or don't want to walk 12 blocks, you should probably just stay home anyway. That's why America is the fattest nation in the world.

We drive around in our lounge chairs on wheels burning precious fossil fuels polluting the air for generations to come,



just so we can be three blocks closer to our destination. All the while, the heated-butt-cheek feature in the car seat is running at full capacity.

I've never been aware of any time in my life when I thought to myself, "Ya know, my butt could be just a little warmer

than it already is. I could die of mild discomfort if my rear-end isn't maintained at a perfect constant temperate balance."

I'm not picking on the heavy people; I weigh way too much myself. But when I'm at Target, I try to park in the back lot instead of trying to get a parking space as

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## THE GREENER HOME

close to the front door as possible. This way, I have further to walk, which helps me get more exercise.

Besides, I can park my car in the shade of the trees, which keeps the car cooler. And that lowers the need for running the air conditioning, which lowers the amount of gas I burn - which in turn lowers the amount of carbon monoxide I'm contributing. Imagine the positive changes we could make if most people lived like this, and not just a few?

**Change Our Buildings**

If I could twinkle my nose and have it my way, in addition to opening up downtown to foot traffic, I'd make some serious changes to the way buildings are being built in this town.

In my perfect world, every new home built in the three-county area of Asheville would be required to install passive heat and solar panel systems, and square-footage restrictions based on the number of occupants would apply. In other words, no more 20,000 square foot houses built for two people.

A 250-gallon cistern water collection system would be required to help capture and reuse rainwater. As well as providing valuable water for gardening, car washing,

and other home needs, a cistern system can help minimize water runoff and flooding. The city's rapidly disintegrating water system would not be as stressed as it is now, which could help keep the cost of repairs and service down.

**Change Our Attitudes**

I can hear some people howling as they're reading this now: that's commie talk; it's fascism; it's un-American; you can't tell us we can't drive our cars and you can't tell us how to live, and blahblibbityblah.

But gated communities already have all kinds of covenants and restrictions regarding construction and remodeling, right down to what color you can paint the dang thing, and the city code is full of what thou can and canst do with thine own property.

You sure can't grow a yard full of opium poppies on your own property, now can you? (Just ask Afghanistan.)

In the 1940s, during wartime, our leaders encouraged us to buy war bonds and grow our own food and ration what resources we did have for the greater good. Where is that ideology now? There seems to be no concept of a greater good these days.

Say what you will about former President Jimmy Carter, but when there was an oil shortage, he put on a sweater and turned the heat down, and told the rest of America to do the same. He encouraged Americans to conserve energy and resources, for the greater good. He didn't go out and buy a land yacht that gets 12 miles to the gallon.

**Protect Our Future**

Here's how I see it: if we don't do something to protect our city and our mountains now, there won't be anything left to protect.

Our lifestyle must become more sustainable, or "Soylent Green" won't be just a bad movie. This is not sci-fi pie in the sky, folks; this is totally workable. We have the technology. We have the power. We have the desire. We know in our collective gut that something radical is going to have to happen, and soon, or it's all going to go to you know where.

Who was it that said, "We're going to try it, and if that doesn't work, then we're going to try something else"?

I'm thinking more along the lines of: "When you ain't got nothin', you got nothin' to lose."

I believe we ain't got nothin' to lose.

**You Tell Me**

So readers, how would you like your city to be? In your perfect world, what would you change? What would you keep? Who would you ban and why?

Anyway, it's something to think about 'til The Rapture comes.

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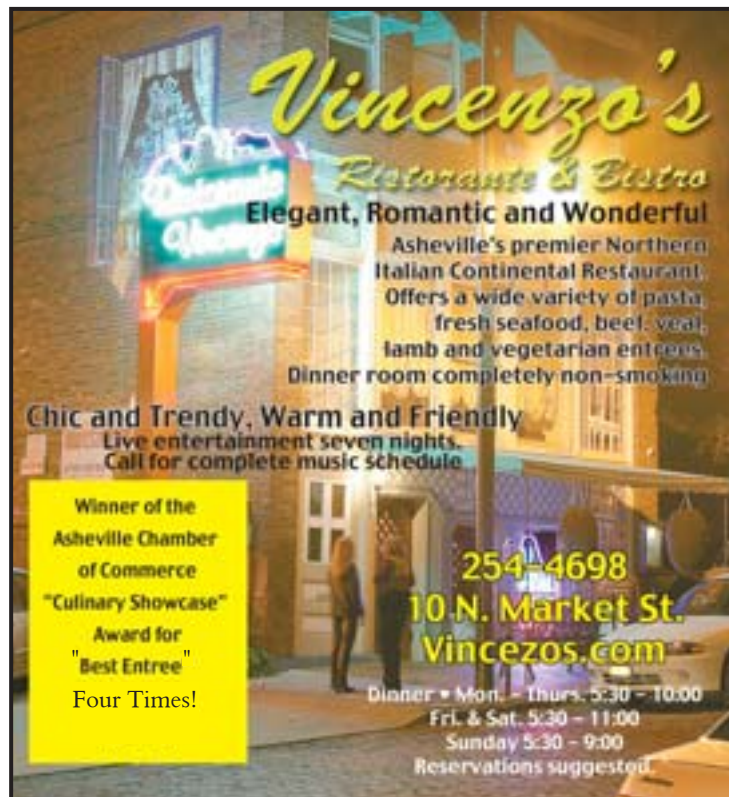
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