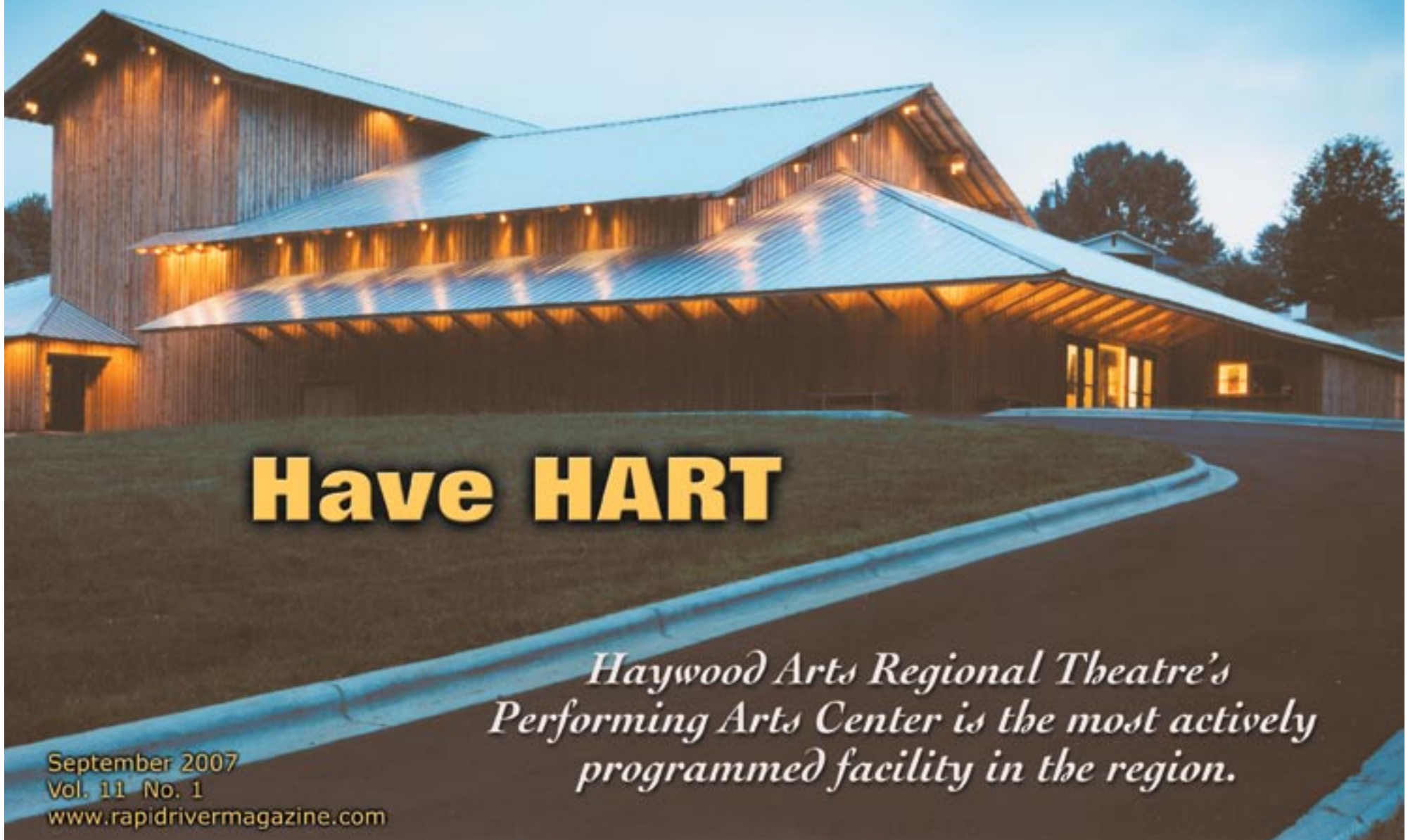


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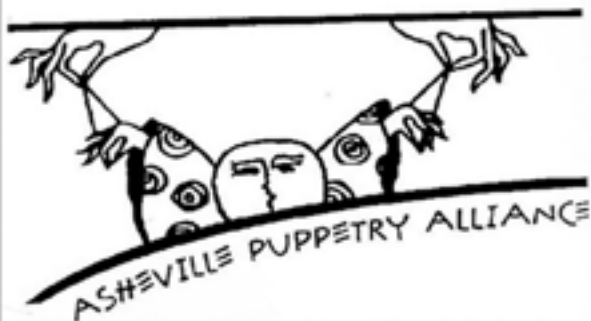
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Inside

5 Cover

Haywood Arts Regional Theatre

7 Columns

Mountains of Art 7

Bill Walz 26

Michael Clark 27

8 ART

Blue Ridge Photo Exhibit 8

AAAC Marketing Workshop 8

Grace Centre Exhibition 9

New Exhibits 10

Vanishing Landscape 11

A Month for CERF 30

12 Asheville's

Festivals 12

Performance 25

14 Music

The Boatrockers 13

CD Reviews 14

Kim Ritchey 15

Choral Society 17

Marching Band Festival 17

Alison Brown 23

16 Books

22 Dine

Wine for Wine's Sake 22

26 Art of Living

28 What to Do Guide™

Callie and Cats 29

Corqi Tales 29

31 Movie Reviews

34 Stage Preview

36 The Greener Home

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Jerry LaPoint, *Dangerous Yellow Machine*.
Acrylic on watercolor paper. 20" x 20"



Denise Stewart-Sanabria
Hung Oranges.
Oil on linen. 30" x 34"

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COVER STORY

Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, Yes

As is anyone who is getting paid to do what he would gladly do for free, Steven Lloyd is one happy camper.

BY ANDREA HELM

A

s director of the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART) in Waynesville, Lloyd is currently the only full-time paid staff member at the growing company. "I've created for

myself the ideal job if you are someone who wants to work in theater," he said, smiling as he says it.

Many Buncombe County theatre fans may not realize that just 30 minutes down the road from us lies a wonderful hidden treasure. The Performing Arts Center at the Shelton House, which houses HART, is a beautiful facility constructed 10 years ago. HART has been so successful that they were able to retire the mortgage on the building in just six years. An expansion was added in 2003, and that debt has already been paid off, as well. "We earn our operating income from ticket sales every year," he said, which is very rare in theater operations. Because of Waynesville's size, about 7,000 people, Lloyd is able to keep his advertising budget affordable. He can print 50 posters, put them up at the library and a couple of other places, and everyone in town knows about the next show. "The word-of-mouth factor in this city is huge," he said.

Lloyd also attributes the theater's success on continued enthusiasm and support from the people of Waynesville,

which he says is a "fairly liberal" community. "We did the *Full Monty*," he said, referring to a hilarious British film made into a stage play that was very — sorry but there's no other way to put this — cheeky. "You have to know what you can get away with and you have to be able to determine what our neighbors will consider too risqué," Lloyd said. Other than that, he says, "I have enormous

regained momentum with an audience who needed to laugh and be uplifted. "It was two weeks after 9/11, and we still had an excellent response," he said.

Lloyd says the trick is to try and schedule plays and seasons according to what will appeal to the actors and directors, as well as engage audiences. When the actors are happy and excited about performing a piece, the audience

responds to that. "I have to be a salesman about it, too," he said. "Getting this building built and turning this theater into a success is something I really believed in — and it's easy to be a salesman if you're passionate about something. You have to have a passion for it, and you have to be willing to stay where you are. In my early 30s is when

"You have to know what you can get away with and you have to be able to determine what our neighbors will consider too risqué..."

- STEVEN LLOYD

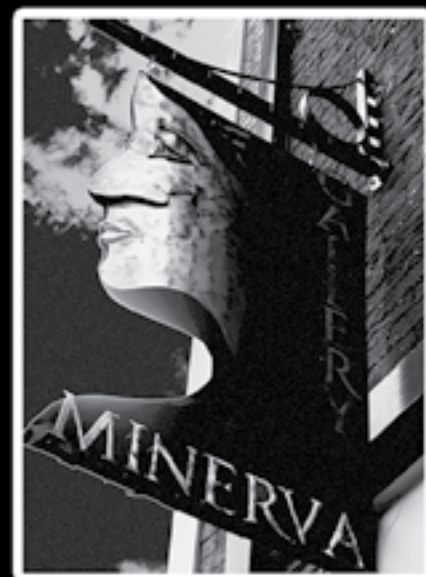
freedom to do what I want." There's that big grin again.

Timing is everything in life and in theater, and HART has had its share of bad timing. "We opened *Sweeney Todd* two weeks after a major hurricane," Lloyd said. "It's a very dark play, and people just weren't able or willing to come out. People were without homes. We lost \$10,000 that season." It took a year to recover from the setback. From that experience, Lloyd says he learned to plan for things not always going the way you want them to. Luckily, they performed *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* just 14 days after 9/11, and

'HART' continued on pg 24

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MOUNTAINS OF ART

The XYZs of Asheville's Art

BY BYRON BELZAK

Over the past decade the Asheville area art scene has matured beyond any single arts guru, organization, gallery or destination. Asheville has truly become a village of artful opportunities.

It takes far more than simply an afternoon stroll through the Biltmore House and Biltmore Village to discover fully what Asheville has to offer. Downtown Asheville's array of art deco architectural beauties, as well as funky outdoor murals, statues and art galleries are worth the walk.

Last month the ABCs (from A to M to be exact) of Asheville's art scene were considered. This month we'll take an "N through Z" look at what's wonderful in this fair city.

N ... New Morning Gallery is Asheville's most popular and successful gallery of fine crafts. Founded and still owned by John Cram, Asheville's best-known gallery owner, it is located in Biltmore Village.

O ... Orange Peel (or "The Peel," as its affectionately called) is known for its guest musical acts in a small venue, but its mural art - both inside and out - is outstanding. A talented individual, known for painting many Hollywood movie sets, did the work.

P ... Patton ... Put the number 16 in front, and you've found yourself 16 Patton, one of downtown Asheville's finer art galleries. Another "find" is located diagonally across the street from 16 Patton. It is a vibrant art gallery and seller of skateboards - no lie - known as PUSH Gallery. "P" also stands for Pack Place, located in the heart of downtown that overlooks the Vance obelisk monument. It's home to Diana Wortham Theatre, the Health Adventure, Colburn Earth Science Museum, and the Asheville Art Museum.

Q ... When an Ashevillean thinks of the letter "Q" he or she is likely to think first of WCQS Public Radio, which is located downtown on Broadway. WCQS at 88.1 FM is highly regarded for its classy assortment of "classical music, NPR news and more."

R ... Rapid River Arts and Culture Magazine is now in its 10th year of publishing on a monthly basis. Rapid River is the oldest and most read arts and culture publication in the mountains. (Okay, the horn tooting is over, and thanks for reading.)

S ... Studio Stroll is one of the Asheville areas' favorite arts outings. Held twice a year in the River District just minutes from downtown, it is certainly a wonderful experience to discover some of Asheville's most innovative artists.

T ... True Blue Art Supplies is an

Asheville fixture, located within the wonderful Haywood Park Hotel. And, yes, visit the nearby and totally renovated Thomas Wolfe House. And if you're willing to head east of downtown on I-40 for about 30 minutes, exit at Old Fort and go downtown to Main Street to have a look-see of the recently expanded TAAS (The Appalachian Artisan Society) Gallery. TASS just had its grand opening of its fine art gallery. If you're an artist or artisan looking for "a new home," take a gander.

U ... Urban Trail is something of which many Ashevilleans are quite proud, and understandably so. It is a wonderful walking historical tour of downtown.

V ... Vadim Bora Studio-Gallery, located next to the Flat Iron Building on Battery Park, is a must-visit. Master sculptor and painter Vadim Bora, owner and principal artist, is a most interesting, worldly and kind soul. He hails from Russia's Caucasus Mountains. Asheville is proud to have an artist of his high caliber. "V" is also for Bella Vista Art, located in Biltmore Village and known for its contemporary fine art.

W ... Woolworth Walk on Haywood Street across from the Haywood Park Hotel has become one of Asheville's great and fun art destinations. Owner Scott Sirkin along with his knowledgeable staff display the works of scores of talented artists. And take the time for a dog and shake at the perfectly retro fountain.

X ... X marks the spot of so many small art galleries and artist's studios that you'll stumble across as you explore the nooks and crannies of downtown. And mark an "X" on your map, so you can tell your friends how to get back to your favorite find.

Y ... YMI Cultural Center is located on "The Block" on Market Street. YMI is a community-based organization and a center of artistic expression. It serves as an educational forum for minority and low-income people, and to provide a greater awareness of Asheville's diverse cultural heritage. In short - it's a good place.

Z ... Zone. There was once a wonderful gallery and studio known as Zone One, but we just called it The Zone. It was owned and operated by Connie Bostic before she cashed in her chips a few years back. Since then she's become less of a businessperson and more of the artist and writer. Her "Zone" is a reminder to many of us that it was the artist who brought back downtown Asheville from the dark side of the moon. For that I'll forever be grateful. It was the artist, many of them, who, one by one, block by block, brush by brush, made Asheville beautiful again. Hats off, please.

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FINE ART

Blue Ridge Photography Exhibition Opens Sept. 24

The Transylvania Community Arts Center announces the "Blue Ridge Fine Photography Exhibition", a juried showcase of regional photography. The exhibit will open Monday, September 24 and run through Friday, October 26. The exhibition is sponsored in part by Bluewood Gallery of Brevard and TC Arts.

Jurors will present over \$2000 in cash awards at the awards ceremony and opening reception September 28, from 5-9 p.m. at the Arts Center. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and reception and meet the artists participating in the show.

Jeffery Miller and Tom Nebbia judged the exhibition and will exhibit their photos as well. Hendersonville resident Jeff Miller is well known in this region for his beautiful images of the mountains. His work has appeared in

calendars and local and state publications including Our State magazine. His award-winning photography can be seen in various hotels, agencies, offices, restaurants, and landmarks around Western North Carolina.

Tom Nebbia, who now lives in Mills River, began his career as an Army combat cameraman of the Korean Conflict. In 1958, he joined the staff of National Geographic. His photography has won numerous awards and has been exhibited in museums throughout the U.S.

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.

The Artists' Alliance presents Marketing for Artists: Making the Web Work for You!

BY LAURA TOMPKINS

Are you a talented and skilled artist wanting to market to a growing web client base? Wondering how to get your merchandise on the web? The Artists Alliance Seminar Series is bringing you Jean Cassidy and Lee Lehman of Sheville.org and Karen Hemphill of WeArtThePeople.com.

The Sheville.org mall is a place for businesses to begin to build greater visibility for their products at affordable rates. They will work with any artist who wants to create their own web site with their own domain name and advertise their merchandise on the Sheville Mall.

The Sheville Mall is now offering e-commerce to individual store owners where you:

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The We Art the People Project is an all inclusive web directory promoting the alignment of the creative professionals of Western North Carolina with supporting patrons, organizations, suppliers and services. We aim to align and support the creative community by offering a comprehensive marketing and networking platform to propel its economic vitality. The WE ART site is a "user generated content" site. This type of platform is the latest up and coming marketing and networking strategy on the Internet.

If you go

Thursday, September 27th from 6-9pm at the AAAC Boardroom

Registration is \$20.00 (includes catered dinner). Seminar Space is limited. Deadline for RSVP is September 21st.

Contact and registration info contact Sharon Oxendine at Mountain BizWorks (828) 253-2834 x28 or email sharon@mountainbizworks.org

FINE ART

Fine Art Exhibition Returns to Grace Centre

BY DUSTY McNABB

Grace Centre opens its doors for their seventh annual Juried Fine Art Exhibition next month. Calls for submissions to the exhibition have been met with a steadily growing response from Asheville and Hendersonville's artist communities.

Organizers of this year's show expect the quality and quantity of submissions to again surpass last year's entries. "We've seen a tremendous response from Asheville and Western North Carolina since we began hosting this Juried Show. We are thrilled that artists continue to discover Grace Centre to be an attractive forum to exhibit their work. Obviously there is a deep pool of talent in this area, and this Exhibition will showcase some of the finest work around," says Dusty McNabb, Assistant Arts Director at Grace Centre. The exhibit will open with a reception Saturday, September 15th at 7:30 p.m. and run through October 16th.

Grace Centre is also home to Grace Community Church, founded almost 10 years ago. The facilities were designed and constructed to serve as a space capable of hosting concerts, live theater and art exhibitions. The heart of Grace Centre is an auditorium seating 750 that is fully equipped with a stage, lighting, superb sound and multimedia capabilities. In recent years the stage has been home to productions of *Tartuffe*, *Last Train to Nibroc*, and *Shadowlands*. Concerts by David Wilcox, Phil Keaggy,

and The Blind Boys of Alabama have all attracted sell-out crowds in the last two years. The generous foyer of the building was designed primarily as an art gallery. The Asheville Artist's Roundtable, Daniel Smith and Carol Bomer, have all exhibited in the gallery in 2007.

Grace Centre is founded upon Grace Community Church's commitment to

artistic expression as a response to the truth and beauty of God. "We're not simply a church with an 'arts outreach' ministry - this really is an integral part of who we are as a community. Our commitment to incorporating art in worship and in the physical space we gather at is something we spend a lot of time and energy with, and it's obvious from the minute you walk in the door," adds McNabb.

Artists are limited to a maximum of two entries and all entries must be delivered

to Grace Centre between 5 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 6th, or 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, September 7th. Grace Centre is located 3 miles west of the Asheville Airport, next to Asheville Land Rover.

This year's juror will be Brent Everett Dickinson, Adjunct Professor of Art at the New York Center for Art and Media Studies. A Best of Show award and cash prizes will be given in this Open Themed Exhibition. Entry forms are available online at www.graceinfo.org. Call (828) 891.2006 or (828) 684.0033 for more information.



Our commitment to incorporating art in worship and in the physical space [where] we gather... is something we spend a lot of time and energy with..."

- DUSTY McNABB,
ASSISTANT ARTS DIRECTOR AT GRACE CENTRE

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NEW EXHIBITS

16 Patton presents two solo exhibitions

Jerry La Point: Series x 2 and Denise Stewart-Sanabria: New Produce

BY DANNA ANDERSON

Jerry La Point offers a new perspective with his machine form paintings and Lake Julian landscapes. Portions of machines create unusual compositions and take on a special character of their own. "I have not attempted to render accurately the machine parts, but to imbue them with some kind of life respectful of their function" says La Point. The artist purposely created Lake Julian landscapes on rainy, cold days. The atmosphere on site lent a quality of mystery to the lake and its park. The resultant plein air paintings seem seen thru rain drizzled windows giving them an overlay of abstraction and ambiguity.

With New Produce Denise Stewart-Sanabria presents the latest in the artist's series of "Produce Portraits." These hyper-realistic examinations of fruits and vegetables focus on the way light saturates them as their forms

create abstract compositions. "Still Life's have traditionally been genre paintings of domestic items and food often with symbolic references attached to them connected with life, death, and survival. What I am doing is the pure observation of edible plants and how the eye perceives them in all their beauty as light hits them, intensifying the color saturation.

I refer to this series of paintings as 'Produce Portraits.' This is specifically to prevent them from being labeled as "Still Life's" which I consider an archaic and inaccurate term for what I am creating."

Jerry La Point: Series x 2 and Denise Stewart-Sanabria: New Produce are included in "Upcoming Shows" in the September American Art Collector.

Works in both exhibitions can be seen at www.16patton.com.

**The exhibitions run through September 30
with a reception on Saturday, September 1
from 6 - 8 p.m.**

Nature Photography Exhibit at the Cradle of Forestry Thru September

The Asheville Region of the Carolinas Nature Photographers Association (CNPA) is displaying an exhibit of photographs at the Cradle of Forestry in America Historic Site through September 30, 2007. This exhibit, entitled "The Beauty of Nature," includes images of mountain vistas, waterfalls, wildflowers, and wildlife.

The collection illustrates the CNPA's goal to develop a community that will celebrate the beauty of nature through photography while promoting an appreciation of nature within the region. It also reflects a goal of the Cradle of Forestry to help connect people to the land through the arts.

In pursuit of exquisite photographic images, CNPA photographers have amassed extensive knowledge of the Southern Appalachian region, including known and lesser-known waterfall sites, great locations for wildflowers, unique forest hikes, sensitive plant and animal habitats, and scenic mountain vistas.

Members are constantly exploring new locations and photographic techniques in an effort to capture the beauty of western North Carolina. More information on the CNPA is available at www.cnpa-asheville.org.

Admission to the Cradle of Forestry \$5.00 for ages 16 and older; youth 15 and under and America the Beautiful, Golden Age, Access, and Eagle Passport holders get in free. In addition to "The Beauty of Nature" exhibit, admission includes an 18-minute film, the Forest Discovery Center with 15 hands-on exhibits, a scavenger hunt, a firefighting helicopter simulator, historic cabins and antique equipment on two paved trails, living history interpreters and a 1915 Climax logging locomotive. The Cradle of Forestry is located on Hwy. 276 in the Pisgah National Forest, six miles north of Looking Glass Falls and four miles south of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For more information call (828) 877-3130 or go to www.cradleofforestry.org

FINE ART

2nd Annual 'Vanishing Landscape' Benefit Art Auction

It is time again to join the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition and our local and sister mountain community artists for the 2nd annual *Vanishing Landscape Benefit Art Auction*.

The event will be held at the newly renovated Merrimon Galleries with plenty of donated fine and organic foods, wine and treats by local businesses.

The guest artists this year will be a group of talented painters from Full Spectrum Gallery outside Boulder Colorado. This gallery in Longmont CO. will hold their own *Vanishing Landscape* benefit the following month with our Asheville artists for the same purpose. It seems we are not the only mountain community that has seen their mountain sides become overdeveloped. Full Spectrum is the sister gallery to



"Tree" by Robert Urban, mixed media, 12" x 12"

Merrimon Galleries here in Asheville and we are working together with our artists to raise awareness and money to help protect our natural resources for future generations.

Proceeds from the *Vanishing Landscape Benefit Art Auction* at Merrimon Galleries will significantly enhance the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition's efforts to protect and restore special places in our region. Funds raised will help to ensure that conservation efforts move forward and that we are able to seize important opportunities to make a difference in the year ahead. Your participation combined

with the strength of the Coalition will positively affect our forests and ensure that our landscapes are preserved and

developed responsibly.

Last year the *Vanishing Landscape Benefit* raised over \$5,000 and the participants went home with gorgeous paintings of our Blue Ridge Mountains. It was a tremendous success.

Our Southern Appalachian Mountains provide us with so much and is the reason so many people are moving to our area. When our region is developed responsibly, the surrounding mountains will continue to harbor old-growth trees, protect our water, provide recreation and shelter important wildlife. All of these factors combined is crucial to our health, happiness and the livelihoods of our communities.

Please join Merrimon Galleries and the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition on Friday evening, September 21st at 6 pm for a fun filled event for a very good cause.



"Clingman's Dome" (Photograph) by John Smith

Groveswood Gallery and WICKWIRE Fine Art/Folk Art Join National Effort to Help Craft Artists

Groveswood Gallery in Asheville, and WICKWIRE fine art/folk art in Hendersonville have joined forces with 70 craft-related businesses nationwide for A Month for CERF, an annual event in September that raises funds for the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).

All businesses joining A Month for CERF agree to make a contribution and share information about CERF with their customers, exhibiting artists, and local community. For the last several years, participants which include galleries, online markets, show producers, and craft artists, have organized raffles, auctions, special sales, and other creative fundraising activities that have collectively risen between \$40,000 to \$50,000 for CERF's programs and services.

"CERF is incredibly grateful that Groveswood Gallery and WICKWIRE fine art/folk art have (once again) pledged to help craft artists — our primary constituency and their primary source of creative and beautiful objects — via fundraising and outreach activities on our behalf," said Jeanne Kirby, CERF's Communications and Events Coordinator. "We value our partnerships with these businesses who so generously give their time, resources, and heart to serve our constituents."

CERF's mission is to strengthen and

sustain the careers of craft artists across the United States. Since its beginnings in 1985, CERF has developed a well known reputation in the craft community for the unique emergency relief assistance it provides to professional artists who have suffered career-threatening emergencies (natural disaster, fire, theft, illness and injury). CERF also offers information services, workshops, and technical assistance geared towards helping craft artists grow their businesses and careers.

The galleries plan to each have 2 raffle drawings for chances to win handmade crafts and other prizes.

This is the first year WICKWIRE and Groveswood Gallery have collaborated to join A Month for CERF. Over the years they have individually raised hundreds of dollars for CERF and hope to exceed previous goals. The galleries plan to each have 2 raffle drawings for chances to win handmade crafts and other prizes, including a \$100 gift card.

The galleries will alternate their Friday drawings at 5pm. Groveswood Gallery will draw September 14 and 28

and WICKWIRE will draw September 7 and 21. Raffle tickets are \$10 and all money collected will benefit CERF's nationwide emergency relief efforts.

WICKWIRE will raffle the wheel-thrown, hand-built ceramic vessel art of Judith Brater-Rose and the colorful, contrasting light sculptured blown art glass of Herman Leonhardt.

Groveswood will raffle a mountain scene stained glass panel by Greg Magruder and a Mustang metal sculpture by Elliot Metal Works. Both gallery managers, Shirley Palmer-Hill and Sherry Masters, have chosen work that epitomizes the function and beauty of American craft. Our staffs invite you to visit WICKWIRE at 330 N. Main Street in Historic Downtown Hendersonville, NC and Groveswood Gallery next to The Grove Park Inn at 111 Groveswood Rd. in Asheville, NC to enter our drawings on these selected works

For more information contact: Shirley Palmer-Hill at WICKWIRE fine art/folk art (828) 692-6222, wickwireartgallery.com and/or Sherry Masters at Groveswood Gallery, (828) 253-7651 www.groveswood.com

For more information regarding the Craft Emergency Relief Fund and A Month for CERF, contact: Elissa Campbell or Jeanne Kirby at (802) 229-2306 or go to www.craftemergency.org.

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FESTIVALS

Second Annual Carolina Mountains Literary Festival

By BRITT KAUFMANN

It's a celebration of literature and literacy for lovers of books and reading everywhere! The annual Carolina Mountains Literary Festival inspires people to read more, write more, and contribute positively to society through the literary arts by bringing together authors and avid readers, novice writers, and fans in small, intimate settings.

The festival is held at various locations in and around Burnsville, NC, on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15. This year's theme, "Roots and Wings," comes from a statement by Dr. Jonas Salk: "Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them." It is the guiding vision for the 2007 Festival, encouraging the study of our country's and our mountains' history through fiction and non-fiction, poetry, music, and storytelling.

Events are scheduled simultaneously



North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer and Isabel Zuber (novelist and poet) both participated last year and will again in the 2007 festival. Photo by Jan Hensley.

are spread across the small town in galleries, small stores, the Town Center, library, and other various venues, all within walking distance. Most activities are intentionally small in order to encourage intimate conversations between authors and attendees. The weekend is packed with a variety of readings, writing workshops, plays, seminars and other types of sessions devoted to writers, readers, writing, and the writing life. Most events are free of charge.

Over 45 local and regional authors, including storytellers, children's authors, novelists, historians, poets & playwrights will present. They include Lloyd Bailey, Charles Baxley, Bill Brooks, John Buchanan, Kathryn Stripling Byer, Wayne Caldwell, Gary Carden, Bill Carson, Judy Carson, Jo Carson, Rick Chess, Dennis Conrad, Marshall DeBruhl, Abigail DeWitt, M. Scott Douglass, John Ehle, George Ellison, Elizabeth Ellison, Anthony Grooms, Francie Hall, Elizabeth Baird Hardy, Michael Hardy, Irene Honeycutt, Gloria Houston, Dot Jackson, Hunter James, Steven Kirk, Vicki

Lane, John Maass, Myra MacPherson, Greg Massey, Karen Miller, Sheryl Monks, Robert Morgan, Rob Neufeld, Michael Parker, Charles F. Price, Glenis Redmond, Pat Riviere-Seel, Preston Russell, Timothy Silver, Betty Smith, Christine Swager, Peter Turchi, Kevin Watson, Seabrook Wilkinson, and Isabel Zuber.

The esteemed panel of Revolutionary War scholars — both fiction and non-fiction will also be represented. Visit the website for details, cmlitfest.org/revwar.html.

Don't miss this much-anticipated annual event!



Featured author John Ehle and Shelby Stephenson at the 2006 Carolina Mountains Literary Festival. Ehle will once again be featured at the festival's Saturday Banquet. Photo by Jan Hensley.



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Call for Parade Entries

By SARA WIDENHOUSE

Join ranks with marching bands, stilt walkers, unicyclists, community and church groups, pageant winners, giant helium balloons, ballerinas, clowns, and even Santa Claus!

The 61st Asheville Holiday Parade is calling for 100 entertaining entries based on the theme "Building Community through Celebration". Parade day is Saturday, November 17th at 2:00 along Patton and Biltmore Avenues, rain or shine.

Submitting an application to the parade has never been easier. All the information, including rules, fees, awards (totaling \$4,000!), are available online: www.ashevillemerchants.com.

The Parade committee will select the 100 most entertaining entries to



Hillcrest Hi Steppas. Photo by Myron Gauger.

participate. The deadline for applications to be received by mail is Friday, September 28th. For more information contact the Parade Office (828) 251-4147.

NOTE WORTHY

Thomas Rain Crowe and The Boatrockers

Exploring Ancient Paths to the New

By Jeff Davis

Sometimes I wonder why I spend
The lonely nights
Dreaming of a song
That melody haunts my reverie
And I am once again with you
When our love was new
And each kiss an inspiration
Ah, but that was long ago
Now my consolation
Is in the stardust of a song ...

That's Hoagy Carmichael, of course — or the lyric, at any rate, to his magnificent old song, "Stardust". Carmichael was before even my time, but I came to love his song through a version that (averting eyes in embarrassment) Pat Boone did back in 1958; I was fourteen, and it stayed with me. Decades later, I could still sing my daughter to sleep to its lilting melody.

The origins of music, like the origins of poetry, are buried in the dust — nay, the strata of dust- of time, but we know that they've been hand-in-hand, or perhaps heart-to-heart, for eons. The lyric voice of poetry is named for the lyre which, an age or two ago and an ocean away, accompanied it; the term lyric poetry has been in use in English since at least 1581, and is used to denote, as the Oxford English Dictionary has it, poetry adapted to the lyre, meant to be sung, pertaining to or characteristic of song. Now used as the name for short poems (whether or not intended to be sung), usually divided into stanzas or strophes, and directly expressing the poet's own thoughts or sentiments.

It's the voice of Shakespeare's Sonnets, most of Keats and Shelly, Tin Pan Alley, Irving Berlin, "I Want To Hold Your Hand", and even Charles Olson's "The Ring Of"; so deeply imbued is it in the project of poetry in our language that poets who wish to work in other modes still have to contend with its voice.

There's something in the fusion of words — lyrics, as we call them — and music that makes them more powerful, more prone to inhere in the synapses where our memories dwell, than either will separately.

Ever the adventurous archeologist of imagination, poet and translator Thomas Rain Crowe brings this ancient fusion to life once again on September 7th, when Thomas Rain Crowe and The Boatrockers will kick off their fall "Thief of Words Tour" at (where else) the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center in downtown Asheville.

The band will be performing a

mix of material, some of it as ancient as the 14th century Iranian poet Hafez, many of whose lyric ghazals Crowe has translated, and as new as now, with echoes of everything from Chicago blues to New Orleans jazz and Jamaican reggae — including this piece, a poem, as Crowe says, "for voice and band":

The Sound of Light
Music is the blood of the stars.
The laugh of God.
The sound of the breath of the moon
In the child asleep.
The sadness of the earth as it sings.
And the yawn of the
Old man as he gently dies....
Even the ant is listening
to the voice of the sky!
Weaving it's way through the grass
In that light.
As Eternity joins in the chorus
Of day as it makes love to the night.
All mankind is singing!
Like gyroscopes in the blood of space.
Or luminescence on thresholds of pain.
In the wind, in the trees, in the rain....
Let the colors become the song.
Then sing!
Everyone is singing.
The shepherd. The clown.
The weaver and priest.
And the ones we can't quite see.
All singing.
All in the same key.

Crowe's fellows in the Boatrockers are an accomplished group of musicians, able to blend, elegantly, the traditional acoustic music of the Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Turkey, India) with the sounds of modern electronic technology. Chris Rosser, a nationally known and award-winning singer-songwriter and string-instrument virtuoso, brings the voice of Eastern instruments to the Boatrockers eclectic mix on such instruments as sarod, dotar, jumbush, sitar, and saz, as well as the Spanish guitar and keyboards. An accomplished and much-sought-after studio musician, his solo recordings include *Archeology*, *The Holy Fool*, and *Hidden Everywhere*.

Wayne Kirby, a former member of the Debbie Harry-fronted band Blondie, has composed and performed music for both Broadway and Off-Broadway musicals, conducted small orchestras in Las Vegas on its famous strip, and is an experimental electronic music composer. Currently he is a member of the cross-genre band Jibblin the Frolines and head of the Music Department at UNCA.



Doug Shearer, an accomplished and versatile drummer, plays everything from the trap set typical of rock and jazz, to Middle Eastern hand drums. Originally from Pennsylvania and New York City, he now resides in Asheville, NC.

Nan Watkins, a piano keyboard prodigy, studied music at Oberlin College and the Vienna Academy of Music, and with some of the best teachers in both Europe and America. Now an electronic keyboard performer and composer, her latest solo CD, entitled *The Laugharne Poems*, appeared on the Fern Hill Records label.

Sal D'Angio, an accomplished tabla and guitar player, has studied with music masters in Nepal and India, and has performed and recorded with world-music bands in both Philadelphia and Denver before joining the Boatrockers and moving to Asheville.

Greg Olson is a recording studio owner and accomplished recording engineer. As a talented guitarist, he has recently released an all-instrumental CD, entitled *Speaking to the Water*, which was produced by legendary record producer Bill Halverson. He was a founding member of the world-music and reggae band One Straw, and joins Kirby as a member of his current band, Jibblin the Frolines.

After the Asheville show the band

will hit the studios of WNCW for a live version of their feature "Local Color" on September 12; and will be at Lenoir-Rhyne College (in Hickory) on September 13. For more information on these shows, call (828) 293-9237.

The festivities will get under way at the Center at 8:00 PM. Their undertaking is as new as iTunes, as old as time — or at least our human time here on this fair orb- and they're extraordinary indeed at what they do, so Thomas Rain Crowe and the Boatrockers should provide us all an evening to remember.

If you go

Thomas Rain Crowe and the Boatrockers
Where: The Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center

When: Friday, September 7th, 8:00 pm

Admission: \$8, \$5 for BMCM+AC members and students w/ID.

For more information: (828) 350-8484

Poet and computer consultant Jeff Davis is on the Board of the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center. In addition to his articles for Rapid River, he also writes regularly at <http://naturespoetry.blogspot.com>. Contact him at jeffbdavis@gmail.com.

MUSIC

SPINNING DISKS – SEPTEMBER CD REVIEWS BY JAMES CASSARA

Whether it's given one star or five, if it's mentioned in this column rest assured it is worth hearing. Be sure to support any of our fine independent record shops and tell them Rapid River sent you!

The Gourds

Noble Creatures
Yep Roc Records

The self proclaimed "hillbilly scholars" of Austin, Texas are back with their eighth full-length release. Noble Creatures finds the veteran group at their most relaxed, which can be either a blessing or a curse.

From the Beach Boys-kissed "Gyroscopic" a delightful rumination of life and love to the Stones laden guitar orgy of "How Will I Shine" Noble Creatures finds the band doing what comes most natural; a jaunty exercise in backwoods elegance, beer hall poetry, and sharp, border town nomenclature.

But there's a frustrating glimpse of laziness here, of a band not quite willing to push itself as hard as it should. And while such highlights as "Last Letter" and "Steeple Full of Shadows" demonstrate continued growth and maturity by the time Noble Creatures fully unwinds the bands sonic sameness becomes wearisome: You've not only heard it before but you heard it three songs back.

Almost fifteen years into the game The Gourds maintain a well deserved cult following but if they really want to push the envelope now's the time to do so. Not that they're seeking my guidance, but my advice is to find a producer willing to challenge the music, making them sift thru the best songs and reject the rest. Bring in some studio elements not previously explored and take a few more chances.

The Gourds have it in them to be a really good band but as it now stands they seem content to merely be a less obnoxious version of Southern Culture on the Skids. I for one think they deserve better. ★★1/2

Rasputina

Oh, Perilous World
Filthy Bonnet Records

This wild assembly's steam punk approach to rock and roll — a trio of cellists influenced as much by Jules Verne and H.G. Wells as by Marilyn Manson and Kronos Quartet — is so implausibly bizarre that were it not for the sheer musicality that brims forth from within it would be easy to overlook the band as a novelty act. Lead cellist/songwriter/absurd witch Melora Creager may play up the black queen image to the hilt,

with her tightly corseted dresses and dark eyeliner, but behind the façade is a strikingly original sensibility that defies categorization; and comprehension, for that matter.

Imagine then this disc as an antiwar protest album made up of a loosely connected song suite dealing with Mary Todd Lincoln and her blimp armies, Fletcher Christian's renegade son Thursday, a children's army awaiting air ships that never arrive, the projected overthrow of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, and a faux heavy metal political campaign chant that states "I feel that I can get behind heretical ideas and make them real."

Oh, Mary Shelley, Osama bin Laden, and Saddam Hussein make cameo appearances as well. In short, forget the linear, rational explanations and just bask in the audacity of it all. This is a universe all their own, and if you listen carefully they just might allow you a glimpse or two. Where else might you find three cellists doing their best flailing imitation of Metallica (as witnessed on "Draconian Crackdown") as Creager, alternating between a Kate Bush coo and a Robert Plant banshee wail, sings about spectacular suicide explosions.

On "We Stay Behind" she sings a sorrowful dirge about a detached wooden leg that still wears a shoe. "A Retinue of Moons/The Infidel Is Me" is even stranger as she leads the band through a punk tango while moaning about "the spores of resistance."

And on "Incident in a Medical Clinic" she adopts the persona of the crazed Mary Todd Lincoln and sings "Quite unbelievably I want someone to be sweet to me when I am in absolutely horrible pain." It gets weirder from there.

Oh Perilous World offers the kind of cracked world-view that will either strike you as inspired eccentricity or insufferable lunacy. In either case, it's a wild ride made more palatable by a restless musical imagination and some truly beautiful aural touches. *Rasputina*, to their credit, remain in a category of their own, sui generis, spinning out their inscrutable tales with crazed energy and genre-mashing abandon. It's near impossible to describe and must be heard to even vaguely understand.

But give this an unconditional listen and I guarantee you're unlikely to find a stranger — or more strangely compelling album this year. ★★★

Assembly of Dust

Recollection
Hybrid Recordings

Assembly of Dust's overall blueprint of part Lowell George-styled vocals, part smooth backing harmonies, and mellow fund arrangements — certainly pays homage to Little Feat but there's more here than mere fannish imitation. Led by singer Reid Genauer the rest of the band, keyboardist Nate Wilson, lead guitarist Adam Terrell, bassist John August Leccese, and drummer Andrew Herrick

have concocted an album of original material that doesn't explore new territory as much as rediscover a few nuances we might have missed the first time around.

It's a likable sound, though one perhaps too heavily indebted to the mellow side of the above-named group. The harmony on songs like "Whistle Clock" is outstanding, and the guitar/keyboard mix adds a bright edge. The band wisely mixes upbeat songs like "Samuel Aging" with slower, ballad-paced material such as "40 Reasons," giving *Recollection* a nice ebb and flow.

Genauer and Wilson know how to write catchy hooks that keep things interesting to the end. Near it's conclusion the album takes a short break from California funk with the pleasant, country-flavored "The Honest Hour." Along with producer Josh Pryor Assembly of Dust have kept the overall production simple, allowing each instrument to stand out clear and clean in the mix. While *Recollection* often holds too closely to its' sources these gents at least have the wisdom to borrow from the best. ★★★

Teddy Thompson

Up Front and Down Low
Verve Records

Given Teddy Thompson's talent as a songwriter and the cool, intelligent folk-rock leanings of his first two albums, he would hardly seem like a likely candidate to record a collection of covers, especially one devoted to interpretations of old-school country classics made famous by the likes of George Jones, Ernest Tubb, Dolly Parton and Merle Haggard.

But that's just what Thompson has done with *Upfront & Down Low* and while the arrangements occasionally refer to the honky-tonk roots of these songs, for the most part Thompson strives to give these tunes a fresh interpretation; the

'CD's' continued on next pg.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

The indefinable *Kim Richey* comes to town

BY JAMES CASSARA

While Ohio might not seem like a hotbed of music-least of all the type of cutting edge country tinged with a punk attitude that has become Kim Richey's trademark—growing up with an aunt who owns her own record shop certainly does give one a leg up. All those afternoons of digging through bins of 45s and listening to everything she could, from Janis Joplin to the Lovin' Spoonful, served the teenage Richey well. It not only provided a stellar musical education it (perhaps more importantly) provided a refuge from the isolation she felt from her peers.

Following a well worn path Richey began playing guitar during her high school years. A self admitted slow starter she resisted the siren call of "stardom" until college, when she began playing out more while developing her singing and performing skills. During that time she also began writing her own songs "simply ditties that clearly showed my influences" while singing harmony in her very first band.

After college Richey caught the wanderlust bug, moving in relatively short order to and through Colorado, Washington, South America, Boston, Europe, and occasionally Nashville. Serving a stint as a cook at the fabled

Bluebird Café helped to pull her into the singer/songwriter fold. In 1988, Richey planted her roots Music City and began, "for the first time," to really test that fold and hone her own songwriting craft. She built a reputation as a singer who could interpret a lyric and harmonize with the best of them, all the while writing songs with an optimistic yet seasoned melancholy that was, for one so young, unusual and alluring. Before long, Richey was signed to PolyGram Records, releasing her eponymous debut in 1995.

Her next two albums, *Bitter Sweet* and *Glimmer*, followed in two-year increments. All three efforts were tagged as contemporary country but actually fell in step pretty close to the brand of neo-country John Hiatt's was making. Comparisons to Shawn Colvin have also run rampant over the years, due to Richey's cleverly twisting lyrical phrases and beats. Yet working with such producers as Hugh Padgham her sound has always leaned toward the pop end of the spectrum.

In 2002, casting her lot with producer and Sheryl Crow mentor Bill Bottrell, Richey released *Rise*, a superb effort that more fully fleshed out her sound with worldly flavors of instrumentation atypical of a so-called



contemporary country artist. The result was mesmerizing, clearly her best work to date and the first to fully showcase the depths of her talents. Following the obligatory (and perhaps ill timed) greatest hits collection Richey returned to the studio last spring to begin working on her latest studio album.

Produced by Giles Martin (The Beatles' "Love" soundtrack), *Chinese Boxes* reveals an album of hope and longing, love and desire, mystery and intrigue. *Harp Magazine* cited, "Whatever the style, Richey's facility at infusing sweetness with melancholy through the combination of her singing and songwriting remains in tact." *No Depression* hailed, "No one does day dreamy better than Richey, whose visions are enhanced by panoply of gentle and pronounced instrumental touches."

Such is the musical world of Kim Richey, a world which divulges itself not in huge leaps, but in quiet and subtle footsteps. That world will be further revealed when Richey makes a long overdue visit to Asheville at the Grey Eagle. For those who love literate, penetrating, and soulful sounds it is not to be missed.

Opening for Richey will be Peter Bradley Adams, formerly of eastmountainsouth.

According to *Relevant* magazine, Adams makes the kind of music that "climbs into your subconscious and refuses to leave," producing with the release of his latest album *Gather Up* "piano-driven tunes and forceful polemics that will appear on a soundtrack near you very soon." Pure Music.com proclaims that Peter Bradley Adams writes great tunes that honor the past while looking to the future. Adams' understated, but soulful vocals allow him to write beautiful melodies, without ever sounding cloying.



Peter Bradley Adams

If you go

Who, when, what: Kim Richey and Peter Bradley Adams at The Grey Eagle. Tuesday, September 18. 8pm. \$12 advance/\$15 day of show. Advance tickets available online and at our local outlets with limited seating available.

'CD's' continued

secret theme of this album seems to be one songwriter paying homage to gifted colleagues in his field.

As a Brit Thompson's voice is essentially devoid of any southern twang, and his phrasing owes little clear allegiance to traditional country styles, but he clearly understands the emotional weight of the songs on this album, and his performances allows these



classic tunes to be heard by fresh ears in a different context.

While you can't take "She Thinks I Still Care" away from George Jones, and Ernest Tubb will always be linked to "Walking the Floor Over You," Thompson's renditions cast them in a new light, and his clear, unforced but emotionally resonant performances offer a striking reminder of how strong and

timeless they really are, and the other songs fare every bit as well.

Thompson has assembled a superb band for these sessions -including his father Richard Thompson on guitar, as well as Marc Ribot, Greg Leisz and David Mansfield — along with Iris DeMent, Tift Merritt and Jenni Muldaur on vocals. But what makes *Upfront & Down Low* most effective is Thompson's excellent choices in material, and while this doesn't dig especially deep into the catalog of great Nashville songwriting (nor does it further reveal the depth of Thompson's impressive talents) the eleven vintage numbers included here show how easy it is to find superb material in this context, and how striking they can be in the hands of a gifted interpreter. ***1/2

The Magic Numbers

Those the Brokes
EMI/Heavenly

In this age of the internet what does the Next Big Thing do when their debut is praised beyond but by the time they release their second they're already in danger of fading from memory to be replaced by the newest Next Big Thing?

That's the question facing the Magic Numbers and their 2006 sophomore set, *Those the Brokes*, an album released just a shade later than a year after their eponymous debut but one with not nearly so much fanfare.

The debut was praised for being a sweet revival of the sun-kissed sounds of such breezy folk-pop bands as the Mamas & the Papas, a breath of fresh air, something that sounded like nothing else out there. The problem with being celebrated for being out of fashion is that when the fashions move on and you don't, you're left behind wondering why everybody has changed — and that's precisely what's happened with this band.

Times have changed but they haven't, at least not enough for restless listeners on the prowl for something new, and while *Those the Brokes* is actually significantly less cloying and precious than its' overblown predecessor it isn't different enough to demonstrate any real artistic growth. It's still too sweet and gentle, lacking the sly wit and sinew that keeps Belle & Sebastian from descending into a sticky abyss.

But give the band some points for trying to stretch things a bit; trimming



away the folk, ramping up the pop hooks, and even drifting into white soul on numbers like "Undeclared."

All of this is a welcome development

and makes this disc a richer listen, even if it is a bit more ragged and never quite sustains the mood the way their debut did. But taken as individual songs, this is often more appealing. It takes a bit of time and effort for these distinctions to sink in, since they are subtle, and subtlety is not the name of the game when a band is passé a year after its debut. And since the things that keep the Magic Numbers from a wider audience haven't changed — Romeo's voice is still too thin and reedy, they're still the wimpiest band in eons — they're left struggling, losing their audience when they're actually turning into a better, more interesting band.

Perhaps a more appropriate title might have been *Them's the Breaks*. ***1/2



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Sunday, September 2 at 3pm: Poetrio featuring poets Nathan Spoon, Becky Gibson,

Tuesday, September 4 at 7pm: Author of the 'Outlander' and 'Lord John' series, Diana Gabaldon! This special event is ticketed.

Wednesday, September 5 at 7pm: Patricia Gozempa and Karen Kahn present a slide-show from their book, "Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages".

Friday, September 7 at 7pm: Local author and outdoorswoman Danny Bernstein presents her book 'Hiking the Carolina Mountains' as well as a hiking slide show.

Saturday, September 8 at 7pm: Dave Zirin, will discuss 'Welcome to the Terrordome: The Pain, Politics, and Promise of Sports'.

Sunday, September 9 at 3pm: Sarah Addison Allen will discuss and sign her charming novel 'Garden Spells'.

Monday, September 10 at 7pm: Charles de Lint and fantasy illustrator Charles Vess. De Lint will read from and sign his new young adult novel 'Little (Grrl) Lost'.
Fantasy Gift Basket Raffle!

Thursday, September 13 at 7pm: Anne Clinard Barnhill presents her memoir, 'At Home in the Land of Oz: My Sister, Autism, and Me'.

Friday, September 14 at 7pm: Elise Blackwell presents her entertaining novel 'Grub' about a group of young writers living in New York City.

Saturday, September 15 at 7pm: Greil Marcus signs his book 'The Shape of Things to Come, Prophecy and the American Voice'.

Wednesday, September 19 from 6:30-8:30pm: 'Traveling Bonfires'

Friday, September 21 at 7pm: Louise Shaffer presents her novel 'Family Acts'.

Saturday, September 22 at 7pm: Jon Scieszka signs his new picture book 'Cowboy and Octopus'.

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BOOKS

Jon Scieszka at Malaprop's Saturday, September 22

BY ALLISON SMITH

Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith, the pair behind *The Stinky Cheese Man* have collaborated again with *Cowboy and Octopus*, a picture book told in hilarious mini-episodes and illustrated in colorful vintage-style cut-outs, on sale from Viking Children's Books September 6, 2007. Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's picture books have sold over 4 million copies.

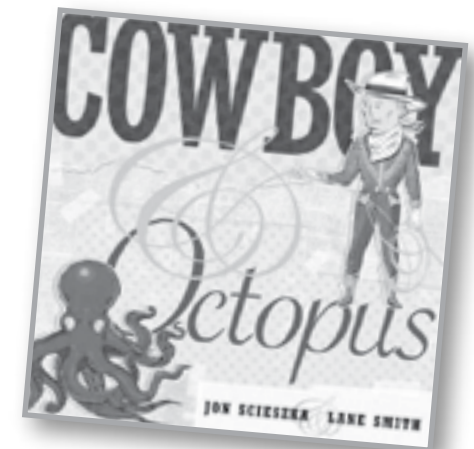
Jon founded GUYS READ, a program designed to increase literacy rates in boys — www.guysread.com.

Jon and Lane are often credited with reviving the "fractured fairy tale" tradition with their much beloved *The Stinky*

Cheese Man. *Cowboy and Octopus* started with an equally simple idea — what if you made a picture book that looked like a kid made it himself?

Cowboy is cut out from a paper doll book and *Octopus* from a comic book — imagine a seven year old child playing with the two characters, making up stories on his own. Each setting and image is all within this child's world.

If you look carefully, you'll see that the two characters are always stationary; they are simply placed into a new environment. And that's only one of the secrets hidden within the pages...



If you go

Date & Time: Saturday, September 22,
7:00 PM

Location: Malaprops, 55 Haywood Street,
Asheville NC 28801

Innovative Business Owner Tackles His Battle with Illiteracy

BY KATE RYDER

Have you ever dreamed about creating your own business where your innovations can make a profit? Jimmie Stewart, (not to be confused with our favorite silver screen actor from "The Philadelphia Story" and "It's a Wonderful Life"), from Leicester has been living that dream. He has started Stewart Innovation's, Inc., a company specializing in equipment transportation for his son Chad's business, a pro audio, stage, and video company called Stewart Sound, and he has no intention of slowing down anytime soon.

Stewart, an Erwin High

School graduate, has had a variety of experiences during his professional career. From serving as an auto parts salesman for 29 years at Car Quest to working with his son, Chad at Stewart Sound. In all of Jimmie's professional experiences he faced a common difficulty: His literacy skills were hindering his success as a businessman.

From his earliest memories of school he recalls how it felt to be identified as a poor speller. He remembers one particular time when his classroom created a model airport to support the theme of spelling. Each student crafted an airplane with their name on it and the location of their airplane in the model airport demonstrated the grade that they had received in spelling.

"Good spellers had their planes in the clouds above the airport," Stewart said. "Even though I made the prettiest plane

that you'd ever see my airplane never came out of the hanger." Stewart did not understand why all of the less handsomely built airplanes were in the clouds and the plane that he spent so much time on constructing was never able to fly.

Jimmie hid his disabilities for years. It was undetectable to others around him that he had learning difficulties. "I learned how to get around it. I knew every trick in the book." Jimmie used a variety of excuses, from forgetting his reading glasses to cheating on test in high school, to hide his disability. It was much later in

stated. "He is so bright and I could tell once he wrapped his mind around a rule or concept that he got it. It was exciting to see his progress unfolding each week."

Jimmie met with his tutor two hours each week for six months to work on spelling and phonetics. "This is a bit ironic," Stewart said. "All of my life I have been able to talk myself into or out of any situation, but I couldn't spell my way out of a paper bag!"

Each year the Literacy Council provides instruction-by-donation to over 300 adults like Jimmie residing in Buncombe County. "This opportunity to get the help that I needed has changed my whole way of thinking. It has built up my confidence and opened the doors for me."

As a result of his efforts with Ms. Habel, Jimmie has embraced his dreams to open his own business. He

has constructed a truck weighing 14 tons that combines a semi tractor trailer and a pick-up truck. The innovation helps his son's business by transporting the sound and stage equipment more effectively. Jimmie works hand-in-hand with his son at Stewart Sound and has traveled across the country for different events and venues and has met Kevin Costner and Peter Meyer, the lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffet.

The future looks a little brighter for Jimmie and his advice to adult struggling with learning difficulties is "to realize that it is finally time to do something about it and there are places like the Literacy Council with a positive environment to help."

"This opportunity to get the help that I needed has changed my whole way of thinking. It has built up my confidence and opened the doors for me."

- JIMMIE STEWART, AN ERWIN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

his life that Jimmie finally decided to do something about his learning disability and confessed to his employer, who in return demoted him to a menial position. Jimmie was then referred to the Literacy Council of Buncombe County for help.

"My self esteem was at an all-time low, but I thought that there must be a reason for this opportunity," Stewart said. It was the Literacy Council who detected that Jimmie had letter blindness, a spelling disability.

Jimmie was matched with Bonnie Habel, a veteran special education teacher who helped detect his letter blindness. "Jimmie is such a great example of what an adult learner should be," Ms. Habel

LOCAL MUSIC

Asheville Choral Society Announces 31st Season

BY ALLEN TUCKER

The Asheville Choral Society, with Music Director Lenora Thom, has announced its concert offerings for the 2007-2008 season.

Ms. Thom is known for her creative programming and this year is no exception. The season begins with *Wolcum, Yole!* (Old English for "Welcome, Yule!"), presented December 8th and 9th, 2007. Texts, ancient and modern, sacred and secular, will celebrate all the magic of this season.

"Our December concert falls early in the month this year, so I thought it would be a great opportunity to present music celebrating both winter and Christmas. We'll perform Morten Lauridsen's *Mid-Winter Songs*, Rutter's *When Icicles Hang*, Henryk Gorecki's *Totus Tuus*, and a wonderful *Gloria* by Randol Alan Bass. Seasonal favorites by Stroop and others will round out the program."

ACS will present *Passages: Reflections on the Stages of Life*, March 8th and 9th, 2008. This fascinating concert will present works about the

various stages of physical, artistic and spiritual growth in people's lives. Included on the program are *Intimations on Immortality* by Gerald Finzi, *Hymnus Amoris* by Carl Nielsen,



Lenora Thom, Asheville Choral Society Music Director



John Clark, Executive Director, Asheville Choral Society

and *Toward an Unknown Region* by Ralph Vaughn Williams. Guest artists for this concert are tenor Gregory Mercer and soprano Elizabeth Keusch.

Mr. Mercer has performed with many of the finest opera companies in the world, including The Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, and San Francisco Opera. In addition, he has appeared with an equally impressive list of orchestras and choruses. Ms. Keusch,

too, has performed with some of the finest symphonies and opera companies in the world, including the Boston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Stuttgart Staatsoper, and Opéra National de Paris. Recognized for her remarkable musicianship, Ms. Keusch is an avid champion of new music and chamber music.

The season will conclude May 17th and 18th, 2008, with the pops concert *Seasons of Love* performed with show band. Featuring songs such as "Autumn in New York," "April in Paris," "September Song," "Too Darn Hot," "As Time Goes By," and selections from Jonathan Larson's *Rent*, this concert promises to be another in a series of sold-out hits.

For more information contact the Asheville Choral Society at (828) 299-9063 or www.ashevillechoralsociety.org.

Land of the Sky Marching Band Festival '07

Hosted by the Enka High School Marching Jets Band and Band Boosters, the Land of the Sky Marching Band Festival has been held for 32 years in our former stadium located at Enka Middle School. With the completion of the new high school stadium, the time has arrived for the festival to relocate to Enka High School.

Enka Band Boosters are hard at work getting ready for this year's festival. Plans and preparations are being made to accommodate the 20 or more bands from Western North Carolina and surrounding areas that are expected to register and compete. In addition to the competing bands, the Enka Middle School 8th grade band will traditionally perform The National Anthem. The Enka High School Marching Jets Band (160+ members)

and Western Carolina University's Pride of the Mountains Marching Band (300+ members) will be performing in exhibition. Considering the number of bands performing and the number of volunteers and spectators, it is expected the festival will reach in excess of 2,000 attendees.

If you've never been to the festival before you've been missing an awesome event. Bands compete in classifications based on the number of wind and percussion players in the band. Each band has a music theme and many use field



props to enhance their performance. Awards are presented in several categories. If you have been to the festival before then you know what a treat you're in for.

Make plans now to attend this year's Land of the Sky Marching Band Festival. It will be

held on Saturday, September 29, 2007 in the Enka High School Stadium. Visit the band website at www.enkaband.com for more information about registered bands, directions to the stadium, and schedule of performances or contact Enka High School at 670-5000.

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FINE ART

Glass Art Shines in Biltmore Village

BY SARAH MEAD

Today Biltmore village has several galleries that feature glass art. The first All-Glass Gallery in Asheville, Vitrum Glass Gallery, was founded by Priscilla Hope and was located in Biltmore Village; unfortunately it was destroyed in the 2004 Biltmore Village flood. David Ross, one of the last owners of Vitrum Gallery, says that they carried about 80 to 100 glass artists, with many of them from Western North Carolina.

There are presently three galleries in Biltmore village that feature glass artists. New Morning Gallery has the biggest selection of Glass art in Biltmore Village; their focus is functional art. They carry between 85 and 95 glass artists, from all over North America, who create pieces that can be used decorate homes and living spaces. Bella Vista Art Gallery's focus is on original artwork rather than functional art. Blue Gallery, known for their custom gold jewelry, has glass pieces for home décor.

New Morning Gallery's impressive selection of glass includes a large variety of Menorahs, used during the Jewish holiday of Hanukah, perfume bottles, earrings, glass oil lamps, goblets, vases, and a delightful collection of hand-blown Christmas ornaments. They even have a line of functional dinnerware that is made from recycled glass.



New Morning Gallery, Pendant Light and Sconce

Lynette Ressler, the interior designer at New Morning Gallery, says that the gallery has been working over the last 7 years to bring unique glass lighting pieces to their gallery. They have gathered together sconces, pendant lights, chandeliers and lamps from North American glass artists. Once they leave New Morning Gallery, many of their one-of-a-kind lighting fixtures go to beautiful homes all over the Southeast United States. People buy their Pendant glass lighting fixtures to put over their kitchen islands and Dining Rooms, and the unique sconces find their way into foyers and dining rooms.

Bella Vista Art Gallery is located where Vitrum Glass Gallery was located before the 2004 flood. Bella Vista's represents two glass artists, Riley Art Glass Studio and Western North Carolina artist Judson Guerard. Christin Zelenka, the Gallery Director, says that when they were designing the gallery they put in a section of hollow glass block on the north-facing wall specifically to use for highlighting their glass artists. "Glass art is about light, and you need good lighting to make the glass glow" says Christin. The demand for their glass art has been so strong that Bella Vista Art is talking with three more national artists about representing them exclusively here in Asheville.

"We are very lucky to have Judson,

I just worry that he will stop answering my phone calls because I am constantly calling him to say another piece of his has sold and we need more new pieces" says Christin. Judson Guerard was the coordinator for the Penland School of Craft Glass studio from 1989 to 1993. His style is distinctive, and glass collectors who visit recognize his work. Judson is a master of many glass art techniques and he has several distinctive series in his body of work, they include the "Chaos" series, the "River Rock" series and his fragile but elegant "Shinyata" series. In addition, at Christmas time he produces a huge variety of hand-blown Christmas ornaments that Christin displays on two white Christmas trees in the front windows during the holiday season.

While some glass artists control their glass piece's shapes very tightly and precisely producing pieces of engineering, Judson's confidence with the media lets him create loose organic archetypal shaped pieces, which he often imbues with a warm glow by masterfully sandblasting selected parts of the exterior. His popular "Chaos" series is blown, hammered, and fused into orb-like



Judson Guerard, Chaos Orb

shapes, some completely round, others partially flattened like vases. They often include colored and transparent regions. The whole Chaos series has a



New Morning Gallery, Pendant Lights

characteristic mouth that is both raw and primitive looking but also smooth from sandblasting.

Roddy Capers is one of the glass artists represented by Blue Gallery. The distinguishing characteristics of many pieces that Roddy produces are the bright colors splashed on the outside of the thick walls and smooth sensuous lips of his vessels. His vessels originate as blown glass but he uses hot glass techniques as well as sandblasting to bring the shapes and colors out of the glass. His single colored pieces using jewel tones such as sapphire, garnet and emerald are striking because of their elegant simplicity and frosty elegance.

Many national glass Artists have been attracted to Western North Carolina by the Penland School of Craft's strong glass program. The galleries in Biltmore Village represent many of those artists. In addition, the galleries in Biltmore village have gathered together unique glass art from all over the country. Original fine glass art as well as unique pieces of glass art for you home can be found in the village.

UNC Asheville Art Students, Recent Graduates to Hold Annual Exhibition

BY ROBERT TYNES

Works by UNC Asheville art students and recent graduates will be featured in an exhibition on view through September 8 at UNC Asheville's Highsmith University Union Gallery.

This third annual exhibit showcases upper-level student work produced in the last year. A closing reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 7, in the gallery.

Participating artists are Celeste Adams, Lillian Byers, Sarah Cavaleiri, Josh Copus, Jason Emory, Dawson Fogg, Larkin Ford, Perry Houlditch, Heather

Knight, Emily Mitchell, Samuel Owen, Eva Reitzel, Will Rogers, Shannon Rupert, Jason Sabbides, Tom Schram, Regina Shackelford, Jill Stowe and Rosella Streett. Works in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media and photography will be on display.

If you go

The Highsmith University Union Gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays but hours are subject to change. For more information, call UNC Asheville's Art Department at (828) 251-6559.



FINE ART

September Art Events in Brevard

August 20 - September 14

Quilt Dialogues / Vintage Inspired Art Quilts

This quilt exhibition will feature traditional quilts and modern art-quilt interpretations of those traditional designs. Bernie Rowell to curate contemporary quilters. The Transylvania Community Arts Council gallery is open Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Exhibit is FREE. For more information call (828) 884-2787 or go to www.tcarts.org.

September 8, 9-4 pm

Women's Stories / Women's Creativity

Take a journey of the imagination with quilt artist, Dottie Moore at the Transylvania Community Arts Council in Brevard. Engage in a day of creative exercises and interactive discussions celebrating women's stories and women's creativity. You will take home a collage quilt of paper and fabric that incorporates your personal symbols, themes, and metaphors. Art Quilter Dottie Moore of Rock Hill, SC, spent more than 10 years studying and documenting the stories of women artists and their creative processes. She says, "Our lives, like artwork, are full of mystery, beauty, and surprise." Admission is \$50 for general public and \$45 for TC Arts members. TC Arts is located at 349 S. Caldwell St in Brevard. (828) 884-2787

September 28

Brevard's 4th Friday Gallery Walk

Downtown Brevard invites you to come enjoy art, music, wine and shopping as all the art galleries and art shops stay open late from 5-9 pm. While strolling downtown enjoy the 14 sculptures on display and stop in and have a great dining experience at any of our restaurants located in the Heart of Brevard. Galleries participating include: Bluewood Gallery, Drew Deane Gallery, Gallery on Main, Hollingsworth Gallery, Jim Bob Tinsley Museum, Metro Gallery, Number 7 Fine Arts & Craft Gallery, Red Wolf Gallery, Spiers Gallery of Brevard College and Transylvania Community Arts Center. For more information, call the Transylvania Community Arts Council at (828) 884-2787 or Blue Wood Gallery at (828) 883-4142.

September 29, 10-5 pm & September 30, 1-5 pm

Scenic 276 South Studio Stroll

The art galleries and studios located on scenic 276 invite you to explore the wonderful world of art in Brevard and

Transylvania County. The studios will be open Saturday Sept. 29 from 10 am - 5 pm and on Sunday the 30th from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Visitors can pick up a brochure/map at the Chamber's Visitor's Center located on Main St. in downtown Brevard or contact Mud Dabbers Pottery at (828) 884-5131 or Glass Feather Studio and Gardens at (828) 885-8457.

September 24 - October 26

Blue Ridge Fine Photography Exhibition

A juried exhibition featuring the best in regional contemporary photography. Photos will be on display from September 24-October 26 at the Transylvania Community Arts Council Gallery located at 349 S. Caldwell St in Brevard. The gallery is open Monday-Friday from 10 am - 4 pm. Opening reception on September 28 during Brevard's 4th Friday Gallery Walk. For more information call (828) 884-2787 or go to www.tcarts.org.

Saturday, October 13, 9-4 pm

Workshop: Nature Photography with a Wide-Angle Lens

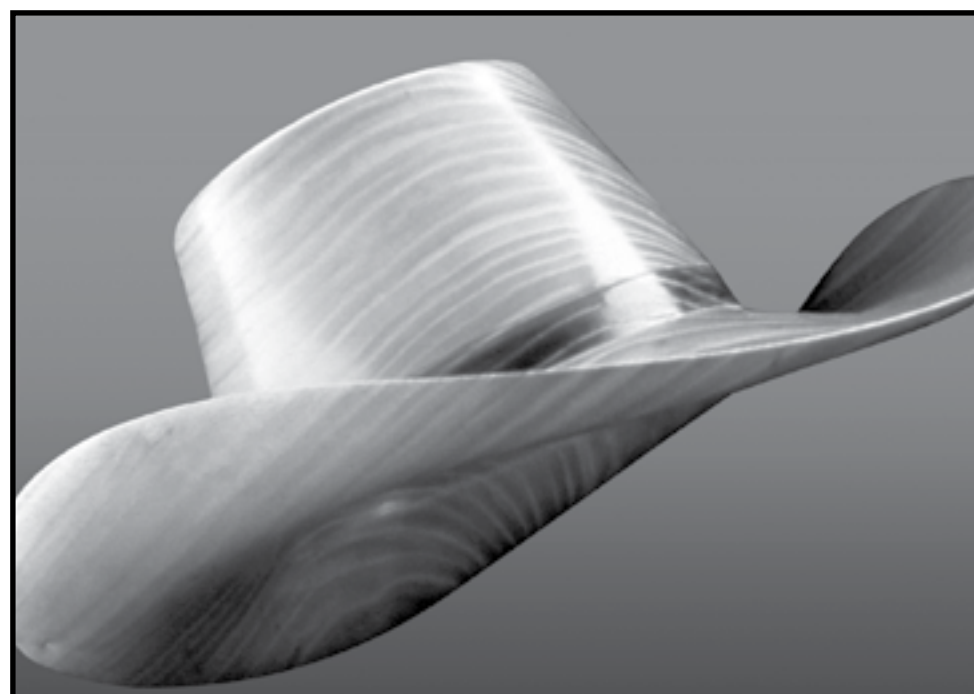
Professional photographer Don McGowan will present a workshop at the Transylvania Community Arts Council in Brevard focused largely on creating images using a wide-angle lens. The class will begin at the Arts Center with a teaching segment on how to create wide-angle landscapes, then move into an off-site photography field trip into Transylvania County's public lands, and close with an audio/visual presentation highlighting McGowan's work.

If the majority of participants choose to use digital cameras, TC Arts will set up a power point projector to upload images for a critique session of the day's work as well. Cost for this workshop is \$50. To reserve your spot in the class call TC Arts Council at (828) 884-2787.

October 26, 5-9 pm

4th Friday Gallery Walk

Enjoy art, music and wine, as the art galleries, shops and restaurants stay open late from 5-9 pm. Galleries participating include: Bluewood Gallery, Drew Deane Gallery, Gallery on Main, Hollingsworth Gallery, Jim Bob Tinsley Museum, Metro Gallery, Number 7 Fine Arts & Craft Gallery, Red Wolf Gallery, Spiers Gallery of Brevard College and Transylvania Community Arts Center. For more information, call the Transylvania Community Arts Council at (828) 884-2787.



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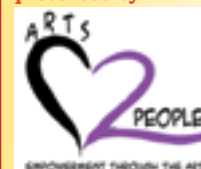


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LAAFF is a **FREE** event is fun for all ages and encourages costumes.

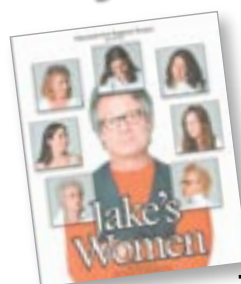
There are multiple performance areas featuring fire dancing, breakdancing, flamenco, salsa, belly dancing, reggae, bluegrass, rock, funk, world rhythms, jazz, trance, african drumming and dance, punk, opera, blues and the beat goes on ...

Street performances and interactive art areas are scattered up and down the street in between art and craft venders, local breweries, local foods, the underground art show, stuff for kids, bicycle jousting, puppetry, a record-breaking 40ft. tall bike, arts cars, dancing and **LAAFFing and More!**



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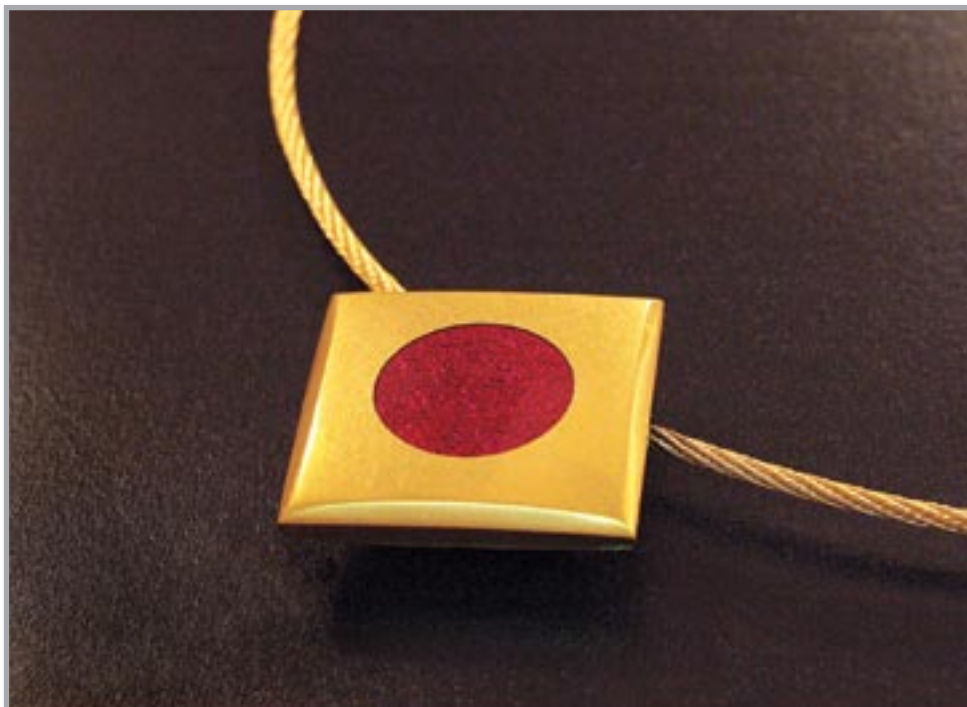
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WINE & DINE

Wine for Wine's Sake : RiverSculpture Festival 2007 : The Museum Annual

BY MICHAEL PARKER

A French — French — wine company is now marketing wine in something like a Juicy Juice carton, a sippy-cup for grown-ups, with a special four-holed straw with which you spray down your entire palate.

Who Knows Real Estate?



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It's a Bordeaux wine, packaged by Cordier — Cordier — the Big Name behind Chateaux Talbot and Clos des Jacobins, among many other notable, high-priced producers.

This is worse than when Pepsi went clear. This is worse than when MC Hammer did gangsta rap in a Speedo.

Oh, did someone say that in Japan you can purchase Sake from vending machines? Yes, I did, and that's why I am going to Japan. And that is totally different. And, it is totally different from screw caps, which are fine as long as no one refers to them as "Stelvin Closures."

Oh, and some of you are thinking, "SOPHIA COPPOLA! SOPHIA COPPOLA! That bitch puts her Champagne [sic] in a can!! With a straw!!" But you are so totally, shamefully off the point. First, it's sparkling wine, not Champagne. Second, she can do that because she is Sophia Coppola. She can do that because she played The Cure's "Plain Song" for the coronation of Louis XVI. And she can do that because her little can has style. Those little cans of Australian Shiraz bombed because they weren't from SOPHIA COPPOLA.

But here's what really grates on me: the new packaging is being implemented "to shake the snob stigma" of wine. Oh, please. This is a bad case of projection. To the Europeans, wine, like sex, is no big deal. The hang-ups belong to the Americans. Further, the new little wine boxes are being test-marketed in... Belgian supermarkets! In sandwich Aisles! As an alternative to pop and bottled water!

After that, there are plans to expand to the Canadian market, where wine in similar packaging is offered in 80+ labels. Here on this page I repeatedly recommended the one liter box of

Trebbiano from Three Bandits for \$6.50, Of course I did. It was good. It was a full liter. It was \$6.50. It was not on a mission to deliver us from wine snobbery.

European marketing geniuses believe that twenty and thirty-somethings want to be hip and right-now and not drinking the wine of their elders. Even here in the great land of hang-ups, wine continues to recruit by being wine. This new marketing is all gimmick. Respect for the traditions of wine making is always a better recruiter in the long term. Eager marketing beavers and naïve newspaper reporters are the ones reversing the values of cleverness and respect.

"How much for a young event?" – RiverSculpture Festival

A recent fundraiser again illustrated how hard it is to predict how much and what wine will be consumed. The event benefited the 2007 RiverSculpture Festival, and took place downtown at the YMI Cultural Center on a Friday night.

Because RiverSculpture is still new to the area — this is its second year — the Working Committee is still laboring to get an easy-to-remember word out about this excellent, juried outdoor exhibition of regional sculpture planned for the French Broad River Park beside the Amboy Road Bridge (the dog-walking park).

In the meantime, it was impossible to know how many people would be there, but we needed to have enough food and wine, all donated of course. Caterers from the River Arts District,

Clingman Avenue Café and Roots (Belly of Buddha) provided very well, plus the Ritz across from the YMI gave a big tray of wings.

Fortunately, about a case each of Yellow Sparkling Wine from Yellowglen and Greg Norman Petite Sirah were donated, plus four bottles of everyday chardonnay. About fifty people showed and donated funds, and subsequently emptied the bottles of sparkling and petite sirah. It was a nice surprise to see the fizz be exponentially preferred over the chard.

The Annual for the Art Museum

Remember: Thursday, September 20 (6:30 - 9:30), the annual Asheville Art Museum wine tasting. This event is an annual bargain, and a worthy fundraiser. (Our local Art Museum houses a collection you should be proud of, and offer super temporary exhibits.) This is the best kind of setup for a wine tasting: stand-up, approach the table, no lecture. For the price of three good bottles, you can taste dozens of wines — even pricier selections, which reduces your risk when you spend money at your local wine retailer afterward.

Tables manned by each of the region's various wine distributors will each show several wines for tasting — around 100 wines. Local independent restaurants will also participate with provisions of lovely food, as always. Call the museum to charge your tickets at 828-253-3227. Non-members pay \$35 or \$65 per couple. Price at the door is \$40. This is my favorite local wine tasting event.

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NOTE WORTHY

Grammy Award-Winning Banjoist Alison Brown to Perform September 8

The Haywood County Arts Council proudly presents the Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven in concert on Saturday, September 8th, 2007, at 8:00 pm at Eaglenest Entertainment in Maggie Valley. Ticket prices are \$15 to \$50 and can be purchased by visiting the Eaglenest Entertainment box office located at 2701 Soco Road in Maggie Valley, NC 28751 or by calling the box office at (828) 926-9658. Concert sponsors are Eaglenest Entertainment, HomeTrust Bank, Smoky Mountain News, WNCW-88.1, and Michael Gillespie, DDS.

Grammy Award-winner and banjo virtuoso, Alison Brown and her bluegrass quartet (banjo, piano, bass and drums) have played throughout the U.S. and the world, including Surinam, Guyana and the Shetland Islands. Ms. Brown began taking banjo lessons at the age of ten and later attended Harvard University. She earned her MBA from UCLA while also continuing to play with a regional bluegrass band. Ms. Brown quit her day job as an investment banker in the late 1980s to tour with Alison

Krauss & Union Station for three years, and later as Michelle Schocked's bandleader. In 1995, Ms. Brown co-founded Compass Records with her husband Garry West, bassist in the quartet.

In collaboration with Bela Flack, Alison Brown won the 2000 Grammy for Best Country Instrumental Performance; she participated in Krauss's Grammy-winning album I've Got a Feeling, and has been honored as Banjo Player of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association. Recording on her own Compass Records, Alison Brown favors jazz and Latin grooves on this most traditional of bluegrass instruments. In her latest release, Stolen Moments,



Alison Brown

she creates — in the words of the Philadelphia Daily News — a “seamless synthesis of hoedown, Celtic and jazz.”

Mandolinist, violinist and percussionist extraordinaire, Joe Craven has performed alongside such legendary musicians as Jerry Garcia, David

Grisman, Stephane Grappelli and Mark O'Connor. A current member of the beloved Garcia/Grisman Band, 2007 marks Joe Craven's 7th year with the David Grisman Quintet. Joe Craven rejoins the Alison Brown Quartet for a spectacular performance in western North Carolina.

For more information about the Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven and other Haywood County Arts Council events visit the web site at www.haywoodarts.org.

If you go

The Haywood County Arts Council presents The Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven.

Saturday, September 8, 2007 at 8:00 p.m.

Eaglenest Entertainment, 2701 Soco Rd, Maggie Valley, NC 28751

ADMISSION: Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$50. Call the box office at Eaglenest Entertainment for tickets at (828) 926-9658.

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COVER STORY

Haywood Arts Regional Theater

Local involvement is key to HART's steady growth and continued success.

'HART' continued from pg 5

I decided this is where I wanted to stay. The HART board knows I'm not going anywhere."

Because of those deep roots, Lloyd is now better able to decipher local trends, tastes, and attitudes. "In the wintertime, the size of this community shrinks as the tourists go home," he said. "We schedule six shows every winter in the studio, which seats 70. These are pieces brought

said. The play also helped finance his first few years with HART when they couldn't afford to hire a salaried staff.

He is most proud of the building, though. The Performing Arts Center is a Craftsman-style building, which is both elegant and unpretentious. It was built with the neighborhood in mind and looks very much like a rustic house set into a beautiful eight-acre historic pastoral site bordered by trees. The simple yet dramatic design and use of native woods

everyone likes dessert, but you can't have seven courses of dessert. I'm going to slip you a little broccoli, too, something that's good for you." His main priority is to "give people a season that makes them feel satisfied."

Many of the cast members from HART's production of *West Side Story* came from the School of Music. Lloyd says it was one of the best productions they've ever done. "The cast were all teenagers, and they could all sing and act and dance. It's hard to find that level of commitment, to find people who will be willing to give up their whole summer to do it." Local involvement is key to HART's steady growth and continued success. "It is a volunteer-driven organization," he said. "That's one of the reasons we've had the success we've had: we're very lean. We are also fortunate to have an extensive and loyal subscriber base." Lloyd keeps that in mind even when he is staging shows and constructing sets. For example, the group will be performing *Cabaret* in September and October. Without giving too much away, Lloyd has designed the production and constructed the stage to include the audience as part of the performance.

In a small town where everyone knows everyone else, everyone also knows everyone else's business,

and it didn't take long to turn the whole neighborhood out to help HART when a water sprinkler burst and flooded the front part of the building. Word of mouth jumped into action, and helpful neighbors showed up to bail water and move props. "Within 15 minutes, we had a dozen shop vacs there, and I never even made a call," Lloyd says. "We had a performance there two days later."

The building also functions as a gathering place for numerous arts organizations. In addition to providing HART with rehearsal and performance space, the center is also home to the Swannanoa Chamber Music Group and Folkmoot, and can also accommodate recording sessions. There's a nine-foot concert Steinway grand piano available for use by local musicians. "We are the most actively programmed facility in the region. We're bursting at the seams already," he said. There are hopes and plans for further expansion as the region grows. "We'd like to build a separate building just for the studio performances," he said.

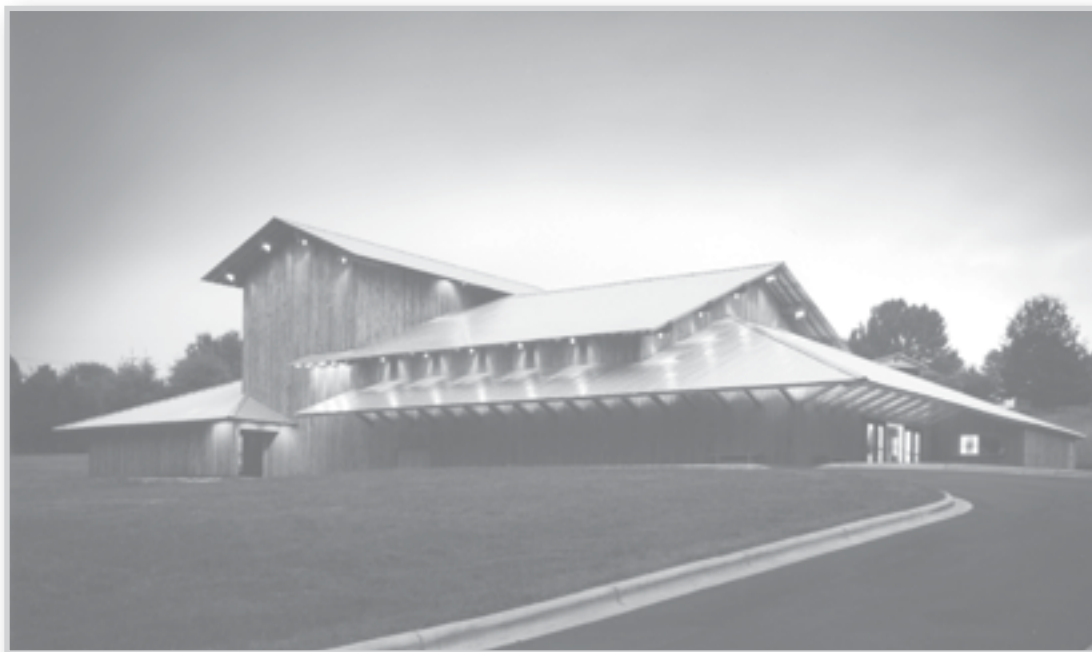
Much has changed in Waynesville in the 20-plus years that Lloyd has dedicated to his passion. "Twenty years ago, we had a \$25,000-a-year budget and were housed in a dilapidated space. We were in the Strand building on Main Street, but we were kicked out by the fire marshal. That was back when you could get just about everything you needed for living on Main Street. There was a hardware store, a drug store, a clothing store. I've watched it slowly evolve into a tourist attraction." Not that he's complaining about that, either. "*West Side Story* sold out all sixteen performances, and most of those were tourists. We couldn't survive without the summer people."

HART is now celebrating its 10th season in the Performing Arts Center, and it doesn't seem possible to Lloyd that almost 25 years have passed since he took up the cause of treating Haywood County audiences to the best theater experience possible. To celebrate, he has scheduled *Bat Boy: The Musical* as the season-opener on the main stage in March 2008. Based on an article in the popular trashy tabloid Weekly World News, it's the heartwarming faux-bizarro tale of a half-bat half-boy creature discovered in a cave near Hope Falls, West Virginia. Another play set in rural West Virginia, titled *Floyd Collins*, is one that Lloyd is most excited about. It's based on the true story of a 1930s cave explorer and is, according to *Newsday*, "one of the truly great music theater scores of the last decade."

There is something for everyone in the upcoming season, like *The Road to Mecca*, a prize-winning drama by Athol Fugard, one of South Africa's most successful playwrights; or *Equus*, the story of a naked silent boy who has blinded six horses; or *Minor Deamons*, which examines murder in a small Pennsylvania town. The group is also performing more contemporary favorites like *On Golden Pond* and *Kiss Me Kate*. Besides *Bat Boy: The Musical*, the performance that is most likely to appeal to audiences is *Escanaba in da Moonlight*, which contains "what may well be the funniest scene you have ever witnessed on stage."

On this breezy sun-seared day in August, Lloyd looks out the window of his office overlooking a beautiful grassy meadow to watch the groundhogs waddle about. "For me, it's a rewarding job," Lloyd smiles again and says, "even if I've been in this building every day for the last three months." Don't feel too badly for him, though: it's a beautiful jail he's incarcerated in.

For more information and a schedule of upcoming events, log onto www.harth theatre.com or call the box office at (828) 456-6322.



"We wanted to build something that would grow to provide what we needed as we evolved..."
— Steven Lloyd, Director of the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre.

to me by local actors and directors, pieces that they want to do." The audience for these shows is mostly local residents, and Lloyd tries to tailor the offerings accordingly. "I believe that it is a mistake to pick seasons by committee," he said. "They don't take into consideration things like community interest, or the level of acting required, or the amount of production involved." The group performs 13 shows a year — seven on the main stage and six in the studio — and Lloyd strives to provide a diverse offering of shows for people to enjoy.

Born in Winston-Salem, Lloyd holds degrees in theater and communications from UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Greensboro. He lived in Los Angeles and worked as an actor before coming to the area as a visiting artist. It would be a fortunate chain of events that led Lloyd to his dream job. He wrote a play titled *The Actor and the Assassin* based on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth. "An agent saw it and picked it up; it toured for 17 years and it paid for my house," Lloyd

was intended to integrate the building into its surroundings.

"We wanted to build something that would grow to provide what we needed as we evolved, instead of building a big hall and trying to fill it up after the fact," Lloyd explained. "There were prior efforts to build a center; one of them was expected to cost \$30 million. But plans for these big grandiose facilities always failed, because they didn't address our community needs. We built a modest structure, and the community responded. We had a real sensitivity to having it reflect the history of the area and have it 'fit.'" Most of the surrounding countryside used to belong to a dairy farm, but has now been converted into residential or commercial property.

Lloyd also benefits from having the Performing Arts School of Music next door from which to draw talent. Having access to people who want to perform in theater allows him to schedule more diverse seasons. "They have to be shows I enjoy too," Lloyd says. "I pick a season as if I were planning a dinner menu. Now,

PERFORMANCE

Diana Wortham Theatre Celebrates Its 10th Season

Celebrating its 10th season, the Mainstage Series presents a wide range of top touring artists in music, theater, dance and comedy.

New for the 2007/2008 season is the Off-Broadway Musical Series featuring three nationally touring musicals. *Almost Heaven: Songs of John Denver* (eight performances October 2-7, 2007) is presented in partnership with North Carolina Stage Company and launches in Asheville before going on a coast-to-coast national tour. Twenty-nine of Denver's songs, including "Rocky Mountain High," "Sunshine on My Shoulders," "Annie's Song," "Leaving on a Jet Plane," and more are rediscovered and reinvented by a versatile five-person cast.

In a pre-Broadway run, Irving Berlin's *I Love A Piano* (eight performances Feb. 19-24, 2008) is a nostalgic musical journey spanning seven decades of American history as seen through the eyes of the unparalleled songmaster Irving Berlin. Direct from Off-Broadway comes the first national tour of the *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (6 performances March 13-16, 2008). An infectious score, cheeky script, incredible set, and some of the most roof-raising, girl-group singing since the Pointer Sisters all add up in this fabulous new production.

The Mainstage Series season opens September 12, 2007 with *Tell The Stories So That They May Know*, an evening with master storyteller, narrator, and singer Charlotte Blake Alston who shares stories, songs, raps, monologues, poetry and dramatic impersonations from the African and African American oral and cultural traditions. Her stories are enhanced by the sounds of traditional instruments including djembe, berimbau, nkoning, mbira and the 21-stringed kora.

The 2007/2008 Special Attractions Series presents audience favorites including: the improvisational comedy troupe Chicago City Limits, New York's longest-running show (October 19-20, 2007); the highly produced, spectacular showcase *Bellydance Superstars*, hailed as the next big dance show phenomenon (October 30, 2007); world musicians Al Petteway, Amy White and others sharing music from the Celtic and American winter traditions in *A Swannanoa Solstice* (two shows December 16, 2007); and a rare opportunity to catch the wise and funny Arlo Guthrie at his unplugged best in back to back shows for Valentine's Day (February 14-15, 2008).

The 2007/2008 Music Series features: music scene icon and hit-maker Karla

Bonoff accompanied by her longtime collaborator Kenny Edwards on guitar, bass, mandolin, and harmony, and guitarist Nina Gerber (November 16, 2007); the jazzy and sophisticated Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven has a tremendous sound that draws form a myriad of influences (March 8, 2008); and the Erin Bode Group mesmerizes audiences with Bode's irresistible voice, backed by top-notch players, performing original songs plus pop and jazz standards (April 11, 2008).

The 2007/2008 Mainstage Dance Series, recognized for its presentation of some of the nation's foremost dance companies presents: the stunning imagery and choreography of the famed Moses Pendleton in MOMIX's highly original desert-inspired dance work *Opus Cactus* (February 26-27, 2008); Garth Fagan Dance, featuring the genre-busting dance style of the Tony-winning, *Walt Disney The Lion King* choreographer Garth Fagan (March 4-5, 2008); Ronald K. Brown's company Evidence presenting a new work - *One Shot*, inspired by the life and work of African American choreographer Charles "Teenie" Harris (March 25-26, 2008); and the contemporary, sophisticated and high-energy Koresh Dance Company known for work that is both eloquent and explosive (May 2-3, 2008).

The 2007/2008 Mainstage Theatre Series features three varied performances: L.A. Theatre Works presents *Top Secret: The Battle for The Pentagon Papers*, starring Stacey Keach (cast subject to change), in a dramatic work that provides an inside look at the The Washington Post's 1971 decision to publish the secret Vietnam study (January 19-20, 2008); the inventive and highly lauded Aquila Theatre Company returns to Asheville for back-to-back performances of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*; and a stage adaptation of Joseph Heller's landmark *Catch-22* (February 8-9, 2008).

Presented in partnership with The Swannanoa Gathering, the 2007/2008 Mainstage Celtic Series presents four of the top touring bands in the Scots-Irish traditional music genre: *Lúnasa* dubbed an "Irish music dream team" by Folk Roots and "the new Celtic

royalty" by The Boston Herald (March 6, 2008); Gráda, an extremely talented quintet that is causing a major stir on the traditional music scene (March 22, 2008); master Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and vibrant young cellist Natalie Haas, a fiery duo featured at festivals and concerts throughout the United States and Europe (April 12, 2008);

and Buille, one of the most potent new sounds emerging from Ireland featuring the virtuosic concertina playing of Irish star Niall Vallely (May 22, 2008).

The Mainstage 2007/2008 Family Series, in partnership with Theatre UNCA and The Center for Diversity Education, features two performances especially for youth and their families, but also of general interest to all audiences: *Junglebook*, the story of young Mowgli (October 18, 2007) and *The Tempest*,

a magical, hour-long production of Shakespeare's fantastical romance intertwining puppetry and actors to recreate Prospero's world (April 9, 2008).

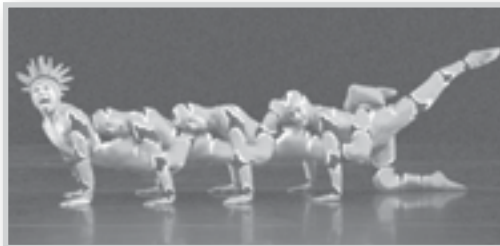
If you go

Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place
September 2007 - May 2008.

Tickets for all shows go on sale August 23 with two cost-saving options for multiple ticket purchases. The most popular is the theatre's Pick 5 Series pass - discounted tickets to any five shows in the season. A Super Saver Series pass, for admission to 16 or more events at only \$22 per event, may be shared among business clients, employees, family members and friends. The Pick 5 and the Super Saver Series ticket options offer substantial savings over the cost of individual performances.

Tickets for all events are available online at www.dwtheatre.com as well as from the box office at (828) 257-4530.

For a season brochure call the box office at (828) 257-4530



MOMIX's desert-inspired Opus Cactus



Arlo Guthrie



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ARTFUL LIVING

GOD IS...

BY BILL WALZ

Humanity, Get over yourself. The God debate is human civilization's lingering binge with dualism. Does God exist or not? The atheist and the Evangelical debate. And of the competing versions of God and His law, whose idea of God is correct?

Theologians and philosophers wrangle endlessly in this foolishness, when the question they ought to be debating is whether an anthropomorphic deity exists and does an anthropocentric logic rule the Universe? Answer? No to both!

The Universe is, and The God of the Universe is vastly greater than human reasoning can conceptualize and express. God can only be apprehended as a vast unknowable. God, as ancient mystical texts seem to imply, and modern science indicates, seems to be more of a unified field of energy that precedes the physical universe, is the physical universe, and is also the consciousness that experiences the universe.

Humanity keeps getting lost in an anthropomorphic idea of a creator of the stuff of the Universe - which they categorize and accumulate - while paying no attention to the mystery of the consciousness that is the source from which all the stuff manifests. We all have a deep knowing of this mystery, but it is so buried under the "stuff" that we lose almost all connection with this knowing. This leaves a void in us, and we make up religions with names for God and special knowledge of God's rules and wishes to fill that void. Even mystic traditions, when claiming special knowledge, fall

"THE TAO THAT CAN BE NAMED IS NOT THE TAO."



Bill Walz

into the trap. But the void cannot be filled in this way, and a deep archetypal urge in humanity continues to seek to express the knowing of this mystery. Ten thousand faces, ten thousand names.

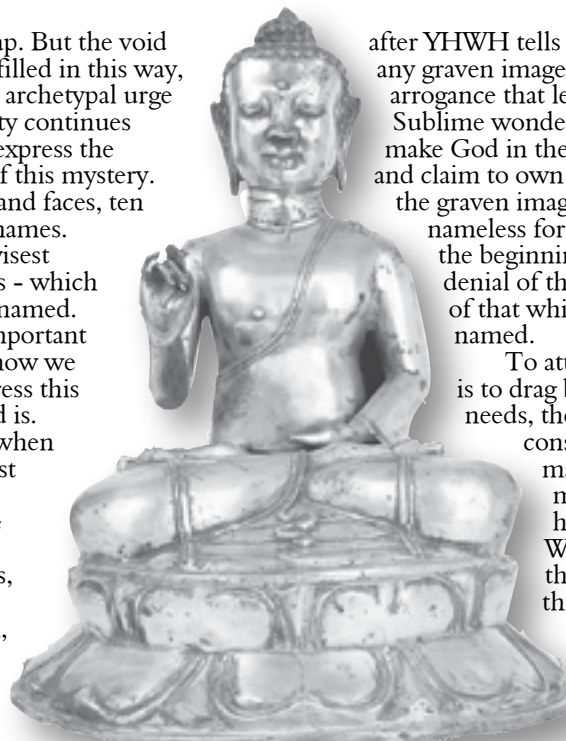
The wisest knew. This - which cannot be named. Yet, it is important that somehow we

find a way to express this knowing that God is.

God is. And when we are in the midst of the experience, we realize that we can only in truth experience God as, to borrow from a Jewish theologian, Abraham Heschel, "sublime wonder".

Heschel stated, in a lecture I heard many years ago, that "the denial of the sublime wonder of life is the origin of sin, the origin of the attitude that leads to sin." That statement was, to me, satori's thunderclap. Sin is acting from an arrogance that assumes knowing and owning what is unknowable and unownable. Sin is separateness. This sin, this separateness, is also the source of all mental suffering.

Try this on: The first sin is the naming of God. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain". That's the first commandment to Moses from the un-nameable YHWH. It's given



after YHWH tells Moses not to make any graven images. Sin is in the arrogance that leads to separation.

Sublime wonder is union. To make God in the image of man, and claim to own God's truth, is the graven image, and naming the nameless for our own vanity is the beginning of sin. It is the denial of the sublime wonder of that which cannot be named.

To attempt to name, is to drag by force, for vain needs, the unmanifested consciousness that manifests into manifestation on human terms. We neglect that the terms for this manifesting consciousness are already set. It is Nature.

To arrogantly set this aside to insist on human

terms called anthropomorphic religions is the fall from Eden, from oneness.

This life we live. It is. "Everything is", as consciousness icon, Alan Watts, wonderfully said, "as it can be". From unmanifested consciousness this life manifests. It is. It is the mystery. It is Life. It is as it can be in a mystery of evolving manifestation. When referenced theologically, it is God. Our purpose in this journey of manifestation is to bring our individualized consciousness into sublime wonder, into harmony and union with the Natural Universe, with God, with what is. It ought not to be

pretending that we can name and impose rules that we make up and claim to be from the Divine.

The result of that folly has been all the destruction humanity has wrought on each other and the world. It has been the denial of wonder that leads to all human manipulation and destruction.

Lao Tzu understood. "The Tao that can be named is not the Tao." It is human folly. Yet, the Tao even contains human folly, and will continue should human folly destroy humanity and its planet home. Perhaps, however, humanity can touch and own its deep knowing of the sacred mystery, and with that knowing begin the era of sublime wonder, of humanity's coming home and new beginning.

We are universal consciousness individualized, seeking our way home. When we rediscover ourselves as imbedded in Nature, we will also rediscover our oneness with the mystery of Deity that we have given a thousand names to.

And then the void will be filled.

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 be speaking at the Unity Church of Arden, Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7-9pm. Info on classes and personal growth and healing instruction or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail at healing@billwalz.com. Visit www.billwalz.com

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'Shrine Art' for Holy Ground

An evening of food, wine, music and inspirational art will be held on Friday, September 28, 2007 to raise funds for Holy Ground Retreat Ministries, a non-profit organization located in downtown Asheville committed to strengthening community by nurturing the spiritual life.

Twenty-five regional artists have contributed works to be auctioned off during the event, with all funds going to Holy Ground, to expand the organization's work of integrating the public and private dimensions of people's lives in service of greater justice and beauty.

Shrine art can be an object of contemplation; it may be worn on clothing or displayed on a table, a wall or in the garden. Shrine art is inspiring,

sometimes presenting a manifestation of the spiritual world and may be placed in a sacred space in the home. Artist Byron Ballard notes that sacred art allows the viewer to come "to a particular place to interact with a particular face of the divine."

Works featured in the auction include pieces by artists well established in the local art scene and newer, emerging artists. One emerging artist whose work will be featured is also a board member of the organization. Christopher Slusher, owner of Portable Architecture, creates unique upholstered folding screens out of his home studio in North Asheville, using a wide variety of fabrics, colors and textures. Slusher, whose background includes an architectural degree and years

'Holy Ground' continued on next page

ARTFUL LIVING

Tai Chi Teacher Bids Farewell

BY MICHAEL CLARK

My regular students have known this for some time, but yes, it's official... I am moving to Mexico on September 15, 2007. This is my last printed column in Rapid River.

On last year's Qigong trip to China I met a woman from Mexico named Margarita Mora. (Good thing I am fluent in Spanish!) We dated long distance for over a year and now we have decided it is time for us to be together every day... with an eye toward getting married next summer. I will join her in Xalapa, the state capital of Veracruz, Mexico. Using her hotel industry experience and my Qigong teaching experience, our long-term goal is to build a retreat center in Mexico where teachers from all over the world can join us in spreading the Qi.

What does this mean for students and friends of Heaven and Earth Tai Chi?

Basically, it means that my teaching will shift to being distributed via the Internet and periodic workshops in different locations. First, I will continue to publish an electronic Tai Chi Newsletter, concentrating on news, research findings, opportunities for international qigong journeys, and insights I gain through practice and contact with other teachers. (To subscribe, email me at Michael@HeavenAndEarthTaiChi.com).

Second, I have shot a lot of video for my cable TV program, "Conscious Movement," and I plan to distribute short instructional videos for the whole world to watch on YouTube.com. Third, my longtime friend and associate, Accem Scott, will continue to produce the



Michael Clark

"Conscious Movement" show for URTV Asheville Channel 20. I will occasionally send him segments that I shoot in Mexico.

Fourth, I will return periodically to cities in the United States, including Asheville, to give workshops on Tai Chi and Qigong. Building on the recent success of the Healing Promise of Qi workshops, I plan to offer more weekend workshops on a variety of topics. These visits will also be

a good opportunity for students to get private lessons to fine-tune their forms.

Highlights of Teaching Tai Chi

The things I am most proud of during my four years of teaching in Asheville are...

1) Fostering a sense of unity and cooperation among all teachers of Tai Chi and Qigong, regardless of lineage or style. Accem Scott and I took the lead in organizing the Asheville celebration of World Tai Chi and Qigong Day (the last Saturday in April) for the past four years, but many other teachers contributed their time and expertise to the event. Together, we exposed hundreds of people in Western North Carolina to these meditative health arts!

2) Getting Tai Chi and Qigong into Mission Hospitals through health fairs, workshops and classes.

3) Getting the word out about Tai Chi through local media, reaching thousands of households. As an unofficial spokesperson for the art, I have been interviewed many times by television, radio and newspapers. For three years, I wrote this monthly column on Tai Chi and Qigong for Rapid River Magazine.

Accem Scott and I started the monthly cable TV show "Conscious Movement" in 2006. The next step for me is to take this message global through the Internet.

4) Reaching the people by going to where they are. 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!

Special Thanks

I offer a bow in honor of my primary Tai Chi teacher, Chris Luth, and my primary Qigong teacher, Roger Jahnke. Thanks to Roseanne Kiely of Grove Corner Market and Mary Summersette of Trinity Episcopal Church who helped me host ongoing classes for nearly four years.

I also give special thanks to Accem Scott for his teaching, friendship and example of living flowing-in-the-moment. Accem and I forged a partnership in 2003 that has been a positive force in my life and a source of constant creativity and shared classes, workshops, events and TV programs over the years. Accem will carry on the legacy we started in new and unexpected ways. He will continue to hold the Conscious Movement Day Celebration (his brainchild) every October. I suggest you contact Accem (see sidebar) for classes and get on his mailing list.

To all of you who supported me in word and deed over the past years, my sincere thanks.

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

Tai Chi and Qigong in Asheville

There are many Tai Chi and Qigong teachers in Asheville for you to continue your study or start taking classes. Here is a brief selection.

TAI CHI

Crayton Bedford
Yang Short Form of Tai Chi
from Cheng Man-Ching.
(828) 230-0529
cbedford@charter.net

Yang Tai Chi Practice Group - Paul Summey
FREE practice at 8 a.m.
Saturdays in the parking lot
behind the Reuter YMCA.
(828) 337-3030
23paul@gmail.com

Mark Small
Mountain Dragon Kung Fu
(828) 285-2929
Msmall@main.Nc.Us
www.main.nc.us/mtndragon

Bob Feeser
(828) 298-2655
Rfeeser@charter.Net

Derek Croley
Croley's Martial Arts
(828) 251-5807
dctai@bellsouth.net
www.croleysmartialarts.com

QIGONG

Accem Scott
(828) 280-7287
accemscott@hotmail.com
www.AccemScott.com

Jan Gillespie
(828) 277-7318
jangillespie@bellsouth.net

Michael Winn
(828) 296-1930
winn.dao@earthlink.net
www.HealingDao.com

Cosmic Chi Center
Teresa Gibbs, (828) 243-3486
www.cosmicchi.com

Chinese Acupuncture Clinic
(828) 258-9016
www.chineseacupuncture-wnc.com

Daoist Traditions
Chinese College of
Chinese Medical Arts
(828) 225-3993
daoist@bellsouth.net

'Holy Ground' continued from pg 26

of work in historic preservation, calls the screens "his architecture" and uses his love of history to allude to earlier times and to create beauty which can enrich people's lives.

Holy Ground, Inc. was founded in 1993 by Dorri Sherrill and Sandra Smith, theology school friends who decided to create a place where people could explore images of the Holy and ask questions in a life-giving setting, as well as examine how our relationship with the Holy affects our daily living and guides us toward justice-making. Over the years the organization has brought such leading thinkers to town as Mormon environmentalist and author Terry Tempest Williams, and Catholic nun and opponent of the death penalty, Sister Helen Prejean, and Buddhist educator and author bell hooks.

In addition to a weekly Sacred Circle

time of worship, numerous retreats, classes and workshops throughout the year, Holy Ground has, for the past two years, offered a six-month intensive for area activists and health care providers called "Spiritual Resources for Community Leaders."

This program invites community members who are in the business of caring for others into a period of self-reflection and support through monthly retreats on different topics, with time for silence, ritual and feasting. Slusher participated in the program during its first year, when he was still serving as the executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services.

The Shrine Art Project will be held at Coleman Place on Montford Avenue, above the new Chamber of Commerce. A preview of the art, with a chance to meet many of the artists (listed below) will be held from 6:30 to 7:45. The art auction

will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$45 and may be purchased by calling Holy Ground at 236-0222.

Artists who have contributed to the auction:

Byron Ballard	Kent Leslie
Katherine Bartel	Carol Minton
Gwen Bigham	Fleta Monaghan
Betty Clark	Julia Masaoka
Chiwa	Catherine Musham
Joel Cole	Daniel Nevins
Paula Dawkins	Christopher Slusher
John Dodson	Laura Sims
Virginia DuPre	Isabel Taylor
Suzanne Gernandt	Martha Tuetting
George Handy	Adele Wayman
Jennifer Jenkins	Annie Weiler
Gail LaMuraglia	

Laura Collins, 236-0222, holyground1@bellsouth.net, www.holygroundretreats.org

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.

Sponsored listings (shown in boxes) can be purchased for **\$12 per column inch**.

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

Email Beth Gossett at: 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.

WANTED:

Advertising Sales Representatives

The Rapid River needs experienced sales personnel.

INTERESTED?

Call (828) 646-0071, or e-mail info@rapidrivermagazine.com

Chamber Music Concert

Sunday, September 2

At 3 PM, the St. Matthias String Quartet will present a concert featuring works by Mozart, Schubert, and Lachner. The quartet includes Brent Yingling on first violin; Judy Vlietstra on second violin; Brenda Phetteplace on viola; and Ron Lambe on cello.

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 national historic 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.

UNC Asheville Senior to Hold Sculpture Exhibition

Through September 3

"Mystery and the Method," a sculpture exhibition by UNC Asheville senior Jeff A. Ceaser will be on view at UNC Asheville's Owen Hall Second Floor Gallery. The show is the culmination of Ceaser's work toward his bachelor of arts degree at UNC Asheville.

The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Admission is free. For more information, call UNC Asheville's Art Department at (828) 251-6559.

Inspired Color

Through September 10

Fleta Monaghan, Painter
Cindy Trisler, Potter

Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC. For more information call (828) 254-9234. Late Summer Hours: Monday - Thursday 11 to 6; Friday & Saturday 11 to 7; Sunday: 11 to 5

Woolworth Walk is a member of the Asheville Downtown Gallery Association. www.ashevilledowntowngalleries.org

Silent Auction

Thursday, September 20 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Full Moon Farm Wolfdog Rescue and Sanctuary will hold its 3rd Annual Silent Auction at the historic Biltmore Village Inn in Asheville. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and may be purchased at Bone-A-Fide Bakery in Black Mountain (828) 669-0706 or at Biltmore Village Inn (828) 274-8707. Call (828) 669-1818 for more information. www.fullmoonfarm.org, www.biltmorevillageinn.com

HOWL-IN

Saturday, September 22

Full Moon Farm Wolfdog Rescue and Sanctuary in Black Mountain will hold a howl-in and open house for the public. Tours of the farm start at 3:00 pm and a 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.

Annual Heritage Day Festival

September 29 2007 1-5PM

Sponsored by The Friends of the Green River Library. Exit 3 Green River Exit follow signs. Storytelling-Falcon Show-Bluegrass Music-Crafts. Contact Karen Jones 828 694-3638.

Call to Artists and Craftspeople

Here is an opportunity for area artists to clean out studios, make a little extra money for the holidays, and support the local arts council! Transylvania Community Arts Council is looking for artists and crafters to sell work at its fifth annual ArtMart fundraiser. Contributing artists are able to sell work that tends to clutter studios - pieces that may not have sold in the past or did not turn out exactly as expected. So set aside a box in your studio and start collecting that clutter now!

Participating artists should bring artwork they are willing to sell at significantly discounted prices. Applications and additional information are available on-

UNC Asheville September Events

September 5

The Untold Ensemble in concert, 12:45 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, free. Call (828) 251-6432 for more information.

September 7

Step Afrika!, 8 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, \$15 general admission. Call (828) 232-5000 for tickets.

September 12

Pianist Bradley Martin in concert, 12:45 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, free. Call (828) 251-6432 for more information.

September 16

Writers at Home Series: Readings by Billie Harper Buie and Elizabeth Lutyens, 3 p.m., Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, 55 Haywood St., downtown Asheville, free. Call (828) 232-5122 for more information.

September 19

UNC Asheville's Distinguished Speaker Series presents an evening with filmmaker John Waters, 8 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, \$30 general admission or \$10 students. Call (828) 232-5000 for tickets.

September 29

Flute, Tango and Friends, 7:30 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, \$5 general admission. Call (828) 251-6432 for more information.

September 30

Pianist Hwa-Jin Kim in concert, 4 p.m., UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium, \$5 general admission. Call (828) 251-6432 for more information.

line at www.tcarts.org, at the Transylvania Community Arts Center, or by calling TC Arts at

(828) 884-2787. Applications to participate in ArtMart are due Friday, October 26.

ArtMart will take place on Saturday, November 3, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Transylvania Community Arts Center, 349 South Caldwell Street, Brevard, NC. Artists do not need to be present at the sale. TC Arts 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.

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.

Upcoming Events at Osondu Booksellers

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

Sat., September 15, 7pm

Blues artist Bobby G returns for a performance at Margaret's Café.

Sun., September 16, 3pm

Sarah Addison Allen, author of Garden Spells will join us for readings, signings, and afternoon tea in Margaret's Tea and Wine Café.

Sat., September 22, 11am

Storytime with Jerry Pope, author of Madeleine Claire and the Dinosaur.

Sat., September 22, 7pm

Traveling Bonfires' Pasckie Pascua will introduce *Asheville*, a hot-off-the press novel by The Indie feature writer Gaither Stewart.

For more information, phone (828) 456-8062

www.osondubooksellers.com

Traveling Bonfires

Sunday, September 2, 5:00pm-8:30pm

"61 Dunwell's People's Potluck." The Indie, Traveling Bonfires & Third World Asheville host

AUGUST EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS

WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

Call for Entries "79.9"

Opening September 7th

The Conn-Artist Studios at 443 N. Main St. in Hendersonville (upstairs-easier entrance off 5th Ave.) is holding a reception for a juried show "79.9" September 7th, 5:30-8:30 pm. (during 1st Friday Gallery Walk). The show will run until October 1st.

To celebrate the vision and vitality of WNC "seasoned" artists the requirement for entrance is that the artist must be at least 79 years young in 2007.

Framing supplies "Presto" manager John Flinchum and studio owner Connie Vlahoulis will offer a prize for Best of Show. Judging is by Asheville artist Wendy Whitson.

This working artist studio in downtown Hendersonville offers art instruction, open studio hours, and original art by the resident artists: Barbara Hipwell, Sandra Pride, Gail Williams, and Connie Vlahoulis.

Studio Hours:
Tuesday & Friday 12-4:30,
and by appointment.

Contact Conn-Artist Studios
at (828) 329-2918

www.Conn-Artist.com

Art Fundamentals Workshops for Adults at River's Edge Studio

We are pleased to announce our September schedule of classes in drawing and painting. Designed for both the aspiring and experienced artist, classes focus on foundation topics in art to help you gain skills and knowledge. Instructors Fleta Monaghan (painting) and Constance Humphries (drawing) are practicing artists with years of experience teaching art to adults.

Color Mixing I - Sept 8th, 10-3, \$65.00 Learn what paints to buy for a limited color palette, how to use the paints, practice mixing and seeing colors. Great for beginners and those needing up-to-date pigment information and color mixing practice.

Color II - Sept 22nd, 10-3, \$65.00 Learn how to read labels, pigment properties, how to expand you palette of colors intelligently and save money.

Line - Sept 15th, 10-3, \$65.00 The basic element of art is Line. Practice accurate drawing and seeing using various line drawing techniques from a simple still life.

Value - Sept 29th, 10-3, \$65.00 Learn how to draw objects that seem to be three dimensional by using various shading techniques. Practice and expert guidance helps you gain mastery.

For more information and a complete class schedule, call Fleta at (828) 776-2716 or email fleta@fletamonghan.com.



Corgi Tales by Phil Hawkins



Callie & Cats



a Sunday potluck/gathering/
informal discussion. 61 Dunwell
Avenue, (West) Asheville. For
info, (828) 505-0476.

Wednesday, September 19,
6:30pm-8:30pm

The Traveling Bonfires and
Third World Asheville present
"Four Generations of Women
in India," a talk by Eira Patnaik,
an all-women poetry reading.
Emcee, Marta Osborne.
Malaprop's Bookshop/Cafe,

55 Haywood St., downtown
Asheville. FREE. For info, (828)
254-6734 or (828) 505-0476.

Saturday, September 22,
6:30pm-8:30pm

The Traveling Bonfires presents

New class with Ruth Goldsborough: Introduction to Plein Air Drawing and Painting

Orientation: Friday September 7th 10:00-11:00 am. Classes next
four Fridays: September 14, 21, 28 and October 5th, 9 am-noon
and 1:00-4:00. Bring sack lunch. Cost: \$125

This is an incredible opportunity to receive instruction from a
nationally known painter! The class will go outside to draw in the
morning learning composition and value.

Afternoons in the studio students will learn how to paint from
their own drawings, focusing on color, combinations, value, and
composition. Students will learn how to paint trees, bushes, rocks,
and foregrounds. Contact The Conn-Artist Studios at 443 N.
Main in Hendersonville. Supply list and information: www.Conn-Artist.com or call (828) 329-2918.

An Evening of Poetry and Music,
performers TBA. Osondu
Booksellers, 184 N. Main St.,
Waynesville, NC. FREE. For info,
(828) 456-8062 or (828) 505-0476.

Every Thursday, 7:30pm-
10:00pm (sign up, 7:00pm)

The Traveling Bonfires' Open
Mic with Emcee, Kapila. The
Dripolator Coffeehouse, 144
Biltmore Avenue, downtown
Asheville. For info, (828) 252-
0021.

Southeast Asia, particularly the
Philippines countrysides. For
info, pasckie@yahoo.com or call
Marta Osborne at (828) 505-
0476.

For additional info call (828)
505-0476, or visit www.indieasheville.com or <http://indiebonfires.blogspot.com>



**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

CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS

NOTE WORTHY



Cinema Legend John Waters to Speak at UNC Asheville September 19

John Waters, the man who perfected cinematic camp, will discuss his work and wild approach to creativity at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, at UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium. The filmmaking legend launches UNC Asheville's 2007-08 Distinguished Speakers Series.

A native of Baltimore, Waters made his first film "Hag in a Black Leather Jacket" at age 18. Though it was shown only once in a beatnik coffee house, it launched his career. Waters has gone on to make 15 more films, including such cult classics as "Pink Flamingos," "Hairspray" and "Cecil B. DeMented." Waters helped solidify the career of his childhood best friend, drag queen Divine, as well as

Johnny Depp, who starred in his 1990 film "Cry Baby."

In addition to filmmaking, Waters has acted in a number of movies, including his own, and has appeared on popular television shows, such as "The Simpsons," "My Name is Earl" and "Frasier." He has a regular role as the Groom Reaper on "Til Death Do Us Part."

General admission tickets are \$30. Because of the high demand of tickets for this event, all patrons are limited to purchasing just two tickets. Tickets go on sale September 10. To reserve tickets by phone, call UNC Asheville's Highsmith University Union Box Office at (828) 232-5000. For information about purchasing group tickets, call (828) 251-6991. If the event is not sold out, local students will be able to purchase \$10 tickets with school ID cards at the door the night of the talk.

Prior to his talk, UNC Asheville will host a John Waters Film Festival. Four of Waters' best-loved films will be shown at 8 p.m. in UNC Asheville's Humanities

Waters' films screen September 12-18

Lecture Hall. Discussions will follow.

The next event in the Speakers' Series is an evening with acclaimed sustainable-design architect Michael Singer on October 24.

If you go

Admission is \$5 cash or check at the door. Films in the series include: "Polyester" on Wednesday, September 12; "Hairspray" on Thursday, September 13; "Cry Baby" on Monday, September 17; and "Serial Mom" on Tuesday, September 18.

For more information, call (828) 251-6991 or click on www.unca.edu/culturalarts

Asheville Community Theatre Announces American Sign Language Performances

Asheville Community Theatre is proud to announce 6 American Sign Language (ASL) performances for the 2007-08 season. The ASL interpreted performances will be the first ongoing signed theatre performances in the Asheville area and are funded in part by the Asheville Arts Council through their Grassroots Grant program.

The Grassroots Grant awarded Asheville Community Theatre (ACT) \$2000 to support artist stipends for two sign language interpreters for all six 2007-08 Mainstage season productions. The Grassroots Grant, which is represented by the Asheville Area Arts Council, is committed to enhance community focused arts projects and programming throughout North Carolina.

This innovative program, which is the first of its kind in the Asheville Arts community, will begin with ACT's production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The grant will provide ongoing ASL accommodations for future productions. "ACT is committed to providing accessibility in all forms," said Cate Foltin, Managing Director. "This grant will allow ACT to move forward in providing the best in theater for our diverse Western North Carolina audiences."

ASL interpreted performances will be held on the first Sunday matinee performance of each Mainstage production throughout the 2007-08 season. Tickets are available online, by phone, or in person at the Asheville Community Theatre Box Office. Patrons are encouraged to purchase a season subscription in order to save up to 20% over single ticket prices.

UPCOMING ASL PERFORMANCES

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Sunday, September 16 at 2:30 pm

Southern Hospitality

Sunday, November 18 at 2:30 pm

Wait Until Dark

Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 2:30 pm

Schoolhouse Rock Live!

Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2:30 pm

The Philadelphia Story

Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 2:30 pm

I Hate Hamlet

Sunday, July 6, 2008 at 2:30 pm

For more information about ASL performances, please contact Cate Foltin, Managing Director at (828) 254-2939 or by email at cate@ashevilletheatre.org. 35 E. Walnut St. Asheville, NC 28801 Ph (828) 254-1320 Fax (828) 252-4723 www.ashevilletheatre.org

2007 Haywood Open Studios Tour and Open Studios Exhibit

Haywood County artists open their working studios to the public. Visit with the artist in his/her working environment and see the creative process first hand.

See artist's work at the Haywood County Arts Council's Gallery 86 at 86 North Main Street in Downtown Waynesville.

The second annual Haywood Open Studios Tour is Saturday, October 6, 10-5 p.m. and Sunday, October 7, 12-5 p.m. The first tour in October of 2006 was an unqualified success and this year's selection of artists will once again open the doors of their studios and welcome the public to explore the creative process.

The tour is a unique opportunity to take a peek into the work environments of producing crafts people and artists. How exactly did that artist achieve such a realistic landscape or capture that particular quality of light?

How nice to see what a handloom

looks like, which tools the woodworker needed to shape the legs for that table, how the potter formed that odd-shaped pot, or get an inkling of what a silversmith has to do to turn a flat sheet of silver into a pendant or brooch.

The tour has been organized into three Loop Tours: the Eastern Loop includes Clyde, Canton and Cruso; the Downtown and Western Loop takes you from Downtown Waynesville out to the Balsam area; the Northern Loop encompasses Maggie Valley, Jonathan Valley, Iron Duff and Lake Junaluska.

If you go

Open Studios Exhibit is September 19-October 22, 2007. Artists' reception, Friday, September 22 from 6-9 p.m.

Art After Dark reception, October 5 from 6-9 p.m.

Tour is free and open to the public. Pick up maps at Gallery 86, Haywood County Public Libraries, Visitor Centers, Chambers of Commerce, and online at www.haywoodarts.org.

Gallery 86 of the Haywood County Arts Council, 86 North Main Street, Waynesville, NC, 28786. Call (828) 452-0593 for further information.





MOVIES ARE THE COOLEST

September Movies with MARCIANNE MILLER

For the latest reviews, theater info and movie show times, visit www.rapidrivermagazine.com



Brainwashed assassin Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) searches for clues to his identity in the flawless action film, *The Bourne Ultimatum*.

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

Whether you want to laugh or cry, sit on the edge of your seat, get lovey-dovey, or cringe in embarrassment, you'll find local screens are full of end-of-summer films to match your moods. Critic Marianne Miller rates the newest films.



Anne Hathaway stars as English novelist Jane Austen in the lovely romance, *Becoming Jane*.

Becoming Jane ★★★★★1/2

Short take: So elegant, it makes you mourn the passing of carriages and curtsies.

Feeling closely linked to my Irish roots, I wasn't an enthusiastic fan of Jane Austen — while she was writing her ironic Regency Era novels, her stiff upper-lipped countrymen were starving and stringing up my ancestors. *Becoming Jane* is such a lovely movie, however, and its portrayal of Austen the writer so compelling, that even I have become eager to dust off a few relics from my English Lit class. Through the nostalgic lens of *Kinky Boots* vets director Julian Jarrold and cinematographer Eigil Bryld, the English countryside, even with all its mud-mired grunge, takes on an ethereal, timeless elegant aura. Hampshire is a

world where the middle and upper class denizens spar with their wits, where a gesture speaks volumes, and no matter how cutting the words they've just spoken, men and women part with a bow and a curtsy. Compared to the vulgar worlds of other summer romances (See *Knocked Up* and *Superbad* reviews, for example), the world of *Becoming Jane* is so polite you long for the chance to fall in love before you fall in bed.

Anne Hathaway (yes, the American ingénue of *Princess Diaries* and *The Devil Wears Prada* fame) turns in a nuanced and captivating performance as Jane, one of two daughters of an impoverished Anglican priest. "Nothing destroys spirit like poverty," her worried father warns her, urging her to accept a marriage proposal offered by the nephew of a wealthy widow. Jane refuses to marry without love, however, even though she might be headed for a fate worse than death — being an old maid. The movie imagines that Jane did fall in love once, with a brash Irish lawyer Tom Lefroy (Scott charmer James McAvoy, who played the faun in *Chronicles of Narnia*). Their romance is doomed by the specter of poverty — Jane leaves him so he can marry well in Ireland and help support his nine brothers and sisters there, but, so the movie posits, the longing Tom awakened in Jane remained the creative spark for the rest of her life. Like romance writer Ann Radcliffe whom she meets in London, Jane hopes the time has come when a woman of talent can "have her imagination buy her independence." Jane Austen never married and died at age 41, leaving behind six of the most highly praised novels in the English language. Her hard-won success inspired generations of women writers who followed, even some descended from Irish potato farmers.

Rated PG for brief nudity and mild language.

The Bourne Ultimatum

★★★★★

Short take: Violence with remorse — a rare action movie for mature adults.

It's the best movie so far this year. Masterfully crafted in every way — script, directing, cinematography and brilliant performances from all, especially Matt Damon as the trained assassin Jason Bourne who is seeking his memories and the identities of the men he has killed. That's what sets this adventure apart from others — the violence is non-stop, inherent in the nature of the story itself, about a man who became a killing machine, but the killing in *The Bourne Ultimatum* differs from most other action movies. It's not nameless and faceless. Humanity, even depraved humanity, has not completely been exterminated in the world of these movies. Victims have identities and killers, even brainwashed ones like Jason Bourne, have seen so much blood spilled, that as they mature, they take pause before they pull the trigger. The result is a film that never stops thinking even though it also never stops pumping the adrenaline. Definitely see it on the big screen.

Rated PG-13 for violence and intense sequences of action. recognition of who he's killing and remorse.

Knocked Up ★★★★★1/2

Short take: A modern fairy tale about nice people trying to do the right thing.

It's the sleeper hit of the summer, with almost unanimous praise for being the funniest movie of the year. That it is. Even I, who have learned to be quite dubious of the opinions of other critics, fell under the spell of its relentless good nature.

But let's not get too carried away. *Knocked Up* is not an accurate look at the American mating game. It's a male fantasy. In this fantasy Allison, a luscious entertainment TV reporter (the gorgeous Katherine Heigl) gets drunk one night to celebrate her promotion and takes home a guy she picked up in a singles bar. This is Ben Stone, an unemployed, overweight slaggart (played by Seth Rogen who wrote *Superbad*, remember that, and see the review below) whose main occupation in life is getting stoned and being gross with his porno-obsessed pals. Sober, Allison

never would have given Ben a second glance.

Eight weeks later — uh oh — Allison is vomiting on the set — and then, horrors — she discovers she's pregnant. Instead of rushing out and getting an abortion, like her mother urges her to do, and like any real unmarried Hollywood climber would do, Allison does the good thing and decides to have the baby. Even more astonishing, Allison tells Ben the truth — allowing him the chance to act his age and do the noble thing by sticking with her during the pregnancy. But the path of babyhood never runs smooth, especially when the couple is totally mismatched — and that's where the humor — and the fantasies come in. No one acts realistically in this movie — they all act nobly and nice — even



Allison (Katherine Heigl) and Ben (Seth Rogen) get pregnant and then try to get to know one another in *Knocked Up*.

when they're having temper tantrums. And that's *Knocked Up*'s charm — it's laughing with nice people, not at them. See it with someone you'd like to like better and don't worry — eventually the pig-out gross language peters out.

Rated R for sexual content, drug use and language.

'Movies' continued on pg 32

FILM REVIEWS

'Movies' continued from pg 31



Aishwarya Rai and Colin Firth show off their warrior finery in the historical fantasy, *The Last Legion*.

The Last Legion 1/2

Short take: The Roman Empire is collapsing but the last legion of Roman soldiers in Britannia helps create the legend of King Arthur.

Aw, the critics have already killed this movie, so you better hurry to see it. I loved it and the fact that it was directed by a first-timer, American Doug Lefler, is astonishing. Utterly glorious sets and scenery, plenty of magic, a few megaliths, mesmerizing photography, heart-stopping battle scenes, hordes of nasty barbarians, brave Roman legionnaires from all points of the empire, a powerful wizard, a fetching mesh-masked dancing warrior, a courageous young orphan emperor — and even — surprise of all surprises, some humor — all combine to make *The Last Legion* a unique and thoroughly engrossing historical fantasy. The costuming deserves special note — it's breathtakingly fantastic, created by Italian genius Paolo Scalabrino — and for a change, the photography is bright enough to actually allow you to see the wardrobe artistry. (My beef with *Harry Potter* films is they move too fast and are too dark to really appreciate all the work that goes into their costuming and sets.) Colin Firth (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) is completely awesome in his leather legionnaire outfit and I would die to try on Indian beauty Aishwarya Rai's kick-butt Constantinople warrior getup. Especially memorable is Ben Kingsley's luminous sea-foam Merlin garb that seems to have been created from starlight. Don't miss this one on the big screen.

Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense action violence.

Rescue Dawn 1/2

Short Take: Brilliant acting and a gripping story based on true incidents — escape from a POW camp in Laos during the Vietnam War — make for a haunting adventure. Not for the faint of heart.

For me, the mark of a good movie

is how long afterwards I think about it. I saw *Rescue Dawn* two weeks ago and not a day has gone by that I don't replay some of the scenes in my head — a definite marker that the movie touched me on many levels. Dieter Dengler is a German citizen who wanted to fly so much he joined the U.S. Navy. He's played by Welsh actor Christian Bale (*Batman Begins*), who trimmed down 40 pounds for the role. On his first mission, a secret sortie over Laos, Dieter is shot down. He's captured, tortured, offered release but refuses to sign a false confession that condemns the U.S. which he loves, and then ends up being held in a terrifying prison camp with other POWs, who are either American military or Asian employees of Air America flights.

Eventually Dieter concocts a take-over of the camp and escapes with his pal, Air Force pilot Duane (Steve Zahn, *Sahara*), who has already endured almost two years in the camp. Through the jungles of Laos in the rainy season, the two men, shoeless, try to reach safety, and the journey is so horrendous that Dieter's eventual rescue is a bittersweet triumph. Director Werner Herzog is famous for putting his actors through



Rescue Dawn director Werner Herzog makes sure his actors (Steve Zahn and Christian Bale) truly suffer during the filming of the movie in Thailand.

hell to portray hellish stories, and *Rescue Dawn* is no exception. After this movie you'll never see the abbreviation POW without shuddering and I now look askance at my potted plants, knowing how their big brothers can form barriers as unbroachable as iron bars.

All the actors, especially Bale and Zahn, give unforgettable performances, made all the more impressive considering the sweltering, bug-infested conditions they worked in. The rescue is so long in coming, the twists of fate are so cruel, the value of life itself is so ephemeral in such a war, that you find yourself being grateful that you can leave the darkened theatre for the relative wonderfulness of an asphalt-covered parking lot. You can't exit a movie like this without looking long and hard at yourself afterwards. You wonder, do I value life enough to struggle

that hard, keep hope alive that long? Or would I take the easy way out and long for death or madness?

Since the movie, I keep thinking of Senator John McCain, whose campaign for presidency is now all but moribund. He survived 5-1/2 years in a North Vietnamese POW camp and thus knows only too well what can happen to people during war, and to what degree of evil human beings can sink to hurt one another. Certainly a man with such experience has opinions that don't come to him lightly. If nothing else, such a man should be listened to carefully before deciding not to agree with him.

Rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense war violence and torture.

Stardust 1/2

Short Take: Guys seem to love it. I didn't.

My husband and *Mountain Xpress* movie critic Ken Hanke are almost always on opposite opinions of movies. If Ken hates a movie, Lonnie likes it. If Ken loves it, Lonnie grumbles that I am indulging in spousal abuse if I make him see it. Yet they both loved this movie — and I fussed and fidgeted and whined — I couldn't wait for the darn thing to end.

Stardust is a fantasy (based on the novella by famous fantasy writer Neil Gaiman and artist collaborator Charlie Vess) about a magical reality just beyond a village wall. It's about how true love will find you even if it has to land on your head and knock you unconscious. And how, personified in the character of young swain Tristan (Charlie Fox, *Casanova*), a fellow doesn't have to take much initiative to be a hero. You just have to go for a walk and all kinds of wild and quirky people will come into your life — they make things happen so all you have to do is react. Kind of like Passive Heroism for the 21st Century 101-A. Arghghgh.

English Director Matthew Vaughn (*Layer Cake*) has given *Stardust* many positive elements. The scenery, from Iceland and all over the UK, is so gorgeous it's literally transcendent. The special effects are at times so astonishing I can't wait for the DVD to come out to replay certain scenes, especially the explosion of millions of shards of glass in a ghostly castle at the end. Mostly I'll enjoy some of the performances. With every role she plays, Michelle Pfeiffer (*Hairspray*) gets more exquisite — and more wickedly hilarious. In *Stardust* she has created a flirty blood-thirsty witch that will steal your heart — if she doesn't cut it out first. Robert De Niro (in his funniest turn since *Analyze That*) is Captain Shakespeare, the commander of a flying pirate ship, who keeps secrets, so he thinks, hanging in the closet. Marvelous old actors like Peter O'Toole



Claire Danes and Charlie Cox search for cosmic love in the summer's quirky fantasy, *Stardust*.

(the king) and David Kelly (the guard of the wall) make brief appearances and lots of fine actors show up in delightful secondary roles.

Now that my praise is over...there are two main things wrong with the movie. First, it's like a handful of pearls without a string to tie them together. Too much cleverness without a sense of unity. Fantasy filmmakers have to remember that you can have only so many elements where you suspend disbelief before the story turns into a mishmash.

What else is wrong? Go ahead and hate me — major miscasting. The romantic leads are the two most forgettable lovers in cinema history. There's the aforementioned Charlie Fox who was so bland I can't even remember enough about him to complain. And the object of his affections, eventually, is Yvaine, the star who has supposedly fallen from the sky and can stay on earth if she falls in love — that's Claire Danes. What a marvelous actress she can be — she stole *Shopgirl* from veteran scene stealer himself, Steve Martin. But lately (*Evening*, for example) Claire can not seem to get a decent haircut or costume designer to save her life. In *Stardust* she looks like a thrift shop blonde. As if that isn't bad enough, she insists on scrumping up her forehead into multitudinous wrinkles, so any close-up of her is so unattractive you want to throttle her.

"Doesn't Claire Danes' wrinkly forehead drive you nuts?" I asked my husband in exasperation. "Don't you think she is a total turn-off?"

"No, he said. 'I think she's beautiful.'"

It's a guy thing.

Rated PG-13 for some fantasy violence and risqué humor.

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.

Marcianne Miller is an Asheville-based writer and movie critic. Contact her at marci@aquamystique.com

FILM REVIEWS

'Movies' continued from pg 32

Superbad 1/2

Short Take: Thoughtful moments on male friendship are overpowered by repulsive teen drinking culture.

The only thing I remember from freshman year in high school was the mantra of my philosophy teacher. "Right is right when no one is right and wrong is wrong when everyone is wrong." Just because 99% of movie critics are raving about this movie doesn't mean I shouldn't tell you I hated it. Teenagers are going to see this movie no matter what I say. Which means parents should see it. Yes, I am advising people to spend money on a movie I hate. Call me crazy. Call me concerned. Since teenagers would rather die than do anything as uncool as go to a movie with their parents — that



The only reason to see Superbad is to catch the debut of adorable nerd Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

means parents will have to wait until it comes on out DVD. Then insist on watching it together (that'll be an experience) and have a heart-to-heart afterwards.

I don't hate this movie because of its tiresomely incessant foul language (I have three brothers and married a Marine). It's not the premise that a dorky guy can somehow get a cool girl to like him (I can allow dorky male script writers to have their fantasies and this was written by the slobby romantic lead in *Knocked Up*). It's not because teenage girls are too willing to forgive teenage boys for being jerks (I was a stupid teenage girl once.) No, it's not that.

What I hate about this movie is the message that getting drunk is so pervasive in high school and college that it's okay if you do it, too. Getting drunk, so the "Let's Party" rule goes, allows girls to feel inhibited enough to have sex with anyone and everyone and not feel guilty. And getting a girl drunk is an okay thing for boys to do because, hey, it's what all the other guys are doing and what the girls won't know won't hurt them — they're just girls. Besides, the most important thing in life for a nerdy guy is to get another notch on his — er — belt, right?

Wrong! Never once in this movie is there even the passing

mention of the real-life possibilities that can result from the drunkenness culture — no word about venereal disease, unwanted pregnancy, living in a wheelchair for the rest of your life — or dying and leaving your family in grief for the rest of their lives.

After a beginning that was right-on authentically awkward (the only thing funnier than horny teenage girls is horny teenage boys), the story descended into a farcical adventure of three hapless underage high school seniors on the search for booze for a party so they can *finally* have sex before they graduate and go their separate ways. There was so much mindless, irresponsible drinking that at some point in the middle of one of the many barf scenes, I stopped being amused. I was literally nauseated by the time this movie ended. Were there a few laughs in this so-called comedy? Yes, there are some clever moments. Even more important, there are a few tender ones. So what? A few diamonds in a manure pile does not make a pretty picture.

The reason I didn't rate the movie with a total bomb is the presence of one young actor named Christopher Mintz-Plasse who played the most earnest, most charming, most lovable movie nerd of all time. If you could just flash forward this movie to see only his scenes, I'd rate it with a full five stars.

Rated R for pervasive crude and sexual content, strong language, drinking, some drug use and a fantasy/comic violent image - all involving teens.

For the latest reviews, theater info and movie show times, visit www.rapidrivermagazine.com

Hendersonville Film Society: September 2007

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

This month HFS offers its 8th annual presentation of Classical Music in Movies, featuring some old favorites not seen for many years and a special edition of Amadeus, with footage not shown in theatres.

September 2: Unfaithfully Yours

An egotistical conductor believes his wife is having an affair. At a concert he visualizes how he will deal with her during the pieces of music that he performs. After the concert, things do not go as planned. It's a sophisticated comedy classic. With Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell, and Edgar Kennedy.

DIR: Preston Sturges.
1948 USA B&W 105 minutes.

September 9: The Music Teacher

Probably the most popular film in HFS history, this Belgian film about a retiring opera singer and his two pupils is back after a long absence. A beautiful work from start to finish with music by Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, Verdi and Bellini. With Jose van Dam, Phillipe Volter and Anne Roussel.

DIR: Gerard Corbiau.
1989 Belgium In French w/subtitles Color 94 minutes.

September 16: Amadeus

This multi-award winning film version of Peter Shaffer's play about the rivalry between Mozart and Antonio Salieri is presented here in the original director's cut, which contains over 20 minutes of footage

not seen in theatres. This 3-hour version of Amadeus is the way it was meant to be seen. With Tom Hulce and F. Murray Abraham.

DIR: Milos Forman.
1984 USA Color 180 minutes.

September 23: The Red Violin

A story of mystery and obsession unfolds when an appraiser discovers a rare violin at an auction house. As he uncovers the history of the instrument, it forces him to rethink his priorities and that leads to a surprising conclusion. A haunting and complex film. With Samuel L. Jackson.

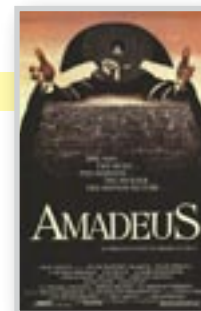
DIR: Francois Girard.
1998 Canada Several languages w/subtitles Color 132 minutes.

September 30: Carnegie Hall

This heartfelt tribute to New York City's bastion of classical music features rare concert footage of Jascha Heifitz, Artur Schnabel, Lilly Pons, Fritz Reiner, and many others. The plot concerns an Irish cleaning woman who works in the great building and her son who grows up there. With Marsha Hunt and William Prince.

DIR: Edgar G Ulmer.
1947 USA B&W 136 minutes.

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:

Bratz

Hollywood loves to stereotype teenagers. Too often we're depicted as lazy, moody, self-absorbed, and, of course, always hungry. As a teenager, I usually find these stereotypes funny or annoying, but after seeing Bratz, I can see clueless Hollywood filmmakers have added two more stereotypes: offensive and tedious. In fact, Bratz's version of the teenage world is so-o-o bad, it makes us ordinary lazy, moody, self-absorbed teenagers seem totally angelic!



Film fan and movie critic Sierra Bicking lives in Asheville

Bratz is SO-O-O- Bad

Bratz is a movie about four girls who start high school as "LykE, bEsT fRiEnDs 4eVaR!!!" (Hey, this was how they were portrayed in this film--flighty, shallow, and a little too perky...) Once they get to school, however, they fall into the clutches of Meredith, a power-hungry drama queen (Chelsea Staub), who decides to break up the four friends into different cliques. Of course the girls fall right into the clichés, er, I mean cliques, and eventually end up hating each other...the end, you'd

hope. Only not the end, for they miss each other and then team up against the big, shallow, mean girl until friendship conquers all!! Okay, now the end...

After seeing this film, which portrays teenagers as superficial, phony freaks, I was left wondering what kind of impression it was having on younger kids who will eventually become teenagers. Are they going to think that being a teen means being shallow and talking behind people's backs? I sure hope not. Parents, don't let your little kids see this movie!

Bratz is a bad, bad film, but it did get one thing right--its title fits perfectly.

Rated PG for thematic elements.

STAGE PREVIEW

Immediate Theatre Project's Production of 'Copenhagen'

BY WILLIE REPOLEY

Since their inaugural production of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* in 2004, Immediate Theatre Project (ITP) has carved a niche in local theatre by presenting spare, high-quality productions that re-discover the enormous power of classic American plays, including plays by Arthur Miller, Edward Albee, and last year's co-production with North Carolina Stage Company of *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. The Asheville Citizen-Times says that the results are, "nothing short of amazing, with skilled performances and superb storytelling" (Tony Kiss, reviewing Miller's *All My Sons*, 2006).

This September, ITP tackles another complex and compelling play that asks as many questions as it answers, and demands more of its audience than simply sitting back to be entertained. Michael Frayn's Tony Award winning *Copenhagen* (Best Broadway Play, 2000) supposes an implosive post-mortem confrontation between two of the 20th century's most eminent physicists: Niels Bohr, a conservative and careful Jewish Dane, and Werner Heisenberg, headstrong and opportunistic German.

Although once as close as father and son, the rise of the Nazi regime threw

their relationship into turmoil and sent Bohr and his wife into hiding. Their strained loyalties and shared passions meet head on in this historical fantasy when, after death, they are confronted with the opportunity to finally make sense of one of the great mysteries of their friendship.

"That the play is based on actual historic events is great, but what is really exciting to us is that the event of chief concern to the story is a complete mystery," says Hans Meyer, Artistic Director of Immediate Theatre Project. The event in question is an historical meeting of the two physicists in Copenhagen, in the midst of World War II, that was extraordinarily difficult to achieve, and was shrouded in such secrecy that neither man ever discussed the event in detail, to the lasting chagrin of historians and scientists alike.



Kay Galvin (Margrethe Bohr), Earl Leininger (Niels Bohr), and Lance Ball (Werner Heisenberg)

Copenhagen supposes one last chance for the physicists, along with Bohr's wife, to revisit the scene and finally try to make sense of its many possibilities and repercussions once and for all.

That the underlying subject matter — the creation, use, and mis-use of nuclear power — remains fodder for headline news to this day, is another factor in the play's appeal to immediate theatre project. "The sense of danger at never being completely sure who has what, in terms of weapons, was

heightened exponentially once we began talking in nuclear terms," points out ITP Managing Director Lauren Fortuna. "The current talk of threats from rogue states, from Iran and North Korea, concerns over the difficulties in getting reliable intelligence — Bohr and Heisenberg were in the thick of these same moral crises at the very beginning of the nuclear age, before Hiroshima, even. We think the play takes some very big, difficult issues and presents them with a very appealing and human face."

Local favorite Kay Galvin (Margrethe Bohr), who has played leading women in two previous ITP productions, will be joined onstage by veteran regional actor Earl Leininger as Niels Bohr and Lance Ball as Werner Heisenberg.

If you go

Copenhagen runs at the BeBe Theatre September 20-30, 2007, at 7:30 Thursday-Saturday, and 2:00 on Sundays.

Tickets are \$12-17, and are available at www.immediatetheatre.org, or by phone at (800) 595-4849. There will be one pay-what-you-can preview on September 19.

For more information, please visit www.immediatetheatre.org

Western Carolina University Raises the Curtain on Its 2007-08 Season

Western Carolina University is ready to raise the curtain on its 2007-08 theatre season as the University Players hit the stage with three full-length selections—"The Nerd," "Lucky Stiff" and "Guys and Dolls"—as well as a Festival of One Acts.

Opening the season is Larry Shue's "The Nerd," a side-splitting comedy about a Vietnam veteran named Willum Cubbert who wants to repay Rick Steadman, the man who saved his life. When the fellow ex-GI-turned-nerd shows up on Cubbert's doorstep for an extended stay, Cubbert is taken on the ride of his life and is left to bring order to Steadman's disasters. Directed by Stephen Michael Ayers, associate professor of theatre arts, "The Nerd" will stage September 26-30.

"Lucky Stiff," directed by Charlie Flynn McIver, artistic director of the N.C. Stage Company, is a musical based on Michael Butterworth's mystery "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte

Carlo." Timid shoe salesman Harry Witherspoon learns by telegram that he has inherited the fortune of his Uncle Tony, an Atlantic City casino manager, under one condition — Witherspoon must take his uncle's preserved body on vacation to Monte Carlo. With script and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephan Flaherty, "Lucky Stiff" will run November 8-11.

Set for February 21-24 is the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls,"

"The Nerd," "Lucky Stiff" and "Guys and Dolls"

directed by Broadway star Terrence Mann, the Carolyn Plemmons Phillips and Ben R. Phillips Distinguished Professor of Musical Theatre at Western. Set in New York in the 1940s, the

musical tells the story of Nathan Detroit, who makes a bet with his friend Sky Masterson that he can't make the next woman he sees fall in love with him. The amusement begins when Sarah Brown, the neighborhood missionary, is the first doll Masterson sees. "Guys and Dolls" is based on Damon Runyon's short story "The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown," and was created by authors Joe Swerling and Abe Burrows, and musician Frank Loesser.

The season will close with the Festival of One Acts, a collection of one-act plays performed by students. Directed by students from WCU's advanced directing class, the performances will range from classic to contemporary works, and will run April 9-13.

All shows will stage in Hoey Auditorium, with the exception of "Guys and Dolls," which will be in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. Evening performances and weekend matinees are available.

If you go

Season tickets are on sale now. Prices for season tickets are \$55 for adults, \$40 for senior citizens and Western faculty and staff, and \$20 for students.

Memberships also are available for the Patron Club, which provides additional financial support to the University Players and its activities. Memberships are available at the Actor (\$250), Director (\$500) and Producer (\$1,000) levels. All membership levels offer tickets to all productions, and much of the cost of membership is tax deductible.

For more information about season tickets or Patron Club memberships, contact the Fine and Performing Arts Center box office at (828) 227-2479 or visit wcutheatre.ticketsexchange.com

Tickets will be available for individual productions.

STAGE PREVIEW

Step Afrika! Kicks Off UNC Asheville's Cultural & Special Events Season



UNC Asheville's 2007-08 Cultural and Special Events season kicks off with a bang - make that a well-timed thump. The acclaimed dance troupe Step Afrika! will get the season started at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, in UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium.

Billed as the first professional company in the world dedicated to stepping, Step Afrika! brings high-energy moves to audiences around the world. Their repertoire ranges from stepping to tap to traditional African dances including Zulu and gumboot, while also incorporating clogging, hip-hop, house and freestyle dancing in their shows.

This Washington-based company has met with critical acclaim. A Washington Post review said, "The performers — equally adept at complex stepping, dancing, and most vital, acting — drove the crowd to whoops and hollers."

Other events in the 2007-2008 performing arts season include performances by the Regina Carter Quintet, Aquila Theatre Company, the Langston Hughes Project, Aviv String Quartet and modern dancers Eiko & Koma.

For more information about the Step Afrika! performance or UNC Asheville's Cultural and Special Events season, call (828) 251-6991 or click on www.unca.edu/culturalarts/.

If you go

General admission tickets are \$15 and go on sale August 27. To reserve tickets by phone, call UNC Asheville's Highsmith University Union Box Office at (828) 232-5000.

For information about purchasing group tickets, call (828) 251-6991.

Asheville Puppetry Alliance Presents 'The Emperor's New Clothes'

What's big and pink and loves to dress up in fancy clothes? Give up? It's the Emperor himself in Grey Seal Puppets' clever adaptation of The Emperor's New Clothes. Not only is this Emperor big and pink, he just happens to be a pig.

The Hans Christian Andersen story takes on a whole new dimension as this classic tale is transformed into a fable. The crafty tailors are foxes; the prime minister is a near-sighted camel; and the councilor is a befuddled old walrus. Even the audience takes part, as animals, of course.

Children will recognize the Emperor as a vain ruler who easily falls for the tailors' story of a magic cloth. Those who can see the cloth are smart and good at what they do. Those who can't see the cloth are not fit for their jobs and should be fired. It takes the honesty of a child to see what they really are.

Characters and costume designs were inspired by the illustrations of Janet Stevens in The Emperor's New Clothes published by Holiday House.

Founded in 1976, Grey Seal Puppets performs over 250 shows a year at theatres such as The Center For Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, The Detroit

Museum of Art and The Smithsonian Institution's Discovery Theatre. They have been awarded a Citation of Excellence from the US affiliate of

Union Internationale de la Marionette (UNIMA).

Asheville Puppetry Alliance is a non-profit arts organization which builds community, honors diversity through cultural exchange, and celebrates the interdependence of all life through sharing the ancient art of puppetry with children and adults in Western North Carolina. "The Emperor's New Clothes"

is the first in a series of three puppet shows for The Young Audience Series.



If you go

Asheville Puppetry Alliance presents Grey Seal Puppets performing The Emperor's New Clothes

Friday September 28 at 10:00 am & Sat. September 29, 2007 at 11:00 am

Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place www.dianaworthamtheatre.com

Tickets are \$8.00 for Adults / \$5.00 for Students & Seniors

For Reservations Call (828) 257-4530 www.ashevillepuppetry.org

'Alice' Star Linda Lavin to Perform at WCU on September 8

BY JESSICA CREGGER

Actress and singer Linda Lavin, a star of stage and screen with a Tony and two Golden Globe awards to her credit, will be performing at Western Carolina University at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 8, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Lavin, most widely known for starring as the title character in the 1976-1985 television series "Alice," also honed her performing skills in Broadway and off-Broadway plays, and through telefilms, sitcoms and other television appearances.

In addition to her Tony Award for best actress in "Broadway Bound" and two Golden Globe Awards for her performances in "Alice," Lavin won Drama Desk Awards for "Little Murders" and "Broadway Bound," a Theatre World Award for "Wet Paint," the best actress Obie and Lucille Lortel awards for "Death-Defying Acts," and the best actress Outer Critics and Saturday Review awards for "Little Murders."

More recently, Lavin performed in "Hollywood Arms" in 2002 and appeared on the television series "The O.C.,"



"Law and Order: Criminal Intent" and "The Sopranos." She has taught master's classes at New York University's performing arts department and created an arts school for girls in Wilmington called The Linda Lavin Foundation.

The Sept. 8 show, titled "Songs and Confessions of a One-Time Waitress," is a one-woman theatrical concert that reflects on Lavin's career and

personal life, including an audience question-and-answer period.

If you go

Season subscriptions for the 2007-2008 Galaxy of Stars: Something for Everyone Series are on sale now.

Individual tickets will go on sale Monday, Aug. 20, at \$25 for adults ages 18 and older, \$20 for senior citizens ages 60 or older, \$20 for WCU faculty and staff, \$15 for groups of 15 or more, and \$5 for students.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Fine and Performing Arts Center box office at (828) 227-2479.

September 2007

Events & Workshops

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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

September 8

OrganicFest * 10am - 6pm
"Celebrating Everything Organic"
Next to Grove Arcade in Downtown
Asheville (828) 253-2267
www.organicfest.org

September 12

Green Building Products & Materials
Workshop, part of Green Building
101; 1-5pm; YMCA Blue Ridge
Center, Black Mountain, NC.
Contact Rachel Della Valle
rachel@wncgbc.org
(828) 254-1995 * www.wncgbc.org

September 15

Active Solar Hydronic Space Heating
9am-4pm; Fred Stewart, Instructor:
Renewable Energy Initiative
(WNCREI), Appalachian State Univ.,
Boone, NC * wind@appstate.edu
(828) 262-7333
www.wind.appstate.edu

September 21

Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC
Block) 1 Day Workshop; 10am-5pm
at SafeCrete Ringgold, GA;
(706) 965-4587 * www.safecrete.com

September 22 - 23

Abundant Renewable Energy ARE110
Installation Workshop; Appalachian
State University's Wind Energy
Demo Facility, Beech Mountain, NC;
Contact: Brent Summerville;
wind@appstate.edu; (828) 262-2933
www.wind.appstate.edu

September 28 - 30

1st True Nature Country Fair,
Sustainable living celebration;
Deerfields in Mills River, NC,
20 miles south of Asheville;
(828) 342-1849
karen@organicgrowersschool.org
www.organicgrowersschool.org



Sustainable Living Resource for WNC • Vol. 2, No. 4 • September 2007

New WNC Sustainable Energy Council Gives Citizens Greater Voice

BY BYRON BELZAK - Photos ©2007 MediaBear

A new coalition of local and regional environmental and activist organizations kicked off its first meeting at the recent Southern Energy and Environment Expo (SEE EXPO) on Friday, August 24, 2007. The mission of the new group, known as the Sustainable Energy Council of Western North Carolina, is to give more power to citizens who desire more responsive and responsible government and energy policy-making, particularly at the local and state levels.

SEC-WNC members and panelists included well-known activists and involved citizens. Members of the Council said the new group is not a merger of various organizations, rather a task force to speak in a more unified voice about energy policy in the region. It invites more individuals and representatives of a variety of organizations to join the Council.

The Woodfin Power Plant Controversy

The group was formed partly because of an organized, but diverse, grassroots efforts that stopped Progress Energy's proposed Woodfin power plant. Earlier this year Progress Energy officials, politicians and bureaucrats, who back new fossil-fuel-burning plants in the face of global warming concerns, did not consult area citizens prior to announcing their

plan to build a new oil burning power plant in Buncombe County earlier this year.

Progress Energy and its supporters were roundly defeated by an effective and swift grassroots effort that opposed the proposed Woodfin, North Carolina, power plant. Some of those who were involved with halting Progress Energy Woodfin's plans are founding members of the new Council.

The new Sustainable Living Council of WNC advocates for more citizen representation in business decisions of the public utility that directly affects the health, finances, and quality of life of the entire community. The Council is not affiliated with a WNC Advisory Panel of well-known individuals that Progress Energy assembled in June 2007 after the Woodfin controversy.

The Progress Energy Panel

Progress Energy indicated that its own relatively newly formed WNC Advisory Panel will tackle energy

efficiency and conservation issues over a two-year period.

In late May, 2007, Progress Energy announced its appointed panel. It includes Terry Albrecht (Waste Reduction Partners); Edna Campos (Edna Campos & Associates); Robin Cape (Asheville City Council); Vernon Daugherty (A-B Tech); Patrick Fitzsimmons (American Red Cross); Lee Galloway (Waynesville town manager); David Gantt (Buncombe County Board of Commissioners); Harry Harrison (YMI Cultural Center); Dave Hollister (Sundance Power Systems); Karl Kuchta (Unimen); Jeff Loven (French Broad EMC); Rick Lutovsky (Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce); Margie Meares (Clean Air Community Trust); John Oswald (Mills Manufacturing); Chuck Pickering (Biltmore Estate); Michael Shore (Environmental Defense); Lavoy Spooner (AT&T), and Paul Szurek (Biltmore Farms).

What SEC-WNC's Founding Members Say

Mary Olson of Nuclear Information and Resource

'Sustainable Energy Council' continued on pg 37



Mary Olson,
Nuclear Information and
Resource Service



The Greener Home
"Greener is Better"

Vol. 2, No. 4

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THE GREENER HOME

'Sustainable Energy Council' continued from pg 36

Service (NIRS), one of the founding members of the new Council and an outspoken opponent of the Woodfin plant, opened SEC-WNC's press conference and first public meeting shortly before the official start of the 7th Annual SEE EXPO, which was held at the North Carolina Agricultural Center across from the Asheville Regional Airport.

Said Olson: "Our energy future does not depend on new power plants. Our energy future does not depend on fossil fuels. Our energy future does not depend on nuclear energy. Instead, our energy future is something that we can determine as a creative process of renewable energy combined with really smart use of energy; otherwise known as energy efficiency, and the distributed generation of power rather than the centralized generation of power."

Members of the newly formed SEC-WNC, who spoke at the council's first public meeting, intend to offer energy policy advice and recommendations to all levels of decision-making in Western North Carolina.

Some of the WNC Council members indicated that while the group intends to be cooperative, it would not accept the status quo from policy-makers who ignore health and economic issues that affect the entire community.

Avram Friedman of the Canary Coalition, a founding member of the Council, said, "What we are trying to do is involve every aspect of the community - the business community, the medical community, the academic

community, and people who have expertise in electrical and energy issues, and people who socially feel the effects of the way we currently produce energy. This is a unique group in that we have a unique focus on involving the community in the decision of how we meet future energy demands. ... We are sort of a think tank and ... are, in a sense, a political entity, because we are trying to involve the community and bring political pressure to bear on the [energy] decision-makers. [We want] to involve the community in these decisions."

Another founding SEC-WNC member, Dave Hollister of Sundance Power Systems, said: "There are conflicting messages that are coming out of Progress Energy." He said that while some within Progress are working

to include renewables, there are other employees who are "politically trying to gut legislation [that contains] a hard-hitting renewable energy portfolio."

Richard Fireman of the North Carolina Council of Churches and Interfaith Power and Light, said time is of the essence. Fireman, who is also editor of SustainableWNC.org, which is affiliated with the Mountain Area Information Network (M.A.I.N.), said, "There is an urgency, and a voice needs to be heard above



Dave Hollister,
Sundance Power Systems

the business-as-usual voice. To limit the [energy] decision-making powers to business and corporate America is foolish."

Fireman did not believe that market forces could work sufficiently fast to reverse the detrimental and growing effects of climate change. "We need citizens to assume their civic responsibility and become voices for a sane energy policy. We have about 10 years to accomplish

this. ... Hopefully, we can become a model for the rest of the nation."

Elaine Lite of Mountain Voices Alliance and an Asheville City Council candidate said: "Sustainability is the key, and we must address it much, much sooner than later."

Other founding members of SEC-WNC, who were not in attendance at the first public meeting, include: Don Baker of Wenoca Group of the Sierra Club; Ian Booth of Sustainable Now; Jody Flemming of Western North Carolina Alliance; Bryan Freeborn, Asheville City Council member and Top Floor Studio spokesperson for McNutt Service Group's newly announced solar installation services of Appalachian Energy systems; Mike Hopping of Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads; Sage Linden of SustainableAsheville.org; Scott Quaranda

of Dogwood Alliance; Leni Sitnick, former Mayor of Asheville, and Josh Tager of Electric Solutions, Inc.

It's All About Having A Voice

Ned Ryan Doyle, founder of SEE EXPO and a founding member of the new Council, was instrumental in spearheading opposition to Progress Energy's proposed Woodfin oil-fired power plant. In an exclusive interview with The Greener Home Sustainable Living Resource (www.thegreenerhome.com), Doyle explained the importance of the Council's mission.

"The Sustainable Energy Council of Western North Carolina is an opportunity for citizens to be pivotal in energy production, because it impacts our environment and economic structure," said Ned Doyle. "Until now there has effectively been no input from the people most affected by energy policy. It is time for everyone to have a voice at the table."

"It is time for us to work together to plan an energy future that makes sense - that not only provides a return to the stakeholder, but is good for the environment, the people, and the future. It is an opportunity for all of us to work together to make a difference ... and to get across the concept that energy, environment and economics are three sides to the same coin."

Non-member guest panelists, who were invited by the Council to speak given their expertise, included Hope Taylor-Guevara of Clean

Water for NC and Margie Meares of Clean Air Community Trust.

At the press conference, Taylor-Guevara said: "[We want to draw] public awareness to the acuteness of our centralized energy electrical generation model on water. Most folks have no



Ned Doyle, Southern Energy
and Environment Expo



Avram Friedman,
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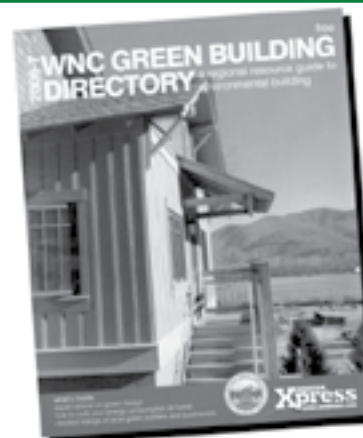


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THE GREENER HOME

Automotive Manufacturers Must 'Go Green' Faster, Says Deloitte

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Earlier this year at the 2007 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS), Deloitte Consulting LLP delivered a red flag to automobile companies that are asleep at the wheel. Deloitte stated that "companies are falling short in recognizing the impact of a critical business component for survival: 'going green'."

Deloitte, known worldwide for its audit, tax, consulting and financial advisory services, defines "going green" as those automotive manufacturers that "generate increased value through reduced impact on the environment ... [as well as]" ... draw the most customers, the best talent, and long-term health" even in the face of rapid global change and heighten competition.

Christopher Park, Principal, Deloitte Consulting, said, "Today there is clear and growing support for the idea that companies can transform themselves into environmentally and socially responsible

enterprises that deliver measurable benefits to their host communities, while still providing solid returns for their shareholders."

Deloitte Consulting also reported at the 2007 NAIAS Inforum Automotive Breakfast "sustainability is quickly becoming a crucial business strategy for manufacturers looking to adapt the green model. Driven by a convergence of factors - including increasing regulation, changing customer expectations, competitor advances, value chain partner requirements, brand equity protection and risk management - sustainability has begun driving improved value into leading companies."

"Going Green" is America's Growth Engine

Park said that companies must move in the direction of creating and maintaining a culture of "sustainable transformation" to remain competitive, adding, "companies that do not invest

now run the risk of being compromised or even eliminated."

According to Deloitte Consulting, a company that goes green can be defined as instituting a set of core principles whereby: (1) waste is reduced, eliminated or reused (2) net consumption of resources (capital, human or natural) for a specific product or service outcome is reduced (3) consumed resource is partially or completely replaced (4) the ratios of natural to man-made and organic to synthetic are increased and (5) the net global impact footprint (GIF) is



Progress Energy added a "plug-in" Toyota Prius to its fleet to evaluate its performance.

'Auto Manufacturers' continued on pg 39

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THE GREENER HOME

'Auto Manufacturers' continued from pg 38

reduced.

In short, Deloitte Consulting forwarded the increasingly mainstream idea "going green is America's growth engine for the 21st century" and those "automotive manufacturers who ignore 'green' will do so at their financial peril."

Progress Energy's Fleet Gets a Little Greener

In mid-July 2007, Progress Energy took advantage of the evolving automotive technology. It added one plug-in hybrid electric vehicle to its fleet for evaluation purposes. It intends to charge the vehicle during off-peak periods.

Progress improved upon the basic design and specially outfitted its car so it would get up to 100 miles per gallon. The plug-in Toyota Prius is similar to standard hybrid vehicles, but can run twice as long with lower emissions due to an enhanced battery pack. The automobile's batteries are re-charged by plugging the car into a standard electrical socket. Plug-in hybrid electric

vehicles get between 70-100 miles per gallon, double the fuel economy of many regular hybrid cars.

Progress Energy, headquartered in Raleigh, NC, said that it partnered with Raleigh-based Advanced Energy and Advanced Vehicle Research Center to convert its hybrid Prius into a plug-in vehicle. The vehicle will be charged at night when the demand for electricity is lower and it will be ready to run when the workday starts.

The same advanced technology is used in a new hybrid school bus sponsored by Progress Energy and Advanced Energy for the Wake County school system. Progress Energy has also added a new International hybrid bucket truck to its fleet and evaluation process.

In the coming months, employees will drive the plug-in Prius across Progress Energy's service area to shows and events to promote this new technology. The car recently appeared at the Southern Energy and Environment Expo (SEE EXPO). The car's performance will be closely evaluated to determine future plug-in opportunities and applications for the company's fleet.

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'Sustainable Energy Council' continued from pg 36

idea that our state's coal and nuclear plants withdraw over nine billion gallons of water a day." She said that energy companies do not do a good job of conservation programs, because "it is an intrinsic conflict of interest."

Margie Meares said: "I think this is a tremendously important effort." She said that American society needs to fully understand and incorporate the real cost of energy in terms of ecological costs [and] human costs, and doing so will allow citizens to find and insist upon the best energy solutions.

Several Council members said that the energy consumption must be radically reduced in the mountains and throughout the United States, as much as an 80 percent reduction within approximately 10 years.

The group's press release that announced its first meeting stated: "We all need a sustainable energy future - and an energy future that does not include new coal, other fossil fuels, or new nuclear power plants is not only desirable, it is possible. The SEC-WNC will help lead

the way to energy independence, energy security, energy prosperity, energy justice and a healthier region."

The Council's complete mission statement and call to action for citizens and interested organizations is posted on its new website at www.sec-wnc.org.

Cliffside Coal Plant Opposition

In an unrelated citizen call to action by area and state environmental grassroots organizations, a draft of a flyer called for citizens to "Help Stop Cliffside Coal Plant!" It encouraged people to attend an upcoming public hearing in Rutherford County on Tuesday, September 18, at 6 p.m. at Chase High School, 1603 Chase High School Road, Forest City, NC 28043.

If you go

For carpooling and additional information, contact: Clean Water for North Carolina (Asheville), info@cwfncc.org, (828) 251-1291, or Environment and Conservation Organization (Hendersonville), director@clean-air-coalition.org, (828) 692-0385.

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