

RAPID RIVER

Arts & Culture Magazine

November 2008 • Vol. 12 No. 3



David Todd, owner of
A Boy and His Dog Fine
Art gallery. PAGE 6



Keowee Chamber
Music presents two
"Elegy" concerts
featuring music, song,
poetry, and historical
presentation. PAGE 10



Chris Perryman,
craftsman and owner of
Domus Aurea. PAGE 13



Rare purple diamonds at
gallery blue in Biltmore
Village. PAGE 21

Stuffed with this Season's **HOTTEST** Performances

Asheville Choral Society, Bravo, HART,
NC Stage, SART, and more beginning on page 5





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ART TALK

Asheville's First Co-op Art Gallery Celebrates 20th Anniversary

BY PAM J. HECHT

When the Asheville Gallery of Art — the city's first co-op fine art gallery — opened its doors on downtown College Street twenty years ago, most of the stores nearby still had craft paper covering the windows, says artist Cathy Searle, one of the three original members of the gallery who still exhibit there.

"It was quiet and we were virtually alone, except for a wig shop and an architect," Searle says. "That was before the town started getting popular."

Gloria Affenit and Pauline Tennant are the other two original artists at the Gallery, working happily in a place where business has been increasing every year since the beginning, adds Searle.

The Gallery is home to 28 different artists from Western North Carolina, each with a six-foot wall space, featuring original oils, watercolors, acrylics, lithographs, mixed media and etchings. Artists are selected by a jury process — most stay for several years or more — and four are currently on the waiting list.

"We're inspired to paint more and keep our art growing."

Gallery members sign a contract, pay dues, and work at the gallery one day each month, which makes it "more personal," says Affenit. Artists staffing the gallery can talk with visitors, who enjoy the conversations about art, she says.

Every three months, the artists rotate to a new space, which keeps things fresh and inspires new work, says Bill Weldner, president of the Gallery's board of directors and one of the resident artists.

"It's great for visitors — you can come back every three months and it'll look different," he says. "And there's a real diversity in the work — a range of different styles, subject matter and techniques."

"We have a variety to compliment every style of architecture and décor," adds Searle.

Gallery visitors will also find a broad price range: small, original pieces up to 18" x 24", framed or matted, are \$25 and up. Reproductions, located in the back of



Robert Mahosky, one of the many local artists to show work at the gallery, is painting oil on clay board.

the gallery, cost \$25 to \$50 and originals range from \$125 to \$1800.

"Co-ops usually don't stay long — most have trouble with the mechanics," says Searle. "But we've always enjoyed working together and appreciate the venue to show our art."

"Making art can be a lonely occupation and it's fun to be part of a group and have reinforcement from other artists — We're inspired to paint more and keep our art growing."

IF YOU GO: *New Member Reception, Sunday, November 2 from 2 to 4 p.m.*

New Member Exhibit: Three new artists will be featured throughout the month of November at the front of the gallery: Hal Boyd (acrylics with bold, surreal figures), Cindy Walton (colorful oil abstracts and mixed media) and John Anderson (realistic watercolors.)

Asheville Gallery of Art

16 College Street, Asheville

(828) 251-5796

www.ashevillegallery-of-art.com

Tuesday – Saturday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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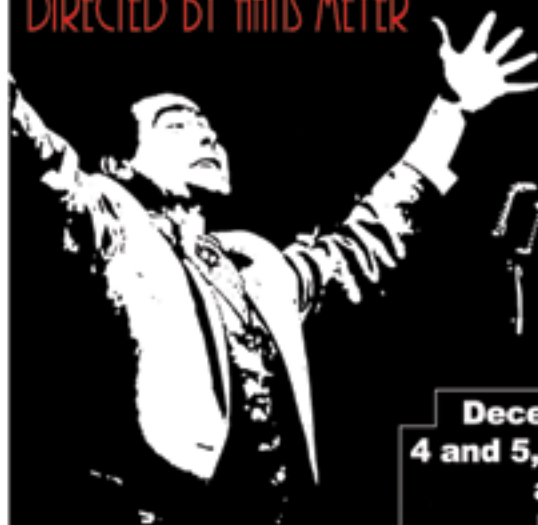
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Message from the Publisher



Dennis Ray, publisher, and son
Harrison Graham Ray.

Although for the past 50 or so years Western North Carolina has been known for its visual arts — mostly artists rather than galleries to be honest — the performing arts have always been the soul of the area.

Within the past decade the quality and quantity of performances which come here, or the ones which are locally produced, has dramatically increased.

Since about 2003 I've been saying that WNC is becoming more of the "Broadway of the South" than the "Paris of the South" or the "San Francisco of the East." These names are cute but quite broad, and while saying Asheville is like something, we never actually say what Asheville actually is.

Putting a label on any area is bad because it eventually characterizes a place, keeping it from freely evolving on its own. But for marketing sake I feel those in charge should focus more on the Broadway and performance characteristics of the area to attract visitors. A good tagline for Asheville (and I mean the entire WNC area) is "If it's performance you want, you'll find it in Asheville."

Asheville arguably has one of the best music scenes in the country and could easily be referred to as "Memphis 2.". For a city to be successful in the arts everything must be strong. Basically, New York has more than just Broadway, as Memphis has more than just music. Asheville has more than just the visual arts and will continue to grow.

To those who bring us the performing arts — those who sing, act, dance and create to make our lives better — I thank you. Trust me, I know that what you do is not easy. Of course, I also know that what you do is quite rewarding.

Looking forward to seeing you at the theatre,

~ DENNIS RAY, PUBLISHER RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE

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Cover illustrated by Dennis Ray

*Shown are Jester and Woman from the
2007 SART production "Incorruptible,"
Lenora Thom, Marvin Cole, and
members of the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.*

NOVEMBER 2008

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COVER STORY

Magnificent Christmas Concert Plus Drawing!

**Exclusive Drawing for a Pair of Tickets to the
Asheville Choral Society's March and May Concerts**

Always one of the top holiday concerts in Western North Carolina in December, the Asheville Choral Society's Christmas performance will trump that reputation this season with its "Magnificent Christmas" concert on December 13 and 14.

Rapid River readers who purchase one ticket for this concert will be eligible exclusively for a drawing of a pair of tickets to both the March (GAIA: A Celebration of the Earth) and May (Colors of My Life) concerts.

Music Director Lenora Thom has crafted an engaging program around four meaningful seasonal themes: Magnificence, Light, Joy and Mirth, and has selected music to fully exploit the poignancy of each sentiment.

Highlights include a set of Magnificats by major composers Mozart, Bach, Pachelbel, and Part. *The Seven Joys of Christmas* by American composer Kirke Mechem and holiday works by John Rutter and Sir William Walton bring this special concert to its finale: "A Musicological Journey through the 12 Days of Christmas."

Composer Craig Courtney takes the traditional holiday song and wittily turns it into a playful caricature of well-known musical styles and eras across the world. "Magnificent Christmas" will



Lenora Thom

Photo by Lynne Harty

be presented Saturday, December 13 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 4 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church, 27 Church Street in downtown Asheville. Asheville Savings Bank is sponsoring the Saturday evening performance; SunTrust Bank is the Sunday afternoon concert sponsor.

To receive the 10% discount on a pair of tickets, Rapid River readers must order online at the Asheville Choral Society's website

www.ashevillechoralsociety.org by clicking on the "Contact" button on the home page and completing the "send a note" form with your email address and contact information. The deadline for the discount is November 15, 2008.

IF YOU GO: The adult ticket price for the ACS holiday concert is \$25; for students, \$15. Tickets for groups of ten or more are \$20.

It's the perfect time for long-time fans and newcomers to the ACS to receive a subscription to all three concerts at a significant savings — 20% off the single concert ticket price. Student subscriptions will save even more. The season subscription for adults is \$60; for students, only \$35.

All tickets may be ordered at the ACS website www.ashevillechoralsociety.org or by calling (828) 232-2060.

Denyce Graves, Mezzo-Soprano

Presented by Asheville Bravo Concerts

Recognized worldwide as one of today's most exciting vocal stars Denyce Graves, will perform December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Thomas Wolfe

Auditorium.

Denyce Graves made her professional debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1995 and has appeared in many international opera houses. Though her repertoire is extensive, her signature parts are the title roles in *Carmen* and *Samson et Dalila*. She is sheer elegance, an operatic queen, who has the ability to vocalize a wide breadth of characters.

The presence of Ms. Graves has resonated with the world of performance, and has garnered popular praise from the world's great opera houses and concert halls. To these audiences, she is well-known for her portrayals of the title roles in *Carmen* and *Samson et Dalila*.



Denyce Graves

These signature roles have brought Ms. Graves to the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna Staatsoper, Opéra National de Paris, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, among others.

In addition to this performance, Bravo includes, one hour prior to the show, a complimentary educational lecture regarding the performance. These lectures will take place in the Banquet Hall of The Asheville Civic Center.

IF YOU GO: Tickets to all Bravo performances are on sale now at the Asheville Civic Center Box Office, through www.ticketmaster.com, or call (828) 251-5505.

Ticket prices range from \$30-\$65, with student half-price seating. For more information about Asheville Bravo Concerts call (828) 225-5887 and visit them on the web at www.ashevillebravoconcerts.org.

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NOW OPEN

A Boy and His Dog Fine Art

BY PAULA HUTCHENS BOLADO

There is a new gallery in downtown Asheville between Jack in the Woods and Tupelo Honey. If you haven't noticed their polka-dotted canine mascot, then you have unseeingly walked right past A Boy and His Dog Fine Art.

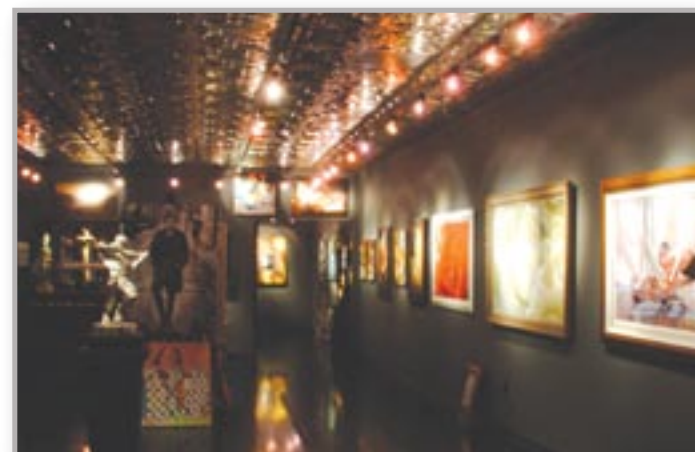
Inside this new gallery, Simon, a Dalmatian/Chow mix, is Asheville's newest celebrity. Both Simon and the gallery are owned by David Todd, a gallery owner for over 12 years with career roots starting in Key West, Florida. The look and feel of A Boy and His Dog Fine Art is reminiscent of Key West splendor; it is a colorful gallery located between restaurants and music lounges, yet in an artsy neighborhood with people strolling along and smiling at one another. As Simon rests his weight against David, it is clear that they are inseparable and great business partners.

Inside, the spot lighting affects each painting intensely by bringing out the depth of each painting, highlighting areas of interest, and achieving consistency in the overall spatial lighting of the gallery. Even the warm lights blend well with the cool colors of gray walls and black decor.



David Todd and Simon
with "Raindrops Keep Falling"
by Vangelis, original oil on
canvas, \$21,500.

to ankle); any artist trying to achieve the human form on paper will be impressed by the selection of paintings on display.



Vangelis Andriotakis's work is the most eye-catching. Andriotakis paints orchids with perfect magical detail. It is easy to believe he spent nine years as the apprentice to the great surrealist Salvador Dali. Vangelis has developed into one of the world's greatest hyper-realists. His floral paintings are renowned and he has achieved the status of official artist for the American Rose Society and the American Orchid Society. His paintings have graced the walls of Ritz Carlton and Macy's NY. In 2006, Vangelis was commissioned to paint a beautiful hybrid tea rose named for HH Princess Nobuko.



"Golden Sequin" by Alexander Sheversky
fine art print on canvas, \$3,925.

'A Boy & His Dog' continued on pg. 7

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PERFORMANCE

'A Boy & His Dog' continued from pg. 6

The painting "The Princess Nobuko Rose" was presented to The Princess Yohko of Mikasa, the 23 year old daughter of the beloved Princess Nobuko, Patron of the Japan Rose Society. Vangelis crated the 4' x 6' painting and was present when the ceremony took place in Osaka Japan. His tremendous talent for realist floral paintings is unrivaled.

Soon at A Boy and His Dog Fine Art, a new series of fashion-inspired paintings by Andriotakis will be on display. David is proud to represent this work to Asheville's patrons of the arts. David's hope is to attract the community to the gallery and is excited to be sharing the gallery stage with outstanding talents he sees in other local galleries.

Artists and buyers are welcome to participate in the showcase of paintings on display. Local artists are also encouraged to submit their portfolios for the upcoming year. Stop by and meet Simon, the dog, David Todd, owner, Gary Muzechuk, Gallery Director, and David Lee, Art Consultant.

IF YOU GO: Opening Reception Friday, November 14 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

For further information call A Boy and His Dog Fine Art at (828) 254-4051 and visit the gallery at 89 Patton Avenue, Asheville, NC.

Storytelling Goes Global Right Here in Asheville

Tellabration, a storytelling event at the Folk Art Center on Sunday, November 23 at 3 p.m. is just one of thousands of other storytelling programs to be held all over the world on the very same day.

From Asheville to New York to London to Japan and onto South Africa, the ancient, but still vibrantly alive, art of storytelling will be celebrated simultaneously.

"The purpose is not only to honor storytelling, but to demonstrate how universal it is," explains Jane Sims, past president and current publicist for the Asheville Storytelling Circle, which is sponsoring the program. "All people have stories and to hear a story from a different culture can build a powerful bridge linking people of diverse cultures together."

On a stage colorfully decorated for the season with bales of hay, bushels of apples, pumpkins and gourds, members of the Asheville audience can expect to laugh a lot and to cry a little, too, as tellers spin yarns from Appalachian folklore as well as from their own personal histories and family experiences.

Storytellers include Marvin Cole, who's been telling the stories of Mark

Twain for over 30 years in 20 states and aboard all the major riverboats of the Mississippi River. Born and raised in Candler, Cole retired from an illustrious career in higher education to return home and reside on his grandfather's farm.

Carrie Foreman is a children's librarian who has been writing and telling professionally since 1994. Although her roots were forged in the orange groves of central Florida, her passion for Southern Appalachia and its culture drew her to claim Brevard as her home.

Marilyn McMinn-McCredie, a member of the Asheville Storytelling Circle, grew up in Henderson County steeped in the traditions and folkways of Appalachia. She has been spellbinding audiences for over 30 years. A relative newcomer to storytelling, Pete Koschnick, also a puppeteer, is adept at outrageously tall tales that produce gales of laughter from his listeners.



BY ROSELYNN KATZ

Featured tellers include Marvin Cole, who's been telling the stories of Mark Twain for over thirty years. Born and raised in Candler, Cole retired from an illustrious career in higher education to return home and reside on his Grandfather's farm.

It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

IF YOU GO: Tellabration, Sunday, November 23 at 3 p.m., at the Folk Art Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Tickets are \$5 each, there are no reservations. Audience members are advised to come early to make sure of getting seats.

Tellabration is sponsored by the Asheville Storytelling Circle, the Southern Highlands Craft Guild and the National Storytelling Network.

10th Annual Fall Storytelling Festival

Tales will be told and laughter ring through the rafters as renowned storytellers gather Saturday, November 15, at the main Transylvania County Library in Brevard, NC for the 10th annual NCSG Fall Storytelling Festival. All events are free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Storytelling Guild and Transylvania County Library Friends of the Library, the festival features tellers from across the state including North Carolina's internationally renowned storytelling son, Donald Davis, who shares the stage with four NCSG professional regional tellers during afternoon and evening concerts.

Special Guest Storyteller Donald Davis was born in a southern Appalachian mountain world rich in stories. "I didn't learn stories, I just absorbed them," he says as he recounts tales and more tales learned from a family of traditional storytellers who have lived on the same Western North Carolina land since 1781. For Davis, storytelling is a way of giving and living life. He says storytelling "...is not what I do for a living... it is how I do

all that I do while I'm living." Davis is undoubtedly one of the best loved storytellers practicing his craft today.

In addition to Davis, the festival features four professional storytellers from the North Carolina Storytelling Guild sharing classic folktales, legends, literary tales, as well as original stories during afternoon and evening activities. Regional tellers from the Carolinas include: Michael "Badhair" Williams, Zirconia, NC; Ron Jones, Durham; Jane Hauser, Chapel Hill, and Tim Lowry, Charleston, SC.

The day-long event kicks off at 10 a.m. with Stories and Puppetry for Young Children, followed by a 90-minute Storytelling Workshop with Donald Davis, "Recovering Forgotten Childhood." Then beginning at 12:30 p.m., Transylvania County school children will share stories during the Youth Storytelling Showcase.

Story lovers will settle in for an afternoon of tales at 1 p.m. with the all-new Pre-Concert Showcase, as they listen to stories by Sylvia Payne, a Newton, NC storyteller, Cynthia Moore Brown from Summerfield, and Asheville area tellers

Stephen Boyer and Mica White.

The Family Storytelling Concert, emceed by Terry Rollins, starts at 2 p.m., and features Donald Davis and the Regional Tellers.

A traditional highlight of the Festival is always the Evening Concert for Youth and Adults at 6:30 p.m., also headlined by Davis and the NCSG Regional Tellers. Bath, NC resident, Terry Rollins, emcees the afternoon and evening concerts.

The North Carolina Storytelling Guild is a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and affirming the value of storytelling and the importance of story listening. For over ten years NCSG has worked to support and promote NC storytellers. The organization is made up of amateur and professional storytellers as well as storytelling enthusiasts.

In addition to the annual fall storytelling festival, each year NCSG also sponsors two storytelling workshops for beginning and experienced tellers. The Journal of Tar Heel Tellers- NCSG's quarterly publication- is a recognized as one of the best storytelling journals in the country.

IF YOU GO: Saturday, November 15, Transylvania County Library, 212 S. Gaston Street, in Brevard, NC. FREE and open to the public. Sponsored by the North Carolina Storytelling Guild and Transylvania County Library Friends of the Library.

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.
Stories for Young Children

10:30 a.m. – Noon
Donald Davis: Storytelling Workshop.

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.
Youth Storytelling Showcase.

1:00 – 1:45 p.m.
Pre-Concert Showcase of NCSG Tellers.

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Family Storytelling Concert, featuring NCSG regional storytellers and special guest Donald Davis.

6:30 – 9:15 p.m.
Storytelling Concert for Youth and Adults, featuring Donald Davis and NCSG regional storytellers.

More information about the North Carolina Storytelling Guild, its programs, and membership are available by visiting www.ncstoryguild.org.

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

STAGE PREVIEW

The Energetic and Sophisticated Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

BY JOHN ELLIS

The internationally touring dance company Aspen Santa Fe Ballet performs at 8 p.m. November 11-12 at the Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place, kicking-off the theatre's Mainstage Dance Series for the 2008/2009 season.

Renowned as an eclectic, innovative dance company with a solid foundation in classical ballet, Aspen

was created for Aspen Santa Fe Ballet as a commissioned piece.

Pendleton, artistic director of MO-MIX, took this piece and created the full length work *Lunar Sea*, which was performed at Diana Wortham Theatre February, 2008.



Photo by Lois Greenfield

Santa Fe Ballet has made a lasting impression with its versatile, energetic dancers performing a sophisticated repertoire of works by some of the world's foremost choreographers such as Twyla Tharp and Moses Pendleton.

Based dually in Aspen, Colorado and Santa Fe, New Mexico, the company performs throughout the United States and abroad earning glowing reviews and enthusiastic audience response. *The Boston Herald* predicts, "If there's a classically trained company of the future, it's Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet comes to Asheville following performances at the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, and The Kennedy Center. For its November 11 and 12 performances the dance company presents three works.

The first, *Sweet Fields*, by choreographer Twyla Tharp, is set to a group of deeply moving 18th-century hymns by William Billings and others. The second work, *1st Flash*, by the edgy and contemporary Jorma Elo, uses dynamic lines of bodies moving elegantly in unison and canon.

Elo, a world-renowned Finnish choreographer, sets this work to music by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. The final work, *Noir Blanc*, will ring familiar with Asheville audiences. Choreographed by the famed Moses Pendleton, *Noir Blanc*

"If there's a classically trained company of the future, it's Aspen Santa Fe Ballet."

~ THE BOSTON HERALD

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Founder and Artistic Director Bebe Schweppe grew up dancing in Augusta, Georgia until the age of 11 when she was invited by Robert Joffrey to study at his prestigious New York academy on a full scholarship. Schweppe moved to Aspen in 1975 and fifteen years later founded the Aspen Ballet School. Her presence was a catalyst in the region's arts scene. In 1996, she invited Jean-Philippe Malaty and Tom Mossbrucker to develop a professional dance company in Aspen.

Through their combined energies the Aspen Ballet Company was born. Shortly after, new performing opportunities beckoned in Santa Fe, upon which the company was renamed Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.

Pre-Performance Discussions:

To enhance patrons' understanding

'Ballet' continued on pg. 9

STAGE PREVIEW

Family-Friendly Musical

Free To Be... You and Me

North Carolina Stage Company and TheatreUNCA present a co-production of *Free To Be... You and Me*, a stage musical based on the beloved children's album and TV special.

Free To Be... You and Me runs November 12 – 23 at the Carol Belk Theatre on the campus of UNC Asheville. The production features a mix of professional actors and students, and is directed by Patricia Snoyer-Black.

Free to Be... You and Me is adapted for the stage by Douglas Love and Regina Safran, from the book of the same name, which was conceived by Marlo Thomas. The musical features some of the classic songs from the album and TV special, including "It's All Right To Cry," "Parents Are People," and "Glad To Have a Friend Like You." It also includes skits like "Atlanta" and "Ladies First" originally made famous by Marlo Thomas, Mel Brooks, Carol Channing and more.

Director Patricia Snoyer-Black was on faculty at UNC Asheville for many years, where she directed student productions and taught in the theater department. She is currently the Director of Artist Residencies for Childsplay, a



BY AMANDA LESLIE

professional theatre for young audiences in Tempe, Arizona. She has directed dozens of plays for TheatreUNCA.

Free To Be... You and Me features a cast of six. Three professional actors lead the cast: Stephanie Hickling, Willie Repoley, and Trinity Smith. They are joined by four undergraduate

students from UNC Asheville: Caitlin Byrd, John Coggin, Carly Crawford, and Chip Davis.

TheatreUNCA is the drama department of UNC Asheville, and has had a close working relationship with NC Stage since its inception. This collaboration between a professional theatre and an educational institution allows students to gain professional experience.

IF YOU GO: *Free To Be... You And Me* runs November 12 - 23. Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays & Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays & Sundays at 2 p.m. All tickets are \$10. Call Theatre UNCA at (828) 232-2291 for tickets. Group discounts for school groups are available. Contact Angie Flynn-McIver at (828) 239-0263 ext. 14.

'ballet' continued from pg. 8

and enjoyment of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's Asheville performances, pre-show discussions are held in The Forum at Pack Place 7 p.m. each evening prior to the performances. Free for ticket holders.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's Asheville performances are made possible by performance sponsors Joel & Deborah Bohan Berkowitz, and by dance series sponsors Tina & John McGuire, Hedy Fischer & Randy Shull, and the Art Fryar Charitable Trust Fund, with additional support from media sponsor WNC Magazine.

The Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place is located in the center of downtown Asheville on historic Pack Square within walking distance of many shops and restaurants. The intimate theatre seats just over 500 and boasts exceptional acoustics and sightlines, making it the premier per-

formance space in all of Western North Carolina. The Mainstage Series is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency.

IF YOU GO: *Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, part of the Mainstage Dance Series.* November 11-12 at 8 p.m. Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place

Regular \$35; Seniors \$33; Students \$30. Student Rush day-of-the-show (with valid ID) \$10.

For more information on Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's Asheville performance or to purchase tickets call the theatre's box office at (828) 257-4530 or visit www.dwtheatre.com.

The Mainstage Series 2008/2009 season sponsors are Asheville Citizen-Times, Creative Energy, Laurey's Catering and Gourmet-to-go, and Renaissance Asheville Hotel.

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STAGE PREVIEW

Miracle In Bedford Falls

Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre presents an adaptation of the classic movie *It's A Wonderful Life*. Professional performers and student performers will be cast in this world premiere production.

Bedford Falls? Where? What's that? All right, how about George Bailey, mean Mr. Potter, the 'ole Building & Loan, Bert the cop & Ernie the cab driver, Clarence the angel, Uncle Billy with strings tied on his fingers, make a wish and throw a rock through what is left of the broken windows of the old Granville house?

If you have a TV set and have it turned on anytime around the holiday season each year, you are going to at least catch a glimpse of Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed "lassoing the moon" or "searching for Zuzu's petals" in the black-and-white world of Bedford Falls, USA. *It's A Wonderful Life* has become a timeless story and movie to stir up the holiday spirit.

Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre and the Mars Hill College The-

atre Arts Department are joining forces to co-produce a new musical version of this classic film. *Miracle In Bedford Falls* is the title and it's written by a Mars Hill College celebrated alum Mark Cabaniss and Atlanta-based composer Lowell Alexander.

Miracle In Bedford Falls captures the same universal truths of the film: being "here" when we'd rather be "someplace else," and because of it we miss what's important in life right in front of us. This world premiere musical production promises to delight every member of the family and bring to life on stage this cherished story for the holiday season.

Writer Mark Cabaniss, native of Shelby, NC earned his music education degree from Mars Hill College and was named Alum of the Year for 2007. He is president of Shawnee Press, Inc., one of the world's largest music publishing and recording firms producing printed and recorded music and video DVDs.

Mark is a multiple recipient of ASCAP's Popular Music Award and

an Angel Award as a producer and is a member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) and the Gospel Music Association (GMA).

His work in music business and broadcasting has led to collaborations with Andy Griffith, Academy-Award winner Shirley Jones, pop and Broadway songwriter Rupert Holmes, late jazz pianist Loonis McGlohon, gospel singer Cynthia Clawson and others.

Mark is a "proud product" of the public school music education system and his music education from Mars Hill College in North Carolina. He says all those piano lessons, music rehearsals and theory classes prepared him perfectly for what was to follow in his professional career.

Miracle In Bedford Falls will be directed by SART's artistic director and Mars Hill College Theatre Arts faculty



"The Fantasticks" SART 2007

BY ROB MILLER

member William Gregg. Professional cast members will include a few of SART's favorite veteran performers Michael Mattison, Brian Scharf-enberg, Kelly Christianson and Bradshaw Call.

IF YOU GO: At the historic Owen Theatre on Mars Hill College campus. Performances will be December 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. with two matinees on December 13 & 14 at 2:30 p.m.

All seats are \$25 with group discounts available. Tickets go on sale November 17. Call the Box Office at (828) 689-1239 or visit www.sartplays.org. For more information call SART at (828) 689-1384.

Keowee Chamber Music's "Elegy" Concerts

Elegy is a multi-artist performance featuring music, song, poetry, and historical presentation. The public has two opportunities to see *Elegy*. The concert honors the lift music gives to people's spirits during times of adversity.

The concerts feature:

- The talent of 2 Czech composers who died during WWII and left remarkable legacies
- Poetry of Paul Celan, a French-Romanian Jew who survived internment in the camps
- Alice Herz Sommer's inspiring story of surviving the Holocaust as a conservatory-trained pianist. Still alive, Sommer continues to play at age 104 and is model of optimism.
- Chopin's Études — which gave hope to Sommer while she was interned in a concentration camp

Elegy focuses on the creative spirit of artists who overcame dire circumstances and continued to practice their art. It joins biographical stories with music and writing by Europeans of Jewish ancestry whose lives were cut short or changed by Nazi invasion.

Two extraordinary Czech composers are highlighted. Vítězslava Kaprálová,



(Left) Pianist Alice Herz Sommer, still playing Beethoven at 104!

(Right) Alice before the Holocaust.

pianist and composer, was critically acclaimed in the years before her death in exile at age 25. She was also lauded as a conductor — when women did not often conduct — and her compositions preserved a regional style that was extinguished with the war.

Erwin Schulhoff, pianist and composer, died at age 48 during his internment at the Wülzburg concentration camp. He was a controversial figure, because he incorporated jazz and other 20th century influences into his classical work, and was considered "a bright star."

Local scholars and musicians are featured — a historian, librarian, vocalist, pianist, and flutist.

✓ Elizabeth Spragins, retired Appalachian State University professor, will

introduce Alice Herz Sommer's work and biography. Spragins will share how Sommer saved herself and her son by playing piano.

✓ Mara Simmons, children's librarian at Pack Library, will read Paul Celan's poetry. At the end of WWII, after Celan's release from a concentration camp, he discovered he was the only member of his Jewish Romanian family to have survived. He wrote post-war poetry in German to reconcile his experiences.

✓ Karen Sams will play from the repertoire of Frédéric Chopin, a 19th century Romantic composer. Sams is a Candler native and the owner of SoliClassica music store. She received her training at Oberlin College Conservatory and the Johns Hopkins' Peabody Institute.

✓ Kate Steinbeck, Keowee Chamber Music artistic director and flutist, and Tena Greene, soprano, join Karen Sams to present the music of Czech composers Kapralova and Schulhoff. Steinbeck was raised in Western North Carolina and, after her conservatory training abroad and a transnational career as a flutist, returned to Asheville to raise children. Greene, a Tryon native, has studied opera and



musical theater and is a professional performer and college voice instructor.

About Keowee Chamber Music

Based in Asheville, North Carolina, Keowee Chamber Music is an artist-run collective committed to connecting the local community with global chamber music. Keowee Chamber Music annually produces a 2-week festival in June. The 2009 Keowee Chamber Music Festival will take place June 9-21.

IF YOU GO: Sunday, November 9 at 4 p.m. at UNCA's Reuter Center. Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at downtown Asheville's Pack Library in the Lord Auditorium. The Reuter Center is part of the Center for Creative Retirement on Campus Drive, UNC-Asheville (use 1 University Heights Drive for online mapping).

Pack Memorial Library is located at 67 Haywood Street in downtown Asheville.

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FINE ART

Chris Perryman: Artist, Craftsman

Chris Perryman, owner of Domus Aurea, located inside of Interiors of Asheville in Biltmore Station, is not only a wonderful craftsman, but a thoughtful and serious artist.

Perryman specializes in custom handmade, creative designs in both wood and mixed media. His works include furniture, architectural pieces and pet furnishings. He also loves working with wood to make figurative art pieces. As Perryman says, "My quest for poignancy in craft is a goal but the majority of the time I am rather content making well-designed and useful pieces of furniture."

When asked how he got started in woodworking Perryman said, “I was a Fine Arts major at UNCA and working for Sluder Furniture/Ambience Interiors (now just Ambience Interiors). I saw and was part of many installations of furniture and artwork and I just got hooked on working with wood. It wasn’t part of my curriculum, but I started working with wood and Ambience Interiors let me work in their storage area. It was like having a studio. Also, I’m a fourth generation woodworker and that makes me proud. It’s like it’s in my blood to do what I’m doing.”

In addition, Perryman began to perfect his craft living abroad in Italy. In fact, he even had a show there. He also worked in New Orleans for some time before moving back to Asheville and opening his own studio. We're lucky to have him because he almost moved to Charleston.

If you haven't seen Perryman's work, you're really missing something. Most of Perryman's work comes as commissions or referrals from such local businesses as BlackBird Frame & Art and Ambience Interiors, but BlackBird, Interiors and now the Funky Mutt carry Perryman's work.

According to Perryman, “I do everything from functional furniture to the figurative art pieces.” In fact, some of Perryman’s pieces, like crafted tables, have real carved feet for the...well, feet. It’s really very cool. Perryman said, “The feet came out of something my friend said, which was, ‘You can look at something one way and think one thing, then look at it another and see something totally

BY **BETH GOSSETT**

different' and that inspired me about the feet. I was making a gift for my girlfriend and it just materialized. I've perfected my technique for doing the feet since then."



Something Perryman is very cognizant of is what he uses on his wood to stay green. He uses a bio-friendly paint, made locally in West Asheville. "It's more expensive, but I like what it does on the wood and it makes the pieces and the world a little safer."

So, the next time you're in the Biltmore area, stop by Interiors of Asheville, BlackBird Frame & Art or the Funky Mutt and take a

look at what he's made.

His prices range from \$50 for a specially crafted dog bowl to whatever the budget of your project may be. Perryman may be reached at (504) 458-7476 or gold-splinter@charter.net if you want to make an appointment to meet at his studio.

IF YOU GO: *Chris Perryman's studio, by appointment only, (828) 318-6334.*

Businesses carrying Perryman's work:

- *BlackBird Frame & Art, 159 S. Lexington, Mon.-Fri., 9:30-5:30 p.m.; Sat. 10-3 p.m.*
- *Interiors of Asheville, 2 Biltmore Station, Mon.-Fri., 10-5:30 p.m.; Sun. 11-5 p.m.*
- *The Funky Mutt, 30 N. Lexington, Mon.-Sat 11-6 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m.*

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STAGE PREVIEW

HART presents Alfred Uhry's

The Last Night of Ballyhoo

The Haywood Arts Regional Theatre will conclude its 2008 season with the

Tony Award Winning comedy "The Last Night of Ballyhoo."

The play was written by Alfred Uhry who is best known for "Driving Miss Daisy". His Atlanta trilogy, which includes "Miss Daisy," "Parade," and "Ballyhoo," presents a view of life in Uhry's home town, Atlanta, from a Jewish perspective.

In "Ballyhoo" we are introduced to a well-to-do Jewish family at Christmas time, on the eve of the premier of "Gone with the Wind," and everyone in the family is excited about both events. The play is funny and touching, much in the spirit of Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

Uhry was born in Atlanta in 1936 and attended Brown University. He relocated to New York after graduating, taught school and began writing with little success. Then in 1975 he collaborated with Robert Waldman to adapt Eudora Welty's short novel "The Robber Bridegroom" into a musical and won his first Tony Award.

It was a long wait for his next success. "Driving Miss Daisy" didn't come until 1987. The original production featured Atlanta native Dana Ivey and Morgan Freeman and won Uhry the 1988

Pulitzer Prize. The movie with Freeman and Jessica Tandy won Best Picture and Uhry received the award for Best Screenplay.

Another decade went by before "The Last Night of Ballyhoo" opened in 1997, and "Parade" followed a year later. "Ballyhoo" premiered at the Alliance Theater in Atlanta before transferring to New York where it also won the Tony

Award for Best Play and the Outer Critics Circle Award. Uhry has also written a number of screenplays including 1987's "Mystic Pizza" which made a star out of Julia Roberts.

HART's production is being directed by Art O'Neil and the cast includes a number of new faces, including: Susan Rudniak, Kay Edwards, Christi Marsico, Grace Williamson, Patrick Tinsley, Leslie Jones, and HART veteran Roger Magendie.

IF YOU GO: Performances are November 7, 8, 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday November 17 at 3 p.m. To make reservations contact the HART Box Office at (828) 456-6322. Box Office hours are Monday through Saturday from 1-5 p.m.

Reservations can also be made on-line by visiting the HART web site at www.harttheatre.com.

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HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Obesity in Children

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

A major medical controversy is brewing over whether young children, eight or younger, should be placed on cholesterol lowering medications. The reason for this controversy? Heart and cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes are now appearing in children in their teens and early twenties, diseases that didn't appear until age forty or older. The reason? We have a tremendous epidemic of obesity in children, and a lot of these kids now have type 2 diabetes. What is the best way to manage them?"

The underlying problem? Obesity is increasing at an alarming rate in young children, double the rate in the 1960's, over three times higher than in the 1990's, and even higher in some ethnic groups. Obesity brings in its wake elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, elevated triglycerides, sleep apnea, decreased physical activity. All are causative factors for heart and vascular disease. In addition, the fat cells of obesity make the body resistant to insulin, causing type 2 diabetes, a disease of small blood vessels which increases the risk of heart and vascular disease another two times.

Genetics plays a role in this epidemic. Some families carry the genetic make up for heart disease, some for hypertension and some for dysfunctional handling of blood fats (cholesterol and triglycerides).

Some families harbor the genetics for metabolic syndrome, a combination of all these problems: insulin resistance, obesity, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and increased clotting. But not everyone who carries the genes gets the disease. The disease process is triggered by being overweight.

This disease process tends to occur in families but not all family members get the disease. Eating habits, exercise and sedentary habits, computer and TV habits are taught in the family by example, adults to the children. Those family members who stay active, control their diet and do not become obese avoid the problem.

For those who give in to the life style habits of their families and friends and have the genetics which allows the disease processes to appear, the result is disaster. As this epidemic of obesity and its resultant diseases play out, some are predicting that these children will be the first generation to have a lower life expectancy than their parents.

What to do? The American Academy of Pediatrics has made the following recommendations: 1) screen with blood tests those children with a family history of high cholesterol or early heart disease, 2) provide nutritional counseling for children (and their parents) with elevated blood fats, 3) recommend decreased fat

milk for children 1-2 years old with family history of heart disease, 4) use weight management as primary intervention in overweight kids, 5) consider medications in children over the age of 8 who have high risk for cardiovascular disease.

But how to prevent this from happening in the first place? What can parents do when they see obesity appearing in their three or four-year-old?

The same preventive strategies work in children that work in adults: increased exercise, decreased fats and simple sugars, weight loss. But in children it is easier: the child's metabolism responds more quickly and the interventions are carried out by the adults.

How does this work? 1) Adults control the television set and the computer. Do not use these electronic devices as babysitters. Limit the time with these devices. Take the children outside and play with them. 2) Adults buy the food, not the children. Improve house nutrition. Do not bring and do not allow foods in the house that are high in sugars and fats. Look on the box; it tells what is in the product. Do not allow others to give children these kinds of foods. Result?

The children will decrease in weight and in their risk of diabetes and heart disease. And, oh, yes, so will the adults who are setting the example.

Buncombe County DSS
and WNC Foster Care Agencies
present the

WNC Foster/Adopt Fall Festival

Saturday, November 15
from 3-6 p.m.

Have you ever thought about ways that you could help children in our community? Come to the WNC Foster/Adopt Fall Festival! This fun, free event focuses on the many ways in which people can help kids – including foster care, adoption, therapeutic respite, mentoring, sponsoring, etc.

- ✓ Learn how to become a foster and/or adoptive parent
- ✓ Find out more about children who need a family right now
- ✓ Talk to families who have fostered and adopted
- ✓ Enjoy arts & crafts, face painting and more!

At the Coleman Place – upstairs at the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, 36 Montford Avenue in downtown Asheville. Admission and parking are FREE!

For more information contact Erica Jourdan by calling (828) 250-5513.

I'm Bleeding Again!

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

"Honey! I'm bleeding again!" A man, shaving, has nicked himself with his razor. The couple are getting ready to go to the theater and on a night out. Now his shirt is a bloody mess and there is blood all over the sink.

"Why do you bleed so much?" she cries out in frustration as she hands him another white shirt, taking the one he has to soak in peroxide. "My father nicked himself shaving and he didn't bleed all over the place."

"I don't know," he says, holding folded toilet paper against his face. "It used to happen all the time when I was a boy on the play ground. Made for some real entertainment."

"Well, it's not very entertaining now."

Conversations like this take place every day — because most people don't know that 1 in a 100 Americans, some 2.6 million, are afflicted with some form of

von Willebrand's disease, the most common form of bleeding disorder. For most Americans a little bleeding is normal, or the wound was deeper than they thought, or they just don't give it any thought at all. Most don't know that, what can be a mild bleeding problem in some, can be life-threatening in others.

Human blood has a safety mechanism to plug up holes in blood vessels if they should spring a leak. At least twelve different proteins or chemicals in the blood, interacting with platelets, form a complex series of interactions which eventually leads to a clot being formed. This means that at least twelve different proteins or chemicals – clotting factors – can be interfered with, malformed or not formed at all and mess up this important bodily function. And the platelets themselves can be malformed, not formed, or prematurely destroyed and prevent the blood from clotting properly.

While some forms of leukemia, hemophilia, and certain platelet malfunc-

tions can cause this problem, the most common cause – like the scene described above — is von Willebrand's disease.

First described in 1926, the von Willebrand factor in the blood is a glue-like protein that holds platelets in place to make the first beginnings of a clot. The other clotting factors join this initial "platelet plug" to make a more permanent clot. If the initial plug does not hold together, the other clotting factors have nothing to attach to and the person continues to bleed, sometimes uncontrollably.

Von Willebrand's disease is inherited equally by men and women, so there is usually some history of excessive bleeding in family members. The disease takes several different forms, some more serious than others. But it is women who are more at risk of serious consequences because of their monthly menstruation. Other bleeding problems that arise – seemingly normally – include tooth injury or extraction that continues to bleed

heavily, major bleeding after relatively minor surgery, like tonsillectomy, recurrent heavy nose bleeds or heavy bruising or bleeding after every small bump.

Any of these occurring over and over again is a cause for alarm and a good reason to check with a blood disease doctor — a hematologist. Many general practitioners hear about people who have a bleeding problem but write them off as just a one time occurrence.

"Everyone has a little bleeding once in a while." "You're probably taking too much aspirin." "You need to be more careful." While all of this is true, if it happens repeatedly, don't be put off. Insist on a bleeding disorder work up or see a doctor who will do the work up.

The human body was not meant to bleed out after every little injury. Recurrent bleeding is not normal. If the bleeding recurs multiple times or in multiple family members, insist that your doctor finds out why.

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SPINNING DISCS:

November CD Reviews by James Cassara

Be it given one star or five, rest assured it's all good: If you read about it here, why not skip over to your local independent record store and give it a try? These are the folks who most deserve our support and appreciation!

The Walkmen**You & Me**
Gigantic Records

On their previous outing the Walkmen took a working holiday from their usual sound – creating a note by note replication of the Harry Nilsson masterpiece *Pussy Cats* – which, while it showcases the bands inherent knack for translucent pop, likely left their most ardent followers scratching their heads.

It was a fine listen, though entirely too beholden to the source, but seemed designed more for their pleasure than ours. This is why *You & Me* marks not only a return to familiarity, but a distinct step forward. It harkens back to *Bows and Arrows*, their 2004 homage to the swinging sixties, (even recorded in the same studio) while building upon the band's steadily growing musical repertoire.

It's a sonic travelogue, stopping along beaches, inlets, and the holidays that mark time's passing, a theme that plays perfectly into the band's gift for visual imagery. "Donde Esta La Playa," from its upbeat tempo set to surf guitars, is a perfect example: lyrical gems such as "there is still sand in my suitcase/there is still salt in my teeth," play like blurry but vivid memories in a way worthy of Ray Davies. Grotto-like reverb gives "Postcards from Tiny Islands" riotous guitars a nostalgic twinge only heightened by small but telling details like "the bar band and their sorry songs."

Their newly discovered sense of adventure is reflected throughout *You & Me*; gentle acoustic guitars couple with brass and strings, suggesting a world beat that fits right in with their flair for the catchiest of hooks. *You & Me* consistently delves deeply into the evocative ballads that have long been the band's trademark, but this time around they're couched in an ethereal pop that makes this album not only the loveliest, but the loneliest they've yet concocted. ★★

Maria McKee**Live at the BBC**
Polydor

In truth the title of this compilation, documenting two distinct concerts done by the former Lone Justice songstress for



the BBC, is a bit inaccurate. The shows weren't performed exclusively for the radio network but simply broadcast across the UK via that avenue.

No matter. Recorded in 1991 and 1993 respectively these shows represent McKee at her post *Lone Justice* best, a treasure trove of delights for those of us who love the grit and soul McKee has always brought to her music. The first date, represented by the first seven songs here, feature McKee the expatriate, living in Dublin and backed by fellow Dubliners Moby Dick.

The material is gathered from her days with Lone Justice and includes "Good Heart," "Shelter," and "I Found Love," as well as her chart-topping U.K. hit "Show Me Heaven." There are also a couple of cuts from her self-titled debut, released almost two years earlier: "I've Forgotten What It Was in You (That Put the Need in Me)," and "Drinkin' in My Sunday Dress."

For the uninitiated they give a pretty good glimpse of McKee the singer, but it's the final eleven tracks that really set the stage. Recorded during her post *You Gotta Sin to Get Saved* era it includes most of that album—considered by most her finest – alongside a pair of unexpected but welcome Van Morrison covers: "My Lonely Sad Eyes" and "Young Lovers Do."

Both of these selections feature top-notch recordings and are fine performances, but the latter recording shows how great McKee and Moby Dick sound together. By then they'd spent four years as her backing band, a time during which the singer and the band make huge artistic strides.

While the earlier set uses crackling enthusiasm to make up for some of the sloppiness inherent in the performance, the latter is somehow both more polished and more spontaneous, and nowhere can this be felt more than in McKee's tightrope walking vocals. The band is her net, allowing her to take

risks unlike those she yet conceived. Either way, for fans, this volume is of the essence. It captures an artist at her most daring, inventive, and confident, which is all anyone could ask for. ★★

The Bittersweets**Goodnight, San Francisco**
Compass Records

There's something wonderfully comfortable about the edgy pop sounds of the Bittersweets, a sensation not unlike wearing your favorite sweatshirt – however ragged it may be – while staring through a window at the busy world outside. On their second album the band, reduced by one member but nicely augmented by a bevy of artful session players, continue to hone their deceptively straightforward approach to buoyant pop and clever ballads.

While the sonic tone is purposely all over the map – wistful quiet is interrupted by gushing guitars – the quality of the songwriting consistently carries the day. Hannah Prater's voice (and what a voice it is!) falls somewhere between Kasey Chambers and Dusty Springfield, an intonation that shines best on such numbers as the roots rocking "Wreck," the quietly intricate "My Sweet Love," and the tearful resignation of "When the War Is Over."

It's only when the band stretches too far from their strengths, such as the meandering and mildly self absorbed "45" or the overly twangy "Tidal Waves" – which sounds like an early Wilco castoff – that the Bittersweets slip up. But there's no arguing with the tender mercies of "Blue" or the elegant and pulsing country rock of "Birmingham."

It is unlikely "Goodnight, San Francisco" will prove to be the band's masterwork – one gets the sense this is a band that will only get better – but taken of its own accord the Bittersweet's second effort is chock full of engaging delights, nuanced hooks, and plenty of promise. ★★1/2



'CD's' continued on next pg.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Billy Bragg Brings His Political Conscience to The Orange Peel

BY JAMES CASSARA

Few musicians of our generation can rightfully claim to have carried on the torch first lit by Woody Guthrie. Bob Dylan can do so, as might Ellis Paul, Odetta, Joan Baez, and a scant handful of select others. But on the other side of the pond Billy Bragg, born Steven William Bragg in Essex, England, can proudly declare himself a worthy successor to Woody, both in political aesthetic and, as importantly, sheer artistry.

First made aware of "the magic of voice and guitar" around the time the Soviet Union was launching Sputnik 2, Bragg was raised in a family that both nurtured and actively supported his sonic inclinations. "Music was always a part of our household" he says via a brief phone conversation, "as well as a sense of rage over the social injustices of the day."

Today, on the verge of the release of his eleventh and best album, *Mr. Love & Justice*, he is known as Billy Bragg by his loyalists worldwide yet he is still called Steven by his Mother and still referred to

as the "Bard of Barking" by the British press.

He has worked, and worked is the operative verb here, alongside British parliamentarians, unskilled unemployed workers, members of the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame, young music hopefuls, unsung street troubadours, incarcerated convicts, newly liberated refugees, punk rockers and striking dock workers. In short, the very people Guthrie would have been proud to call comrade.

Steven William Bragg has recorded hit singles, composed Top Ten albums, penned political anthems sung at rallies, kept alive traditional English folk songs, put his own spin on America's greatest folk



Billy Bragg

catalog and sung his heart out doing so. He has appeared on MTV and late night highbrow chat shows, singing his mind on the first and speaking his mind on the latter.

As an astute observer of cultural trends he has written essays for many daily newspapers of record and several notable weekly journals of comment. One such column addressing the public demand for general reform within the House of Lords, the emphatic and eloquent, "A

Genuine Expression of the Will of the People" was officially entered into the written record for the British Parliament.

That's rather heady stuff for a working class lad from east London, but it is one more indication of the commitment Bragg has made to use his talents for the common good. "What skills I have, and mine are no more important than those of a good carpenter or electrician" he tells me, "I've been given for a purpose. To squander that purpose would be the worst sin I might commit."

That Billy Bragg can make such statements without the slightest bit of self importance or insincerity is perhaps the best evidence of his worth as a musician, advocate, and musical pioneer. When Bragg makes his first official visit to Asheville—he previously played here as part of a National Public Radio entourage—you can bet we'll see a bit of all that and more.

IF YOU GO: Billy Bragg and his band with guests The Watson Twins, at The Orange Peel, Sunday, November 2, 8 p.m. (7:00 p.m. doors). Ticket prices, \$22 advance / \$25 door. Ages 18+.

'CD's' continued

Shawn Mullins Live at the Variety Playhouse Vanguard Records

Those expecting Mullins' first live album, recorded at one of his favorite haunts in front of an adoring audience, to offer the sort of intimate acoustic affair typical of his solo performances will likely be caught off guard by the sheer power of pop ferocity that revs up *Live at the Variety Playhouse*.

"Beautiful Wreck", which opens the disc in splendid fashion, is Mullins at the jauntiest: killer hooks matched to smart lyrics that seem to indicate the influence of palling around with Matthew Sweet. Divided nicely into full band followed by solo guitar and back to the band, the disc, by capturing Mullins' best tunes and mannerisms, manages to be both a primer for the uninitiated and a delight for the long time fan.

Given that many of his earliest records are tough to find, *Live at the Variety Playhouse* is also a great reintroduction to such gems as "Fraction of a Man" and the down and out blues of "Lonesome I Know You Too Well." It might suffer a bit from an over reliance on cliché — four songs referencing beer drinking sadness is

three too many — but the engaging nature of Mullins' songs still carries the day.

Unfortunately lost is the between song banter, kept herein to a minimum, that make his shows such cozy affairs. But by the time Mullins rolls up to the finish line, a tortured and powerful take on "House of the Rising Sun", such minute quibbles hardly matter. ***1/2

Todd Snider Peace Queer Mega force Records

Todd Snider has never overtly sought controversy, nor has he shied away from it. His latest offering — with its' unsettling title, (taken from a poem by Vietnam veteran turned activist Mark Marchetti) and cover, (a rail thin and shirtless Snider, gun in hand, holding a blindfolded long hair hostage) is certain to grab attention.

This is how it should be, as not only are the messages found within of great import, but this eight song mini-album packs more wallop than do many double discs. Rather than take a few all too easy shots of our current political climate Snider casts a wider net, creating a scathing indictment of the decline of civility,

decency, and truth that seems rampant.

"Mission Accomplished (because you gotta have faith)" is a scorching rocker, kicking off the collection while giving clear indication that the singer means business. "Is This Thing Working" a spoken word story of school yard bullying in which the perpetrators power is emasculated by the compliance of his victim, is later recast to music as "Is This Thing On?" Likewise do "Stuck On The Corner (prelude to a heart attack)" and

"Dividing The Estate (a heart attack)" tell differing moments of the same life, a sort of before and after warning shot.

Yet for all his tuneful acumen — and Snider is certainly among the premier songwriters in the United States — his somber recasting of John Fogarty's "Fortunate Son" provides the disc's most telling moment.

It's not necessarily the best performance on the album — although choosing one would be damn hard — but no song better summarizes the underlying themes and implications of *Peace Queer*. It's a highpoint on an album that has nothing but highpoints, a stirring collection that sends a powerful message: Todd Snider is mad as hell, and he's going to do something about it. Like write and record a really terrific batch of songs. ****



Dar Williams and Shawn Mullins at the Orange Peel

Shawn Mullins continues his musical journey, a troubadour in the purest sense of the word, with his new release "Honeydew," inspired by (and recorded in) his native Georgia, and the brand new "Live at the Variety Playhouse."



Dar Williams
Photo by
Joel Siegfried

Sharing the evening will be Dar Williams.

She recently released "Promised Land," her first album of original material in over three years. The album showcases William's signature wide range of stories and social themes.

It promises to be an evening of songwriting, audience engagement, and harmonic strumming at its finest.

Monday, November 3 at 8 p.m. (7 p.m. doors). Tickets \$23 advance / \$25 door. Limited seating.

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Ornament for the Season

at Grovewood Gallery
November 14 – December 31

Each year, artists from around the county are invited to create and exhibit a piece, or a collection of work, that represents their own holiday traditions. *Ornament for the Season* will feature tree ornaments, menorahs, dreidels, nativity scenes, wreaths and much more.

Stop in to enjoy the exhibit – the Grovewood Café has delicious ginger cookies and you can warm up with a cup of hot spiced apple cider.



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FINE ART

Explore William Christenberry: Site/Possession

The Asheville Art Museum invites you to explore the influential works of William Christenberry in the exhibition titled William Christenberry: Site/Possession opening Friday, November 7, 2008 with an opening reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

Christenberry is frequently the subject of national acclaim for his photographs of rural Alabama, but this exhibition offers the chance to experience a more complete representation of his life and work.

This exhibition reveals the complexity of the artist's very personal investigation of both the American South and his own family heritage. Christenberry's theme is the narrative of place.

"What I really feel very strongly about, and I hope reflects in all aspects of my work, is the human touch, the humanness of things, the positive and sometimes the negative and sometimes the sad," Christenberry is quoted saying in a 2006 article by NPR's Michele Norris. It is this very "humanness of things" that William Christenberry: Site/Possession conveys.

For more than four decades, Christenberry has explored the regional identity of the American South, focusing on his hometown area around Hale County, Alabama.

He photographs ramshackle buildings, weathered commercial signs, lonely back roads, white-washed churches and decorated graves. Dutifully returning to the same locations annually, the green barn and the Bar-B-Q Inn, among others, Christenberry fulfills a personal ritual and documents the physical changes brought on by the passing of time.

BY KIM ZDANOWICZ

Christenberry's Kodak Brownie photographs are touring under the auspices of Aperture. A major exhibition featuring these photographs recently closed at the Smithsonian Institution American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Christenberry has been a member of the art faculty at the Corcoran College of Art and Design since 1968 and lives and works in Washington, D.C.

In addition to 50 drawings, the exhibition William Christenberry: Site/Possession also features paintings, photographs, constructions and the Klan Room Tableau. The work included shows the many sides of rural Alabama, both positive and negative, and includes many drawings from the artist's collection that have not been previously exhibited. William Christenberry: Site/Possession will be presented from Friday, November 7, 2008 through Sunday, January 18, 2009.

This exhibition is organized by the University of Virginia Art Museum. This exhibition is sponsored in part by the Chaddick Foundation and Ms. Hedy Fischer and Mr. Randy Shull.

The Asheville Art Museum is centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Museum is open every Friday until 8 p.m.

Admission to the Museum is \$6 for adults and \$5 for seniors, students with ID and children 4-15 (children age three and younger are admitted free). Members are admitted free to the Museum.



William Christenberry, Untitled, 2006, German ink with two brushes in tandem, 40 x 32 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and Hemphill Fine Arts, Washington, D. C.

IF YOU GO: Opening Reception, Friday, November 7 at 5 p.m.

Art Break: William Christenberry: Site/Possession, Friday, November 14 at 12 noon.

Up for Discussion: Mike Smith, Photographer, Friday, December 5, 6 p.m.

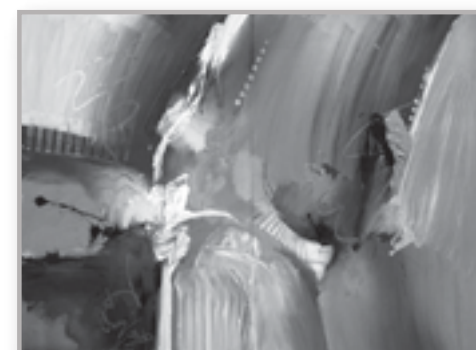
Film Screening: William J. Christenberry, Jr.: A Portrait, Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7 at 2 p.m.

Art Break: William Christenberry: Site/Possession, Docent-Led Tour, Friday, January 16, 12 noon.

Jonas Gerard Fine Art in River Arts District Studio Stroll

Jonas Gerard Fine Art will participate in the River Arts District Studio Stroll on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In the tradition of abstract expressionism and in his latest abstracted landscapes, Jonas Gerard creates bold and colorful paintings that resonate with the energy obvious in every brush stroke. He allows himself the freedom to take risks which create happy accidents that open the non-judgmental space for letting the painting go where it wants to go.



The River Arts District artists open their studios to the public twice a year during the second weekend in June and November. This Studio Stroll provides a unique opportunity to see and hear the sights and sounds of creativity surrounding you as you stroll through more than 90 artist studios.

A wide array of fine art and craft can be purchased, including paintings, sculpture, functional and decorative ceramics, glass, jewelry, furniture and much more. Come meet the artists, have a cup of coffee at Clingman Café and stop next door to visit Jonas' studio and gallery. There will be live jazz performed by the Mark Guest Quartet throughout the afternoon on Saturday, November 8 in the open air entrance to the Gallery.

On Friday, November 7, before the Stroll officially starts, there will be a special preview at the Gallery from 5 to 8 p.m. Jonas Gerard Fine Art is open seven days a week, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The gallery exhibits the work of Jonas Gerard and the photography and paintings of Linda Greenup.

IF YOU GO: Jonas Gerard Fine Art, 240 Clingman Ave. For more information, please visit www.riverdistrictartists.com, www.jonasgerard.com, or call the gallery at (828) 350-7711 with questions.

Asheville Art Museum's November Events

Tuesday – Sunday, November 11-16 Holiday Market Extravaganza

Eat, drink, shop and be merry at our Annual Holiday Market. Shop for fabulously creative finds and enjoy seasonal refreshments in the Pack Place Front Gallery. The Museum will offer 20% off all sales for our Members on Friday, November 14.

Tuesday, November 18, from 7-9 p.m. Faith Ringgold: More Than 50 Years

"Personal Narrative" is the theme of the constellation of programs for the artist Faith Ringgold. Her work as a

painter, textile artist, and children's book author explores the African-American experience both personally and in a more universal way.

Tuesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. Faith Ringgold Art Talk

She has written and illustrated eleven children's books and is best known for her story quilts which bridge craft and fine art by combining painting, quilted fabric and storytelling.

Ringgold will talk about her more than 50 years as an artist and writer exploring the African-American experience. This event is part of the Museum's

60th Anniversary Celebration.

Diana Wortham Theatre, \$24 General Admission, \$16 Students and \$20 Museum Members.

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Life's Rich Pageant: A Centennial Celebration of The Eight, in Gallery 6.

Ashcans, Trains and Factories: Students and Followers of The Eight. In the Holden Community Gallery.

Expectant Gaze – Art from the Eye and Mind, in the 2nd Floor Galleries.

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- Pavilion
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- Rolf H. Wild
- Russian Assoc. Folk Art Handicraft
- Sacred Symbols
- Sona Merlin Stained Glass
- Southern Lady Collections
- Southern Surroundings
- Steve Sandlin Art
- Suhae Gallery
- Susan Luke Art
- Sweet Creek Specialties
- T. Pennington Art Gallery
- Tammy Henry Photography
- Tara Bella's
- That Final Touch
- The House of Lora
- The Ivy Cottage
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Purple Diamonds... *Rarer Than Rare*

When one thinks of diamonds they inevitably think white sparkly stones that dazzle everyone and are reported to be a girl's best friend.

When pushed, most of us can recall hearing about or maybe seeing yellow, pink and blue diamonds, mostly because of the famous Hope diamond and engagement rings worn by celebrities. Even fewer of us know about champagne and cognac diamonds but beyond that most of us have never seen natural color diamonds.

It might surprise you to know that diamonds actually appear in more than 300 distinct colors as every shade of every colored diamond exists in nature. Obviously the traditional four Cs of diamonds do not apply to colored diamonds so the color codes from D to Z are not used. Instead they have come up with descriptive words such as pinkish purple or purplish pink or even intense pink purple to describe just a few purple diamonds.

All natural colored diamonds are very rare and each one is unique. They are a true product of chance, made by millions of years of crystallization and tremendous pressure exerted on each stone deep in the earth. That pressure abnormally compresses the diamond's structure and thereby changes the color. The grain-ing within the diamond is believed to be evidence of that tremendous pressure and the presence of hydrogen produces the unique violet colors. No two colored diamonds are ever identical and it is precisely that rareness that gives them such value. Natural colored diamonds have remained a stable investment that has significantly increased over the past 25 years (unlike a lot of other investments right now!).

In 1947 Queen Elizabeth received a 54 carat intense pink diamond as her engagement ring and singlehandedly popularized colored diamonds. That stone was later made into a brooch by Cartier, and Queen Elizabeth to this day remains one of the world's largest collectors of natural colored diamonds.

As rare as pink diamonds are, purple pink and pink purple and true purple diamonds are even more rare. Since the color is correlated to internal grain formation, the cut influences the ultimate color in a major way. Another indication of the rareness of purple diamonds is the fact that there are no large historically important pure purple diamonds found as of yet.



For example as blue diamonds have the famous Hope diamond as their centerpiece and green diamonds have the Dresden diamond, there is no purple diamond of any notable size to point to as the prized example.

One of the reasons for this is that purple diamonds in any sizable source have only been found in the Argyle mine in western Australia. This mine was opened as a true source of colored and beautiful white and colorless diamonds in 1985. Purple or pink purple diamonds prior to this find were so pale in color that they had just a hint of lavender.

they had just a hint of lavender.

The Argyle mine is now the world's largest source of pink, purple pink, brownish pink, pink champagne, champagne and brown diamonds.

The owners of the gallery, blue, in Biltmore Village, Lynn Daniel and Susan West, were very fortunate early in their careers to make friends with a family who not only has an interest in the Argyle mine but who are diamond cutters themselves and whose family has been cutters for four generations.

This fall, as a way to celebrate Lynn's 20th anniversary making jewelry, the two award winning artists have been given a once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase a considerable quantity of purple diamonds of many different hues.

Some of the stones are definitely a distinct purple color, some with a hint of pink and some are even closer to pink than purple. Each stone has been carefully handcut and although some of the diamonds have already been eagerly and beautifully set by the women in very unique settings, Lynn and Susan still have a good amount of loose purple diamonds to chose from to make this a Christmas to remember forever.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to see one of Mother Natures' most unusual creations... natural handcut purple diamonds from the safe and happy Argyle mine in Australia! You can also view Lynn and Susan's beautiful creations on their website, bluegoldsmiths.com.

blue

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NOVEMBER 2008

Monday, November 3 at 7 p.m.
LINDA STAR WOLF discusses her new book
and tarot deck, *The Anubis Oracle*.

Thursday, November 6 at 7 p.m.
JOHN SHELTON REED and **DALE VOLBERG**
will discuss *Holy Smoke: The Big*
Book of North Carolina Barbecue.

Sunday, November 9 at 3 p.m.
HOWARD LEE the first black mayor of
Chapel Hill will discuss and read from his
book *The Courage to Lead*.

Wednesday, November 12 at 7 p.m.
DR. PETER KINGSLEY reads from his books
Reality and *In the Dark Places of Wisdom*.

Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m.
James P. Hendrix will discuss his recent
book, *GREEN JOBS*, which he coauthored
with A. Bronwyn Llewellyn and K.C. Golden.

Saturday, November 15 at 2 p.m.
DANA LYONS will sign copies of *Heart of*
the Druae, her debut novel.

Saturday, November 15 at 7 p.m.
GIOIA TIMPANELLI reads from her latest
book, *What Makes a Child Lucky*.

Sunday, November 16 at 5 p.m.
AMY BLOOM reads from *Away*. Wine and
cheese reception before the reading!

Wednesday, November 19 at 7 p.m.
BARBARA DUNCAN will read, recite, and
discuss stories from the Cherokee tradition.

Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m.
CECIL BOTHWELL reads from *Pure Bunkum:*
Reporting on the Life and Crimes of
Buncombe Co. Sheriff Bobby Lee Medford.

Friday, November 21 at 7 p.m.
MARIJO MOORE reads from *When the Dead*
Dream, sequel to *The Diamond Doorknob*.

Sunday, November 23 at 3 p.m.
STEVE CRIMI reads from *Talks on*
Biodynamic French Intensive Horticulture.

Sunday, November 30 at 3 p.m.
THOMAS RAIN CROWE will discuss his
recent book, *The End of Eden: Writings of*
an Environmental Activist.

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BOOKS

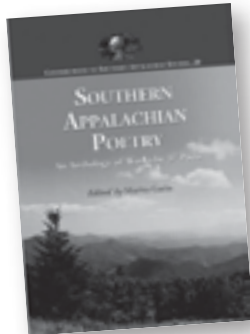
Thinking About Home

Heading home this month? Take some reading material with you.
Just in case.

November is so problematic in modern America. Few people believe the old mythology of Pilgrims and kindly Natives — most of us instead bear a piece of conqueror's guilt.

The weather has made a definite change here in western North Carolina and we can no longer deny that winter is a-coming soon. And, for better or worse, November is the beginning of the family season. Even if you can avoid a family entanglement on the fourth Thursday of this month, the winter holidays loom only a few weeks away. Over the river and through the woods — you'll never hear that from your car's GPS system. So, in this season of gratitude and enforced history, let's take a look at the harvest of local books you can find at your independent bookstore.

**"Southern Appalachian Poetry:
An Anthology of Works by 37 Poets"**
edited by Marita Garin

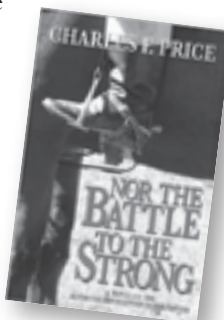


This is a nice series of books that includes a recent history of Asheville by Nan Chase. Garin has done a heart-felt job of selecting and arranging some remarkable poems. Sure, Fred Chap-pell and Robert

Morgan are here but the wonder of this book are the poets I never knew and I found myself grateful for the introduction. It's the kind of book you can snuggle up with and lose yourself in the evocative language of home. There are also notes for those obscure phrases that are being lost in the rush to modernity.

I have been a fan of Charles F. Price since his excellent tale of mountain mayhem "Hiwassee." Price has taken family legends and characters and woven them into the most readable historical fiction.

His new book **"Nor the Battle to the Strong: A Novel of the American Revolution in the South"** leaves the Civil War behind and takes us deeper into the nation's past. We



are privileged to spend time among the armies of the Revolution and there are hilarious moments and moments that will take your breath away. Read it. Go out and get it right now. Plan to give it to someone who loves history or war stories or excellent writing. Or keep it for yourself.

Children, **"Cabins & Castles"** is back at last. It was first published in 1981 by the Historic Resources Commission and the NC Department of Archives and History.

Four local legends worked together to make this lovely book — Mary Jo Brezny photographed the places, Doug Swaim supplied local architectural history and John Ager and Talmage Powell told some of the stories of the area.

It is a rich little book in so many ways and I am grateful to Bright Mountain Books for the reissue. This is a WNC that is lost in time and there is sadness in remembering some of the things that were and are no more.

"When the Dead Dream"
by MariJo Moore

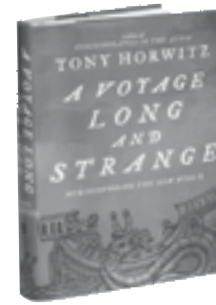
First, I need to level with you. MariJo Moore writes for this paper and she is a friend of mine. "The Diamond Doorknob" was the place where she began to forge her personal history into dark fiction.

Its sequel continues the story and the experiment. It is rich and dark — don't pick it up unless you are prepared to go deep. Moore is a poet and her fiction reflects that skill. The characters are quirky, unusual and the way she transports the everyday parts of poor folks' lives is deft.



"Serena"
by Ron Rash

I have often said that Rash "gets" us mountain folk. In his writ-



BY H. BYRON BALLARD

ing, we are neither noble savages nor inbred stereotypes but characters living in a place and time, bearing skills and weaknesses that inform living, as well as dying.

"Serena" gives us the gift of a fascinating female character against the backdrop of the mountain timber industry of the last century. The story is excellent, the characters sharply etched and the writing superb.

**"A Voyage Long and Strange:
Rediscovering the New World"**
by Tony Horwitz

This is one weird book and I loved it. Horwitz's "Confederates in the Attic" went down another quirky historical path but his new book came from the author's realization that he'd somehow missed a wide swath of American history — that time before the Mayflower. He calls it "The Lost Century" and he goes on his own voyage of exploration. He interviews lots of people, he's done a lot of research and it is highly readable. You will learn more about pre-USA America than you ever thought possible.

Byron Ballard is a bookseller, organic gardener and a beekeeper. Her writings have appeared in local and national print and electronic media. She blogs for the Asheville Citizen-Times as "the Village Witch". Byron lives on an urban farmstead in Asheville's historic West End with her husband Joe and daughter Kate.

Byron Ballard, Asheville's Village Witch
<http://blogs.citizen-times.com/blogs/index.php?blog=18>

Accent on Books

Accent on Books will host a "Welcome Back" party for the publisher and some of the writers of "Cabins and Castles" on Friday, November 7 at 6 p.m.

The bookstore is located in north Asheville, in the shopping center underneath SteinMart. For more information on the store visit www.accentonbooks.com.



Poetry That Adheres

For years now I have been collecting copies of books by Kahlil Gibran. I find them at local bookstores, yard sales, Goodwill, and occasionally I will receive a copy as a gift.

I prefer the older versions, coffee stains and all, because I know that at one time, someone read the prophetic poetry and was perhaps touched somewhere deep in his or her soul, just as I am when I reread it.

In 1970, I received my first copy of *The Prophet* for my high school graduation; I had asked my mom for the book and she gifted me with a beautiful copy. I must have read that book over one hundred times in the next twenty or so years. And in 2001, at my son's wedding reception, I read from that same copy the section speaking of children, and dedicated it to Lance and his bride, Katie.

Though lately, instead of reading Gibran's poetry, I have been more concerned with collecting copies of his books. But this morning, I picked up a small copy of *The Prophet* I had recently found at Goodwill and opened it at random. These are the lines that climbed off the page and in to my day:

"Among the hills when you sit in the cool shade of the white poplars, sharing the peace and serenity of distant fields and meadows — then let your heart say in silence, 'God rests in reason.'"

And when the storm comes, and the mighty wind shakes the forest, and thunder and lightning proclaim the majesty of the sky, —then let your heart say in awe, 'God moves in passion.'"

And since you are a breath in God's sphere, and a leaf in God's forest, you too

*should rest in reason and move in passion."*¹

I then took a walk and thought about what I had just read.

Reason enlightens me. Passion empowers me. Have I recently neglected the rapport these two entities offer? If I believe in total interconnection (and I do) of all things in this world, have I tried to divide these two? I have stated many times that I work from total intuition.

But I realize now, I don't always do this when making decisions. For example, if I am driving my car and come to a red light and feel compelled to turn right instead of going straight through as I had planned to do, do I run the stoplight and pull in front of the car barreling down the road in front of me? I suppose there was a time when I would have done this. When I was so determined to listen to intuition that passion would have overruled reason and I would have gone ahead, ignored the red light, and barely missed hitting the other car. But today, I know to pay more attention.

No doubt reason and passion are absolutely connected. They are, in Gibran's words, "the rudder and the sails of your seafaring soul. If either your sails or your rudder be broken, you can but toss and drift, or else be held at a standstill in mid-seas. For reason, ruling alone, is a force confining; and passion, unattended, is a flame that burns to its own destruction."

Again, I have been reminded that everything I need is right in front of me. Whether in a book, a dream, the kind words of a friend, or, even at times, the

poetry

A sacred fury...
an uncommon madness...



a scattering of birds...

BY MARIJO MOORE

bitter words of those who choose to disagree. And this morning, because years ago a gifted Lebanese poet took the time to listen to his soul and share what he had gleaned from combining reason and passion, I know I will remember to look outward as well as inward. Reason and passion are both wholly necessary when making decisions.

I would like to share a quote from Gibran's essay "The New Frontier," which was written and first published in 1925 in Arabic. It may have a familiar ring if you think of a famous presidential inaugural address in 1961.

"Come and tell me who and what are you.

*Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country? If you are the first, then you are a parasite; if the second, then you are an oasis in a desert."*²

As I stated above, everything is interconnected. Just try to look with reason and understand with passion, and as Gibran suggests, rest in reason and move with passion.

1 *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran © 1926 The National Committee of Gibran

2 "The New Frontier" by Kahlil Gibran © 1925 The National Committee of Gibran

MariJo Moore is the author of a dozen books including three books of poetry: *Spirit Voices of Bones*, *Confessions of a Madwoman* (now available on CD), and the forthcoming *Poets Inhale The Darkness Artists Breathe*. www.marijomooore.com

osondu
BOOKSELLERS

Bookstore Happenings

Friday, November 7

7 p.m. — Meet the Author
James Taylor exposes what science actually knows about human energy and how it works in his new book, *The Assumptions*.

Saturday, November 8

7-9 p.m. Enjoy Americana and Blues, with original songs by Lorraine Conard.

Thursday, November 13

Noon — Writing Workshop with Shelley Lieberman

6:30 p.m. — Meet the Author
Kerry Madden

Saturday, November 15

3 p.m. — Anne of Green Gables High Tea. Join us for high tea to celebrate 100 years of this classic book. Dress in your best "Anne" style and brush up on your "Anne" trivia before you come! Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

Saturday, November 22

Noon — Lunch with an author. Call ahead to reserve your seat and enjoy a discussion with Terrell Garren, author of *The Secret of War*. Lunch is \$10. Seating is limited to 14.

1 p.m. Author Reading and Signing
Terrell Garren, will sign and discuss his new novel, *The Fifth Skull*, which tells the story of the "lost boys of the Confederate Junior Reserve."

3 p.m. — Meet the Authors
Thomas Raine Crowe and Nan Watkins will discuss their new book, *Rare Birds: Conversations with Legends of Jazz and Classical Music*.

Friday, November 28

Saturday, November 29

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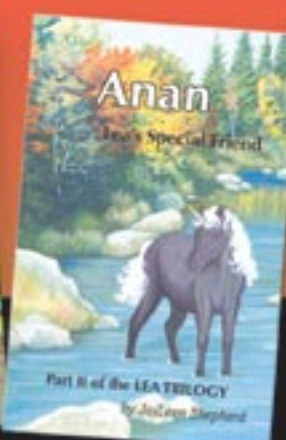
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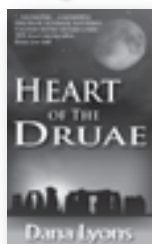
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NOTEWORTHY

Heart of the Druae



Written by Dana Lyons,
review by Beth Gossett

I've always loved a good romance novel and I was extremely excited when *Heart of the Druae*, by Dana Lyons came across my desk. After reading the first two chapters I knew my expectations were not only going to be met but highly exceeded.

It has been a long while since I fell this much in love with a novel or the characters that I didn't want to finish the book. Actually I found myself reading as slow as I possibly could without stopping, to savor the final 50 pages. I envy those who have the opportunity to read this book for the first time.

The plot is simple – Archeologist Eric Beck has always found love to be hard to find – and when he did find it it wasn't right. One day while examining an unexplored hill near Stonehenge (one of the most famous prehistoric sites in the world), he discovers he can travel back in time and that his true love awaits him more than 4000 years ago.

Lyons will be at Malaprop's Bookstore in Asheville, November 15, 2-4 p.m. For more details visit www.blacklyonpublishing.com.

Southern Culture on the Skids brings Countryopolitan to the Grey Eagle

What is Countryopolitan? Darn good question. Like most ethereal forms of cultural enlightenment Countryopolitan transcends music.

"It's a lifestyle, not a category of music," says Southern Culture on the Skids front man, Rick Miller. "It's where rural and urban sensibilities meet. I mean, it's when you see trucker hats being sold in Beverly Hills boutiques or notice folks eating pork in my hometown of Mebane. Or best yet, when you see a motor sport invented by backwoods moonshine runners and bootleggers broadcast on Sunday afternoon into potentially every living room in America, there ain't no doubt it's a countryopolitan world." And, of course the new and aptly named Southern Culture on the Skids album *Countryopolitan Favorites* is the soundtrack for it.

Long considered the bards of downward mobility, Southern Culture on the Skids have always embodied a delicate balance of redneck and refinement. Recently described in *Filter Magazine* by Bakersfield's own Dwight Yoakam as "really on the outside, like Dick Dale meets Hank Thompson," the band have long mixed high and low culture, endlessly touring, serving up moonshine martinis and poultry picking for fans everywhere. Now, with their new fifteen track covers collection, they've given the Go-Go country treatment to some of their favorite songs, recasting tunes by artists from Don Gibson to T-Rex.

BY JAMES CASSARA

Assisted by his cohorts in white trash renaissance – drummer Dave Hartman and bassist/singer/heartbreaker Mary Huff – Miller and crew have been prolific and ubiquitous for over twenty years. From their 1985 debut *Voodoo Beach Party*, to the widely acclaimed, *Dirt Track Date* (featuring "Camel Walk" their lone hit single), and up to their last studio album, 2004's barnstormer *Mojo Box*, the band has continued to throw what Rolling Stone dubbed "a hell raising rock and roll party."

"The live album was so raunchy, which was fine for what it was" Miller tells me. "But on this one we wanted the production to be slick." Recorded at Miller's own studio (The Kudzu Ranch), *Countryopolitan Favorites* might be slick in spots, but there's no mistaking that this is the group who wrote and recorded the deliriously suggestive "Eight Piece Box."

T-Rex's "Life's a Gas" appears here with country harmonies atop heavy synthesizer; "O Lonesome Me" has an upbeat twist, again with the harmony vocals; "Tobacco Road" sounds like CCR, while CCR's "Tombstone Shadow" gets stacked with three part bluegrass harmonies, and "No Longer a Sweetheart of Mine," originally a bluegrass tune by Reno and Smiley, gets rocked up with surf guitar and honky tonk piano and more harmony vocals. "Funnel of Love" (made famous by Wanda Jackson) is a



The Brothers Countryopolitan

standout track, featuring Mary Huff's sultry lead vocal, and her duet with Rick on the swingers-on-the-rocks classic, "Let's Invite Them Over" (an Onie Wheeler original), explores the relationship of a couple who don't love each other, but do love their best friends. It's as if, relieved of the responsibility of writing new songs, the band gets to kick back and play their backsides off.

"Homogenization, though probably not a good thing, makes for some interesting observations." Sounds like a true academic. But then Miller added, "But we're not sociologists or anything. I mean, we just want to party."

And so, let us party, with Southern Culture on the Skids' *Countryopolitan Favorites*. The brew will be flowing, the juke joint will be jumping, and Southern Culture will be doing what they do best.

IF YOU GO: Southern Culture on the Skids at the Grey Eagle. Friday, November 7, 9 p.m. Call ahead for tickets as this show is very likely to sell out.

Rapid River ARTS & CULTURE MAGAZINE

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Any unpublished poem
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85 N. Main St., Canton, NC 28716

E.Normus Trio Recording Live at The Rocket Club

BY ERIN SCHOLZE

The E.Normus Trio is an adventurous Jazz spirit comprised of Steve Alford on alto clarinet, Jay Sanders on bass, and Billy Seawell on drums. They will be joined on the fender rhodes by noted Chicago jazz composer Charles D. Bayne who has written a suite of tunes for the E.Normus Trio to perform and record live at the Rocket Club.

"The group's remarkable creativity and wit were a big inspiration for the music I composed for this project," states Bayne. This live recording of original material emphasizes the emerging crossover sound of Chicago's Independent Music Scene with Western North Carolina's Appalachian Roots and will be released on Luminescence Records.

Bayne is a fourteen year Chicago native, keyboardist, band leader and owner of Luminescence Records. As a writer he

is known for his complex yet hauntingly lyrical melodies and chord progressions.

Alford is a Chicago ex-patriot bass clarinetist and saxophonist who now teaches the jazz program at Mars Hill College and is (to his knowledge) the only musician currently developing the alto clarinet as a lead voice instrument.

The fusion of Alford with one of the most spontaneously creative rhythm sections to come out of Western North Carolina, Asheville locals, Sanders (bassist for Acoustic Syndicate and Donna the Buffalo) and Seawell (drummer for Snake Oil Medicine Show and CX1), created Asheville's E.Normus Trio.

The Rocket Club, an exceptionally rare music and lounge venue allowing for state of the art recording quality during live performances, became the perfect choice for this show. The Rocket Club owners, Kevin Nettle and Ken Klehm,

have both spent some time in Chicago's independent musical scene.

Recording engineer for the show, Nettle, has worked with Etta James, Dave Brubreck, and Pat Metheny among others. In today's age of digital recording, the art of the live improvised recording is being resurrected right here in Asheville.

IF YOU GO: Asheville Meets Chicago Jazz: E.Normus Trio recording live at The Rocket Club on Tuesday, November 4 and Wednesday, November 5. 10 p.m. each night, no charge.

401 Haywood Road in Asheville. (828) 505-2494. For more information visit www.enormustrio.com or www.myspace.com/enormustrio

Reel Take Reviewers:

CHIP KAUFMANN is a film historian who also shares his love of classical music as a program host on WCQS-FM radio.

MICHELLE KEENAN is a long time student of film, a believer in the magic of movies and a fundraiser for public radio.

SIERRA BICKING, our Teen Reviewer, prefers movies that show teenagers as brilliant and brave.

Questions/Comments?

You can email Chip or Michelle at reeltakes@hotmail.com



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

An American Carol 🎬🎬🎬

Short Take: Typical scattershot comedy from the *Airplane* people has its moments but may not be what its creators intended.

REEL TAKE: From all the advance reviews I read about this movie, I went in expecting to see some heavy duty right wing propaganda but came out thinking this should be called National Lampoon's

American Carol. It could just as easily be a liberal version of what a right wing comedy should be.

All the clichés expected of right wing humor are there includ-



Jon Voight as George Washington and Kelsey Grammer as General Patton in *AN AMERICAN CAROL*.

ing gay jokes, fat jokes, racist humor, and Bill O'Reilly (although he's not funny the way he thinks he is). And let's not forget David Zucker's patented lowbrow slapstick found in everything from *Airplane* to *The Naked Gun* to *Scary Movies 3 & 4*. Even the 82 year old Leslie Nielsen is on hand.

From my perspective, the "Far Right" comes out of this a lot worse than the liberal media does. That may not have been Zucker's intention but when you have Kelsey Grammer as General Patton, Jon Voight as George Washington and Dennis Hopper as a right wing judge defending the Ten Commandments (one of the funnier scenes), it's hard not to come to that conclusion.

Filmmaker Michael Moore (here called Michael Malone and played by

Kevin Farley) is an ideal target for parody since he has already become a parody of himself. Instead of Christmas, it's the Fourth of July that this "Scrooge" wants to do away with. The left wing jabs taken by the film make the ones in Bruce Tinsley's *Mallard Fillmore* comic strip seem like Oscar Wilde.

Personally I found *An American Carol* to be funnier and far less offensive than Sasha Baron Cohen's *Borat* even though *Borat* is the better movie. In the final analysis it's all a matter of taste and all about your sense of humor but only someone like Sarah Palin could take *An American Carol*'s right wing point-of-view seriously.

Rated PG-13 for rude and irreverent content and for language and drug use.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

Body of Lies 🎬🎬🎬

Short Take: Very well done intelligence drama set in the Middle East but fails to truly connect with the audience.

REEL TAKE: The last time Russell Crowe and Leonardo DiCaprio worked together was in 1993's *The Quick and the Dead* with Sharon Stone and Gene Hackman. Crowe and DiCaprio were the relative unknowns in the film and as such apparently formed a camaraderie. Fifteen years later and both of them megastars, that early camaraderie still shows in *Body of Lies*, a story that ultimately pits them against each other.

Body of Lies is the latest espionage novel adapted for big screen. At the helm of the movie is the now legendary Ridley Scott. Scott enlisted his favorite leading man Russell Crowe to play second fiddle on this one and cast Leonardo DiCaprio in the lead. DiCaprio is Roger Ferris a CIA operative in the Middle East. Crowe is Ed Hoffman, DiCaprio's ruthless, fat, middle-aged boss back at Langley.

We quickly learn that while Ferris is a deft operative who has left a trail of

death in his wake, he is a man of morals and sensitivity to the chaos, struggles and culture in the Middle East. In contrast, Hoffman is the long distance puppet master who couldn't have less regard for collateral damage be it Iraqi or American. Interestingly almost every time we see Hoffman barking orders (which result in the death of others) he's shuffling his kids to school, helping them at the potty, or being soccer dad and essentially living the American dream.

When Ferris is assigned to Jordan to infiltrate a terrorist mastermind's network, he joins forces with the Chief of Jordanian Intelligence Hani Salaam (a riveting and meticulous performance by

Mark Strong). With Ferris in alliance with Hani, Hoffman makes waves which sever the tenuous bonds between Salaam and Ferris. From there on, not knowing who to trust, Ferris sets his sights on his original mission and shoots from the hip. Along the way Ferris befriends and begins a romantic flirtation with an Iranian nurse Aisha (Golshifteh Farahani) who works in Jordan. This sweet sub-story brings

with it another set of interesting cultural clashes and perceptions.

Body of Lies is perfectly named and very well done. Scott's direction and pacing in the film is tight and fast but to me that served as both an asset and a detriment. The pacing is tight and smart, but fast enough that it detracts from our emotional connection to the story because we are too busy just keeping up with the dizzying events. This element helps us feel the uncertainty and confusion, but unfortunately prevents us from connecting to some pretty interesting characters.

Rated R for strong violence including some torture and for language throughout.

Review by Michelle Keenan



Shia LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan on the run in *EAGLE EYE*.

Eagle Eye 🎬🎬🎬

Short Take: This Hitchcock style thriller delivers the goods and makes a statement as well.

REEL TAKE: Shia LaBeouf returns in another slam-bang action adventure like *Indiana Jones* and the *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* or *Transformers* but *Eagle Eye* is better than both of those movies. It's even better than *Wanted* which it resembles in many ways.

The central idea underpinning *Eagle Eye* is that of the rogue computer which must be stopped. This has been the raison d'être behind several movies over the years from *Demon Seed* with Julie Christie (1977) to Will Smith's *I, Robot* (2004) and of course who can forget HAL from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968).

This time around LaBeouf is a low key loser hiding out from the acclaim and success of his twin brother. When the brother is killed, LaBeouf is suddenly arrested and then broken out of custody by a mysterious voice that can apparently monitor and control anything electronic. He is then thrown together with single mother Michelle Monaghan for an unknown purpose (shades of Alfred Hitchcock) which is spelled out over the course of the movie.

In addition to the standard CGI special effects and pulsating music one now has to put up with in movies of this type, there is actually a storyline and it's

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handled very well. It progresses in a linear fashion, is easy to follow, and creates characters that we come to care about.

If you examine it closely, *Eagle Eye* is totally outlandish but strangely plausible giving the picture a certain edge missing from recent action fare which makes it a cut above. But don't think too hard about it. Just allow yourself to be propelled along like LaBeouf and Monaghan not knowing where you'll wind up until the very end and you'll enjoy the ride.

Rated PG-13 for action and violence and for language.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

Miracle at St Anna

Short Take: Spike Lee's sprawling World War II saga is a little too long and occasionally heavy handed, but has many fine moments.

REEL TAKE: It's always interesting to watch a director step outside his traditional genre and try something different. Spike Lee is best known for his gritty urban dramas like *Do the Right Thing* and *Jungle Fever* but nothing like this.

Miracle at St Anna is Spike Lee's answer to Clint Eastwood's lack of Black characters in *Flags Of Our Fathers*. The two have certainly had a



Derek Luke (center) and his squadron in *MIRACLE AT ST ANNA*.

celebrated war of words over the matter which has been duly covered by the Press but this does *Miracle* a great disservice. Now critics will constantly be comparing the two films and that's unfair because they are coming from two totally different perspectives.

The film opens in 1983 with the apparently unmotivated murder of a customer by a postal worker. Back in his apartment, an antique stone head is found but the postal worker refuses to say anything. From this framing device *Miracle* moves forward to its principal story by going back to World War II.

It is Italy during the Allied invasion. A quartet of Buffalo Soldiers advances on a small town. The postal worker (Derek Lee) is now an Army sergeant trying to keep his unit together in hostile territory. One of them, a gentle giant of a man (Omar Benson Miller) has rescued an

Italian orphan and is trying to protect him. In the village are partisans, suspicious townspeople, and a former Fascist and his daughter. Retreating Germans come to the village and conflict arises.

It is from this standard war movie scenario that Lee crafts his film and he does a remarkable job. He not only authentically recreates the period but

he gets good, solid performances from his ensemble cast. Although the film is too long and the overt racist scenes are precisely that, I found it compelling throughout and so did most of the audience. The ending was particularly fine. *Miracle at St. Anna* is solid fare for those who enjoy character driven films in period settings.

Rated R for war violence, strong language, and nudity.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

Nights in Rodanthe

Short Take: Uber chick flick in classic Nicholas Sparks style.

REEL TAKE: There was a good bit of buzz surrounding the re-teaming of Diane Lane and Richard Gere for *Nights in Rodanthe* (previously seen together in *The Cotton Club* and *Unfaithful*). I have to admit they make a pretty couple and it's been a long time since I've enjoyed the guilty pleasure of a really good chick flick. Suffice it to say, I had pleasant hopes for this one.

If your definition of a good chick flick is a tragic love tear jerker, then you won't be disappointed. (Am I giving away anything here?) I guess I should have read the Nicholas Sparks novel beforehand or



at least *remembered* that it was a Nicholas Sparks novel in the first place (a writer renowned for his hopelessly romantic but formulaically devastating love stories).

Gere and Lane turn in

fine performances as two middle aged people coming out of failed marriages and going through their own personal challenges. They meet at a truly waterfront B&B in a small town on the Outer Banks. The unhappily married, self sacrificing mom, Adrienne Willis (Lane), is minding the place for her friend Jean (Viola Davis). Dr. Paul Flanner (Gere), the only guest, has come to make amends and avoid a lawsuit with the husband of a patient that died on his operating table.

Gere and Lane become fast friends while waiting out a Hurricane. In the course of their long weekend together, he helps her rediscover her own self worth. She helps him see the errors of his ways, not as a doctor but in his bedside manners. This in turn gives him the meeting he needs with the angry widower (played to a T by Scott Glenn) and ultimately the reparation he needs with his estranged son. Along the way they fall in love.

So what's wrong with this mush fest? In two words – the ending. As I heard the sniffles of every woman in the theatre, myself included, I was completely annoyed, knowing that our XX chromosome emotions were being deliberately manipulated by sophomoric schmaltz. Pass the hankies please!

Rated PG-13 for some sensuality.

Review by Michelle Keenan

Pride and Glory

Short Take: Familiar NYPD good cop, bad cop, we-take-care-of-our-own action drama is taken beyond the basic stereotype by strong performances.

REEL TAKE:

Pride and Glory centers around the Tierney family, a multi-generational clan of NYPD's finest. Jon Voight is Francis Tierney, Sr. a hard drinking, high ranking, old style cop who is aware



and allowing of corruption in the force but has never partaken of it himself. His eldest son Francis Tierney, Jr. (Noah Emerich) is a precinct commander and husband to a dying wife (Jennifer Ehle). The younger Tierney son, Ray (Edward Norton) is a former street cop now physically and emotionally scarred from the job. He reluctantly goes back to the street beat to find out who killed four officers that were under his brother's command. Rounding out the Tierney family of cops is Jimmy Egan (Colin Farrell) loving husband of Megan Tierney (Lake Bell), Francis and Ray's sister.

Pride and Glory is a tangled web of corruption and decency and is cliché in both the elements of cop culture and the Irish American family. But somehow bits and pieces of it draw the viewer in. At one point I consciously shifted from movie critic mode to moviegoer mode, knowing that this tiresome premise was going to appeal to the non-critics who will enjoy a movie that entertains, resonates with their family value system, and still has a little edge to it. Believe it or not, making that shift made the difference in this movie for me and is important to note in my observations to you.

There are two aspects that lift *Pride and Glory* from rote territory, to making the average moviegoer feel like they're watching something really good – the director of photography Declan Quinn and the caliber of the film's actors, especially Edward Norton among the leads and Jennifer Ehle in the supporting roster. Norton, who dexterously switches between playing insidiously evil and sincerely good characters, is the good cop and central figure at the heart of *Pride & Glory*. As the story evolves, he discovers the corruption that led to the deaths of the four men is rooted in his own family. Loving family men, twisted cops, blurred lines of good and bad, allegiance, morality and life and death are the pulse points of *Pride and Glory*.

Rated R for strong violence, pervasive language and brief drug content.

Review by Michelle Keenan

The Duchess

Short Take: A beautiful looking 18th century costume drama of a bad marriage, the search for love and a very strange arrangement.

REEL TAKE: In the late 1700's the Duchess of Devonshire was the Princess Diana of her time. (Ironically, they are from the same line of blue blood.) Like Diana she was a trend setter, people followed her every move, she loved her children, and she was trapped in a loveless marriage.

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Theatre Directory

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www.ashevillepizza.com

Beaucatcher Cinemas (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 298-1234

Carmike 10 (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 298-4452
www.carmike.com

Cinebarre (Asheville)

www.cinebarre.com

The Falls Theatre (Brevard)

Movieline (828) 883-2200

Fine Arts Theatre (Asheville)

Movieline (828) 232-1536
www.fineartstheatre.com

Flat Rock Theatre (Flat Rock)

Movieline (828) 697-2463
www.flatrockcinema.com

Four Seasons (Hendersonville)

Movieline (828) 693-8989

Smoky Mountain Cinema (Waynesville)

Movieline (828) 452-9091

FILM REVIEWS

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Fortunately for Diana, she was able to leave hers and enjoy a few years before her premature and tragic death.

As for Georgiana, The Duchess of Devonshire, her tale is a little more interesting though no more heart warming. While the rest of England loves the beguiling, intelligent baity, who influenced politics and fashion in equal measure, her husband does not. To add insult to injury the Duke does fall in love with her best friend. She becomes his mistress and lives with them. However, when Georgiana makes a play for love with a young politician whom she knew before her marriage, her hopes are cruelly crushed by the same man who does not love her but will not let her go.

Keira Knightly plays the Duchess of Devonshire and turns in her first truly mature performance as an actress.



Ralph Fiennes, who plays the Duke, masters yet another disturbing character with understated brilliance. The supporting cast, including Charlotte

Rampling and Hayley Atwell is quite good, but it's Dominic Cooper as Charles Grey, the Duchess' lover and future Prime Minister of England, who really shines.

The acting is good, the story held my attention and the costumes and sets are beyond extraordinary, even for a big budget costume drama, yet it ultimately misses the mark. I think it has something to do with the fact that some of the most interesting and disturbing moments were more intimated than explored. For instance, we only just start to understand the emotional-ity of the Duke by the movie's end. Then in the epilogue we read that the Duke and Duchess went on to live an amicable life together even though she was not allowed her love, but his mis-ress continued to live with them and remained her closest friend...

Huh?!!

Rated PG-13 for sexual content, brief nudity and thematic material.

Review by Michelle Keenan

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The Remarkable Charley Bowers: A True American Original

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

With Thanksgiving coming up in a few weeks, fans of silent movies have much to be thankful for. It seems that every month some new silent film release or upgrade is making its way to DVD. No release however has been met with more curiosity and wild enthusiasm than *Charley Bowers: The Rediscovery Of An American Comic Genius*.

Who is Charley Bowers and why can't I get him out of my head? That's the question you'll be asking yourself once you run across anything by this remarkable, multi-talented, but totally forgotten individual. Rediscovered in France in the 1970s, we are only now just beginning to realize what an original, creative artist he was.

Charles K. Bowers was born in Iowa in 1889 (the same year as Chaplin) and grew up in a circus where he was walking a tightrope at the age of 6. Although he only had a grade school education, Bowers had a remarkable gift for understanding mechanics and for drawing.

By the age of 21 he had become a comic strip artist and in 1913 he made the jump to animation. He drew and animated more than 300 cartoons by 1916 including the then popular Mutt and Jeff series (most of these do not

survive). Along the way he patented a form of stop motion animation which was named after him.

In the mid 1920s he had formed his own company and began producing a series of silent comedy shorts that featured him as a Rube Goldberg type of inventor. His inventions, which were brought to life by his stop motion animation process, created a variety of comic situations which invariably ended badly.

For his screen character, Bowers borrowed bits from the leading comedians of the day. He wore Chaplin's tattered clothes, had Harold Lloyd's exuberance, and wore a deadpan expression similar to Buster Keaton. Yet he was his own man and was very successful as an independent producer-director until 1929 when the arrival of sound and the Stock Market Crash brought about an end to his career.

He soldiered on through a few projects in the 1930s (including a stop motion piece for the 1939 New York World's Fair) but ill health forced him to retire in 1940. By the time of his death in 1946, he and his films were forgotten.

Flash forward to the 1960s when a French film scholar discovers a trunk-load of films featuring a mystery character known as Bricolo. A little research showed this character to be Charley

Bowers. Of the 20 short films he made, only 9 survive to-day along with a few of his cartoons from the World War I era and his 1939 World's Fair short about the history of oil, "Pete Roleum And His Cousins."

Most of this surviving material has been issued on a 2 DVD set by Image Entertainment and is a real eye-opener. 3 of the comedies, "Egged On, Fatal Footsteps," and "Now You Tell One" are unlike any silent comedies you've ever seen.

If you love silent comedies and want to look beyond Chaplin, Keaton and Lloyd then check out *Charley Bowers: The Rediscovery Of A True American*



Section co-editor Chip Kaufmann is a film historian who also shares his love of classical music on public radio station WCQS-FM.

TEEN REVIEW

The Secret Life of Bees

Previews for *The Secret Life of Bees* have been shouting for months that one of the strong points of this movie is that it holds many acclaimed actresses, including Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson, and Dakota Fanning. These previews did not mislead its audience, for the actors brought to life a beautiful story.

The Secret Life of Bees takes place in racist South Carolina in 1964, when a girl, Lily (Dakota Fanning), has accidentally killed her mother and now lives with her abusive father. She sets off with her fugitive housekeeper, Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson), on a journey to find out who her mother really was, and



Sierra Bicking is an arte aficionado extraordinaire.

by Sierra Bicking

ends up discovering herself as well along the way.

The Secret Life of Bees is one of those movies that stays with you. With its complex plot and deep characters, the audience is drawn in by this powerful tale, and is taken along on the journey with Lily.

Queen Latifah especially hooks the audience with her performance. She communicates with her eyes, and it helps the audience members to stop feeling like they are stuck in a cold, dark theatre and are actually out on a honey-farm, both laughing and crying right along with the Boatwright sisters.

The Secret Life of Bees is based on a book by Sue Monk Kidd. I read the novel a couple years ago, and was happily surprised at how well the novel was



Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo, Jennifer Hudson, Alicia Keys and Dakota Fanning star in *THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES*.

represented in the film. I experienced the same powerful emotions I had felt when I spun through the pages of the original tale.

The only downside to seeing this movie is that it is a lugubrious one. As I heard one audience member exclaim on the way out, "Bring some tissues, for this a both beautiful and sad movie; the greatest combination there is."

FILM REVIEWS

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W. 1/2

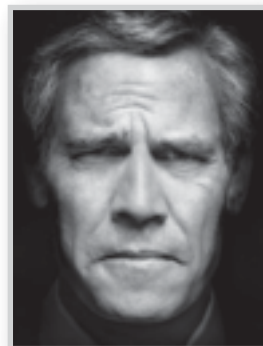
Short Take: A surprisingly subtle film from Oliver Stone with killer performances.

REEL TAKE: Oliver Stone's *W.* is a truly remarkable film in many ways. It's remarkable for its subject, remarkable for its performances and, most of all, remarkable for the restraint shown by director Stone.

What could easily have been a hatchet job (those expecting one will be disappointed) in the most heavy-handed manner possible (the majority of Oliver Stone's movies make their points with sledgehammers) emerges as a relatively

balanced portrait of a flawed individual. Flawed but by no means tragic.

In between a series of flashbacks and fantasy sequences, we follow George W. Bush from his days at Yale, through a failed series of jobs, to a failed bid for Congress. These are all provided by his



Josh Brolin as President Bush in Oliver Stone's "W."

father who doesn't hide his disdain over Junior's failures. When he finally defies him and runs for Governor of Texas, we know what happens. And we know what happens after that.

What keeps *W.* so engrossing and so entertaining despite its length are the performances by an ideal cast. James Cromwell and Ellen Burstyn make a fine George Sr. and Barbara Bush with Elizabeth Banks a solid Laura Bush. The film's juiciest moments however belong to Richard Dreyfus as Dick Cheney (an Oscar worthy performance) and Toby Jones as Karl Rove. Also Oscar worthy is Josh Brolin as W himself. His central performance drives the film along and gives you a definite picture of a sincere but limited man who is used by others.

W. is doing respectable business but who knows how long it will be around after Election Day. No matter what your feelings about President Bush are, you owe it to yourself to see this provocative, performance driven film from one of America's most outspoken high-profile directors. It explains a lot without excusing a thing.

Rated PG-13 for language, sexual references, alcohol abuse, and war imagery.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

Chip Kaufmann's Pick: "Winter Kills"

Winter Kills

Although the election will be over by the time most of you read this, politics will still be on everyone's mind so why not be entertained by one of the most interesting political conspiracy movies ever made.

Back in 1977 a young "maverick" director named William Richert secured funding and began shooting a version of Richard Condon's *Winter Kills* with a dream cast of Hollywood veterans. Condon wrote *The Manchurian Candidate* and if you're familiar with that film then you know what to expect here but even more so.

A young Jeff Bridges is joined by the likes of John Huston, Anthony Perkins, Dorothy Malone, and Elizabeth Taylor and that's just for starters. Some of the roles are little more than glorified cameos, but each performer brings something of to the table for all of us to share.

Although it uses the JFK assassination as a reference point, the film is not so much about the about the Kennedy family (here called the Kegans) as it is about all the conspiracy theories that fol-



DVD Picks of the Month

lowed in its wake. In that sense it is the "mother of all conspiracy movies," even more so than Oliver Stone's *JFK*.

In watching the film again recently I was struck by how much it resembles a Coen Brothers movie. While not up to their technical level, the absurdist humor underlying the proceedings could be considered vintage Coen (they must have known this film).

Recently released on DVD in a beautiful print, *Winter Kills* is one of those movies that makes you think while displaying a twisted sense of humor. If that's your kind of film then become the part of the audience that this film was denied when it came out in 1979.

The Candidate (1972)

When Chip and I decided to pick political flicks for this month's DVD picks, there was good lot to choose from, *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Last Hurrah*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Primary Colors* and so on and so forth. Eventually I decided on *The Candidate*.

The reason is twofold. When you watch it now, you realize this film paved the way for the future of independent film, particularly in its dialogue and camera work. The second is that even though it was made in 1972, it stills holds up today.



Michelle Keenan's Pick: "The Candidate" (1972)

Robert Redford and director Michael Ritchie had previously teamed up for *Downhill Racer* in 1967. When they re-teamed to produce *The Candidate*, they used Ritchie's directing talent and Redford's recent mega-stardom to make quite a statement.

Political handlers and strategists, in particular Peter Boyle as the liberal idealist and campaign strategist Lucas, hand pick Bill McKay (Redford), a good looking, legal aid worker and son of a former California governor to run for the U.S. Senate and infuse the Democratic Party with new energy.

Starting off strong and independent, McKay falls prey to the political machine and the usual temptations along the way. When he realizes no longer recognizes what he stands for any more and it's not working, he takes back his campaign in his own way and in doing so wins the people. The vulnerable and honest last line of the movie strikes a shocking chord in the heart of the American voter.

The dialogue, camera work and performances by Redford, Boyle, and Don Porter are outstanding. Whether you've voted many times or just recently for the very first time, *The Candidate* is worth a look.

Imagine a School... Summerhill

FILM BY DIRECTOR WILLIAM TYLER SMITH WILL HAVE ITS DEBUT SCREENING AT THIS YEAR'S ASHEVILLE FILM FESTIVAL.

The feature documentary, produced by 418 films ltd. and represented by Reflection Media, Inc., was filmed in England over a period of seven years:

"In 1997, Tony Blair's New Labor government took steps to live up to its promise to improve standards in education. Ironically, this would threaten the existence of an unusual little school in Suffolk called Summerhill..."

So begins this extraordinary documentary about an exemplary school in England, in which the students, the staff and a few formidable barristers take on OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) and Tony Blair's Labor Government to fight for its existence and the lifeblood of alternative education throughout the world.

Imagine a School... Summerhill follows four students from the ages of eleven to sixteen as they grow up and make important decisions about life and their education at the same time that they become involved in the legal and political fight to save their school.

The film follows the same children who sneak out of their dorms at night and dance to The Spice Girls at the end of term party as they go on to help run the democratic processes of their school, give a press conference at the Houses of Parliament and, finally and triumphantly, turn the high court into an unprecedented and historical Summerhill general meeting to decide whether or not to accept the terms of the British government.



IF YOU GO: *Imagine a School... Summerhill*, Friday, November 7, 3 p.m. at 35 below, Asheville Community Theatre. 35 E. Walnut Street (828) 254-1320.

Asheville Film Festival, November 6-9. For screening schedules, events, ticket information and more, go to www.ashevillefilmfest.com.

RESTAURANTS & WINE

'Tis the Season for Wine Tastings

Getting Your Notes Ready is a Priority

BY MICHAEL PARKER

The local wine shops are hyper-stocking, and it is your burden to wade through deeper and deeper selections.

At this time of year especially, you need your friendly local wine retailers to guide you, but even then, with so much new stock coming in, they may not have time to know everything. Check with the shops for their tasting schedules, mark your calendars, and keep good notes.

This is a shopping season where you can buy good wine, but not the wine you mean to buy. Let's say you prefer grassy sauvignon blanc to grapefruity sauvignon blanc, or milder-mannered zinfandel to a style that's in-your-face. Wine shop staff do not have the time or opportunity to taste it all, so it is wise to go to the tastings and get your own knowledge before spending on the bottles.

Fizz

Willm, Cremant de Alsace Brut NV (\$13) This is a nifty before-lunch or dinner sparkler for people who like lighter-styled fizz, with a particularly appetizing whiff of pear. It's actually kind of complex.

No. 1 Family Estate, Cuvée Number Eight, New Zealand NV (\$25) This sparkling wine from the world newest land is surprisingly big in style, very Champagne-like with a load of bread-like nuances you get from real Champagne. Impressive.

Sant' Evasio, Brachetto d'Acqui (\$18) Red sparkling wine is not for everyone. Personally, I am not a fan. But it sells, which means there are plenty of people who do like it. It is best to score a taste at a wine tasting or mooch off someone

else's open bottle before you spend the money. However, this particular Brachetto shows good structure. If you like red fizz, you will like this one.

Pink

Alta Vista, Malbec Rose (\$12) Don't let seasonal rules rule what color you drink. If pink is your color, consider roses made from a variety of red grapes. In this case, a malbec rose will offer a slightly heavier mouth feel and flavor.

White

Seifried, Gewurztraminer, Nelson, New Zealand 2007 (\$13) If you like complexity in a white wine, you will get your money's worth here, even at a restaurant wine list price. This also is another example of how New Zealand's soils can really compete with the world's older, established wine producing regions.

Cave de Vignerons de Saumur, Saumur, Reserve de Vignerons 2006 (\$10) For people who drink white in winter and avoid chardonnay, this is a good ten dollar bottle with apple here and pear there, and a few delightful minerals.

Red

Hope Estate, Shiraz, Hunter Valley, Australia 2006 (\$13) Dense, with dark fruit and nice spice. Good pepper on the nose. Good with hearty winter food, but could actually benefit from a little ageing. The market has been flooded for years with shiraz choices we should not have had before us.

When facing an unfamiliar selection, I usually go with a Cabernet-shiraz blend to be safe. Here, however, Hope is a label I depend on for full-on shiraz.



Michael David, Petite/Petit (\$23) A fun blend of petite sirah and petit verdot, there is raspberry in this dense, dark, red wine. I love raspberry nuances, especially in rich California reds. Big stuff - serve with a big meal. The petit verdot, fifteen percent of this wine, adds a shot of Bordeaux-like tannin.

Corte Majoli Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso 2005 (\$16) There is a magic word on this label for shoppers who will not pay the big bucks for Amarone - "ripasso". I'm not saying this is the same, but it delivers an intense valpolicella taste for an affordable price.

Sausal Family, Zinfandel 2004 (\$22) There seems to be a new fashion in zinfandel, with the volume turned down a couple of notches from the in-your-face style we've been bombarded with for the past decade. It is still a man's glass of red wine, but it is nice to taste its subtler nuances this way.

Party Season is on The Way!

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The Wine Guy

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Reservations are required. Call the Weinhaus at (828) 254-6453.

Wednesday, November 12

A gala wine tasting dinner featuring St. Supery wines at Vincenzo's Restaurant, a representative of the winery will present the wines and pair them with Vincenzo's delicious cuisine. Time is 7 p.m., price is \$60 all inclusive.

Saturday, November 22

The Weinhaus will have a free tasting to celebrate the release of Beaujolais Nouveau for 2008, come and join us for this sentinel event. From 2 to 4 p.m. at the Weinhaus.

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Toe River Studio Tours

Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7

Well over 500 artists and craftsmen have made their homes and studios in Mitchell and Yancey counties, North Carolina.

Crafts provide the mainstay income for many of these artists, while for others it may be a second income or an opportunity upon retirement to pursue a lifetime dream. Their work is sold and collected in local, regional and even world markets.

Penland School of Crafts, the supportive nature of a growing peer community, the beauty and inspiration of our mountains, and the opportunity for a less- hectic life-style are some of the reasons they are drawn to re-locate here.



Ron Slagle Studio featuring the clay and paintings of Ron and Maria Slagle, is located in the Bakersville area.

The Toe River Studio Tours provide a rare opportunity to visit these studios and to talk with the artisans about their work. The Tours also provide an opportunity for visitors to come to our community to enjoy not only the rich treasures that await them, but an opportunity to travel down our beautiful winding roads and explore hidden coves and amazing vistas. Visitors enjoy our quaint towns and the friendliness of our communities.

The Toe River Arts Council co-ordinates the Tours, prints a postcard announcing the event that is distributed all over the country, and prints a Tour Map Brochure that is placed at various sites in the region and at many local businesses. Visitors plan annual treks to our community, meeting up with other friends and



Rob Levin's glass studio is located in the Celo area of Yancey County.

relatives from other parts of the country – making it a reunion, as well as a personal and fun trip.

The studios are cleaned and readied for the visitors. Food is prepared and there's even a challenge between artists to offer the "best" food on the tours.

The Tours take place the second weekend in June and the first weekend in December with the next Tour taking place on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. The sites are open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a gala reception where you can meet the artists takes place on Friday, December 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Spruce Pine TRAC Center Gallery.

Participants display samples of their work in an exhibit arranged geographically at the TRAC Center Gallery in Spruce Pine from November 8 through January 3, 2009. Visitors also can stop by the Burns-ville TRAC Gallery and view the oversized map and book that includes pictures of the artists and work. Both TRAC Galleries and Galleries on the Tour will help guide visitors to their destinations and have samples of local artwork on display.

All you need to take this self-guided tour is a map, and then follow the arrowed "Tour" signs that are placed on various roads and intersections that weekend.

IF YOU GO: Pick up a map ahead of the Tour at either TRAC Galleries or participating studios. The TRAC Center Gallery in Spruce Pine is located at 269 Oak Avenue and is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone (828) 765-0520 for details.

The Burnsville TRAC Gallery is located at 102 West Main Street and is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone (828) 682-7215. A map and studio listing will be posted on the TRAC website www.toeriverarts.org.

ARTFUL LIVING

Hope For Humankind

BY BILL WALZ

American society, and human society generally, faces a critical time. We have lived and created our cultures and societies since the dawn of civilizations from an egocentric perspective, that is, human consciousness has constellated, like planets circling a sun, around the perspective that me, my family, my group, my country, my species is important over all that is "other".

All of our social, cultural and economic systems have developed from this perspective. This abstracted "me" as an entity separate and struggling for significance and preeminence in the universe is what is psychologically known as ego.

From a psychological perspective, this post-hunter-gatherer period could be called the beginnings of the Egocentric era of human evolution. It has lasted ten thousand years. Ever since small bands of humans stepped out of the forests and a wholly symbiotic relationship with nature, and began to cultivate crops and to develop increasingly refined tools for manipulating nature, humanity's unique evolutionary trait for abstracted consciousness has also ever-increasingly separated human identity from nature.

What follows, are eras noted by humanity abstracting individual and social/cultural experience further out of nature, increasingly identifying with technology that manipulates nature to enhance human power.

We have, heretofore, mostly believed this to be a good thing. It is more and more, however, being noted as a disaster, first for the planet and its non-human occupants, and finally, as the sword of Damocles that hangs over humanity's head, it's supporting thread about to break. And so it is. An evolutionary crisis is at hand.

The species, Homo Sapiens, the term itself, in the Latin meaning "wise or intelligent man", has unwisely, unintelligently come into existential disharmony with the planet that is its home. We cannot project our species into the future following this course another one hundred years, let alone ten thousand, without seeing a severe diminishment of the quality of life on this planet. As in every evolutionary crisis for a species, either an evolutionary leap is made, or devolution, possibly extinction results.

There is, however, hope for humankind. The evolutionary trait of humanity is consciousness, and as the great paleontologist/theologian, Teilhard de Chardin noted, the evolution of consciousness is an ever-expanding convergent process. This means that the sense of "I" incorporates that which had been previously exiled to "other". In the track of human his-

tory, we have greatly overcome tribalism, hereditary aristocracy, ethnicism, religious intolerance, sexism and other forms of division to have an ever-expanding and increasingly stable sense of inclusion within the human family.

Glaring remaining exceptions give validity to the rule. de Chardin noted that the ultimate evolutionary perspective will arrive when the experience of "I" as entirely separate from "other", not only between human groups, but humanity and all that exists, is overcome completely.

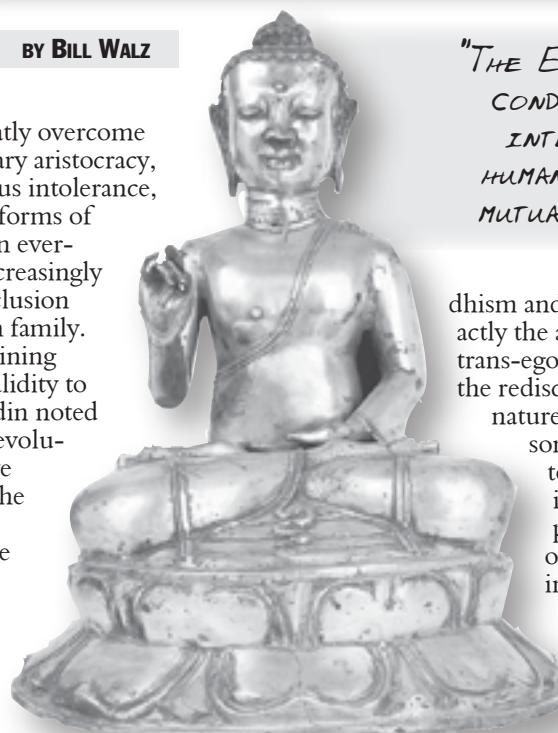
For this to occur, one "ism", for which there is barely a glimmer of realization, must be acknowledged. It is species-ism, humanity's failure to recognize the rights and needs of all on this planet, including the planet, which is not human. It is a form of collective egocentrism. For humanity to have a humane long future, a leap of consciousness is required that will first, enfold all humanity, and then, the ecosystem of humanity, within one reverential system.

For humanity to have a humane long future, a leap of consciousness is required...

There is required a new consciousness that synthesizes the Nature reverence of primitive humans with the technological and democratic advancement of modern human civilization, creating a highly sophisticated world culture that applies its inventiveness not to the domination of Nature, and of other human, non-human groups and the planet, but to the harmonious support of all: "when humans will be present upon the Earth in a mutually enhancing manner."

Ironically, there is an existing and ancient vein of human philosophy that is capable of exactly this vision. It is the Hindu/Buddhist/ Taoist traditions of Asia that emerged just as complex civilizations were being born. They are a bridge to a time when humanity still identified with Nature as its source and context.

The "awakening" that is the meaning of the Sanskrit root of the words, Bud-



"THE ECOZOIC (ERA) IS THE PERIOD WHEN HUMAN CONDUCT WILL BE GUIDED BY THE IDEAL OF AN INTEGRAL EARTH COMMUNITY, A PERIOD WHEN HUMANS WILL BE PRESENT UPON THE EARTH IN A MUTUALLY ENHANCING MANNER." ~ THOMAS BERRY

dhism and Buddha, is exactly the awakening into the trans-egoic consciousness, the rediscovery of "original nature" within every person, that is required to take humanity and its home planet with all its occupants forward into the future. It is the core of these philosophies to grasp the interconnectedness and inter-beingness of all who share this ecosystem.

As Eckhart Tolle writes in A New Earth, "Awakened doing is the outer aspect of the next stage in the evolution of consciousness on our planet."

Meditation and mindfulness are the irreplaceable practices that lead to this consciousness of "awakened doing". To meditate on our present economic, political, social and psychological crises leads to the inescapable recognition of this truth.

To meditate on our individual consciousness is to inescapably realize that we must "awaken" into an expanded, evolved awareness-and-doing to transcend our individual anxious, competitive egocentric tendencies. And to meditate is to discover the irrefutable path that leads to this awakening. These insights are what Buddha described as the result of his meditation in the famous "Four Noble Truths", the doctrinal core of Buddhism.

There is hope for humankind, and it has been ensconced in the background of human history for thousands of years, locked away within the protective shell of these ancient religions, waiting until it was needed. It is now needed. It is time to crack the anachronistic religious husks and claim the inner fruit.

Humanity is of Nature. Nature is the home and source of humanity. Humanity's "original nature", as Buddhism refers to it, must awaken. The rebirth and contemporization of this philosophy and its meditative practices will result in what Thomas Berry refers to in The Great Work, as the next phase of human evolution, the Ecozoic era, as the ancient and modern reconcile and synthesize into a new flowering.



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, 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood.

He will speak on "Hope for Humanity" at Jubilee Church, 46 Wall St., on Sunday, November 16, from 2-5 p.m. (\$10).

A special extended meditation and discussion event will be held at the Friends Meeting House on Saturday, November 22, from 1-5 p.m. (donation).

Info on events, 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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JOE'S BREW NOTES

Asheville's Breweries: Winter Seasonal Brews and Brewery News

As the seasons change so do the beers from our breweries. Some new, some unusual, some back by popular demand and all brewed for your winter/holiday taste-pleasure.

We'll review the season's offerings, report the latest news from each brewery, and introduce Asheville's newest, Appalachian Craft Brewery. Let's see what's brewing.

I tend to think of winter brews in three classes — rich and warming, spicy and festive, light and flavorful. Rich and warming brews fill and warm us on cold winter days. Spicy and festive brews enhance our holiday foods and moods. Light and flavorful brews are the beers to drink when our belt reminds us of the word moderation but our taste-buds demand pleasure.

Because the seasonal beers mentioned here are combinations of both new and returning brews, the beer descriptions below are either my tasting experience or the brewer's profile of the brew. Release dates and sales locations for draught, growlers, or bottles (12 and/or 22 oz.) are available at the brewery or the brewery's website. A less efficient but equally effective method — ask for local, seasonal brews at every restaurant, pub, or beer store you visit — can be used as well.

Appalachian Craft Brewery

(828) 684-1235

www.acbrewery.com

Asheville Pizza and Brewing Co.

(828) 254-1281

or (828) 255-4077

www.ashevillepizza.com

French Broad Brewing Co.

(828) 277-0222

www.frenchbroadbrewery.com

Green Man Brewing Co.

(828) 252-5502

www.jackofthewood.com

Highland Brewing Co.

(828) 299-3370

www.highlandbrewing.com

Pisgah Brewing Co.

(828) 582-2175

www.pisgahbrewing.com

Wedge Brewing Co.

(828) 505-2792

www.wedgebrewing.com

BY JOE ZINICH

Rich and Warming Brews (alphabetically)

Appalachian Craft Brewery presents a new, brown, rich and full bodied Winter Belgium Ale (malty, complex, 7-8% alcohol) which is similar to a Belgian Double.

French Broad Brewing Company returns their brown/black, medium-bodied Wee Heavy-est, Scot-



Carl Melissas, Brewmaster at the Wedge Brewery.

tish-style ale made with Belgian yeast (smoky, fruity, 9%).

Green Man Brewing Company is re-issuing two of last year's favorites. Their Imperial Stout, often called Russian Imperial Stout, is a black, full bodied, rich tasting delight (chocolatey, 9% alcohol) and their medium-bodied Belgium Golden (slightly sweet and spicy, 8.5%).

Pisgah Brewing Company returns their rich, very smooth, jet black, full-bodied Vortex II, an Imperial stout (chocolate and coffee, 11.7%), and their golden Baptista, a Belgian style Christmas ale (spicy, fruity, 11.5%). Both brews are so smooth the alcohol can surprise you.

Wedge Brewing Company introduces four seasonal brews — an amber, rich Doppel Bock lager (malty, 7.5%); a near-black, smooth, robust Oatmeal Stout (roasted malt, chocolatey, 5.5%), "a meal in a glass"; an amber, silky-smooth, rich Abbey Dubbel Beer (fruits and caramel, 7.1%), "the burgundy wine of beer"; and a black, smooth, rich Imperial Stout (chocolate torte with raspberries, 10%), dessert-like.



Pisgah Brewing Company: (Left to right) Bartenders Tommy Tepper and Tom Lounsbury, Owner Jason Caughman, Head Brewer John Silver.

Light and Flavorful Brews

French Broad introduces a reddish brown Rye Hopper (malty sweetness, rye adds nice pucker with no hop bitterness) and returns a rich, light-bodied, dark brown Harvest Porter (formerly Rose Bud Porter, malty flavor, 5%), and a black, full-bodied Belgian Stout (chocolate-covered cherry, 6%).

Green Man introduces Hefe-Weizen, a cloudy, yellow, light-bodied wheat-beer (spicy with fruity esters, 5%).

Highland has a new golden, light-bodied pale ale called Black Mountain Bitter (crisp and clean, 4.5%).

Pisgah will introduce a Helles/Pilsner-style, golden-light lager described as a crisp session beer and a medium bodied IPA (hoppy, 7.5%) made to style.

Spicy and Festive Brews

Highland Brewing Company returns Cold Mountain Winter Ale, a wonderful, light-bodied, spiced holiday-ale (malty, a variety of spices, 5.8%). This ale is great by itself and even better with meat and fruit sauces (think turkey and cranberry sauce, duck and plum sauce, etc.).

Pisgah re-introduces their golden, medium-bodied, smooth Red Devil Belgian-style ale made with cherries and raspberries (fruity, slightly sweet, 8%). This ale is delicious alone or with chocolate- or fruit-based deserts.

Appalachian Craft Brewery

Brewmaster Andy Cubbin is a former professional photographer, an avid cook, home-brewer, and beer enthusiast. He and wife Kelly purchased Appalachian Brewing Company's equipment, moved it from Brevard to Fletcher, and introduced their beers to the Asheville market in the fall of 2007.



Brewmaster Andy Cubbin of Appalachian Craft Brewery.

Enjoy the quality and flavor of their Copperhead Ale, Black Bear Stout and Winter Belgium Ale at the Bier Garden, Carmel's, or at a dozen other places listed on their website. Watch for a full review in a future issue.

Brewery News

Asheville Pizza plans to install a 22-ounce bottling line soon.

French Broad has a new cask system, a \$2.50/pint night (Monday); board-game nights (Tuesday/Wednesday), and live-music nights (Thursday — Saturday).

Green Man/Jack of the Wood installed a cask system at Jack of the Wood and will introduce single-hop, cask, specialty ales — unique taste treats.

Highland made twice the amount of Cold Mountain this year and plan to make other seasonal/specialty beers year-round.

Pisgah's tasting room evolves toward a pub and starting November 4, Pisgah opens Tuesday — Friday with live music on Thursdays and Fridays.



For five years, Joe Zinich has been taking a self-guided, high-intensity tour of Asheville's beer world. Contact him at: jzinich@bellsouth.net

ASHEVILLE SHOPS

Rip Squeak, The Best Christmas Gift Ever!

Wondering what to get those “special” little people in your life for Christmas? Something new, unique AND educational. The answer is Rip Squeak, this book series and art is irresistible to children between 3 and 8.

The customers who have bought the books and art for the children in their lives cannot say more about the wonderful books, which also come in CD format. One of my customers commented that her little granddaughter falls asleep listening to the CD every night.

The books and art are available through Maggie and Bob at Fast Frame. Hours: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday by appointment.



Fast Frame

900 Henderson Road
Forest Center North
(828) 274-5176
www.fastframeasheville.com

“Nature and Light”

ON DISPLAY IN THE FW FRONT GALLERY AT WOOLWORTH WALK

For the month of November, the F.W. Front Gallery at Woolworth Walk will feature encaustic paintings by local artist Sarah Faulkner in the show “Nature and Light.”

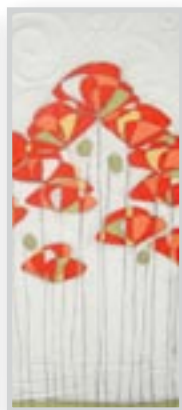
Sarah begins her paintings by building up the surface with wood putty and glue. She then applies up to ten layers of paint starting with darker colors then lighter and lighter colors are added. She finishes with a coat of paraffin to bring the piece softness and depth.

BY MEGAN STONE

Her paintings often contain sweet images of flowers, birds, trees and other nature scenes. Sarah seeks to capture the important relationship humans have with the natural world and strives to bring forth a sense of positivity and simplicity through her work.

Come meet the lovely and talented Sarah Faulkner at the opening reception on November 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

IF YOU GO: Sarah Faulkner: Encaustic Paintings. Opening Reception Sunday, November 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. On display from November 7–December 10. Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood Street in Asheville, NC. (828) 254-9234
Gallery Hours: Mon.- Thur. 11-6, Fri. & Sat. 11-7, Sun. 11-5.



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Photography by Don McGowan

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NOTEWORTHY

Christmas at the Historic Johnson Farm

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we often find ourselves longing for a less complicated Christmas. This year, there is an opportunity to step into Christmas of yesterday, and experience the holiday season on a 1880s farm.

The property is a National Register of Historic Places farm, decorated for the holiday season. The event will include a tour of the oldest brick home in Henderson County. Enjoy seasonal music, refreshments, bake sale and a visit and photos with Santa in the Interpretive Center.

Dress warmly for a horse-drawn wagon ride through the farm and nature trails. Stop by the barn to visit Chelsea and Lester, the donkeys, their new baby April, and the farm's sheep, Jacob. (The property is an alcohol and tobacco free site. No pets please.) Live musicians will perform in the Interpretive Center where refreshments will be served and a cake sale will be held. For \$2, guests can purchase a hot dog/drink lunch. Children can make a Christmas ornament to take home.

Special features of the event are a walk down the Christmas Tree Trail that leads to the 1880s brick farmhouse. Trees on the trail will feature handmade ornaments made by area schoolchildren in the elementary grades. There will also be decorated trees in the house by middle and high school students.

Today the farm is operated as a heritage education center. It is owned by the Henderson County Public School System and managed by the non-profit Hender-



son County Education Foundation.

The farm and the foundation depend on public support. Donations are tax-deductible. The farm has two nature trails, an 1880s boarding house, a barn-loft museum, 10 historic buildings, and 15 acres of fields, forests and streams. The property was given to area schoolchildren in 1987 by the late Vernon and Leander Johnson.

IF YOU GO: Historic Johnson Farm will hold its holiday event, "Christmas at the Farm", on Saturday, December 6, from noon to 5 p.m.

Admission is \$5 for Adults and \$3 for students K-12, preschoolers free. Historic Johnson Farm is located at 3346 Haywood Road, in Hendersonville, NC.

Contact Farm Coordinator Ingrid McNair at (828) 891-6585 for more information or the publicity volunteer at (828) 692-3379.

Voorhees Family Art Show and Sale

A collection of paintings and artwork by Voorhees family members will be on exhibit and for sale at this exciting event. Meet this extraordinary family of artists known throughout North Carolina and the Southeast.

The arts legacy began with Edwin Voorhees, known for his watercolor seascapes, and was continued through his wife, Mildred and now their children and grandchildren. Reproductions of Edwin and Mildred's artwork will be available for sale.

David and Molly Voorhees own Hand in Hand Gallery in Flat Rock. They are both members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild.

IF YOU GO: Saturday, November 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 23 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. at the Voorhees home, 43 Woodward Avenue in Asheville.

For more information visit www.handinhandgallery.com or call Hand in Hand Gallery at (828) 697-7719.

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FINE ART

November at the Folk Art Center

Escape the commercial chaos of the malls and big box stores during the holiday season and come to the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center in east Asheville! The center is hosting three new exhibitions which are sure to delight and inspire.

Allanstand Craft Shop, located in the lower level of the Folk Art Center, is hosting the 6th Annual Doll Makers of the Southern Highland Craft Guild Exhibition. This showcase of figurative works will include works by Gabe Cyr, Dee Dee Triplett, Gail Holt and Sandie Bishop as well as many other artists. From whimsical to traditional, the dolls on display prove that their creators are masters in the contemporary art doll world.

The Folk Art Center's Focus Gallery on the upper level will host the fiber art of Heather Allen-Swartouw and the astrophotography and glasswork of Robert Stephan through December 2.

New Traditions: Cabinetmaking by Members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild is on display now in the Main Gallery of the Folk Art Center. The exhibition highlights work by regional masters in the studio craft movement.

The workmanship and design represented is awe-inspiring. In addition to fine furniture the show also features the work of Guild artists who have taken the theme of the show in different directions. For example, Alice Schlein's tapestry, "George Washington's Cabinet" uses the definition of cabinet as a body of advisers to the President. Fiber artist Martha Owen contributed "A Pair of Drawers" to the show which are hand knit undergarments. Other media represented in the exhibition are glass, quilting and jewelry.

Coming up December 6 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Folk Art Center is the highly anticipated Guild Artists' Holiday Sale. Craftspeople will set up in the Center's auditorium to sell select items at discounts ranging from 10-50% off retail

BY APRIL NANCE



Chris Kamm



Dee Dee Triplett



Heather Allen Swartouw "InwardSpiral"

prices. This is an opportunity for artists to reduce overstocks or seconds and the chance for customers to get great deals just in time for holiday shopping!

IF YOU GO: The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just north of the Hwy 70 entrance in east Asheville, NC.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to bring together the crafts and craftspeople of the Southern Highlands for the benefit of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is authorized to provide services at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center under the authority of a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."
— Milton Berle

Or better yet, buy one.

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Thursday, November 6
at The Orange Peel

6:30 pm
\$55 per person \$100 per couple

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Schools: Tuesday, December 2 • 10am
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Planet Earth, Inc. presented by Lee Bryan/That Puppet Guy
A vaudevillian introduction to environmental concerns
Schools: Friday, March 13 • 10am
Public: Saturday, March 14 • 11am

Scope out details and other local puppetry info at
www.ashevillepuppetry.org

Tickets
Adults: \$8
Children: \$5
Seniors: \$5

Available in person or online at
www.dwttheater.com

WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

'Of Thee I Sing,' a Lampoon of U.S. Politics

What better way to entertain yourself around Election Day than with a musical farce about – of course – an election? “Of Thee I Sing” is the satirical story of John P. Wintergreen, who runs for president on a platform of worldwide love. Conflict arises when he reneges on his promise to marry the winner of a pageant to select the most beautiful woman in the world.

The WCU performance stars students Patrick Detloff, Christy Waymouth, Leslie Putnam and Brian Nicholls. Paige Posey, associate artistic

director at Flat Rock Playhouse, directs the play. The cast and crew of approximately 100 include an orchestra, the WCU Concert Choir and visiting students from Appalachian State University.

“Of Thee I Sing,” 8 p.m. Monday, November 3, and Tuesday, November 4, in the recital hall of the Coulter Building on the WCU campus. Ticket price is \$10, \$5 for students.

For more information, please contact Bradley Martin by calling (828) 227-3726.

Thursday, November 6 A Taste of Good Will

Earth Fare, market and café, hosts A Taste of Good Will, a benefit wine tasting on Thursday, November 6th from 6-8 pm in the café of their Westgate location. This evening of wine and fabulous finger food will benefit

Manna Food Bank. There will be several wine experts on hand to answer questions and help you assemble the perfect case of wine for the holidays. Earth Fare is offering a 20% case discount on all featured wines and a 10% discount on all half cases.

This special evening will appease your appetite for good wine and good deeds as the 4 cans of food you donate will benefit Manna Food Bank.

Founded in 1982, MANNA Food Bank is a private, not-for-profit service organization that links the food industry with over 342 member agencies in 17 counties of WNC. MANNA Food Bank is involving, educating and uniting people in the work of ending hunger in WNC.

Friday, November 7 Maggie Bishop at Malaprop's

At 1 p.m. author Maggie Bishop will sign copies of her new mystery, *Perfect for Framing*. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, 55 Haywood Street in Asheville. Call (828) 254-6734 or visit www.malaprops.com for more details. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, November 15 Coming Home: Returning to Our Sacred Source

1 to 5 p.m. – First one-day event in NC with acclaimed classicist and spiritual teacher Peter Kingsley. Living the ancient western

mystical tradition in today's world. Details and registration: (828) 505-4888 or www.peterkingsley.org

Saturday, November 15 Dana Lyons Signing

2 p.m. – Local author Dana Lyons will sign copies of *Heart of the Druae*, her debut novel in the spirit of Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander*. Archaeologist Eric Beck stumbles through time to find a passion he had only dreamed about in this fantastic and fascinating story.

Friday, November 21 MariJo Moore on The Read on WNC!

Reading and signing of *When The Dead Dream*, the sequel to the novel *The Diamond Door-knob*. Organized by rENEGADE Planets Publishing, Malaprops at 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 22 A Precious Window of Time

Local authors Howard Hanger and Dr. Vicki Garlock will discuss their new book, *A Precious Window of Time*. 7 p.m. at Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, 55 Haywood Street in Asheville. Call (828) 254-6734 or visit www.malaprops.com. Free and open to the public.

Saturday December 6 Holiday Bazaar

Evergreen Community Charter School's 4th Graders are hosting the 4th Annual Holiday Bazaar to

Nuncrackers, the Christmas Musical

November 14-30

The nutty nuns are back! Performances are held on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m.

Opening weekend will feature a champagne reception, dessert tasting, and a talk-back session with the cast and director.

Asheville Community Theatre is located at 35 E. Walnut St. in downtown Asheville.

For more information please visit the Asheville Community Theatre at www.ashevilletheatre.org, contact Program Director Jenny Bunn at (828) 254-2939, or email jenny@ashevilletheatre.org.

help raise money for their end of year trip.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at 50 Bell Rd., in Asheville. There will be up to 40 local handmade arts and crafts booths, food, and crafts prepared and sold by the fourth graders themselves. Admission is free! Please come and support our local artists and fourth grade class!

40 local handmade arts/crafts booths, food, and more. Evergreen Community Charter School, 50 Bell Rd.

Forensic Anthropologist Kathy Reichs to Visit Western Carolina University

Tuesday, November 18

Kathy Reichs, the best-selling author whose mystery novels inspired the hit Fox television series “Bones,” will visit WCU as part of the 2008-09 Chancellor Speaker Series.

Reich's fiction chronicles the adventures of forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan. Her latest thriller, “Devil Bones,” is hot off the presses.

A faculty member in the anthropology and sociology de-

partment at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Reichs will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the main performance hall of WCU's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Admission is free of charge, but there is a limit of four tickets per person. To reserve a seat for the event contact the Fine and Performing Arts Center box office at (828) 227-2479. Ticket holders must be seated by 7:15 p.m.

Doors of Asheville

Thursday, November 6

The 2008 Doors of Asheville art auction is an annual fundraising event that brings together regional artists, community leaders and friends to bid on outstanding themed works of art. Online catalog of art for auction is available at www.mtnhousing.org/doors.

This annual event raises awareness for affordable housing. Presented by HomeTrust Bank the event supports the programs and services of Mountain Housing Opportunities (MHO).

At the Orange Peel, 101 Biltmore Ave. in Asheville. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Reservations accepted online, by mail or phone. \$55 per person; \$100 per couple.

To request an invitation or to make a reservation, please contact MHO at (828) 254-4030 or email us at info@mtnhousing.org.

Gioia Timpanelli at Malaprop's

Saturday, November 15

A scholar and a master of the ageless art of storytelling, Gioia Timpanelli is the winner of two Emmy Awards as well as a Maharishi Award for “promoting world harmony wherever she goes by enlivening within the listener that field of pure consciousness that is the source of all stories.”

Timpanelli will read from her latest work, *What Makes A Child Lucky*. The tale's fictional narrator is a rural Sicilian boy who witnesses the violent murder of his best friend and is kidnapped by the killers.

7:00 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Café 55 Haywood Street in Asheville. Call (828) 254-6734 or visit www.malaprops.com

NOVEMBER EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS

WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

UNCA Events

November 5 – “Kristallnacht, Night of Broken Glass, Beginning of a Nightmare: Tales of Shame and Tales of Heroism,” Dr. Walter Ziffer, 7 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Reuter Center, free.

November 7 – “Environmental Ethics,” Grace Campbell, 11:25 a.m., UNC Asheville’s Humanities Lecture Hall, free.

November 13 – “Women’s Rights Activism in 1968,” Dr. Sarah Judson, 12:30 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Laurel Forum, Karpen Hall, free.

November 13 – An evening with poet and musician Keith Flynn, 7 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Laurel Forum, 139 Karpen Hall, free.

November 14 – Symphony Talk: “The Three Bs?” Asheville Symphony Conductor Daniel Meyer, 3 p.m., Reuter Center, free.

November 14 – An afternoon with author Robert Morgan, 3:30 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Laurel Forum, Karpen Hall, free.

November 15 – Choreographer Jonah Bokaer presents “Three Cases of Amnesia,” 8 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Lipinsky Auditorium, \$18.

November 16 – University Singers and Chamber Symphony in Concert, 2:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 5 Oak St., Asheville, \$5 (students free with ID).

November 16 – Writers at Home: Readings by local authors Laura Hope-Gill and Marjorie Klein, 3 p.m., Malaprop’s Bookstore/Café, 55 Haywood St., downtown Asheville, free.

November 23 – University Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble in Concert, 4 p.m., UNC Asheville’s Lipinsky Auditorium, \$5 (students free with ID).

Call (828) 251-6432 for details and information on any of these events.

Black Mountain Youth Chorale Fall Concert

The Black Mountain Youth Chorale begins its second season with a concert on Sunday, November 23 at 3 p.m. at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. The Center is located in the old City Hall at 225 W. State Street.

Composed of students in public, charter, private and home schools, it provides an opportunity for students in grades 4-8 to learn more about unison and 2 and 3 part singing, as well as making friends who like to sing.

Directed by Aline Carillon, a music educator who also teaches music at The Learning Community Private School, the Chorale performed with The Asheville



Choral Society in their spring 2008 concert, and most recently with the Hilton Head Choral Society Youth Choir in South Carolina. Their accompanist is Penny Rose.

The fall concert – a mix of classical and contemporary choral

music – will include works by Spevacek, Thompson, Beery, Mozart arranged by Moore, Tucker, Britten, Lightfoot, and Praetorius. The music ranges from the beautiful to the fun. These young, pure voices are truly “music to the ears.”

More information is available at (828) 669-0930. Admission is by donation at the door, with a suggested donation of \$5.

Flat Rock Music

Thursday, November 6

8 p.m. – The Family Eversole, in theory and method, is a bluegrass band. Hot instrumental pickin, good vocal harmonies, and great tunes make it easy to move your feet.

Friday, November 7

9 p.m. – Garry Segal and the To Dye for Band, \$5 cover. Expert and innovative harmonica playing. His soulful singing combined with a fresh twist to traditional genres has been pleasing audiences for years.

Saturday, November 8

9 p.m. – Dave Desmelik has established himself as an accomplished and rising singer/songwriter whose music might best be described as Americana or Alt/Country.

Wednesday, November 12

8 p.m. – Open Mic

Thursday, November 13

8 p.m. – Charles Wood and The Lonesome Road Band. Everything from Bill Monroe’s “My Sweet Blue Eyed Darlin’” to the Moody Blues’ “Nights In White Satin”.

Friday, November 14

9 p.m. – David Earl and the Plowshares Back Room show will feature members of the Firecracker Jazz Band and the Katt Williams band.

Saturday, November 15

9 p.m. – The Hand Me Downs blend Folk, Pop, Rock and Indie. The result: mellow-toned acoustic rock creating an organic sound that’s easy to relate to and reflects the different sides of life.

Wednesday, November 19

8 p.m. – Open Mic

Thursday, November 20

8 p.m. – The Pisgah Forest Pickers play a variety of tunes from bluegrass, classic country, reggae and rock and roll in a way that is all their own.

Friday, November 21

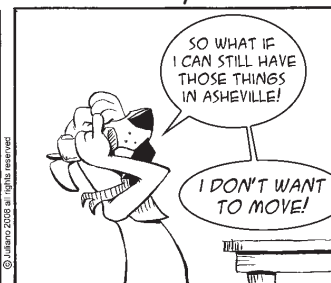
9 p.m. – The Galen Kipar Project brings something special to music, keeping things fresh, spontaneous, and energized.

Saturday, November 22

9 p.m. – Abi Tapia delivers catchy Americana — made for singing along to with the windows rolled down. Her undeniable skill at crafting simple, honest tunes satisfies fans of Dolly Parton and Patty Griffin.

Held on Little Rainbow Row’s back deck Behind the shops, corner of Greenville Hwy. and West Blue Ridge Rd.

Best in Show



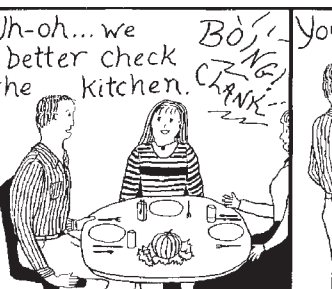
by Phil Juliano

Corgi Tales



by Phil Hawkins

Callie & Cats



by Amy Downs

CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS

STAGE PREVIEW

Celebrate the Holidays with *the Legend of La Befana*

The Asheville Puppetry Alliance presents its holiday show, "La Befana" on Friday, November 28 at Diana Wortham Theater in downtown Asheville.

The Legend of La Befana (the female Italian Santa Claus), embodies the Holiday spirit of giving, goodness and hope. Nothing could be more apropos for this year's holiday season.

Red Herring Puppets have created an original version of the popular Italian legend with over fifty puppets mixing hand, rod, shadow, and black-light figures. The story is set in a Byzantine style and features a procession of animals, a glowing sequence of magical stars, and an animated journey through the world in the Year One.

Following a visit from the Magi, La Befana puts down her broom in search of a magical star which should lead her to a miraculous child. She never catches up with the star; but finds inspiration in the realization that all children personify the spirit of love and hope. She spends the rest of her life offering gifts to children everywhere.

Red Herring Puppets, founded in 1988 is based in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. They delight young audiences with their lively and informative "edu-tainment." They have been featured at many Puppetry Festivals and at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta.

Lisa Sturz, Artistic Director and puppeteer, is a nationally recognized



puppeteer whose credits include Jim Henson Productions, Lucasfilm, Walt Disney Imagineering, NBC, PBS, the Ice Capades and the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Sturz holds an MFA in puppetry from UCLA. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jim Henson Foundation, the Puppeteers of America and many State and local arts agencies.

Catherine Haas Riley, composer, grew up in a creative family. Her

piano teacher mother married a Viennese artist with a passion for music. Cathy majored in art at Brandeis University and then did her post-graduate studies in music. She became certified in Orff-schulwerk music in 1983 and presently teaches piano, guitar and voice in the Asheville area. She has recorded several compact discs of her own music.

Marston Blow, puppeteer, has been performing with Red Herring Puppets for ten years. She has years of experience as a technician in theatre and circus and is a professional potter.

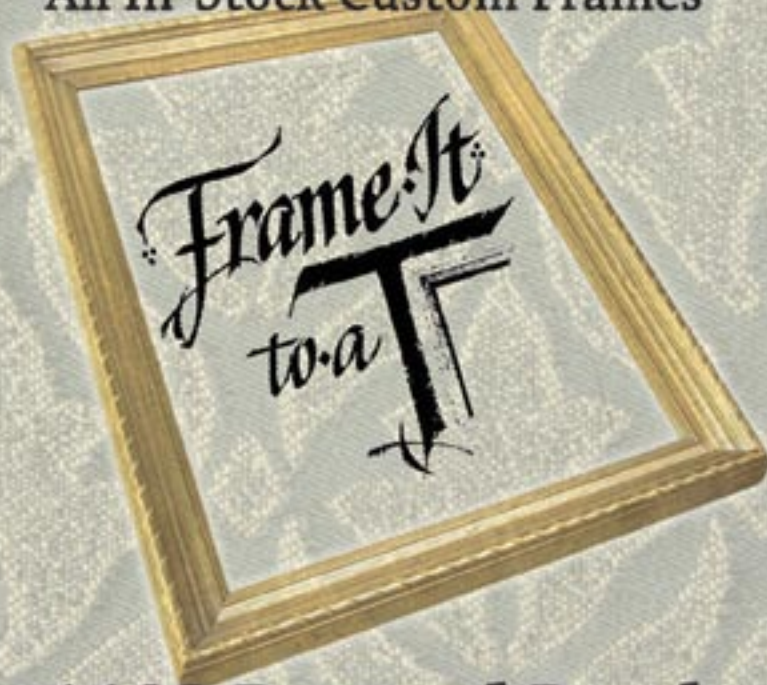
Asheville Puppetry Alliance is a non-profit arts organization sharing the ancient art of puppetry with Western North Carolina.

IF YOU GO: Friday, November 28 at Diana Wortham Theater.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors, available online and in person at the Diana Wortham Theater (www.dwthetheater.com).

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Book Artist to Deliver Talk on Art, Conservation

Printmaker, book artist and rare book conservator Denise Carbone will give a slide lecture about her work at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, in Room 130 of the Fine and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Western Carolina University. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Carbone, of New Jersey, is the School of Art and Design's artist-in-residence from Monday, November 10, through Friday, November 14. In ad-

dition to pursuing her studio work, she holds a full-time position as a book conservator at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia.

"Her sensibilities about the book as an object and her skills in the book arts demonstrate a link between her work as a conservator and her vision as a creative artist," said Matthew Liddle, art and design professor.

For more details call Matthew Liddle at (828) 227-3594.

NOTEWORTHY

Etown Honors Founder of Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) with E-Chievement Award

Etown, the popular national radio show that mixes live music and conversation (now in its 18th season), is proud to announce a recent winner of its coveted E-Chievement Award: Jennifer Pickering, founder of the Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) and its youth-directed nonprofit outreach programs, *LEAF in Schools & Streets* and *LEAF International*.

The E-Chievement Award is a listener-nominated honor given to individuals who are working hard to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond. Ms. Pickering was interviewed in-person during a sold out evening taping of the Etown radio show at The Boulder Theater. The show, hosted by radio personalities Nick & Helen Forster, also featured popular musical guests Ray LaMontagne and Ingrid Michaelson.

Jennifer is a documentary photographer, music lover, world traveler, and founder of the North Carolina-based nonprofit *LEAF* music festival. She began *LEAF in Schools & Streets* and *LEAF International* as nonprofit outreach programs. Through these programs Jennifer engages festival performers and other artists and mentors to bring music education, performance opportunities, instru-

BY CHERYL WINSTON

ments, and cultural enrichment into the lives of at-risk and under-served kids in North Carolina as well as to other domestic and international locations. Since starting these programs in 2004, over 13,000 young people have been reached.

"Jennifer is using music and the creative arts to bring wholesome and self-esteem building opportunities to the youth in her community, and around the globe. Her successful programs are having documented positive results in the lives of these kids," said Helen Forster, Etown's Executive Producer and Host. "Ms. Pickering is a true hero, the kind of individual that Etown is so very proud to recognize and acknowledge each week with the E-Chievement Award."

For more information about LEAF visit www.LakeEdenArtsFestival.org.

About Etown

Founded in 1991, Etown is a nationally-syndicated radio show heard 52 weeks a year on over 260 public, community and commercial stations across North America, via XM Satellite Radio, and also through podcasting. For more information, visit www.etown.org.



J. Pickering on Etown with hosts Helen & Nick Forster.

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A-B Tech Drama Club Opens the Carriage House Theatre

BY PETER CARVER

Ashville-Buncombe Technical Community College and A-B Tech Drama Club announce the grand-opening of the Carriage House Theatre with the opening of the company's seventh production, *Miss Julie*, a naturalistic drama by heavyweight August Strindberg.

Miss Julie opens Asheville's newest black box space, the Carriage House Theatre. The striking building was erected by Mr. and Mrs. John Curran in 1933 as a garage for "Viewmont," their name for the remodeled colonial Fernihurst mansion. Now a small theatre complex, the building features a 35-seat black box theatre/classroom in what was once the garage. The second floor, originally the gardener's apartment, now houses a green room/design classroom, a costume shop, and two offices. The aesthetic highlight is the original garage door on the south side of the building. A cupola and weathervane top the newly remodeled exterior.

On a midsummer night of 1888 in a small town in Sweden, *Miss Julie*, the

daughter of a count, attempts to escape her cramped existence of social mores and have a little fun while her father is away. She dances at the servants' annual midsummer party, where she is drawn to a senior servant, a footman named Jean, who is particularly well-traveled, well-mannered and well-read. Flirtatious behavior rapidly escalates to a struggle for love and power, all in the kitchen of Miss Julie's father's manor.

The A-B Tech Drama Club was founded in 2003 to encourage students to participate in drama at the community's college.

IF YOU GO: November 13-15, 20-22, Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

The Carriage House Theatre (Fernihurst Annex A, behind the big mansion on the A-B Tech campus).

\$3 A-B Tech students and staff, \$5 students, \$10 adults. Call (828) 254-1921 x890 or pcarver@abtech.edu for tickets and additional information.

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