

# RAPID RIVER

Arts & Culture Magazine

February 2009 • Vol. 12 No. 6

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# STAGE PREVIEW

## The Asheville Arts Center Presents Into the Woods

Directed by Melissa Ricketts, this production will feature several of the Asheville Arts Center instructors and Asheville community members. Monies raised at this performance will be placed towards the Asheville Arts Center's Scholarship program for those in need to attend classes at the center.

Abandoning the traditional fairy tale story lines, *Into The Woods* juxtaposes self interested wishing versus truthful morality. The characters reveal many scenarios of growing up: family relationships, community responsibility, and morality.

It all starts when the Baker and the Baker's Wife (played by Paul Gerber and Heather Taft) express the wish to begin a family and realize that the witch who lives next doors has put a curse on them for childlessness. In order to reverse the curse, they embark on a quest into the woods to find special objects from other characters in various Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales such as Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk).

Their quest weaves them into a world of interconnectedness by swindling, lying to and stealing from one another. What is right and wrong flip flops in each character's vision until contentedness with the arising situations falls into place and their wishes are granted... that is until they are once again disturbed by their own wants and desires for something more.

As their worlds crash down and cave in on them they are filled with confusion and chaos and are led to journey again into the woods. As the tale keeps bringing them together, they realize their interconnectedness and begin to blame one another for their losses in the situation that incurs. The ghosts of their past begin to haunt them with moral pronouncements, ending the play with the words, "You just can't act. You have to listen. You can't just act. You have to think."

The common theme throughout is the relationship between parents and their children and how this affects the community as a whole. Indeed, the most morally ambivalent and honest character portrayed is the old scowling hag of the Witch, played by Danelle Cauley.

Also starring in the Asheville Arts Center's *Into The Woods* will be Rachelle Roberts (previously Belle in Asheville Community Theatre's "Beauty and the

Beast") as Cinderella, Jamie Meater as Jack, and Ruth Butler is cast as Jack's Mother.

As is the tradition with this performance, one can expect to see a few parts played by the same actors. Paul Traini will perform the dual roles of the non-committal Mysterious Man and the Narrator; Amy McDonald plays the double role of the matriarchal Cinderella's mother and Granny; and the uncontrollable appetites of Cinderella's Prince and the Wolf will be portrayed by Kurt Campbell.

The musical *Into The Woods* debuted in 1986 in San Diego and then moved onto Broadway the following year with much success to follow. The music and lyrics were arranged by Stephen Sondheim, winner of many awards including several Tony Awards, several Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, and a Pulitzer Prize. Sondheim is known by some as the greatest and perhaps best-known artist in the American musical theatre. He also created scores for *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* and *Sweeney Todd*. The *Into The Woods* storyline was written by award winning writer, James Lapine. *Into The Woods* is based on a book called the *Uses of Enchantment*, written in 1976 by Bruno Bettelheim.

**IF YOU GO** *Into The Woods, at the Diana Wortham Theatre, February 18 and 19. Curtain call will be at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 adult/ \$19 student and can be purchased at the Arts Center or the Diana Wortham Box office. For more information please call the Asheville Arts Center at (828) 253-4000. Diana Wortham Theatre, www.dwththeatre.com, (828) 257-4530.*

**Located on Merrimon Ave and in South Asheville, The Asheville Arts Center (AAC) is a school based on unlimited opportunities for students to explore their interests in music, dance, and drama. AAC fosters a love and appreciation for the arts through student-teacher relationships and offers high-quality instruction and educational experiences.**

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# Message from the Publisher



Harrison Graham Ray.

This month's cover, although not as exciting or colorful as other's I have designed is my valentine to Asheville's wonderful art community. It's a simple thank you to all those who work, produce, and create the Asheville art scene.

Most people come to this area because of the arts. When you get right down to it the arts have been a major part of this community at least since the 1970's and some could argue since the building of the Biltmore house in 1888-1895. As the area grows and becomes more popular it begins to attract chain stores. Tourists may shop at our chain stores or eat at any of our fine chain restaurants, but that's not what brought them to the area and that's not what

will keep food on our plates, so to speak.

People do not travel here to shop at stores they have back home. It's also fair to say that most do not come here just to shop. They also come to enjoy Asheville's opera, symphony, chorus, chamber groups, live theatres, performances, and music. It's the arts that bring people here. The arts will keep us strong. It reminds me of a story.

The Cape honeybee from southern South Africa is quite unusual. You see, it lays female eggs, whereas workers of other honeybee species lay only male eggs. When a female worker from a Cape honeybee colony enters a different colony, she is not attacked because of her stunning resemblance to the queen (like the way chain stores resemble independently owned stores). Free from her own colony, she starts laying eggs. The worker bees tend to these eggs as if their queen had produced them. These eggs hatch not as new bees but as "clones" of the Cape bee. They in turn lay eggs, which too, are clones. As a result the Cape bees increase in number within a host colony and none of them do any work other than lay eggs. Eventually all of the original worker bees die and the colony has no one left to gather food or maintain the hive. No one is left to take care of the Cape bees so they head out to seek new host colonies leaving behind vacant ruins of once thriving hives.

~ DENNIS RAY, PUBLISHER RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE

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## COVER STORY

# From Asheville With Love

February is a great month to get out and experience some live entertainment or art events. Actually there are many events going on this month, more than past years.

On February 6 the preparation for this summer's 3rd Annual *Laugh Your Asheville Off Comedy Festival* begins. Some of the newest faces in comedy and some veterans of comedy come to Asheville with hopes of being selected for a spot in the largest stand-up comedy festival in the southeast.

On February 12-13, travel back in time to a sweltering, tension-filled courtroom to experience first-hand the dramatic "monkey" trial as it took place over 80 years ago. L.A. Theatre Works presents *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* at Diana Wortham Theatre. Star-

ring a cast drawn from the high ranks of L.A. Theatre Works, the characters at the center of one of the great debates of American society come to life in this magnificent production by America's foremost radio theater company.

The Asheville Symphony Orchestra will continue its 48th season of *Masterworks Concerts* on Saturday, February 14 at 8 p.m., at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium. Music Director Daniel Meyer will lead the orchestra in its annual Valentine's Day concert, performing the music of Chopin, Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, and David Diamond, featuring solo pianist Angela Cheng.

This month's top theatre pick is *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* by NC Stage, an absurdist, existentialist tragicomedy by Tom Stoppard. The play expands upon the exploits of two minor characters from

Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Performances are from February 18 to March 8, Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

On February 21, Bravo will present The Russian National Ballet Theatre's acclaimed production of *Cinderella*, with a group of over 50 dancers.

And there is still so much more going on. For more information on these and other events happening this month see the index to the right.

There are some shows and performances coming in March that should be quite stunning. We'll let you know more about them in next month's issue.

Asheville's Lyric Opera will perform Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and the Asheville Choral Society will stage *GAIA: A Celebration of the Earth*. Purchase your sweetheart a ticket to *GAIA: A Celebration of the Earth* by Valen-

## Events to Fall in Love With

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tine's Day February 14 and save 40% on your ticket to the Asheville Choral Society's fun May Pops Concert *Colors of My Life*. All three events are worth far more than the cost of admission.

BY DENNIS RAY

## Exhilarating and Soul-Stirring Eleone Dance Theatre

Performs February 5 at Diana Wortham Theatre

From the same city that birthed Rennie Harris Puremovement, Philadanco, and Koresh Dance Company, Eleone Dance Theatre is known as an exhilarating and soul-stirring dance company presenting works that are multicultural, intergenerational, and socially and visually appealing to all audiences. The company has a diverse repertoire of works that are contemporary, spiritual, rhythm and blues, African, as well as hip-hop in theme.

Eleone Dance Theatre energizes audiences with its exceptional artistry and profound sense of spirituality, inspiring critical, intellectual thought by approaching historical and contemporary issues from a variety of viewpoints. For its February 5 performance, Eleone Dance Theatre presents works as part of

BY JOHN ELLIS

its theme, "Peace, Love, and Dancing with Soul", to include among others: *Yesterday... Today... Tomorrow...*, a riveting work based on the student-led protest against Apartheid in South Africa; *For Always and For Ever Luther-The Suite*, a tribute to the late Luther Vandross, the multi-platinum, eight-time Grammy Award winner; *Hear, See and Speak No Evil*, a work performed in celebration of



'Eleone Dance Theatre' continued on pg. 10

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## ASHEVILLE SHOPS

### Why Do We Celebrate Valentine's Day at All?

TO LOVE OR NOT  
TO LOVE THAT IS  
THE QUESTION...

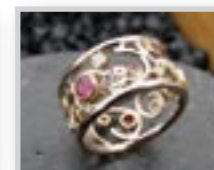
The history of Valentine's Day is a combination of both Christian and ancient Roman legends and traditions. One prevalent version of the story involves a priest named Valentine in Rome during the third century.

At that time Emperor Claudius decided that single men made much better soldiers than married men and so he made it illegal for young men to marry at all in case he needed them for battle. Valentine defied the decree and performed many secret marriage ceremonies. Claudius discovered this rebellious act and put him in the Tower of London awaiting his death sentence. While imprisoned he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and wrote her a love poem signing it "from your Valentine," thus starting the tradition of the now famous valentine card.

The oldest known and actual valentine was a poem written by Charles, the Duke of Orleans, who was captured during the Battle of Agin Court. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and the poem was to his wife. Today this valentine is viewed by many at The British Library in London, England.

Valentine's Day became associated with romantic love and was very popular in the High Middle Ages as people mutually exchanged love notes, or valentines as they became known. The notes were typically heart shaped and depicted cupids and doves. By the 19th century this occasion was immersed in the fabric of English and French culture.

In 1847, Esther Howland started a business in Worcester, Massachusetts, hand making valentines cards. These cards were based on the old British em-



By the Middle Ages Saint Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and in France. At that time in ancient Rome, February was the official start of spring. During this time there was much being done to Christianize the pagan rituals and festivals. Prior to this, Valentine's Day had been associated with the pagan Lupercalia festival at the Ides of February. It was a fertility festival dedicated to the god of agriculture, Faunus, and to the founders of Rome itself, Romulus and Remus.

On this day the members of Lupercalia, an order of Roman priests, would meet together at a sacred cave where they would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. Young women put their names in an urn and all the available bachelors in the city would select a name. These two young people would be paired together for a full year. Sometimes this pairing would lead to marriage.

Pope Gelasius, who was very instrumental in making these rituals and festivals appear more Christian, declared that this lottery was barbaric and definitely unchristian and had it outlawed. February 14th then became known as the Mating Day in France and England as it was widely known to be the beginning of mating season for birds. Mating Day was replaced fairly quickly by the much more romantic name of Valentine's Day.

bossed paper lace valentines and she sold them at first through her father's large book and stationery store. Today more than one billion cards are sold worldwide. An interesting fact is that women purchase more than 85% of those cards.

After 1950 this custom extended to gift giving. These gifts included flowers (red roses became the favorite), and small chocolates packed in heart shaped boxes. It wasn't until the 1980s that the diamond industry became involved and promoted Valentine's Day as an occasion for giving jewelry.

Over the past twenty years we at blue in Biltmore Village have noticed a great increase of jewelry gift giving for this time honored day for lovers. Our gallery is filled with all kinds of special gifts made by local artists, but jewelry is by far the most popular gift chosen. We make a great variety of rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings from 14k gold and featuring our very special handcut natural stones and "safe and happy" diamonds from Australia. We hope you will truly love being a part of this heartfelt holiday.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY  
TO EVERYONE!

blue is open Tuesday through Saturday  
10:30 to 6 p.m. at 1 Swan Street in  
Historic Biltmore Village. Our website is  
also helpful - [bluegoldsmiths.com](http://bluegoldsmiths.com).



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# PERFORMANCE

## Urban-Jazz Vocalist Kellylee Evans and Her Band Perform Special Valentine's Day Concert

2009 Canadian Smooth Jazz Award nominated singer-songwriter Kellylee Evans and her band perform a special Valentine's Day concert February 14 at 8 p.m. as part of the Mainstage Music/Singer-Songwriter Series at Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place.

With a smooth style that slides through jazz, soul, R & B, blues and world music rhythms, Kellylee's sound has been compared to Sade, Erykah Badu and Norah Jones. The special Valentine's Day performance at the 500-seat Diana Wortham Theatre is a unique opportunity to hear this sultry, bluesy vocalist in an intimate setting.

Kellylee Evans is a unique voice in the music world and some of the world's top musicians have taken notice. In 2004, judges including Quincy Jones, Kurt Elling and Dee Dee Bridgewater awarded Evans second place in the Monk Jazz Vocals Competition. Her debut album was featured as a Barnes and Noble *Discover New Music* title alongside Corinne Bailey Rae and Gnarls Barkley, and her energy-charged performances have led to



Singer-songwriter  
Kellylee Evans

**"What a voice!  
Kellylee Evans was  
born to sing..."**

~ ALYSON FAIR, PRODUCER,  
CTV's GOOD MORNING CANADA

BY JOHN ELLIS

invitations to open for the likes of Tony Bennett, Derek Trucks and Maceo Parker.

In addition to being a 2007 Juno Award nominee for Vocal Jazz Album, a 2007 Gemini Award nominee alongside Michael Buble and Measha Brueggergosman, and a Toronto Independent Music Award nominee for Best Jazz, Kellylee Evans has been nominated this year for a 2009 Canadian Smooth Jazz Award, recognized in the category of Female Vocalist of the Year, of which she was the winner in 2007.

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

Kellylee Evans brings her smooth urban-jazz style to Asheville for a Valentine's Day treat. Mainstage Music/Singer-Songwriter Series.

Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place. 8 p.m., February 14. Tickets: Regular \$28; Seniors \$26; Students \$23; Student Rush day-of-the-show (with valid ID) \$10.

Tickets/Info: (828) 257-4530 or online at [www.dwththeatre.com](http://www.dwththeatre.com).

## Storyed Russian National Ballet Theatre Comes to Asheville



The Russian National Ballet Theatre was founded in Moscow during the transitional period of Perestroika in the late 1980s, when many of the great dancers and choreographers of the Soviet Union's ballet institutions were exercising their new-found creative freedom by starting new, vibrant companies.

The company was founded by and incorporated graduates from the great Russian choreographic schools of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Perm, and the principal dancers of the company came from the upper ranks of the great ballet companies and academies of Russia, and the companies of Riga, Kiev and even Warsaw. Now, twenty years later, they are considered one of

the elite touring ballets of the world.

On February 21, Bravo will present The Russian National Ballet Theatre's acclaimed production of Cinderella, with a corp of over 50 dancers. This evening is sure to be entertaining and enjoyable for young and old alike.

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

Presented by Asheville  
Bravo Concerts

Saturday, February 21 at  
7:30 p.m. in the Thomas  
Wolfe Auditorium, Asheville, NC.

Tickets: \$25-\$60, through Ticketmaster at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), The Civic Center Box Office, or by calling (828) 225-5887. Students receive half-price seating.

## Combat the Winter Blues with Great Music, Food and Drink

The Merchants Association of downtown Asheville's historic Grove Arcade, a.k.a. the Groove Arcade, will kick off a new evening event – *First Friday* – featuring music, food and drinks that will transport you to summer and take you back in time.

First Friday will debut on Friday, February 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. with additional events taking place on March 6, and April 3.

In February, *First Friday* will feature music from Steve Davidowski & Friends, wine and beer from Santé, cherry cokes and root beer floats from Red Bike, hot dogs and fries from Cats and Dawgs, frozen treats from

Kamm's Custard and much more. So grab your Hawaiian shirt and head downtown to boogie the blues away!

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

The Grove Arcade is located at One Page Avenue in downtown Asheville in one of Asheville's architectural jewels. Parking is available in the Wall Street, Rankin and Civic Center garages as well as on the street.

Directions to the garages and the Grove Arcade can be accessed [www.GroveArcade.com](http://www.GroveArcade.com). For additional information, call (828) 252-7799.



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## ASHEVILLE SHOPS

### The Chocolate Fetish creates "Flavor Art"

"Nine out of ten people like chocolate.  
The tenth person always lies."

~ JOHN TULLIUS (WRITER AND CHAMPION TENNIS PLAYER)



BY DENNIS RAY

"Indulge Your  
Dark Desires" –  
edible chocolate  
sculpture created  
by Elizabeth Foley.

Valentine's Day is a day known for love. A day that gives you a chance to start a new relationship, or rekindle an old one, or simply remind that special someone how wonderful they really are. This year you can give the gift of fine chocolate — a gift that has meant, "I love you" since before 1100 BC.

To the ancient Aztecs it was the nectar of the gods. Europeans revered it as a symbol of wealth and power. African cultures believed it an aphrodisiac. The scientific name for the tree from which chocolate comes from, *Theobroma cacao*, translated from Greek, means "food of the gods."

shop are many shelves filled with fine chocolates, gifts, assortments and chocolate art created locally by daughter Elizabeth Foley, who joined the company full time about a year ago.

The Chocolate Fetish is usually busy but the selections are continually replenished throughout the day. The service

is fast. Everyone working is knowledgeable and courteous. Top sellers are Chai Moon with 14 spices, Ancient Pleasures made with the subtle bite of cayenne or the intense dark chocolate truffle, Velvet Sin, with a rich sensation of all that is good and decadent.

"We want our customers' experience with our chocolate to be unlike anything they have ever tasted before," Sue says.

Their bulk chocolate comes from Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland, Venezuela and four types from the U.S. which they blend to create their own flavor profile. They never use vegetable oil, instead use only the natural cocoa butter, which doesn't leave a waxy feel on the tongue. They use only fresh ingredients whenever possible and do not use chemical preservatives.

"Chocolate has over 500 flavor components," Bill says, "We do not add anything that will compromise the flavor."

Each truffle (type of chocolate confectionery, traditionally made with a chocolate ganache center coated in chocolate or cocoa powder, usually in a spherical, conical, or curved shape) is created so each flavor is timed released. What does this mean?

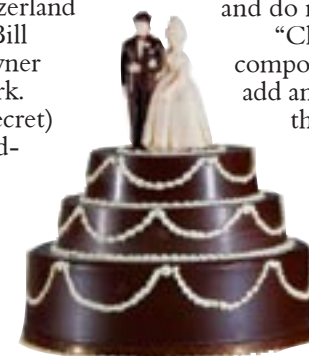
For example, "With the Dragon's Kiss," Bill says, "you start with a burst of dark chocolate, then a moment later you



One of the world's greatest expressions of taste and rapture, chocolate is enjoyed by millions, yet few have successfully combined the oldest traditions of confection-making with the purest natural ingredients. The Chocolate Fetish in downtown Asheville does just that.

European influences from France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland can all be found in many of Bill and Sue Foley's (manager/owner husband-and-wife) handiwork. Their unique recipes (kept secret) created in their beautiful modern kitchen have gone on to win many accolades around the world. The Foleys ship primarily in the U.S. since customs can take too long and fine chocolate, like coffee, needs to be enjoyed fresh.

Behind the glass counters filled with chocolate the open kitchen gives you a direct view of the hand-made chocolate process. Inside the European style



An alternative to a traditional wedding cake, a "Smash Cake" has a thin shell of chocolate that is smashed with a special hammer – the pieces shared with guests.

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# ASHEVILLE SHOPS



Bill and Sue Foley, owners of Chocolate Fetish.

**Inside the European style shop you'll find fine chocolates, gifts, and chocolate art.**

taste sesame seed, then comes a kick of wasabi but only for a couple seconds, then you finish with chocolate."

He goes on to explain that with any of their truffles the finish is always that of their chocolate not the complimentary flavors like raspberry or ginger. "Flavor is a balancing act, a true art form."

Locals appreciate their "flavor art" so much they consecutively have cho-



sen the Chocolate Fetish as the "The Region's Best Chocolate Shop" in the *Mountain Xpress's* annual reader's poll for the past 12 years.

Also the Foleys have received national attention in publications like *Chocolatier*, *Southern Living*, *Marquee*, *Sky* and *Candy*. The shop was also selected to the *Los Angeles Times* "America's Best" series.

"We do our best," Bill says. "We work hard and at times I wonder if I'll ever truly retire." In the late '90s' Bill took an early retirement from being a corporate marketing executive at a large international company based in Belgium and moved back with Sue to the States. "I didn't retire to stop working. I retired to start

working doing what I truly love."

In 2002 the Foley's bought the Chocolate Fetish, which had been a successful but rather small business since 1986. They expanded and remodeled the original space, kept many of the customer favorites while creating new products and making the place their own.

With his marketing experience and Sue's love of confections, together they have made one of the

most successful small chocolate businesses in the country. They ship all over the U.S. and have many customers travel great distances just to have a truffle right off the cooling rack.

Tours, schools and classes view, through the glass walls directly behind the shop, the chocolate creations as they are being made as Sue works with the trained staff and Bill conducts seminars.

Bill offers private chocolate tastings primarily for guests staying at the opulent downtown Haywood Park hotel. Guests sample chocolate from six countries plus special Chocolate Fetish blends and learn a bit of history and how chocolate is made.

Recently, scientific studies will have chocolate lovers rejoicing even more; like with wine and tea, chocolate is good for your health. It contains a particular substance called epicatechin, which is a powerful antioxidant. According to Dr. Norman Hollenberg, Professor of Medicine at Harvard, major health problems like stroke, heart failure, cancer and diabetes can be prevented with epicatechin.

Asheville has a lot to offer the tourists, locals and those living near by. The Chocolate Fetish is certainly high on that list. It is a wonderfully charming shop where some of our childhood dreams do come true. After all it's not so much the want of life but the need to live well.

## The Chocolate Fetish

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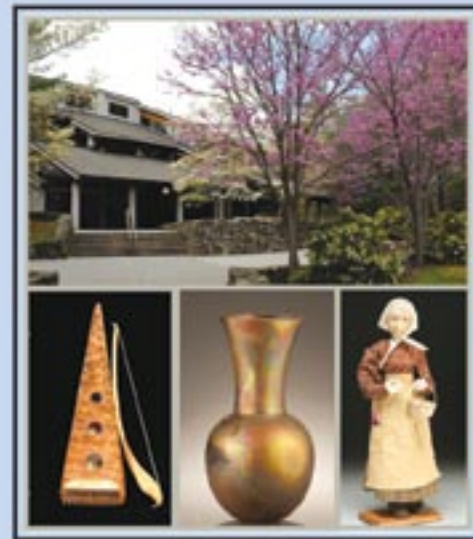
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# STAGE PREVIEW

'Eleone Dance' continued from pg. 5

the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, HIV/AIDS, 911, and other events that have forever reshaped our lives; and *We Give Thanks*, an Eleone Dance Theatre signature work choreographed by Artistic Director Shawn-Lamere Williams, a previous artistic director with Philadanco II.



## Pre-Performance Discussions

To enhance patrons' understanding and enjoyment of Eleone Dance Theatre's Asheville performance, a pre-show discussion is presented by Wayne Burritt, director of Mountain Ballet Company, in The Forum at Pack Place at 7 p.m. prior to the performance. Free for ticket holders.

Eleone Dance Theatre's Asheville performance is partially supported by a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a program developed and funded by The Heinz Endowments; the William Penn Foundation; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency; and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and administered by Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. This performance is funded in part by a grant from the Southern Arts Federation in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Mainstage Dance Series is sponsored by Tina & John McGuire, Hedy Fischer & Randy Shull, and the Art Fryar Charitable Trust Fund, with additional support from Media Sponsor WNC Magazine.

IF  
YOU  
GO

Eleone Dance Theatre presents works that are multicultural, intergenerational, socially and visually appealing to all audiences.

Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place.  
8 p.m., February 5, 2009.

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

Tickets/Info: (828) 257-4530 or online at  
www.dwththeatre.com.

# The Asheville Ballet Brings *Billy the Kid* to Life

BY BRYAN PAIEMENT

When one thinks of Billy the Kid, images of the 19th century teenage outlaw come to mind. The legendary story of his twenty-one kills, one for each year of his life, is likely to surface.

Ballet is not a word likely to ring synonymous with Billy the Kid, but thanks to the creative vision of the Asheville Ballet's director and choreographer, Ann Dunn, and Aaron Copeland's composition, the Asheville Ballet is bringing *Billy the Kid* back to life. The performance will take place at Diana Wortham Theatre on May 8-9, complete with a live orchestra.

The ABG, Asheville Ballet Guild, Inc., is one of Western North Carolina's oldest non-profit arts organizations. The ballet presents three shows per season: the fall show, which is comprised of original choreography, the *Nutcracker*, which is the most popular production and draws the widest variety of patrons, and the spring performance that is a solid combination of modern and ballet. Training and rehearsal time for each performance typically lasts four months.

On the same program with *Billy the Kid*, Ann Dunn and composer Matthew Richmond will collaborate to bring the world premier of *Echo* to the stage. The performance will tell the story of Echo, Narcissus, and Hera, and will be accompanied by live music.

*Lauda Jerusalem* will be next on stage. A live orchestra and choir will lead



the way as international artist Rick McCollough choreographs the dancers to Vivaldi's inspiring composition.

ADDANCE (AnnDunnDancers), the professional center of the ballet, is comprised of eight expert, adult dancers who have trained with a myriad of reputable ballet and modern companies ranging from the New York City Ballet to Merce Cunningham. Members of ADDANCE have also worked with the Asheville Symphony, Asheville Lyric Opera, Asheville Choral Society, and at the Asheville Art Museum. Ann has hired dancers for ADDANCE from Asheville, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Although she used to tour with her company around the United States, the Ballet's performances can now only be seen in Asheville.

Because of the ruinous economy, Ann had to make a decision as to whether

or not the December performances of the *Nutcracker* would be feasible; the show went on. Ann was forced to up the ticket prices in some areas and lower them in others, along with cutting one show. "It was sold out, that's amazing... it's amazing," Ann credits the great vibe in Asheville for the success of the *Nutcracker* in December.

For those interested in pursuing a career in ballet, or who would just like to participate recreationally, the Asheville Ballet offers classes in, ballet, pointe, and modern/jazz for every skill level. The Lyric Opera and Ballet of Asheville, who have joined forces to combine marketing, stress the importance of community involvement in the performing arts in whatever way possible.

The Asheville Ballet and Lyric Opera play a major part in the economic development for Asheville. When businesses look for relocation opportunities, the merit of a city can often be gauged by their cultural arts programs. Large urban centers, such as New York or Chicago, have these flourishing aspects, and the companies relocating from such centers expect to find the same enriching qualities in prospective cities. Asheville has established itself as one of those cities.

For more information please call (828) 258-1028, or email ann.dunn@mindspring.com.

# L.A. Theatre Works' *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial*

BY JOHN ELLIS

This riveting production is based entirely on original transcripts of the famous 1925 Tennessee v. John Scopes "Monkey Trial", which challenged the newly passed Tennessee legislature's "Butler Act" banning the teaching of evolution in the state's public schools.

The trial set the stage for an ongoing national debate over the freedom of inquiry and the separation of Church and State, issues that remain unresolved even today.

The L.A. Theatre Works performance of *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* features the well known and respected actors: Edward Asner playing



Edward Asner



Arye Gross

William Jennings Bryan, three-time Presidential candidate and former Secretary of State turned religious speaker; Arye Gross playing Arthur Garfield Hayes, a prominent free speech advocate; Jerry Hardin playing Judge John Raulston; and James Gleason playing H.L. Mencken, famed satirical reporter who coined the moniker "Monkey Trial."

## Pre-Show Discussion

To enhance patrons' understanding and enjoyment of L.A. Theatre Works' Asheville performances, pre-show discussions are held in The Forum at Pack Place 7 p.m. each evening prior to the performances. The February 12 discussion includes a panel hosted

by the 28th Judicial District Bar Association. The February 13 discussion will be led by Rodger Payne, Director of Religious Studies at UNC Asheville. Free for ticket holders.

IF  
YOU  
GO

L.A. Theatre Works presents *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial*, part of the Mainstage Theatre Series. Note: cast is subject to change.

Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place.  
8 p.m., Thursday, February 12, and Friday,  
February 13.

Tickets: Regular \$32; Senior \$30; Student  
\$27; Student Rush day-of-the-show \$10  
(with valid I.D.) Tickets/Info: (828) 257-  
4530 or online at www.dwththeatre.com.



# MUSIC

## Daring and Innovative Singer-Songwriter Susan Werner

With nine albums under her belt, an extraordinary live show and active touring career throughout the U.S., combined with a string of accolades from the likes of *The Washington Post*, *The Village Voice*, and *The New Yorker*, Susan Werner has become one of the defining genre-busting artists of our time.

As an artist Werner commands rapt attention from her audiences. The songs on her concept albums effortlessly slide between folk, jazz, pop, Americana, and classical, boldly endeavoring to weave old with new to create altogether new genres of music, keeping her audiences guessing and laughing. Werner's work infuses traditional music styles and methods with her unmistakable contemporary worldview, confirming her reputation as "one of the most innovative songwriters working to-



BY JOHN ELLIS

day" (*Chicago Tribune*).

It is with her concept records in the past four years that Werner has firmly established her reputation as one of the boldest creative forces on the acoustic scene today. In her forthcoming release *Classics* (in stores February 3), Werner delivers entirely new string arrangements of mainstream popular songs by top songwriters

from the sixties and seventies. Drawing on her unique training as a classical vocalist, and on the diverse talents of esteemed Boston Symphony and Pops players, *Classics* sets a mood that highlights elegance and sophistication.

The motivation to create an album like *Classics* was inspired by her success

with her 2007 concept album *The Gospel Truth*, a record that taps fearlessly into the zeitgeist of contemporary American

**"This Woman is great. Period."**

~ MUSIC ROW (NASHVILLE)

## Free Planet Radio

BY KACHINA DAVINE

An evening with Free Planet Radio offers a richly unique aural experience which includes the exotic sliding string sounds of the Indian dotar dancing around a pulsing Jazz Bass accented by the shimmering jingles of an Egyptian riq tambourine.

Free Planet Radio weaves Middle Eastern, Indian, and North African melodic and rhythmic structures and blends them expertly with the subtleties and harmonic vocabulary of Western classical music, underscored with the improvisatory element of jazz.

Free Planet Radio consists of Chris Rosser, exploring melody on a variety of Indian and Turkish stringed instruments, guitar, piano and melodica; River Guerrierian on an extensive array of global percussion instruments including Middle Eastern frame drums and doumbek, Latin



American cajon, and Western drum set; and multi-Grammy award-winning bassist Eliot Wadopian on electric and string basses, leaping effortlessly between rhythm and melody.

These artists emerged from three

of the country's finest conservatories, and each has established himself in concert halls and studios, appearing on over 200 recordings and in 30 countries. Their talents have garnered worldwide recognition from Carnegie Hall to the Hong Kong World Music Festival.

IF YOU GO

Free Planet Radio performs on Saturday, February 7, at 8 and 10 p.m. at The White Horse in Black Mountain.

Special guest artist Armenian folk singer Mariam Matossian. Tickets are \$10. For more information: (828) 669-0816 or [www.whitehorseblackmountain.com](http://www.whitehorseblackmountain.com).

religious culture with songs both heartfelt and incisive, drawing from Werner's own personal spiritual questions and the search for common ground on the issues that divide America. Her sound on *The Gospel Truth* is inspired by legendary and contemporary country, gospel and bluegrass artists. Yet again, in her 2004 release *I Can't Be New*, Werner delivers her modern contribution to the Great American Songbook by writing originals in the style of Gershwin and Cole Porter, but from a present-day woman's point of view. Because of the success of these albums and her experience researching for

them, Werner is relishing the challenges of being a creative free spirit and enjoying an exciting new phase of doing themed musical projects.

IF YOU GO

An enthralling evening with Susan Werner, Mainstage Music/Singer-Songwriter Series. Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place. 8 p.m., February 20.

Tickets: Regular \$28; Seniors \$26; Students \$23; Student Rush day-of-the-show (with valid ID) \$10. Tickets/Info: (828) 257-4530 or online at [www.dwttheatre.com](http://www.dwttheatre.com).

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# STAGE PREVIEW

## "Laugh Your Asheville Off" Launches 2009 Stand-Up Comedy Concert Series

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT THE DIANA WORTHAM THEATRE

The preparation for this summer's 3rd Annual Laugh Your Asheville Off Comedy Festival begins February 6 at the Diana Wortham Theatre when some of the newest faces of comedy and some veterans of comedy come to Asheville in hopes of getting chosen for a performance spot in the largest stand-up comedy festival in the southeast.

The hundreds of submissions for the 2009 comedy concert series has been nearly overwhelming for the Laugh Your Asheville Off organizers, Greg Brown and Charlie Gerencer, and they thought that a season opening "Asheville comedy showcase" in front of the Asheville crowd seemed like the right fit for comics to bring their best material.

"We can watch a comic on YouTube, but you never get a feel how good the comic is until they are in front of the Asheville crowd at the Diana Wortham

BY GREG BROWN

Theatre," says Charlie Gerencer.

Each comic is on stage for a fraction of the time they normally perform in comedy clubs, so it's going to make for a punch line packed and high energy show.



Laugh Your Asheville Off Showcase, Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place, February 6, at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 before February 5, \$20 day of show. Advance tickets sold at the Sense of Humor on Walnut Street or the Diana Wortham Box Office (828) 257-4530.

[laughyourashevilleoff.com](http://laughyourashevilleoff.com)  
[www.myspace.com/laughyourashevilleoff](http://www.myspace.com/laughyourashevilleoff)

## Jazz After 5 Concert Series Presents

## The Pipeline & Trevor Stoia Jazz Trio

BY LINDSAY HEARN

The free 2009 Jazz After 5 concert series continues on Friday evening, February 20, from 5 to 8 p.m., and will feature The Pipeline and the Trevor Stoia Jazz Trio. The Grove Arcade and the Asheville Downtown Association co-sponsor the concert series, now in its fourth year, which features local musicians and takes place the third Friday of January, February, March and April.

Patrons can purchase beer, wine and martinis as well as hors d'oeuvres from local restaurants including the French Broad Chocolate Lounge and Chorizo. Sponsorship for the Jazz After 5 series has been provided by LandDesign and Highland Brewery.

The Pipeline features Jeff Knorr on organ, Grant Cuthbertson on upright bass and Ben Bjorlie on drums. The band's sound features the organ in styles ranging from swing to Latin jazz and beyond. Bjorlie says, "We have fun rearranging standards people are familiar with as well as picking out a few obscure tunes that may be new to some of our audience members."

The other end of the Arcade will be enjoying tunes from the Trevor Stoia Jazz Trio featuring Stoia on bass, Michael Libramento on drums and Shane Perlowin on guitar. The Trio has been together for a year and delivers a unique sound that blends the distinctive style of each musician.

The Jazz evenings raise funds for operations of the Asheville Downtown

Association and this year will also collect donations for Manna Food Bank. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable items to the concerts and to leave them at the collection points. "We're really glad to be able to do something to help Manna Food Bank and our neighbors in need," says Ruth Summers, executive director of the Grove Arcade. "The jazz evenings are great fun and an easy way to give something back to the community."

The Asheville Downtown Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1987 to be the voice of the downtown community and to promote and support the quality economic, cultural and residential development of downtown Asheville. The ADA also promotes downtown as a destination. More information about Jazz After 5 and the Downtown Association is available at [www.AshevilleDowntown.org](http://www.AshevilleDowntown.org) and (828) 251-9973.



The Grove Arcade is located at One Page Avenue in downtown Asheville and offers unique shopping,

dining and regional crafts. Parking is available a short walk away in the Wall Street, Rankin and Civic Center garages as well as on the street. Directions to the garages and the Grove Arcade can be accessed [www.GroveArcade.com](http://www.GroveArcade.com). For additional information, call (828) 252-7799.

## Tanglewood Youth Theatre

Winter Session Begins at Asheville Community Theatre

BY JENNY BUNN

Registration is now open for Tanglewood Youth Theatre classes at Asheville Community Theatre.

Beginning in February, ACT is offering seven classes that will spark your child's creativity! Classes are offered in acting, comedy writing and performance, musical theatre and contemporary theatre. Tanglewood classes are affordable, exciting, and fun!

Our Tanglewood Youth Theatre classes are offered either after school or during the day. Classes begin the week of February 2, and meet once a week



for nine weeks. Each class culminates with a performance for family and friends. The tuition for classes ranges from \$100 to \$200.

A full schedule of upcoming classes at

Asheville Community Theatre is posted at [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org). Asheville Community Theatre is currently taking registrations for all winter classes, Spring Break camp, and Summer camps.

To register, or for more information, please contact Jenny Bunn at (828) 254-2939 x21.

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**February 18 - March 8**



# STAGE PREVIEW

## Asheville Symphony Presents "First Loves"

Music Director Daniel Meyer will lead the orchestra in its annual Valentine's Day concert, performing the music of Chopin, Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, and David Diamond, featuring solo pianist Angela Cheng.

The program will begin with *Music for Shakespeare's "Romeo And Juliet"*, written in 1947 by the American composer David Diamond. Diamond was concerned about the "chaotic" state of music composition in the 1940s, and expressed that "the romantic spirit in music is important because it is timeless." Those values are evident in this work, which captures the pathos of the "star-crossed lovers" with elegance and restraint.

Next the orchestra will be joined by Canadian piano virtuoso Angela Cheng in the *Concerto No. 2 in F minor for Piano and Orchestra, Opus 21* by Frédéric Chopin. The great pianist and composer wrote this piece at the age of 20, when he was head-over-heels in love with a fellow student at the Warsaw Conservatory. He never told her of his strong feelings, but expressed them fully instead in the second movement of this concerto.

Consistently cited for her brilliant technique, tonal beauty and superb musician-ship, pianist Angela Cheng has appeared as soloist with virtually every



Daniel Meyer

orchestra in Canada, as well as many in the USA and beyond. For her outstanding interpretations of Mozart, Cheng received the Medal of Excellence at the Mozarteum in Salzburg in 1991.

After intermission, the audience will enjoy the rare treat of hearing George Gershwin's *Lullaby*, written when he was in his early 20s. *Lullaby* was written as a composition exercise

for string quartet, but it will be performed here in an arrangement for string orchestra. Fans of Gershwin's more famous works will recognize his masterful blending of classical and jazz elements in this short piece.

The evening will conclude with the beloved *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The premiere of this piece in 1870 did not go well – the composer famously said, "My overture had no success and passed quite unnoticed." He revised the work several times, and the 1880 version has become a favorite.

On Friday, February 13 from 3 to 4:30

p.m., at the Reuter Center on the Campus of UNC-Asheville, an introductory speaker will talk about the lives and times of the composers, and Music Director Daniel Meyer will discuss the musical works and introduce the featured soloist.



Pianist Angela Cheng



Tickets are available through the Symphony office or the Asheville Civic Center box office, and range in price from \$53 to \$19 (with discounts available for students).

Visit [www.ashevillesymphony.org](http://www.ashevillesymphony.org) or call (828) 254-7046 for more information on this and other Asheville Symphony concerts.

### February 2009 Mainstage Performances



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Tannahill  
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Kellylee  
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Werner

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## "Rave On!" With Buddy Holly

Experience Buddy Holly through the musical celebration "Rave On!"

Actor and musician Billy McGuigan, who originated the production, has portrayed Holly since 2002.

Backed by an eight-piece band McGuigan performs Holly songs such as "Maybe

Baby," "Peggy Sue," and "That'll Be the Day," tells stories and cracks jokes.



"Rave On!" will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 6, at the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Western Carolina University.

Tickets: \$25 adults; \$20 seniors, WCU faculty and staff; and \$5 for students. For tickets and more information call (828) 227-2479, or visit [www.ticketreturn.com](http://www.ticketreturn.com).





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## MUSIC

### SPINNING DISCS:

### February CD Reviews by James Cassara

Given the absence of new releases this month I'll instead clear the stacks of a few discs that came my way over the last few months. Remember, if I mention it here you can bet it is a worthwhile addition to your collection. Be sure to support the many fine independent record stores we are fortunate to have here in Asheville.

#### King Crimson Elektrik Inner Knot Music

The audio companion to the *Eyes Wide Open* double DVD collection highlights in fine fashion the band's 2003 performance at Tokyo's Kouseinenkin Hall. The latter day line up of Adrian Belew (guitar/vocals), Robert Fripp (guitar), Trey Gunn (fretless guitar), and Pat Mastelotto (drum traps/buttons) is in great form, demonstrating a thunderous and nearly industrial sound that literally leaps out from the speakers.

This is Crimson at their most lean, effortlessly able to maneuver through some of the most challenging material from their vast and varied repertoire. Clearly the band has become Belew's baby; his rat-tat-tat guitar histrionics are now as much a part of their mythos as Fripp's neo-progressive applications, and while the undeniable sense of drama is magnified by the reserved and respectful Japanese audience there are times you might wish the group would stretch out a bit more.

This becomes all the more pronounced during Fripp's "Introductory Soundscape" solo, which is an opening prelude to Belew's "Power to Believe I (A Cappella)" haiku. The arrangement provides several new angles and narrow viewpoints into the band's current dynamics, particularly during "ConstruKction of Light" and "Happy With What You Have to Be Happy With."

The quartet momentarily ratchets downward with strikingly intimate versions of "One Time" and the twin instrumentals "Level Five" and "Dangerous Curves" but they quickly reassert themselves with the fourth installment of "Larks' Tongues in Aspic." These are among the highlights that demonstrate the seemingly psychic powers and singular thought processes that unify this aggregate into equaling, if not in some ways besting, previous incarnations of KC.

Belew is as impressive as ever, seamlessly trading stellar solo guitar moments with Fripp, but it's his solid and versatile vocal work that sets him apart. He's a far more inspired lyricist than Fripp ever was, giving this incarnation of King Crimson



a dimension not previously heard. In that way *Elektrik* serves both new and well-versed listeners with an accurate portrayal of the band at this stage in their history.

For that reason alone it's a highly recommended listen for all interested parties. ★★★1/2

#### BeauSoleil Alligator Purse

#### Yep Roc Records

While this quintet may be as synonymous with Cajun culture as shrimp gumbo and crawfish it's their shape-shifting nature that has kept them so fresh throughout the years.

With *Alligator Purse* they remain as adept as ever at staying true to their Zydeco selves while creating a fusion of sounds that is respectful of but never restricted by tradition. Bandleader Michael Doucet's evenhanded fiddling and expressive, amiable voice sets the tone, giving a decidedly Cajun backbone to the proceedings in freewheeling fashion. The opening "Reel Cajun/452 North St. Joseph St.," is one of a handful of straight-up bayou burners ("Carrière Zydeco," "Bosco Stomp" being the others) that are both electrifying and immediately accessible.

Still, it's the band's penchant for flawless genre-hopping that solidifies its well-deserved reputation as an American institution. Nowhere is this more evident than in such Doucet penned jewels as "Rouler et Tourner" and the jazz tinged "Marie."

With "Little Darling" they even toss in a bit of old-time country augmented by the high and lonesome crooning of guest Natalie Merchant. But the band wisely keeps true to regional ingredients such as accordion, Dixieland horns, and a steady Cajun backbeat, meaning even while they expand their collective roots they never stray too far from their signature sound.

The result is a kind of all-day street party that welcomes both purists and visitors with open arms, cold beer, and



steaming plates of Louisiana cooking: It mixes in songs by Bob Dylan, J. J. Cale and Julie Miller alongside originals and traditional Louisiana fare without compromising either. No wonder such talented guests as Merchant, John Sebastian, and Roswell Rudd seem right at home. *Alligator Purse* is the sort of sprightly listen that would put anyone at ease. ★★★

#### Billy Bragg Mr. Love & Justice Cooking Vinyl Records

It's both revealing and troubling that Billy Bragg's best albums since 1986's *Talking with the Taxman about Poetry* were the two *Mermaid Avenue* volumes, in which he cast his hero Woody Guthrie's unpublished lyrics to new music. Bragg did so with Wilco serving as his collaborators and backing mates, suggesting that this former one-man band suddenly needed ample help to communicate with his audience.

From the get-go of his career Bragg has sounded confident and all but unbeatable — his earliest albums set a standard for 1980's political folk/rock — but since then he's sounded at times either creatively uncertain, worn out, or both. So perhaps the wonderfully annotated Yep Roc reissues of the past few years, which Bragg personally selected and supervised, relight those artistic fires. Either way, *Mr. Love & Justice* is a pleasant and encouraging surprise, an unassuming collection that harkens back to his best days.

While hardly perfect it finds Bragg at his most relaxed and resourceful sounding in ages. He's at last coming to terms with maturity and the changing face of the world — a pair of concerns that have dogged him in recent years — and while it lacks the venomous bite of his best work he's clearly learned to communicate his ideas without the piss and vinegar of the early days.

Let's face it, that approach may have

'CD's' continued on next pg.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Eric Lindell Performs at the White Horse

BY ERIN SCHOLZE

When singer/songwriter/vocalist Eric Lindell first hit the national music scene with his 2006 Alligator Records debut *Change In The Weather*, critics and fans alike celebrated the arrival of a roots rocker with dozens of unforgettable original songs.

With his musical roots planted in Northern California, Lindell's music blossomed in New Orleans. His combination of sweet, blue-eyed soul with foot-stomping R&B, swamp pop, funk and blues have won him critical and popular acclaim across the country. As he toured the U.S., his fan base grew, and before long clubs and festivals were filled with happy, dancing people singing the words to every song. Now he's back with *Low On Cash*, *Rich In Love*, a collection filled with solid grooves, insightful lyrics and one emotionally rich song after another.

Recorded at Piety Street Studio in New Orleans, *Low On Cash*, *Rich In Love* will delight Lindell's fan base and will capture the attention of music lovers

all over the globe. From the first single "Lay Back Down" to the undeniable groove of a totally re-worked version of Gil Scott-Heron's "Lady Day and John Coltrane" (the album's sole cover song) to the New Orleans bounce of "Tried And True," *Low On Cash*, *Rich In Love* is Eric Lindell at his very best. His sinewy and soulful vocals recall 1970s Van Morrison, while his guitar and harmonica work are uniquely his own. With sweet saxophones punching in all the right places and grooves building on top of each other, Eric Lindell has created a timeless collection of songs.

Lindell headed down to New Orleans in 1999, where he befriended many older swamp pop musicians. Before long he met up with Galactic's Stanton



Moore, and the two jammed together often. Some of New Orleans' finest players, including keyboardist Ivan Neville and drummers Harold Brown and Johnny Vidacovich, often joined him on stage. Galactic bassist Rob Mercurio began sitting in as well, and word of Lindell's immense talents quickly spread

around the city. According to Lindell, "It's a great feeling to be recognized for your music in New Orleans."

Lindell's 2006 Alligator Records debut, *Change In The Weather*, delighted and surprised music fans hungry for a truly original artist. Lindell's deceptively simple sounding songs, laid back grooves and hook-laden melodies were fueled by guests including War drummer Harold Brown, Ivan Neville

and Galactic's Stanton Moore.

Lindell's live shows draw as much attention as his material. His unstoppable grooves, rocking, deeply rooted, original songs and excellent musicianship never fail to fill the dance floor.

With the release of *Low On Cash*, *Rich In Love*, Lindell and his band will continue to tour heavily, giving the rest of the country the chance to discover for themselves what a growing number of people already know: Eric Lindell is a musician bursting at the seams with talent, with the uncanny natural ability to come up with one instantly classic song after another, and the desire to take his music to every corner of the music-loving universe.

IF YOU GO

Eric Lindell performs on Friday, February 13 at The White Horse, 105C Montreat Rd. Show begins at 9 p.m., \$12 admission. Call (828) 686-8742 for more information or visit [www.whitehorseblackmountain.com](http://www.whitehorseblackmountain.com), or [www.ericlindellband.com](http://www.ericlindellband.com)

### 'CD's' continued

worked for a man in his 20's but coming from a gent now on the far side of a half century it would likely sound forced and silly. He also sounds more comfortable with his current band.

Having toured for several years with The Blokes he's clearly gained their confidence; the give and take between Bragg and his partners is warm and easy, and gives the material just the right amount of buoyancy. And while Billy Bragg isn't standing atop as many soapboxes as he once did, his knack for forging such political anthems as "Sing Their Souls Back Home" and "Farm Boy" is as tidy as ever.

The scope of *Mr. Love & Justice* may be modest, but it speaks with grace, wisdom, and heart, finding Bragg a bit older and a bit wiser but no less committed to fighting the good fight. \*\*\*\*

### Loudon Wainwright III

**Strange Weirdos: Music From and Inspired by the Film Knocked Up**  
Yep Roc Records

Unlike so many recordings that are "music from and inspired by the film," *Strange Weirdos* actually serves as both a soundtrack and as Wainwright's latest offering. Co-produced by Wainwright and Joe Henry, the album boasts an all-

star cast including bassist David Pilch, Greg Leisz, Van Dyke Parks, Richard Thompson, and others.

According to the liner notes, *Knocked Up* director Judd Apatow saw Wainwright perform "Grey in L.A." and asked him to record a version without words. Wainwright, in London at the time, agreed under certain conditions; Thompson would play guitar and Joe Henry would be his collaborator. The music from the songs plays largely as the beginning and end credits of the film, but they were used with the words stripped out and as incidental music.

So here are the songs that Wainwright and Henry cut, restored to the original full form of vocals and all. There is a pair of covers on the set, including a delightful take on Mose Allison's "Feel So Good." Henry contributed a couple of instrumentals in the atmospheric "Ypsilanti," and the gorgeous Parks and band ballad "Naomi." Wainwright also re-cut "Lullaby," a song from a 1973 album. He and Henry co-wrote "You Can't Fail Me Now" and the loose, raggedy blues "So Much to Do." Those are the mechanics but they fail to tell the entire story.



It's a two-for-one deal as a soundtrack and a new Wainwright album. As such, it's his best material in more than a decade, focused, adventurous, and alternately lush and to the bone. The band plays like a band; the songs have no extra lyrical or musical baggage, and the melodies tread numerous musical lines without ever crossing either of them for too long. Wainwright's as wry as ever, but without the caustic bitterness that can plague some of his work.

The way these players interact together feels organic, inseparable from the body of the composition or the grain in the singer's voice. *Strange Weirdos* may have an unusual title, but these songs are anything but. Such sublime reflection as "Valley Morning," where the protagonist watches, muses and reflects on love is as timeless as Wainwright has ever been; a small testament to the loopy, lopsided journey of love in life.

Who would have thought that at this stage in his career, Wainwright (with help from a very empathetic co-producer in Henry) would come up with a recording like this: a treasure chest of truly great songs that communicate so effortlessly his ruminations and hopes? As an album, it's seamless, uncluttered, inspired, and one of this season's best. \*\*\*\*1/2

## Solo Guitarist Paul Vondiziano

The annual Carl Sandburg Solo Guitar Recital will feature artist Paul Vondiziano. Paul has premiered works for guitar such as his own

*Memories of Inner Time* and *Triptych*, as well as Will Bottje's *Lighter Strings*. This program will include performances of

*Prelude, Fugue, Allegro* by J.S. Bach, three Brazilian pieces by Joao Guimaraes-Pernambuco, and *Koyunbaba* by Carlo Domeniconi.

The program will be held at the First Congregational Church in Hendersonville, NC, on Sunday, February 8, at 3 p.m. \$10 donation per person.

For more information contact Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site at (828) 693-4178 or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/carl](http://www.nps.gov/carl).



Paul Vondiziano



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## STAGE PREVIEW

NORTH CAROLINA STAGE COMPANY PRESENTS THE COMEDY CLASSIC

## Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

BY AMANDA LESLIE



From North Carolina Stage Company's production of "Hamlet."

Tom Stoppard turns *Hamlet* on its ear by making two minor characters the hapless protagonists of their own story. In Stoppard's re-imagining, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (or is that Guildenstern and Rosencrantz?) are out of their depths and woefully unsure of their place in the puzzle. While Shakespeare's masterpiece plays out around them, our heroes remain one tragic step behind the action.

NC Stage is taking aggressive steps to keep its ticket prices affordable. In addition to the 30% off "Recession-Proof Ticket," NC Stage also offers a student rush ticket for \$10 (available 10 minutes before curtain). More remarkably, patrons who plan ahead can see *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* for as little as \$6.

Wednesday February 18 is "Pay-What-You-Can Night." On this night only patrons choose whatever price they can afford for a theatre ticket, with a minimum of \$6 (cash only, exact change only). Patrons are strongly encouraged to call ahead for reservations, or they risk not getting a seat.

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* is considered a 20th century classic. *The New York Times* called it "a most remarkable play. Very funny. Very brilliant. Very chilling." In 2007, *TIME* Magazine declared Tom Stoppard one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World," calling him "the playwright who dares to expect wit and sophistication from his audiences."

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* is directed by Producing Director Angie Flynn-McIver, who most recently directed *Driving Miss Daisy* for NC Stage. The title roles are played by Willie Repoley and Hans Meyer. Repoley has performed frequently in Asheville as well as at Flat Rock Playhouse, and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival. Meyer is better known in Asheville as a director, having recently directed *Doubt*, *A Parable* and *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* for NC Stage.

Rounding out the cast are some established local actors including Chris Allison, Michael MacCauley, Vivian Smith, and Joe Sturgeon. Making his NC Stage debut is R. Scott Williams, who may be known to viewers from his role on the acclaimed HBO series "The Wire."

North Carolina Stage Company is Asheville's professional theatre, named WNC's Best Local Stage Company for three years in a row by readers of the *Mountain Xpress*.

Sponsors: North Carolina Stage Company is grateful for the support of season sponsors The Colorful Palate, Greenlife Grocery, Imaging Technologies, Treadshots Photography, and the North Carolina Arts Council. Our ticket sponsor is The Chocolate Fetish, and concessions are provided by Izzy's Coffee Den and Sugar Momma's Cookies.



North Carolina Stage Company presents Tom Stoppard's comedy *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*.

February 18 through March 8, 2009.  
Wednesdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.,  
Sundays at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 19 is  
Happy-Hour-and-a-Half Thursday, featuring  
complimentary beer, wine, and appetizers.  
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Tickets are \$16-\$26; ticket price varies by date. Call (828) 239-0263 or visit [www.ncstage.org](http://www.ncstage.org) for tickets.

North Carolina Stage Company performs in a 99-seat theatre in downtown Asheville. Entrance is at 15 Stage Lane, off of Walnut St., one block off Haywood St., next to the Rankin Ave. parking garage.



# PERFORMANCE

## Scottish Quintet *The Tannahill Weavers* Perform Dynamic Traditional Celtic Music

One of Scotland's premier traditional bands, The Tannahill Weavers' diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies.

Over the years, "The Tannies" have been trailblazers for Scottish music, and their tight harmonies and powerful, inventive arrangements have won them fans from beyond the folk and Celtic music scenes.

Since their first visit to the United States in 1981, The Tannahill Weavers have become firmly established as one of the premier groups on the concert stage: from reflective ballads to foot-stomping reels and jigs, the variety and range of material they perform are matched only by their enthusiasm and lively Celtic spirits.

Born of a session in Paisley, Scotland and named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the group has made an international name for its special brand of Scottish music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. As the Winnipeg Free Press noted, "The Tannahill Weavers - properly harnessed - could probably power an entire city for a year... The music may be old time Celtic, but the drive and enthusiasm are akin to straight ahead rock and roll."

Band member Roy Gullane, born in Glasgow, is one of the two longest serving members of the group as guitarist and lead vocalist. Also born in Glasgow, Phil Smilie, the other original member along with Gullane, plays flute, bodhran and whistles, and sings harmony vocals.

Leslie Wilson plays guitar, bouzouki, keyboards and bass pedals, and is with the group once again after being a member in the early 1980s. Fiddle, cello,



**"These guys are a bunch of heroes every time they go on tour in the States."**

~ GARRISON KEILLOR,  
"A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION"

and viola player John Martin is one of the most active members of the Scottish traditional music scene. Colin Melville, from Fort William, Scotland, is one of the country's most exciting young pipers, playing highland bagpipes, Scottish small pipes, and whistles for "The Tannies".

The Tannahill Weavers' Asheville performance is made possible by Performance Sponsors Bill & Jerry McAninch, and by Celtic Series Sponsors Arby's/The Winning Team and BB&T, with additional support from media sponsor WNCW 88.7 FM.

**IF  
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# FINE ART

BY BRYAN PAIEMENT

## Kent Paulette, aka Derfla

Green Life Grocery is currently exhibiting the works of Kent Paulette, aka Derfla. Kent picked up the name Alfred in a past French class, flipped it and morphed into Derfla, his artistic alias. His paintings will be displayed at Green Life until the end of February. He credits Green Life Grocery with the sense of community that is conducive to an artist and his audience.

Like many teenagers, Derfla took to his art classes in high school, which allowed him the freedom to explore his creativity, but he never pursued an art education. He began painting eight years ago and his early paintings were inspired mainly by the musicians he admired at the time.

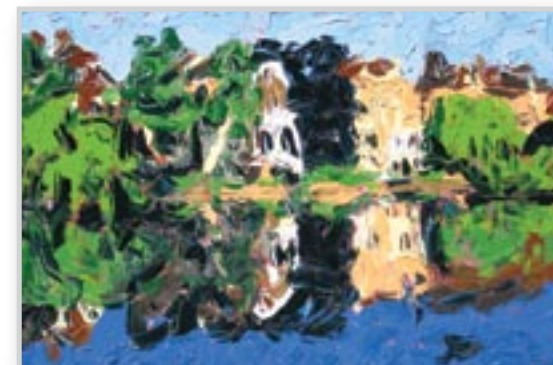
In earlier works, Derfla attempted to control every aspect of his pieces; a process he quickly learned did not work for him. As he grew as an artist, he left so-called mistakes in the painting as a tool for improvement.

"I try to apply the paint without hesitation or indecisiveness, and without reacting to what has already been painted. In that all-important moment when the paint touches the canvas, I tend to look away, allowing myself to get lost in it. These measures help to fend off the frustration and anxiety that may arise from any lingering tendency to control the outcome."

It is this ability to "let go" of control of his paintings that blends so well with his inspiration from nature, the pinnacle of unpredictability. Derfla's paintings are comprised of thick-textured oils and a palette knife and he has 400 paintings to his credit.

"From the start of this journey I've opted out of symbolism, instead searching for a more direct way to express one core idea. This has led me to give control over to a process that allows the painting to come to life organically. The painting is able to occur as an uninterrupted event subject to the whims of chance."

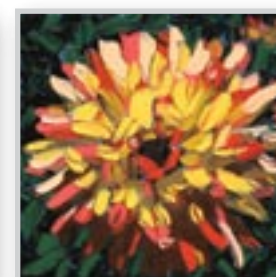
Derfla works out of a studio in his home about twenty minutes southeast of Boone, NC. His studio overlooks the mountains, instant inspiration for a man driven by nature. He was advised by friends that although Boone and Hickory were laudable venues for his work, his paintings would be better appreciated by



"Holland Gently" by Kent Paulette



Kent Paulette, fine artist



"Bubble Slip, Bubble Cast"



"Pandas" by Kent Paulette



"London" by Kent Paulette

the citizens of Asheville, a city known for its escalating art scene.



The exhibit at Green Life Grocery will end on February 6, but Derfla will continue to search for galleries around the region to showcase his work. You can also view Derfla's paintings at [www.derfla.tv/greenlifepress.htm](http://www.derfla.tv/greenlifepress.htm).

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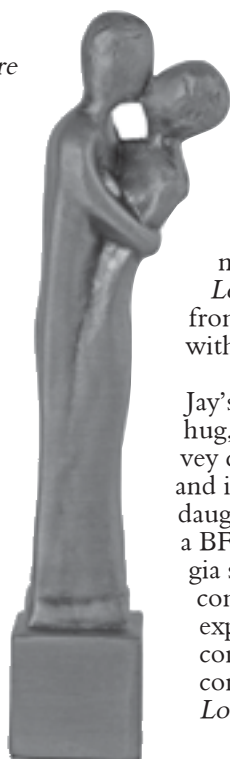
# FINE ART

## Simply Love Sculptures by North Carolina Artist Jay M. Rotberg

**W**ICKWIRE fine art/folk art "...where the heart finds art" celebrates Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14,

with Images of Love — express your heart! Choose from a wide selection of North Carolina artist Jay M. Rotberg's *Simply Love* sculptures, in pewter and verdigris finishes. The collection depicts the delightful itineraries of relationships.

Jay M. Rotberg's varied life has ranged from work in institutions for the handicapped to teaching at Boston University and the University of Miami. In 1989, he said, "I'm going to sculpt full time," and so he did. He left university life, moved to North Carolina, and, in 1997 opened



his studio. His art reflects his beliefs, interests, and loves — the closeness of family and the power of faith.

His original sculptures are cast in bronze and then recast using bonded resins and finished in a verdigris patina. His new metal pieces in his *Simply Love* collection are cast directly from his wax models and finished with a pewter patina.

With simplicity and quiet dignity, Jay's creations capture comfort in a hug, depict abandon and joy, convey compassion and understanding, and inspire strength and hope. His daughter Debra Rotberg Tuggle, with a BFA from the University of Georgia specializing in photography and computer graphics and having work experience with major digital design corporations, has become a regular contributor to her father's *Simply Love* collection.

In February and year 'round,

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Jay Rotberg and Debra Rotberg Tuggle are proudly represented by WICKWIRE fine art/folk art, 330 N. Main,

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## Folk Art Center Hosts Arrowmont: A Creative Continuum

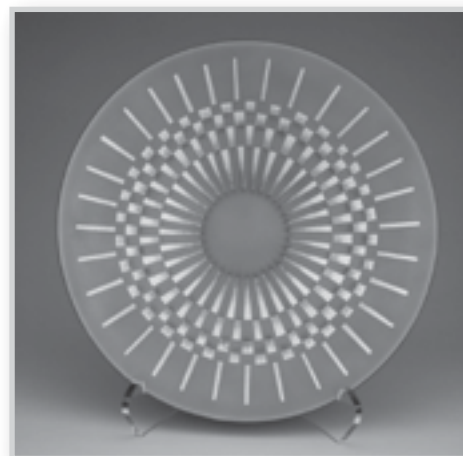


Binh Pho

**A**rrowmont School is a nationally recognized center of contemporary craft education located in Gatlinburg, TN. The school offers one-week, two-week and weekend workshops in various craft media.

Arrowmont has a rich history dating back to 1912 as the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, established by the national women's fraternity. The school's goal was to bring education, healthcare and economic development to the Southern Appalachians.

Today, Arrowmont's reputation as a premier arts school is based on the national and international recognition received by its instructors. *A Creative Continuum* celebrates their contributions to the school and the craft community. All the pieces in the exhibition have been



Helen Worrall



Sandra J. Blain

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

## Meet Woodworker Matt Zettl at Grovewood Gallery

In conjunction with the 22nd Annual Grove Park Inn Arts and Crafts Conference, February 20-22, Grovewood Gallery will be hosting a meet and greet with Greene & Greene inspired woodworker Matthew Zettl.

Zettl's pieces that will be on display in Grovewood's upstairs furniture gallery will range from traditional Greene & Greene influence to designs that he considers evolutions of the style. Brothers Charles and Henry Greene were American architects that are widely considered to have brought high-art aesthetics and exquisite craftsmanship to the American Arts and Crafts Movement in the early part of the 20th century.

Zettl has been woodworking for over 30 years; his pieces demonstrate the dedication to fine craftsmanship, thoughtful consideration of proportion, and sensitivity in design that made Greene & Greene the ultimate American designers in the arts and crafts tradition.



Grovewood Gallery, 111 Grovewood Road in Asheville. For more information call (828)

253-7651 or visit [www.grove-wood.com](http://www.grove-wood.com).

donated to the permanent collection by the artist instructors. The traveling exhibition of contemporary artworks expands Arrowmont's educational outreach and helps fulfill its mission of enriching lives through art.



On display through April 19 in the Folk Art Center's Main Gallery is *A Creative Continuum: The New Frontier of*

*Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts Permanent Collection.*

The Folk Art Center, headquarters of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, is a fitting venue for the exhibition. Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts has been an educational center member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild since 1960.

The Folk Art Center is located at milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. For more information, visit [www.craftguild.org](http://www.craftguild.org) or call (828) 298-7928.



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## Introducing The Old Fort Store

There's a lot of talk about buying local but when it comes down to it has been difficult to practice this noble virtue. When we shop for things we want to find the best prices, a wide selection of items, convenient parking, and more.

Pinwilz™ Company has launched a new partnership with local manufacturers in Old Fort. Pinwilz is primarily a retail operation. We offer shopping in the store, on-line, mail-order, and phone orders. We are open 5 days a week and have plenty of parking.

Both Parker Hosiery

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and Pisgah Yarn & Die Company have been in the neighborhood for decades. Each has sold products direct to the public from their manufacturing plants. Both still offer direct sales for bulk buyers — but when someone needs a few pair of socks or a couple cones of yarn they can conveniently find it here.

The third manufacturer in The Old Fort Store is Pinwilz line of candles; Butterfly Blends,™ Soy Jar candles, and Soy melting tarts.

Catawba Vale Café next door adds great atmosphere. You can shop and grab a bite to eat all at the same place. We have music

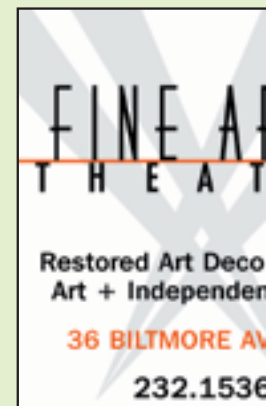


## GET ON THE MAP

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## FEBRUARY 2009

Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m.  
Gus Jacacci presents *America Awake!*

Friday, February 6 at 7 p.m.  
Simone Lipscomb discusses and signs copies of her book, *Sharks on my Fin Tips*.

Saturday, February 7 at 7 p.m.  
Jack Riggs reads from and signs his second novel, *The Fireman's Wife*.

Thursday, February 12 at 7 p.m.  
Executive coach Doug Silsbee reads from and signs his latest book, *Presence-Based Coaching: Cultivating Self-Generative Leaders through Mind, Body and Heart*.

Friday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m.  
A pre-Valentine's Day wine tasting with host *the Wine Guy*. Tickets are \$10 and include a discount on a selection of wine guides.

Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m.  
River Guerguerian gives a fascinating talk and demo on music for meditation.

Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m.  
Author John Jeter will read from and sign his debut novel, *The Plunder Room*.

Saturday, February 21 at 7 p.m.  
Lavinia Plonka, presents her unique new cookbook, *Playing in the Kitchen*.

Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m.  
Nan Watkins and Thomas Rain Crowe present *Rare Birds: Conversations with Legends of Jazz and Classical Music*.

Thursday, February 26 at 7 p.m.  
Author Marie Bartlett and storyteller Roselynn Katz will present *The Frontier Nursing Service: America's First Rural Nurse-Midwife Service and School*.

Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m.  
Jefferson Bass presents its latest Body Farm thriller, *Bones of Betrayal*.

Saturday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.  
Anne Morrison Welsh reads from her powerful memoir, *Held in the Light: Norman Morrison's Sacrifice for Peace and His Family's Journey of Healing*.

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## BOOKS

# My Anti-Valentine

## Books For The Heart-Encrusted Season

There have been heart-shaped boxes of bad chocolates in the stores since 12/26. Everywhere one looks, the world is glowing pink and red with tiny hearts. I'm already sick of it.

So, in the spirit of anti-Valentines, let's look at some books that are not about romance or self-help or any of that palaver. In the midst of Black History month and with an eye toward Women's History in March, here are some delicious books by women authors. Not cook-books, not bodice-rippers, not how-to tomes on healthy lifestyles. If you're feeling like starting a revolution, put on your big boots and read on.

If you haven't read **Zora Neale Hurston**, I must ask — what are you waiting for? She's one of the women of the Harlem Renaissance who wrote fiction and memoir and recorded folklore and folk religious practices. The book that's always recommended first is *"Their Eyes Were Watching God"* but I want you to start with *"Tell My Horse."* It's a travelogue. Sort of. This book is a memoir, too, but its strength and durability lie in the fact that it's an anthropological work that revolves around the Afro-Caribbean religion Voodoo. In the Thirties, Hurston went to Jamaica and Haiti and her accounts of initiatory practice and ritual are fascinating and important. She writes in a period style — not as a scholar but as a curious, intelligent woman exploring her world and her roots.

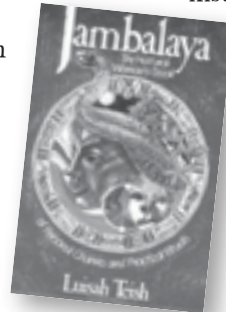
You should also read *"Their Eyes Were Watching God,"* which may be her strongest work of fiction. Her main character is an amazingly strong woman of color named Janie Crawford and Janie's life is chronicled even at its most bleak and disappointing. But there is a rich joy here, too, and a lesson for all women about the notion of empowerment and for readers about what constitutes a happy ending. The dialect can be a little off-putting so give yourself time to enter into it. It also helps to read it aloud.

And one more from Hurston — *"Mules and Men"* a folklorist's and historian's dream. All three of these books are available now, though most had fallen out of print.

I love reading **Luisah Teish** and seeing her perform her beautiful work. She has allowed average Americans to enter into the world of African religion in a way that is both playful and powerful. My introduction to her work was *"Jambalaya: The Natural Woman's Book of Personal Charms and Practical Rituals."* It is an important work in the mostly Eurocentric canon of folk magic and religion and it is dramatic and terribly useful. As a person who practices an Appalachian hoodoo, I've always enjoyed comparing notes with other folk religions, so I loved Teish early on. Check out her website at [leisahteish.com](http://leisahteish.com)

The next two women are local women of color — a range of cafe au lait — for whom I have so much respect and affection. The first is **Glenis Redmond** — a poet, performer, teacher and goddess. I first knew Glenis's work through her performances — fiery, wise, expert. I picked up *"Backbone"* and loved the family history filtered through the life of its poet-daughter. I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Glenis to the bookstore in December and her book *"Under the Sun"* came into my eager grasp. The chief joy of following a writer's work throughout a career is the chance to see the work and the artist expand her or his vision, to see with new and other eyes. Both books are excellent and the Glenis in *"Under the Sun"* has become an alchemist.

Last, but certainly not least, is my sister-reviewer at this magazine, **Marijo Moore**. I want to point you to two of Moore's long list of published works and these are two older ones. Moore is a poet, memoirist, fiction writer and publisher and I submit for your consider-



BY H. BYRON BALLARD

ation *"Red Woman With Backward Eyes"* (my favorite of Moore's titles) and *"Spirit Voices of Bones."* Both are excellent examples of wordsmithery and the raw power of her use of the simplest phrase will set you back on your heels. Start with *"Red Woman"* if you haven't yet and save *"Spirit Voices"* when you are in need of a forging of your own.

Get some decent chocolate and then get a real treat — a book by a woman author who knows her own heart and maybe yours, as well. Now that's true love.

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

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."

## Let Us Put an End to All Social Stresses

Let us put an end to all social stresses  
Let us be honest with each other  
Without fear of rejection or resentment  
Let us honor each other's passions  
Let us treasure each other's art

Let us lay the ego down upon the earth  
Let us swim the sea out beyond jealousy  
Let us discover each other deep in the forest free

Let us never worry again  
Let us be here for each other  
Without concern of being owed  
Let us break free of anxiety  
Let us live forever together perfectly

Let us open our arms when another needs to cry  
Let us open our minds when another needs to laugh  
Let us open our hearts, breathe deep, and fall in

Let us release all negativity  
Let us know the spirit purely  
Without fret of being labeled  
Let us provide the homeless homes  
Let us show the heartless soul

Let us live with grace and ease  
Let us love true  
Let us surrender to the dream

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# Outfoxing Coyote

One day last autumn, when I opened a book written by one of my favorite authors, Rainer Maria Rilke, the following statement, highlighted long ago, touched me deeply as always:

"For verses are not, as people imagine, simply feelings.... they are experiences. For the sake of a single verse, one must see many cities, many people, and things, one must understand animals, must feel how birds fly, and know the gesture which small flowers make when they open in the morning."<sup>1</sup>

As I thumbed through *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* leaves, rose petals, and tiny flowers fell from the inside. These special memories of daily walks are additions I have always put inside cherished books; reminders that although I am growing spiritually, I need to remember always how far I have come and what I have survived.

Later that afternoon, I began reading *Outfoxing Coyote*, a collection of poetry by Creek/Cherokee/Seminole writer Carolyn Dunn, and realized that she has indeed "experienced" life in full. *Outfoxing Coyote* is a treasure of a woman's desires, disappointments, accomplishments, loves, and survival. Weaving ancestral ideas and stories into modern day vernacular, she has created a magnificent work.

The coyote is considered by many Indian nations to be the trickster, the master magician who uses his/her powers didactically. But sometimes, when we fail to see our own humanness in these

teachings, we become the target of coyote's backward "medicine." We con ourselves. It takes strong, ancient, feminine power to outfox this trickster. In the poem "Sleeping Woman," poetess Dunn reveals the subtle but amazing feat of outwitting the coyote:

We remember the silence  
in our dreams.

The vast landscape of trees  
shimmering from the voices  
that are carried upon the wind.

I see the trick of daylight  
and wonder at the voice inside  
what I won't do for love  
— to move beyond the shadow  
of myself.

Speaking the enemy's language  
as my own I take back the things  
of my grandmothers.

Her lace curtains, china cups and  
pieces of clear smoky quartz  
from a mountain in Tennessee  
called Sleeping Woman.

She slept beside me in flower petals  
strewn about in wonder  
under a blanket of Seven Stars.

She moves in darkness across my life  
and knowing what all women know  
I speak his language, that of my  
conqueror but in his language  
I tell our women stories.

Sleeping Woman,  
she has arisen.

*Outfoxing Coyote*  
© 2002 Carolyn Dunn

Realizing the mysterious importance of shape shifting, this talented writer takes readers into the worlds of Coyotesse, Turquoise Woman, Deer Woman, Warrior Woman, and Eagle Woman. Through this shifting we realize the importance of finding answers to the following: How can we know our people unless we know as they knew? See as they saw? Become as they were? Simply put, we can't. Carolyn's writings give us clues how to do so, how to outfox the trickster in ourselves, how to see with our eyes closed.

The words sang softly  
from the page to  
my mind and settled  
in my heart...

I remember being moved by "Tahlon of the Bird Clan," which Dunn composed for her son. The words sang softly from the page to my mind and settled in my heart, never missing an imagery-filled, mellifluous beat, reminding me that we Cherokee are children of the stars, just as we know that stars are birds.

"Tahlon of the Bird Clan, The One Who Drags It, the singing voice of stars and remembrance and matter and vision, the one of the heart and stones of stars in the sky, the one who returns, the one who stays, the boy who came home and remained, the one who speaks words and sounds

poetry

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



a scattering of birds...

BY MARIJO MOORE

and makes sense to the heart, the one of his mother's breath, comes alive in the dawning darkness that has become his life."<sup>2</sup>

*Outfoxing Coyote* is now in my collection of favorites and I pulled it from the shelf today, catching the small mountain flowers I had added as they fell from the pages.

I settled on the poem "Deer Hunter," in which Dunn reveals candidly the mystical mixture of confusion, love, desire, shame, and awakenings.

"...She was trying to warn me — and I looked into her eyes, perhaps now I can save myself... I look to the ground, and see my feet, hooves covered with dust, and stained with blood, pours from the open wound, of my breasts, where it dries, and forms red stones, shining, and I shape them into a necklace, of deep crimson, nearly black..."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*  
© 1910 Rainer Maria Rilke

<sup>2,3</sup> *Outfoxing Coyote*, © 2002 Carolyn Dunn

**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.marijomore.com](http://www.marijomore.com)**

The winners of Rapid River's poetry contest will be announced in the March 2009 issue.

## Chris Austin Songwriting Contest

The contest recognizes winners in four categories — country, bluegrass, gospel and general. First place winners in each category receive: a performance on the Cabin Stage at MerleFest 2009, an acoustic guitar, a check for \$300, and more.

This year's deadline for submissions is February 18, 2009. To be eligible to enter, a songwriter must not derive more than 50% of his or her total income from songwriting or music publishing.

For additional information call the contest hotline at 1-800-799-3838 or Laurie Hayes, CASC Coordinator: 336-838-6158, [laurie.hayes@wilkescc.edu](mailto:laurie.hayes@wilkescc.edu).

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# NOTEWORTHY

## Birtherd from Scorched Hearts: Women Respond to War

compiled and edited by MariJo Moore

In this new anthology, the phenomenon of war – as experienced, observed, and defined by award-winning women writers – is passionately exposed, insightfully explored, and skillfully interrogated with wisdom, courage, and unapologetic honesty.

Editor MariJo Moore – who is also one of the more than 60 women who contributed pieces to this anthology – explains in the introduction her motivation for creating *Birtherd from Scorched Hearts*:

“These writings will go deep into readers’ psyches, past the nonverbal consent caused by desensitization, to reawaken and bring to the surface the innate realization that we are all involved in the historical and recent events concerning war; that no one is insulated from these issues; that everyone has experienced the realities of war in some way.”

Women often have different perspectives of war than men, so Moore asked women writers from across the world to consider war while pondering this question: “If you could converse with a woman – any woman living or deceased – who suffered from war, what would you ask?”

Their responses, in both poetry and prose, comprise this anthology. Some describe public battles or ideological warfare; others delve into the nature of private internal conflicts and personal fights to recover from loss. Readers hear from contributors including Amy Goodman of *Democracy Now!*; Paula Gunn Allen, author of the groundbreaking book *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions*; and Matilde Urrutia, a writer, singer, and political activist who was the inspiration for many of poet Pablo Neruda’s greatest works.

From the mythical Medusa to the circa 60 CE Celtic warrior Boudicca – and from Native American survivors to Harriet Tubman – women describe how



REVIEWED BY TOM KERR

and why they endured the grim realities of war. Readers hear from those who experienced the bombing of Dresden, the persecutions of fascist dictators, the atrocities perpetuated by secret police, and the violent insanity of previously gentle friends and family members who

returned home traumatized from combat. One poem gives voice to a woman giving birth while incarcerated; another grieves the loss of a battle against cancer.

Along the way, these women impart wisdom to help teach us how to defang the tendency for war from within our individual and collective DNA. They show how a war is different from a battle – how wars are never isolated to the battlefield trenches or to the blood that is shed between soldiers.

War is not merely the absence of peace, and peace will never be thoroughly experienced by only burying the hatchet and the gun. Every war rises up from a foundation of prerequisite lies, prejudices, and myths that are necessary to justify unspeakable acts of inhumanity. These writers – as word warriors – help to debunk the vital immoral premise of war and slay its cruel hype and blatant hypocrisy.

*Birtherd from Scorched Hearts* will make some readers feel uncomfortably guilty or outright ignorant. But at the same time, those readers are offered inclusion, acceptance, compassion, forgiveness, enlightenment, and an opportunity for positive transformation.

All readers will be given a unique interpretation of history, an invaluable education, and the rare opportunity to question the current human condition with a view to improve it for the benefit and betterment of all.

Tom Kerr is a freelance writer based in Asheville, NC.

## UpBeat! Concert at Black Mountain Center for the Arts

Red June is a musical collaboration from Asheville, NC. With band members Will Staughan, John Cloyd Miller and Natalya Weinstein, it brings together three contrasting but complementary musicians in a beautifully distilled form.

Will Staughan, who performed with the Emma Gibbs Band from 1996 to 2004, is a talented multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and singer with an instantly recognizable vocal style and approach. He is a sought-after session player, and currently works with Eliza Lynn and Lance Mills, among others.

John Cloyd Miller is a versatile singer/songwriter as well, concentrating largely on bluegrass music for the past several years in the band Lo-Fi Breakdown. His vocal and instrumental style is soulful and genuine with an unmistakably authentic old-time flavor.

Natalya Weinstein plays almost any style of fiddle or violin and is a solid harmony singer. She is an accomplished instructor in the Asheville area, training young fiddlers and violinists. Her experience includes regular performances with Polecat Creek and Lo-Fi Breakdown, as well as recording session player for several albums.



Red June band



The February UpBeat! Musical Heritage 4th Friday Concert Series at the Black Mountain Center for the

Arts will be Friday, February 27, at 7:30 p.m., featuring Red June.

The Center is located at 225 W. State Street in the old City Hall. Admission is a \$10 donation at the door. For more information, contact (828) 669-0930 or visit [www.BlackMountainArts.org](http://www.BlackMountainArts.org).

More information about this talented trio can be found at [www.myspace.com/redjunemusic](http://www.myspace.com/redjunemusic)

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A SMART FILM SCREENING OF

## Running Fence

BY KIM ZDANOWICZ

The Asheville Art Museum invites you celebrate Valentine's Day afternoon enjoying a unique film screening of *Running Fence* on Saturday, February 14 at 2 p.m. in the Museum's Studio.

This film documents the multi-year process of the creation of Christo and

Jeanne-Claude's *Running Fence, Sonoma and Marin Counties, California*, a 24-mile long, 18-foot high fabric “fence” which spanned two counties in California.

Beautifully photographed by award-winning documentary filmmaker Albert

Maysles, this film speaks to Christo and Jeanne-Claude's powerful transformative effects on community.

Join us for the film screening of *Running Fence* and get inspired by a truly amazing artistic team. This film screening is free with Museum Membership or admission.

While you're at the Museum, check out the exhibition *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Projects* and then take a self-guided tour of the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Community Poster Installation Project in the windows of businesses around town.



Running Fence, photo by Wolfgang Volz. © Christo and Jeanne-Claude.

# writers wanted

To cover theatre, the arts, events and other interesting things. Please respond by email with sample writings to [info@rapidrivermagazine.com](mailto:info@rapidrivermagazine.com)



## 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](mailto:reeltakes@hotmail.com)



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

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

## Defiance ★★★★★

**Short Take:** A remarkable and little known story of Jewish survival and community during WWII.

**REEL TAKE:** While not a cinematic masterpiece a la *Shindler's List*, Edward Zwick's *Defiance* is a worthy film which deserves to be known by both Jews and gentiles as a powerful story of Jewish survival during World War II. As movie goers, we are accustomed to seeing the Jewish experience of WWII portrayed quite differently than what we see in *Defiance*.

The story starts off in 1941 several months after the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union had turned the Belarus town of Nowogrodek into a Jewish Ghetto. On December 7, 1941 four brothers from the Bielski family fled to the forest after their parents and other family members were killed during an attack on Nowogrodek. Tuvia, Zus, Aseal and Aron decided they would stay in the forest in order to survive. They were soon joined by other neighbors and, as word quietly spread, more and more people came to the forest seeking protection and refuge with the Bielski Brothers. Tuvia Bielski (Daniel Craig), the leader of the refugee community took everyone in, claiming that, "our survival will be our revenge."

Even more impressive than the sheer tenacity to escape the Nazis is how they live. The two eldest Bielski brothers, Tuvia and Zus (Liev Schreiber), share a combative relationship; Tuvia is the more peaceful brother while Zus the more vengeful. As such, Zus leads a group of partisans that would rather fight than hide. However, whether in the woods or fighting as partisans, ugly acts were committed to survive. Finally, and perhaps most interestingly, a civilized community had to be established in order to help them survive among themselves.

Unlike *Valkyrie*, which probably did not suffer in having Tom Cruise speak



Daniel Craig as Tuvia Bielski and Liev Schreiber as Zus Bielski in "Defiance."

in his natural speaking voice, the entire cast of *Defiance* speaks in appropriate accent, some (especially Daniel Craig) even performing scenes in Russian. The intention by the filmmakers was to make them more authentic and, in doing so, bring us more deeply into

their characters. It works. The supporting cast, including an all grown up Jamie Bell (*Billy Elliott*), Shamon Haretz, and Mark Feuerstein are excellent.

From the comfort of our warm chairs, the most striking thing about *Defiance* is that any of them survived. But perhaps the single most important element of the story for me was that, although they were prey to horrific circumstances, the Bielski brothers and the more than 1200 people in the forest with them were *not* victims.

*Rated R for violence and language.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## Last Chance Harvey ★★★★★ 1/2

**Short Take:** Two lonely people find genuine companionship and understanding when they befriend each other.

**REEL TAKE:** *Last Chance Harvey* isn't a great movie, but it's a charming and understated little film. The story is pleasant but nothing really new. What makes this story work is the ease and chemistry between its two stars, Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

Dustin Hoffman is Harvey Shine, a jingle writer by day and a jazz piano player at heart. He's a dinosaur in his field and an outsider to his somewhat estranged family. Emma Thompson is Kate Walker, a customer service worker for Heathrow International Airport. She's a woman of a certain age with an overbearing mother and friends perpetually concerned about her singleton status.

With his job hanging in the balance, Harvey flies to England to attend his daughter's wedding. Within 24 hours, Harvey misses his plane, loses his job and learns that his daughter wants her step-father to walk her down the aisle. Facing the reality of his failure as a father and his decreasing value in the commercial marketplace, he meets Kate. Accustomed to disappointment, she is a woman with thick defensive walls and no expectations. As they walk and talk, her armor crumbles and Harvey realizes this is his last chance at getting it [all] right.

As Harvey and Kate's story unfolds so do the sub-stories, the best of which is between Kate's mother (Eileen Atkins) and her new, ever barbecuing, Polish neighbor. Her mother, the quintessential dejected woman whose husband left her for his young secretary, peers at her neighbor from behind curtains and suspects him of murder. It's a fun sub-plot and adds a pleasant levity to the goings on.

Despite a difference in age and height; he much older and she much taller, Hoffman and Thompson have a unique chemistry. Perhaps it's more warm affection than za-za zing, but it's chemistry no less. While a bit staid in her younger days, Thompson has always seemed at ease in her roles. Hoffman on the other hand (a method actor by study) seems to have grown into a more relaxed, organic style of acting in recent years and the result is delightful.

*Rated PG-13 for brief strong language.*

Review by Michelle Keenan



Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson star in "Last Chance Harvey."

## Let The Right One In ★★★★★ 1/2

**Short Take:** A most unusual coming-of-age flick from Sweden that just happens to be about a vampire.



Lina Leandersson as Eli in "Let The Right One In."

**REEL TAKE:** We don't often review horror movies in Rapid River. For the most part they are tailor made for a specific target audience of young men and the women foolish enough to go to them. They aren't very good, and they aren't meant to be, which explains their rapid box office decline after the opening weekend.

*Let the Right One In* is in a totally different category. While watching it, I was reminded of *Vampyr*, another Scandinavian vampire film from over 70 years ago. The story, the performances, and above all the direction, elevate *Let the Right One In* into the realm of art without sacrificing the entertainment possibilities, rather like *Twilight* or *Interview with the Vampire* if directed by Ingmar Bergman.

The story of a lonely, bullied school-boy who finds a companion in a young girl, who is not what she seems, would have been right up Bergman's alley. That's the psychological side of the film which is beautifully handled by director Thomas Alfredson. Then there's the horrific elements of the story which are masterfully done and even caught an old, jaded horror film fan like myself by surprise.

After viewing this movie, I felt absolutely exhilarated. Intelligent horror

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# FILM REVIEWS

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is so rare these days (no surprise that this is a foreign film) and then to have it so beautifully realized (yes, it is beautiful) reminds me of what is possible within this genre if only the people involved would kick it up a notch.

This movie had a great run in Asheville for about a month, which is rare for a foreign film (especially one that didn't play downtown), but it shows what quality and word-of-mouth can do. Keep a lookout for when it comes out on DVD for it deserves to be seen by fans of quality horror films and by all those who profess that they love the movies.

*Rated R for bloody violence, brief nudity and language.*

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## Revolutionary Road

**Short Take:** This reunion of *Titanic's* co-stars is overwrought, overblown, and overdone.

**REEL TAKE:** It's a good thing that Kate Winslet is happily married to Sam Mendes because in my opinion, *Revolutionary Road* would be grounds for divorce. This movie has been much anticipated and has garnered a few awards along the way and for the life of me I can't see it.

## Theatre Directory

**Asheville Pizza & Brewing Company**  
Movieline (828) 254-1281  
www.ashevillepizza.com

**Beaucatcher Cinemas (Asheville)**  
Movieline (828) 298-1234

**Biltmore Grande**  
1-800-FANDANGO #4010  
www.REGmovies.com

**Carmike 10 (Asheville)**  
Movieline (828) 298-4452  
www.carmike.com

**Carolina Cinemas**  
(828) 274-9500  
www.carolinacinemas.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

It's as if director Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*), Winslet and co-star Di Caprio went out of their way to make the anti-*Titanic*. That film was the ultimate romantic movie while this one is defiantly the opposite and most people who go to see it as a sort of *Titanic* reunion are going to be very disappointed.

There's nothing wrong with making a movie that's a downer as most dramas, by their very nature, are. It is wrong though when the emotion behind the drama is not believable and that's my number one problem with *Revolutionary Road* (the title refers to a New England suburb address not anything political). Winslet and Di Caprio spend their time emoting in front of the camera, not acting. Acting enables one to see the characters underneath the skin, and that



is something not achieved in this film.

Suburban angst movies are their own sub-genre from the Lana Turner vehicles of the 1950s (where *Revolutionary Road* is set) to such American nightmare films of the late 1960's as *The Swimmer* with Burt Lancaster and *The Arrangement* with Kirk Douglas and Faye Dunaway. The list continues all the way up to Ang Lee's *The Ice Storm* and Sam Mendes' own *American Beauty*.

That film, along with *Road to Perdition*, shows that Mendes is a director of great promise, but *Revolutionary Road* is a promise unfulfilled. Blame the script (which is not great) or the performances (which are shrill and unconvincing), but ultimately the responsibility is Mendes' for not seeing the problems and not doing something about it. On the plus side any movie where the characters smoke Old Gold cigarettes can't be all bad.

*Rated R for language and nudity/sexual content.*

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## The Reader

**Short Take:** In post World War II Germany, a teenage boy has a secret affair with an older woman only to find out years later that she had many other secrets of her own.

**REEL TAKE:** *The Reader* is a quietly intense and intriguing film. In post-World War II Germany a teenage boy is stricken ill and a woman helps him home. Months later, now recovered from scarlet fever, the boy makes his way back to the woman's house to thank her. His intended



Kate Winslet as Hanna Schmitz and David Kross as Michael in "The Reader."

he falls in love with her. It's an odd, intense relationship. We don't see them talk a lot, nor share the normal conversations of lovers. Instead we see them read a lot. He reads to her and she loves it. After he reads to her, she favors him with love-making. The reading is foreplay of sorts, but one very quickly sees that this is when Hanna is most peaceful and vulnerable; she is a sponge soaking up every word.

Their secret amour comes to an abrupt end when Michael arrives at her flat to learn that Hanna is gone - no word, no note, just gone. He is heart broken but life goes on. About a decade later Michael is in law school. They are taken to observe Nazi war crime trials. There, who is on trial but none other than Hanna. The past he didn't know about is revealed. In observing the trials, he realizes another of her secrets. What happens in the subsequent years is a whole new chapter in reading to her.

The film bounces back and forth between the unfolding story from young Michael's perspective and what happened in the decades afterwards from older Michael's (Ralph Fiennes) perspective. Winslet turns in a restrained, confined, intense performance as Hanna and Berg and Fiennes are excellent as well. *The Reader* is at once heart wrenching and diffident. Perhaps those contradictory elements are what make it a rather fascinating character study.

*Rated R for some scenes of sexuality and nudity.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## The Spirit

**Short Take:** A Frank Miller derived movie that doesn't take itself seriously and is much better for it.

**REEL TAKE:** I'm not a big fan of the works of Frank Miller. I hated *Sin City* and to a lesser degree *300*. With that in mind, and based on the preview, I was not looking forward to *The Spirit*. The trailer went out of its way to resemble the graphic nature of the other two films with no hint of the

thank you turns into a passionate, secret affair with his rescuer.

Michael (David Kross) is fascinated by his mysterious lover Hanna (Kate Winslet) and despite their age difference

sense of humor that it contained.

It was precisely that sense of humor though that allowed me to thoroughly enjoy *The Spirit*. Not only was it true to its comic book origins, but it wasn't afraid to poke fun at the whole graphic novel/superhero sensibility, which has become (with the exception of *Iron Man*) way too serious of late. This angered the core fan base which takes the genre far too seriously. (Unfortunately with the success of *The Dark Knight*, we'll likely be stuck with gloomy action movies for some time to come.)

Rather than serve as an advisor or a co-director, as he has in the past, Frank Miller directed *The Spirit* outright. Since that is the case, he deserves full credit for making the movie as entertaining as it is. Not only is the graphic black and white with a splash of color look down pat, but Miller gets terrific performances from his cast who are clearly having a wonderful time, especially Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson.



Samuel L. Jackson stars in Frank Miller's "The Spirit."

The story, if you're interested, concerns a former cop (Gabriel Macht) who is killed and then brought back to life with the ability to heal from any wound in a manner of minutes. Unfortunately the doctor who made him that way (Jackson) did the same to himself and now seeks immortality. Throw in a former girlfriend (Eva Mendes) and an eager assistant (Johansson) and you're off on a 90 minute excursion into *Pulp Fiction* territory. Although already gone from local theatres, be sure and catch it on DVD.

*Rated PG-13 for sequences of stylized violence, sexual content and brief nudity.*

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## The Wrestler

**Short Take:** Mickey Rourke makes a great comeback as an aging, former pro-wrestler scraping his way through the independent wrestling circuit.

**Reel Take:** Long fallen from grace, Mickey Rourke worked for nothing when Darren Aronofsky (*Requiem for a Dream*) offered him the chance to play Randy "The Ram" Robinson in *The Wrestler*. Aronofsky fought for Rourke to get the part and it was a battle well waged. Rourke is perfect

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# FILM REVIEWS

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in his comeback role. So perfect in fact that you can't imagine why anyone else was even considered.

Rourke plays an aging former pro-wrestler whose glory days as a headliner in the 80's are far behind him. "The Ram" ekes out an existence at minimum wage jobs and performing on the independent wrestling circuit. Though barely making



Mickey Rourke in "The Wrestler."

ends meet, he still lives for the thrill of the ring and the fans. It's also the only thing he really knows and the only thing that keeps him from being an utter and complete failure.

After a heart attack forces him into retirement, he hinges his hopes on salvaging his relationship with his estranged daughter (Evan Rachel Wood) and a potential romance with a stripper (Marisa Tomei). He means well, but it's a slippery slope for a man who isn't good at relationships and life.

*The Wrestler* is a fascinating illustration of a bizarre sub-culture. It's an ugly world, wherein the clamoring crowd thirsts for fights that are half real, half entertainment. Even with farcical clobberings, the performers still take their fair share of lumps. As the old salt on the circuit, "The Ram" is respected there, which also explains a bit of its allure for him.

Randy "The Ram" Robinson is simultaneously a loser and not a bad guy. While he screws up in daily life, he has some genuinely respectful and gentlemanly qualities that are nice to see. As in his own life, Rourke does not make excuses for his character's faults and failings but still succeeds in giving him a sort of dignity. It is a respect and dignity that both Rourke and "The Ram" deserve.

*Rated R for violence, sexuality/nudity, language and some drug use.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## Valkyrie

**Short Take:** Tom Cruise scores in this well made film version of an actual plot to assassinate Hitler.

**REEL TAKE:** *Valkyrie* is the latest installment in that line of films that

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## Cast Your Vote!

*The Academy Awards are upon us! Select the winner in each category and win a \$20 gift certificate to Mellow Mushroom!*



### Best Picture

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," "Frost/Nixon," "Milk," "The Reader," "Slumdog Millionaire."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Actor

Richard Jenkins, "The Visitor"; Frank Langella, "Frost/Nixon"; Sean Penn, "Milk"; Brad Pitt, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; Mickey Rourke, "The Wrestler."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Actress

Anne Hathaway, "Rachel Getting Married"; Angelina Jolie, "Changeling"; Melissa Leo, "Frozen River"; Meryl Streep, "Doubt"; Kate Winslet, "The Reader."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Supporting Actor

Josh Brolin, "Milk"; Robert Downey, Jr., "Tropic Thunder"; Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Doubt"; Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight"; Michael Shannon, "Revolutionary Road."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

## AND THE WINNER IS...

### Best Supporting Actress

Amy Adams, "Doubt"; Penelope Cruz, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"; Viola Davis, "Doubt"; Taraji P. Henson, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; Marisa Tomei, "The Wrestler."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Director

David Fincher, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; Ron Howard "Frost/Nixon"; Gus Van Sant, "Milk"; Stephen Daldry, "The Reader"; Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Animated Feature Film

"Bolt"; Kung Fu Panda"; "WALL-E."

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Foreign Film

"The Badder Meinhoff Complex," Germany; "The Class," France; "Departures," Japan; "Revanche," Austria; "Waltz With Bahsir," Israel.

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

### Best Original Score

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," Alexandre Desplat; "Defiance," James Newton Howard; "Milk," Danny Elfman; "Slumdog Millionaire," A.R. Rahman; "WALL-E," Thomas Newman.

Academy Vote Prediction:

Your Vote:

Your Name, Phone, Address

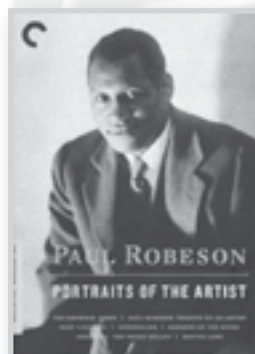
One winning entry will be randomly selected from all entries received. Submit your completed ballot by February 20, 2009 to: Rapid River Magazine, 85 N. Main St., Canton, NC 28716.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH: PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

### Paul Robeson

Black History Month takes on a greater meaning this year thanks to the inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African-American President. It's a pity that one of America's greatest entertainers didn't live to see something that he worked for but would never have believed possible at the time of his death.

To call Paul Robeson (1898-1976) simply an entertainer is to do him a great disservice, for he was so much more. Actor, singer, athlete, and activist, Robeson fought for the dignity not only of African-Americans but also for those involved in the labor movement (his singing of the song *Joe Hill* did much for



labor solidarity). His concerts abroad were rallying points for oppressed people everywhere.

He paid a very heavy price for his activism, including condemnation

by the media here in America and the loss of his passport from 1950-58, when he was at the peak of his career. You can learn more about that shameful incident as well as the rest of Robeson's career in the documentary *Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist* which is part of a new 4 DVD set *Paul Robeson: Portraits of the Artist* released by the Criterion Collection.

In addition to the documentary

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

there are 4 feature films including his signature role in Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* (1933), two British films *Sanders of the River* (1935) and *The Proud Valley* (1936) (his personal favorite) and a 1925 silent film *Body and Soul* from African-American filmmaker Oscar Micheaux. There's also a pro-labor documentary *Native Land* (1942) and a 1930 avant-garde short feature about race relations called *Borderline*.

The set concludes with *Our Paul* which contains moving tributes from such African-American performers as James Earl Jones and Ruby Dee who tell of the powerful impact he had on their lives and careers. The individual DVDs are available at Pack Library or through Netflix and the complete set is available locally at Barnes and Noble or online through Amazon or other retailers.



# FILM REVIEWS

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turn out to be better than expected. The idea of Tom Cruise as a German officer, a story that everyone knows the outcome of, and the objections of the German government, seemed an ideal formula for failure. Once again Cruise has taken on his critics and won.



Tom Cruise and the cast of "Valkyrie."

There were no less than 15 attempts to kill Hitler before he finally committed suicide. The von Stauffenberg plot was the one that came closest to succeeding. In the summer of 1944, a German officer left a briefcase of explosives at a meeting that Hitler attended. The bomb was detonated but unfortunately Hitler was only slightly wounded. The conspirators were caught and executed and Germany's last chance for a peaceful settlement died with them.

The most successful aspect of *Valkyrie* (thanks to the strong supporting cast of Terrence Stamp, Bill Nighy, Kenneth Branagh, and Tom Wilkinson) is that even though we already know the outcome, the film still generates an aura of suspense. We also feel the exaltation of the conspirators when they initially think they have succeeded. The film's historical settings are all in place and director Bryan Singer (*Superman Returns*) moves everything along at just the right pace.

There have been a few critics who complain that the actors don't speak with German accents and thus it is less authentic. In truth they should be speaking German with subtitles but this is Hollywood not the History Channel. No one complained about the actors speaking English in *Doctor Zhivago*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* or in the original *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

Ultimately people need to learn to separate Tom Cruise the actor from Tom Cruise the celebrity and Scientologist. He still has a lot to offer which can be seen in *Valkyrie*, which he brought to the table and produced as well.

*Rated PG-13 for violence and for strong language.*

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## Yes Man

Think back on today. Can you remember all of the different things people asked you to do? You may have been invited to a party, asked to buy something, or begged a big favor. You probably said no to a lot of these requests. Now imagine that you had said 'yes' instead, and how different your life would be right now because of it.

*Yes Man* tells the story of an unhappy man named Carl (Jim Carrey) who attends a self-help meeting where he is goaded into saying 'yes' to anything anyone ever asks of him. This lands him in some very unpredictable situations. For example, when Carl reluctantly agrees



Jim Carrey as Carl, John Michael Higgins as Nick and Terence Stamp as Terrence.

meeting a girl he really likes. As good things begin to happen, he decides to continue saying 'yes' to everything, to the point where he can't stop. Eventually Carl becomes a whole new person...with a whole new set of problems!

Lately my motto of life has been "carpe diem," and this movie fits right

## TEEN REVIEW by Sierra Bicking

to give a homeless man a ride, he ends up running out of gas; however this happily results in his

in with that. Okay, so maybe you don't want to say yes to everything, but we often miss out when we're afraid to take any risks.

Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel's zany chemistry portrays the absurdity of both extremes very well, and even lightens the inevitable moral of the story. So if you want to be inspired to take chances and live life to the fullest, just say 'yes' to seeing *Yes Man*. Seize the day!



Sierra Bicking is an arte aficionado extraordinaire.

## Chip Kaufmann's Pick: "La Ronde"

## February's DVD Picks

## Michelle Keenan's Pick: "Once"

*Whether you're single or coupled, in light of that Hallmark card holiday of holidays, you'll probably watch something this month with a bit of romance in it. There are plenty of mutually satisfying classics (see Chip's DVD pick), and those occasional little films that charm everyone (see Michelle's DVD pick).*

### La Ronde (1950)

**Remarkably frank but surprisingly subtle look at sex and love (in that order).**

This 1950 French film was considered quite scandalous in its day especially in America. The premise of characters having sex without marriage shocked conservative moviegoers even though it was done with wit and style and didn't show you anything improper.

I first saw this film in college back in 1970 and have waited for years for it to become available on DVD. It's based on a work called REIGEN (ring or circular movement) by Austrian playwright Arthur Schnitzler which premiered in 1897. Adolf Hitler considered it to be absolute filth.

The movie stars Anton Walbrook (of *Red Shoes* fame) as a narrator and occasional inter-actor of a series of "trysts" between a number of characters with one picking up where another left off until the "ring of love" has come full circle. The repeated symbol throughout is an old fashioned carousel. There's even a "song of love" that comments on the action.

The Criterion Collection's transfer of this film is truly stunning.



Only the black and white photography and the discreet, good taste employed are clues that this film is almost 60 years old. If you enjoy old-fashioned romance with a bit of spice (and don't mind subtitles), this is a perfect Valentine's Day offering.

### Once (2007)

**Boy Meets Girl and together they make beautiful music**

Boy meets girl and beautiful music is made in the little Irish, indie film that could. Despite fabulous reviews (a 97% fresh rating on *Rotten Tomatoes*) *Once* was one of those little films that was very easy to miss.

*Once* is one of those films that lives and grows by word of mouth. Now, nearly a year after its DVD re-

lease and Oscar win for Best Original Song, there is a new wave of *Once* excitement rolling through the office, on Facebook, in conversations with friends, etc. If it's not the film that's got people buzzing, it's the music. I've recently even heard the catchy Oscar-winning song, "Falling" on the radio, which of course is now introducing it to a whole new legion of fans. I still periodically get emails from friends sharing their wonderful new discovery.

Share it they should. *Once* is a simple story, minimally told. An unnamed man (Glenn Hansard) is a vacuum repairman by day and a busker (street musician) on Dublin's Grafton Street by night. An unnamed young woman (Marketa Irglova) is an immigrant from the Czech Republic who was a classically trained pianist there, but now is a house cleaner.

When they meet, they bond over music and end up spending one glorious week together writing songs, recording a demo, becoming friends and inspiring one another. Interestingly, although *Once* is a musical of sorts, the music is not the narrative tool, it's the heart of the story - and what a heart it is!



# RESTAURANTS & WINE

## Presidential Pours

BY MICHAEL PARKER

### the Politics of Wining and Dining

**N**ow that we have experienced a peaceful transfer of Presidential power, as scheduled, the wine-and-dine scene in our nation's capital is experiencing a welcome change. Those of you who hate politics and policy may want to pay at least some attention to the new administration for other (good) reasons.

In addition to the obvious changes that come with any new Presidency, the arrival of the Obama family brings a big difference to the toasts and tables in DC. Our new President and First Lady love to dine out, and after an eight-year hole of non-alcoholic glass-raising and the supermajority of POTUS's meals served in the White House mess, the wines are back and DC waiters are now experiencing frequent Secret Service scrutiny. (To clarify, Bush's guests were served wine, but who pays attention to what the guests are drinking?)

Presidential patronage matters a great deal to DC restaurants. Two administrations ago, President Clinton loved a southwestern restaurant near the White House called Red Sage. I went there for that very reason. I may not have liked the President's politics at that time, but his frequenting that particular place successfully influenced my going there. In fact, the food was not necessarily stellar or even worth the money, but the energy inside Red Sage made it worth the time.

According to a recent *New York Times* report, Red Sage "fell out of favor" during the Bush years and closed. I don't know what that writer was implying, but my experiences there tell me that unless they were excellent, their popularity depended on a President's famous patronage. By contrast, The Palm is still going strong in spite of the fact that President Bush did not go there even once in eight years. It is

The Palm's only Presidential snub since its opening in 1972, but eight years is a long time, and The Palm deserves its success as much as the Old Ebbitt Grill.

Just as significant, and more pertinent to this column, the wines on the Obama restaurant tabs and on the White House menus are going to certainly be worth noting. I had put my optimism on hold when *People Magazine* reported a bottle of Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay in the Obama kitchen. I remember thinking, *oh good grief*, but then again the K-J label is the bane of wine snobs, and the problem is ours, not that of Joe the Wine Drinker. It's none of our business what is open in their home.

Back in December, this column recalled President Nixon's support for the sparkling wines of California's Schramsberg Vineyards and its very influential pouring during his state visit to China. Last November, on election night, the Obamas celebrated with fizz from South Africa's impressive Graham Beck winery.

At a Congressional inaugural lunch, they opened a special "inaugural cuvee" of Korbel sparkling wine (Korbel's seventh inaugural presence). Senator Dianne Feinstein of California chaired that committee. Even if the Korbel label is another thorn in the side of the wine snobs, wine producers are swelling with optimism as wine-drinking powers-that-be in Washington are in better situations to support the cause.

I share this optimism. A Presidential endorsement of wine with dinner will further shake the wine stigmas that too many Americans still entertain. Some maintain that drinking is wrong and others associate wine drinking with elitist behavior. (That's where labels like K-J and Korbel can be useful.)

Also, as discussed here, the fact

that the President chooses a restaurant does not mean that the restaurant is going to be worth the money, but if the White House chef chooses a wine for the menu, you know you have a reliable example to follow.

Still, with these coming wine selections also come some unavoidable politics. The American wine industry is nationwide, not just Californian. Dozens of states have fine producers, and it is my hope that deserving little-guy winemakers will score the publicity of a Presidential pour. I hope we see plenty of affordable wines. Since so many wineries will be eager to give even their high-priced wine away, it will be easy for White House planners to forget about the retail prices and what they may imply. Add that to the long list of such concerns for people whose work is attached to politics.

### Suggestions for the current White House

**Sparkling Wine:** I'll begin at home. Biltmore Estate, which is no stranger in the Executive Mansion, produces several quality sparkling wines. There are producers in New Mexico (Gruet) and on the Traverse Peninsula of Michigan who deserve their 15 minutes.

**Dessert and After-Dinner Wines:** Port-style wines, especially from petite sirah and late-harvest zinfandel. Our northern states are dotted with competent producers of late-harvest whites and ice wines.

**Not-just-the-West-Coast:** To reiterate, 49 states have wineries, dozens of which offer quality products. Remember the little guys, please!

**Not-just-America:** My theory is that drinks can unite the planet. There is a world of good diplomacy and good will in complimenting an ally, and even a would-be ally, by serving their people's wines. The post-9-11 ban of French Wine was complete crap, a punishment of ordinary French farmers and talented producers



who had nothing to do with the perceived arrogance in Paris. Serving the world's wines can only highlight and celebrate what free people do.

Whether our new President serves one or two terms, there are hundreds of wine-supporting opportunities ahead. Wine producers who are eager for publicity need to be patient.

### Events at the Weinhaus

Reservations are required for these events, please call the Weinhaus at (828) 254-6453.

#### Saturday, February 7

The Grovewood Café with chef/owner Larry Waldrop will present a five course dinner paried with wines from the Weinhaus. 7 p.m. Cost is \$59.95 all inclusive.

#### Tuesday, February 12

An early Valentine's Feast will be held at The Orchard restaurant recently opened by Dwight Butler of Vincenzos. Featuring five courses paried with wines from the Weinhaus, the restaurant is located at The Broadmoor Country Club off Airport Rd. 7 p.m. Cost is \$60 all inclusive.

#### Saturday, February 21

A Carnivale Wine Tasting Dinner will be held at the Cedar Crest Victorian Inn at Biltmore. Brazilian and other South American foods will be paired with wines from the southern hemisphere. 7 p.m. Cost is \$55 all inclusive.

#### The Weinhaus

86 Patton Ave., in Asheville  
(828) 254-6453

## TASTING EVENTS!

FREE tastings are held at the Wine Guy South every Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. Featured wines by local distributors are 10% off that day.

### ★ South American Tasting at The Wine Guy North

Wednesday, February 11 at 7 p.m. \$20 per person.

Call (828) 254-6500 for reservations.

### ★ FIG Wine Dinner

Wednesday, February 25 - Reception 7 p.m. \$70 per person.

Call (828) 277-0889 to reserve your seat.

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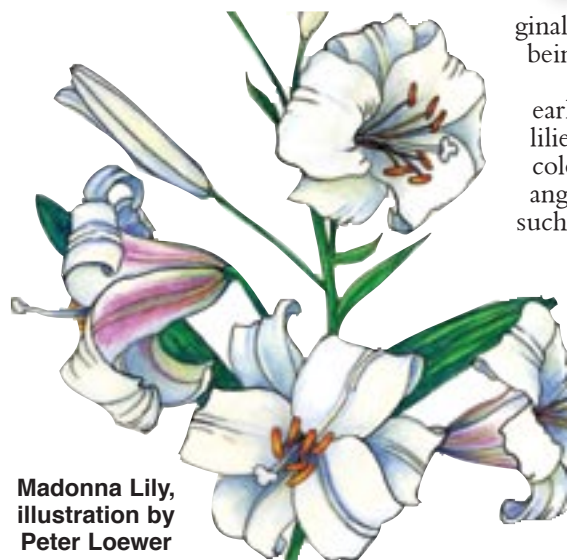
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# THOREAU'S GARDEN

## the Lily



Madonna Lily,  
illustration by  
Peter Loewer

The plant catalogs are arriving in record numbers so now is the time to choose the blooms for your garden of 2009! Remember, that all of those pots of the virginal Easter or Madonna lilies are already being prepared for holiday bloom.

And for bloom in late spring and early summer, I always include Asiatic lilies, offered in a wide range of bright colors, including maroon, yellow, orange, pink, and white plus pastel colors such as cream, pale peach, coral, and pink.

Some nurseries feature naturalizing mixes; try planting some directly in the garden and the rest into pots. Especially attractive is *Lilium* 'Admiration', its creamy-white blossoms with maroon spots on twenty-inch stems are great on a moonlit night.

*Lilium canadense*, an American native, is lovely in containers. Commonly called Canada

lily, it bears orange-yellow to red flowers in late June.

In July and August, both the early orientals and the Aurelian hybrids bloom. Jan de Graaff, one of the great lily hybridizers of all time, created the Aurelian strain, including the spectacular 'Moonlight Strain' and 'Golden Splendor'.

'Casa Blanca', an oriental lily, blooms in early August and features fragrant ten-inch flowers with pure-white petals and burnt-red anthers.

They blossom atop five-foot stems. Another oriental lily, 'Strawberry Shortcake', bears six-inch, sweetly fragrant flowers the shade of ripe strawberries and edged with creamy-white. Only twenty-four inches high, this dwarf hybrid is perfect for pots. 'Little Pink' is another short variety, perfect for the edge of the border or for pots.

Lilies that bloom in August and September include the various hybrids of *Lilium auratum* and the magnificent *L. formosanum*. This second species bears six-inch-long, sweetly fragrant white blossoms atop four- to six-foot-tall stems. It hails from Taiwan, yet is hardy in this country as far north as Zone 5 if protected with mulch. Because it blooms so late, it requires special protection in the North from early frost. In addition, this species is susceptible to a virus infection called lily mosaic, so do not plant it with other lilies. 'Little Snow White' is a cultivar with large solitary, paired, or multiple flowers on nine-inch stems. If grown from seed sown in September, this lily will bloom the following summer. It is especially well-suited for pots.

Buy or order your lily bulbs as early in the spring as possible. If they arrive and you are not prepared for them, store them in a cool place such as the refrigerator. In spring our refrigerator often has seed packets in the butter compartment, seed flats in the freezer, and bulbs in the crisper.

I use straight-edged black plastic pots



Peter examines the blossoms of early-blooming Lenten roses.

BY PETER LOEWER

for lily bulbs. When the buds have developed to the point of showing color, remove the pots from the bed and place them in decorative pots.

Use large pots that are at least fifteen inches deep and wide enough to hold about a cubic foot of soil.

The bulbs must be planted deeply, since many lily stems bear roots above the level of the bulb. Also, lilies need a good deal of soil, since they are heavy feeders.

Although many garden writers claim that soil drains perfectly when there is nothing in the pot bottom except a small hole, I've found healthier root growth if, when potting up, you put at least an inch of pebbles or broken pottery in the bottom of the container. Use a planting mix of good potting soil, sand, and composted manure or shredded leaves, and add a dash of lime.

Put about two inches of soil mix in the bottom of the pot, then set the bulb (or bulbs) in place — for small bulbs use three to an eight-inch pot. Then fill the pots to within a half-inch of the top. Gently firm the soil.

Water the pots well and place them directly in the soil in a protected nursery bed. They will need at least six but preferably eight hours of sunlight a day. Water well and feed with a liquid fertilizer once a month.

After the bulbs have stopped blooming move the pots back to the nursery bed to allow the foliage to ripen. Then either plant the bulbs out in the garden, or place them in a deep cold frame or another cold, protected place for the winter.

For a special touch, plant some crocus bulbs around the edges of the lily pots. The early-season blossoms will provide welcome color before the lilies appear.

## How Much Wood Could a Woodchuck Chuck?

It's Groundhog Day once again at the Western North Carolina Nature Center! Join Asheville Citizen Times columnist Susan Reinhardt and the Nature Center staff on Monday February 2 at 3:30 p.m. as we take a close look at our groundhog, Nibbles, one of the largest squirrels in the eastern U.S.!

Find out what a single mom and a single groundhog have in common!



Our Nature Center naturalists and Carlton Burke, noted expert, will amaze you with the biology and ecology of these herbivorous creatures, along with Appalachian music and folklore about our local "whistle-pigs."

For more information on this Groundhog Day celebration, please contact Keith Mastin, Education Curator, at (828) 298-5600 ext. 308.

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Andy Sandford  
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## ARTFUL LIVING

# The Gateless Gate

**H**ave you ever considered why religions exist and what the pull to spirituality is about? There are many answers to these questions, but the one I offer here is that there is an inherent paradox of simultaneous separateness and connectedness to the human experience.

Humans experience themselves as separate forms in a universe of separate forms. This is their primary experience of existence as communicated from the senses and the egoic mind. I am here, you are there, and surrounding us are the objects that make up the world. But is this all?

This is the reality that we operate in as individuals maneuvering our way through our lives and it is the reality we operate at as cultures, societies and economic entities. And, at a certain level, it is true. It is certainly handy. It allows us to interact and manipulate our world. It is the dimension of human mind that is called ego, the experience of separateness in a world of separateness, the experience of "I" as differentiated from "other" and the facility to engage and shape our world. Useful? Yes. Ultimately fulfilling? No. The limit of the reality of the nature of existence? We know instinctively, universally, intuitively, no. And it is certainly fraught with problem and peril as well as opportunity and gain.

The ultimate reality of existence is that everything is connected. We are learning increasingly in the field of ecology how everything is connected, how we cannot simply add or subtract within the environment without incurring consequences that would seem unrelated from the perspective of separateness. This is where the problem and peril issue comes in, and increasingly so, as our environmental, economic, geo-political, and even interpersonal and intrapersonal worlds become more unstable.

Physics has established that everything is actually one field of energy with varying fields of density and vibration that create the "objects" of the universe, gaseous, liquid and solid. Physics is further proving that the minutest particles of this energy field have a sort of consciousness, that an electron "knows" when it is being observed and this observation affects its behavior, lending evidence to theories that the universe itself is a field of consciousness. It is at this point that physics morphs into metaphysics. We have arrived at the doorstep of spirituality and religion, of God, Brahma, the Tao, Spirit.

At a deep level, at a level below what we are taught and the information of our senses, at the level of mind prior to ego, what Carl Jung would call the intuitive

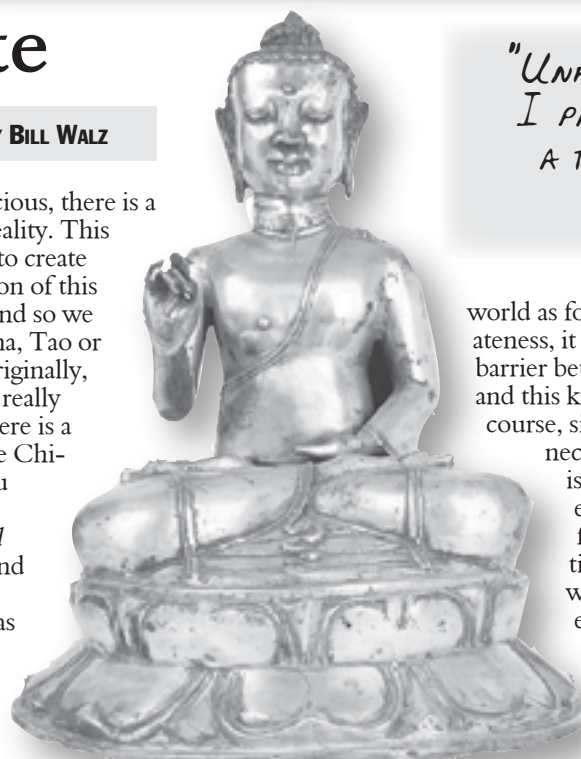
BY BILL WALZ

collective unconscious, there is a knowing of this reality. This knowing pulls us to create some representation of this conscious unity, and so we call it God, Brahma, Tao or Spirit, although originally, these names were really "nameless", for there is a wisdom that as the Chinese sage, Lao Tzu stated, *"The Tao that can be named is not the Tao."* And as is recorded in Exodus, Moses was confronted by YHWH, or "I am who I am", essentially that which cannot be named.

This then leads to the paradoxical state of human consciousness, a knowing of a background field of unformed, unnamed consciousness within which there is a primary or foreground experience of the world as separate and named forms. This knowing of that which is unformed and the background to the reality of existence is the essence of the spiritual experience, which then becomes formed into religious expression. Unfortunately, the pull and utility of the religious form in the world of form is so strong, that the unformed is mostly forgotten, and the form or name is worshiped as if the name were the reality. This brings forth the problematic aspect of religion that continually seems to be in violation of the wisdom that inspired the religion.

The Asian traditions of Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism, however, as Lao Tzu's admonition illustrates, maintain a forthright recognition of this conflicting paradox. They maintain as central to the realization of the truth of who we are and what the nature of existence is, that this paradox must be unriddled before spiritual realization (satori), or even psychological clarity and the knowing of the truth of who we are can be achieved.

Since our primary experience is the



*"UNFETTERED AT LAST, A TRAVELING MONK,  
I PASS THE OLD ZEN BARRIER. MINE IS  
A TRACELESS STREAM-AND-CLOUD LIFE."*

~ MANAN (1591-1654)

world as form and separateness, it is as if there is a barrier between humans and this knowing. But of course, since this interconnected consciousness is the essence of existence, it is not foreign information, but rather, within us as our essence. It is not information to be sought outside us, but a knowing to be realized within. It is the realization of our nature

as Nature, for what else could we be? We are, at our core, at one with the One, while in our surface form, both physical and mental, we are separate and lost. We Human Beings are form and essence, Human (ego/separate form) and Being (consciousness/energy/spirit).

Zen refers to this paradox as "The Gateless Gate" or the barrier that is no barrier. Immediately we can then understand what Buddhism is referring to when it speaks to the experience of life that commonly is identified as reality being illusion. The purpose of our existence is to penetrate this illusion and relax into the truth of who we are in our essence, as Manan speaks of, to "pass the old Zen barrier."

As the name, Buddha, means "Awakened", we realize that we too, are here to awaken. Looking outside ourselves for the truth of who we are in the forms of the world is error. Only by turning awareness to the discovery of the unity of the world within the field of consciousness can we discover our essential selves. Only then can we be liberated from the error of identity found in ego and its world of forms. Only then can the knowing that integrates form and spirit be awakened into the truth of who we are. Only then can we realize that the ultimate reality

is here and now, just as it is. This is the purpose of meditation.



**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 Asheville Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood. He will hold an extended meditation and discussion Satsang at the Meeting House on Saturday, March 28, 1-5 p.m. Both, by donation.**

**Info on classes and personal growth and healing instruction or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail healing@billwalz.com. Visit www.billwalz.com**



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*HOW BOUNDLESS THE CLEARED SKY OF SAMADHI! HOW  
TRANSPARENT THE PERFECT MOONLIGHT OF THE FOURFOLD WISDOM!  
AT THIS MOMENT WHAT MORE NEED WE SEEK? AS THE TRUTH  
ETERNALLY REVEALS ITSELF, THIS VERY PLACE IS THE LOTUS  
LAND OF PURITY, THIS VERY BODY IS THE BODY OF THE BUDDHA.*

~ SONG OF MEDITATION, HAKUIN EKAKU ZENJI



# JOE'S BREW NOTES

## Highland Brewing Company: Asheville's Craft Brew Pioneer

BY JOE ZINICH

Asheville is renowned for many things but especially for its art, music, and craft beer communities. Each of these had a person, company, or event to lead the way to prominence and set the standard for those who followed. For Asheville's beer community, the pioneer is Highland Brewing led by the founder and owner Oscar Wong and brewmaster John Lyda.

Oscar was born and raised in Jamaica. His appreciation for flavorful beer began at his family's Sunday dinners and grew when he tasted a friend's home brew while he attended the University of Notre Dame. His enthusiasm led to the construction of his own home-brewery. Alas, the beer he brewed, by his own admission, was "enjoyable but not exactly award-winning".

After graduation, his career path led him to Charlotte where he opened a nuclear-waste-treatment business. His enthusiasm for flavorful beer continued unabated and, shortly after he sold his business and retired, he met the award-winning home brewer, John McDermott. In 1994 they opened a brewery in Asheville to make British Isles style ales. The name *Highland* was chosen to recognize the Scotch ancestry of many of the people who settled in our mountains.

applied to the Siebel Institute of Technology brewing school and learned the courses were designed for students with at least 3-years professional experience. To get that experience, he joined Highland as an intern. When John McDermott decided to move on, Oscar, who recognized John Lyda's brewing ability, asked him to become brewmaster.

John describes himself as a "technical brewer"; beer style is not as important as batch-to-batch flavor consistency. When a beer recipe is developed and ready for production, tests are performed on the ingredients and at select steps throughout the brewing process. Those results become the benchmark for the next batch. Brewing art develops desirable aroma/flavor profiles; brewing science develops consistency. That's why the Highland beer you enjoyed today will always have the same great flavor.

The Highland Brewery started beneath Barley's in downtown Asheville with brewing equipment made from modified dairy equipment. Over time, sales grew to the 6,500 barrels-per-year



John Lyda and Oscar Wong

named for the mountain peaks of our region) on an ongoing basis to complement their standard selections. Their latest is the certified-organic Black Mountain Bitter, a light-in-alcohol (less than 5%) but high-in-flavor English style pale ale; in stores now. My favorite of their standard beer selections is St. Terese's Pale Ale; medium body, slightly malty with a clean, crisp hop finish.

Tour the brewery and you'll learn a lot about the art and science of brewing and the company and its staff. You'll notice the staff is happy, relaxed and displays pride in their work, product, brand, and has a respect for their customers. This is a direct result of a company living its philosophy of "quality, integrity, and respect" coupled with great communication. The same approach extends to the environment where numerous green-programs have been implemented, to the city of Asheville where Highland is a recognized connection to the city and its vibrant beer scene, to our region where Highland is working to establish a hop-growing industry, and to the area's home brewers where the Highland Cup recognizes their talent and advocacy of flavorful beer.

Highland is the first (legal) brewery in Asheville. With their consistently flavorful beers and distribution throughout the south east, they have become a goodwill ambassador for Asheville and its outstanding brewing community. There is a beer worth tasting, a people worth meeting, and a neighbor worth having. Visit and you'll find out why.

### Highland Brewing Company

12 Old Charlotte Highway,  
Suite H Asheville, NC 28803

(828) 299-3370

[www.highlandbrewing.com/main.htm](http://www.highlandbrewing.com/main.htm)

## Take the Tour

You'll want to tour the Highland Brewery whether you've toured a brewery or not. The tour is enjoyable, interactive, thirst quenching, and very informative. The brewery is big enough to impress but small enough to see, listen and understand how those flavorful brews are produced and packaged.

From the start, in front of 6 or 7 taps, your guide will provide a sample of beer, a brief description of the company and the key ingredients used to make beer.

The tour continues to the wort (a malt sugar solution with hops added) production tanks followed with stops at the fermentation (yeast addition), clarification (yeast removal), and conditioning (carbon dioxide added as necessary) tanks.

After viewing the packaging area, the tour ends where it started. Generous samples of select Highland brews are provided along the way.



Oscar Wong conducting a brewery tour.

This tour is one of the best I have taken, instructive and relaxed with enough time to learn about beer production, try some tasty brews, and interact with your fellow tour members.

Because different tour guides are used, and it's fun, I recommend going more than once; each time I've gone I've met interesting people and learned something new.

Tours are held every Friday starting at 4 p.m., call ahead to let them know you're coming.



The Highland Brewing Company Staff

John Lyda, a native of Asheville, graduated from UNCA with a business major and science minor. At college he enjoyed primarily imported beer, but the taste of the Belgian beer Corsendonk inspired him to become an avid home brewer. After graduation he accepted a job in Asheville's movie theater industry but his passion was for brewing. He planned to open a "brew and view" but wanted to get a more formal beer education first. He

capacity but demand didn't stop. To satisfy the demand, a combination of Asheville- and contract-production was used until a new brewery could be completed in East Asheville. That brewery opened less than 2 years ago with commercial brewing equipment, a capacity of 20,000 barrels, and sales of 15,000 barrels.

With the increased capacity came the ability to create and produce a variety of new seasonal/specialty brews (generally



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



# LOCAL FLAVOR

## Forest Blue Enters South Asheville Dining Scene

**H**idden behind a row of storefronts on busy Hendersonville Road in south Asheville, sits Forest Blue – a gem of a restaurant that is steadily gaining a following among those who’ve discovered it.

Owner Shelia Seals opened the cozy, upscale-casual restaurant/lounge in early November. It’s the first independent venture for Seals who, along with head chef Stephen Rice and Service Manager Steven Butler, have left the corporate restaurant world, and the two are nearly giddy with their new-found creative freedom.

Seals, who has spent her entire career in restaurant management, says she’s seen what works and what doesn’t. And she’s there for the long haul. “This is my life and Forest Blue is everything to me,” she explains. “I have everything I’ve ever wanted in a restaurant, here – great food and service along with a caring, passionate staff.”



**Private dining room comfortably seats 60 with incredible outside views and charming decor.**

The menu is eclectic and a few standard dishes have a different twist, such as the Seafood Spinach Dip, Inside-out burger stuffed with cheese, and mixed berry tiramisu. Other interesting options: Panko Breaded Ahi Tuna with wasabi cream sauce; Stuffed Chicken with prosciutto, tomato, pesto, kalamata olives and smoked Gouda cream sauce; and Almond-Encrusted Pork Chops with a sweet raspberry sauce.

I enjoyed a fresh, perfectly seared tilapia filet topped with a Cajun-spiced Alfredo sauce (creamy goodness with a kick of spice), and popcorn shrimp, with fragrant rosemary-garlic asparagus and butternut wild rice with almonds, red peppers, zucchini carrots, scallions and squash.



**Owner Shelia Seals and bartender Thomas Vasilos get ready for the evening dinner crowd.**

**BY PAM J. HECHT**

Everything is made from scratch — down to the salad dressings — with “as many local foods as possible, especially produce,” Seals says. “We’re not an assembly line here and we use our eyes more than our measuring cups.”

Some of the recipes have been in Seals’ family for 20 years, such as the Salmon Florentine with dill sauce and her mother’s Beef/Italian Sausage Lasagna. She and Rice also enjoy collaborating on new dishes, such as the beef tenderloin kabobs, Seals says.

Meanwhile, it’s clear that Forest Blue aims to please – customer feedback and menu suggestions are always welcome, says Seals, whose face lights up when customers say they like a dish. “I have a vision for this restaurant,” she says. “And I’m not finished by any means.”

**The Space:** Clean, open, and modern meets warm and woodsy. Main area seats 100, private dining room seats 60. A 24 hour reservation is needed to book the private dining room. This special treat doesn’t cost extra but they do require a minimum of seven guests. The room is booked quite often — call to reserve the room as early as possible.

Non-smoking. Down-to-earth atmosphere with fine dining fare. Grab a bar stool at an inviting, full-service bar in the front for appetizers, mixed drinks, beers on draft and local wines.

**The Staff:** Young, dedicated, well-trained (everyone in the kitchen has attended culinary school.) “I was extremely lucky to find such good people,” notes Seals.



Forest Blue Restaurant & Lounge, 900 Hendersonville Road, Suite 201 (in Forest Center North complex, across from Biltmore Forest).

Open Monday - Thursday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Fridays 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturdays 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday brunch 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Additional hours to be added; call for current schedule.) Reservations suggested but not necessary. Take-out, catering and private party space available.

(828) 505-7055, or [www.theforestblue.com](http://www.theforestblue.com)

**The Cost:** Appetizers and salads - \$7.99 to \$10.99; Lunch - \$7.99 to \$15.99; Dinner - \$16.99 to 25.99; Brunch, \$6.99 to \$10.99.

**The upscale dining room looks over the beautiful modern kitchen.**



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## CLASSES

### Cartooning is Cool 2009

#### Asheville Art Museum After-School Art Classes

##### Everyone Can Draw

For students in grades 4 - 8, Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Winter Session: January 27 - March 3.  
Spring Session: March 17 - April 28.  
(No class April 14) Cost: \$60 per six-week session.

It's a myth that artists are born and not made. Anyone at any age can learn basic drawing skills and have a creative experience. In each six-week session students will build their confidence with a wide range of materials and learn usable tricks of the trade. Pre-registration is required.

##### Create a Bound Book

For students in grades 9 - 12, Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., February 26 - April 2.  
Cost: \$75 for six-week session

Create a bound 7" x 7" book. This professional, digitally printed book will last a lifetime. Make up your own cartoon strip, add computer generated art or choose to

write and illustrate a story. Pre-registration is required.

##### Home School Program

For students grades 1 - 6, second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12. Cost: \$3.50 per student per session

Each 90-minute session includes a guided tour of the Museum's permanent collection or special exhibit, plus a hands-on activity in the Museum's studio. Museum admission for students and all materials necessary are included in the cost. Pre-registration is required.



Classes are held in the Museum's WNC Art Resource Center. To register or for more information, call (828) 253-3227, ext. 122 or 121 or e-mail [smcroe@ashevilleart.org](mailto:smcroe@ashevilleart.org) or [eshope@ashevilleart.org](mailto:eshope@ashevilleart.org).



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Register online at [www.buildingbridges-asheville.org](http://www.buildingbridges-asheville.org)  
Or in person at MAHEC on February 2, 6:30 p.m.



## CLASSES

## Workshops with Artist Steve Tracy

**A** Boy and His Dog Fine Art welcomes internationally acclaimed artist Steve Tracy. Steve teaches a life changing abstract art theory that is applied to almost all of the visual arts.

Beginners to professionals benefit from his unique point of view. A workshop featuring his unique concepts is scheduled for February 25, 26, and 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. One-day workshop available on February 25 only. Workshop rates are \$125 for February 25 or \$295 for 3 days, if reserved by February 14. You will never look at art the same way again. Reserve your easel today!



"Silver Queen Cottage"  
oil on canvas by Steve Tracy

## HISTORIC JOHNSON FARM AND ECO PRESENT Going Green Lecture Series

**Tuesday, February 3 at 7 p.m.**

"Finding the Balance between Growth and our Natural Environmental Heritage"

13-minute film on Henderson County plus discussion with David Weintraub, ECO Director.

**Tuesday, February 10 at 7 p.m.**

"Henderson County's Environmental Heritage and How to Protect It"

A panel discussion with Brian Thompkins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Renee Kumor, Henderson Co. Planning Board; Diane Silver, Mud Creek Watershed Coordinator.

Visit [www.historicjohnsonfarm.org](http://www.historicjohnsonfarm.org)

**Tuesday, February 17 at 7 p.m.**

"Bird Migrations, Habitats, and Nesting Patterns"

Program by Rich Leppingwell, President of the Henderson County Bird Club

**Tuesday, February 24 at 7 p.m.**

"Environmentally Friendly Building and/or Remodeling Practices"

Led by Ken Gaylord, architect. Featuring product choices, maintenance, tax credits, and air quality.

All lectures will be held at Historic Johnson Farm in the Interpretive Center at 3346 Haywood Road, Hendersonville, NC 28791.

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Sunday By Appt.

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## Lecture Featuring Filmmaker Paul Bonesteel

Lecture + Tour + Reception: *Enduring Photos, Enduring Mysteries*

**T**he Asheville Art Museum invites you to *Enduring Photos, Enduring Mysteries*. On February 21, 2009 in The Forum at Pack Place and the Asheville Art Museum local filmmaker Paul Bonesteel will lecture at 5 p.m., followed by a tour of the exhibition *Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa*, and a reception.

Bonesteel (*The Mystery of George Masa*, 2002) will discuss the photographs and life of George Masa (1881 - 1933, born Masahara Iizuka in Japan) and his connections with The Grove



Park Inn and The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including material and theories that emerged after the completion of his film.

Bonesteel will also discuss Masa's role in the upcoming film by Ken Burns on the National Park System. After the talk enjoy a reception and tour of *Mapping the Mountains: The Photographs of George Masa*.

Tickets are \$20 for Museum Members and \$25 for non-Members. For tickets or more information, call (828) 253-3227.



# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

**Sunday, February 1**

## Chamber Music Concert

There will be a concert by the Keowee Chamber Music featuring Kate Steinbeck on the flute and Amy Brucksch on the guitar at 3 p.m. at St. Matthias Church in Asheville.

There is no fixed charge for the concert, but donations will be accepted for the restoration of the beautiful and historic church. St. Matthias' Church is over 100 years old and is on the national historic register.

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

**Thursday, February 5**

## Freeing Your Natural Voice

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This one-evening workshop is for you! Learn techniques in a supportive atmosphere. [www.holygroundretreats.org](http://www.holygroundretreats.org), (828) 236-0222 or [office@holygroundretreats.org](mailto:office@holygroundretreats.org) for more information.

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

Any "free" event open to the public can be listed at no charge up to 30 words. For all other events there is a \$9.95 charge up to 30 words and 10 cents for each additional word. 160 word limit per event.

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

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

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

— Disclaimer —

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

## Studio Classes with artist John Mac Kah

Space still available. Students of all levels interested in best use of traditional materials to create artisanal paintings.

### Intro to Painting with Oils

Saturday 10 a.m. -1 p.m., in the studio.

### Painting in the Open Air

Saturday afternoon, weather permitting, on location in city parks and gardens.

New! Drawing for Painters  
Wednesday night, 7-10 p.m., studio classes.



Preparing to paint. Deepen your drawing skills and learn how best to translate what you see in preparation for oil painting. Space is limited.

Check our website for workshops in nationally known art schools, [www.JohnMacKah.com](http://www.JohnMacKah.com). Long Branch Studios in the Cotton Mill Building of the River Arts District.

(828) 225-5000  
[mail@JohnMacKah.com](mailto:mail@JohnMacKah.com)

**Friday, February 6**

## Valentine Exhibit & Art Auction

Cloth Fiber Workshop is offering a unique way to enjoy the spirit of Valentine's Day. From 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., the store will feature a silent auction of one-of-a-kind, handmade valentines created by regional artists.

Come bid on a favorite, and you're certain to go home with one or more unique valentines. There will be dozens of different "cards" and objects made with a range of materials and techniques — fabric, felt, paper, mixed media, stitched, beaded, quilted, and woven.

Artists showing their heartfelt interpretations of this sweet occasion include Benares Angeley, Heather Allen-Swartz, Clara Boza, Norma Bradley, Margaret Couch Cogswell, Sonda Dorn, Jacqueline Bakshy-Fehi, Caprice Hamlin-Kraut, Arthur McDonald, Jean McGrew, Lisa Klakulak, Meg Manderson, Lisa Maraschiello, Trish Marshall, Bernie Rowell, Jen Swearington, Terry Taylor, Pat Trill, Barbara Zaretsky, and many more.

Light refreshments will be served the night of the action. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Cloth Fiber Workshop.

Location: 51 Thompson Street, Suite D, Biltmore Station, Asheville. For more information call Barbara at (828) 505-2958.

**Friday, February 6, 4-6 p.m.**

## Etchings of Uganda

Photographer Carrie Wagner will be featured in the F.W. Front Gallery at Woolworth Walk from February 2-28. Carrie will display her photographs from 15 year old negatives of Uganda, Africa focusing on both people and animals from the area.

Carrie has practiced the art of photography for more than twenty five years. She feels her true passion is capturing the experiences and relationships that enrich our lives.

Woolworth Walk, 25 Haywood Street, Asheville, NC. (828) 254-9234, [www.woolworthwalk.com](http://www.woolworthwalk.com). Hours: Mon. through Sat. 11-6, Sun 11-5, Closed Tuesday.

**Saturday, February 14**

## Frog Love in the Pink Beds

11:00 a.m. Amphibian awareness program for adults, Cradle of Forestry, Pisgah National Forest; \$5; Call (828) 877-3130. Learn about wood frogs and amphibian conservation and explore the winter woods.

**Saturday, February 21, 3-6 p.m.**

## Migration of the Motivational Mints

A showing of surrealist paintings by Chad Knapik. On display at Filo Pastries, 1155 Tunnel Rd, Asheville. On display from February 10 through March 31, 2009. (352) 223-8755.

**Saturday, February 28**

## Weaving the Tapestry of Our Lives

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get your life together with this one-day interactive workshop! [www.holygroundretreats.org](http://www.holygroundretreats.org), (828) 236-0222, [office@holygroundretreats.org](mailto:office@holygroundretreats.org) for more information.

**Saturday, February 28**

## Loudon Wainwright III

One of the country's most poignant, humorous, and erudite songwriters, with guest (and daughter) Lucy Wainwright Roche, at the Grey Eagle, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$25 advance/\$30 day of show. Advance tickets available online and at local outlets. This will be a fully seated show.

**Sunday, March 1, at 3 p.m.**

## Jazz Band Fundraiser

Net proceeds will go to the HHS band program. The last concert this award-winning band performed nearly sold-out. Tickets are \$10 and are available online.

Box office opens one hour before shows — seating 30 minutes prior to show time. Blue Ridge Performing Arts Center, 538 North Main St., Hendersonville, NC. (828) 693-0087, [info@brpac.org](mailto:info@brpac.org), [www.BRPAC.org](http://www.BRPAC.org)

**Tuesday, March 24**

## Fly Fishing Course Offered to Kids

The Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department has partnered with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at the Pisgah Center for Wildlife Education to provide a six hour introduction to the basics of fly fishing. This program is for 10 to 15 year old boys and girls.

The one day course will include equipment, knots, casting techniques, aquatic entomology and will culminate with a fly fishing excursion in the well stocked Davidson River. Transportation, equipment and materials, including waders, will be provided.

All participants will need to bring a lunch and non-slip shoes. We will meet and leave from at the Waynesville Recreation Center at 9 a.m. Participants will return at the Waynesville Recreation Center at 4:30 p.m.

## Great Tree Women's Zen Temple

Residential Center for Women: Zen Practice, Study & Community for All. These weekly and monthly events are free and open to all.

Weekly Study Groups  
Tuesdays, February 10 to July 28, 3:30-5 p.m.  
Zazen for Everyone: Tuesday and Thursday, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Monthly: Family Practice, Sundays 10:30-Noon.  
Spring Schedule:  
February 22, March 22, April 26. Day of Mindfulness March 14

For full schedule of retreats, practice opportunities, and workshops visit [www.great-treetemple.org](http://www.great-treetemple.org).

Great Tree Women's Zen Temple, 679 Lower Flat Creek Road, Alexander, NC. (828) 645-2085.

The cost of the program is \$8 per person with a limit of 10 participants. For more information please contact Mike at (828) 456-2030 at the Waynesville Parks and Recreation Department.

## Sundays are Back! Clingman Cafe

Serving gourmet breakfast and specialty sandwiches, certified fair trade organic coffee and espresso. Open for breakfast and lunch from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Local organic produce and baked goods. 242 Clingman Ave., in Asheville. (828) 253-2177, [www.clingmancafe.com](http://www.clingmancafe.com).

## Saturday, March 7 Silent Auction and Benefit Concert

CAFE (Caring Artists for Evergreen) - SuFi Brothers with members of the Snake Oil Medicine Show, County Farm and Firecracker Jazz Band horn section. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Haywood Park Hotel Ballroom. Tickets: General, \$25 and \$30 at the door; Evergreen community, \$20. Call (828) 298-2173.

# FEBRUARY EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS



# WHAT TO DO GUIDE™

## Asheville Community Theatre Events

**February 5-28**

### The Little Dog Laughed

A clever and risqué satire! Mitchell is a movie star on the verge of hitting it big if it weren't for one tiny problem - his agent, Diane, can't seem to keep him in the closet. Performances Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. in 35below. Tickets range from \$10-\$15.

**February 5-7**

### Diva Cabaret

From sultry to silly, from contemporary to classic, the performances will be top notch. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Table service available for beer & wine.

**Sunday, February 8**

### Firecracker Jazz Band

Explosively hot jazz beginning at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Auditions for *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Monday, February 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Roles are available for 6 men (ages 30-60) and 2 women (ages 25-45).

For more information visit [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org)

## Great Tree Zen Temple

### Winter into Spring

Mother & Child, February 6-8.

Women's Retreat, February 27-March 1.

New Classes: Intro to Zen & Young Women's Zen Series.

For more information call (828) 645-2085 or register at [www.greattreetemple.org](http://www.greattreetemple.org)

## Celtic Band "The Muses" Perform February 3

*The Muses*, featuring Tanya Brody and Matthew Gurnsey, each play a plethora of exotic instruments ranging from bodhran and concertina to harp and hammered dulcimer; psalter, pennywhistles, fiddle and bones to name just a few.

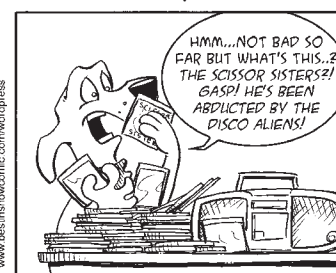
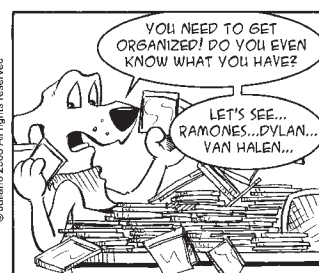
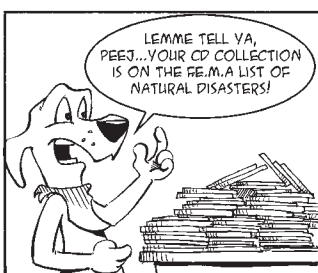
Seeking the return of traditional Celtic folk songs (and a stage overflowing with instruments and vibrancy), *The Muses* breathe new life into a music that will

never die. "Through our music you can feel the green shamrocks underfoot, catch the aroma of a distant salt sea, and taste the highland rain upon your lips."

*The Muses* play with a passion and a brilliance that is sure to be enjoyed by all — they are truly an inspiration.

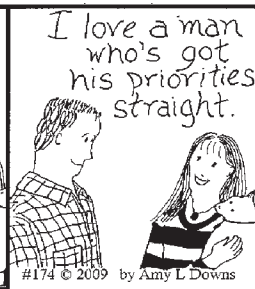
*The Muses*, February 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Transylvania County Library, 212 S. Gaston St., in Brevard. (828) 884-3151.

### Best in Show



by Phil Juliano

### Callie & Cats



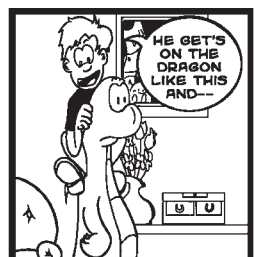
by Amy Downs

### Corgi Tales



by Phil Hawkins

### Dragin



by Michael Cole

## Flat Rock Music

**Tuesday, February 3 6:30pm**

James D Harrell – a blend of folk, country, and blues.

**Thursday, February 5, 8:30 p.m.**

Son's of Ralph – music ranging from bluegrass to country, to rock and back!

**Friday, February 6, 9:00 p.m.**

Corinne Gooden – a glimpse of simplicity and purity.

**Saturday, February 7, 9:00 p.m.**

Sirius B – Absurdist Gypsy Metal Folk Funk Punk

**Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Russ Wilson Trio hosts a jazz jam.

**Thursday, February 12 8:30pm**

Bobby and Blue Ridge Tradition – an exciting five-piece bluegrass band.

**Friday, February 13, 9:00 p.m.**

Alex Caton accompanied by Mary Ellen Bush of Menage – Irish, Old Time and Gypsy music.

**Saturday, February 14, 9:00 p.m.**

Riyen Roots and the Family Tree Band – keeping the blues alive.

**Thursday, February 19, 8:30 p.m.**

The Neighbors Band – bluegrass with a twist of rock and roll and comedy thrown in.

**Friday, February 20, 9:00 p.m.**

Wink Keziah and his band Delux Motel – where country meets rock'n'roll.

**Saturday, February 21, 9:00 p.m.**

Shane Pruitt Band – acoustic-based Piedmont blues.

**Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 p.m.**

Russ Wilson Trio along with bassist Steve Sarant and guitarist/vocalist Hank Bones host a jazz jam.

**Thursday, February 26, 8:30 p.m.**

Charles Wood and The Lonesome Road Band – bluegrass inspired harmonies.

**Friday, February 27, 9:00 p.m.**

The Lone Derangers – Americana and folk/rock on the banjo.

**Saturday, February 28, 9:00 p.m.**

Led Zeppelin/Pink Floyd Night featuring Eric Congdon and Steve Whiteside.

### The Back Room

Behind the Flat Rock Wine Shoppe, just down the street from The Flat Rock Playhouse. [www.flatrockwineshoppe.com](http://www.flatrockwineshoppe.com)

# CLASSES ~ LECTURES ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ READINGS



# NOTEWORTHY

## Exhibition Based on African Folktale

The People Could Fly," an exhibition of 12 watercolor paintings by Hendersonville artist Costanza Knight, will be on view at UNC Asheville's Blowers Gallery February 1-28. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

The exhibition was inspired by a traditional African-American folktale of the same name. The watercolor paintings depict slaves who escape their bonds by calling upon their native African magic and literally flying away from the plantation.

Knight, a former speech and language pathologist, often finds inspiration in stories and poetry. A native of Florida,

**"She Rose as Free as a Bird" by Costanza Knight**



BY NANCY HAYES

**"They Went So High, Way Over Slavery Land" by Costanza Knight**

she spent her summers in Saluda studying painting with her artist father.

Later she studied art at a university in Florence, Italy, and at UNC Asheville.



*Blowers Gallery is located on the main floor of UNC Asheville's Ramsey Library.*

*Open Monday-Thursday,*

*8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to*

*6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.;*

*Sundays, 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call (828) 251-6546.*

## A Double Dose of Local Talent

Local bluegrass favorites Buncombe Turnpike and popular singer/songwriter Dave Desmelik combine their talents for what promises to be an inspired evening of music.

Dave Desmelik will kick off the show, accompanied by members of Buncombe Turnpike, making this a truly collaborative effort. "It's pretty exciting" says Desmelik. "Josh Gibbs will be joining on Dobro, giving me a chance to try out some new songs."

The band will be playing new material and old favorites. In addition they'll be performing songs from Fresh Preserves, the recently released solo project from band member and front man Tom Godleski. In anticipation of the evening I sat down with Godleski for a brief discussion.

**JC:** Talk a bit about your solo album. You've mentioned before how it culminated a long standing desire of yours.

Tom Godleski: Fresh Preserves is a project that I have been thinking about doing for many years. Of course, thinking about it doesn't get the job done, so I finally made up my mind to make it happen. The album is a set of songs that are all based on true stories. I wrote eight of them, my father-in-law (Tommy Thompson) wrote one, while the other is a cover of a traditional song called Little Omie Wise. It's a story from Randolph County; Doc Watson recorded it several years ago and, given that I am a huge Doc fan, I've always wanted to tackle it.

Four of my songs are based on stories from my Uncle Robert Fowler. He was my mentor and my hero when I was growing up. He recently passed away, so I am glad to have done this album to keep his stories alive. Storytelling has always been a part of any Buncombe Turnpike show, but with the release of Fresh Preserves I get to now tell those stories on stage. Don't worry though... the evening will most definitely not just be me up there yakking. But I find that people like to hear the 'stories behind the songs' so I feel inclined to include those too.

**JC:** How will this be different from a traditional Buncombe Turnpike show?

Certainly the venue is part of that. It originally opened in June of 1932, with the architects being listed as Benton & Benton, who were among the premiere designers of their day. The Town of Canton acquired the theater in 1998. In 2000 it was added to the National Regis-



BY JAMES CASSARA

ter of Historic Places.

Since then it has been used for concerts, movies, and plays. The other special aspect is having my good friend, Dave Desmelik open for us. He's an awesome

singer and songwriter. I'll play bass with him that night and more than likely some band members will end up on stage with him as well. Since the winter months are usually slow for gigs we wanted to give people a reason to get out of the house, and hopefully enjoy the music.

**JC:** Buncombe Turnpike has a history of fluctuating personnel, but its approach has remained pretty consistent. What's been the biggest challenge in keeping things afloat?

I started this group almost ten years ago. While it's definitely gone through some changes the current lineup has been with me now for almost a year. Tony Reece, who plays Dobro, has been with us almost three years. As for the greatest challenge, I have often said that being in a band is like being married to four other people all at the same time. Given that, it's amazing that any group can stay together. It is so much more than just being musically compatible; there really is a chemistry that has to be there. As for me, I have no plans to slow down, or quit playing, so there will always be a Buncombe Turnpike.

I am very optimistic about the band now. The current line up is me on bass and lead vocals. Former guitar player Darrell Earwood is back with us, now playing banjo. Another former guitar player, Micah Hanks is back playing guitar. Micah also produced Fresh Preserves. His brother Caleb is now playing mandolin with the band. They're both a lot of fun to be around, very young and energetic.

Within the next month we'll start recording some new songs, all original material that we've built up. It's our first new band recording in three years, and we're all very excited about it. We're shooting for a summer release, so I'll keep you posted! All in all I'd say our future is looking very bright.



*Buncombe Turnpike with special guest Dave Desmelik on Saturday, February 7 at The Colonial Theatre in*

*downtown Canton. The show starts at 7 p.m., tickets are \$10. The Colonial Theatre is located at 55-57 Park Street, Canton, NC.*

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## HEALTHY LIVING

### A Wake-Up Call on Sleep

**M**ore and more people are interested in how much sleep you get at night, including: your boss, the traffic police, your teacher, your spouse — as well as your doctor.

Sleep seems to be a health-promoting life function that we feel we can do without — at least one-third of us think so. That's how many American adults get less than seven hours of sleep. Not so important, you say. I can get by on five or six hours of sleep, you say. Your body begs to differ with you.

A recent study in the Journal of the AMA reveals that the less sleep you get, the more cholesterol plaque you create in the arteries that feed your heart. The breaking off of cholesterol plaque is the primary reason for heart attacks. Another study from the University of California suggests that those who are making it on less sleep or disrupted sleep are unable to form memory properly, limiting learning capability.

In still another study in those who get less than six hours of sleep a night, at the end of two weeks they perform like people who have been without sleep for two nights straight. Those who get only four hours of sleep a night over two weeks perform like they have been awake for three nights straight.

Is it any wonder that driving accidents, poor work performance, mood swings, sexual dysfunction, diabetes, obesity and early death are all increased in those who aren't sleeping seven or eight hours a night?

As one researcher put it, "The sleep deprived driver is just as dangerous as the drunk driver." Imagine that same principle applying to people working on a car assembly line, in a hospital care setting or at a computer keyboard. Another researcher said, "Sleep is as important to overall health as diet and exercise."

Yet we — the American public — continue to shortchange ourselves on sleep. Why? One of the biggest reasons is the overpowering drive to succeed in life,

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

especially now that there are more people who want your job. Many are working two jobs to make ends meet. Many are taking home work, staying up late at night with their computer and their files.

Then there are the entertainment bugs — those who are watching late night TV, working on e-mail, reading the latest online gossip columns, playing games on the Internet, or reading the latest popular book — staying up until two or three in the morning.

Loss of sleep works on the body like any of the other stressors of life — increasing adrenaline (a short term stress hormone), cortisol production (a long term stress hormone) and increasing blood sugar — and inflammation. The result is increased diseases related to stress and inflammation: heart disease, diabetes, obesity (and sleep apnea), arthritis, depression and anger management.

The answer for most is a simple one: get your sleep. In the stressed twenty-first century life this requires some re-appraisal of other life style choices: less caffeine, less alcohol, turning off the TV, rolling away from the computer, especially just before bedtime.

Other modifications include no eating, exercising, or exciting TV programs three hours before bedtime. Regular exercise increases sleep benefits, but not right before bed. Finally sleep in a dark, well-ventilated room; go to bed at the same time every night (including weekends); and if all else fails — according to Dr. William Fishbein of City University of New York: "Take a nap."

Are there other sleep aids or medications or herbals that help sleeping? What about melatonin? Look these up on WebMD where there are several excellent articles on sleep. Ask your doctor about which herbals and which medications are safe and effective. But first — try getting your sleep. Good-night.

### Forgiveness Circle Workshop

The Forgiveness Circle is a mind/body/spirit approach to forgiveness that will help you not only forgive those you have a tough time forgiving, but also develop a "forgiveness practice" in order to become more compassionate and forgiving for the rest of your life.

The cost is \$66 if paid by 2/10/09, and \$77 afterward. Call Kristine Madera at (828) 298-0623, or email BlissNout@gmail.com. Kristine Madera is a yoga instructor, reiki practitioner, long time meditator, and co-author of *How to Meditate with your Dog*.

Asheville, NC. Saturdays from 2-4:30, February 21-March 28, 2009  
at South Asheville Yoga



C.O.M.P.L.E.T.E

# Spring Break

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# WEDGE

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