

# RAPID

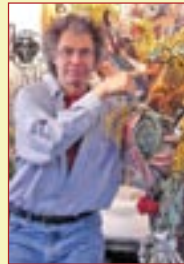
June 2009 • Vol. 12 No. 10

# RIVER

Arts & Culture Magazine



Our Paris of the South is a hothouse for the flowering of the Vaudeville Revival. The Asheville Burlesque Festival takes place June 12-14. PAGE 5



John D. Richards showcases his lamps during the Toe River Studio Stroll. PAGE 7

Grovewood Studio artist Jessica Stoddart opens her studio to the public on June 6. PAGE 13



Bitch in the NC Stage comedy "A Beautiful View." PAGE 2

Four Full Pages of Summer Movie Reviews! PAGE 25

## OLD TIME SUMMER FUN IN WNC







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## Identity Theft Hits 5-Year High

Leader in I.D. Theft Protection Strikes Back with Free Protection Offer for All

TEMPE, ARIZONA – Identity theft has topped the Federal Trade Commission's list of consumer complaints for the past eight years.

Now, a stunning new survey shows a record 9.9 million Americans were victims of identity theft last year – a shocking 22% increase over the prior year – according to Javelin Strategy & Research. This news mirrors a just-released report from the Federal Trade Commission that cites a 21% increase in identity theft complaints during the same period.

Apparently, individual consumers are not the only ones at risk: a recent review cited by the Wall Street Journal reports that the cost of information breaches to U.S. companies was also on the rise, with the average total per-incident cost in 2008 rising to \$6.65 million\*.

These studies send a clear message: in the wake of the global economic crisis, identity theft is a big business. It's up to consumers to take proactive steps to protect themselves.

That's why for a limited time, LifeLock, the industry leader in identity theft protection, is offering 30 days of guaranteed identity theft protection service at no cost.

"All you have to do is call 1-888-252-5862 for an individual membership, or 1-888-261-1335 if you

are enrolling more than one member," said Todd Davis, the CEO of LifeLock known for giving out his real Social Security number in advertising to show his confidence in the service. "It's that simple."

Immediately upon enrollment, all LifeLock members are protected by LifeLock's \$1 Million Total Service Guarantee.

Why should you protect your identity? Consider some of the Javelin survey's specific findings:

According to the survey, more than one in every ten victims knew the person who stole their identity.

The Javelin survey also revealed women are 26% more likely to be victims than men. The survey also named higher income consumers (households with combined incomes of \$75,000 or more) to be at higher risk. Latinos are 47% more likely to become victims of new account theft, versus 32% of all victims. It's important to point out that no one can stop all identity theft, but what LifeLock doesn't stop, they fix at their expense, up to \$1 million.

To get LifeLock free for 30 days during this special offer, call 1-888-252-5862 for individual memberships, 1-888-261-1335 for multiple enrollments, and use promo code FREEMONTH.

### HOW TO GET FREE IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

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PROMO CODE: **FREEMONTH**



"When I first learned about a company called LifeLock that protects families from identity theft, my husband was skeptical. I signed us up anyway, and forgot about it. A couple of months later, on a family vacation, my husband received a phone

call asking if he was applying for a new credit card. Someone was trying to steal his identity. LifeLock had stopped the thief cold." **Kim Barnes**



"I'm a former chief of police of a major city. I knew identity theft was a \$50 billion a year business, and a prime focus of organized crime. But they got me anyway. Even though I was a senior law enforcement official, it took weeks to clear my name. I decided:

never again. A reporter recommended LifeLock to me and I tried them out. I've never had a problem since. I highly recommend them to you." **Bobby Jo Harris**

Never give your Social Security number out unnecessarily. Source: Javelin 2009 Identity Fraud Survey Report.  
\*Source: M.P. McQueen, "Data Breaches Cost Businesses More", Wall Street Journal, February 2, 2009

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## stage preview

### "Choose Your Own Ticket Price" For Three NC Stage Comedies

North Carolina Stage Company is offering "choose

your own ticket pricing" with price points from \$15 to \$30 for the three contemporary comedies running in repertory: *Like Mother, I Wrote This Play To Make You Love Me*, and *A Beautiful View*.



Anne Thibault and Shannon Polly.

Now in its 7th season, NC Stage has been experimenting with its price structure in direct response to the current recession. The concept of "choose your own ticket pricing" is an expansion of the theatre's longstanding "Pay What You Can Night," in which patrons pay \$6 minimum for a ticket.

With "choose your own ticket price," patrons can choose a ticket price within their means: tickets range from \$15 - \$30, with price points rising in three-dollar increments. The philosophy behind "choose your own ticket price" is that theatre should be available to everyone in the community, regardless of income. Anecdotal evidence from theatres around the country also suggests that overall ticket income actually increases when theatres allow patrons to choose their own price point.

NC Stage is closing its 2008-2009 season with three funny and poignant plays running in repertory. In theatre language, a repertory schedule means more than one play performing during the same time period – in this case, performing on alternating days of the week. For a full calendar of performance dates and times, visit [www.ncstage.org](http://www.ncstage.org).

*Like Mother* is the funny recounting of Shannon Polly's real-life wedding, as planned by her overachieving mom. Every bride will recognize the frustrations and joys of the occasion, and everyone with a mother will appreciate the insanity that can spring from unconditional love. Subtitled "One Bride's Musical Journey Through 6 Showers, 3 Receptions, and 1 Cheese Sculpture of the Empire State Building,"



*Bitch*, of the band "Bitch and Animal" performs in "A Beautiful View."

BY AMANDA LESLIE

*Like Mother* features original songs, plus some familiar show tunes with new lyrics – such as the classic "Don't Tell Mama" from *Cabaret*.

Anne Thibault wrote and stars in *I Wrote This Play To Make You Love Me*,

a hilariously risqué comedy about a struggling actress. Lysette is possibly pregnant by her married boyfriend, and stuck in rural Vermont rehearsing a production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. She struggles to put her life in perspective as she remembers (in vivid detail) the trail of one night stands she has left in her wake. *I Wrote This Play* contains strong language and descriptions of sexual situations. Only adults will be admitted.

*A Beautiful View* by Daniel MacIvor is a bittersweet comedy about two women who become lifelong friends – and perhaps something more. When L and M first meet in a camping goods store, their tentative friendship seems doomed to fail before it even begins. Each woman has preconceived notions about the other, but rather than hurt their feelings, they agree to have a drink together. What follows is a relationship that is as complicated as it is heart-felt, spanning several decades, one marriage, and a two-woman ukulele band.

*A Beautiful View* stars Anne Thibault (simultaneously performing in *I Wrote This Play*...) and Bitch, best known as one-half of the groundbreaking musical duo Bitch and Animal, which has toured with Ani DiFranco, the Indigo Girls, and Michelle Shocked among others.

IF YOU GO

Tickets are \$15 - \$30, and patrons may choose their own ticket price for every performance. Call (828) 239-0263 or visit [www.ncstage.org](http://www.ncstage.org) for tickets.

*Like Mother* and *I Wrote This Play*... run in repertory May 26 - June 13. *Like Mother* closes June 13, and is replaced by *A Beautiful View*, which will run with *I Wrote This Play*... June 17 - July 19. Performance schedule varies by week. Show times are 7:30 p.m. for evening shows, and 2 p.m. for matinees.

North Carolina Stage Company is located at 15 Stage Lane, off of Walnut St. one block off Haywood St., next to the Rankin Ave. parking garage.



## Asheville Gem Fest 2009

June 19, 20 & 21  
Pack Place

Two full floors of  
minerals, gems,  
jewelry, fossils  
and more!

Free Admission

Presented by the  
Colburn Earth Science Museum  
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**THREE PLAYS! NO KIDDING!**  
**May 26 - July 19 2009**  
see [www.ncstage.org](http://www.ncstage.org) for full schedule



Moms. Can't live with  
'em, can't plan your  
wedding without 'em.

### *Like Mother*

by Shannon Polly  
directed by Tommy Schoffler



### **I Wrote This Play To Make You Love Me**

by Anne Thibault  
directed by Jay Putnam

"Sex and the City" ain't got  
nothing on this girl.

This play contains strong language and descriptions  
of sexual situations. Only adults will be admitted.



### **A BEAUTIFUL VIEW**

by Daniel MacIvor  
directed by Jay Putnam

Some friendships can withstand  
anything - even falling in love.

*A Beautiful View* stars Anne  
Thibault & Bitch, the  
actor/musician of the band  
Bitch and Animal and John  
Cameron Mitchell's "Shortbus"

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Harrison Graham Ray, son of publisher Dennis Ray.

There has been a lot of rain here lately. An end to a couple years' dry spell. I like the rain. I like the dry spells. What I don't like is listening to the whining doomsday-loving people.

I'm talking about those people who just a couple months ago were crying about how the lakes were drying up, and that the mountains here would soon become a vast desert. These same people have now moved on

to complaining about the economy and swine flu. No matter what happens, for them, things will only get worse.

I'm not a true optimist. Nor would I consider myself a partial pragmatist. I'm simply saying that change is the only constant in the known universe. Nothing remains the same. Nothing organic lasts forever. The future isn't on a direct path. A lot happens all the time. There are infinite amounts of unseen changes that will take place, making sure that we can never predict the future. To say that things will only get worse is as foolish as to say things will only get better.

Nothing is better or worse just a point of view. That I know is over simplistic, but the point is, all we can do is, like the old adage says, "Fix what we can. Accept what we can't."

The other day my son said, "Daddy, I want to go dance in the rain." Had it not been raining he'd still want to go play outside. Children have a natural way of understanding the important things in life and reminding the rest of us about things we once knew.

~ DENNIS RAY, PUBLISHER RAPID RIVER MAGAZINE

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**marijomooore.com**



# old time summer fun

## HART presents The Immigrant

June 5-14

Mark Harelik, the descendent of a Jewish Immigrant couple who located to Hamilton, Texas in 1900 decided his family history was the stuff of a great play, and critics agreed.

Harelik's family members were the only Jews in the town of Hamilton, and the play traces their first thirty years there. Using photos of many of the events of the past century "The Immigrant" is a touching and funny story of a family and America.

Directed by Suzanne Tinsley the production will feature Art O'Neil, Christy Bishop, Thomas Butler and Laura Berry in the lead roles. For tickets and show times please see page 16.

## Summer Fun in WNC

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## Asheville's Burlesque Festival Goes National with Big Stars

**B**oylesque? Burlesque? Aerialists, fire eaters, jugglers and acrobats? The international Vaudeville Revival is in full bloom and gets a big stage at Asheville's annual Americana Burlesque & Sideshow Festival.

Love or fear it, Burlesque is growing explosively the whole world over, and Asheville is a part of it. Our Paris of the South is now a hothouse for the flowering of the Vaudeville Revival, with roots in the extraordinary early success of the Rebelles. Now Asheville plays host to three Burlesque troupes, an active Pin-Up and Alternative Modeling community, numerous fire performers, aerials artists, and this now flourishing national festival.

Says Executive Producer Onca O'Leary, "We've had 1000 people involved with the festival over the past two years and tremendous interest for 2009. In troubled times, Vaudeville always does well because even the mainstream develops a powerful desire for healthy social commentary. Our culture is so conflicted about issues of body image, gender roles, class, and social norms — a mix of humor and empowered sexuality is just what the world needs right now. And think of Prohibition: hard times mean serious festivity!"

Herein perhaps lies the success of international festivals, such as the London, Toronto, and New York Burlesque Festivals, the Boston Burlesque Expo, the Viva Las Vegas competition, Teas-O-Rama, and Miss Exotic World.

Headliners artists include Baltimore artists Trixie Little & the Evil Hate Monkey, Asheville's original neo-Vaudeville heart-throbs The Goodies, Blast-Off Burlesque

of Atlanta, Renea Le Roux of LA, and many others. This year also features more live music than ever, with the Goodies, the Mezmer Society, Wasted Wine and the Malamundos, a group that travels with its own cadre of GoGo dancers.



### This year's event has more to offer than ever:

- Friday night — The Red Carpet Gala & Opening Ceremonies! Enjoy a humorous history of the artform, see the festival artists walk the red carpet for the paparazzi, and enjoy a sample of burlesque, circus arts, and live music performance.
- Saturday and Sunday Seminary — Take any of over a dozen introductory and advanced workshops and Get Right with the Gods of Sass. All participants receive a Certificate of Vaudeville Divinity!
- Saturday night — The Big Spectacular at the Orange Peel Social Aid & Pleasure Club. A full night of delicious performance with award-winning artists from around the country, followed by after-party music with The Goodies!



Keeping Asheville funky is another part of the ABSfest vision. "One of the goals of ABSfest is to support our downtown in retaining an identity as a lively, viable, performance-friendly community. Some Burlesque festivals are secreted away in convention centers and hotels. By participating in ABSfest, artists, vendors and attendees are reinforcing the vital image of downtown Asheville as an art-based travel destination."

IF  
YOU  
GO

Asheville Burlesque Festival, June 12-14. For more information visit us at [www.sideshowburlesque.org](http://www.sideshowburlesque.org).

Friday, June 12, 9 p.m.: Red Carpet Gala, MoDaddy's \$15

Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m.: Saturday Night Spectacular at the Orange Peel, \$25 (main event).

Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Various workshops, topics vary. French Broad Co-Op Movement and Learning Center; World Spirit Studio (70 College St); and The Orange Peel. Prices \$20-\$40.

Private Lessons with Trixie Little & The Evil Hate Monkey, by appointment, Sunday 12-5 p.m. \$100.

## GODSPELL the Musical Returns!

BY MARY WORTHY

**O**ne of the longest running off-Broadway musicals returns to Asheville's Orange Peel following packed-house and sold-out performances in April. The Highland Acting Company presents a fresh, relevant and modern portrayal of the smash hit "Godspell," including "Resurrectio," a new, totally original act.

"Godspell" opened on Broadway in 1971 and has been a wild hit ever since. The Highland Acting Company brings a fresh, poignant portrayal of the popular musical with modern art forms, talented actors and live music — while embracing the nuance of the original's comedy and heart. Memorable songs "Day by Day" and "Prepare Ye"

will be performed by a live band, along with several new, original pieces.

Powerful vocals, live music and innovative theatre make for a wonderfully unique production — and the actors keep you laughing the whole way. A great story and a great production — you don't want to miss it!

Cast photo by Edén Photography.



### Back By Popular Demand!

IF  
YOU  
GO

Highland Acting Company presents Godspell. June 19-21, at the Orange Peel.

Four shows: June 19 - 7 p.m.; June 20 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; June 21 - 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Tickets available: at The Orange Peel Box Office; online at [www.godspellasheville.com](http://www.godspellasheville.com); or by calling 1-866-468-7630.

For more information call (828) 318-7056 or visit [www.godspellasheville.com](http://www.godspellasheville.com).



## asheville shops

## Go Green With Gold!

Gold was first discovered thousands of years ago in rivers and riverbeds all over the world. Mining this rich mineral became a world-wide practice throughout the ages as gold has a natural brilliance and beauty and is easy to work with.

Today gold is used not only in jewelry but has many varied industrial and medical applications; not to mention the concept of money is attributable to the discovery of gold and is used throughout the world in governments, banks and private investments.

Unfortunately mining gold includes quite an environmental hazard in that cyanide and mercury are the two most commonly used chemicals used to extract precious gold from the ore. It is commonly recognized that the pollution caused by these two minerals used during mining is much more than the pollution created by smoking or driving our cars.

There is the unavoidable danger that these chemicals can leak into the surrounding water, ground and air if not handled properly. This concern coupled with the dwindling supply of natural gold in the earth compels all of us to recycle gold just as we are recycling other reusable products in our life. Although there is much metal to be harvested from our old computers and cellphones it is impractical for the average person to gather the hundreds of each items it would take to make it worthwhile to recycle them on an individual basis.

The more efficient and reasonable way for individuals to recycle gold is from the pieces of of broken jewelry, lost earrings, coins that are lying around in drawers in our homes, doing no one any good. Another overlooked source is from dental gold fillings, bridges and crowns we would normally leave at the dentist's office but rightfully belong to us.

This brings us to the challenge of converting these gold items into cash or something usable and doing it in a way that will benefit us the most while avoiding the numerous pitfalls. A large number of the companies who are advertising they will send you a kit or a package for you to send them all of your valuables in exchange for money are actually offering the consumer a shockingly small return for the goods sent.

The internet and news stories are filled with complaints from those who have had hair raising experiences with recycling their own gold. Obviously no one likes the idea of being ripped off and having others reap

the benefit from our find, especially in these challenging economic times. We all want to receive the very most from recycling our gold jewelry with the least amount of risk and effort to do so.

The easiest way to solve this dilemma is to locate a reputable jeweler locally to provide this service honestly. Look for someone who will weigh your scrap gold for you, test it for its purity,

and then give you a free appraisal. Any legitimate dealer will be willing to do this.

Another way to reuse these gold pieces is to turn them into another piece of jewelry you will wear and enjoy. A local jeweler who actually casts their own pieces can easily take your metal and turn it into something new and different.

In Biltmore Village, the two women designers who own blue are already very conscious about being green in a variety of ways. Lynn Daniel and Susan West have used only recycled gold for the last decade. When you come in to design a ring at blue, they can take the gold used in your old jewelry and use it in your new one-of-a-kind piece.

Doing this involves bringing the gold back to its original 24k form by removing the alloys present in your piece. 14k gold is actually 58.3 % pure gold with the remainder being made up by suitable alloys used to harden the gold and create the color desired. A small amount of copper is used to produce rose gold, a small amounts of zinc and silver are used to create green gold for example.

At the end of this fascinating process not only do you have a wonderful unique piece of jewelry but you know that piece has the added sentimental value of containing your own gold. Not to mention the good feeling you will have recycling a valuable resource.

For the month of June, blue will be accepting gold both to create new pieces but they also will be giving a fair marketable price for reclaimed gold. You can now feel good about where to sell your unwanted pieces of jewelry and other things, knowing that you will be treated well and getting what you deserve for those items. You will also know that you are helping your planet by not wasting one of her most valuable resources.

Please visit blue at 1 Swan Street in historic Biltmore Village Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. You and Mother Earth will be glad you did!

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



**2009 Toe River Studio Tour**  
The Premier Open Studio Tour in the Country  
MITCHELL & YANCEY COUNTIES




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like you've never seen it



**4 shows at the orange peel**  
**june 19 20 & 21**  
[goodspellasheville.com](http://goodspellasheville.com)



# fine art

## Toe River Studio Tour

**W**estern North Carolina's non-profit Toe River Arts Council (TRAC) presents America's premier studio tour event.

The free Toe River Studio Tour takes place Friday, June 12 from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Yancey and Mitchell counties of western North Carolina.

In its 16th year, this tour takes you to the studios of more than 100 of the finest artists and craftspeople in the country. An opening reception will be held on Friday, June 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. at 269 Oak Avenue in Spruce Pine.

### EVENT DETAILS

• Yancey & Mitchell counties are about an hour north of Asheville and 2 ½ hours from Charlotte, NC. Tour displays are in Burnsville and Spruce Pine.

• Tours are self-guided, with free maps at each studio, the TRAC galleries in Spruce Pine and Burnsville and online at [www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org).

• Art-lovers will meet nationally renowned and emerging professional artists and craftspeople in their studios, see their workspaces, and purchase their work.

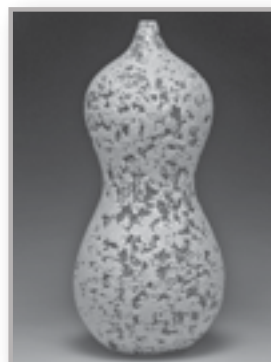
• Contemporary and heritage crafts on the tour include blown and stained glass, traditional and art quilts, weaving and spinning, fiber arts, art-to-wear, ceramics, baskets, photography, drawing and painting, dolls, metal, woodwork, jewelry, folk art, sculpture, and mixed media.

• More than 100 artists and several galleries will be on the tour. All will have work for sale and many will pack and ship purchases.



Toe River Studio Tour, June 12, 13, 14, Mitchell and Yancey counties in western North Carolina. Free.

For information call (828) 682-7215, email [trac@toeriverarts.org](mailto:trac@toeriverarts.org), or visit [www.toeriverarts.org](http://www.toeriverarts.org).



**Swell by Ben Johnson.**



**Yellow Path by Ben Johnson glass artist.**



**Chuck Young and Deana Blanchard.**



**Ceci N'est Pas Un Portmanteau by Deana Blanchard.**

## Jeff Bell: The Sled and The Blocks

The Flood Gallery Fine Art Center is pleased to announce the exhibition of Jeff Bell's sculptural works. Bell's work focuses on gathering existing objects, dismantling them and then creating sculptures from those elements.

By cutting and shaping, sanding and gluing, drilling and welding, the parts converge and content is merged with the form. In his current body of work, Bell explores issues of functionality and the

change that occurs in putting functional objects in a gallery setting.



On view at the Flood Gallery Fine Art Center at 109 Roberts Street, in the River Arts District. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, June 12, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Personally signed and numbered by Thomas Arvid

# "Winding Down"

Exclusive Limited Edition of Only 325

"Winding Down" by Thomas Arvid highlights a Cabernet Sauvignon from the Silver Oak Cellars in the Napa Valley. This stunning Limited Edition Giclee on Canvas is captured by a true American realist

Personally signed and numbered by Thomas Arvid

Actual size of artwork: 36" x 36"

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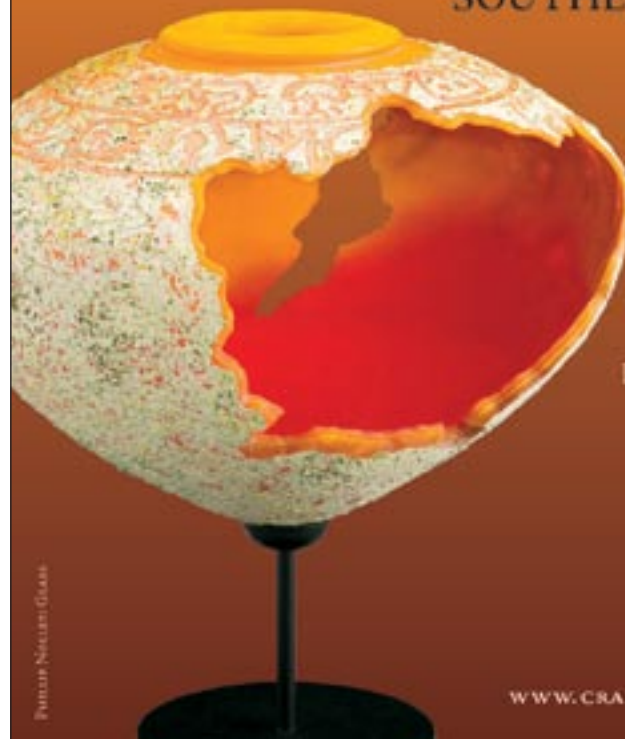
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# fine art

Toe River Studio Tour Artists:

## John D. Richards & Claudia Dunaway

John D. Richards and Claudia Dunaway, two very dissimilar artists, will have their art showcased at the Toe River Studio Tour that takes place in Yancey and Mitchell counties June 12-14. On the three day weekend, over a hundred artisans will open their studio doors for the public to see their workplaces (toeriv-erarts.org/studio tour).

"The tour is every medium you can imagine. A section of the website allows the visitor to pre-plan where they want to go. It's nearly impossible to do the entire tour in one weekend," Dunaway says.

Dunaway grew up in Reidsville NC where she earned her degree in Art at UNC-Greensboro and has been a potter for over 30 years. Before moving to a gas reduction kiln, Dunaway was working with an electric kiln and used colored slips and layered glazes to achieve the depth of color she desired in her work.

"Now (with gas reduction kiln) I find I can use those same techniques in addition to the flame of the fire to achieve even greater color variation in my surfaces. A black wax line drawn onto the bisque fired pots just before glazing adds definition. A variety of clay bodies allows me to have both a warm and cool palette of pots."

Dunaway's work is intended for everyday use. Prospective consumers should rest easy – her glazes are food safe, durable, microwave and dishwasher safe. Her work was recently shown in the Handmade House at the Biltmore Ramble.

Dunaway is not alone on her artist's journey. She met her husband, John D. Richards at an art show in St. Petersburg FL.

"I was standing in line waiting to check in and a beautiful, tall, blue eyed blonde woman walked right up to me and said 'Hi, I'm Kate's mom!' I shook her hand and answered 'Do you want to get married?' After several months of phone calls across the state of Florida and many well illustrated letters the couple were married. And that's how we got together. It's been great!" Richards says.

Richards' work is best characterized as



Cat Lamp by John D. Richards.



John D. Richards



Frog Lamp by John D. Richards.

BY BRYAN PAIEMENT

"funky art." He has an eclectic mix of work ranging from life-size paper dragon heads to dog leash holders and fish shaped lamps. Anything goes with the man who taught English, Spanish and art before quitting his job and making the move to NYC to begin his freelance art career. He has been "creatively unemployed ever since."

Richards' work has been seen in *Tiffany & Company*, *Bonwit Teller*, *Neiman Marcus*, *Bloomington's*, *The Museum of Contemporary Crafts NYC*, and *The Museum of Modern Art* in Jacksonville FL. His work as also been I seen in various publications such as *Playboy Magazine*, *House & Garden* and *The New York Times*.

Both artists are juried members of the Southern Highland Crafts Guild and sell through the Guild's shops. Claudia also participates in the Guild Fairs in July and Oct at the Asheville Civic Center. When not making art, the artists play in the novelty jazz band, Hot Duck Soup.

Aside from their studio work, Dunaway and Richards have a vacation rental home, also the Yummy Mud Puddle, named after Richards' store in NY. Their studios and vacation rental sit on ten acres surrounded by the rolling hills and valleys of Yancey County – just forty minutes from Asheville.

The rustic rural region is distinguished by the unusually high number of artists and craftspeople who call this stunning territory home.

The Yummy Mud Puddle Studios and the two artists continue to draw the attention of those lucky enough to find their art.

### Yummy Mud Puddle

Claudia Dunaway and John D. Richards

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

*fine art*

## Clay Day at the Folk Art Center

BY APRIL NANCE

**C**elebrate Clay Day at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center on June 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This free event features craft demonstrations and hands-on activities for children and adults.

Clay Day has been a favorite happening at the Blue Ridge Parkway's Folk Art Center for over 20 years. Members of the Southern Highland Craft Guild demonstrate throwing on the potter's wheel, hand building and surface design on clay, among other techniques.

A highlight of the day is the Make and Take Raku Firing. Buy a \$10 pot, glaze it and watch as expert potters raku fire it for you. Raku is a ceramic firing process which uses fire and smoke to create unique patterns and designs. Guild members Steven Forbes-deSoule, Kim Dryden, and Nancy Darrell will help with this crowd-pleasing activity.

Jan Morris and Sandra Rowland will host a children's table where kids will be invited to play with clay and make something to take home. Potters Lee Davis and Lynn Jenkins will demonstrate wheel throwing while Ann Gleason will share her hand-building skills. Other Southern Highland Craft Guild members who will share their



Steven Forbes-deSoule

techniques include: Becky and Steve Lloyd (sgraffito pottery), Nancy Jacobsohn (clay sculpture), Marcia Bugg (wheel throwing), Karen Newgard (sgraffito pottery), and Lynn Jenkins (wheel throwing). Clay for demonstrations and activities is generously donated by Highwater Clays of Asheville.

While at the Folk Art Center, visitors will have the opportunity to visit Allandale Craft Shop, the Eastern National bookstore and Blue Ridge Parkway information desk, as

well as three exhibition galleries. Outside the Folk Art Center, there are hiking trails, picnic tables, grassy areas for a picnic and plenty of free parking.

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

Clay Day, June 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Folk Art Center, Milepost 382, Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville, NC.

Free Parking – Free Admission. For more information

please visit [www.craftguild.org](http://www.craftguild.org), or call (828) 298-7928.

## Cradle of Forestry Exhibits

**June exhibitions in the Forest Discovery Center, Natural Resources and the Arts, include the following:**

**Cradle Crafters – Creative Connections.** A display featuring the stories of the Cradle of Forestry's talented living history volunteers and their creations of fiber, wood, iron, and more.

**Inspirations from the Forest:** a 16-panel exhibit illustrating how artists, writers and musicians draw inspiration from the world of nature. The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage produced and developed this exhibit from the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival program "Forest Service, Culture and Community," which commemorated the 100th anniversary of Forest Service.

Associated with this exhibition through the month will be a live music program *Songs of the Big Outdoors*, quilting bees, as well as art and writing activities. Please call the Cradle of Forestry at (828) 877-3130 for details, or visit [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org) for a schedule.

In the Forest Discovery Center Exhibit Hall, displays reveal forest history and how forests are managed. A computer game challenges you to make your own land management decisions.

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

Admission to the Cradle of Forestry is \$5 for adults, free for youth under age 16, holders of America the Beautiful passes, and federal Golden passports.



## fine art

## Kenilworth's Historic Neighborhood Hosts Art Stroll

Walking though history can be beneficial but it's often dull unless the neighborhood happens to be like Asheville's Kenilworth.

Kenilworth is a name that not only celebrates a great novel by Sir Walter Scott, but salutes the vision of Jake Childs, an Asheville developer who so loved Scott's novel — and Mr. Childs' own dreams of Scotland — that he created an entire neighborhood dedicated to the story of the Amy Robsart and Robert Dudley — all that's missing is a copy of the magnificent castle near Stratford, now in the final stages of decay.

And because the original Kenilworth Castle had a lake, Mr. Childs decreed that his Kenilworth would also have a grand body of water to reflect the noble houses and trees that would one day spring up on its shores. So in 1928 he built a dam that stands today.

Bounded on one side by Tunnel Road and the other by Biltmore Avenue, Kenilworth has a long and colorful history, a history that goes back to the beginning of the 1900s. This is the place that elected the first woman mayor in the state of North Carolina (the original jail house is still standing only now it's a private residence), and is delighted to be the usually peaceful home to over 800 residents who live within a twenty-five-minute walk of downtown Asheville. Luckily, these residents revel in rural charm, shady streets, a marvelous collection of trees, a fascinating mix of housing styles (from late grand to early-American bungalow), and an eighteen-acre lake.

As to the wandering and walkable streets, when the community was laid out, Mr. Childs let his team of horses roam the area with mapmakers walking behind and laying out the roads, usually named for historic spots in Scott's novel.

On this last weekend in June, Kenilworth will open studio doors to eighteen



Work by  
Ann & Sandy Batton.



Painting by  
Anna Jensen.



Furniture by  
Teddy Jordan.

BY PETER LOEWER

Kenilworth artists and donate a percentage of their sales to a local charity.

"The Kenilworth Art Studio Stroll had a dry run last December when Kenilworth residents visited nine neighborhood artists' studios," said stroll coordinator Valerie Hoh, "but this summer's stroll has doubled the artists involved."

The stroll will benefit Loving Food Resources (LFR), at home in the old part of Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, a one-hundred percent volunteer organization that provides basic needs to people living with HIV/AIDS, including those in home hospice care. Each artist will donate five percent of sales to LFR and weekend strollers are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to any studio where collection boxes will be on hand.

A wide range of work in various media will be represented at the stroll, including paintings in oils, watercolors and acrylics; pottery and other ceramics; hand-made jewelry; cast glass; fabric art and designer clothing; collages and assemblages; wood turning; hand-made tiles; commercial foil; and hand-painted furniture.

The artists themselves are an equally eclectic group, ranging in age from the early 20's to over 65—and including 11-year-old Olivia Maddix, who will be showing her cloth dolls at her mother's studio. The artists' styles range from functional crafts and realistic landscapes to abstract experimentation and surrealism.

"Plus everything in-between," Hoh said. All aspects of the stroll were planned and managed by the participating artists, who pooled their own funds to cover marketing and other expenses — and went door-to-door in the local business community to request additional sponsorships.

'Kenilworth' continued on pg. 12

Join us in  
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## noteworthy

### Gem Fest at the Colburn Museum

Deep in the lower level of Pack Place Education, Art and Science Center is Asheville's hidden treasure, the Colburn Earth Science Museum. It's a quirky little place that natives remember from their school days and tourists find enchanting.

On June 19, 20 and 21 the Colburn Earth Science Museum will be hosting the twelfth annual Asheville Gem Fest, an extravaganza of gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites and much, much more. More than 20 dealers from all over the world will take over both floors of Pack Place to showcase mineralogical rarities and high end custom jewelry. But while dealers are the most obvious facet of Gem Fest, there's a whole lot more going on.

Outside on the newly redone Pack Square, you and your family can join Colburn staff and volunteers to pan for minerals in a working flume or buy a geode and crack it open right there. Volunteers from the Southern Appalachian Mineral Society will be on hand raffling some extraordinary mineral specimens and there's always a chance to win a door prize from the Colburn.

Inside the building bright lights illuminate amazing creations of both nature and artisans, from a statue carved out of a single giant ruby to cut gems to fossils from the dawn of time. Downstairs in the Museum, where admission is free all weekend, the Colburn's silent auction is a wonderful place to find a treasure or two, from restaurant gift certificates to local original art to beautiful handmade jewelry.

On Saturday, June 19, there are even more activities going on. At 10:30 a.m. geologist Ken Hasson invites you to join him on a Downtown Geology Walk, a great way to get some exercise and see downtown Asheville in a whole new light. Interested?



Jacquot Mining displays gems.

Meet at the Colburn Museum's front desk at 10:15 a.m. The Colburn is also presenting two free informative lectures in the Diana Wortham Theater that afternoon. At 1 p.m. Dr. Robert Lauf will present a talk on Radioactive Minerals and at 3 p.m. Dr. Arvid Pasto will take the stage to discuss the mineral fluorite.

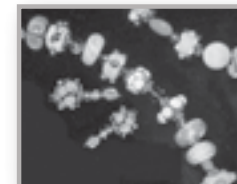
Like the Colburn itself, Gem Fest is a great place to find treasures, but while you can only look at the Museum, at Gem Fest you can take your treasures home. There is something for everyone from the rock loving kid to the serious collector. Dealers return year after year because Asheville's unique mix of artists, crafters and friendly people make this show something special. Dealer Muhammed Javed, who has been a fixture since the inception, says "I have my returning customers who come every year to buy cut gems to make their jewelry. There are so many great artists in Asheville; it makes it a really fun show."

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

Admission to Asheville Gem Fest and the Colburn is completely free all weekend. Gem Fest will be open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

'Kenilworth' continued from pg. 11

"This is a hands-on, cooperative effort," said Hoh. "The artists are going to personally deliver invitations and stroll maps to every home in Kenilworth and we'll distribute brochures with maps throughout downtown Asheville and surrounding areas." And don't forget — wear comfortable shoes.



Jewelry by  
Angela Maddix.

**IF  
YOU  
GO**

On Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 28 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Asheville is invited to a free two-day event in the historic neighborhood of Kenilworth.

Visit the studios of eighteen working artists just minutes from downtown. Pick up your stroll map at the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church (123 Kenilworth Road) with parking available behind the church on Chiles Avenue (it's on the city bus route, too). For additional information visit the website [www.kenilworthartstroll.com](http://www.kenilworthartstroll.com).



fine art

## Sculpture for the Garden

Join Grovewood Gallery on June 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the opening of Sculpture for the Garden – Grovewood's 2nd annual invitational, outdoor sculpture exhibition.

This exhibit will feature large-scale, contemporary outdoor sculptures by nationally recognized artists from around the country.



BY ASHLEY VAN MATRE

Sculptures will range from playful pieces suitable for the home or garden, to works for public spaces and corporate settings. This event is open to the public and free of charge.

**Tectonic Shift**  
by Adam Adcock.

## Open Studios at Grovewood Gallery

**On Saturday, June 6 Grovewood Gallery invites art lovers to go behind the scenes and visit Grovewood Studios – several professional artists' studios located next door to the gallery.**

Both Grovewood Gallery and Grovewood Studios are housed in the historic Biltmore Industries complex. Biltmore Industries originated as a craft school in 1901 to better the lives of the economically deprived youth of the Appalachian region. It soon grew and gained worldwide recognition for its hand-loomed fabrics. In its heyday, Biltmore Industries housed 40 working looms in steady operation.

Grovewood Studios were established in 1992, continuing the Biltmore Industries tradition of supporting local

craftspeople. Today, renowned studio artists design and create a variety of works in genres like glass, clay, metal, wood, and mixed media, in the same workshops in which the famous homespun fabrics were once created. A unique opportunity to experience the rich talent that Asheville has to offer.

Open studios are scheduled the first Saturday of every month from June through October. This event is free and open to the public. Studio hours vary depending on the artist. Private appointments are welcome throughout the year.



Visit [grovewood.com](http://grovewood.com) for more information on Grovewood Studios or call the gallery at (828) 253-7651.

## Meet the Maker

– Doll Maker Charlie Patricolo

Long time doll maker, Charlie Patricolo, will be at Grovewood Gallery on June 20 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. demonstrating her techniques on dolls in various stages of completion. Come meet Charlie, ask questions about her work, and be inspired by her wonderful creations.

Making dolls has been a passion of Charlie Patricolo for nearly 40 years. The love of fabric and the creative process began to develop when she was a teenager in the 60's making dolls as a casual hobby. In the early 90's, Charlie left her career in the computer industry and began to devote all of her time to developing dolls from her own designs. She found the experience to be rewarding and appreciated the freedom of being self-employed.

Charlie ended up in North Carolina about 8 years ago, enrolled in a class at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC. At the end of that first week, she felt she had found a home for her heart and her hands in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Charlie became involved in the work/study program and later the host program at the folk school.

Currently living in Michigan, Charlie continues to visit North Carolina, teaching and demonstrating doll making.



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## June CD Reviews

by James Cassara

### David Egan You Don't Know Your Mind

Rhonda Sure  
Records



Given the enduring nature of his writing — his best songs are written in such a timeless and bona fide style they could easily have come from anytime and anywhere — it should come as no surprise that the efforts of David Egan have been covered by such rhythm and blues luminaries as Solomon Burke, Percy Sledge, and Etta James.

Yet unlike so many artists whose songs are best known as interpreted by others, Egan has an evident and recognizable sound. Be it performed by Irma Thomas or Joe Cocker there is something immediately familiar about his songs. On his second solo album Egan delivers another bevy of cuts that should capture the ears of material starved performers.

Only "Sing It", a jaunty and raucous blues excursion has been previously covered (in especially fine fashion by Marcia Ball and Tracy Nelson) while such shining jewels as "You're Lyin' Again" and "Bourbon in my Cup" are just crying to be given a full throttle blues treatment by a true vocal stylist.

Which is the album's only real fault: Egan's material is so much stronger than his delivery that even on first hearing one cannot help but think "If only (fill in the blank) tackled this song it would really stand out." Egan's voice, while more than serviceable, lacks a certain gristle and grit, that elusive and often indefinable something that truly great stylists possess.

There is plenty of Fats Domino and Professor Longhair type piano plunking — Egan is without a doubt one monster keyboardist — but the entire affair has an inescapable familiarity. Best of the batch is "If It Is What It Is (It's Love)" a sultry duet with singer Jennifer Niceley, and "Love, Honor, and Obey" a Dr. John like rave up that cooks with more intensity than a slow boiled pot of gumbo.

So while not much of the disc is revelatory there's no denying the talent found within. Egan's versions of his songs may still come across as demo — albeit damn fine ones — the real thrill comes in imagining what a genuine first rate vocalist might do with such tightly constructed and classic songs. \*\*\*

### The Boxmasters

Modbilly  
Vanguard Records

Like their debut album the follow up release by Billy Bob Thornton's band (and be clear that despite protestations to the contrary the group rotates around the mercurial and oft temperamental actor) Modbilly is a two for one set; the first disc is comprised of the band's trademark modern day rockabilly originals while the other is a disc of classic rock, pop, and country tunes reworked to fit the Boxmaster's outlaw meets status quo persona.

The album is beautifully tied together in '60s LP fashion — included a nifty set of coasters and fold out promo sheet — along with revealing liner notes and lyric sheet. Unfortunately the packaging is the best thing here.

It's hard to understand what the intent of these arrangements are; the band is clearly beholden to such beloved genres as British Invasion, country honk, and bubblegum pop, but every song is given the same



treatment — a sort of sneering country discomfort — so that the overall effect becomes one of a lower common denominator.

There's no faulting the band for wanting to do something unique, and their love of the source material is undeniable. But ultimately Modbilly is dragged down by arrangements that are equal parts plodding and repetitious.

I'm not yet prepared to give up on this band; despite it all there are too many hints of talented musicians with something to say and besides, Billy Bob's acting career has been a lesson in unexpected resurgence. But for the clock is ticking on the Boxmasters; should there be a third album it is likely to be put up or shut up time. \*\*

### Jesse Terry

The Runner

The debut album by Nashville-based by way of New England singer/songwriter Jesse Terry evokes an earthy and meditative vibe that sounds as if it might have been lifted directly from the heady days of early '70s Southern California. Obviously inspired by Jackson Browne and CSN — with considerably more country twang instilled in the arrangements and performances — his cor-

dial and (at times overly so) somber vocals fit the material well.

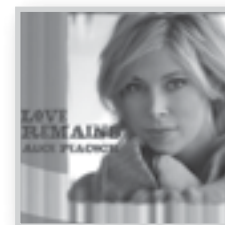
Arriving in Music City with a degree from Berklee College of Music, Terry was quickly given a Nashville type contract as a staff songwriter. Now stepping out on his own, it's obvious he's learned a thing or three about the tunesmith's craft; yet it remains to be seen whether he can discover his own muse.

While well sung and played, the songs lack a certain substance, as if Terry and producer Ethan Menzter have learned the technical art of arrangement at the expense of the personal. Quaint and insightful lyrics aren't always enough; they need to relate one to the other and coalesce into a distinctive entity.

One also gets the sense that Terry is more than comfortable with taking the easy way out: There's a fine line between a tried and true lexicon and cliché, and Terry often lands of the wrong side of that distinction.

Another more serious drawback is the sound itself. It almost seems that, in this age of downloading, The Runner was engineered and mastered strictly for digital listening. The dynamics are woefully compressed and thin, making it impossible to fully embrace the album without turning up the sound to levels of distortion. That's too bad as, for all it's faults, The Runner does give evidence that Terry is an artist with a sound worth hearing.

The guitar driven scorch "Loveless Motel" gives a solid glimpse of his potential, but such moments are lost among the padded songs and awkward lyrics. It's easy to appreciate what Terry has to say; but it shouldn't be this difficult to appreciate what the man can offer. \*\*1/2



**Alice Peacock**  
Love Remains  
Adrenaline  
Records

On the fourth album vocalist Alice Peacock integrates a wide array of

styles-leaning toward straight ahead earthy rock with touches of Tex Mex and country twang — under the catch all banner of singer/songwriter.

While her deep throated husky voice

'CD's' continued on next pg.



# what's happening

## Every Mother's Dream & Dave Desmelik

BY JAMES CASSARA

Under the banner of *Every Mother's Dream*, the husband and wife tandem of Jay Kaiser and Mandy Carter have, since 2001, slowly developed a steady local fan base while making music on their own terms.

Kaiser, who was trained in classical guitar at the University of Illinois, moved to Asheville to join a local rock band; Carter was fresh on the singer songwriter scene and testing her newfound talent in local showcases when the two met. Noticing the matching stickers on one another's guitar cases, they quickly found musical common ground. In short order they formed a musical duo and began performing their own brand of modern folk music, blending Kaiser's favorites — 60's rock and 50's jazz — and Carter's more contemporary



Every Mother's Dream

female folk influences.

Soon dubbed *Every Mother's Dream* the two have been playing regularly in any number of local venues. Whether heard as a duo or with a full band they serve up a show filled with on the spot energy and a variety of songs indicative of their disparate

(but inherently connected) inspirations. Although nominally falling under the folk umbrella, Carter and Kaiser intentionally avoid restrictive genre labeling.

Their original songs are influenced by folk, funk, country, pop, and jazz musicians. The title of their latest recording describes them best... *Big Blend*. The sonic equivalent of a tossed salad, each

musical fashion retains its own individual taste while adding important elements to its surroundings.

Joining the band on stage will be local favorite (and brand new father) Dave Desmelik. Having long established himself as an accomplished and rising singer/songwriter, whose music is best described as Americana or alternative country, Desmelik draws upon influences from country to bluegrass to blues to rock n' roll. He's a prolific songwriter whose best songs hint at the dust road poetry of Townes Van Zant and the world worn authority of Woody Guthrie. He also displays a wicked sense of humor that permeates his tales of the everyday.

Growing up in Alpharetta, GA, Dave started playing bass guitar in his high school orchestra, while also learning the guitar. But



Dave Desmelik

it wasn't until he moved west to Flagstaff that his songwriting would really take hold.

Dave returned to his southeastern roots in 2003, and is currently living in Asheville where he has been performing regionally as a solo artist and with his band "the Hillbilly Cadavers." At present Desmelik is completing his newest (not yet titled) album of original songs, with a tentative release of mid summer. He's been honing the new tunes on stage, sharpening their edges with a sense of perfection and artistry that remains his trademark.

*Every Mother's Son* and Dave Desmelik at The Grey Eagle: what better way to usher in another summer?

**IF YOU GO**  
Every Mother's Dream and Dave Desmelik at the Grey Eagle. Wednesday, June 24. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. with tickets priced \$5 at the door. Limited seating available.

### 'CD's' continued

best fits the more rootsy numbers, she's an adept enough singer and arranger to incorporate brief glimpses of jazz and blues without sounding the least bit contrived. The overall themes are somewhat universal — ruminations on lost love and life on the road weave their way through most of the fifteen songs — but Peacock's delivery is adept enough to bring fresh life into even the most time worn of ideas.

She reminisces on her days at school without the slightest trace of overly romantic notions while the occasional spiritual queries are open-ended and largely universal. The subjects she touches upon are mature and often somber, but her upbeat and consistently clear delivery keeps things on an even keel.

It's a breezy, but by no means lightweight album that speaks well to Peacock's steady and impressive artistic growth. Wouldn't it be nice if more singers could balance the cares of the world with such matters of the heart? \*\*\*1/2

### Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens)

#### Roadsinger Universal Music

2006's *An Other Cup*, Cat Stevens' (he'll always be that name to most of us) initial reentry into the pop world, was a largely tentative and often rigid affair, the sign of an

artist trying to understand his place in a very different world than the one he'd left behind. Could he still be a relevant force in music and, just as importantly, would anyone even notice or care?

The album did recapture some of the melodic sense that made Stevens who he was, but the spark of innocence and cautious optimism seemed to be lost. On *Roadsinger*, a considerably more expansive and embracing album, Stevens is in surprisingly fine form.

The direct and beautiful nature of the arrangements — sparse guitar and keyboards with occasional flourishes of strings, horns, and chorus — harken back to the glory days. Best of all it embraces the future without turning its back on the past.

As in all of Stevens' albums, many of the songs deal with spiritual issues, the search for truth and contentment, and the desire for understanding. But those questions of faith are deliberately left ambiguous, leading to much greater questions. When he sings "deep in the night, I cry out for you" he might well be speaking of God, but it could just as easily be a woman's touch Stevens so desperately desires.

Produced by Martin Terefe, best known for his work with Martha Wain-



wright, Roadsinger is an intentionally low key and reserved affair. The songs smolder with intensity and only burn when needed. Capably assisted by guitarist Yogi Lonich, quite possibly Stevens' best musical partner since Alun Davies, the music is stunning in its simplicity.

Such songs as "Welcome Home" would make one think Stevens had never left the arena, let alone having done so for three decades. "All Kinds of Roses" is a call for tolerance and understanding which makes his previous support for a fatwa against Salman Rusdie seem even more out of character. It's difficult to equate those statements with the

joy and tenderness found herein.

So while this is no *Tea For The Tillerman* — few records will ever match that masterpiece — *Roadsinger* sits proudly among Stevens' best efforts, with an identity and purpose all its own. It is a most welcome statement from an artist who once upon a time turned his back on the secular world, and its many temptations, but has learned over time that music and holiness are intrinsically one and the same.

Those of us who are longtime fans have reason to celebrate this return. So too should anyone who delights in the sheer craft and infinite power of song. \*\*\*\*

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## stage preview

### HART's 25th Anniversary Season

BY Emily Chaplin Krug

Alternating between coaching the nuances of Shakespearean dialogue and fine tuning a bawdy musical number comes second nature these days for Steven Lloyd, Executive Director of the Haywood Arts Regional Theatre (HART), as he and his talented cast and crew prepare for the theatre's forthcoming productions.

Lloyd likens the process of crafting HART's annual lineup to creating a dinner menu; some dishes are light and fluffy, others hearty, and then there's the decadent dessert. "We try to have something to offer everyone," he explains.

For this year, HART's 25th anniversary season, Lloyd devoted particular care to selecting a diverse and special array of productions. The final slate offers the entire family the opportunity to experience a wide range of outstanding theatre. Each of the shows is appropriate for all ages, though children under five may have difficulty sitting through the two to three hour performances.

This month, HART presents *The Immigrant*, a play depicting the true story of an immigrant family in the early 1900s, and their experiences as the sole Jewish residents of a small Texas town. The two-hour dramatic comedy delivers some laughs, but also offers a compelling view of a little known slice of American history.

The Mel Brooks musical *The Produc-*

ers follows as HART's grandest production of the year. Lloyd radiates with anticipation for the show, which he is directing. "We have a fantastic musical director, and an excellent cast," he glows. With HART's presentation of *The Producers* Lloyd aims to capture the spirit of the original Gene



Wilder film. If you weren't fond of the Nathan Lane film adaptation, he urges you to give HART's stage production a chance. If you did enjoy the film, Lloyd assures that you'll love the stage version as well.

While parents should be aware that the script contains some lewd humor, Lloyd affirms that the performance is family friendly. Kids will laugh along with the adults, though the meaning of the humor will likely go over their heads.

Succeeding *The Producers*, the play *Walking Across Egypt* offers a lighthearted comedic twist on Clyde Edgerton's popular novel, portraying the wacky side of rural

'HART' continued on next pg.

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**"The Immigrant" – June 5-14**

**"The Producers" – July 10 - August 2**

**"Walking Across Egypt"**  
– August 28 - September 6

**"Jane Eyre: The Musical"**  
– October 2-18

**"Hamlet" – November 13-21**

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday during the show's run. Each performance includes a 15 minute intermission.

Tickets for musicals cost \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors over age 65, and \$10 for children and students. Tickets for plays cost \$18 for adults, \$16 for

seniors, and \$8 for children and students. Students receive an additionally reduced ticket price for Thursday and Sunday performances.

Season tickets are also available and offer theatergoers a discount of up to 40% off the price of individual tickets. Season tickets can be used flexibly (you can see the same production twice, for example) and can be purchased well into the season. Check with the box office for details.

For information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (828) 456-6322. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.harttheatre.com](http://www.harttheatre.com), though a service charge will be added to the ticket price. HART is located at 250 Pigeon Street, in Waynesville, NC.



# stage preview

## Keowee Chamber Music Festival

*Celebrating Nine Years: June 9-21, 2009*

### WEEK 1 / JUNE 9-14

Johann Nepomuk Hummel  
– Trio for flute, cello and piano.

Claude Debussy  
– Sonata for cello and piano.

Robert Muczynski  
– Sonata for flute and piano, op. 14.

Andrea Clearfield – Spirit Island (1996).

Kate Steinbeck on flute, Fabio Parrini on piano, Phillip von Maltzahn on cello.

### Tuesday, June 9, 2 p.m.

Open rehearsal – NCCCR, Reuter Center, UNC-Asheville. Free admission - donations welcomed.

### Friday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.

Concert – Eastlan Baptist Church, Greenville, SC. *New Venue!*

### Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Concert – First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville, NC. *New Venue!*

### Sunday, June 14, 3 p.m.

Concert – First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC.

### Sunday, June 14, Post-concert:

FUN-raising dinner at Stovetrotters Bistro in Asheville. Mix and mingle with the musicians. Enjoy fine dining. Support Keowee!

### WEEK 2 / JUNE 16-21

Arnold Bax  
– Elegiac Trio for flute, viola and harp.

Claude Debussy  
– Sonata for flute, viola and harp.

Camille Saint-Saëns  
– Romance, op. 37 for flute and harp.

Albert Roussel – Serenade, op. 30 for flute, violin, viola, cello and harp.

Kate Steinbeck on flute, Corine Brouwer on violin, Simon Èrtz on viola, Liz Austin on cello, Jacquelyn Bartlett on harp.

### Tuesday, June 16, 2 p.m.

Open rehearsal – Reuter Center, UNC-Asheville. Free admission - donations welcomed.

### Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m.

Concert – First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC.

### Friday, June 19, 10 a.m.

RISE-N-SHINE Concert – First United Methodist Church, Waynesville, NC. Free admission - donations welcomed. *New Venue!*

### Sunday, June 21, 3:30 p.m.

Family Concert – Pretty Place Chapel, YMCA Camp Greenville, Cedar Mountain NC. Free admission - donations welcomed.

### TICKET INFORMATION

### Sunday, June 14, Post-concert:

FUN-raising dinner at Stovetrotters Bistro, 4 Sweeten Creek Road, Biltmore Village in Asheville, NC. Plenty of free parking. Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased in advance.

Reception starts at 5:30 p.m. with a delicious multi-course meal offered at 6:30 p.m. Wine is included, with other drinks available for purchase. Half of the proceeds go to support Keowee Chamber Music. Space is limited, buy your tickets early! Contact office@keoweechambermusic.org for reservations.

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

‘HART’ continued from pg. 12



North Carolina life.

In October, the whole family will delight in *Jane Eyre: The Musical*, the Tony-nominated Broadway musical adaptation of Charlotte Brontë’s classic novel. The story centers around the life of an orphan girl in

19th century England, and the production dazzles with beautiful costumes and scenery and lush, romantic music.

HART’s season closes with a crescendo in November when it presents Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. The performance employs the version of the play cut by John Gielgud for Richard Burton. On one night only, November 21, HART will perform an unabridged version of the play, presenting the first half in the afternoon and the second half later that evening.

Ranging from the hilarious to the profound, HART’s 2009 season offers selections to whet the appetite of any theatre lover – experienced and neophyte, young and not so – and promises the substance to keep everyone coming back for more.

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## music

*The 40th Season of the Swannanoa*

## Chamber Music Festival

To kick off their 40th season, the 2009 Swannanoa Chamber Music Festival announces a stunning set of chamber music programs. The programs feature some of the greatest works of chamber music such as the Schumann Piano Quartet, the Brahms Clarinet Quintet, the Mozart Quintet for Piano and Winds, and the Schubert Trout Quintet.

There will be Beethoven, Haydn, Dvorak, and many other musical tastes sprinkled in to this delicious mix of musical sounds including a new work composed especially for the festival by one of the festival's wonderful pianists, Inessa Zaretsky.

Featured this summer will be a new string quartet, the Parker Quartet. This excellent group recently won the Cleveland Quartet Prize and is one of the hottest young quartets around. *The New York Times* calls the Parker Quartet "something extraordinary." The *Boston Globe* hails their "fiercely committed performances." The *Washington Post* declares them "a quartet that deserves close attention." Just three months after winning the 2005 Concert Artists Guild Competition, the Quartet captured First Prize and the Mozart Prize at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition, sparking international acclaim.

The first concert will honor and be dedicated to retired former director, Frank Ell. It will feature the piano trio Terzetto with Diana Cohen on violin, Frank's daughter Tanya Ell on cello and pianist Renana Gutman. Rounding out the musicians are



the Parker Quartet



longtime horn player William Hoyt, who is taking over from Frank Ell as Music Director, Paul Nitsch, also the Executive Director of the festival, on piano, Goerge Pope on flute, Cynthia Watson on oboe, David Bell on clarinet, John Kehayas on bassoon, and Tracy Rowell on bass.

**Terzetto featuring pianist Renana Gutman, Diana Cohen on violin, and Tanya Ell on cello.**

**IF YOU GO**

The concerts take place in three different venues. On Tuesday evenings (June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21) the musicians will perform at Kittredge Auditorium at Warren Wilson College. The Waynesville Performing Arts Center will be the site for concert on Sunday evenings (June 21, 28, July 4, 12, 19). The SCMF will also perform three concerts this year in Charlotte (June 20, July 8, 18) at Dana Auditorium at Queens University.

For more information call (828) 771-3060 or visit [www.warren-wilson.edu/~chamber](http://www.warren-wilson.edu/~chamber).

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## Vol. 12, No. 10 — RAPID RIVER ARTS &amp; CULTURE MAGAZINE — June 2009 19



## Cucina 24

Accomplished Italian food, from antipasto to dessert. Cucina 24 is the creation of chef/owner Brian Canipelli and general manager Brian Candee. "We wanted a restaurant that offered incredible Italian food that was served in a comfortable atmosphere," Canipelli said. Considering the splendid service, high-quality ingredients and integrity of preparation, dining here is a delicious bargain.

**Details** – Pastas are all made in house, as well as all their bread and desserts.

The Crowd: Affluent but casual, even boisterous on busy nights.

The Staff: Young, well trained and eager to please. The Bar: Magnificent on all counts. The bar itself is gorgeous and inviting. Try a dessert martini – well worth the price.

Cost: Lunch entrees, \$6 to \$11. Dinner entrees, \$15 to \$23.

**Cucina 24**  
24 Wall Street in Asheville  
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## Vincenzo's

Vincenzo's Ristorante & Bistro is neither pretentious nor over simplistic. The menu is reasonably priced and is quite extensive. They feature smaller versions (piccolos) of some of their more popular plates. You can also order side portions of practically every entrée.

Their signature dish is the Filetto Gorgonzola (\$25), two seared filet medallions accompanied by a Gorgonzola cream sauce, pine nuts and caramelized shallots.

**Details** – The restaurant fills up fast so call for reservations. The Bistro is California casual in style and offers live music seven nights a week. The upstairs restaurant is smoke free. You can smoke in the Bistro after 9 p.m.

Hours: Monday - Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Vincenzo's Ristorante & Bistro**  
10 N. Market Street  
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www.vincenzos.com

# Rapid River Re



## Limones

An established restaurant featuring a mix of Californian and Mexican cuisine, in a cozy and classy atmosphere where the service is both professional and personable.

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The word about town is that chef and owner Hugo Ramirez, a native of Mexico, graces his ever-evolving menu with local, organic vegetables, hormone-free meats and wild seafood. Ask about the Tres Leches cake for a special dessert treat.

**Details** – Dress: nice casual. Serving brunch (\$10-15), and dinner (\$15-20). Wine, beer, and cocktails. Reservations accepted.

Hours: Monday - Sunday 5-10 p.m., Sunday brunch 10:30-2:30 p.m.

**Limones**  
13 Eagle Street in Asheville  
(828) 252-2327



13 Eagle Street in Asheville  
(828) 252-2327



## Curras D.O.M.

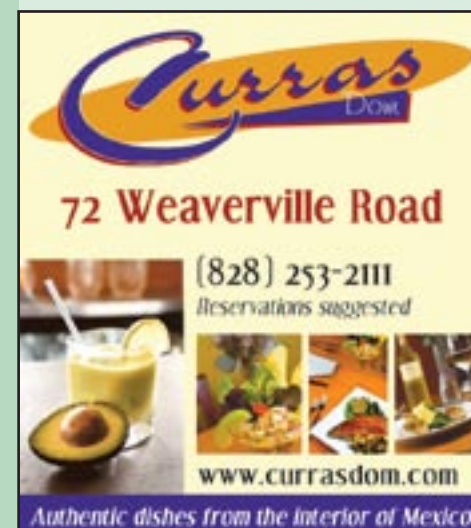
Curras D.O.M. puts Mexican Cuisine on the culinary map by offering Modern Mexican Cuisine in a friendly, casual fine dining atmosphere. It's a great place to relax, unwind and have a great meal. Only 10 minutes from downtown Asheville.

They offer a seasonal menu of authentic dishes from the interior of Mexico using locally grown ingredients. They also have an excellent wine list and a full bar. If you are adventurous, go ahead and try their very own Avocado Margaritas.

**Details** – Outstanding service. Lunch: Appetizers and salads \$2.50 to \$7.50; Entrées: \$7 to \$9.50. Dinner: Appetizers and salads \$7 and up; Entrées: \$17 and up.

Open Tuesday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, and Sunday's for brunch from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Reservations are strongly suggested.

**Curras D.O.M.**  
72 Weaverville Road  
(828) 253-2111  
www.currasdom.com



## Derfla Paintings at West End Bakery

Boone artist, Derfla, currently has an exhibit of fourteen oil paintings at West End Bakery. This is Derfla's second exhibit in Asheville following his recent exhibit at Greenlife Grocery.

The exhibit runs through June 28. View Derfla's paintings online at www.derfla.tv. West End Bakery is located at 757 Haywood Road in west Asheville. Call (828) 252-9378 for more information.

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# Restaurant Guide



## Forest Blue

Eclectic menu with a twist: Seafood Spinach Dip; Inside-out burger stuffed with cheese; mixed berry tiramisu; Panko Breaded Ahi Tuna with wasabi cream sauce; Stuffed Chicken with prosciutto, tomato, pesto, olives and smoked Gouda cream sauce; and Almond-Encrusted Pork Chops with a sweet raspberry sauce.

**Details** – Clean, open, modern meets warm and woodsy. Non-smoking. Down-to-earth atmosphere. Full-service bar for appetizers, mixed drinks, beers on draft and local wines.

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

Hours: Mon – Thurs 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sat 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday brunch 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations suggested. Catering and private party space available.

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The Flying Frog Café is one of Asheville's most unique upscale dining establishments, featuring a culmination of flavors resulting from more than two decades of experience in Asheville. Owned and operated by veteran restaurateurs Jay and Vijay Shastri.

Passionate about great food and wines, chef and certified sommelier Shastri showcases European and Indian cuisines, both classic and innovative, enhanced by his deft hand with spice.

The restaurant also features a boutique wine list with several hundred vintages of great wines. The intense menu is matched by a professional wait staff of food enthusiasts who know and understand what composes each dish.

The Flying Frog Café has earned an impressive list of reviews from almost every major newspaper and culinary magazine in the United States.

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## JUNE 2009

Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m.  
Max Bolka, life coach and business advisor,  
presents *Success is a State of Mind*.

Thursday, June 4 at 7 p.m.  
Catherine McCall will discuss *When the  
Piano Stops*, recovery from sexual abuse.

Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m.  
Elizabeth Cunningham reads from and signs  
*Bright Dark Madonna*.

Saturday, June 6 at 7 p.m.  
John Hart presents *The Last Child*.

Monday, June 8 at 7 p.m.  
Todd Shimoda will present *Oh!*

Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m.  
David Ebershoff reads from *The 19th Wife*.

Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m.  
Cathy Holton presents *Beach Trip*.

Friday, June 12 at 7 p.m.  
Storyteller & Naturalist Doug Elliott.

Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 p.m.  
NC Birding Trail: *Mountain Trail Guide*.

Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m.  
*Physics, Metaphysics, and Your Place in the  
Larger Reality* with Thomas Campbell.

Monday, June 22 at 7 p.m.  
Shannon South presents *Love Wisdom: A  
Soul's Journey to Wellness*.

Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m.  
Anne Barnhill Writing Workshop & Reading.

Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m.  
David Sedaris presents *When You Are  
Engulfed in Flames*. This is a ticketed  
event. Call 254-6734 or 800-441-9829.

Friday, June 26 at 7 p.m.  
The folks from McSweeney's present James  
Hannam's novel, *God Says No*.

Saturday, June 27 at 7 p.m.  
bell hooks and Majora Carter discuss  
*Belonging: A Culture of Place*, followed by a  
booksigning and wine and cheese reception.

Tuesday, June 30 at 7 p.m.  
Blue Ridge Bicycle Club Event

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# book reviews

## A New Twist on Beach Reading

BY H. BYRON BALLARD

Summer is here on the Celtic calendar. We're looking at longer days, maybe a little leisure time. A trip to the lake or the beach?

Possibly. Summer is the animal pleasure of not taking children to school each morning. It is sweet iced tea and deviled eggs. Maybe a little more reading time — at least for some of us.

In the bookselling business, there's a class of reading material that's referred to as "beach books". "Beach books" are not just for the beach, of course, but they are light and fluffy reading, meant for the brightness of summer. You don't want to exert your gray matter while on vacation. You don't want to think.

Pish tosh. Summer is the best time to hack into a substantial read. Something meaty and intense. Something that would drive you to drink in the long nights and short days of a mountain winter. Why not take this opportunity to tune your intellect, to put aside the brain-candy and read that book you've always meant to read. Or read that book you skimmed through in college because you didn't have time to "really" read it.

I have a few suggestions — these are books I've got lined up for my summer reading. You are welcome to add your own big, fat, chewy books. And remember — a gallon-sized Ziploc bag ought to keep most of the sand out of Melville.

Yes, Melville. May I suggest "Moby-Dick: or The Whale"? The ultimate summer book — do you see the common traits of whalers and pirates? Excellent. This is a long, well-crafted and ancient tale about the supremacy of nature and humanity's place in that kingdom. The characters are disturbingly modern and the language takes you deeper and deeper into a world that is our own... but not quite. Did I mention it's funny? It is. You may certainly read this at Starbucks, if only to give you a sense of intellectual superiority.

In "The Historian" by Elizabeth Kostova, our unnamed young narrator takes us through startling sunlit vistas and dark buildings, into the heart of the Dracula legend. This book was all the rage when it burst onto the book scene in 2005 and reading it was one of my pleasures that year. The reader falls into this dreadful travelogue and there is just enough of a twist at the end to bring a knowing smile.

Try "Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There" by Lewis Carroll and ponder some eternal questions. What does it all mean? Is it symbolic or literal? Is

there really less here than meets the eye? We are somewhat familiar with this tale, from its extraordinary characters to its seeming commentary on everything from religion to romance. But have you actually read it? And how long ago? Get a copy with the Tenniel illustrations and glory in the Jabberwock and the Garden's Faces.

I saw the film of this book before I read the book, which is unusual for me. Opening "The Tin Drum" by Gunter Grass throws you into a fascinating place and time, a visceral encounter with history as lived by ordinary people. It is a place in which you will be obliged to linger, though you may want to escape. It is "Peter Pan" without fairies, a children's

tale from Stephen King. Make it a double

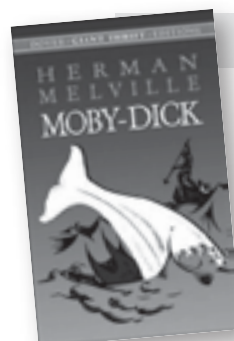
— read the book, then rent the film.

One last suggestion to pack with the SPF 1000 sunscreen — how about some big Russian thing, like "Anna Karenina" or "War and Peace". They are difficult reads but worth the effort and the time. But, to be honest, I might choose to tackle an abridged one of those. Still plenty of texture and flavor, not quite so many calories.

Enjoy!

Byron Ballard is a bookseller at indie Accent on Books, a writer and an organic gardener. Her writings have appeared in local and national print and electronic media. She is currently at work on a primer called "Earth Works."

Byron blogs for the Asheville Citizen-Times as the Village Witch (www.citizen-times.com/villagewitch) and lives in historic West End with her husband Joe and daughter Kate.



## Introducing *Rapid River's* New Poetry Editor: Ted Olson

Western North Carolina is fertile ground for poetry because it's a place of marked contrasts. Frequent variations in elevation within Southern Appalachia fostered enormous ecological diversity.

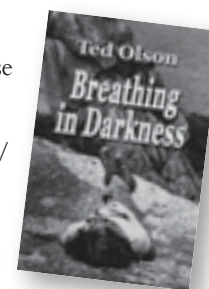
Southern Appalachia's distinctive regional culture, likewise characterized by contrasts, blended Native American traditions with the folkways of several Old World ethnicities. Over the years Southern Appalachia has inspired many compelling poems, a fact that *Rapid River's* poetry column has consistently celebrated. Aspects of the region's natural and cultural history, though, remain under-valued or largely uninvestigated. The challenge to poets living in or hailing from Southern Appalachia is to see this complex place with fresh eyes.

As the new poetry editor for *Rapid River*, I welcome submissions of poems that not only explore this region but also exhibit a keen sense of craft and language. Of course, poems, however "regional" they might seem from one perspective, must necessarily transcend the limitations of "regionality" in order to matter to the wider world.

Poets from or based in the region who don't consider their work to be particu-

larly "regional" are similarly encouraged to share their poems with readers by means of this column. Poetry books and individual poems may be sent, for consideration for inclusion in this column, to Ted Olson, ETSU, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614. You may also email olson@etsu.edu. Please include a biographical statement, a SASE, and contact information.

To learn more about Ted Olson, his work as a poet (including reviews and blurbs about his recent poetry book *Breathing in Darkness*), his roles as a scholar of Appalachian culture, and his experiences as a performer of traditional regional music, please consult the following websites: www.windpub.com/books/breathingindarkness.htm and www.SonicBids.com/TedOlson





# poetry

## The Poetry of Animal Speak: The Language of Spirit

**H**ow humans view animals and their role in the scheme of things is a matter of cultural perspective. In Cherokee collective memory there was a time when humans and animals spoke the same language and understood each other.

But when humans began killing animals needlessly and for sport, and not asking the permission of the animal's spirit or making a prayerful offering before taking its life, animals retaliated by inflicting diseases upon humans. The plants, in compassion, gave medicine so the humans could heal these afflictions and diseases (as wonderfully portrayed in the poem to the right by Katie Player, a young poetess of Cherokee/Choctaw ancestry who resides in SC).

Anishanibe Indian people believe human beings descended from wolves back in the days when humans and animals spoke the same language. The Bella Cola Indians of the Northwest coastal region believe that someone once tried to change all animals into human beings but were only able to make human the eyes of wolves.

Of course, not all contemporary American Indians have the same beliefs or concerns toward animals. Regardless, more do believe in the interconnectedness of animals and human beings. As in the poem "Grandmother Spider" by Doris Seale, Dakota, Cree and Abenaki elder from Vermont, we can learn much by watching and listening to animals, arachnids, insects, fishes and birds. Perseverance and determination comes to mind as I read and reread this beautiful creation.

### Grandmother Spider

Weaves her net,  
Easily broken  
By accident  
Or intent  
And yet she starts again,  
Does not give up  
Nor yet forget  
The pattern,  
The days before,  
The days of now,  
And those to come.  
Grandmother Spider,  
Teach us how  
To be like you  
In time of rain,  
In time of sun,  
Each day,  
New web begun.

© 2009 Doris Seale  
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### The Deer are Holding Council Again

And the Rheumatism sets in.  
Disease spreads out over  
dirt and into the people.  
Disrespect breeds death.

No man asks for their permission;  
men just take and take and take.  
So the deer and the bear  
and snakes respond.

But the roots of the mountain laurel  
dig deep into the aching heart  
of her organic mother,  
though father sky cries acid.  
Give thanks for the helpers.

© 2009 Katie Player

Can you recall a special experience you have had with an animal, bird, or fish? Perhaps you've heard the bone-chilling howl of a wolf, or come face-to-face with one. Maybe you've been blessed to hear the mysterious calls of pileated woodpeckers. Or, perhaps while riding a horse, you realized you and the animal became one spirit for a while. Or maybe your memory is of your pet, lying next to you, cuddling

you in a time of stress.

Can you recall that feeling? A feeling that goes beyond words. A "primordial feeling that scratches at your soul and begs your spirit to dance. This feeling is the spiritual interconnectedness of all things. A connection that removes us from the world of logic and connects us to our inner nature. A necessary connection in order to live life deeply.

There are those who say animals have no souls. American Indians and animals have a certain affinity because of this belief. This is precisely what Europeans chose to believe when they were slaughtering Indian women and children, handing out blankets infested with small pox and other diseases, and wearing Indian women genitalia as trophies on their saddle horns. Ironically enough, many people are coming to us now to be "taught in our Native spiritual ways."

Many well-meaning professionals in the scientific field consider Indian tribal stories concerning animals to be mere superstitions, placing them in the category of fairy tales. We have many stories and dances referring to the importance of animal speak and celebrating their existence. We know that animals are a part of creation as much as we are. Animals are teachers. Indian healers have

Poetry, a sacred fury  
... an uncommon  
madness...



a scattering of birds...

BY MARIJO MOORE

long known that observing sick animals can lead one to medicinal plants. Some people refer to this as interspecies communication. I call this the language of the spirit.

If the majority of people truly believed and accepted the interconnectedness of all things, perhaps the horrible conditions forced upon animals raised as food would be changed drastically. The destruction

of natural habitats might also stop. But it seems most people have an ill-imagined superiority over animals, but I believe animals have unique abilities that humans have to develop through creative thinking and honoring. By observing and respecting animals, deep lessons can be learned.

**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 July issue of Rapid River will feature the last column MariJo Moore will write for us. Be sure to pick up a copy!

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## book reviews



### The 19th Wife written by David Ebershoff

REVIEWED BY BETH GOSSETT

Oh, what a wonderful novel. I really enjoyed reading this. Author David Ebershoff spanned more than 100 years of information and life and combined so many voices and methods of communication in this novel that it really kept things interesting. And so it needed to be for the subject matter, Mormonism, Brigham Young's infamous 19th wife, Anna Eliza Young and a young gay man excommunicated from his church.

The stories are beautifully intertwined and ultimately, timely. The back of the book synopsis does not give the novel justice. It merely scratches the surface of the rich sto-

rytelling that Ebershoff is able to carry off. I'm anxious to read his other novels, *The Danish Girl* and *Pasadena* and see if they capture my mind and my attention the way *The 19th Wife* was able to do.

Cut out some time in your schedule to sit down with your favorite drink to read this one. It's well worth it.

IF YOU GO

Book signing by the author  
Wednesday, June 10 at 7  
p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/  
Cafe, 55 Haywood Road in  
Asheville. (828) 254-6734.

### Mind Scrambler written by Chris Grabenstein

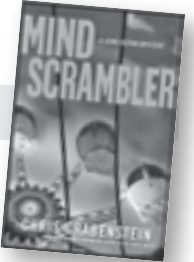
REVIEWED BY BETH GOSSETT

Chris Grabenstein, author of such great mystery novels as *Mad Mouse*, *Hell Hole* and *Tilt-A-Whirl*, continues on his hot streak with *Mind Scrambler*. In this mystery, Officer John Ceepak and his partner, Danny, find themselves outside their usual turf of Sea Haven, NJ and in the bright lights and poker city of Atlantic City, NJ.

Danny comes across an old girlfriend, Katie, who is working for the Xanadu hotel's hottest act, the Rock'n Wow show with illusionist Rick Rock and family. Katie tells Danny she'd like to talk to him when

he gets a chance, but before that chance comes around, Katie is brutally murdered and everyone is a suspect. Immediately, Ceepak and Danny are on the case.

If you're looking for a great book pick this one up, it's a real page turner. And, just when you think you know whodunit...you don't, and that's why I give this book my summer seal of approval.



### Bright Dark Madonna

A new novel by Elizabeth Cunningham, author of "The Maeve Chronicles."

After playing an intimate role in the mystery of the Resurrection, what is left for Maeve, the Celtic Mary Magdalen? Never a follower, will she emerge as a leader of the early church? Will she retire quietly to mother a sacred bloodline? Will she set sail for France to proselytize and go spelunking? The answer: all and none of the above.

No sooner does Maeve open her mouth to preach the gospel her way, than a fierce debate begins about what to do with the child she is carrying. Maeve has her own ideas about where best to raise the savior's scion. When she returns to Temple Magdalen, the holy whorehouse she founded, a custody battle of Biblical proportions ensues.

Maeve, her infant daughter Sara, and Jesus's mother flee to the remote Taurus Mountains where they live in hiding among the Galatians until a mysterious man is dumped on their doorstep more dead than

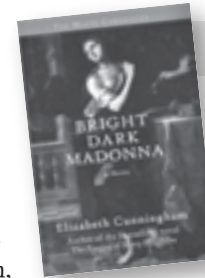
REVIEWED BY LINDA WOZNICKI

alive. When Maeve discovers the identity of the man she has healed, she is appalled and determined to keep her family's secret. But Maeve has reckoned without the will of her brilliant, angry adolescent daughter who resolves to find out the truth about her father — for herself.

Required reading for fans of *The Maeve Chronicles* but accessible to those new to the series, *Bright Dark Madonna* takes the reader on a breathtaking journey from the Temple porticoes of Jerusalem, to the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus, to the South of France — and as always: the treacherous, beautiful terrain of the human heart.

IF YOU GO

With dramatic reading, song, and storytelling, Cunningham presents her new novel "Bright Dark Madonna." Friday, June 5 at 7 p.m. Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood Road in Asheville. (828) 254-6734, [www.malaprops.com](http://www.malaprops.com). Free. More information can be found by visiting [www.passionofmarymagdalen.com](http://www.passionofmarymagdalen.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

## Angels & Demons

**Short Take:** Dan Brown's prequel to "The DaVinci Code" gets the Ron Howard, big-screen treatment.

**REEL TAKE:** After the much anticipated but rather lackluster film adaptation of *The DaVinci Code*, the stakes were high for Ron Howard to get Dan Brown's popular, but less than literary masterpiece, *Angels & Demons* just right. While it's an improvement upon *The DaVinci Code*, it is not great, nor as memorable as one would like, but it is pretty good.

My biggest problem with either of these titles isn't Ron Howard, it's Dan Brown. Like with the fellow that wrote *The Bridges of Madison County*, you just can't quite take the author out of the main character in the book or in the movie and while the over all concept is good, he's not a great writer. In this regard perhaps it's good that Howard's film adaptation is only loosely based on the book, for indeed they do take some liberties with the story. On the other hand none of those things do anything to improve Dan Brown's story or remove him from his main character Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks).

While most of the deviations were fairly palatable, some simply served no purpose at all, such as the killing off of Inspector Olivetti half-way through the movie (an integral character in the book). For me, the most irksome change was the separation of Robert Langdon and the heroine of *Angels & Demons*, Vittoria Vetra (Ayelet Zurer) throughout most of the film. While I understand they did this for streamlining purposes, it also does the film a great disservice by failing to build any bond between Langdon and Vittoria.

The strengths of *Angels & Demons* lie in its enigmatic yet grand Vatican setting, the puzzle pieces of the mystery and in several of its actors; Tom Hanks is fine as Langdon (he wears the part like a well



Armin Mueller-Stahl (left) as Cardinal Straus and Ewan McGregor as the Camerlengo in "Angels & Demons."

worn penny loafer and his hair is definitely better this time around), but Ewan McGregor as Camerlengo Patrick McKenna, Armin Mueller-Stahl as Cardinal Strauss and Stellan Skarsgard as Commander Richter make the film worth watching.

The battle of science versus religion (or rather faith) is a fascinating and unending debate. The knowledge art and Papal history necessary to solve the mystery at the heart of *Angels & Demons* is fantastic. Set it all up with stolen anti-matter, a murdered pope, missing cardinals and a Papal conclave and it's a recipe for suspense and intrigue. While you're in the theatre you are entertained. Unfortunately though, unlike the book, once you leave the theatre, you won't likely mention it to many people let alone think about it.

*Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence, disturbing images and thematic material.*

Review by Michelle Keenan

## Ghosts of Girlfriends Past



**Short Take:** A new twist on an old Dickensian tale.

**REEL TAKE:** I confess I only went to see this film as a back up review when another film I had hoped to review for this issue didn't make it to town by our deadline, so maybe it's another case of low expectations. Is it a great film? Of course it's not. Is it predictable? Well, seeing as we all know what happens when three ghosts visit someone, you know the answer to that one. *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* is exactly what it's supposed to be – nothing more, nothing less.

The premise is simple; it's a 21<sup>st</sup> Century rom com twist on the Charles Dickens'

classic, "A Christmas Carol." The curmudgeonly Ebenezer Scrooge has been replaced with Connor Mead, a playboy and fashion photographer, played to the letter by Matthew McConaughey. Connor has long since buried the vulnerable emotions of the heart beneath shallow womanizing, thanks to the expert tutelage of his now deceased Uncle Wayne (Michael Douglas). When Connor makes his way to the family's Newport mansion for his little brother's (Breckin Meyer) wedding all hell breaks loose.

Connor has loved Jenny Perotti (Jennifer Garner) his whole life, only he's forgotten that little fact since feeling the first sting of Cupid's arrows. Jenny is serving as Paul's Maid of Honor and pseudo wedding coordinator. Everything is par for the course, Connor tries to talk Paul out of the conventional trap of marriage (especially to a high strung Bridezilla), flirts with the mother of said Bridezilla, plans on sleeping with the only bridesmaid he hasn't already slept with, and exchanges barbs with Jenny. Connor is perfectly content with his lifestyle and believes that he is happier than most people. That is until the ghost of

Uncle Wayne comes to visit, warning him of the error of his ways. Mind you it's not to save him from Marley-like eternal damnation and chains, but merely to save him from ultimately living, dying and drinking alone.

Uncle Wayne is the perfect part for Michael Douglas and he clearly has such a great time playing him, it's hard to believe his character actually regrets his life

and that he and the ghosts of girlfriends past will actually succeed in convincing Connor that it is better to love with his whole heart than locking his heart away. We know of course that they will succeed, and the loathsome lothario bits inject some much needed fun in the movie. While Mr. McConaughey (hey-hey) does not often dazzle

the critics, he is generally likeable to both men and women, and he is here as well. What works for *Ghosts of Girlfriends Past* is that it's the rare kind of romantic comedy that a guy can take his gal to on date night and actually enjoy it (or at least parts of it).

*Rated PG-13 for sexual content throughout, some language and a drug reference.*

Review by Michelle Keenan



Bill Milner (left) and Michael Caine in "Is Anybody There?"

## Is Anybody There?

**Short Take:** Another fine "little" film from England with Michael Caine at the top of his game.

**REEL TAKE:** *Is Anybody There?* is another in a long line of British films like *Dear Frankie* or *Wish You Were Here* that are character and performance driven. This time out the performance is from Michael Caine and the character is the Amazing Clarence, a retired magician who is slipping into dementia.

The film is set in England in the late 1980s. A working class couple have turned their house into an old folk's home which doesn't set too well with their 10 year old son Edward (Bill Milner). He resents being displaced from his bedroom and surrounded by all this impending mortality, he develops an interest in ghosts and the hereafter.

Enter the Amazing Clarence who lives out of a van and sure as hell doesn't want to be there. Seeing other older people more broken down than himself is terrifying and depressing so he hides behind his anger.

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Bridezilla vs. Bachelor, Lacey Chabert and Matthew McConaughey star in "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past."



# film reviews

'Movies' continued from pg. 25

Naturally for story purposes his anger and Edward's bring them together and they start to take what the other has to give.

In contrast to their budding relationship is the deteriorating one between Edward's parents (Anne-Marie Duff, Edward Morrissey) which Edward is only too aware of. An impromptu magic show for Edward's birthday party sets things into motion for all the characters (including the residents) which leads to a satisfying but predictable conclusion.

As I mentioned earlier, the main asset of British films of this ilk is not the story but the characters and the performances. To me *Is Anybody There?* is like a cross between *Harold and Maude* and *Iris* without the extreme moments of either of those films. It ends up being full of hope and these days that's what we need more of.

Just a quick heads up before you go. Much of the dialogue is British working class which can make it hard to follow at times. Just stick with it and you'll be rewarded for your patience. There's absolutely no trouble understanding Michael Caine who still has one of the great voices in movies today.

**Rated PG-13 for language, sexual references and disturbing images.**

**Review by Chip Kaufmann**

## 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

## Next Day Air



**Short Take: This comedy-drama is a throwback to the Blaxploitation films of the 1970s and a welcome reminder that the B movie is alive and well.**

**REEL TAKE:** This is one of those movies that remind me of Chinese food. I enjoy it while I'm consuming it, but it doesn't stick with me. Not that that's a bad thing. The vast majority of movies fall into that category.

It was also a trip down memory lane for I'm old enough to remember the blaxploitation movies of the early 1970s like *Foxy Brown* or *Slaughter's Big Ripoff*. I saw these movies not because I was into them but because they played in my favorite downtown movie theatres before they closed down for good.

*Next Day Air* is the 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalent of those 70's flicks. It lends new relevance to the term "ethnic humor". The cast consists entirely of Hispanics and African-Americans and is set in the down and out world of drug dealers in Philadelphia. While I don't qualify as the target audience for this film, that didn't keep me from enjoying it.

The plot is relatively simple. A habitually stoned delivery man (Donald Faison) leaves a package containing high quality cocaine at the wrong address. The recipients (Mike Epps, Wood Harris) try to cash in on their sudden good fortune while the intended recipients (Cisco Raiz, Yasmin Deliz) desperately try to find it.

Some people complain that the film portrays Blacks and Puerto Ricans as drug dealers and lowlifes but most of the film is played for laughs and the ending shows the consequence of drug dealing. It may be hip cool, but it shows where that can lead you if you don't watch it.

At 84 minutes, *Next Day Air* is nothing more than a good old-fashioned B movie that doesn't outstay its welcome. It also shows that the real B movie is alive and well unlike the Summer blockbusters which are nothing more than bloated attempts at the genre.

**Rated R for language, drug content, violence and brief sexuality.**

**Review by Chip Kaufmann**

## Star Trek 1/2

**Short Take: The long-running franchise boldly goes where it's never gone before, back to the beginning.**



Donald Faison and Mose Def Ponder a wrong delivery in the urban comedy drama "Next Day Air."

**REEL TAKE:** When I first heard that there was going to be yet another generation of the long-running, much exhausted *Star Trek* franchise I had my reservations. As its release date neared, it seemed that under the direction of J.J. Abrams (*Mission Impossible* and TV's *Alias*) and new cast of relative unknowns, trekkies and non-trek-

kies alike might actually enjoy this one. Sure enough, this new *Star Trek* is refreshing and fun as well as a nice tip of the hat to the original series.

This incarnation goes back to the beginning, the beginning of the original *Star Trek* generation. The USS Kelvin has been sent to investigate a lightning storm in space. The storm turns out to be a black hole of sorts and/or a rip in time (I'm not quite sure what all the right words are for this sci-fi type scenario). A Romulan vessel appears out of nowhere, firing against Kelvin, thinking it's retaliating for something the Starfleet Federation has done to them (again it's the timeline thing...). When Kelvin's captain is killed, a young George Kirk (Chris Hemsworth) takes over the helm. The ship is in dire peril and as the ship is evacuated, George Kirk's wife gives birth to their son, James T. Kirk, just moments before George Kirk sacrifices himself to save the rest of the people aboard the Kelvin.

Fast forward twenty-some years, James T. Kirk (Chris Pine) is a trouble making 24th century, Iowa farm kid, leading a rebel-without-a-cause life, as far from the life of his father as could possibly be. When he meets, a Captain Pike (Bruce Greenwood), the course of his life is altered forever and, in a less graceful way than any of us ever would have imagined, young Jim Kirk finds his way to the U.S.S. Enterprise. Along the way we are, of course, introduced to Nyota Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Hikaru Sulu (John Cho), Pavel Chekov (Anton Yelchin), Dr. Leonard 'Bones' McCoy (Karl Urban),

Scotty (Simon Pegg) and a certain young Vulcan named 'Spock' (Zachary Quinto).

*Star Trek* especially succeeds in its humor and its casting – the young Dr.



It's not your father's Enterprise. Chris Pine stars as James T. Kirk in "Star Trek."

'Bones' McCoy and Scotty are particularly reminiscent of their television namesakes and comically so. Comic moments are peppered throughout the action and it's a whole lotta fun. While the altered timeline avails us a significant and worthy cameo by Mr. Leonard Nimoy as an older Dr. Spock as well as an ongoing Romulan conflict with the same Romulan bad guy (Eric Bana), the ripple in time is never rectified, and this left my viewing partner and I scratching our heads. It should be noted however that regardless of some sci-fi tear in the space time continuum (wrong movie I know), we were also very entertained.

**Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and violence, and brief sexual content.**

**Review by Michelle Keenan**



Christian Bale (left) in "Terminator Salvation."

## Terminator Salvation

**Short Take: This 4th installment of the "Terminator" franchise takes itself way too seriously.**

**REEL TAKE:** Starting about halfway through *Terminator Salvation* and immediately afterwards, all I could think of was Heath Ledger's line as the Joker in *The Dark Knight*, "Why so serious?" In fact there are quite a few similarities between the two films.

The music score by Danny Elfman (who did Tim Burton's *Batman* 20 years ago) sounds like a watered down version of James Newton Howard and Hans Zimmer's score for *Knight*. The cinematography, all dark and brooding, is similar as well. And then there's Christian Bale whose John Connor is virtually interchangeable with Bruce Wayne/Batman.

My biggest beef was how deadly serious it all was with the emphasis on the word *deadly*. There's not an ounce of humor to be found anywhere and humor was the key to the earlier installments although they did get progressively darker. There's no Arnold Schwarzenegger around this time (although there is a brief CGI clone of him). Sam Worthington in the title role gives it his all but he's ultimately defeated by the screenwriters and director McG who wants us to believe that this is *heavy* business.

The principal problem with this and other films like it is that Hollywood has forgotten how to make B movies. The material

'Movies' continued on next page



# film reviews

'Movies' continued from pg. 26

hasn't changed but the budgets have. A hamburger is not a steak no matter how much it costs. Don't get me wrong, I love hamburgers and B movies but they shouldn't cost more than they're worth.

The story concerns a criminal executed in 2003 who is brought back to life in the middle of the human-vs-machine wars of 2018. He has a key part to play but of course he doesn't know it until the end. The ending by the way is a direct ripoff of the ending of Fritz Lang's 1927 futuristic fantasy *Metropolis*.

Having just watched the only three films of tragic young filmmaker Michael Reeves (see article elsewhere in this section) which were made for a grand total of half a million dollars (in 1960s currency), it just reaffirms my belief that less is more especially when you're dealing with this kind of material. After all the original *Terminator* was a B movie pure and simple and it's still the best of the lot.

Rated PG-13 for violence, and language.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## X-Men Origins: Wolverine



**Short Take:** Prequel to the highly successful "X-Men" series can stand on its own merits.

**REEL TAKE:** When I went to see this movie, I had not seen any of the three previous *X-Men* films and knew nothing about them. As it turns out, I didn't need to as *Wolverine*

is a perfectly self-contained movie that can stand alone.

Hugh Jackman reprises his role from the earlier films and although he's older and a much bigger name, he picks up right where he left off. In fact



Hugh Jackman as the title character in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine."

he's a lot better this time around as he has the opportunity to give his character depth and meaning. After seeing this I had to go out and rent the first two so I could make a comparison (everyone told me to avoid the third one which I did).

The background story is fascinating and completely preposterous in the best comic book tradition. Canadian brothers Victor (Liev Schreiber) and Jimmy/Logan (Jackman) are mutants whose wounds heal instantly making them immortal unless you

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## Michael Reeves: Gone But Not Forgotten

BY CHIP KAUFMANN

of the *Living Dead*. Now, at the age of 22, he was ready to make his own movies.

He remained in Italy where he made his own low budget horror film,

*The She Beast*. The picture was shot in 12 days for a budget of roughly \$40,000 and went straight to the drive-in circuit where it was a modest success and got him noticed in his native England. It has just been released on DVD in a newly restored version which is truly eye-opening.

A small British firm then offered him a larger budget and the chance to work with horror icon Boris Karloff on a project of his choosing. *The Sorcerers*, for which he wrote the screenplay, is about an elderly couple controlling the mind of a young man through hypnosis which also enables them to experience his physical sensations (this last part is the basis of the new Bruce Willis movie *Surrogates*). It was remarkable not only for its intelligence but for its remarkably pessimistic outlook, and this during the Summer of Love in 1967. It was an even bigger success and this time the



critics took notice.

Reeves' posthumous reputation is based on his next and last film (see DVD pick) which was released in 1968. *Witchfinder General* with Vincent Price (shown in America as *The Conqueror Worm* after a poem by Poe) was set during the English Civil War. It contains one of Price's best performances and was a hotbed of critical

controversy as well as a big commercial success. It gave Reeves the opportunity to write his own ticket but while in pre-production for his next film, he died unexpectedly in February of 1969.

We'll never know what Michael Reeves would have accomplished had he lived. What we do know is that he made 3 films for less than \$400,000 that far exceeded not only their budgets but the expectations of others. They transcended their genre (horror) to become fascinating footnotes in the history of cinema and how many 25 year old film directors can make that claim. For a much more detailed look at his life and films, check out John B. Murray's *The Remarkable Michael Reeves: His Short and Tragic Life*.

## Night at the Museum 2

### Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian

Here is a film that gives new meaning to the phrase "making history."

*Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian* begins where the first movie left off. In the first film, Larry Daley (*Ben Stiller*) became a night guard at the NYC Museum of Natural History only to discover that all of the museum's characters and creatures came to life at night through the power of an ancient Egyptian tablet.

After learning to control the nightly chaos, Larry became friends with the characters, especially President Teddy



Sierra Bicking is an arte aficionado extraordinaire.



Larry has given up his job as night guard for a more profitable career and hasn't been back to visit his old museum friends for a while. When he does eventually visit, he finds that they are shipping out all the old displays for storage under the Smithsonian in order to install new computerized exhibits. After an anxious call from Jeddiah, Larry is launched into the adventure of a lifetime.

*Night at the Museum: Battle of the*

## TEEN REVIEW by Sierra Bicking

Roosevelt (*Robin Williams*) and Jeddiah (*Owen Wilson*), an old cowboy figurine.

Now, in the second movie,

*Smithsonian* is worth going to just to see all the stars working together. It has Amy Adams, Robin Williams, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais, Bill Hader, Jon Bernthal, Patrick Gallagher, Christopher Guest, and others. It also features a number of historical figures like Al Capone, Octavius, Amelia Earhart, General Custer, Ivan the Terrible, Sacajawea, President Lincoln, Napoleon Bonaparte, singing Cupids, and many more — with jokes to match.

Overall, it's a fun movie for the whole family to see, with history jokes for adults and slappy humor for the kids, as well as interesting special effects, and even a little romance thrown in. So take a step forward into the past and see this movie. The rest, as they say, will be history...

Rated PG for mild action and brief language.



# film reviews

'Movies' continued from pg 27

decapitate them (shades of *Highlander*). One has retractable claws like a tiger while the other has those of a wolverine. They survive the Civil War, World Wars I and II, not to mention Korea and Vietnam. The Military finally catch on and then try to figure out why.

By now the brothers have turned against each other allowing Government scientist William Stryker (Danny Huston) to use them for his own purposes. This includes outfitting Logan with a metallic inner skeleton and retractable claws. Once this is done the inevitable betrayal occurs and it's Wolverine -vs- the world. Only meeting up with other mutants show him that he's not alone and as the title promises, the X-Men origins are underway.

I was pleasantly surprised by how well done everything was. Not just the special effects but also the script, direction, and first class performances all the way down the line. Even though it cost over \$100 million to make, it's a B movie at heart and that's what gives *Wolverine* its heart and soul. Good, solid entertainment which is as it should be. Nothing more, nothing less.

Rated PG-13 for sequences of action and violence and for partial nudity.

Review by Chip Kaufmann

## Popcorn Sutton Film Event

Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m.

Neal Hutcheson comes to Malaprop's to present his Emmy-nominated film, "The Last One,"



which chronicles the last batch of moonshine ever made by bootlegging legend Marvin "Popcorn" Sutton.

Hutcheson followed Sutton as he selected a site, built his still, and distilled the liquor, and along the way Sutton expounded upon his life and the dying tradition of Appalachian moonshiners.

Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood Road in Asheville. For details call (828) 254-6734 or visit [www.malaprops.com](http://www.malaprops.com).

## Chip Kaufmann's Pick: "Witchfinder General"

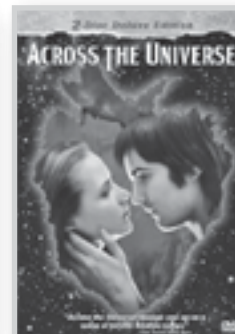
### Witchfinder General

Every moviegoer has had a pivotal film experience, the one movie that made such an impact that they have never forgotten it. For me it was the 1968 British historical/horror film, *Witchfinder General*. The film is set during the English Civil War with Vincent Price portraying a Puritan witchhunter. I first saw it in 1969 as *The Conqueror Worm* which was the American release title given the film in an attempt to tie it in with other Price/Edgar Allan Poe pictures although it had nothing to do with Poe.

I was 17 years old at the time and a big fan of Vincent Price and Roger Corman's series of Poe films. I even went to see it in my favorite local "movie palace," the Fox Theatre in Greenville SC. The movie came as a complete and utter shock. Vincent Price was cold and unsympathetic without a trace of camp, the violence depicted was vivid, painful and ugly, and by the end everyone was worse off than before. I had never seen a film quite like this and left the theatre under a cloud. It took me days to process it.

So why recommend such a movie? First up is the fact that it still holds up more than 40 years later. The cinematography is gorgeous and lingers in the mind, the music is lush and pastoral, and it contains Vincent Price's finest performance. It is also the most celebrat-

## DVD Picks for June



ed film of the tragic British filmmaker Michael Reeves who died 40 years ago at the age of 25 (see article on page 27).

The recent DVD release under the original title restores the director's cut which had been tampered with over the years and presents the film in a stunning new transfer. It also restores the original score that plays such a key part in the film's impact which had been missing on American home video. Is it a great movie? Debatable, but once seen it stays with you and that alone makes it worth seeing.

### Across the Universe (2007)

*Across the Universe* was one of those movies a couple years back that I completely meant to see and would likely have made my Top 10 list for the year had I made it to the theatre to see it. While I was born in the 60's I get aggravated by people who just can't seem

## Michelle Keenan's Pick: "Across the Universe"

to let go of the 60's; people that think their generation was the only generation that ever tried to change the world or start a revolution. So when a bunch of ex-hippies, frustrated hippies and the worse kind of all, the ones I like to call, 'hippiecrites' went on an on about *Across the Universe*, I somehow kept putting it off.

Recently I had the pleasure of watching it with an extremely diverse group (in age and background) and every last one of us was mesmerized and completely enchanted. Love is all there is when a upper middle-class American girl and working class Liverpoolian artist meet in the late 1960's. The era, the Vietnam War and the music of the Beatles set the stage for the story of love and friendship and coming of age in a turbulent time.

Directed brilliantly by Julie Taymor, *Across the Universe* is a visually arresting orgy of sites and sounds. Whether it's through its art direction, the music, the wonderful ensemble of young actors or a combination of all three, the film captures the essence of the 60's. Moreover it touches universal heartstrings for all, regardless of age. Cameos by Joe Cocker, Bono and Eddie Izzard add a bit of fun to the goings on.

So if you're game for a magical mystery tour, rent *Across the Universe* ... it's coming to take you away.

## HARPERCOLLINS TO PUBLISH TWO POSTHUMOUS NOVELS BY MICHAEL CRICHTON

HarperCollins is proud to announce the global publication of two posthumous Michael Crichton novels. The first, *Pirate Latitudes*, will be published on November 24, 2009. The second, as yet untitled, will be published in fall 2010.

*Pirate Latitudes* is an adventure story about piracy in the New World. Set in 1665, when Jamaica was a British colony holding out against Spanish dominance, the story centers on a plan hatched by the island's governor and a notorious pirate called Hunter to raid a Spanish treasure galleon.

Fast-moving and suspenseful, *Pirate Latitudes* is a historical classic from

one of America's best-loved authors. The novel was discovered amongst Crichton's files and was written contemporaneously with *Next*, published in 2006.

Jonathan Burnham, Senior Vice President and Publisher of Harper, says, "*Pirate Latitudes* is a fantastically enjoyable and light-hearted adventure yarn about pirates and profiteers in 17th century Jamaica. It is deeply researched and full of lively historical detail, and it shows Crichton going back to the territory he explored in novels such as *The Great Train Robbery* — old-fashioned entertainment, with a twist."

In fall 2010, Harper will publish his latest techno thriller which explores the

outer edges of new science and technology in the way that only Michael Crichton knew how. The new novel will be based on the development of Crichton's narrative on notes and files.

"It is some consolation to the millions of Crichton fans out there that two or possibly more works are in the offing, and that the amazing legacy he has left behind him will be reinvigorated by these new novels," adds Burnham.

Michael Crichton was born in 1942 and died in November 2008. His bestselling novels include *State of Fear*, *Prey*, *The Andromeda Strain*, *Jurassic Park* and *Timeline*. He was also the creator of *ER*.



# restaurants & wine

## Worthless Advice

### What Consumers Could Really Use Is...

Out there in cyberspace, a recent wine review of an everyday wine suggested a single, specific food match, with “gourmet beef lasagna.” What? You can spend \$12 on the wine, but to unlock its hidden taste treasures, you will definitely need Jesus at the party to convert your frozen Stouffer’s into something divine. “Sorry, Honey, you’ll have to pull a different cork. Todd bought a lasagna that requires two hours to bake, and unless it’s gourmet...”

Can I have this with steak au poivre or lamb? No, the label says, “gourmet beef lasagna.”

Better wine labels are those which suggest matches in general terms, because they do the buyers a favor. Wine remains potentially confusing for many people simply because they, in their lives, focus on other things. People who haven’t had the time to get into the heavy details of wine have also not had the time to know that any wine will go with lots of different foods within one or two categories.

There is little value in the advice to serve a particular white with a warm artichoke salad, but it actually helps if a label suggests a match with generally creamier foods versus, say, something Asian laced with cilantro and peppers. It helps when the label on a spicy and robust red reminds you to match it with hearty food. It would help the buyers even more if the winery told what foods to avoid.

Often, the oh-so-gourmet specific matches they suggest can be off-putting to many would-be buyers. The solution would be a simple extra explanation. Old vine Zinfandel is a splendid match with lamb, but that is because old vine Zinfan-

del works very well with gamy meats. See? That opens up the food choices.

Cantine Riondo, Pink Prosecco, Raboso, Italy non-vintage (\$12). This is the wine of the summer, my number one for this season. It is not a full-on sparkling wine, but lightly bubbled with very pleasant strawberry-like nuances. Tasted in the sun with three others who didn’t want to be seen drinking pink, but who were easily converted.

**It helps when the label on a spicy and robust red reminds you to match it with hearty food.**

Mumm, Napa Cuvee M, non-vintage (\$20ish). I revisited this quality California sparkler and what a pleasure. The wine is almost graceful, with layers of tree fruit and a little oak from the first fermentation. There is just a touch of strawberry, which is why I have it listed right after the pink Prosecco. By comparison, it is very complex and really quite wonderful. Prices vary for this from shop to shop.

Feudi di San Gregorio, Falanghina, 2007 (\$15). This is a great white wine from Southern Italy. It fit in my category of “quirky white” (my favorite). Pale gold to nearly green in color, the minerals in this wine carry layers of citrus fruit, with enough green apple to reel in a Chardonnay drinker (who, with his head screwed on right, would not go back to Chardonnay). Prices vary for this wine, obviously due to different shops buying at different

BY MICHAEL PARKER

times and differing costs.

Legaris, Crianza, Ribera del Duero 2004 (\$15). This red from western Spain is made from a local variant of Tempranillo called Tinto Fino, but it’s OK to go ahead and call it the T-word. This wine is heavy on the oak, smooth, and rich with berry fruit. This is for those of you who

don’t want to spend on (the otherwise worthy) Pesquera. Prices vary for this wine, obviously due to different shops buying at different times and differing costs.

Tolosa, Pinot Noir, Edna Ranch, Central Coast, California 2005 (\$20). Wow. This wine is downright elegant, with very impressive nuances of spicy nuts and slick fruit. Shopping for Pinot

Noir is challenging. Prices do not necessarily reflect quality and there is a wide range of styles. You cannot lose with this one. Spend the money.

Promised Land (Wakefield), Shiraz-Cabernet, South Australia 2006 (\$12). This medium bodied wine is 73% Shiraz, and well balanced with a lively palate of red berries, dark chocolate and spice. Very smooth tannins from oak ageing (both French and American) round out the palate.

I have found over time that I almost always prefer some Cabernet Sauvignon in the Shiraz. A 100% Shiraz needs to be an exploitation of the grape, a real mouthful. In the past decade, so much Shiraz in the under-\$10 category is lacking. This Promised Land wine illustrates my point about blending in some Cab.



## Events & Tastings with The Wine Guy

Wednesday, June 17

### Pinot Noir Tasting

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. \$25 per person. At the Wine Guy North, 555 Merrimon Avenue in Asheville. For details please call (828) 254-6500.

Monday, June 22

### Malaprop’s Wine Tasting with the Wine Guy

Join us for a Wine Tasting with Steve Nelson of The Wine Guy. Steve will be bringing tasty summer wines to sample with cheese and crackers.

His passion for wine and his enthusiastic presentations have made our wine tasting events very fun and very popular! Seating is limited- so buy a ticket today! \$10 per person gets you lots of wine and snacks! 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Malaprop’s Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood Rd. in Asheville. For details please call (828) 254-6734.

Wednesday, June 24

### Clos la Chance Wine Dinner with The Wine Guy

Please join The Wine Guy along with Dionysus Distributor’s for this great opportunity to experience Clos la Chance Central Coast wines with the culinary delights of Mark Rosenstein. 7 p.m. at The Market Place, 20 Wall Street, Asheville. Please call (828) 252-4162 to reserve your seat.

## Great values & styles

### Free Tasting at The Wine Guy South Every Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Every week we invite a different distributor to pour 4 or 5 new wines from their portfolio for us to sample. Light hors d’oeuvres are served and all wines poured will be specially priced. The Wine Guy stocks a diverse selection of wines from around the world.

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# joe's brew notes

## Brews Cruise News

Asheville's ever-popular Brews Cruise is growing, expanding, and busier than ever. Why not? It is a safe, fun, informative, thirst-quenching, and inexpensive way to visit at least three local breweries per cruise.

This June, they will add a walking tour of three breweries minimum, and a special Pisgah Brewery tour held in conjunction with the Lobster Trap. Additional breweries are now available in their base tour for more flexibility.

Their expansion across the U.S. has begun in Nashville, TN (4 breweries), Denver will be added the first of June, and eastern Oregon is already in the early planning stages.

The Brews Cruise is an enjoyable way to explore Asheville's beer scene. If you decide to become a cruiser, wish them a happy Third Anniversary.

## Mountaintop Islands and Local Beer

BY JOE ZINICH

The Southern Appalachian mountain ranges have 40 peaks over 6,000 feet, including Mount Mitchell, the highest peak in the east at nearly 6,700 feet. Each shares an ecosystem (see sidebar) more akin to mountains in Canada or Northern Vermont and Maine than the shorter mountains below. They are, literally, islands in a sea of mountains and the source of the water we use everyday.

Beer is over 95% water; the better the water the better the beer. Better water means soft water, water with a low mineral content. If a brewer begins with soft water, minerals can be added at just the right level to enhance the flavor of the beer — for example, calcium salts enhance yeast and hops utilization, sulfates impart a sharp dryness, sodium chloride contributes to malty fullness, etc.

If the brewer starts with hard water, minerals (calcium, sulfur, iron, etc.) must be removed or the flavor of the beer is adversely affected — for example high iron levels give beer a metallic bite. This is costly



**Gary Peeples, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oscar Wong, Highland Brewing — a collaboration to protect Mountain Top Islands.**

and sometimes impossible. (A Busch plant in Busch Gardens, FL was closed because the water mineral content could not be reduced sufficiently.)

The high mountain peaks, where the headwater for our streams and rivers begin, provide soft water to our talented local brewers. The brewer can easily condition the water by filtration to remove particulates, chlorine, and fluorine and add minerals as necessary to make the water a

perfect platform for their beer creations. Is it any wonder Asheville was voted the number one beer city in the U.S. (shared with Portland, OR).

However, the mountains in general and especially the ecosystem of the high mountain peaks are threatened by pollution and over building. The flora and fauna on these mountain-top islands are slowly losing their ability to deal with the changes in their environment. So much so, that the US Fish and Wildlife Service consider portions of the ecosystem endangered.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a mission to work with others (state agen-



**Pure Mountain water, the platform for excellent quality beer.**

## The Physics of Happy Hour

### A Two-for-the-Price-of-One Dance Event

Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre presents "The Physics of Happy Hour", a festive dance concert featuring a two for the price of one happy hour double dance deal!

As an added bonus to this double dance deal, everyone will be treated to a free intermission show, "Ripe off the Vine," right outside the theater on Commerce Street at 8:15.

Both shows will be different, and, though times may not be the greatest right now, these concerts will reflect anything but that. Featuring new original work by Diana Cabrera Stepanova, Jenni Cockrell and Susan Collard, "The Physics of Happy Hour" is a festive event filled with frivolity and celebration.

The company will also be performing pieces from their repertory including a duet choreographed by Connie Schrader



where both dancers are blindfolded and "Vegetarian," created by Cuban choreographer Marianela Boan where dancers and audience members daring to get close might leave a little dirty.

At "The Physics of Happy Hour" the dance and dancers won't be the only thing on special. The audience will be encouraged to drink and make merry during this celebratory event. The work is sure to be cutting edge and quirky, and the mood is guaranteed to be festive. Don't miss this one of a kind double dance deal where you can forget all your troubles and enjoy a night of edgy and fun dance!

**IF YOU GO**

Asheville Contemporary Dance Theatre presents "The Physics of Happy Hour" at the BeBe Theatre, 20 Commerce Street, Asheville. Thursday, June 4 through Sunday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m., 8:15 p.m., and 8:45 p.m.

The first and second shows are \$10 each, and tickets for both shows are \$15 (two for the price of one). The intermission show at 8:15 is outside on Commerce Street and free. Call (828) 254-2621 for reservations and ticket purchases.

## Mountain Top Islands

Our high mountain ecosystems started during the end of the last ice age. As the glaciers moved north the flora and fauna either followed or moved higher up the mountains to a cooler climate.

These high mountain habitats are home to unique natural communities: Spruce-Fir Forests, Cliffs and Rocky Outcrops, and Heath and Grassy Balds. Some of the species found here (for example the least weasel) are also found in colder climates far to the north, but the roan mountain bluet (a flowering perennial herb) is found nowhere else in the world and it is endangered.

Look for the Carolina northern flying squirrel or the spruce-fir moss spider (the world's smallest tarantula) in Spruce-Fir Forests, the peregrine falcon and the roan mountain bluet in the Cliffs and Rocky Outcrops, the least weasel and gray's lily on the Grassy Balds, the flame azalea and the catawba rhododendron in the Heather Balds, and other species as you visit these precious areas.

Our mountains are a valuable asset to us and to the world. Have a beer and drink to their good health.

cies, non-profits, businesses, zoos, etc.) to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the benefit of the American people. With that charge and their concern about our high mountain peaks, they approached Highland Brewing to determine if they could help.

Highland was eager to meet and as an initial response agreed to offer a portion of the proceeds from their seasonal beers (already named for Appalachian mountain peaks) to select non-profits like the Southern Appalachian Land Conservancy, Carolina Land Conservancy, the Arboretum, and the Botanical Gardens. The collaboration continues; look for additional actions in the near future.

When you consider a donation of time or money to a non-profit consider clean air, the environment, and land conservancies. If you hike these mountains, remember to follow the rules. Not only will you help preserve our mountain treasures, you will help Asheville to continue to have the best tasting beer in the world.



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



# artful living

## Inner Quiet

*WE CANNOT SEE OUR REFLECTION IN  
RUNNING WATER, BUT ONLY IN STILL WATER.*

~ CHUANG TZU (4TH CENT. BCE TAOIST)

The very heart of Taoism and Buddhism, the “Awakening” referenced in Buddhism, is the discovery of an inner dimension of quiet and stillness of awareness that opens into the underlying quiet and stillness of the world. It is the discovery of the essence of who we are as the silence that lies beneath the running surface chatter of the mind, awakening us into the underlying perfect quiet of the world.

These ancient Asian teachings lead us to the discovery of our natural and original Beingness, not clouded by the conditioning of societal and interpersonal bias trained into us from infancy, that acts like a distorted lens shaping our surface reality into the contours and limitations of that conditioning. A modern American sees the world in a uniquely modern American manner. An ancient Chinese saw the world in a uniquely ancient Chinese manner. The basic human is the same. It is their conditioning that is different, creating an illusory world of thought and concepts so that they see and experience themselves and the world quite differently.

But, from a place of inner quiet, beneath the conditioning, we can find the basic human, or what Zen refers to as “original mind,” the “Buddha mind.” Not actually unique to Asia, but universal to the mystical experience, Christian mystics also referred to this dimension as the “Christ Within.” This mind is the unclouded consciousness that is in union with life, and like any creature in Nature, is bright, alert, relaxed and, of course, natural, as well as spiritual.

To discover the natural unconflicted consciousness that is the heart of who we are is the great “liberation” of Taoism and Buddhism, freeing us from identity found in the troubled and turbulent mind of our social and personal conditioning. This mind is quiet and still, as Nature is quiet and still. Even as a waterfall roars or thunder rumbles, it is within a larger quiet and stillness that is palpable.

So too, the natural human mind is active, but within a deeper quiet and stillness. The conditioning of modern humans is to not recognize this dimension of quiet and stillness, but rather, to experience their sense of self in the activity of the mind, giving it a reality and identification as self that is not true. And because it is a false self, it is filled with insecurity, conflict and anxieties.

To live in a mental world of commotion and noise creates the experience of a world

BY BILL WALZ

of commotion and noise. In a sense, this is the meaning of Karma. We create the world as we experience (imagine) it in our minds to be, and attend to and create more noise in the world reflective of the noise in our minds, believing this noise to be the world as it is. The future then is propelled out of this noise-filled past, and the present moment is just a blur of transit in the creation of more noise.

We also act out the noise with all its conflicting and competing elements. Our lives become a tumble of thought and emotion and activity. We are doing, doing, doing all the time, physically and mentally. We become so much activity that we lose any sense of peace and calm, of presence and perspective. We live in the world of modern America that is hurry, hurry, flurry, flurry, filled with, as Shakespeare noted even four hundred years ago, “full of sound and fury.” And most of the time, as Shakespeare also noted, “signifying nothing.” Except that it does signify something; it signifies our tumultuous and conflicted world that we mistake for the way things are and must be.

No. There is peace and quiet. Peace and quiet are the essence of Nature, and so too, at the level of our own nature, there is peace and quiet. But peace and quiet have become foreign concepts to most of us, even unnerving, literally disquieting. “Where’s the action?!” could be noted as the slogan for modern American life. Even walking through the beauty of nature, it is typical that most people keep on talking and carrying their unnatural lives with them into the heart of Nature.

It is as if they fear they will disappear if they allow and absorb the quiet of the natural world, and in a manner of speaking, so they would disappear. They would cease to be that artificial egoic construct of themselves they carry in their minds that feels compelled to reconstruct every moment filled with its hungry cravings for significance and its deep-seated anxieties, even in the heart of peaceful, quiet Nature.

What we neglect to realize is that in peace and quiet there is no anxiety, there is no craving, there is no conflict. In peace and

quiet there is the deep contact with life that allows us to savor and skillfully engage the moments in which life occurs, not the artificial running from past to future that marks our typical experience. In peace and quiet there is our own deepest nature – calm, authentic and deeply present. There is quiet that is referenced in the Bible as the “peace that surpasses all understanding.”

Look within to discover the quiet stillness and space beneath the noise. Find the inner quiet that guides you to the truth and peace of who you are at your natural core. From there you can engage the hurry, hurry, flurry, flurry of modern life,

but not be the hurry and the flurry. Rather you can be the peace in the midst of the hurry and the flurry. This is the purpose and the direction pointed to in the awakening of the Buddhist Way, as well as the heart of every spiritual teaching.

“And so, Gotama (The Buddha) wandered into the town to obtain alms, and the

two Samanas recognized him only by his complete peacefulness of demeanor, by the stillness of his form, in which there was no seeking, no will, no counterfeit, no effort — only light and peace.”

~ from *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse



**Bill Walz is a UNCA adjunct faculty member and a private-practice teacher of mindfulness, personal growth and consciousness. He holds a weekly meditation class, Mondays, 7 p.m., at the**

**Friends Meeting House, 227 Edgewood.**

**He will hold an extended meditation and discussion on Sunday, June 14, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on “Finding Inner Quiet” at the Friends Meeting House, and a lecture and meditation training, Sunday, July 12, 1:30 to 4 p.m. on “Wholeheartedness of Presence,” presented at the Asheville Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Edwin Place. All by donation.**

**Information on classes, personal growth and healing instruction, or phone consultations at (828) 258-3241, or e-mail [healing@billwalz.com](mailto:healing@billwalz.com). Visit [www.billwalz.com](http://www.billwalz.com)**

## Faces of Asheville Exhibit & Celebration

After two solid years of dedication the local photographer Jen G. Bowen is proud to open the final exhibit of the ‘Faces of Asheville’ portrait documentary project.

Initially started in July 2007, the project and the artist’s studio were burglarized and destroyed in August 2007. Through local grants and incredible support from the Asheville community, Jen Bowen was able to start the project again in 2008, photographing just under 350 participants.

The exhibit will open on June 5 at the Satellite Gallery with a grand opening celebration beginning at 7 p.m. The exhibit will be on display until June 27. The Faces of Asheville exhibit is free is should prove to be a remarkable display of the many types of incredible and diverse individuality that is celebrated amongst the greater Asheville community.

All of the photos and research material gathered from participants will be donated to the UNC-A Special Collections City Archives in the late summer of 2009.



*Faces of Asheville – A Portrait Documentary Project. On display June 5-27. Opening reception June 5 at 7 p.m. The Satellite Gallery, 55 Broadway St. in downtown Asheville.*

*For more information contact Jen Bowen at (828) 423-5673, email [docjen@gmail.com](mailto:docjen@gmail.com), or visit [www.FacesofAsheville.com](http://www.FacesofAsheville.com).*





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

## asheville shops

### Old Meets New

*Woolworth Walk helps up-and-coming artists thrive inside a piece of Asheville history.*

BY PAM J. HECHT

Scott Sirkin, who has developed downtown Asheville's old Woolworth Building into a well-known showcase for area artists and crafters, says he doesn't plan to do anything like that again. Can't argue with him there — to replicate Woolworth Walk would be impossible. It's truly one of a kind.

But while Sirkin's passion has been all about revering the old — from the antiques he and his wife collect, to the historical restorations he has focused on as a residential real estate developer — Woolworth Walk is all about the new. Sirkin and his staff don't necessarily choose the most established artists in town. Instead, the focus is on the ones just emerging.

This philosophy extends to Sirkin's staff, as well. He chooses managers from the sales staff ranks and grants them a good measure of independence in the day-to-day operations of the gallery. Many of the staff are artists themselves.

Meanwhile, whatever Sirkin is doing, it's working. Woolworth Walk, an art space hosting individual artists' booths and studios, is often one of the first places Asheville folks take their visiting friends and family to see. It's a highlight of local trolley tours. It was featured on the *CBS Sunday Morning Show*, Sirkin notes.

And it's a sight to behold: Peek through the windows at the striking display of artistic wares and you can't help but step inside to take a look.

What you'll find is a bustling, nearly 20,000-square-foot space bursting at the seams with an eclectic mix of colorful local art and crafts (artists must live an hour or less away) surrounded by the old-fashioned charm of a building that, in the 1930s, housed the Woolworth Department Store. Off to one side, the Soda Fountain, which speedily serves up well-executed classics like Reuben sandwiches, hotdogs, ice cream floats and egg creams, is popular among visitors and locals alike.

Nearly every artistic medium is represented, including glass, pottery, fiber, metal, photography, paintings, jewelry, textiles and more. The selection of products is endless and ever-changing, from the traditional to the whimsical: Decorative art like paintings, sculptures and photographs abound, as do



practical items like household accessories with artistic flare. What's also striking is the vast price range of items — from a couple of dollars to hundreds or thousands.

There's so much to see on the main floor that you may, unknowingly, forget to venture downstairs. Don't you dare — you'll miss out on more of the fun. It's a quieter, peaceful space, also brimming with artistic treasures. In the back, it houses studio space for five artists, including a photographer with a darkroom and a loom weaver; and a classroom area where local artists teach watercolor painting, photography and weaving classes.

"Our goal is to help local artists do the best work they've ever done and to make a living at it if they want to," says Meredith Cook, Woolworth Walk manager. You may also see musicians playing inside Woolworth Walk — local people who come in and ask to play — "We want to support local musicians, too," she adds.

#### The Beginnings

Surprisingly, Sirkin isn't an artist. He bought the Woolworth site, and after some deliberation, he says, it became clear to him that local artists needed a place downtown to call home. His wife, with her artistic bent, provided inspiration. Restoration of the building, which opened in 2002, took a full year of working all day, every day, and a lot of sweat — a "stressful process but I loved it," he says.

Since then, Woolworth Walk has received two Griffin Awards, given by the Preservation Society of Asheville & Buncombe County, for historical preservation of the Art Deco structure.

#### Something about Woolworth Walk you might not know

Cook is doing more than just working with artists and managing the gallery. She's also growing vegetables on the roof of the gallery building, in a garden that both she and Sirkin hope will soon contribute fresh produce for the Soda Fountain.

"Gardening is my passion," she says, although she notes that she once also painted and has learned to weave. "The artists I

'Woolworth Walk' continued on pg. 34



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## Jonas Gerard Selected as Strategic Partner for Asheville Area Arts Council

BY ANGELA MARTINEZ

The Asheville Area Arts Council is pleased to announce its Strategic Partnership with local artist Jonas Gerard. Jonas will be showing many of his abstract acrylics on canvas, expressionist mixed-media art as well as his ceramic tiles and other creations in the Arts Council Front Gallery located at 11 Biltmore Avenue. His work will be on display for the next several months.

The AAAC is delighted that Jonas has agreed to be a Strategic Partner as it formalizes the beginnings of a Resource Center for the Arts (RCA). Now in its nascent phase, the RCA as envisioned by AAAC Executive Director, Angela Martinez, will support the creative community of Western North Carolina in a number of ways.

The Center will provide a physical location where artists and arts organizations can receive the training and resources necessary to succeed in their creative endeavors. Networking, marketing and fundraising services will be provided as well as business planning and professional development classes, collaboration and mentoring opportunities and resources such as legal counsel, co-op buying, insurance and affordable studio space.

Jonas' presence as a Strategic Partner lays the foundation for the AAAC's Art-

ists' Residency Program. As conceived, this program will invite area artists to apply for residency status which would allow them to exhibit in AAAC galleries.

"We are very excited to have Jonas with us as the Council takes these important steps in support of our creative community. We see the challenges our artists face in the current economy and are doing all we can to develop programs and services to address their needs," said Martinez.

To continue the well-established practice of allowing regional artists to display in its galleries, the AAAC's back gallery is being expanded. Within this newly-renovated space, local artists will not only have a chance to display their creative work, they will have the extraordinary opportunity of collaborating with the feature artist.



Jonas and staff from his Fine Art gallery will welcome visitors at the Arts Council's Gallery on June 5 for an Opening Reception beginning at 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.jonasgerard.com](http://www.jonasgerard.com) or call at (828) 350-7711.

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'Woolworth Walk' continued from pg. 32

work with got me interested in it — many of them are sustainable people who grow food themselves."

### The Future

What's next for Woolworth Walk? Sirkin says he is looking forward to transforming the third floor of the building into condos one day. Most likely, it'll be another work of art.

### Upcoming Events at Woolworth Walk



June 1-29:  
"Copper:  
Formed &  
Fused"

Metal artist Virginia Nuckolls weaves copper scraps together to form pieces such as baskets, planters, and wall hangings.

The majority of her



pieces are functional yet she always puts the creative process of experimentation before function. Virginia often visits scrap yards to find discarded copper which she then recycles to make into works of art.

Opening reception, 5 to 7 p.m., main floor, hors d'oeuvres and wine/punch served. (1st Friday of each month features a different arts event.)

June 1-14: "Student Art Show," downstairs classroom, works by students of watercolor artist Janice Lape.

June 5: "Art Walk," 5 to 8 p.m., main floor, hors d'oeuvres and wine/punch served. (1st Friday every other month.)

### Woolworth Walk

25 Haywood Street, Asheville  
(828) 254-9234

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.  
11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fri. - Sat.  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun.

Pam J. Hecht is a freelance writer and editor based in Asheville, North Carolina. E-mail her at [pamjh8@gmail.com](mailto:pamjh8@gmail.com).



# music

## The Wiyos at the Rocket Club

**D**rawing from a vast spectrum of traditional American rural and urban roots music, the internationally acclaimed, Brooklyn-based quartet, The Wiyos, craft a startlingly fresh yet strangely familiar sound.

Taking their name from the late 19th century NY city Irish street gang, the band began as street performers in New York and New Orleans. The quartet features Michael Farkas on harmonica, washboard and kazoo, Joseph Deharnette on stand up bass, Teddy Webber on lap steel and acoustic guitar and Parrish Ellis



BY JAMES CASSARA

on various stringed instruments. All four share vocals.

They've spent six years touring Europe, the U.K. and the U.S., honing their collective musical chops and fusing their tireless curiosity of various traditional American musical idioms with their own contemporary influences. They have arrived at a show that is as much visually exciting as it is compositionally evocative. Their song repertoire combines original

compositions with covers from tin-pan alley to western swing. A typical show may

include rustic sounds of the 1930's and 40's as well as electric post-modern noises with smart lyrics. The Wiyos have recently been featured in the BBC film documentary: Folk America-Hollersers, Stompers, and Old-time Ramblers; for which they played to a sold-out audience of two thousand at the fabled Barbican Theater in London.

After the show the London Times exclaimed "The Wiyos brought the show to an energetic peak with a superb exposition of ragtime blues and hillbilly harmony swing. Michael Farkas revived the forgotten art of washboard playing with such joyful panache that he drew bursts of applause mid-song."

In anticipation of a new album, which will consist entirely of original music, the band is playing a series of East Coast shows. In the meanwhile, their Asheville performance offers an extraordinary chance to hear the new material at its most fresh and new.

IF  
YOU  
GO

*The Wiyos at the Rocket Club on Haywood Road in West Asheville. Thursday, June 11, with most shows starting at 10 p.m. For more information call the club at (828) 505-2494.*

## The Youngers Continue to Embrace Their Heritage

**H**ailing from southeastern Pennsylvania the music of The Youngers is a distinctive blend of roots-fueled country, bluegrass, and edge of your seat rock and roll.

Fronted by singer, guitarist, and principal songwriter Todd Bartolo, who previously had been with the Stone Poets, the band also features secondary songwriter Tom Hampton on percussion and vocals, along with Randy Krater on bass and vocals, keyboardist James Harton, drummer Justin Schaefer, and multi-instrumentalist Dax Bryan. It's a line up that evolved over time, with various members coming and going, and one that has served them well.

As the band began work on their second album, they found a valuable ally in John Carter Cash, son of country music icon Johnny Cash and producer of some of his father's later recordings. Cash agreed to produce the Youngers' sophomore CD, and the sessions for 2008's Heritage were recorded at the Cash Cabin Studios in Tennessee, with guest appearances by Ronnie McCoury of the Del McCoury Band and



BY JAMES CASSARA

Ralph Mooney, a fabled pedal steel player best known for his work with Waylon Jennings. The album, released last fall, has continued to garner accolades far and wide,

offering strong evidence of The Youngers' full potential.

Still, this is a band yet to completely find its own voice. Two albums do not a career make, and no one knows that better than the band itself. They have toured incessantly since the album's release and show no signs of slowing down or taking their good fortune for granted; they remain a band hungry for more. Best heard live on stage, Asheville will have an opportunity to hear this up and coming outfit when they bring their skills, talents, and ambitions to Jack of the Woods.

IF  
YOU  
GO

*The Youngers at Jack of the Wood, Friday, June 19. The show begins at 10 p.m.*

## Speedsquare at The Rocket Club

C. Scott and Billy Sheeran, an adventurous drum and piano duo from Asheville, are the components of Speedsquare, whose progressive sound references elements of jazz, classical, blues, video game jingles, and theatrics, with each performance an abundance of originality and surprise.

While drums are C. Scott's primary means of expression, he also plays guitar, trumpet, trombone, piano, sax, melodica, and mandolin. In addition to piano,

Sheeran plays various guitars, and an ashtray (!). The musical chemistry and madness can be both entertaining and provocative. Those who appreciate the risk taking nature of artistry will delight in what Speedsquare has to offer.

IF  
YOU  
GO

*Speedsquare at The Rocket Club in West Asheville, June 4 at 10 p.m. Barley's on June 8, and July 11, 25, 26 at Hannah Flanagan's in downtown Asheville.*

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# what to do guide™

## Auditions at Asheville Community Theatre

### The Heiress

Monday, June 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Directed by RoseLynn Katz as a part of the Autumn Players Reader's Theatre Showcase Series. Seeking 3 men, 6 women.

### Peter Pan

Children's auditions: Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Adult auditions: Sunday, June 21, 1 to 5 p.m. Directed by Jerry Crouch, musical direction by Chuck Taft. Seeking ages 8+ for large cast musical.

For additional information on Peter Pan auditions please check [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org).

For more information contact Jenny Bunn at 254-2939 x21.

**Asheville Community Theatre**  
35 E. Walnut Street  
[www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org)

## 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.

## Friday, June 5 Castell Photography Opening

Join photo based art gallery Castell Photography for an opening featuring new work by a variety of different fine art photographers. Opening coincides with Asheville's Art Walk. From 5 to 8 p.m. 2C Wilson Alley off Eagle Street in downtown Asheville. (828) 255-1188, or visit [www.castellphotography.com](http://www.castellphotography.com).

## Saturday, June 13 14th Annual Bluff Mountain Festival

This free, family-friendly festival features old-time and bluegrass music, ballad singing, and clogging. Proceeds from a cash raffle and a silent auction go to support the Madison County Arts Council. The silent auction includes fine art, local crafts, vacation packages and more. Enjoy delicious food offered by community organizations and stay for the evening square dance.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Please no dogs or alcohol. For more information visit [www.madisoncounty-arts.com](http://www.madisoncounty-arts.com) or call (828) 649-1301. 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hot Springs Resort & Spa. Off Hwy. 25/70, 45 minutes NW of Asheville, in Hot Springs, NC.

## "Musings"

An exhibit, featuring new paintings by Ruth Ilg, will be on display during the month of June at the Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville.



A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, June 5 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Gallery.

"On this meditative journey of color, form and texture, I experimented with transforming elusive moments into visual expressions. I encourage viewers to regard my personal ruminations as an invitation to give their own musings a voice." ~ Ruth Ilg

**Asheville Gallery of Art**  
16 College Street  
(828) 251-5796  
[ashevillegallery-of-art.com](http://ashevillegallery-of-art.com)

## Dana and Susan Robinson in Concert

### Friday, June 12, 8 p.m.

From Marshall, North Carolina, Dana and Susan Robinson bring to the stage their own exciting blend of superb musicianship, and songs of the American landscape. With Dana on guitar and fiddle, Susan's clawhammer banjo playing and harmony singing they bring a joyful energy to their concerts.

From Dana's original songs to riveting fiddle tunes their music is the sound and feel of bedrock America. At White Horse Black Mountain, \$7 tickets.

**White Horse Black Mountain**  
105C Montreat Rd.  
(828) 669-0816  
[whitehorseblackmountain.com](http://whitehorseblackmountain.com)

## Twilight Firefly Tour

### Saturday, June 13

A sure sign of summertime is the blinking of fireflies or what some call lightning bugs. Enjoy the magical evening forest from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and learn about the natural history of these fascinating insects. Park and meet at the Pink Beds Picnic Area on Hwy. 276, located next to the Cradle of Forestry.

The firefly walk will be lead by a naturalist from the Cradle of Forestry. The group will meet to discuss the life cycle and special features of fireflies and then take an easy, slow paced walk looking for them and exploring the surrounding forest.

Please bring along a flashlight and your sense of wonder. Cost for this special evening program is \$6 for adults and \$3 for youth, Federal Interagency Passports and Federal Golden Passport holders. For more information call (828) 877-3130 or go to [www.cradleofforestry.org](http://www.cradleofforestry.org).



## Saturday, June 13 Do Cougars Still Live in the Southern Appalachians?

At 2 p.m. Dr. Don Linzey, a renowned large mammal expert and professor of biology at Wytheville Community College, will speak on this fascinating topic and present a visual program. At the Folk Art Center Auditorium, Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in East Asheville.

At 3:30 p.m. the Friends of the WNC Nature Center will serve up cougar snacks and hands on fun for children with some of the Nature Center's education animals.

Free to Friends of the WNC Nature Center. Non-members pay a \$5 contribution at the door. RSVP to Sarah Oram at (828) 298-5600 x308 or [friends@wildwnc.org](mailto:friends@wildwnc.org) by June 9.

## Asheville Community Theatre presents

### The Heiress

By Ruth Goetz and Augustus Goetz. New York in the 1850s. A rich but naïve girl falls desperately in love with a handsome and charming fortune hunter. Her father sees him for what he is, and forbids her to see him. She ignores his advice but eventually finds him to be right. Her revenge is brilliant!

Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13 at 2:30 p.m. at 35below at Asheville Community Theatre. Sunday, June 14 at 2:30 p.m. at the Reuter Center on the UNCA campus. Tickets are \$5.

### Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus

The Asheville Jams concert series continues with an afternoon of a cappella harmonies predominantly sung in the barbershop style including hilarious segues characterized by G-rated humor reminiscent of Vaudeville days. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 14. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under.

**Asheville Community Theatre**  
35 E. Walnut Street  
[www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org)

## Wednesday, June 17 Have You Had a Spiritual Experience?

Would you like to share your spiritual experiences with others and gain more insight into their meaning? Join us for this free workshop sponsored by Eckankar. Earth Fare Westgate Community Room, 7 to 9 p.m. Phone (828) 254-6775 for more information.

## Friday, June 19 Unity Vibe

A FREE Roots Reggae celebration featuring Inner Visions, Zema and ReggaeInfinity will be held at The Grey Eagle, 185 Clingman St., Asheville beginning at 9 p.m. Contact April Steyert, (828) 274-1767, [thareggawoman@aol.com](mailto:thareggawoman@aol.com) for more information.

## Saturday, June 20 and Saturday, July 4 Lexington Avenue Bazaar

An eclectic outdoor market featuring indie artists, musical performances, local crafters and designers. The Bazaar will take place every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the Lexington Park Courtyard (gated entrance next to Virtue) 58 1/2 N. Lexington Avenue.

For more information or to apply for a vending space send an email to [lexingtonbazaar@hotmail.com](mailto:lexingtonbazaar@hotmail.com)

## July 3-19 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Asheville Community Theatre presents this hilarious world premiere comedy about a long-married couple and their attempts to keep a newly hired 'Southern-fried Mary Poppins from Hell' from sabotaging their relationship. From the playwrights Jones Hope Wooten, who penned *Dearly Beloved*, *Christmas Belles*, *Southern Hospitality* and *The Dixie Swim Club*. For tickets call (828) 254-1320 or visit [www.ashevilletheatre.org](http://www.ashevilletheatre.org).

## July 20-24 Joyful Noise Summer Music & Arts Camp

A summer music and arts program with two concentrations: A Summer String Experience is an exciting new opportunity for string players of all ages and skill levels, from early intermediate to advanced.

# JUNE EVENTS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ CLASSIFIEDS



# what to do guide™

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For more information, brochures, and application forms visit [www.joyfulnoisecenter.org](http://www.joyfulnoisecenter.org) or contact camp director, Lisa Vogel at (828) 645-0504 or [lvogel@evensongdesign.com](mailto:lvogel@evensongdesign.com).

## Asheville Youth Magazine Meeting

**Saturday, June 13, 1 p.m.**

Be HEARD. Get PAID. Have FUN. Join AYM, the first ever magazine to be written, run, and published entirely by ASHEVILLE'S youth!

AYM will be a collaborative publication dedicated to the diverse, thought-provoking and creative expression of youth's ideas, opinions, and concerns. AYM will turn out a bi-monthly publication — with each issue addressing a theme and providing important space for the voices of youth to be heard.

AYM will be run by the youth, with adults acting as mentors and in supportive roles. Workshops will be held monthly and incorporate teamwork games, presentations by professional writers, photographers, editors, and poets, as well as hands on writing.

Youth will learn the business of running a magazine including management, advertising, sales and more. Youth who submit selected articles, poems, photography and artwork will be paid.

Please RSVP by visiting [www.aymproject.com](http://www.aymproject.com) and registering, or call (828) 687-8615 and provide us with your name and phone number.

## Chuck Brodsky in Concert Saturday, June 6

Summer Music in Flat Rock presents Asheville singer/songwriter Chuck Brodsky, a skilled guitarist, a poet, and a stand-up comedian. This free outdoor concert is part of the day-long Celebrate Flat Rock! event.

The concert will be held on Little Rainbow Row's back deck (behind the colorful shops, corner of Greenville Highway and West Blue Ridge Road in Flat Rock) from 6 to 8 p.m. This is a casual, family oriented, bring-your-

lawn-chair outdoor event, weather permitting. Food and beverages will be available from Flat Rock Village Bakery and Hubba Hubba Smokehouse. Off street parking will be designated with limited handicap accessibility.

For details, call Hand in Hand Gallery at (828) 697-7719 or visit [www.flatrockonline.com](http://www.flatrockonline.com).



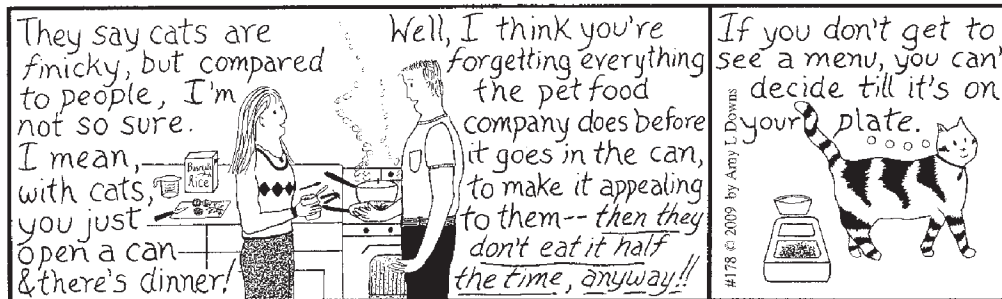
## Best in Show

by Phil Juliano



## Callie & Cats

by Amy Downs



## Corgi Tales

by Phil Hawkins



## Dragin

by Michael Cole



## The Back Room Presents

**Every Wednesday** – Open Mic, 8:30 p.m.

**Every Tuesday** – Dinner Music, 6:30 p.m.

**Every Thursday** – Bluegrass, 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 2** at 6:30 p.m. Alan Barrington – cheeky lyrical gems with bluesy swaggers.

**Thursday, June 4** at 8:30 p.m. Buncombe Turnpike – traditional bluegrass to gospel.

**Friday, June 5** at 9 p.m. Garry Segal – eclectic mix of Americana styles. Soulful singing, acoustic guitar, and harmonica.

**Saturday, June 6** at 9 p.m. Born Broke – old timey music, country, and 70's rock.

**Tuesday, June 9** at 6:30 p.m. Anon Dixon Day – livin' the country blues.

**Thursday, June 11** at 8:30 p.m. Lance Mills Band – from traditional bluegrass to original southern rock.

**Friday, June 12** at 9 p.m. Big Daddy Love – fusion of bluegrass, blues, alt-country, and rock.

**Saturday, June 13** at 9 p.m. Marvin King and the Blues Revival – blues with a positive message.

**Tuesday, June 16** at 6:30 p.m. Eric Congdon – blues, rock, country, and new grass music.

**Thursday, June 18** at 8:30 p.m. Packway Handle – in the same category as Nickel Creek, The Mammals, and other bands with an eye on the past as they press on into the future.

**Friday, June 19** at 9 p.m. Wendy Jans – soulful singer/songwriter from Nashville, TN.

**Saturday, June 20** at 9 p.m. Hudson K – combine the beauty, grace, and sophistication of classical music, with modern experimentation.

**Tuesday, June 23** at 6:30 p.m. Jenny Arch – her voice has been described as “chocolatey.” Jenny writes straight from the heart of personal experience.

**Thursday, June 25** at 8:30 p.m. Quarterhouse – a mixture of traditional, old-time and progressive bluegrass, interspersed with bits of country, rock, blues and folk music.

**Friday, June 26** at 9 p.m. Miriam Allen and the Pasionistas – sounds and rhythms from Latin America mixed with southern roots.

**Saturday, June 27** at 9 p.m. Vertigo Jazz Project – bridging the gap between Jazz, Funk, Latin, Rock, Jam, Avant, Classical, World and County.

**Tuesday, June 30** at 6:30 p.m. Carrie Arrowood – piano, vocals. Songs that are melodically strong with personal, pithy, sometimes whimsical lyrics. Special Guest: James Harrell – guitar, vocals.

## 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)

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## fine art

### Constance Williams, Fine Artist

**E**ncaustic" is derived from the Greek word "Enkaion," and translates to "burn into." Constance Williams is an artist who specializes in encaustic paintings and sculptural hand-built clay.

Her encaustic paintings are created from pure beeswax, damar tree resin, wax paint colors, washes, stains and added materials and have luminous, atmospheric surfaces. Williams creates dozens of layers in which she is adding and subtracting, scraping and filling, melting and fusing, and covering and revealing. Working with everything from brushes to heated trowels to clay carving tools, when Constance is working on a painting, she is in constant motion.

At Constance Williams Fine Art, touching is encouraged. Her clay sculptures represent wide-ranging experimentation and surface techniques that entice the viewer to experience the visual and tactile effects of



**Constance Williams,  
fine artist.**

BY **BRYAN PAIEMENT**

of the east, but Santa Fe has a very specific type of look. The talent pool and wealth of resources here is amazing. An example would be Highwater Clay – they produce some of the best clay on the planet right here in Asheville."

Williams credits her success as an artist

to her extensive background in business. "Business school served me well," she says. "To be a successful artist you have to be disciplined. There has to be a balance between creativity and business. 50-60% of my day is devoted to the business aspect of my work. I decide what time of the day I feel most creative and leave the rest of the day for business."

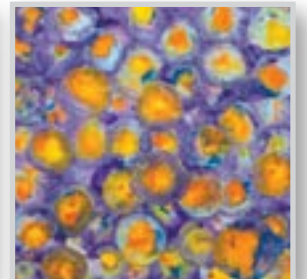
**Encaustic paintings by Constance Williams created using wax-infused pigments, pure beeswax, and damar tree resin.**



**"Orange Bliss"**  
12" x 12" x 1"



**"Uprising III"**  
20" x 16" x 1"



**"Carpe Diem Pansies V"**  
12" x 12" x 1"

her work. Her studio and gallery, Constance Williams Fine Art, can be found in the CURVE Studios & Garden in Asheville's historic French Broad River Arts District and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Her clay studio is located next door and she is actively engaged in The River Arts District.

"Everyone is invited to stop by my studio. People come in and look at my work and will notice something or have a different take on one of my paintings that will inspire me to create another painting," Williams says.

After spending a great deal of time in Western North Carolina, Williams made Asheville her official home in 2004. Williams is originally from Somerset, England where she majored in advanced art. Before making the move to Asheville, Williams lived in Sydney, Santiago Chile, Belgium, and The Middle East.

"It is the artistic talent that separates us (Asheville) from other cities where I've lived. People often say we are the Santa Fe

Marketing plays a major role in the success of any artist. Williams can't over-stress the importance of a comprehensive website and print marketing. "It is invaluable to know exactly who the customer is and give a visual of where you are." You can find her work on the Internet at [constancewilliams.net](http://constancewilliams.net).

With both her creative and business backgrounds in high-gear, Williams has been an advocate and avid spokesperson for The River Arts District. She continues her work to increase tourist and consumer traffic, art discovery, and education and outreach for The River Arts District.

#### Constance Williams

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The Washington Post - September 25, 2007

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# your health

## Lessons from the Swine Flu

By the time this column is published, the swine flu will be fading into the background and the collective public attention will be looking for the next medical curiosity.

But the media hype, the public sense of panic and hysteria, the attempt by medical organizations to maintain a professional rationality, and the over-reaction of public institutions to every rumor – all serve as a good platform to contemplate some lessons about medical problems and the general public.

The general public is not rational when it comes to medical problems. Medical problems that confront them every day, medical problems that kill 650,000 Americans every year (heart disease), medical problems that would require major life style changes to avoid – are ignored or rationalized away as affecting someone else and are accepted as just part of the risk one runs for living the American life style.

Medical problems – like the regular flu – which infects several million people every year and kills 36,000 Americans every year are ignored or at the most call for getting a flu shot once a year – because most of those who die are the very old or very young or the very ill and those who do get the flu usually get over it in a week and get on with their lives.

The swine flu has infected only several thousand people and has killed only two people – both of whom had other major medical problems – they were part of that very old, very young, very ill group. Irrationally the public panics, closes 200 school systems across the country and stampedes the doctors and pharmacies wanting medicines and face masks to protect themselves.

The general public does not understand the conditions necessary to allow for a real medical disaster to happen.

A.) There must be a highly contagious, widespread and deadly infectious agent. The swine flu is highly contagious – but so far is not widespread (only a few cases in many states) and is not deadly.

B.) There must be a susceptible host – that is, a human who lives in filthy, squalorous life conditions and/or who has major medical problems that weaken the immune

BY MAX HAMMONDS, MD

system such that the body cannot easily fight off disease. Conditions such as these exist in many parts of Mexico but are hard to find in the United States, even in the worst slums of inner cities – except in the very old, the very young and the very ill.

C.) The environmental conditions must allow for the disease to thrive and spread easily. In the U.S., the level of health care for almost everyone is high enough and the level of vaccination is high enough to discourage the rapid spread of infectious disease.

While swine flu was a new variety of the Influenza H1N1 Type A virus, a very common virus, the likelihood is that there was some crossover to the Type A virus strains that were in the flu vaccine from last year which has kept many people from catching the swine flu and has decreased the likelihood that it would spread rapidly throughout the population. This rate of vaccination and this level of health care do not exist in most parts of Mexico which probably accounts for the higher infection and death rates.

The general public has very little appreciation for the basic rules of hygiene that keep them from catching an infectious disease. Drink lots of clean water. Wash your hands. Don't share towels, toothbrushes, silverware, drinking glasses or bed linens with people who are sick. Cover your face when you cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not into your hands.

When you are sick, stay home and rest and stay away from crowds. Face masks are not necessary. Hand sanitizer is not necessary except for those who are caring for the sick. Medications are not necessary except for those who are sick. Incidentally, WebMD.com is an excellent web site for information about swine flu.

Good health is not a matter of magic or some powerful pill or some secret dietary formula or some potent life habit. Basic health information and a few lifestyle principles is all that is really needed to keep one's head and health in times like these – or any other.

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