



FREE PERFORMANCE...Chinese-American music and dance groups will present a free 90-minute performance at the Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road in Fanwood on Sunday, April 30, beginning at 2 p.m. For more information, call (908) 889-7223.

Theater Project Travels The Road To Mecca

CRANFORD - *The Road To Mecca*, a drama by Athol Fugard, opened at The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, on Thursday, April 20.

Directed by Rick Delaney, the cast includes Noreen Farley, JC Hoyt and Carol Todd. The production team comprises Brian Collins (set and light design), Cherie Cunningham (costume design) and Joel Stigliano (sound design).

The Road to Mecca is inspired by the life of the late South African artist Helen Martins, whose home today is a museum for her highly unusual sculptures.

In the play, Miss Helen has alienated her rigid religious community by leaving the church and creating a sculpture garden of bizarre figures all facing "Mecca." Now in her late sixties, Helen is being pressured to leave her home and enter a residence for elderly women.

With eyesight failing and hands not as sure as they had been, Helen is torn between Marius, the town's minister who sees an opportunity to reclaim a lost soul by moving Helen into the home, and Elsa, a young friend and confidante who challenges Helen to maintain her independence. The play deals forcefully and poetically with cross-generational friendships and the issues of aging and the place of artists in society.

The Road to Mecca plays through May 7, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. General admission is \$20. On Thursdays, tickets are \$12. Student tickets are always \$10. Reservations, which are recommended, can be made at (908) 659-5189.

Winners of two A.C.E. awards for best choreography and best costuming, the Mestizo Folkloric Ballet of New York continues to celebrate and reveal the traditional rhythms of Colombia.

TEATRO SÍ Presents Best of Colombia

UNION - The greatest hits from the Mestizo Folkloric Ballet of New York will come to the Wilkins Theatre at Kean University when Teatro Sí, in association with Kean University, presents Ballet Mestizo - The Best of Colombia - on Saturday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Choreographed and directed by Harold Puente and Armando Moreno, this production contains musical direction by Harold Gutierrez. The corps consists of 18 dancers and singers and is accompanied by six musicians dedicated to the authenticity of this traditional genre.

Tickets for reserved seating are priced at \$25 for adults and \$18 for children and students. Purchase tickets by calling the Wilkins Theatre box office, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, at (908) 737-SHOW (7469) or reserve online at www.WilkinsTheatre.com. For additional information call TEATRO SÍ at (908) 301-9496 or online at www.TeatroSi.com.

VACNJ Offers Digital Photography Classes

SUMMIT - This spring and summer, the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located at 68 Elm Street in Summit, is offering several digital photography classes for both teens and adults in their new digital photo lab. Registration is currently being accepted for both the spring and summer term classes and workshops.

Introduction to Digital Photography will be offered on Monday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. beginning Monday, April 17. The six-week class is designed for students 18 and older who are new to digital photography. Through hands-on work and demonstrations, participants will learn the fundamentals of hardware, software and the workflows necessary to produce digital photographs.

Students will use Adobe Photoshop and work on the new Macintosh computers. The same course will be taught in the summer session, which runs for six weeks beginning Monday, June 5. Instructor Joan Pamboukes will repeat the class at the same times on Monday evenings during the summer session.

Introduction to Photoshop for Teens (ages 14 to 17) is also offered on Mondays, from April 17 to May 22. Ms. Pamboukes will teach students how to collage and manipulate their images using Adobe Photoshop techniques, with the emphasis placed on the more inventive aspects of digital art.

Students do not need to own a camera for this class, which is offered from 4 to 6 p.m. Again, as above, the same course will be repeated for teens in the summer term, which runs from June 5 to July 17.

Self-Promotion for the Aspiring Artist will be offered in the spring term on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Under the guidance of instructor Raul Villarreal, artists who wish to master the complexities of professionally promoting and presenting their work to museums, galleries, and collectors will learn to make a positive long-lasting impression. Through hands-on demonstrations and exercises, students will design and assemble business cards, letterheads, envelopes, CD covers, presentation packets, and more. Instructor Villarreal will present the same course in the summer term on Wednesdays from 12:30 - 3 p.m., beginning June 7. This step-by-step course is ideal for all levels and types of aspiring artists.

Two special photography workshops will be offered in the summer term. Outdoor Shooting/Indoor Printing:

Traditional or Digital is a two-day workshop that will be offered on the weekend of June 10 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Photographer Joan Pamboukes will teach the fundamentals of digital or traditional camera systems, including simple composition, presentation, lighting strategies and how to use Adobe Photoshop to make adjustments to enhance photos.

Large Format Archival Printing is a two-day workshop for all visual and photographic artists interested in learning how to make large-scale prints. It will be held on the weekend of June 24 and 25. Instructor Jay Seldin will teach participants how to select, prepare and fine-tune images for printing on the arts center's state-of-the-art 7800 and 9800 Epson large-scale printers. A prerequisite for this workshop is Intermediate to Advanced Photoshop.

All of the above-mentioned six-week digital media classes include five hours of free open digital media lab time so students can practice what they learn.

For additional information, contact the education department at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey at (908) 273-9121 or visit online at www.artcenternj.org.

Learn About NJ's Endangered Species

MOUNTAINSIDE - A presentation about New Jersey's endangered species will be Thursday, April 20, at Trailside Nature and Science Center from 7:30 to 9 p.m. for adults, ages 18 and older.

Blaine Rothauer, a professional naturalist, biologist and photographer, will offer a slide presentation featuring his own photographs. Learn about a turtle species that stopped a housing development and a salamander species seen only one month out of the year.

This presentation will alert participants to the risks animals face living in the densely populated state, and New Jersey's efforts to protect them. Mr. Rothauer's work has appeared in magazines, calendars and exhibit halls.

Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. The fee for this presentation is \$8 per person for Union County residents and \$10 per person for out-of-county residents. Light refreshments will be provided.

For additional information about this lecture or for information on upcoming programs and special events at Trailside, please call (908) 789-3670 or visit www.ucnj.org/trailside. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.



TOP HONORS...Alice Ren of Scotch Plains, left, Cameron Rogers of Plainfield and Mi-Reu Park of Edison are overwhelmed at the announcement of their entry "Super Cooled Cloud Chamber" that took the Math and Science Society's first place award at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. Freshmen and sophomores participated in the Second Annual Science Fair under the direction of Scotch Plains resident, adviser Roland Marioni, committee chair, sophomore Azim Sonawalla of Edison and president, junior Ricky Diaz of Union.

WF Glee Club Announces 81st Spring Concert

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Glee Club announced the schedules and program for the 81st-year spring concert under the directing of Thomas Booth and piano accompaniment by George Lachenauer.

On Saturday, April 29, at 4 p.m., the concert will be performed at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm Street. On the following Saturday, May 6, at 8 p.m., the concert will be performed at the First Congregational church of Westfield, 125 Elmer Street.

The first section of the program will be folk songs and ballads, including: Lil Liza Jane arranged by Hunter and Shaw, Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms, arranged by Moore and Brewer, My Wild Irish Rose and Danny Boy arranged by Gilpin, and Seeing Nellie Home, arranged by Parker and Shaw.

Another section will be religious songs, including: Dry Bones arranged by Hayes, You Raise Me Up by Graham and Lowland, No Need To Knock by Albrecht and If We Ever Needed the Lord Before by Dorsey and Sterling.

A section of Broadway and pop includes: Luck Be A Lady by Loesser and

Lojeski, Bridge Over Troubled Water by Simon and Shaw, Put Your Head On My Shoulder by Anka and Huff and Workin' by Snyder.

The fourth section of operetta songs includes: Drinking Song by Romberg and Rapport, Serenade by Romberg and Lawrence, A Tribute To Sigmund Romberg by MacLean.

The special artists vocal and piano selections will be performed by Carol Bayard and Thomas Booth. Ms. Bayard has performed throughout the United States, primarily in leading Soprano Opera roles. Mr. Booth also has performed and directed opera, and sings solo selections, composes, arranges and teaches. They will sing duets and solos from The Great American Song Book and other selections.

All are invited to attend the concerts, and interested singers may talk with Glee Club members during the intermission. Adult male and female singers are invited, as well as student singers. Tickets are available from glee members and at the door for a donation of \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. For information, please call Dale Juntila at (908) 232 0673.

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