

Arts & Entertainment

Westfield High School Seniors Display Final Artistic Works

By GEORGIA MIERSWA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – Awestruck expressions were not uncommon in the Westfield High School gymnasium during the annual K-12 art show, May 22-24, as students, teachers and the general public were permitted to wander through the beautiful displays.

Artistic pieces lined one of the side walls and were spread throughout the room in a maze-like arrangement that helped lead the onlookers to each individual section. Upon entering, the room appeared to be a vivid wash of color as a result of a large display devoted to various paper cut outs and shapes from second-grade students.

An enormous sculpture by an eighth-grade class, decorated with bits of watercolor paint trays and shards of CDs, could be seen from anywhere in the room and a film made in a graphic design class flashed images condemning censorship while haunting music played in the background.

The exhibit was alive with excited chatter about the various pieces. Two young boys stood gapping in front of a painting of a fruit basket by junior Emily Walus and argued with each other about whether or not the astonishingly realistic work was a photograph.

Art teacher Annora Happe-Conway described the selection process: "We choose pieces based on craftsmanship and how well an assignment is completed. We also look for samples of different types of work."

These specific qualifications



MADDY JOYCE

were apparent not only because of the remarkable quality of the art pieces, but because of the wide variety of mediums and subjects. Senior Sarah Ozdamar made fashion creations that ranged from cocktail dresses to beaded jewelry, while senior Catherine Cordero built an

assemblage structure out of light bulbs to recreate a statue of Venus of Willendorf.



JESSICA CAIN



SARAH OZDAMAR



SARAH PECKER

Art teacher and set designer for the theatre department, Roy Chambers, sauntered around the room to greet newcomers and answer questions about the pieces. He agreed with Mrs. Happe-Conway about arranging the display and went on to say that there was no limit to how many works per student can be chosen.

For the seniors at WHS, this was their final chance to show their work to members in the community. Only 18 students in the class of 2007 are in the most advanced Art 4 class (Advanced Portfolio Development) or in independent study.

Though they are all under the same instruction at present, each has his or her own individual style and will follow a different path upon graduating from WHS. Three of these seniors spoke about their futures and the ways each approached their self-portrait projects.

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WHS SENIOR ART

Broadway Stars to Join Westfield Symphony

WESTFIELD – On Friday June 1, at 8 p.m., at the PNC Arts center in Homdel, Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), under the baton of Maestro David Wroe, will present *The Guys and Dolls of Broadway*, a musical retrospective of the Golden Age of Broadway.

For this free concert, the symphony will be joined by New York City Opera leading baritone Marcus Deloach and Broadway Stars Rita Harvey, September Bigalow and Dillon McCartney.

The Guys and Dolls of Broadway promises a splendid revue of American Broadway classics from Gershwin, Porter, Kander and Ebb, Rodgers and Hammerstein and more, and an insight into the wacky, the tender, the comic and the tragic elements of American musical theater.

This event is free for the whole family. The Garden State Arts Foundation presents the event in conjunction with *The Star-Ledger* and is sponsored by PNC bank. To obtain free tickets, call (732) 442-9200 or go to the Garden State Arts Foundation website at gsafoundation.org.



NEVER MIND THE SEX PISTOLS...Steve Joester's "Pistols in the Pink" combines a series of photographs of the Sex Pistols taken outside Buckingham Palace on March 10, 1977. The event commemorated the band's signing with A & M.

Steve Joester's Icons 'Rock On' At Visual Arts Center of NJ

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA – Steve Joester's recent mixed media exhibit at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ), entitled "Rock Icons," was a blast from the past for this correspondent, who considers herself a veritable "child of the sixties."

Time stood still as I stared into the

faces of Mick Jagger, Neil Young, Bob Marley, Blondie, Sting and other rock legends whose own artistic expressions defined a generation.

"Rock Icons" was predominantly photographic, with most of the displayed pieces having been shot at live performances in London.

However, Mr. Joester employed unusual and quirky materials, such as

burlap bags and acrylic paint, to add an interesting perspective to his portraits.

The added visual effects impart a religious quality to the photographs that some would say further emphasizes the duality of all rock-and-roll artists and these men and women in particular. Rock stars are symbols, yet they are idols.

"The [individuals] who have survived the test of time and still hold up are rock icons," Mr. Joester said.

Although many of the photographs were taken in the seventies, the energy and charisma of their subjects pulled me back to yesteryear.

"What began as a rock-and-roll revolution has now become part of American pop culture, but there is an unquenchable thirst for the individuals who created a genre by building on the base of the old bluesmen and putting their own spin on it," Mr. Joester said.

A British-born photographer based in New York, Mr. Joester has been called one of England's leading rock photographers.

In "Blue Stones 2," Mr. Joester transcended Mick Jagger's phobia of being photographed during a performance. He captured an uncanny moment where Jagger's eyes connect with the camera while on stage at Earls Court Stadium in London in 1975.

"Pistols in the Pink" is a collection of photographs of the Sex Pistols taken outside Buckingham Palace on March 10, 1977.

The appearance was a staged event of the band signing an A & M record contract at a time when the BBC banned their music.

The work is a combination of candid and posed shots that chronicle the chaos of that day, which Mr. Joester terms a "historic event in rock music history." Mr. Joester's work has been featured in many publications, among them *Rolling Stone* and *Cosmopolitan*. He has also created album sleeves and posters for musicians.

Interested collectors can visit his Manhattan "Joester Rock Icons Showroom" by appointment. To contact Mr. Joester, visit him online at stevejoester.com

Musicians of All Experience Can Perform at Workshop

WESTFIELD – Young musicians and experienced players can all find something to please them in the 2007 Westfield Summer Workshop (WSW) Music Department.

Chaired by New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Music Studio instructor Janet Lyman, the WSW music selections offer both instrumental and vocal lessons to novice players or singers, as well as more experienced ones.

Beginner musicians in grades three to eight can learn to play bassoon, clarinet, flue, oboe, saxophone, baritone, French horn, trombone, trumpet or tuba in the Brass/Woodwinds class.

Students in grades four to eight can play familiar tunes in an ensemble by enrolling in Band. This course is for those who already have some experience playing a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument and have the ability to play a one-octave scale.

The Workshop Band, which includes performers in grades four to eight, traditionally plays music at selected times for the Workshop Theater production. Those with experience on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments will learn music from Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Other instrumental instruction is offered in the 2007 WSW Music Department. Fiddlin' Fun, intended for young musicians in grades two and three, will show absolute beginners the basics of playing the violin.

Another beginner course for children in grades two to four is Keyboard, in which participants learn basic piano skills in reading music and playing melodies on the electronic keyboard. In the Guitar class, musicians in grades four to six will learn the fingerboard, basic chords and strums using popular music.

For those who would like to play an instrument but have little in experience in choosing the correct one, the workshop offers a course called Music Sampler. Here students in grades three to eight can have fun while learning the basics of playing the clarinet, flute, snare drum, violin and trumpet.

Vocal music lessons are also part of the WSW curriculum. Youngsters in grades three and four will learn songs from the latest shows and movies and learn to sing as soloists and in a group in *Be a Star*. Older singers in grades five to eight can learn vocal techniques

such as proper breathing, tone production and diction in Vocal Performance. Participants will also engage in activities that will help them sing in two- and three-part harmony.

The 2007 Westfield Summer Workshop, which is located at Edison Intermediate School on Rahway Avenue in Westfield, also offers classes in arts and crafts, communications, dance, drama, special interests, and musical theater.

It contains special pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade classes, which include many of the selections from the regular Workshop, but in an age-appropriate curriculum. Classes will be held from June 25 until July 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. Early morning drop off is available at 7:30 a.m. and students may also enroll in Afternoon Adventures, a program of the Westfield Y.

For more information on the 2007 Westfield Summer Workshop, call the special summer number at (908) 518-1551 or visit the studios of the NJWA at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield. Additional information on all NJWA programs can be found on njworkshopforthearts.com.



WHAT'S HAPPENING...Students from a music class in last year's Westfield Summer Workshop entertain their classmates at a "Happening" in the gym at Edison Intermediate School.

Additional information on all NJWA programs can be found on njworkshopforthearts.com.

Local High School Graduates Play in Recital

WESTFIELD – The Junior Musical Club of Westfield will hold its annual senior recital at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street, on Monday, June 4, at 8 p.m. The concert is open to the public free of charge. Seniors Sophia Nowik, Kirsten Mandala, Alexandra Jenkins, Laura Schwab and Bryan Krichinsky will perform.

Sophia will play the Prelude and Allemande of J.S. Bach's sixth Suite for Cello and "Requiebros" by Gaspar Cassado, accompanied by Carolle Ann Mochernuk. Sophia will attend The Juilliard School in September, majoring in cello performance.

Kirsten will play Waltz in D-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 1 by Frederic Chopin and "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" (from "Children's Corner") by Claude Debussy, both on piano. She will also play Hungarian Serenade by Victorin Jancieres on flute accompanied by her brother, David Mandala, on the piano.

She is currently a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and is the president of the Junior Musical Club. Kirsten will attend Reed College in Portland, Ore.

Alexandra will play Concert No. 1 in G minor for Violin and Piano, Op. 26, by Max Bruch, accompanied by Beverly Thomson Shea. She is a senior at Westfield High School and vice-president of auditions for the Junior Musical Club. She will attend the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College, majoring in violin performance.

Laura will sing "Why Do They Shut Me Out of Heaven?" and "Heart, We Will Forget Him" by Aaron Copland, as well as "Per pietra, bell'idol mio," by Vincenzo Bellini and "Du Bist die Ruh;" by Franz Schubert. Marie-Danielle Mercier will accompany her on piano. A senior at Westfield High School, she will major in vocal performance at

the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Bryan will play "Tango of the Roses" by Marjorie Harper and Vittorio Mascheroni, "Autumn in New York" by Vernon Duke, "Cute" by Neal Hefti, "Over the Rainbow" by Harold Arlen, "How High the Moon" by Nancy Hamilton and Morgan Lewis, "Lullaby in Rhythm" by Edgar Sampson, Clarence Profit, Walter Hirsch and Benny Goodman and "Alice in Wonderland" by Bob Hilliard and Sammy Fain.

He is a senior at Union County Magnet High School and vice-president of programs for the Junior Musical Club. He will attend Duke University.

Community Players To Host Open House

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Community Players (WCP) will host an open house at the theater on Sunday, June 3, from 12 to 2 p.m. with light refreshments.

Located at 1000 North Avenue West, the open house is for anyone interested in learning more about the operations of a community-based, non-profit theater and willing to give their time to support the new season of four shows.

President Naomi Yablonsky said that a similar event last year netted new people who were willing to work backstage and on the business side of performances with set painting and ad sales for the season playbill. She said, "It is a great opportunity to come see what WCP is about and to help us get ready for our 74th season, which opens in October 2007."

Ms. Yablonsky noted that all skills are needed, from stage crew, set construction, costumes, makeup and ushers to box office and facilities. WCP has plenty of folks willing to train a new generation of backstage and office workers.

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