



MERRILY, MERRILY, MERRILY...Sandy Rudnitzky as Mrs. Ford and Tony White as Sir John Falstaff rehearse a scene from the upcoming Troupe of Friends/Westfield Recreation Department production of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Westfield*. The free shows will be held in Mindowaskin Park on Labor Day Weekend, Friday and Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information, see troupe-of-friends.com.

Troupe of Friends to Host Merry Wives of Westfield

WESTFIELD – Troupe of Friends and the Westfield Recreation Department will present William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Westfield (Windsor)* for their annual Labor Day production at the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield.

Joseph Penczak will direct this production, set in Westfield in 1961. The story follows Sir John Falstaff, as he tries to woo two wealthy Westfield wives. The wives take advantage of the knight's over-confidence and find unique ways to humiliate him and also keep their husbands' jealousies in check.

The farcical, slapstick humor balances the embarrassing predicaments

and keeps everyone in a "merry" mood.

Performances will be held on Friday, September 3, and Saturday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, September 5, at 2 p.m.

All performances will be free, and no tickets are required. All are encouraged to bring a blanket or a chair for the outdoor performances.

In the event of rain, the performances will be held in the Community Room, located in the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad Street in Westfield.

For more information, visit troupe-of-friends.com or contact Mr. Penczak at (908) 301-0228.

WF Community Players Announces New Season

WESTFIELD – Westfield Community Players (WCP) has announced the lineup for its 76th consecutive season, beginning in October, as well as an open house for prospective members and volunteers on Sunday, September 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. with light refreshments.

Located at 1000 North Avenue, West, in Westfield, 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.

Whether a director looking for a new theater in which to work, or a thespian who wants an outlet close to home, all should consider dropping in and seeing the theater, scene shop and stage, all under one roof.

President JoAnne Lemenille noted the new season – featuring comedy, mystery and music – will open Saturday evening, October 9, with *Abie's Irish Rose*, the original ethnic fish-out-of-water comedy by Anne Nichols. New York's Lower East Side is the setting for a nice Jewish boy who comes home with his Irish wife after World War I.

January brings the Joe DiPietro and Jimmy Roberts musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, which features the tagline: "Everything you have ever secretly thought about dating, romance, marriage, lovers, husbands, wives and in-laws but were afraid

to admit."

Arthur Miller's drama *A View from the Bridge*, about tragic heroes emerging from the common run of contemporary lives along the docks in Brooklyn, follows in March.

The season concludes in May with the mystery/comedy by Will Osborne and Anthony Herrera *Smoke and Mirrors*, about a power-hungry producer at the breaking point with the insufferable star of the latest Hollywood blockbuster.

Ms. Lemenille said last year's open house netted new people willing to work backstage and on the business side of things, such as set painting and selling ads for the season payroll.

She said, "it is a great opportunity to come see what WCP is about and to help us get ready for our new season, beginning this October." She also added that all skills are needed, from stage crew, set construction, costumes, makeup and ushers to box office and facilities.

"Besides," she added, "even if you have no theater skills, WCP has plenty of folks willing to train a new generation of backstage and office workers."

A season subscription for all four shows is \$50, a 40-percent savings over individual ticket prices of \$20 for plays and \$25 for musicals. Interested theatergoers can call the box office at (908) 232-9568 for subscription information and other events at the theater.



TURN ON THE BRIGHT LIGHTS...Lighting Technician Jessica Foerst readies the lighting system at WCP for the new season. Courtesy of Victor Cenci, WCP

NJ Native Parks Receives Nomination for a 'Shamus'

AREA – New Jersey native Brad Parks has been nominated for the Shamus Award, one of the most prestigious honors in crime fiction.

Mr. Parks is one of five finalists in the "Best First Novel" category for his



book, "Faces of the Gone," which features the exploits of a Newark-based newspaper reporter. *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* reviewed Mr. Parks' work.

The Shamus is given annually by the Private Eye Writers of America, with the winner scheduled to be announced at a banquet to be held in San Francisco this October during Bouchercon, the world mystery convention. Past winners of the award, now in its 29th year, include Sue Grafton, Michael Connelly and Harlan Coben.

It is the second major award nomination of the summer for Mr. Parks, who was also nominated for the Nero Award, named after the legendary Nero Wolfe, in June.

"No one knows how their first book is going to be received," said Mr. Parks, 36. "I'm very grateful for all the attention given to mine."

A career journalist turned fiction au-

thor, Mr. Parks worked at *The Washington Post* and *The Star-Ledger* as a sports-writer and news-feature writer. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he lives with his wife and two small children, and is currently working on the next Carter Ross adventure. The next book in Mr. Parks' series, "Eyes of the Innocent," is due out in February. His website is BradParksBooks.com.

Pineda Holds Auditions For Teen Performers

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Pineda Conservatory is holding auditions for outstanding teen musical-theater performers for an advanced class and performance troupe.

Students from throughout New Jersey are invited to audition for this unique performance class, which includes acting and singing training, as well as various performance opportunities. The class will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:45 to 9 p.m. in Scotch Plains at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1171 Terrill Road, and will include training in voice, acting and dance with a professional staff.

Previous students have graduated to attend the United States' top universities and theater programs. Students interested in auditioning must call (908) 731-1377 or e-mail pinedaconservatory@comcast.net for an audition appointment.

Previous auditions were held yesterday, September 1, and a second audition date has now been added for September 8; classes begin September 16. Candidates will be interviewed and should be prepared to sing two songs (16-bar cuts) from a Broadway musical.

This year's troupe will perform a final cabaret, a free community performance and a benefit for the "Emma Love Fund." For tuition and other information about the Pineda Conservatory, visit pinedaconservatory.com.



READYING FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON...The 2010-2011 Westfield Symphony Orchestra season kicks off on Saturday, September 25, with a grand evening of opera, as WSO presents *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*, a passion-filled double bill.

WSO Unveils Dynamic Upcoming 2010-2011 Season

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) has unveiled its plans for the 2010-2011 season. Fans can expect a series of original and dynamic musical experiences to rival anything in New York City and beyond.

The 2010-2011 concert program of the WSO marks the 28th season of this premier professional musical organization and the 10th anniversary of world-renowned Music Director David Wroe.

The new season will feature a series of bold and innovative initiatives reflecting not only supreme orchestral sound but also collaborations with other outstanding New Jersey arts organizations and a magnificent roster of guest vocalists and dancers.

On offer are some welcome returning friends and some adventurous new projects.

The new season kicks off on Saturday, September 25, with a grand evening of opera, as WSO presents *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*, a passion-filled Verismo double bill of tempestuous love affairs, earthy treachery, and tragedy starring NYC Opera's Fabiana Bravo and Andrew Oakden.

Halloween holds some monstrous cultural surprises, with a big-screen showing of Hollywood's first great horror movie, *The Phantom of the Opera*, starring Lon Chaney, with live symphonic soundtrack by Gabriel Thibaudau.

Mozart's *Symphony No. 40 in G minor* complements this fantastical evening, as well as the annual Halloween costume contest with cash prizes.

Nearly December, WSO will present a festival of traditional holiday music, sing-a-longs and more to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season, and in February, following the triumph of last season, the Grande Dame of Tango Carolina Jaurena and her troupe return to join WSO for a spectacular Ballroom Dance Extravaganza.

The season comes to a climactic finale with the thrill, fervor and sheer delight of supreme orchestral masterpieces, divine melodies and boundless artistic exuberance from near and far, as WSO presents a Russian program with Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5 in E minor* and more, as well as a musical world premiere by Mahadeen featuring verse written and narrated by acclaimed New Jersey poet BJ Ward.

Expect other WSO features at the PNC Arts Center and even further a field, as well as the now-famous New Year's Eve festival of Broadway Classics – one of Westfield's most popular holiday traditions.

Mr. Wroe said, "Without a doubt, we at WSO are on a roll, carried forward by what I believe to be another eclectic, refreshing and diverse program, and an enthusiasm from our audiences that has been unmatched in my decade-long tenure. I can't wait for the new season to begin!"

Discounted three-series and five-series subscription packages, which vary in price (\$75-\$300) according to seating level, are now on sale for the 2010-2011 season. Single tickets for each concert are priced between \$25 and \$70. Senior citizen and student discounts on subscriptions and single tickets are available at all seating levels.

Tickets and discount subscription packages may be purchased directly from the WSO office, 224 East Broad Street in Westfield, or by calling the box office at (908) 232-9400.

For further information, call (908) 232-9400, e-mail wso@westfieldsymphony.org, or go to westfieldsymphony.org.

Oratorio Reveals News Of Upcoming Season

AREA – The Oratorio Society of New Jersey, under the direction of Sandor Szabo, will present three choral events during the 2010-2011 season.

The fall concert, November 13 at the Immaculate Conception Church of Montclair, will feature a program of Glorious Baroque with Bach's *Cantata No. 40, Wachet Auf*; Handel's *Chandos Anthem 11, Let God Arise* and Vivaldi's *Gloria, RV 588*.

On December 7, the annual free Messiah Sing will be held at the Immaculate Conception Church.

The spring concert will be presented on Saturday, March 19, 2011, and will feature Mozart's *Mass in C minor*.

Rehearsals for the fall concert will begin on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m., at Cedar Grove High School, located at 90 Rugby Road in Cedar Grove. Scores will be available at the first rehearsal.

The Oratorio Society of New Jersey welcomes new voices as well as returning singers. No audition is necessary. Yearly dues are \$50. (Seniors and students are \$40). Rehearsals continue on Tuesday evenings from 8 to 10 p.m. at Cedar Grove High School.

Anyone interested in joining may call (973) 694-5638 for further information or log on to oratoriosocietynj.org.

Tara O'Leary Reveals Secrets of Once-Lost Art

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD – The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association (SPFAA) meeting will be held on Thursday, September 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center, located on Watson Road in Fanwood.

A brief business meeting will be followed by a demonstration on Encaustic Painting by Tara O'Leary. Encaustic painting, also known as hot wax painting, involves using heated beeswax, to which colored pigments are added. The liquid/paste is then applied to a surface – usually prepared wood, though canvas and other materials are often used.

The simplest encaustic mixture can be made from adding pigments to beeswax, but there are several other recipes that can be used – some containing other types of waxes, damar resin, linseed oil or other ingredients. Pure, powdered pigments can be purchased and used, though some mixtures use oil paints or other forms of pigment.

Metal tools and special brushes can be used to shape the paint before it cools, or heated metal tools can be used to manipulate the wax once it has cooled onto the surface. Today, tools such as heat lamps, heat guns and other methods of applying heat allow artists to extend the amount of time they have to work with the material.

Because wax is used as the pigment binder, encaustics can be sculpted as well as painted. Other materials can be encased or collaged into the surface, or layered, using the encaustic medium to adhere it to the

surface.

Encaustic art has seen a resurgence in popularity since the 1990s, with people using electric irons, hotplates and heated stylus on a variety of different surfaces including card, paper and even pottery. The iron makes producing a variety of artistic patterns elementary.

However, the medium is not limited to just abstract designs; it can be used to create complex paintings, just as in other media such as oil and acrylic.

Ms. O'Leary started pursuing art as a career about 13 years ago. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The School of Visual Arts in New York City and has also studied at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey and the Art Center of New Jersey in Englewood. Wolf Kahn and Timothy Hawkesworth have inspired her.

She began by showing her work in New York City and has exhibited for 10 years professionally. Ms. O'Leary has shown throughout the Eastern United States and in venues closer to home, such as The Frederick Gallery and The Westwood Gallery, The Chatham Day School, Mona Lisa Gallery and The Montclair Museum of Art.

Nature and its calm beauty inspire her recent work, as she spends many hours walking through the South Mountain Reservation, finding inspiration. To see more of her work, visit taraoleary.com.

All SPFAA meetings, demonstrations and workshops are free and open to the public. For more information, call Paula Pearl at (908) 322-2590.

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