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REPERTORY
BALLET**
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**Romeo
and Juliet**
Choreography by
Douglas Martin
Music by Sergei Prokofiev



April 12-13
Friday 7pm
Saturday 2pm & 7pm
Union County Performing Arts Center's
Hamilton Stage, Rahway, NJ
Tickets: 732.499.8226 • ucpac.org

Arts & Entertainment

Friends of Music at St. Paul's To Present 'Stabat Mater'

WESTFIELD – The Friends of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield will welcome the music loving public on Sunday, May 5, at 7 p.m. to a performance of the "Stabat Mater," composed in 1950 by celebrated French composer Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will join the Parish Choir in this inspired and evocative work, which Poulenc composed in the form of a "grand motet" in 12 brief, but dramatic movements. Featured in the May 5 performance are sopranos Carrie Hackett and Julia Fernandez. Also featured on the program is guest organist Andrew E. Henderson, Director of Music and Organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, in a performance of the "Symphony

for Organ and Grand Orchestra op. 42" (1882) by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937). Widor is described as "one of the most important and influential figures in the musical life of [Paris] and a key figure in turn-of-the-century French music." Charles M. Banks, esteemed Director of Music at St. Paul's, will conduct the program.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 414 East Broad Street near Euclid Avenue in Westfield. Parking in the area is free. A donation of \$20 at the door is suggested. Students are admitted free. Following the concert, the public is invited to a reception in the church's Parish Hall.

For further information contact Charles M. Banks at (908) 232-8506 ext. 17 or email cbanks@stpaulswestfield.org.



GATSBY REVISITED... This superb Jazz Age mansion done in grand architectural style with soaring coffered ceilings and one-of-a-kind design elements to delight the beholder is one of five outstanding residences of this year's Tour of Notable Homes on Saturday, May 11. For tickets and information visit www.westfieldsymphony.org.

Tour of Notable Homes to Feature Jazz Age Mansion

WESTFIELD – Each spring, area residents, particularly those who are aficionados of the acclaimed Westfield Symphony Orchestra, look forward to "A Tour of Notable Homes" presented by the fundraising auxiliary known as The Friends of Westfield Symphony Orchestra.

Friends' co-presidents Lee Corcoran and Veena Sharma describe the tour stating, "We have selected several homes that typify the choices of architecture, design and style for which the area is renowned. A generous group of homeowners will be throwing open the doors to their distinguished homes to the public in support of the orchestra which adds so much to the quality of life here."

Shuang Guo-Wroe, who chairs the tour, stated that one of the homes to be featured is located in the storied Sleepy Hollow section of Plainfield is a "show place in every way." A newly constructed brick mansion completed in 2010, it stands majes-

tically on a seven acre knoll replacing a circa 1917 manse that previously occupied the site. Designed to replicate the grand houses of the Jazz Age, Mrs. Guo-Wroe said, "Approaching the circular driveway we can imagine Jay Gatsby himself standing at the door to welcome visitors."

The architecture, furnishings, moldings, trimmings, artwork and artifacts emphasize the very best of the period while providing every convenience of the 21st Century. The classic center hall foyer features a spiral staircase and a coffered ceiling with deep decorative moldings. Chandeliers and scones are works of art significant to the décor.

A tribute to the Jazz Age, according to Corcoran, is a "speakeasy" bar in the living room hidden behind a painting mounted on a sliding panel – "a foil against the Prohibition police." Corcoran continues to describe some of the other features of the house: the dining room walls are covered in de Gorney wall paper imported from England, two matching E.F. Caldwell silvered bronze chandeliers hang above the massive dining table.

A must-see according to Tour Co-chair, Jennifer Colamedici, is an office paneled in mahogany with a coffered ceiling punctuated by alligator leather. There is an elevator and an electronic security system that provides real-time audio visual surveillance of the house and grounds. The house contains five one-of-a-kind bedrooms and nine bathrooms.

"The romantic white on white master suite contains a galley kitchen, lighting by Nierman Weeks, walk-in closets and lady's den." Tour participants will be fascinated by the fully equipped micro-brewery and pub bar located on the lower level where adjacent accommodations include a game room, wine cellar, private ladies' beauty salon and barber shop for gents," stated Ms. Colamedici. The bright, expansive, professional-style kitchen dressed in yellow and white with floors and countertops in white marble overlooks the fabulous landscaping at the east end of the property.

Tickets for the Tour of Notable Homes are \$30 when purchased in advance, \$35 on the day of the tour. They are available online at www.westfieldsymphony.org and at Baron's Drug Store, Coldwell Banker Realtors East and West, The Town Book Store, in Westfield; Christoffer's in Mountainside; Periwinkle's in Cranford and Norman's Hallmark in Fanwood. For further information visit www.westfieldsymphony.org or call (908) 232-9400.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Choir

Alliance Repertory Theatre Tackles Tough Topics in 100 Saints You Should Know

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

EDISON - *100 Saints You Should Know* by Kate Fodor is a gentle, tender play that tackles potentially hard topics: homosexuality in the priesthood and the struggles of single mothers raising self-destructive teenagers. The play, produced by Alliance Repertory Theatre and currently playing at the Edison Valley Playhouse, revolves around a crisis that brings characters together who are longing for emotional and spiritual connection.

Saints is specifically, among other things, about parents and children, literally and figuratively. Roman Catholic priest Father Matthew (Paul Zeller) discovers he has fleshly longings, and temporarily leaves the church. He goes home to live with his mother while serving a three-month exile from the church who wants him to sort out his proclivity for pictures of homoerotic men. While he is with his mother, Colleen (Noreen Farley) he doesn't tell her or Theresa (Beth Painter), the housekeeper at his former rectory, the reason for his leaving.

At the top of the play, the lights come up on the small stage that is sparsely dressed to suggest a living room, a bedroom and a bathroom. Theresa is scrubbing the toilet in the rectory when Fr. Matthew comes in. It is evident that she has crush on him and we find out later that she secretly attends his masses and enjoys his homilies. Theresa is a single mother who, as a teenager, got pregnant and quit school. Now, her abusive teenage daughter Abby (Hannah Painter) is in the throes of teenage angst. Like her mother who took drugs and was wild when she was 15, Abby drinks to help make sense of the unfairness of life.

Everyone in the play except the priest's mother ponders the nature of God and the nagging emptiness in their lives. "I was looking for something enormous and expansive," Theresa tells the priest, "and somehow I ended up with a little scrap of a life."

The play presents variations on the subject of missing father-figures: Matthew longs for a relationship with God, Theresa reminisces about her rule-abiding father, Abby is fatherless and Garrett (Aaron Black) misses his father at the most tragic moment of his life.

When delivery boy Garrett drops off Colleen's grocery order, he has push/pull moments with the priest, saying that he'd like to ask him some questions. He doesn't think his father would like it, though, because he always refers to Fr. Matthew as a "fag." Aaron Black's portrayal of the sexually confused teenager Garrett is memorable.

The actors mesh perfectly in this play because of the careful direction of Michael Driscoll who has cast people who can handle the roles well. Hannah Painter's Abby is dripping with sarcasm—the rolling of the eyes, the hand on the hip, the flipping of the head and the valley girl sing-song cadence are all familiar to parents of girls in their teen years. This porcelain-skinned, angelic-faced teen

spouts some pretty disturbing statements for shock effect. "I'm bad on purpose," Abby tells Garrett when he catches her urinating on a tree one night. Yet in a touching moment of mother/daughter bonding later on, a scared Abby clutches her stuffed animal and becomes childlike with her mother's protective arm around her. It's a doubly tender scene because the Painter actresses are mother and daughter in real life.

It is always a delight to see one of regional theatre's veteran stars work her craft. Noreen Farley, as Colleen, affects a delightful Irish lilt. In the scene where mother and son play scrabble, the irony of their lack of communication over a game of words isn't lost. Ms. Farley's timing and delivery elicit laughs and anguish at just the right moments.

Not only does Fr. Matthew have a strained relationship with his mother, but also had one with his father, who is now deceased. He never thought his father was proud of him. In fact, he tells his mother that his dad once told him, "You're a strange boy." Mr. Zeller displays a precise dose of discomfort on stage to reveal the character's internal unease.

The priest finds himself in another uncomfortable situation serving as a sounding board to Theresa. She seeks him out to be her spiritual mentor and, in effect, her "path to God." When Mrs. Painter tells her character's story about being a pregnant teen estranged from her parents, she masterfully mixes pathos with compassion.

The most heartbreaking moment of the play arrives when Ms. Farley and Mr. Zeller have an awkward conversation as to why the mother should love her son. He asks her to love him for nothing, just for being. It's the culmination of his longing for acceptance and intimacy, a universal wish of the heart, which makes the final scene so poignant.

Playwright Fodor poses plenty of questions, but just as with reality, we are not always given fixed answers.

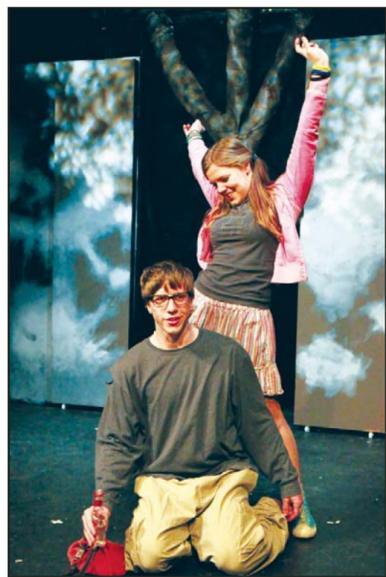


Photo courtesy of Howard Fischer
IN SEARCH OF SELF... Abby (Hannah Painter) and fellow teen Garrett (Aaron Black) are two characters searching for love and understanding of themselves in *100 Saints You Should Know* continuing this weekend at Edison Valley Playhouse located at 2196 Oak Tree Road, Edison. For tickets, call (908) 755-4654.

Dinosaurs Set To Roam NJ Convention Center

EDISON — Sixteen life-size dinosaurs, gemstones worth millions, along with some of the rarest fossils and minerals in the world will be on display - and for sale - at the second annual NY/NJ Gem and Mineral Show Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14.

Over 10,000 visitors are expected at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center throughout the three day show, and 200 exhibitors from around the world will present their collections of gems, jewelry, fine minerals, fossils, dinosaurs, meteorites, crystals, home décor, amber, petrified wood, turquoise, gold nuggets, opals and so much more.

Special guests this year are Amanda Adkins and Steve Brancato of the Weather Channel's reality show "Prospectors." They will be filming an episode for their next season at this show. Meet them in booth 201. The show will also feature full-sized dinosaurs cast from the Jurassic Park movie. The Franklin Mineral Museum of Franklin, will set up world

famous "black light" U.V. minerals in the darkened Junior Ballroom, along with Sterling Hill Mine Tour and Museum of Fluorescence. Local specimens from the Staten Island Museum and the American Museum of Natural History will also be on display. A rare collection of trilobites, an extinct marine arthropod, will be exhibited by The Gold Bug.

Door prizes will be awarded to some lucky visitors. This show is open to the public and will run 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$6 for adults and are valid for all three days of the expo. Children under 12 are free.

The admission fee includes a 10 percent donation to the Franklin Mineral Museum. A free shuttle bus will run continuously from Metropark Station to the front door of the N.J. Expo Center at 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison. It is a 14-minute trip each way.

For more information on the event, visit www.NY-NJ-GemShow.com/.

ELEGANT HOMES REALTY Featuring THE SAVANNAH IN DOWNTOWN WESTFIELD

Thank You for The Savannah

When developer James Ward bumped into a couple who recently moved into an elegant new condominium home at The Savannah in downtown Westfield, the delighted homeowners had one genuine message to convey: "My wife and I want to thank you for The Savannah." The new residents were returning from Trader Joe's in town and expressed how much they love living in the heart of downtown Westfield where they can walk to the movies, restaurants, shops and train. It's an exceptional lifestyle experience that is enhanced by The Savannah's stunning European-inspired architecture, grand single-level residences and upscale amenities and services.



... Guess Where Your Friends Are Moving to!





Open House Sunday, April 14th, 1-4pm
111 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090

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