

Arts and Entertainment

FILMING IN WESTFIELD:

Ferraro's Restaurant Gives Warm Welcome to Filming of *Homemaker 3000*

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Just when you thought it was another anonymous camera crew and its bulky equipment screeching through the streets, prepping to film another sitcom, commercial or snap a few quickie shots — this time, it's different. It's personal.

This time, it is homegrown Westfielder Jeremy Carr, a graduate of Westfield High School, who is

according to Mr. Carr and Ms. Shea, the owner, Vicki Pavlou, decided to pull the plug on filming at the last minute.

The filmmakers then decided to replace the shoot at Vicki's Diner with the backdrop of the Bound Brook Diner. Ms. Shea and Mr. Carr are considering using a Westfield residence for another backdrop.

Mr. Carr told *The Leader* and *The Times* that *Homemaker 3000* is a comedy about an "average Joe" who



FILMING AT FERRARO'S... Westfield native and writer/director of *Homemaker 3000* works with New York actress Alisha Campbell during a scene filmed last Saturday at Ferraro's Restaurant in Westfield.

also the writer and director of *Homemaker 3000*, a short film which was shot at Ferraro's Restaurant in Westfield late Saturday evening.

While the Italian restaurant has been the setting for many meals enjoyed by Mr. Carr and his family, it was selected because of its romantic ambience, according to Producer and Central New Jersey native, Elizabeth Shea.

Mr. Carr noted that in comparison to New York City, Westfield is a much easier town to film in because it is friendlier and the permits imposed upon filmmakers are not as restrictive.

The hospitality of restaurant owner Anna Ferraro and her staff also encouraged Mr. Carr and Ms. Shea to make themselves at home. "They have just been amazing. It's unusual and hard to find. They have been so friendly and supportive," commented Ms. Shea.

She added that on the evening of the shoot, Ferraro's Restaurant had pizza prepared for the film crew, allowed them to use anything they needed and were very accommodating.

Vicki's Diner was originally slated for a scene in *Homemaker 3000* which was to be shot that Sunday. However,

lives in the suburbs in the perfect home and gets more than he bargained for after he purchases a robotic housewife.

Ms. Shea, who recently graduated from Seton Hall School of Law, revealed that *Homemaker 3000* is "a satirical look on gender issues." While, Mr. Carr added that he would like audiences to derive their own underlying moral to the short film.

Although there are no celebrities featured in the film, over 200 women were auditioned for two lead female roles. One of the women chosen was featured in the national tour of the theatrical production of *Sunset Boulevard*.

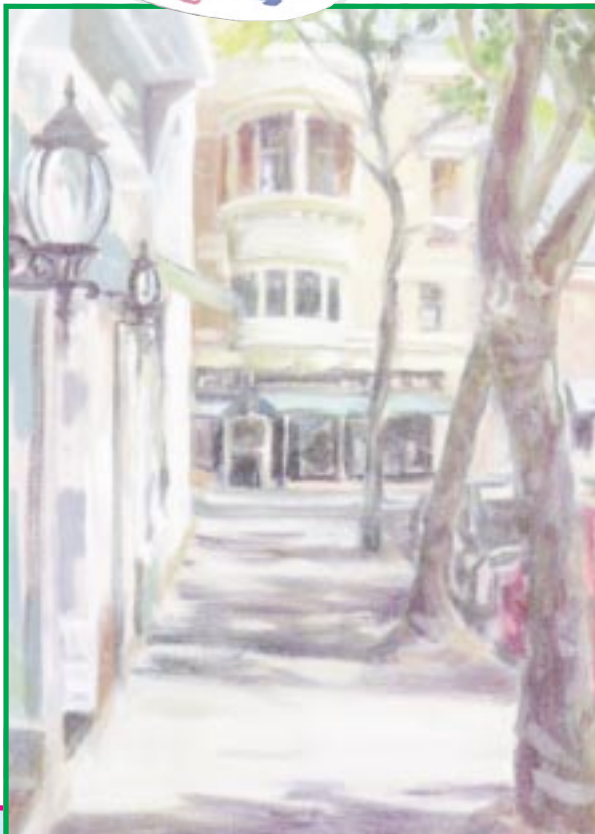
The young writer and producer began his career shooting films with buddies at Westfield High. He later met Ms. Shea at Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung while appearing in a production there. They attended Boston University and remained close friends.

Homemaker 3000 will be combined with other short stories to become one main feature film.

"And, hopefully, it will be appearing at the Rialto Theatre," mused Mr. Carr.

Who said you can never come home again?

COLORS COME ALIVE... The Town Book Press of The Town Book Store in Westfield recently released two new postcards depicting the paintings of members of the Westfield Art Association, Linda Kolar and Anne Mann. "Arcanum Hall" by Anne Mann and "Prospect Street" by Linda Kolar are now available for 75 cents each at The Town Book Store and other downtown establishments.



Two Picturesque Postcards Created From Paintings By Art Association Members

WESTFIELD — The Town Book Store in Westfield has announced that its Town Book Press has recently released two new postcards which are reproductions from original oil paintings by members of the Westfield Art Association.

"Prospect Street," by Linda Kolar, is a view of the fire station tower as seen from the entrance to the Municipal Parking Lot on Prospect Street.

"Arcanum Hall," by Anne Mann offers a view of the intersection of East Broad and Elm Streets, as seen from the sidewalk in front of Theresa's Restaurant.

Both of these original paintings were created on the streets of Westfield during events sponsored by the Westfield Art Association.

These two new postcards now join reproductions of two watercolors by Burton Longenbach named "Memorial Plaza" and "Westfield Station, East-bound", a watercolor by Florence

MacDowell entitled "The View Through Mindowaskin Park" and a photograph by Ron Gemeinhardt titled "Westfield Station, Autumn."

Town Book Press is the publishing arm of The Town Book Store of Westfield, Inc. and provides an outlet for local artists and authors. It currently has in print "How Fletcher Was Hatched" by Harry and Wende Devlin and "Suburban Mothers: The Funny Life" by Tina Lesher and Joan Mund.

Two more titles, "A Kiss for a Warthog" by the Devlins and "Harvesting Ice" by Lawrence Cirelli are scheduled for release in September.

The cards are priced at 75 cents each and are available at The Town Book Store, Barron's Drug Store, Periwinkle's Fine Gifts, Galleria West, Drug Fair and other downtown establishments.

For more information on the postcards, please call (908) 233-3535.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

**El Greco
(1541-1614)**

Domenikos Theotokopoulos (also known as El Greco "The Greek" was a Spanish painter who demonstrates the epitome of Spanish art.

A lover of classical and contemporary literature, El Greco moved to Venice in 1566 where he was influenced by artists of the High Renaissance period. It is evident that his artistry was inspired by the works of Michelangelo as well as Roman architecture.

Several of his masterpieces such as "Assumption of the Virgin" and "The Disrobing of Christ" were commissioned by monasteries, palaces and cathedrals. However, around 1579, the latter work caused such controversy in its price that it El Greco was subjected to several lawsuits.

A prosperous artist, El Greco painted scenes of classical mythology, Old Testament history, and landscapes of Toledo until his death in 1614. The artist is most commonly lauded for his



"Christ Carrying the Cross" by El Greco (1600-1605), oil on canvas currently at Museo del Prado in Madrid.

ability to approach common and traditional subjects and events and breathe new life into them.

Grants From State Council Give Worthy Organizations The Aid They Truly Deserve

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

TRENTON — The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has recognized organizations such as the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO), Westfield Young Artists Cooperative Theatre (WYACT), New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) for their preservation and celebration of the arts by opening up the state's coffers and pouring funds into their 2000 budgets.

The WSO, which has been a staple in the Westfield community and is the resident orchestra of Union County, received \$27,000 in funding. The organization received the same amount in the 1999 budget.

"We look forward to providing the same excellence and outreach that we have been providing for 17 years," noted Nancy N. Jackson, Executive Director of the WSO.

She added that the distribution of the grants at the meeting of the Council, which she attended, "was beautifully done."

"Due to an administrative turnover, we (the WSO) did not meet the timeline to reapply" to the Council for a grant, according to Ms. Jackson.

She added, however, that she was happy the Council thought the WSO worthy of the grant money despite the fact that they did not reapply.

WYACT, which did not receive aid from the state in the previous budget, was granted \$23,250 for the year 2000.

"Obviously, we were thrilled about the grant," reported Artistic Director and Founder of WYACT, Cynthia Meryl.

She stated that the grant will be of great assistance to a program she believes helps to hone theatrical skills as well as teaching responsibility in a troubling world.

The talents of the WYACT ensemble, which were recently spotlighted during an NBC morning program, were also seen this summer in *Oliver!* at the NJPAC and *The Threepenny Opera* in the Arts Incubator Festival at Kean University.

One of the top 10 groups to receive funding from the Council is NJPAC.

Last year, the arts facility, which is the sixth largest in the nation, was given \$750,000. This year, the Council will dole out \$1.2 million to keep

the programs at NJPAC alive and growing.

"We were absolutely delighted to receive a considerable increase from the State Council for the Arts," enthused NJPAC Assistant Vice President of Public Relations Jeffrey Norman.

Grateful for the "significant amount of support" from the council, Mr. Norman told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* that NJPAC enjoys spotlighting the talent of New Jersey-based artists and organizations, while also bringing the best artists in the world to the New Jersey audience.

Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn has also ranked among the top 10 organizations to receive monies. The Council will grant \$1 million to the group which received \$770,000 last year.

According to Director of Development John McEwen, the award is a 30 percent increase in comparison to the "flat funding" that the theater has received in the past seven years.

"We are extremely pleased about that," Mr. McEwen stated.

He added that the additional \$4 million, which the Legislature has passed on to the state, comes close to the funding that used to be provided in 1989 when it peaked at \$2 million.

The additional funds will be applied to a "play development program that has remained dormant," according to Mr. McEwen. Working with lyricists and composers, the program enables playwrights to get a "piece on its feet" by testing out a production through workshops and finally to a small, invited audience.

The Union County Arts Center (UCAC) in Rahway, which is the home to a number of concerts by the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, was granted \$21,500 for the 2000 season. The theater was given \$21,800 for 1999.

"It is really quite an honor," stated Executive Director of UCAC, Joseph Mancuso, regarding the monies received from the Council.

He added that the recognition of the theater by the council "heightens the organization's stature."

Mr. Mancuso added that the \$21,500 will be applied to the professional theater series of the theater. Specifically, the money will fund the theater's production of *Man of La Mancha* which is slated to run from March 10 to March 25, 2000.

UC KIDS KINGDOM 4X8

THE MAIN INGREDIENT

CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

4 ounces semi sweet chocolate chips or chocolate baking bar
2 tablespoons whole milk
2 1/2 egg yolks
3 tablespoons margarine
1/2 cup confectioners sugar
Dash of cocoa powder



Melt chocolate and mix in milk. Add egg yolks, margarine and sugar. Refrigerate until mixture is firm. Remove and shape into small balls. Powder with cocoa. Enjoy!



TO SUBMIT A RECIPE FOR THE MAIN INGREDIENT, PLEASE MAIL, E-MAIL (MICHELLE@GOLEADER.COM) OR FAX TO MICHELLE'S ATTENTION BY FRIDAYS AT 4 P.M. FOR CONSIDERATION.