

Fanwood's Kevin St. Onge To Join Symphony Auction

FANWOOD - On Saturday, February 24, Fanwood resident Kevin St. Onge will take part in an auction, hosted by the New Jersey Symphony

Orchestra (NJSO) to benefit young New Jersey musicians. Serving as the ticket sales chairperson on the auction committee, he has taken on the task of increasing ticket sales for this event.

David Cayer to Discuss Great Jazz Vocalists

WESTFIELD - Great jazz vocalists will be featured in the next event of the Westfield Lecture Series, to take place on Thursday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m.

The lecture, accompanied by historic recordings, will be presented in the Parish House of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue. The event is free.

The discussion will survey the history of jazz vocalists, from the pioneer singers of the 1920s to a sampling of today's young stars. The event will include rare film clips and recordings of classical performances by Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller.

Taped performances by Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Betty Carter will be presented as well.

David Cayer, who will present the program, teaches American Studies and Music at Rutgers University. He also serves as co-editor of the *Annual Review of Jazz Studies*, published by the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies.

The Westfield Lecture Series is sponsored by the Westfield Foundation and The Westfield Y. In upcoming months, two film directors will discuss and present their work.

The series is made possible by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a HEART Grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The February program was developed and funded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, please call Dave Mueller at The Westfield Y, (908) 233-2700, Extension No. 233.

Craft, Collectible Show On Tap

CLARK - The Rosary Society of St. John the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Clark/Linden will sponsor a Flea Market, Craft and Collectible Show Indoors/Outdoors on Sunday, February 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will take place in the Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark. Over 75 qualified dealers will vend new and used merchandise.

The auction will commemorate the 26th Anniversary of its Young Artists Auditions. Since 1975, this program has nurtured and encouraged the next generation of artists by providing them with a supportive environment in which to display their accomplishments.

This season, four young finalists from the competition will perform with the NJSO on Wednesday, March 21.

Featured auction items include an overnight fishing adventure, several weekend getaways and walk-on roles on "The Practice," "Law & Order," and "Frasier." The auction will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on February 24 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. For tickets or further information, please call Mindy Cohen and Rebecca Stark at (908) 322-1100.

Local Residents Audition For Scholarships at NJPAC

NEWARK - Residents from Fanwood, Mountainside, Westfield and Scotch Plains participated in a 12-hour day of auditions for scholarships and openings in its acclaimed arts training programs at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, February 4.

These youngsters included Laine Bonstein of Fanwood, Greg Trimmer of Mountainside, Victoria Fosdal and Adam Biner of Scotch Plains and Gilad Edelman, Alicia Fairfax, Nina Subhas, Lindsay-Rose Sinclair and Kevin Anderson of Westfield.

Antique Show, Sale slated in Chatham

CHATHAM - The Chatham United Methodist Church will hold its 45th Annual Antique Show and Sale at the church, 460 Main Street on Tuesday, February 20, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Wednesday, February 21, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Approximately 36 dealers will exhibit a variety of antiques including furniture, clocks, oil paintings, dolls, textiles and decorative accessories on two floors of the church, with elevator accessibility.

The donation of \$5 will allow unlimited visits to the event. A luncheon and dinner are also slated.



SWEET SOUNDS...Harpist Joanne Christine Hansen of Mountainside performed for the residents and patients of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, Berkeley Heights. Her performance was part of a series held at Runnells through the Music For All Seasons Program of Scotch Plains. The program provides therapeutic performances for those who are usually unable to hear live, top quality, professional music. The series was made possible through the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders' HEART Grant Program.

Westfield Symphony Orchestra to Recognize Westfield Foundation at 2001 Gala in March

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) will commemorate The Westfield Foundation at the WSO's annual gala, "Swingin' on a Star," on Saturday, March 3, at 7 p.m. at The Hilton at Short Hills.

The Westfield Foundation has provided funding to the WSO since 1984 through various grants providing educational programs, concerts and equipment. The most notable educational program, the WSO Caravan, brings symphonic performances personally conducted by Music Director and Conductor David Wroe to schools, nursing homes and facilities for the physically and emotionally handicapped.

"The Westfield residents are fortunate to have a symphony of such high caliber," said Dr. Gerald J. Glasser, Westfield Foundation Chairman of the Grants Committee and President of the Board of Trustees. "The Westfield Foundation is honored to assist The Westfield Symphony Orchestra in its efforts to bring the world's greatest music home to the Westfield community."

The Westfield Foundation, founded in 1975, is a tax-exempt alliance of individual funds established by local citizens to provide financial and other support for community needs. The foundation is one of the more than 550 community foundations across the country. Many of the funds are held as permanent endowments.

"The Westfield Symphony Orchestra is grateful for all of the Westfield Foundation's support over the past sixteen years," said Stephen E. Barcan, WSO Board of Trustees President. "The various grants have provided the Westfield Symphony Orchestra with the opportunity to perform and teach music to all ages."

The "Swingin' on a Star" gala will be an evening of excitement as guests swing dance to the tunes of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and Artie Shaw performed by the Michael Mark band.

The gala will include gourmet dinner, cocktails, a silent as well as live auction featuring the humor of Jon Bramnick, who is fast becoming Central New Jersey's definitive auctioneer for notable charitable causes.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Tickets to the 2001 Gala will be \$150 per person and raffle tickets

are \$25 each. Tickets are available now and will be on sale at the WSO's office at (908) 232-9400.

Barefoot in The Park to Begin This Weekend at CDC

CRANFORD - A trio of talented performers, Amy Lane Watson of Fanwood, Alan Niebuhr of Belleville and Carolee Ashwell-Pross of Metuchen, will take the stage in Neil Simon's *Barefoot in The Park*, beginning this weekend, February 9 and 10 and continuing on February 16, 17, 23 and 24 at the Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC).

Ms. Watson has been performing on stage since age 8 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater Production from the University of Delaware. She is flirting with the idea of forming her own theatre company someday. She will portray Corie Bratter, the bubbling newlywed, in the CDC production.

Mr. Niebuhr has performed in Equity Summer stock in *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Master Class*. He holds a

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Montclair State University. He writes, directs and has studied voice and dance professionally. Mr. Niebuhr will portray Paul Bratter, Corie's husband.

Ms. Ashwell-Pross, who will play widowed homemaker Ethel Banks, has been acting since her sophomore year in high school. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications/Broadcast Journalism and Drama.

She has performed in *A Little Night Music*, *Cabaret*, *I Love My Wife*, *Lovers and Other Strangers*, and *Steel Magnolias* at local theaters.

All performances will be held at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$15. Tickets and further information are available by calling (908) 276-7611. The CDC is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

Musical Club Schedules Valentine's Day Program

WESTFIELD - The Musical Club of Westfield will convene in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield on Wednesday, February 14, at 1 p.m.

Program Chairwoman Edna Borchers has announced that first violin Lubove Schnable, second violin Vivien Lopez, viola Victor Bauer, cellist Leo Wang, and bass viol William Holaday will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's "Concerto for Two Violins." Vivace, Largo ma non troppo and Allegro.

Mezzo-Soprano Barbara Krause, accompanied by Marie-Danielle Mercier at piano, will sing "Una voce fa," "Cavatina from 'Il Barbiere di Siviglia'" by Gioachino Rossini and "Let My Song Fill Your Heart" and "When I Have Sung My Songs" by Ernest Charles.

Duo-pianists Carolle-Ann Mochernuk and Paul Kueter will play "Duetto" by Felix Mendleson and "Gershwiniana," a group of songs arranged by Mr. Kueter. This program

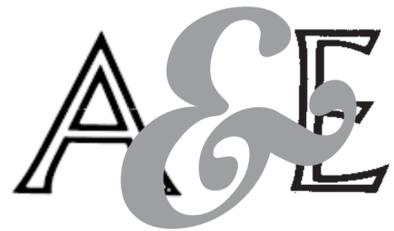


THEY'VE GOT RHYTHM...The Musical Club of Westfield will convene in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield on Wednesday, February 14, at 1 p.m. for a wonderful program of varied music selections. Carolle-Ann Mochernuk and Paul Kueter, duo-pianists, will perform.

will include "I Got Rhythm," "Love Walked In," "Fascinating Rhythm," "My One and Only," "S Wonderful," and "Rhapsody in Blue."

Hospitality Chairwoman Margaret Smith will be assisted by Chhabi Biwas, Elizabeth Montag, Marianne Kruman, Mary Stanke and Ms. Borchers. Programs will be distributed by Caroline Holt, Carolyn Kramer and Aaria Hunton.

For more information about the program, please call (908) 241-6210. For details about membership, please call Membership Chairwoman Evelyn Bleeker at (908) 232-2173.



POPCORN™

Shadow of The Vampire A Method to His Madness

By Michael S. Goldberg

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent



3 popcorns

Shadow of The Vampire brazenly flirts with both sides of your brain — enchanting one lobe and confounding the other.

The sensible you dismisses as absurd this fanciful faux docudrama about the making of the silent horror classic, *Nosferatu* (1922). After all, it's too far-fetched, not to mention an affront to the memory of those film pioneers it chronicles. But the more adventurous you are infatuated with the implausibly outlandish premise that fuels director E. Elias Merhige's haunting homage to filmmaker F.W. Murnau. Just bring on the insanity, sez you. You don't mind the liberties screenwriter Steven Katz takes. If it's the director's contention that the German expressionist at the center of his tale was able to achieve realism by actually hiring a 400-year-old vampire to play the title role, who are you to argue?

This is certainly among the strangest backstage sagas ever told. As the film opens, John Malkovich's Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, already Berlin's acknowledged film genius, tells the cast and crew his plan. Max Schreck, his title player and the penultimate Stanislavskian, will appear only for his scenes, and then always in full makeup. Oh...and it'll only be at night.

Repeatedly, he cuts his, er, acting teeth, in the great Max Reinhardt's acting troupe. And then further ruffling his company's feathers, the director whisks them away from the crea-

ture comforts of their Berlin studio to humble and realistic locations in Czechoslovakia.

Murnau's eager assistants, who wear long lab coats and address him as Herr Doctor, have their curiosity aroused, but that's all. They're used to the unorthodox and creative wives of their artistic boss. And though some emit a note of anxiety when Willem Dafoe as the hideous Schreck makes his first appearance, they are for the most part too self-obsessed to immediately realize what has alighted in their midst. Only Udo Kier, as producer Albin Grau, looks on at the hideous specter and blankly opines, "He's not from Reinhardt's company."

The audience isn't quite so nonchalant, as well they shouldn't be. Dafoe's physical and emotional re-creation of the pointy-eared monster that Max Schreck brought to life (or death, depending on your take) is frighteningly accurate.

Remember though, technically this isn't *Dracula*. Bram Stoker's wife wouldn't sell the movie rights. So they called him Count Orlok/Nosferatu and made minor story changes. Mrs. Stoker sued anyway and, after a successful run, Pan Graf Films wound up burning all the prints (of course, boot copies survived — yup, even then). But no matter, even if you've never seen the original — everyone instantly recognizes who this chillingly back lit demon is.

For no vampire movie retrospective begins without starting images of this ghastly granddaddy of them all. Utterly despicable, he smirks with unholy satisfaction, amused by his shockingly repellent self.

Dafoe has a great time with the stunningly lurid role. And check out the digit extensions. There isn't a receptionist in the Greater Metropolitan Area has anything on this Nosferatu. Equipped with those legendary long fingernails, pallid and soiled by centuries of skull-duggery, delightful Willem exploits this symbolic prop for all its freakish work.

Clutching these fingerfangs to his breast the way a Geisha might nuzzle her fan, he imbues his monster with a strangely offsetting coquetry. But in trying to understand him, don't mistake his curious vanity with the mortal variety. This isn't the sad, old, romanticized vampire who longs for human love or the ultimate peace of death.

There is no moment of Homo sapien warmth within this cold-blooded fiend. To underestimate or attempt to ingratiate yourself with him is a sign of weakness. After curdling your blood with fear, he will bite you. In short, he is the essence of uncompromising evil. Sound a little like your boss? Gosh, what some of us put up with for a great 401K plan.

Other players have just about as much fun with their portrayals, especially John Malkovich in his studious depiction of the F.W. Murnau persona. It is Berlin...Europe between the wars. *Cabaret* and all that. And thus aside from being a great director, completely and effete full of himself, he is an imbibor of his era's decadence. In a way, he is the other monster. The kind that contends society should sanction his behavior. Surely he must be accorded dispensation for his social trespasses by virtue of the inestimable good his vision will do for mankind.

The difference is, Malkovich's Murnau is not inherently evil. Convinced of his mission, the film pioneer has appointed himself the keeper of posterity.

And in his zeal to preserve on celluloid this vampire-turned-method actor extraordinaire, he winds up biting off more than he can chew, to coin a phrase.

Eventually, the film's two forces go at loggerheads. The climax approaches. The sparks fly. Man against beast, with a pretty girl, actress Greta Schroeder (Catherine McCormack) as Nosferatu's heart's desire, thrown in for good measure. Naturally, or rather, unnaturally, the cast and crew are not immune to the cataclysmic fallout. The blood flows. The body count mounts.

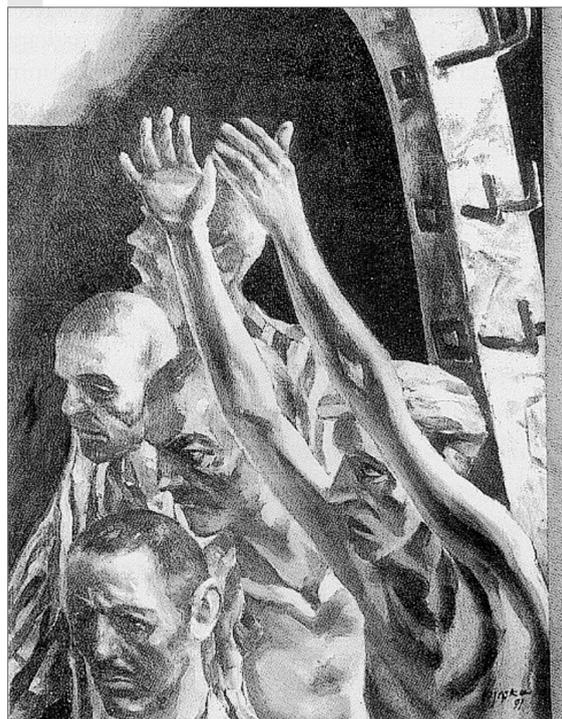
Yet in an operationally self-effacing statement about the towering arrogance of art, the cameras keep rolling. Whew! Pretty nutty stuff.

Thinking what price glory, such sang-froid has us abashed. But hey, none of this is true, is it? Well, not all of it, right? Schreck lived until 1936 and made a few more films. And yes, he had been with Reinhardt. Wonder if Actor's Equity knew he was a vampire? Anyway, if he has any living relatives, what must they think of this outrageous contention?

Insofar as the golden boy is concerned, he is credited with influencing a very young Alfred Hitchcock when he studied under him in Berlin. Eventually making it to Hollywood, he had notable success with Fox, and in the South Seas continued his groundbreaking work with location filmmaking. A little while later, F.W. Murnau's still young life and brilliance were snuffed out by a car accident in California.

Hence it is apparent that director E. Elias Merhige's preposterously unconventional paean to this filmmaker captures not the details of his life, but rather the spirit and shadows of his being. And though he took his art seriously, one suspects he was cynic enough to agree that *Shadow of The Vampire* makes for bloody good fun.

Shadow of The Vampire, rated R, is a Lions Gate release of a Saturn Film directed by E. Elias Merhige and stars John Malkovich, Willem Dafoe and Catherine McCormack. Running time: 91 minutes.



DISCOURAGING HATRED...During the last week of February, Union County College will host "Overcoming Hatred/Creating Community," a series of events open to the community dedicated to creating a more civil society through an understanding of the roots of hatred. From Monday, February 26, to Thursday, March 1, an Art and Photography Exhibit will be on display in the Tomasulo Art Gallery in the Kenneth MacKay Library. The works are on loan from the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton and the Hareza Foundation Collection. The pieces, similar to the one pictured above, will depict the Holocaust and other examples of persecution.

The Westfield Lecture Series
Presented by:
David Cayer, Professor at Rutgers University & Co-Editor of the Annual Review of Jazz Studies

Thursday, February 15th
@ 7:30 pm
Parish House
Presbyterian Church
140 Mountain Avenue
Westfield, NJ

Great Jazz Vocalists
(including rare clips of jazz artists such as Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Betty Carter)



This program was developed and funded by The NJ Council of Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Westfield Lecture series is made possible by a H.E.A.R.T. grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Westfield Lecture series is funded by the Westfield Foundation and is sponsored by The Westfield "Y".



For more information, call Dave at The Westfield "Y" 233-2700 ext. 233.

Best Food In Town

Scotch Plains Best Kept Secret!

Maria's Restaurant

Daily Specials

A Soda & A Slice
\$1.75

Pizza Days
Sun-Wed
\$6.95
Take-Out Only

A Restaurant With "Real Homemade Food!"
"All Homemade Pastas, Raviolis, Lasagna"

Try Some of our Famous Lunch Specials Such as...
• Flounder Francaise
• Chicken Murphy
• Homemade Spinach Lasagna or Ravioli

All For Only... **\$6.95** Lunch Only

Hours: Mon-Fri 11-10pm • Sat 12-10pm • Sun 4-9pm
381 Park Ave. • Scotch Plains • (908) 322-2322
• All Major Credit Cards Accepted •

ITALIAN PASTA

Calderone School of Music

THE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Established 1975 Certified Teachers

PIANO • KEYBOARD • ORGAN • ACCORDION
STRINGS • WOODWINDS • BRASS • VOICE • GUITAR • DRUMS

Kindermusik classes for ages 2 to 7

Riverwalk Plaza
34 Ridgedale Avenue • East Hanover
(973) 428-0405

281 Main Street • Millburn
(973) 467-4688