

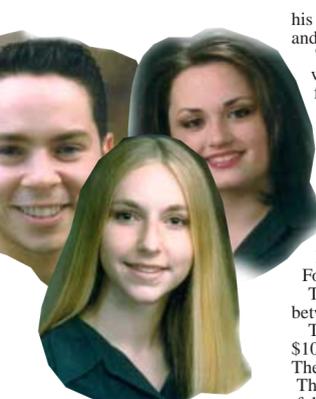
WYACT and Westfield Symphony slate Tribute Concert on New Year's Eve

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre, Inc. (WYACT) and the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) are proud to present "A Tribute to Richard Rodgers," a concert commemorating the centennial of the composer's birth on December 31 at 7:30 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

"The event will be an exciting family-oriented event, organized so that area families will still have quality on New Year's Eve now that the traditional First Night Westfield has been cancelled. All proceeds will benefit the September 11 United Fund initiative and WYACT's free summer programs," stated Cynthia Meryl, WYACT's Artistic Director and performer in the event.

The evening will feature the young talent and professional artists of WYACT and members of the WSO, conducted by Maestro David Wroe.

The audience will be guided through the many lush and varied songs written by this prolific American songwriter, who en-



TALENTED MONTAGE ...Clockwise, from the left, Richard McNanna, Lindsay Sinclair, and Lauren Linder.

riched Broadway and the rest of the world with his memorable melodies. An artist ahead of his time, Rodgers detested racial and cultural intolerance and this is evidenced in much of

his work, such as *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music*.

The New Year's Eve audience will be entertained with songs from *Carousel*, *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *The Sound of Music*, *Pal Joey* and *Babes in Arms*.

"A Tribute to Richard Rodgers" has been made possible through the generosity of the Westfield Foundation, The Union County Chosen Freeholders and the PNC Bank Foundation.

This is the first collaboration between the WSO and WYACT. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 13 and under. They will be available beginning Thursday, November 8, at the following Westfield locations:

- The Westfield Symphony Orchestra office, 224 East Broad Street
- The Westfield Leader, 50 Elm Street
- The Dog Patch, 333 South Avenue, West
- Mail Boxes, Etc., 321 North Avenue, West

For more information, please call (908) 233-3200 or (908) 232-9400.



REGAL DETAIL...The intricate artwork of Danielle Ann Millican will be just one of the highlights at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child's annual "Royal Boutique" in Summit.

Royal Treatment Will Be Offered at Oak Knoll Boutique

SUMMIT - Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit will hold its eighth annual "Royal Boutique" in Tisdall Hall on Ashland Road (across from Memorial Field) on Friday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, November 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Co-chairpersons Deborah Oliver of Summit and Sharon Naso of Martinsville remarked, "The range

of merchandise being represented by our vendors this year was so spectacular, we felt we had to expand the event to two days. Everyone who comes will be enticed to start holiday shopping at the Boutique. We will have something for everyone."

Returning this year are such vendors as We Wear It designers of the jewelry, Sports Minded Unlimited with their collection of sports memorabilia, Discovery Toys with a selection of toys, books, games, and software, and Nanni Originals collection of American Doll clothing and accessories just to name a few.

Thirty new vendors will be making their first appearance at the Royal Boutique, such as the international artist Rosario Ponte with original oil on canvas paintings, The Wine Bottle Cheese Board with unique gifts handcrafted from recycled wine bottles, Tray Chic with hand-painted and decoupage trays, Karen Joy Rosen with hand-painted decorative accessories, Caroline's Cakes featuring southern desserts, LaBelle Cool Warm Hats with headgear for all ages, and many more.

This is a two-day event that brings together an interesting collection of vendors.

Also returning this year is the Royal Bakery with a large assortment of sweet treats and the popular Royal Café, providing light lunch fare and rest before returning to shopping.

All vendors will be donating a portion of their sales to Oak Knoll, so every purchase will help support the school. Admission is free.

For more information, please contact the Oak Knoll Royal Boutique hotline at (908) 522-8100, extension no. 6103.



New Officers Elected To Junior Musical Club of Westfield

WESTFIELD - The Junior division of the Musical Club of Westfield held its first meeting of the season on October 14.

A performing group of high school instrumentalists and vocalists from Westfield and the immediate surrounding area, the slate of new officers for the year has been posted.

This year's officers are: Sasha Bartolf as President, Jason Tammam as Vice-President of Auditions, Angela Kim as Vice-President of Programs, David Louie as Vice-President of Publicity and Internet Affairs, Kelly Yang as Secretary, Diane Park as Treasurer, and Emily Chen as the Director of Hospitality.

The club will hold auditions for membership on Wednesday, November 7, and Wednesday, February 6, 2002, beginning at 7 p.m. Auditions will be held at the home of Audition Chairman Jason Tammam.

Students in grades 8-12, currently studying music, are invited to apply. Two pieces of music must be prepared, on from the period up to and including Beethoven, and the other from the Romantic or Contemporary Periods.

Applications are available by calling Jason at (908) 233-6667.

POPCORN™ Riding In Cars With Boys: Moving Violations

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER

2 & 1/2 popcorns

It was once cynically opined that life is something that happens to you while you're making plans otherwise. An Americanization of the poet Burns' take on it reads, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray."

But no matter how you phrase it, the harsh truth of the matter is that life has a way of letting down even the best of us. Take me for instance. I had hoped to make a big name for myself in the world of taxidermy. But mother and father wouldn't have it: "The Goldbergers have always been film critics, and that's that. In time, you'll see it's all for the best and you'll forget these silly taxidermy notions."

Okay, so I only became a film critic. But the big question is, can you take that disappointment, learn from it and still live a fruitful life? I like to think I have, though I admit to a slight jealous cringe taking hold whenever confronted with an elegantly stuffed owl or fox.

Certainly disappointment is a test of character, and that's undoubtedly the key lesson Beverly D'Onofrio imparts to us in director Penny Marshall's nostalgic but soppy adaptation of her autobiography, *Riding In Cars With Boys*.

Fifteen years old in 1968 and already showering unrequited loves with samples of her poetry, Beverly (Drew Barrymore) is an aspiring writer with dreams of attending college. But when the high school's big football hunk dusts off the romantic lass by purposely embarrassing her, a life-changing set of events is put in motion.

When the dust of disgruntlement settles, Beverly finds herself pregnant and parentally pressured to marry Raymond (Steve Zahn), a goofy drunk with great potential for becoming a full-fledged dope addict.

Shortly thereafter enters Jason, the child whose rearing winds up taking precedence over Beverly's academic ambitions. To make sure that fact is not lost on Jason, Beverly makes sure to remind him of it at every available opportunity.

Told in flashback by the understandably guilt-ridden Jason (Adam Garcia), just as a publishing house is about to make a decision on Beverly's finally completed tome about the trials and tribulations of motherhood, *Riding In Cars With Boys* isn't quite sure of its destination. Before we realize that this is also Jason's story, it's all about long-suffering Beverly's dashed dreams. We feel sorry for her. But then Jason's innocent victim status begins to share primacy with Mom's tale of woe.

We are forced to reconsider. And reconsider again. In Ping-Pong fashion, she's a good mother, then she's a bad mother, and then she's a good mother again. And on and on it goes, for a bit longer than necessary.

So all right already. We get the gist. Neither Mom nor Jason is to blame for the particular flavor of dysfunction that they share. It's just that director Marshall's

filmic translation of that philosophical observation is more tedious than profound. But the acting is good.

Heaping on the schmaltz and looking like she ate a little of it, too, Drew Barrymore earns big sympathy as Beverly. But top thespian kudos goes to James Woods as her police officer dad. It's his symbolic shotgun that forces Beverly's ill-starred marriage to ne'er-do-well Raymond, ostensibly saving face for the D'Onofrio family while ruining her life.

We're abashed by the cop's conservative stance. And we are duly mortified for Beverly when he issues a public statement of his discomfiture at her wedding: "Let's face it. We all know why we're here." Yet via his shrewdly understated performance, Mr. Woods manages to speak volumes about the winds of sociological change, practically winning the dad dispensation by depicting him as the unwitting product of his times.

Also helping establish a sense of time and place is Brittany Murphy as Beverly's best friend Fay who, it just so happens, has a girl baby at just about the same time and under rather similar circumstances.

Unfortunately, the coincidence doesn't stop there, but instead chooses to wend its insidious way through the story like something you'd expect to see in an old Jane Wyman-Rock Hudson movie. You know the one. Where he goes to medical school just so he can cure her blindness (*Magnificent Obsession*, 1954).

While the contrivance here isn't quite that farfetched, being raised on such theatrical porridge has doubtless vaccinated me against a more opprobrious reaction to Ms. D'Onofrio's conveniently planned accidents.

Problem is that while Penny Marshall's movie oozes with sentiment, a lot of the emotional glop doesn't work to make a point. And while there's certainly some reward in its heartwarming notions, a better tuned plot would surely make *Riding In Cars With Boys* a much more enjoyable trip.

Riding In Cars With Boys, rated PG-13, is a Columbia Pictures release directed by Penny Marshall and stars Drew Barrymore, James Woods and Steve Zahn. Running time: 123 minutes.

GL Hilltop Players to Bring Bard's Merry Wives to Stage

BERKELEY HEIGHTS-The Governor Livingston (GL) Players are currently in rehearsal for their upcoming production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

A cast of 31, which includes students from middle and elementary schools, will bring this farce to life on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 15-17. Thursday's production will start at 7:30 p.m., while the Friday and Saturday performances will start at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$6.

The play is directed by Judith Mulder, a GL teacher, with choreography by students Jessica Swensen and Cristina Girgis.

The Elizabethan costumes, which have been designed by Ms. Mulder, are being sewn with the help of neighborhood moms. The creative set is being constructed by Technical Director Ken Stiefel and Assistant Technical Director Chris Riley.



UPBEAT FOLKSINGER...Daria will present a mixture of favorite songs from American and World Folk Music on Saturday, November 17, at 10:30 a.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library. This program, sponsored by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library, is intended for school-aged children and adults. Tickets are required for admission and will be available free at the Children's Reference Desk for Westfield Library cardholders starting Saturday, November 3. Remaining tickets will be sold to non-residents beginning Saturday, November 10. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. For more information, please call the Children's Department at (908) 789-4090.

Pen & Ink

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Retrieving my car in the mall parking lot, I can't help but notice the droves of New York vehicles taking up legitimate Jersey parking spaces. If we Jerseyans are so fanatical about our malls, why is it that we can't keep New Yorkers from invading our stores on the weekends? The sales tax issue, you say? Tough cookies. Funny, the drivers didn't exactly have poker straight, spray-less hair with perfect skin. But, then again, the toxic smog might have been obstructing my view.

The embittered battle between New Yorkers and New Jerseyans reaches back beyond our generations. In his book, "Twin Towers," Angus Kress Gillespie points out that almost 100,000 tons of material unearthed during the excavation and construction for the towers would have normally been brought over to New Jersey. Instead, New York ceded and decided to accommodate it. However, Jersey stored endless mounds of steel until New York was ready to take it for the towers' construction. Much like the lesser child left holding the bag, Jersey has always been eyed for and considered the place to dump on.

So, as far as any sibling rivalry incited by New Yorkers, I'm not havin' it. This isn't the time for these related states to aim fire stemming from their differences, but to rebuild with perhaps a more united foundation - one free from petty stereotypes and gripes.

As for myself, I promise to do less grumbling under my breath when it comes to giving up my parking space to a New Yorker.

18th Annual Antiques Show & Sale
November 10 10am - 5pm **November 11 11am - 4pm**
 at Tunis-Ellicks Historic House
 Village & Millbrook Roads • New Vernon
 Admission \$3.50 • \$3.00 with this ad
Public Preview Party Nov 9, 6 to 9pm • \$10.00
 Proceeds Benefit Harding Township Historical Society
Information: 973-292-0161

Tel/Fax 908.928.9218

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 Westfield, NJ 07090
 www.magicbymerill.com

'A Sense of History' Art Exhibit Inspired By Miller-Cory

WESTFIELD - "A Sense of History," an art exhibit and sale of the original works of Westfield artist Sandra Frank, will be displayed at the Miller-Cory House Museum on Sunday, November 4, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Ms. Frank is a Miller-Cory volunteer. Her work has been featured in several shows and galleries in New York and New Jersey. Many of her watercolor pieces have received artistic achievement awards in both states.

The watercolors featured at Miller-Cory capture the essence of the living museum and furnished 1740 farmhouse.

Miller-Cory will also host its Annual Apple Bee on Sunday, November 11, from 2 to 5 p.m. Apple cider pressing, dried apples, and apple crafts will be demonstrated throughout the afternoon.

For more information, please call (908) 232-1776.

Westfield Natives, Producers Announce Their Latest Projects

WESTFIELD - Former Westfield residents Edward Einhorn and David A. Einhorn have revealed their latest project as producers.

Their "Untitled Theater Co. No. 61" has underwritten a festival of plays by Eugene Ionesco. Edward traveled to Paris last summer to get permission and rights from Ionesco's daughter for 39 (almost all) of his productions.

Although Ionesco's name is a household word in Europe, few Americans are familiar with his quick, unusual wit that has entranced his New York audiences.

The famous *Rhinoceros* was satirical and popular with audiences.

This "Shorts Program" includes 20-minute plays presented in combination with the more traditionally lengthened plays. One of these is *To Prepare a Hard Boiled Egg*, in which a single actor discussed, in grim and solemn detail, the ordinarily simple process.

Also included in the Ionesco Festival are *The Motor Show*, and *Tales for Children Under Three Years Old*.

Edward, the artistic producer of all of the plays, personally directed a number of Ionesco plays himself. While, his brother David, kept himself busy with other aspects of play producing.

Igniting his interest in Ionesco's work, Edward has been grateful to David, eight years his senior, for reading Ionesco's plays to him when he was only seven years of age.

Their mother, Jane Einhorn, who assists with their publicity, has attended and enjoyed many of the plays and hopes to attend all 39.

Currently, the plays are in the process at various Off and Off-Off-Broadway theaters. They will continue until Sunday, December 16.

For festival information, please call (212) 387-2043 or visit www.ionescosfestival.com.