



SET TO PREMIERE...*Dear Frankie*, starring Emily Mortimer and Gerard Butler, and 20 more new movies will premiere in Filmmakers Symposium. For more information, please call (800) 531-9416 or visit [www.privatescreenings.org](http://www.privatescreenings.org).

## Twelve-Week Film Symposium To Kick Off in MS on Feb. 28

**MOUNTAINSIDE**—The Filmmakers Symposium, which has hosted 1,023 movie premieres over the past 14 years, will kick off at Loews Mountaineer on Monday evenings beginning on February 28. The second session in MountainSide will start on April 11.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming session include *Crash* with Sandra Bullock and Brendan Fraser, *In Her Shoes* with Cameron Diaz, *Monster In Law* with Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez, *An Unfinished Life* with Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman, and many more.

Oscar winners and nominees, who have been guest speakers at the symposium, include Ethan Hawke, Danny Aiello and Famke Janssen.

"The series will always be flexible in

order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise," said Symposium Director Chuck Rose. "Wonderful surprises and fantastic celebrities can pop out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible." Mr. Rose added, "In the past two years, we premiered 91 movies, which later earned a total of 38 Oscar, 44 British Academy, 39 Golden Globe, and 50 Independent Spirit Award nominations."

Loews Monmouth Mall will also host the symposium on Tuesday evenings starting on March 1, with the second session commencing on April 12.

The series is open to the public, however, seating is limited and early enrollment is advised. The subscription cost is \$151 for six weeks or \$269 for 12 weeks.

For more information or to register, please call (800) 531-9416.



INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE...The Wednesday, February 9, concert by the Musical Club of Westfield will feature members, pictured, left to right: George Toenes (clarinetist), Mary Beth McFall (pianist) and Jenny Cline (flutist).

## Musical Club of Westfield To Hold Concert on Feb. 9

**WESTFIELD**—The Musical Club of Westfield will present a concert on Wednesday, February 9, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield.

Violinist Momoko Matsumura of Clifton has been invited back to perform an unaccompanied solo, *Sonata No. 4, Op. 27* by Eugene Ysaie.

Pianist John Blasdale of Whippany will play *Sonata in A minor - Rondo-Finale* by Mozart, followed by *Sonata in C* by D. Scarlatti. He will also perform an original composition, *Sonata Movement in G major*.

For the vocal portion of the program, soprano Beth Donley Celantano of Bernardsville will sing "Gretchen at the Spinning Wheel" by Franz

Schubert, "Allerseelen" by R. Strauss, "Sleep Now" by S. Barber, "To the Children" by S. Rachmaninoff, and "Tell Me, Oh Blue Sky" by R. Giannini.

The trio of Westfield flutist Jenny Cline, Roselle pianist Mary Beth McFall, and Westfield clarinetist George Toenes will perform Michael Webster's arrangement of tunes from Bizet's *Carmen*, including "Prelude," "Habanera," "Seguidilla," "Entr'acte," "Toreador Song" and "Gypsy Song."

The co-chairpersons of the hospital-ity committee are Rosemary Bauer and Virginia Toenes. The chairperson is Clarissa Nolde.

For membership information, please call Evelyn Bleeke at (908) 232-2173.

## Free Bugle-Training Workshop With Dr. Schlosberg Scheduled

**WESTFIELD**—The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) and Buglers Across America will initiate a tuition-free bugle-training workshop for people of all ages who are interested in learning to play TAPS.

The workshop, which will be instructed by Dr. Ted Schlosberg, NJWA Founder and Executive Director, will be held on the first Saturday of each month beginning Saturday, February 5, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the NJWA annex, located at 361 South Ave., East in

Westfield.

Bugles will be available for those who do not have a trumpet or bugle.

Dr. Schlosberg, a specialist in playing musical instruments has been playing TAPS since 1967. He has trained students in the antiphonal and solo styles of TAPS playing. In addition to playing TAPS for public and military ceremonies, the echo team played for the Westfield Community observance of 9/11.

Dr. Schlosberg performs solo TAPS for individual military and police funerals as well as public and private ceremonies.

After completing the workshop and passing the TAPS audition, participants will be offered the opportunity to become a member of the Buglers Across America organization.

For more information and to register for the workshop, please call (908) 789-9696, extension 17.

## Pieces Production

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being under the spotlight in a theatre that Ms. Yarusi noted is right down the street from the popular Broadway musical *Wicked*, she said the experience was "surreal, and certainly one we will never forget."

Ms. Yarusi also noted that her mother, Susan Sussman of Springfield, shouted a line from the audience during the night of the performance "that truly stole the show."

Mr. Howie told Ms. Yarusi that he might like to invite the ladies back for an encore performance sometime in the future.

In the meantime, the women are relishing their more than five minutes of fame and are pleased to know that they were involved in a sold-out performance.

"We learned that some of us who wrote our own material now fancy ourselves as writers. We pushed ourselves to limits," said Ms. Yarusi, adding that having producers and Broadway experts such as Mr. Howie acknowledge their writing skills is rewarding.

Ms. Yarusi, who added that the ladies' performance was also covered by "Eyewitness News" on ABC, shared that she might even consider writing her own show or a book.

## Freeman's Unholy

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"It was amazing to see my work on screen," he said.

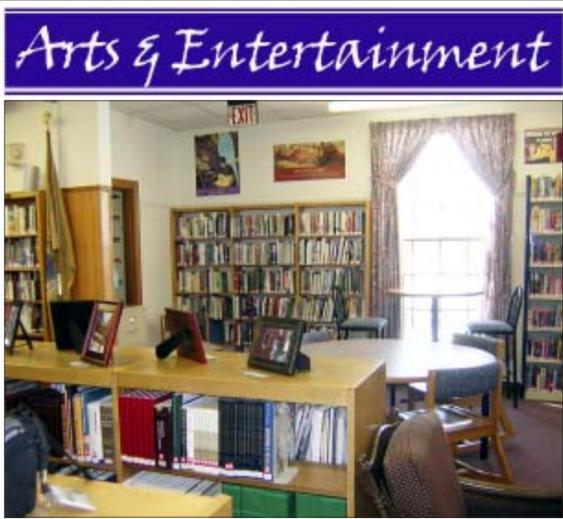
Straight from Tisch, Mr. Freeman became Executive Producer of *Sky Whisper* in The Bronx.

He has also served as Associate Producer on *Zombie Honey Moon*, a romantic comedy that is currently being shopped around the film festival circuit.

Mr. Freeman said he has always been especially attracted to the genres of comedy and horror.

"Comedy is very hard to write, so it's good to have a collaborator," he said. "But, I like to write horror on my own."

Crediting his mother, Jane Freeman, as a great source of inspiration, he said, "Since my mom was an English teacher, she really molded me into a creative person."



PICTURE-PERFECT...The Teen Section at the Fanwood Memorial Library features a special exhibition of photography by Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School student Briana Falco. The public is invited to view the artwork through Saturday, February 26.

## Falco's Photography Exhibited in Library's Revamped Teen Section

By MICHELLE HELEN Le POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**FANWOOD**—The Teen Group section of the Fanwood Memorial Library, which was recently redesigned to include new shelving, tables and chairs, is spotlighting the photography of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) junior Briana Falco.

Through her daughter, who is also an SPFHS student, Nancy Kipping, who heads up the Teen Group, became familiar with Briana's photography.

"For Briana, it's more than just a hobby," Ms. Kipping said when asked about why the student's artwork was selected for the exhibition, which features almost a half-dozen photographs from Briana's trip to Italy last summer.

"Colorful Scarves," "Lion of the Gate" and "Sky Blue" were shot in Venice, while "Cortona Chair" was taken in Cortona and "The Door of Shadows" was photographed in Pariana, Italy.

Briana told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that she has been interested in photography since the seventh grade, and her

"I'm still experimenting at this stage," shared Briana, "and I really do like black and white photography." She added that she would rather take photographs of people than everyday objects.

Her portfolio also includes pictures she has taken of her grandparents and sister. She noted that she would like to take more classes at the NJCVA to develop and sharpen her skills.

"A lot of my friends don't know that



"Sky Blue, Venice, Italy (2004)" by Briana Falco.

I do photography in my spare time," she revealed.

Ms. Kipping hopes that more talented teens will be encouraged to bring their artwork to the library to be displayed.



"Lion of the Gate, Venice, Italy (2004)" by Briana Falco.

love for the art form came into focus while taking a photography class at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVA) with Nancy Ori, who studied under Ansel Adams.

She intends to reach out to art teachers in the school district in order to find some more creative students interested in showing off their skills.

While the new amenities to the Teen Section should make the area more accessible for the teen-aged patrons, Ms. Kipping said she "thought with teen artwork up, it would make it more interesting."

Briana's photographs will be exhibited through Saturday, February 26. The library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road in Fanwood.

## Sunday Afternoon Concerts Slated at School in Watchung

**WATCHUNG**—Faculty and friends at Mount Saint Mary Academy, located at 1645 Route 22 in Watchung, will host their Sunday Afternoon Concert Series on February 13 at 3 p.m. in the school parlor.

Participants include Margaret O'Connell, Joanne Hansen, Joanna Gibson, Edward Menzer, Susan De Furianni, Robert Phillips, Sister Mary

Gomolka, as well as Class of 2005 members Christine Ciuffreda and Stephanie Mok.

Classical and contemporary works will be performed with flute, harp, piano, voice and guitar.

Refreshments will follow and free-will donations are accepted. In case of inclement weather, please call (908) 789-0994, extension no. 4529.

## Trials and Tribulations Of Adoption Captured In 'Nanchang Diary'

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**FANWOOD**—A Fanwood father's record of the international adoption of his daughter has turned into a loving tribute, as well as a means to let other prospective adoptive parents learn about the process.

Carmelo Tartivita, formerly of Westfield, has written "The Nanchang Diary: The Adoption of Victoria Santina Huang He Ping Tartivita," which chronicles the timeline that for Mr. Tartivita and his wife, Patricia, culminated in Victoria's adoption in China and subsequent return to the United States.

"I wrote 'The Nanchang Diary' for my daughter. I know someday she will have questions about her adoption and I wanted it to be less of a mystery for her," Mr. Tartivita told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

said Mr. Tartivita, of Victoria.

The idea for "The Nanchang Diary" originated with a series of e-mails Mr. Tartivita wrote to keep friends and family updated on the adoption proceedings. Once he decided to compile his writings into a book, he worked in the evenings after 10 p.m.

"That was one of the changes having a child brought into my life. I had to write after she was in bed," the author said.

"Never in our lives did we think we would ever go to China," said Mr. Tartivita, "but it was what we had to do to bring us to Victoria."

Mr. and Mrs. Tartivita plan to immerse Victoria in her Chinese culture by providing Chinese language lessons, supplemented by trips to museums, and perhaps one day, a return trip to China.

Being part of a multicultural family is not new to the Tartivitas. Mr.



WELCOMING VICTORIA...In Nanchang, China, Carmelo Tartivita poses with his daughter, Victoria, who was adopted at 13 months old. She is now four.

Victoria, who was 13 months old when the Tartivitas adopted her, is now four years old.

"I also hope the book is helpful to other people thinking about international adoption," Mr. Tartivita continued. "We had no idea what was in store for us and we really did not understand the process. Although it was a happy time for us, it was also a nervous and stressful time."

The Tartivitas had battled infertility for seven years before they made the decision to adopt in the spring of 2000. They brought their daughter home to Fanwood in January of 2002.

In the two years it took to adopt Victoria, the Tartivitas endured mountains of paperwork, confusion over fingerprints that required the assistance of Senator Robert Torricelli's office and the attacks of September 11, 2001, which for a brief while cast a shadow of uncertainty over the international adoption process.

"I was, and still am, in awe of her,"

Tartivita was himself born in Sicily and immigrated to the United States and Westfield when he was four years old. Mrs. Tartivita comes from a combined Irish-Czechoslovakian family.

The couple met after college graduation, then together attended graduate school at Seton Hall University where they both earned masters degrees in English literature. Mr. Tartivita currently works for a small textile company, while Mrs. Tartivita teaches English at County College of Morris.

"I wanted to get 'The Nanchang Diary' out there in the hopes that it will do someone, somewhere some good," explained Mr. Tartivita when asked about the book's value to others who are thinking of international adoption.

Published by PublishAmerica, "The Nanchang Diary" is available at most local bookstores.

There just may be another book in Mr. Tartivita's future. Fourteen months ago, the Tartivitas welcomed a biological daughter, Isabella, into their lives.

## TTP Prepares Alliance's Family Week Festivities

**CRANFORD**—The Theater Project (TTP), Union County College's (UCC) professional theater company, is preparing for New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Eighth Annual "Family Week at the Theatre" from Saturday, March 5, through Sunday, March 13.

A statewide festival offering free and discounted tickets to youngsters and their families, the event has been developed to encourage families to attend professional theatre together by making the experience affordable, educational and exciting.

Across the state, young people (ages 5 to 18) will receive free tickets to over 100 performances and special events, including free classes, workshops and backstage tours.

Since its inception in 1998, the program has served over 45,000 youngsters and their parents with professional theatre performances and activi-

ties. The following programs will be offered this year:

- "Animal Babbble" - ages 4 to 9 on Saturday, March 5, at 11 a.m. at UCC's Elizabeth campus, and on Sunday, March 6, at 1 p.m. at UCC's Cranford campus;

- "Speaking Up and Writing It Down" - ages 12 and up on Sunday, March 13, at 1 p.m. at the Cranford campus;

- "A Few Steps in a Stranger's Shoes: Interactive Theater for Life Skills" - ages 12 and up on Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m. at the Cranford campus;

- "New Artists Showcase: Third Annual Young Playwrights' Competition Performance" - ages 12 and up on Sunday, March 13, at 3 p.m. at the Cranford campus.

For more information, please call TTP at (908) 659-5189.

# Westfield Symphony Orchestra

SAT. FEB. 5, 2005 8PM  
Presbyterian Church in Westfield

## BRAHMS Symphony No. 3 in F

VAUGHN WILLIAMS Serenade to Music  
ALDRIDGE Concerto for Violin  
(Boris Kucharsky, violin)

FREE PRE-CONCERT LECTURE BY ROBERT ALDRIDGE AT 7PM  
(Robert Aldridge is the Music Alive Composer-in-Residence)

Call (908) 232-9400 for tickets or visit any of our ticket outlets:

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Lancaster Ltd. • Town Book Store  
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