

Arts & Entertainment

Kosinski Transforms Scars into Art in 'Cicatrix'

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

AREA - "Cicatrix" is a medical term for a scar that forms over a wound. It is also the title of an exhibit of black-and-white photographs by Loren Elyse Kosinski of New Providence recently displayed at the Fleetwood Museum of Art and Photographia in North Plainfield.

Ms. Kosinski's focus on the imperfections of human anatomy truly present an interesting perspective of the human body.

At first glance, the black-and-white quality imparts a fuzzy and unfocused effect; this is the way she gets the viewer to look beyond the obvious and into that which is hidden deep within the photograph.

"[W]hile the photographs are very much about the scars, they are more about the shapes and textures that scars create. When reduced to black and white, the skin tones and scar types take on a more universal appearance," said Ms. Kosinski.

The result is that Ms. Kosinski's photographic technique turns the human body into a landscape.

Her interest in the unusual subject of scars stems from her own personal scars.

While involved in a self-portrait project, she tried to photograph herself in a way that did not show them.

"When I realized that this was the case, I instead began to focus on the scars. I branched out from my own scars to those of my friends and family," she said.

Originally photographed in color, the project was switched to black and white when she realized the true outcome of her work.

"At first it was about what the scar was, how it was obtained and the psychological impact of that event," she continued.

"However, I came to realize that what I was actually trying to talk about was the universal themes of imperfection, pain and mortality - all things of which scars speak. As a result, I began photographing [the scars] in black and white."

Ms. Kosinski is a 2003 graduate of New Providence High School. Last month, she graduated as an Honors Scholar from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University with a double major of Photography and Psychology. She is a member of Psi Chi, the Psychology Honor Society.

Ms. Kosinski's future may take her in several directions, but she does not plan to work directly in the field

of photography. She would like to go to graduate school to study psychology and possibly attend medical school.

"For me, photography and psychology are married in the subject matter that I create art about," she said, adding that she wants her photographs to continue to be influenced by the psychological phenomena that intrigue her.

Currently, she is working on a project involving medical imagery and the lungs of tuberculosis patients.

"This... is about the juxtaposition of the uncomfortable nature of death and the necessity to become comfortable with [it] in order to get past the fear of it," she explained.

Ms. Kosinski has exhibited her work at New York University as part of the senior Bachelor of Fine Arts degree exhibitions and at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey Members Show.

One piece of Ms. Kosinski's is currently on display at the New Providence Public Library.

Many examples from "Cicatrix" can be found at laurenkosinski.com.



COFFEE BREAK...Stuart Snowden of Stuart Audio/Visual in Westfield arrives early Sunday morning at the Northside Trattoria in Westfield to transform the restaurant into a mini-cinema with two large screens that would show *Chinese Coffee*, a film written by Westfield resident Ira Lewis. At right, Jamie Lynn Drohan, the director of operations, host and producer for Westfield and Union's local Comcast cable networks, interviews Mr. Lewis.

Premiere of *Chinese Coffee* Percolates

艾拉 Trattoria Plays Host to Westfield Playwright's Work 咖啡

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

WESTFIELD - Ira Lewis, an 18-month resident of Westfield, strolled into Northside Trattoria and through repeated visits over a few weeks' time

reer history unfolded to his newfound friends. A child actor, adult actor and playwright, he wrote the screenplay for *Chinese Coffee*, a play Al Pacino purchased, filmed and directed.

Sensing a story, *Westfield Leader*

and others at the bar entertained the idea of showing the Pacino-directed film, which was a hit recently at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City.

With the cooperation of a number of behind-the-scenes local folks, the Trattoria became the staging location of the film last Sunday, June 10.

Owners of the Trattoria, Chris Boyle of the Culinary Institute and Tim Boyle of Paris's Le Cordon Bleu, provided cocktails and theme-related hors d'oeuvres of rice dumplings, tuna and other scrumptious delicacies.

Tim Boyle artistically executed the Asian ambiance of gold and red lanterns, painted screens and exotic fronds and flowers from the Flower Zone.

Stuart Snowden of Stuart's Audio/Visual in Westfield and his crew worked their magic to turn the back room into a giant screening room and placed a plasma TV in the front room of the restaurant for the overflow viewing area.

Before and after the screening of the movie, the audience learned from the playwright how the famed Pacino selected and starred in this screenplay with the late Jerry Orbach.

Chinese Coffee was first produced as a stage play at the Actor's Studio in

New York where Mr. Lewis played one of the two leads. "Roy Scheider came to one of the performances," Mr. Lewis recalled for the intimate audience, "and told me afterwards that Al Pacino stood and watched the whole play. I later found out that



Ira Lewis

Pacino wanted to do the play; he very much wanted it for himself because the world of these characters spoke to him on such a personal level," the playwright explained.

"All I ever wanted to do was write what was in my heart."

~Al Pacino/ Harry Levine

"*Chinese Coffee* is about the struggle to stay true to your own nature in a world that is relentlessly trying to denature you," the author said.

Mr. Lewis shared with the audience of about 50 people that Pacino's acting in the film is "comparable to his most extraordinary work."

The film, shot in four weeks in 2000, has yet to be released to commercial movie theaters. "The movie isn't des-

IRA LEWIS - CHINESE COFFEE



Michael Goldberger reviews *Chinese Coffee* on pg. 23



Ira Lewis's friends Cheryl Hartley and husband, Dan Carter, right, came from Manhattan to support their friend. "We've known Ira forever," the actress said.

got to know many of the patrons at the bar/restaurant.

During those ensuing weeks, his ca-

and *Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* Publisher and Trattoria patron Horace Corbin was fascinated. Mr. Corbin

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Carriage House Features Jersey City Poet Jack Wiler

By MARYLOU MORANO
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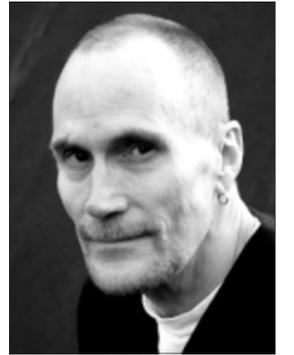
FANWOOD - Jersey City poet Jack Wiler was the featured reader at a recent meeting of the Carriage House Poetry Series.

Mr. Wiler read poems from his recent book, *Fun Being Me*, an anthology named "one of the best

books of poetry in 2006" by about.com.

His poetry shows sensitivity to the elements of life that are both ordinary as well as extraordinary.

"Ideas for poems come from what is around me. From things I see and



Jack Wiler

Learn All the Right Moves at the Workshop

WESTFIELD - The 2007 Westfield Summer Workshop's (WSW) Dance and Movement Department, chaired by Denise Bellog, offers programs that appeal to a variety of interest and ability levels.

The 2007 WSW includes classes in arts and crafts, communications, drama, music, musical theater and special interests. There are separate mini-workshops for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first graders, which contain a variety of artistic experiences in age-appropriate classes.

The 2007 Westfield Summer Workshop will be held at Edison Intermediate School, located at 800 Rahway Avenue in Westfield, from Monday, June 25, until Friday, July 27. Classes are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with an early morning drop-off available at 7:30 a.m. Students may also enroll in Afternoon Adventures, a program given in conjunction with the Westfield YMCA.

For more information on the 2007 WSW, call (908) 518-1551, visit 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield or log on to njworkshopforthearts.com.

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hear, such as the stories I hear people tell," he explained.

A writer all his life, Mr. Wiler began to seriously write poetry in 1978. Although he has been employed in various industries throughout the years, he has always managed to find time to write.

"I have adapted several strategies for finding the time to write, and I use whatever works for me at the time. I have even written on the PATH train going to and from work," he continued.

Mr. Wiler works as a visiting poet with the Geraldine Dodge Foundation, through which he brings his poetry to New Jersey public school students and conducts poetry seminars for teachers.

He has been a featured poet in the Distinguished Poets Series at Passaic Community College, and he has twice been a featured reader at the Waterloo Poetry Festival in Stanhope.

His first book of poetry, *I Have No Clue*, was published in 1996. In addition, Mr. Wiler's work has appeared in several anthologies. He has also worked as an editor for *Long Shot Magazine*.

Mr. Wiler calls *Fun Being Me* "a book about salvation and redemption."

"It's a book that will appeal to all people, whether they like poetry or not," he said.

The Carriage House audience heartened Mr. Wiler.

"I could tell the audience cared a lot about poetry. They enjoyed the reading, which made it a truly enjoyable experience for me."

The last reading for the season in the Carriage House Poetry Series will be held on June 12 in the Kurran Art Center.

The guest will be Anna Evans, who will speak on formal poetry and read examples of her own poems, including such forms as sestinas, villanelles and sonnets.

For more information on the Carriage House Poetry Series, call (908) 889-7223 or (908) 889-5298.

For more information about Jack Wiler, visit jackwiler.com.