

PeachCraft Announces Auditions for 'Beauty'

SUMMIT - PeachCraft Studios of Summit announces auditions for its 2012 Summer Musical Theater Conservatory, culminating in three performances of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, produced by Kate Kennedy, Founder and Artistic Director of PeachCraft Studios, and directed by PeachCraft Vocal Arts Conservatory faculty member Adam Gilbert. *Beauty and the Beast*, with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and a book by Linda Woolverton, is based on the 1991 Disney animated feature of the same name.

This successful program, now in its seventh year, runs weekdays from Monday, June 25, to Saturday, July 21, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with public performances on Friday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 21, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Student artists will have the opportunity to hone their musical and dra-

matic talents during an intense rehearsal period before performing in a fully-staged musical in the theater of Chatham High School. In addition to daily music and staging preparation, performers will work individually or in small groups with members of the faculty in order to develop their artistic potential.

Auditions will be held at PeachCraft Studios, located at 371 Springfield Avenue in Summit, on Sundays February 12, February 19, March 11, and March 18 from 2-5 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 26 students ages 10 and up.

To schedule an audition or learn more about the program, please call the studio at (908) 673-1485. For more information about PeachCraft Studios of Drama, Vocal Arts and Filmmaking and the artistic development opportunities it has offered to young actors, vocalists, and filmmakers since 2005, visit www.peachcraft.net.



CELEBRITY FRIENDS...Lucky Lee Corcoran was recently a guest at an exclusive birthday celebration for "Dancing with the Stars" Maksim Chmerkovskiy hosted by Masarati at Neiman Marcus in Short Hills. Ms. Corcoran is President of the Friends of Westfield Symphony whose annual Tour of Notable Homes, featuring five distinguished residences in the Westfield area, will take place on Saturday, June 2. Pictured, left to right, are: Maksim Chmerkovskiy, Lee Corcoran, Tony Dovolani and Val Chmerkovskiy from "Dancing With The Stars."

Musical Club Of Westfield to Present *Waltz and Interlude*

WESTFIELD - The February performance of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held on Wednesday, February 8, at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield. Featured on the program will be music for solo piano and two chamber trios.

Clarinetist George Toenes, flutist Jenny Cline, and pianist Mary Beth McFall, longtime collaborators, will join forces again to perform the *Waltz and Interlude* by Clare Grundman. Known primarily as a composer of band music, much of which has become an essential part of the symphonic band repertoire, Mr. Grundman also wrote charming chamber pieces.

Pianist Yuly Verbitsky will perform solo piano music by romantic composers Chopin and Schumann. On the program will be Frederic Chopin's Grande Valse Brillante No. 2 in A flat major, Op. 34, No. 1, and his Nocturne in A flat major, Op. 55, No. 1, as well as Chopin's Polish Songs, Op. 74, as transcribed by Franz Liszt. To conclude his portion of the program, Mr. Verbitsky will perform another Liszt transcription, *Widmung (Dedication)* by Robert Schumann.

Ms. Cline and Ms. McFall will be joined by a guest performer, oboist Nora Palmieri, to perform the Trio for Flute, Oboe, and Piano by British composer Madeleine Dring. Although Dring was a student of Ralph Vaughan Williams, the trio has a very French sound, reminiscent of the work of Francis Poulenc.

The chairman for the program is Merrilyn Crane, and hospitality will be provided by the club's hospitality committee.

The performance is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the program, to give those in attendance the opportunity to meet the performers.

The Musical Club of Westfield, now in its 96th season, offers scholarships to promising young musicians who are pursuing a musical education. Membership in the club is open to anyone who is interested in music. Those wishing information about membership in the Musical Club of Westfield as a performer or an associate member may call the membership chairman at (908) 232-2173. In the event of inclement weather, the performance will take place one week later, on Wednesday, February 15, also at 1 p.m.

School Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

dren at Washington School but enjoys volunteering his time annually for the production. He said he begins sorting through song selections as early as the summer before.

"I think this year's show had some of the hardest material I've seen in my 12 years," he said. "But we got to take it to a whole new level."

He also spoke about incorporating some updated technology such as two wireless guitars and reading sheet music via an iPad.

"Roadsters and Jokesters" was produced by Josie O'Brien, Tom Fuccillo, Mike Constantinou, Silvia Stark and Mike Guarnuccio, and directed by Katie Garguilo and Ralph Venturino, many of whom also had roles on stage.

Carl Pansini, who produced last year and performed the couples' dance number with his wife, Suzanne, raved about the way such a large number of parents come together both on stage and behind the scenes.

"There's just so much talent...and people are so into it and really look forward to it every year," he said.

The show is Washington School's largest fundraiser, with the PTO determining how to best use the proceeds to benefit students.



TEAM GRISWORD...During the Washington School Players' performance last weekend, tap-dancing flight attendants linked arms to show off some fancy footwork as the Grisword family began their cross-country trip as part of "Roadsters & Jokesters," the 65th annual Washington School Show.

POPCORN™
"Red Tails"
...and Stout of Heart
2 and 1/2 popcorns

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
Film Critic

When first the Tuskegee Airmen take to the sky in "Red Tails," director Anthony Hemingway's action-filled chronicle inspired by the African-American 332nd Squadron's service during WWII, you want to be a pilot, too. At least I did. And the six fifteen-year-old boys to my right, who quieted down once the pageantry began, apparently agreed.

Cut it any way you wish, this is a war movie, proving that all black casts are subject to the same bromides that have been a mainstay of the genre ever since the earliest celluloid depictions of man's inability to keep the peace. For the most part we like such fare, an uneasy fact to be reconciled by the civilized we. "Red Tails" delivers it no differently.

Where it diverges, however, says a profoundly eerie thing about patriotism. The Red Tails, so nicknamed for how they've painted the rear wings of their planes, want the right to fight, and yes, even the right to die, for their country. You see, back in the 1940s, Jim Crow felt only white soldiers were good enough for that honor. "Red Tails" corrects him.

Willing to pay the price for said recognition if necessary is the gaggle of dedicated pilots who form the cast's main hub. Bringing their little soap opera to the scenario are bickering bestpals Captain Marty "Easy" Julian, portrayed by Nate Parker, and the finest ace under his command, the daredevil, Joe "Lightning" Little, played by David Oyelowo.

Getting into their bravado-laced saga, learning what drives them, why they squabble and what they admire, we pause in the stark realization that these are kids, that it's they who do our fighting. And although there is scant if any antiwar sentiment intended in this account, just that fact alone makes us want to do away with the whole stinking business.

But that will have to wait until the next film, for alas, here there are Nazis to kill, if they'd only let us. Initially equipped with outmoded but really cool-looking P-40s and allowed only to attack ground installations, the young pilots, like athletes aching for championship competition, yearn to take on the Jerries and prove their worth.

But patience, patience, urges Cuba Gooding, Jr.'s Major Emmanuelle Stance, who commands the men at the Ramitelli air base in Italy. Conscience, father figure and psychologist, by his demeanor alone he stresses that hundreds of years of prejudice

can't be eradicated in one fell swoop of heroics. Still, they must be vigilant and always ready.

Meanwhile, forces are at work. Fighting the good fight for his men, going toe to toe with the white face of reality, Terrence Howard's Colonel A.J. Bullard advocates the Red Tails' case, both at command headquarters and back in the U.S. Championing his pilots, he argues for this small but important step in a greater cause doubtless not lost on him.

In camp, the flyboys alternately brood and swagger, sure they'll never see real action, but confident they'll make quick work of Hitler and Co. if they ever do. They anxiously pass the time. To this backdrop, Easy and Lightning form the film's only real character studies. Rather conventional, lightweight portraits, they add little to the film's impact.

Captain Marty "Easy" Julian, hard driven to succeed by a domineering father, quells his inner demons with one too many drinks. Making it worse, Joe "Lightning" Little, his comrade in arms, drives him nuts by disobeying orders whenever they interfere with the risk-taking that saves his own anxieties. In turn, Joe anguishes over Easy's alcoholism.

In a sometimes sweet but equally minor sidelight to this scenario, Lightning begins to court a pretty signorina (Daniela Ruah) from the nearby village. Fill in all the usual clichés and what dramatics they may bode. Fact is, intentional or not, the story's personal relationships play as filler and couldn't survive without the accompanying air support.

While a less hackneyed subplot would make for a more complete entertainment, it's apparent that "Red Tails" is not so much a good movie as it is an important movie. When out of desperation those powers that be finally accede, and the squadron is assigned to escort bombers to their crucial targets, we cheer not for the characters, but for equality.

Yet, to remind again, albeit secondary to its social significance, this is a war film...one produced by George Lucas. And as such, expect no less than the best dogfights special effects can create. Thus, whether as a humdinger of a visual iteration for those who know this saga, or as a vital primer for those who do not, "Red Tails" accomplishes its mission.

"Red Tails," rated PG-13, is a Twentieth Century Fox release directed by Anthony Hemingway and stars Nate Parker, David Oyelowo and Terrence Howard. Running time: 120 minutes

NJWA Concert Band to Play At Temple Emanu-El

WESTFIELD - On Sunday, February 19, at 3 p.m., the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts (NJWA) Concert Band under the direction of conductor Howard Toplansky will perform a winter concert at Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad Street in Westfield. This is the third of a five concert series for the 2011-2012 concert season. The event is open to the public and admission is \$10 per person.

"We are delighted to be invited back to play at Temple Emanu-El. Our musical selections are geared to please a variety of musical tastes and range from Renaissance to Ragtime favorites," stated Toplansky. *Zampa Overture* by Louis Herold, Highlights from *South Pacific* by Richard Rodgers, and *Ballet Parisien* by Jacques Offenbach will be featured on this program.

The concert will also offer *Chili Sauce Rag* by Henry A. Fischler and *Vera Waltzes* by Alex F. Lithgow. Several fine marches will also be performed including *Solid Men to the Front* by John Philip Sousa, *Cherokee* by Edwin Franko Goldman and *Parade of the Athletes* by Russian composer Zinovi Binkin.

Rounding out this concert will be *Sun Valley Mountains* by Gene

Ogden, March from the movie "The Bench Warmer" by Isaak Dunaevsky and *Toward the Summit* by the American band composer Frank Erickson.

For more information about the concert or to learn how to become a member of the NJWA Concert Band, call (908) 789-9696 or e-mail njwaband@att.net.

First Mothers Pays Visit to NJ on Feb. 15

LIVINGSTON - On Wednesday, February 15, Pages of History, Inc. will present *First Mothers: The Women Who Raised America's Presidents*. An original play by L.E. McCullough featuring Wynne Anders, Lisa Bansavage, Laura Bosley, Vivian Meisner and directed by Deb Guston will be presented at the Livingston Public Library, 10 Robert Harp Drive, Livingston at 7:30 p.m.

The drama details powerful maternal impact on future presidents.

Admission is free. For more information, call (973) 992-4600 or visit www.pagesofhistory.org.

Explore Music 'From Darkness to Light' with NJIO

MORRISTOWN - The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will present a Free Concert entitled "From Darkness to Light" on Sunday, February 12, at 3 p.m. in Dolan Hall in the Annunciation Center of The College of Saint Elizabeth, 2 Convent Road, Morristown.

NJIO Music Director and Conductor, Farkhad Khudiyev, has programmed a concert with the theme of "From Darkness to Light" featuring Schubert's Unfinished Symphony and Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. The Intermezzo String Orchestra under the baton of Gavin Davies will perform a collection of Romantic Masters with themes by Tchaikovsky, Schubert and Schumann as well as an arrangement of a Mozart Divertimento and Sibelius's Andante festivo.

Also featured at this concert is the winner of NJIO's Young Artists Concerto Competition, Jessica Hong of Holmdel. Thirteen-year-old Jessica will be performing a movement from the Haydn Cello Concerto in C Major.

This concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted.



FEATURED ARTIST...Jessica Hong, 13, will be featured in The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra Winter Concert, "From Darkness to Light," on Sunday, February 12, at 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.njio.org or (908) 603-7691.

The College of Saint Elizabeth is handicap accessible and large print programs are available.



WINTER CONCERT...The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Concert Band will perform on Sunday, February 19, at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.

PINEDA SUMMER CONSERVATORY
Where Dreams Take Center Stage

2012

STARLIGHT THEATRE
Grades 2-6
June 25 - August 3
(CLOSED JULY 4-8)
Mon - Fri 8:30-12:30
Dance, voice and acting training.
Show: CINDERELLA KIDS

SPOTLIGHT THEATRE
Grades 6-9
June 25-August 3
(CLOSED JULY 4-8)
Mon - Fri 8:30-12:30
Dance, voice and acting training.
Show: HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR.

CENTER STAGE
GRADES 9-12
June 25-August 5
(CLOSED JULY 4-8)
Mon-Fri 12:30-5:30
Dance, Voice, Acting, & Audition Training

Two fully staged shows:
LEGALLY BLONDE &
JUST GO TO THE MOVIES

Participation by Audition
Auditions March 3, 10, 17 & 18
by appointment
Call (908) 731-1377
or e-mail
pinedaconservatory@comcast.net
or visit:
www.pinedaconservatory.com

www.PINEDACONSERVATORY.com 908-731-1377