



FIRST PLACE...Non-professional artist, Molly Brown of Rahway, center, took first place for her two-dimensional art work in acrylic is included in the Freeholders Gallery exhibit of the 2014 Union County Senior Citizens Art Contest and Exhibit now showing at the Freeholders Gallery located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth. Ms. Brown is pictured with Freeholders Bette Jane Kowalski, left, and Linda Carter.



SHARE THE CARE...Westfield's Caroline Kacmarsky, center, and her charitable organization, Share The Care Write Now, presents \$1,000 scholarships for the best essays written about the trips and life experiences provided by the organization. The organization presented four scholarships. To learn more about Share The Care Write Now, visit www.sharethecarewritenow.org.

POPCORN "Sex Tape" Risqué Behavior

2 popcorns

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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
Film Critic

Jake Kasdan's "Sex Tape" accomplishes a curious thing. It's the near surreptitious merging of traditional romantic farce with the new screwball raunchiness that's body-snatched the American film comedy in recent years. While the prim and proper are sure to be abashed by the complications engendered when a thirty something couple's tape of their marathon lovemaking goes viral, the jaded may be wont to wonder: When did such risqué behavior become commonplace in essentially mainstream cinema?

I don't mean to sound hypocritical, mind you, as I probably laughed harder than any of my compatriots at the Bijou. For all the tolerance a blasé acceptance of such fare connotes, there's still no discounting the attraction of forbidden fruit...or, what's left of it. However, it's sort of like watching an entire movie spoken in slang.

Fact is, though Lady Chatterley and her assorted lovers have been hiding behind the curtains of literature and film for some time now, we are at a liberal watershed in our art if, alas, not in our politics. Hopefully, this graduation from peep show to multiplex attraction isn't Big Brother's ploy to placate souls otherwise frustrated by his intrusions. Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" (1971) predicted it. To the Romans' hoi polloi-appealing bread and circus you can now add the birds and the bees gone bawdy.

I'd venture that the Founding Fathers, whose all-important First Amendment makes such open-mindedness possible, wouldn't be terribly shocked by "Sex Tape"...at least not Ben. Fact is, it's all rather silly, especially to us cosmopolitan types...ahem.

Unfortunately, the script, adds few novel thoughts to the litany of four-lettered favorites spouted with Gatling gun rapidity and volume. Whereas the classical screwball comedies of the 1930s and '40s were all about cleverness, if you were to strip the ribald chaff from Mr. Kasdan's movie there would hardly be a witticism worthy of a laugh.

Still, in all fairness, there is a commonality between "Sex Tape" and its genre progenitor in that social criticism is part and parcel of the plot. Whereas the Great Depression era examples understandably tackled difference in caste and financial status, here it's the woes of the two income family trying to make time for the important stuff...like sex.

While decidedly middle class Annie and Jay, portrayed by Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel, respectively,

judiciously allocate time to their two offspring and have achieved notable career success, it dawns on them that the nooky quotient has dissipated. Alas, an important part of what initially strummed their heartstrings is now like that expensive restaurant you only go to on special occasions. Oh, Dr. Ruth, what to do, what to do?

All of which brings us to the title solution. The thought is that the creation of their very own bit of pornography will spark the fire that has been all but smothered by the rigors of domesticity and the complacency that comes with the passage of time. The thing is, Jay was supposed to erase the homegrown piece de résistance right after they viewed it.

Oops! Blame it on vanity, stupidity or more likely just the need to propel the plot into the usual sitcom complications. As the unscrupulous fates would have it, a nasty little boy (Harrison Holzer), the son of Annie and Jay's supposed best friends, has acquired a copy of the dirty deed in question. He'll give it up for a mere 25K. Thus is put in motion the helter-skelter attempt to cut the junior blackmailer off at the pass. That is, retrieve the compromising hanky-panky before any reputations are impugned.

With the two kids in tow for part of what Annie and Jay explain is a scavenger hunt, the ensuing chaos includes a by accident/on purpose visit to the manse of Rob Lowe's iconoclastic bigwig, Hank. He's the espouser of family values in whose hands lies the future of the motherhood blog Annie has been trying to market. He doesn't know it, but through a contrivance hardly worth the sentence to explain it, a copy of the telltale tape has found its way into his home. Suffice it to note, his German shepherd hates Jay.

Serving as the Fred and Ethel Mertz to our X-rated Lucy and Ricky Riccardo, Rob Corddry and Ellie Kemper are effective second bananas. Of course they bring their own soiled laundry to the mishgoss. But none of the generally adequate performances can compensate for the uninspired writing.

It's like the comedian who works blue when the muse of wit has abandoned him. Such fare is OK if struck by that sudden need for frivolous slumming. But for those who prefer something that appeals to one's better comic instincts, the advice here is to erase "Sex Tape" from your must-see list before someone sees it.

"Sex Tape," rated R, is a Sony Pictures release directed by Jake Kasdan and stars Cameron Diaz, Jason Segel and Rob Lowe. Running time: 94 minutes

UC Senior Art Show Winners Exhibit at Freeholders Gallery

ELIZABETH – The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs announced that the First Place hanging art works from the 2014 Union County Senior Citizens Art Contest and Exhibit are showing at the Freeholders Gallery located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth. The winning pieces can be seen weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit will run through Wednesday, August 20.

The annual Union County Senior Citizens Art Show is open to artists who are 60 years of age or older and reside in Union County. The show is held from early June to mid-July in the atrium of the Elizabethtown Gas Company in Union.

The first place winners, non-professional and professional, in each of the categories will move on to compete at the New Jersey Senior Citizens Art Show. The State show will take place at Meadow Lakes in East Windsor in the fall.

The non-professional artists whose two-dimensional art works are included in the Freeholders Gallery exhibit are: Molly Brown of

Rahway (Acrylic); William Connolly of Garwood (Drawing); Nancy Zuniga of Linden (Mixed Media); John Quinn of Roselle Park (Oil); Marjorie Picard of Scotch Plains (Pastel); Greg Cummings of Fanwood (Photography); and Dianna Strom of Cranford (Watercolor).

The professional artists in the exhibit are: Genadiy Rozhkov of Springfield (Acrylic); Mel Holston of Plainfield (Drawing); Frank Marshall of Roselle (Mixed Media); Avi Kiriakakis of Kenilworth (Oil); Rafael Rodriguez of Elizabeth (Pastel); Anthony Riccio of Westfield (Photography); and John V. Curch of Scotch Plains (Watercolor).

The first place winners for Sculpture and Craft are not on display at the Freeholders Gallery, but will also go on to compete at the New Jersey Senior Citizens Art Show. They are: Bruce Long of Westfield (Non-Pro Craft); Judy Muscant of Mountaintop (Pro Craft); Larry Evans of Elizabeth (Non-Pro Sculpture); and Dolores Stewart of Plainfield (Pro Sculpture).

For further information and to learn more about exhibiting at the Freeholders Gallery, contact Nicole DeAugustine, curator, at the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; telephone, (908) 558-2550; or email: culturalinfo@ucnj.org.



WINNER...Professional artist, John Curch of Scotch Plains, center, took first place for his watercolor in the 2014 Union County Senior Citizens Art Contest and Exhibit now showing at the Freeholders Gallery located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth. Mr. Curch is pictured with Freeholders Linda Carter, left, and Bette Jane Kowalski.



Caldwell University Dean's List

CALDWELL – Caldwell University recently named 450 students to the spring 2014 Dean's List. In order to achieve this honor, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and complete at least 12 credits during the semester.

Local students included Paul Nyitray of Cranford and Anthony Guarisco of Cranford.



Bucknell Awards Degrees

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Bucknell University conferred 859 bachelor's and 26 master's degrees during Commencement ceremonies May 18. Degrees were awarded for studies in liberal arts and professional programs in engineering, education, management and music.

Geoffrey Barnes of Mountaintop, son of Brent and Roberta Barnes, and a 2010 graduate of Union County Magnet High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering.

Scott Bernstein of Westfield, son of Ronald and Beth Bernstein, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management.

Emily Budnick of Westfield, daughter of Lawrence and Karen Budnick, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Emily is a member of Mortar Board national college senior honor society and Psi Chi international honor society in psychology.

Alexander DeRose of Mountaintop, son of James and Elizabeth DeRose, and a 2010 graduate of Governor Livingston High School, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Accounting. Alexander is a member of Delta Mu Delta national honor society in business administration and Mortar Board national college senior honor society.

Jonathan Erman of Westfield, son of Martin and Sheryl Erman, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management. Jonathan is a member of Delta Mu Delta national honor society in business administration.

Spenser Frieri of Cranford, son of John and Donna Frieri, and a graduate of Cranford High School, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management. Spenser received the Bison Award for Excellence in Co-Curricular Activities, recognizing his three years as a member of the orientation staff, as well as his role as recruitment chair for the Interfraternity Council and as an Emerging Leaders mentor. He will attend Seton Hall Law School in the fall.

Nicholas McAlister of Westfield, son of David and Elizabeth McAlister, and a 2010 graduate of Westfield High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Eliann Shadmi of Scotch Plains, daughter of Allon and Beth Shadmi, and a 2010 graduate of Union County Magnet High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

Dylan Turner of Mountaintop, son of Keith and Susan Turner, and a 2010 graduate of Governor Livingston High School, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.



Cabrini College Announces Dean's List

RADNOR, Pa. – Cabrini College announced Renee Oliver of Scotch Plains was named to the Dean's List for the spring academic year after earning academic honors.

Dean's List students have achieved a GPA of 3.5-3.89 for coursework completed at Cabrini College with a minimum of 15 credits. President's List students have achieved a GPA of 3.9 or higher for coursework completed at Cabrini College with a minimum of 15 credits.



Bucknell Announces Dean's List

LEWISBURG, Pa. – Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2013-14 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

The following students were named to the Dean's List:

Elizabeth Baldwin of Scotch Plains, daughter of Andrew and Diane Baldwin; Scott Bernstein of Westfield, son of Ronald and Beth Bernstein; Lauren Buckley of Fanwood, daughter of James and Julie Buckley; Emily Budnick of Westfield, daughter of Lawrence and Karen Budnick; Eileen Cook of Westfield, daughter of Kevin and Karen Cook; Alexander DeRose of Mountaintop, son of James and Elizabeth DeRose; Sarah Dickert of Mountaintop, daughter of Edward and Lauren Dickert; Jonathan Erman of Westfield, son of Martin and Sheryl Erman; Nicholas Frediani of Cranford, son of Marco and Lou Ann Frediani; Victoria Karakis of Scotch Plains, daughter of John and Erica Karakis; Anne Oldakowski of Westfield, daughter of Thomas Oldakowski and Kathryn McElroy; Michael Pesin of Scotch Plains, son of Jeffrey Pesin and Janice Baker; Joseph Rinaldi of Westfield, son of Joseph and Christine Rinaldi; Eliann Shadmi of Scotch Plains, daughter of Allon and Beth Shadmi and Kelly Vassel of Westfield, daughter of Bruce and Donna Vassel.

WHS Student Raises \$10,000 in Fundraising

WESTFIELD - On July 12, Eliza Bryen, a rising senior at Westfield High School, completed her second half-marathon to benefit the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. She thanked her sponsors, Hershey's Subs, Pegasus Sporting Goods and Stella and Dot, as well as all of her supporters in the community.

Eliza has signed up for another half-marathon in Las Vegas in November and will continue to train and fundraise. "I want to do everything I can to help other people, especially children, who have to suffer from these diseases so I will keep doing this until there is a cure," she said. Eliza runs with Team Challenge, a training and fundraising team that is part of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. She fundraises year round and also travels to Washington, D.C. each spring to tell her story to members of Congress in a lobbying effort to gain more funding for research.

For more information on Eliza's fund-raising efforts or on Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, visit www.active.com/donate/lasvegasNJ14/NJEBryen2.



University of Evansville Announces Grads

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — The University of Evansville announced the following local students graduated during its 156th Commencement, held May 10. During the ceremony, the University awarded 583 degrees to 568 graduates.

Local graduates are: Jessica Krips and Melissa Krips of Scotch Plains.



Marist Announces Dean's List

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. — The following local students have been named to the Marist College Dean's List for the Spring 2014 semester:

Sara Connery of Westfield, member of the Class of 2014; Gianna Popola of Garwood, member of the Class of 2016 and Thomas Snihur of Garwood, member of the Class of 2016.



Kutztown Announces Graduates

KUTZTOWN, Pa. – Kutztown University has confirmed the graduation of 1,293 students. Commencement exercises were held May 10; however, some students completed graduation requirements after that date.

Brian T Byrnes of Cranford earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Management; Joseph D Chencharik of Cranford earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Communication Design; Jessica Lynn Poland of Cranford earned a Bachelor of Science Psychology.



Ithaca College Announces Dean's List

ITHACA, N.Y. – Avia Shadmi, a resident of Scotch Plains, and a sophomore physical therapy major, was named to Dean's List in Ithaca College's School of Health Sciences and Human Performance for the spring 2014 semester.



OKLAHOMA...The New Jersey Youth Theatre's production of *Oklahoma!* recently closed at the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan. The production will continue at the Morris Museums Bickford Theatre on Friday, August 1, and continue through Sunday, August 10. For tickets, call the Box Office at (973) 971-3706. The cast includes members from Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Cranford.

Hollywood

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Back when they co-starred in a Paramount movie, to bridge the gap in stature during scenes in which they were each to stand in a particular doorway, Tom was filmed standing in a doorway whose top was barely higher than his 5 foot, 7 inches; that way, he looked to be filling out the doorway. Nicole, at 5 foot, 11 inches, was filmed standing in doorway that looked identical but was noticeably higher to give the appearance that she was dwarfed by the supposedly same doorway that her husband barely fit through.

If you're lucky, you may be able



RUNNING FOR A CAUSE...On July 12, Eliza Bryen, a rising senior at Westfield High School, completed her second half-marathon to benefit the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

to watch a show or movie scene being filmed. We saw the set of "The Doctors" and were surprised that there were no more than 30 or 40 seats for the studio audience. Once again, Hollywood—through the effective use of cameras and angles—can make the viewer feel as if the audience is much larger than it really is. On one Paramount tour just before New Year's, we were let onto the set of "Entertainment Tonight" and watched the host as he recorded an end-of-the-year wrap-up of celebrity news. During a break in the taping, he strolled over to our group, chuckled and shook his head, perhaps in embarrassment. "Can you guys believe I get paid to do this stuff?" he said bemusedly.

A few big highlights on the Paramount lot are really big: the New York streets set and the blue-sky tank. The New York set is a five-acre series of streets that recreates a variety of neighborhoods including the financial district, Greenwich Village, Brooklyn, Soho and the Upper East Side. Countless movies, television shows, commercials and music videos have been shot on these fake streets, whose facades can be easily altered to look like any era from the past century. Out near the front of the Paramount lot is the massive blue-sky water tank. Normally used as a parking lot, it also serves as a place to shoot ocean scenes after it is filled with nearly a million gallons of water. A 175 ft. x 75-ft. sky backing can be painted or left colored blue or green for replacement with computerized images.

It is best to reserve a spot on the tour in advance. And leave yourself plenty of time to get to the studio on time, given Los Angeles' propensity for traffic everywhere and at all times of day and night.