



READY FOR HALLOWEEN...This home on the Boulevard in Westfield is decorated for Halloween (Oct. 27, 2016). The Town of Westfield in 2018 is starting its first "Haunt Your House" contest in anticipation of the inaugural AddamsFest.

'Haunt Your House' Decor Contest Comes to Westfield

WESTFIELD – With summer turning to fall, it's time for Westfield residents to start getting their Halloween home décor ready. In anticipation of the Town's inaugural AddamsFest celebration, there will be a home decorating contest entitled Haunt Your House.

The contest is open to all Westfield residents and encourages everyone to get in the spirit of the Halloween season.

Participants must register their homes online at www.addamsfest.com/haunt-your-house, between Septem-

ber 17 and Friday, October 5, with all eligible decorating to be completed by Thursday, October 11.

Residents are invited to vote online for their favorite decorated home, from Friday, October 12, through Saturday, October 27.

Prizes for first, second and third place will be awarded at the AddamsFest closing ceremony on Friday, October 28.

Official rules, a map of the homes registered, additional details and registration information can be found on www.addamsfest.com.

AddamsFest Activities Honor Cartoonist Charles Addams

WESTFIELD – AddamsFest, the town-wide celebration honoring Westfield native Charles Addams, the cartoonist known for creating the fictional Addams Family, is to be held Friday, October 26, through Sunday, October 28.

The main event kicks off on Friday, October 26, with the Morticia and Gomez's Masquerade Ball at The James Ward Mansion, where gourmet fare, libations and dancing are planned. Tickets will be sold on the AddamsFest website, www.addamsfest.com, on the following dates: Wednesday, September 26, at 10 a.m.; Sunday, September 30, at 5 p.m., and Tuesday, October 2, at 7 p.m. The price is \$125 per ticket, with a limit of four tickets per person.

On Saturday, October 27, the festival will have an opening ceremony at the Mindowaskin Park Bandstand at 10:30 a.m., which will include remarks from Mayor Shelley Brindle and the presentation of the Skeleton Key to the City to a deserving individual. Winners of the Westfield High School's Charles Addams Cartoon Contest will also be announced.

Following the ceremony, the festival will be in full swing with the following activities:

The Addams Family Fun Zone from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Mindowaskin Park. Gomez's Lecture Series will have varying times throughout the weekend. The Life of Charles Addams, by Addams Enthusiast Ron MacCloskey. The Lighter Side of Darkness, a conversation about the Addams aesthetic. The Chas Addams Family Workshop, by *The New Yorker* Cartoonist Felipe Galindo. The Chas Addams Tour, hosted by the Westfield Historical Society. Morticia's Movies is to be held at the Rialto Movie Theatre with screenings of *The Addams Family* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Advance ticket purchase for the movies is required.

Premiere Stages Seeks Submissions to Play Festival

UNION – Premiere Stages, the professional theatre company in residence at Kean University, is now accepting submissions for the 15th annual Premiere Play Festival. This yearly competition for unproduced scripts offers developmental and production opportunities to four playwrights with strong ties to the greater metropolitan area (New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware).

Premiere will accept submissions September 15 through December 15, 2018, and select four finalists by early March 2019; any submissions received before or after this submission window will not be considered. All four finalists will receive developmental readings, scheduled for March 14 to 17, 2019, with a winner and runner-up to be announced in April 2019. The festival winner will be awarded a \$2,500 advance and receive a full Equity production in September 2019; the runner-up will receive \$1,000 and an Equity 29-hour staged reading June 14 to 16, 2019. The two remaining finalists will each receive an honorarium of \$750. In 2018, Premiere Stages received a record high of 572 submissions to the Festival.

All 2019 Premiere Play Festival entries will be evaluated by a panel of theatre professionals in consultation with Premiere artistic staff. Agents and theatre professionals with

an affiliation to Premiere Stages may submit full scripts; playwrights may submit a synopsis and script sample directly. There is no fee to enter the competition. Complete submission guidelines are available online at www.premierestagesatkean.com/play-festival.

Premiere Stages is committed to supporting a diverse group of writers; playwrights of all backgrounds, ages, and experience levels are encouraged to submit. All entrants are encouraged to review Premiere Stages' production history, which is also posted on the website.

Author Meet and Greet This Sunday

WESTFIELD — The Town Book Store will be hosting a meet and greet for Lisa Kohn, author of the memoir *to the moon and back: a childhood under the influence* on Saturday, September 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Told in spirited candor, *to the moon and back* reveals how one can leave behind absurdity and horror and create a life of intention and joy.

Meet Ms. Kohn at The Town Book Store located at 270 East Broad Street in Westfield, corner of East Broad and Elmer Streets. Call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535 to reserve an autographed copy of the book.

POPCORN

Puzzle She's Come A Long Way, Maybe 3 & ½ popcorns

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

By Michael S. Goldberger
film critic

We are reminded in Marc Turtletaub's *Puzzle*, about an unappreciated housewife who finds meaning and identity in doing jigsaw puzzles, that if you want to find truth, look to fiction. We Homo sapiens have been doing it since time immemorial. No one's feelings get hurt...at least not until their misdeeds are exposed for what they are. So bless the metaphors...purveyors of honesty by illustration. Civilization rises and falls by them, proving in their finest example that the pen is indeed mightier than the sword.

Building his case from a sensitively adept script Polly Mann and Owen Moverman adapted from the Argentinian film *Rompecabezas*, Mr. Turtletaub poignantly adds to the body of literature decrying both the obvious and invisible ways in which women have been suppressed. Thick deceit permeates the air as Agnes hustles around the house in devoted servitude to her husband and two teen-aged boys. She knows the unfairness, but is not sure if she could ever acknowledge it in this lifetime. Complicit in her vassalage, dad and sons submerge their guilt.

What happens after this bit of family dynamics is established is why we love the movies. We know full well that for every passive Agnes who experiences an epiphany regarding her plight and potential, there are tens of thousands resigned to suffering in quiet desperation. There will be no police coming to their homes, no counselor offering a safe house or a cellular phone until Madame Surreptitiously Abused can find a life away from her thankless condition. It is a quiet violence. At best maybe she's had a longtime confidante to hear her unaddressed cries.

All of which is why Kelly Macdonald's Agnes proves an off-beat and entertaining inspiration. She is the exception to a rule too often sadly true. Worthy of an Oscar nomination, her face speaks volumes in a stark rainbow of superbly evoked emotions. She is the everywoman...symptomatic of a society that would pay women less wages than men, withhold family leave and deny them the vote until ultimately forced into acquiescence. However, whether she knows it or not, the long, tacitly administered denigration she's suffered has prepared Agnes for her moment.

Like many personal revelations, the seeds of change seem rather inconsequential on first blush. Here, it's something as simple as the gift of a jigsaw puzzle from Agnes's aunt...1,000 pieces, finished in half an afternoon.

She had fun, and later, mulling this heretofore undiscovered talent, muses about dreams unfulfilled. She would have liked to go to college. She was always good in math. Imbibing this little euphoria, we contemplate what simple praise it takes to please the ego. Have we been remiss in feeding ours, or perhaps that of others?

Now, here's where it gets a little soap opera-like, replete with a tad of taboo inference...but all for good purpose. In search of a puzzle as challenging as the one that pried a crack into her soul, Agnes secretly takes the train from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Manhattan. There, in a puzzle emporium/cafe, she is suddenly transported to where kindred spirits take very seriously what her husband poo-pooed. Ah, legitimacy! She buys a puzzle and, noticing a bulletin board solicitation for a tournament partner, she takes what must be the boldest step in her insular life.

Psst! It's a guy, and an interesting one at that. As it has been impressed upon us that up until now Agnes has had no greater ambition than to visit Montreal, we issue a collective, "Oh, my goodness." A wealthy Indian inventor who lives in a barely furnished, big-ticket townhouse, Robert, congenially acted by Irrfan Khan, is quickly enthralled by Agnes's puzzle expertise. She's the goods, he's the polish, in more ways than one. He informs that they must begin practicing for an upcoming tournament immediately. She is wowed, charmed and scared.

This means sneaking away to New York regularly without giving her husband Louie (David Denman), a 21st Century contemporization of Archie Bunker, the slightest hint of her other life. Aside from the lying by omission, Agnes's adventure reminds of Florida Bolkan's Clara in Vittorio De Sica's *A Brief Vacation* (1973), wherein a put-upon housewife doesn't get a glimpse into herself until, whilst recuperating from tuberculosis in a sanitarium, she meets her catalyst.

Alas, we are set up good...asked to join, in our attempt to figure out what makes Agnes tick, no less authorities on the human heart than Chekhov, Ibsen, Tennessee Williams and maybe your Uncle Murray. What path she takes now that she's aware of being entitled to a sense of self-worth is the stuff of après theater discussion. But whether or not things end the way you think they should, surely we are better off for experiencing her quest to solve that *Puzzle* called life.

Puzzle, rated R, is a Sony Pictures Classics release directed by Marc Turtletaub and stars Kelly Macdonald, David Denman and Irrfan Khan. Running time: 103 minutes.

The Manhattan Transfer Perform at Kean Stage Sun.

UNION – Going strong after more than 45 years, Grammy Award winner The Manhattan Transfer, with tenor vocals from Kean University alumnus Alan Paul '71, will captivate Kean Stage audiences with their distinctive four-part harmonies at Enlow Recital Hall at 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 30. While at Kean for this performance, Paul will also take part in a master class with music and theatre students, offering first-hand advice and talking about his journey.

Paul graduated in 1971 from Newark State Teacher's College, now Kean University, with a music education degree. The following year, he met the three people with whom he would go on to form The Manhattan Transfer. The group's four-part harmonies have led them to eight Grammy Awards in the pop and jazz categories and a career still going strong more than four decades later.

"I'm really excited about coming back to Kean," said Paul. "When we got the invitation, I said we simply have to go. It's my alma mater."

The members of The Manhattan Transfer are known for incorporating pop, rock, jazz, R&B, swing and a cappella music into their songs. They have won multiple Grammy Awards and received many Grammy nominations. Through the years, they have performed with numerous jazz legends and great vocalists, including Dizzy Gillespie, Tony Bennett, B.B. King and Bette Midler.

In March, The Manhattan Transfer released their first album in nearly a decade, *The Junction*, dedicated to Hauser. The record has received positive reviews.

Enlow Recital Hall is located at 215 North Ave, Union. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.keanstage.com, call (908) 737-7469 or visit the box office in Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Avenue in Union.

CDC Opens Season With A Few Good Men

CRANFORD -- Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) Theatre in Cranford is celebrating its 100th season this year and has been honored by the NJ Association of Community Theatres, NIACT, with the New Jersey Community Theatre of the Year Award. Representing membership, current President Joe Leo accepted the honor on behalf of, as he said, "Members who are here, those who cannot be here and the thousands of people over the years who have shared their energy and talent to make sure CDC Theatre continues as a performing arts institution; Nurturing Imagination Since 1919!"

The first show of the theatre's centenary season will be *A Few Good Men*. Aaron Sorkin's groundbreaking debut tells the story of a group of military lawyers assigned to defend two Marines in Guantanamo Bay. During the course of the trial, they uncover a high-level conspiracy designed to eliminate weaker soldiers in the name of patriotism. The production will run from Friday, October 19 through Sunday, October 27.

Active military and veterans will be eligible for a special \$15 ticket at the door with an ID.

Additional information and tickets to *A Few Good Men* can be found by visiting www.cdctheatre.org.



COLORIFIC...The photograph above was taken by Leonard McDonald of Mountainside. He is among the photographers displaying their work at the Photrphay Forum's Colorific photography exhibit on through November 17.

Colorific 2018 Photography Exhibit Explodes in Color

AREA – Leonard McDonald of Mountainside is among the artists selected for the New Jersey Photography Forum's annual "Colorific" fine art photography exhibit to be held through Saturday, November 17.

The "Colorific" photography exhibit has become a vibrant annual affair at the MPAC that helps kick off the new season of performances and activities at the theatre.

Artists have long understood the impact that color has on the way an image is viewed and how it influences the viewers' reactions to what they are seeing. "The pieces by the selected artists show the importance that color plays in creating an impact on the viewer. Whether the work is a traditional photograph, an abstract or a composited image created by the photographer, color creates the moment in the image. This exhibit truly celebrates the power of color in our daily lives," said Gallery Curator Charles Miller.

The 18 photographers in this exhibit had their work selected by a jury of peers. The photographers include Peter Alessandria, Dover; Alexis Alvarez, Middlesex; Glenn Clark, Chatham; Ralph Greene, Woodland Park; Theresa Hood, Hamilton Township, Pa.; Marv Kaminsky, Flanders; Jacek Kowalsky, Mahwah; Parvathi Kumar, Bridgewater; John Markanich, West Milford; Leonard McDonald, Mountainside; Charlann Meluso, Berkeley Heights; Charles T. Miller, Ringoes; Nancy Ori, Berkeley Heights; Phyllis Raffelson,

Cliffside park; Lynn Ronan, Midland Park; Mitch Speert, Flemington; Branch Watkins, Morristown; and Allan Wood, Maplewood.

The exhibit is located at the Upstairs Gallery of the Mayo Performing Arts Center at 100 South Street in Morristown.

The exhibit can be viewed prior to performances during normal business hours of the theater and by special arrangement by calling the theater at (973) 539-8008.

For more information on the exhibit, please contact Nancy Ori at nancyori@comcast.net or Charles Miller at ctmiller@comcast.net or (908)507-9419. You can visit the New Jersey Photography Forum website at www.njphotoforum.com.

Dead and Buried Opens Tonight

SUMMIT -- Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, professional theatre in residence at Oakes Center in Summit, is producing the New Jersey Premiere of *Dead and Buried* by James McLindon. This dark comedy, set in a cemetery right before Halloween, tells the story of three people who want what they can't have, but get what they need from each other. *Dead and Buried* runs tonight through Sunday, October 14. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit www.dreamcatcherrep.org or call Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006.



SCARECROW STROLL...Registration is now open to Cranford residents, as well as Cranford schools, organizations and businesses to enter the Scarecrow Stroll competition. Cranford's 11th Annual Scarecrow Stroll will take place from Tuesday, October 16, through Wednesday, October 31. The Scarecrow Stroll is one of downtown's most anticipated events. Registration is free, and prizes will be awarded to the top scarecrows in each category. For more information, see www.cranfordnj.org/downtown-cranford.

WESTFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS			
OCTOBER 2018 Closed October 8 for Columbus Day			
550 East Broad Street, Westfield 908.789.4090 www.wmlnj.org			
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30 am-9:00 pm Fri & Sat 9:30 am-5:00 pm Sun 1-5:00 pm			
PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS SEE WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFO			
10/1	6:30 pm	Modern Real World Etiquette by Karen Camden	
10/2 & 9	2:00 pm	Learn to Crochet with Librarian/Crafter Marge Barkan	
10/2 & 9	7:00 pm	Cardio/Toning Exercise Series-Bring a mat or towel.	
10/4	7:00 pm	The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder by Marla McDowell	
10/5	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (video)	
10/6	1:00 pm	The Odessa Klezmer Band	
10/10	7:00 pm	Swingadelic presents The Music of Johnny Mercer-Weiss Family Jazz Series	
10/12	1:30 pm	TGIF! Smokey Joe's Café-Songs of Leiber & Stoller (video)	
10/13 & 15	2 & 6:30 pm	Job Search for Everyone-by Karen Camden	
10/17	7:00 pm	Ken Serfass presents Ulysses S. Grant	
10/19	1:30 pm	TGIF! The Paris Opera (video)	
10/22	7:00 pm	The Persuasive Role of Music in TV Commercials-Prof Paul Christiansen	
10/24	7:00 pm	Hudson Shakespeare Co-The Spanish Tragedy	
10/26	1:30 pm	TGIF! Classic Movie: Addams Family Values	
10/28	11:00 am	New Yorker cartoonist Felipe Galindo	
PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENS-SEE WEBSITE FOR SIGN UP INFO			
10/2, 9, 16, 23	10:30 am	2's on Tuesday Storytime-with caregiver	
10/2, 9, 16, 23	1:00 pm	Crafternoon Storytime (3½-5 yrs) Without caregiver	
10/4, 11, 18, 25	10:30 am	3's on Thursday-with caregiver	
10/5, 12, 19, 26	10:00 am	Baby Playgroup up to 23 months with caregiver	
10/6	10:00 am	Drop-in Chess Club—Players must know how the pieces move	
10/18 & 25	7:30 pm	Tween & Teen Yoga 11-16 yrs old—Bring a mat if you have one	
10/20	10:30 am	Pumpkin Painting 4+years	

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