

Arts & Entertainment

Exhibits



"Porcelains and Peach", by Mary Ann Eldred

Pastel Society Exhibition

The Pastel Society of New Hampshire presents its 10th Annual Members' Exhibition at the Jaffrey Civic Center in Jaffrey, NH. The show in the second floor Cunningham Gallery runs through June 27.

This event is free and open to the public. Paintings by pastel artists throughout the state of New Hampshire are included in the exhibition, as well as the works of other pastelists from New England.

The juror of awards for the exhibition is Paul Ingbreton, an accomplished professional artist from Manchester, NH. His background includes several years at the Art Students League of New York with numerous of their top artists but who ultimately organized his artistic approach around the values associated with the "Boston School" as interpreted by the late R. H. Ives Gammell.

The Jaffrey Civic Center is located at 40 Main Street, Jaffrey, New Hampshire, next to Library, parking in rear. Hours are Tues: 10-6, Wed-Fri 1-5, Sat 10-2. Admission is always free. For more information about us, call 603-532-6527, e-mail us at jaffreycntr@aol.com, find our website, www.jaffreyciviccenter.com, or "Like" us on Facebook.

Summer Fun at Bedford Youth Performing Company

BEDFORD – BYPC is gearing up for a summer of fun. Offering 18 camps, Creative Kids Summer Preschool, summer dance lessons and private music lessons there is certainly something for everyone. BYPC is thrilled to be partnering with Preschool in the Village again this year to offer two musical theatre production camps, Seussical the Musical and Junie B. Jones July 6-17. Whether your child is new to the theatre or has experience on the stage these production camps tap in to their creativity and give them the opportunity to discover hidden

talents.

Summer is a time for exploring the world around you. This year BYPC is excited to offer Mad Science Theatre Camps for preschoolers and elementary aged students. Campers will brainstorm and collaborate on experiments, they will also work individually and see results that will inspire a summer of discovery.

BYPC truly offers something for everyone, please visit bypc.org or call 472-3894 for a complete listing of our camps, programs, lessons and summer preschool.

PEM Presents First Major Thomas Hart Benton Exhibition In More Than 25 Years

SALEM, MA – The Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) presents the first major traveling exhibition about American painter Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975) in more than 25 years. American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood explores how the motion picture industry influenced and ignited Benton's creative imagination. Melding Old Master European painting traditions with Hollywood's cinematic and production techniques, Benton reinvented 20th-century American narratives and captivated the public with his signature brand of visual storytelling. As lead organizer of American Epics: Thomas Hart Benton and Hollywood, PEM hosts the exhibition from June 6 through September 7, 2015. The exhibition then travels to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, PEM's collaborating partners on the exhibition. The Milwaukee Art Museum serves as final venue for the national tour.

This major reevaluation of Benton's art -- the first since 1989 -- gathers more than 100 works, including the artist's paintings, murals, drawings, prints and illustrated books. The exhibition pairs curated clips from Hollywood movies with Benton's art from the 1920s through the 1960s to take visitors on a journey through America's myths and into its national character.

WHY HOLLYWOOD?

Benton wanted to become the major American artist of his time. He trained in Chicago

and Paris and was a member of New York's artistic vanguard, but by his mid-20s, Benton had yet to make the kind of defining contribution to the art history of the United States that his ancestors, U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton and John Charles Fremont, had made to the nation's political history. Casting about for work and opportunities, Benton became a set painter on silent film productions in Fort Lee, New Jersey -- the nation's "first Hollywood."

Benton became acutely aware of the motion picture industry's rising influence and mass appeal. Themes of cultural identity, westward expansion, prejudice, tolerance and the American Dream were given epic treatment on movie screens, and Benton sought to paint them. Like the movies, murals are a form of public art, so Benton embarked on a self-commissioned, independently produced mural series, American Historical Epic. This sweeping series painted between 1920 and 1928 runs to more than 60 feet in length and appears in the exhibition. Benton selected episodes from American history familiar from 1920s silent films, but he depicted the nation's past in unconventional ways to engage the hot-button issues of the day: citizenship, race relations and national identity. Inspired by his characterizations, 20th Century Fox commissioned Benton to create a series of lithographs in 1940 to promote John Ford's filmed adaptation of John Steinbeck's best selling novel *The Grapes of Wrath*.

A CAST OF HEROES AND HEROINES

When America was drawn into World War II, Benton rapidly produced *Year of Peril*, a mural series intended to issue a "wake-up call" to his fellow countrymen and women. "War Art Creates Sensation" is the title of the 1942 Paramount Newsreel featuring Benton and these propaganda paintings. Informed both by Hollywood motifs and the artist's personal memories of seeing soldiers departing for war, Benton painted *Shipping Out* in 1942. The composition recalls the final scene of the acclaimed anti-war movie from 1930, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, when each soldier turns to lock eyes with the viewer and bid a final farewell.

In the 1950s and 60s, Benton revisited the American West and began painting landscapes of the Great Plains, the Grand Tetons and the Rocky Mountains. This "grand scenery," as Benton called it, inspired him to explore the visual vocabulary of Hollywood Westerns and to think of his palette as akin to the bold tones and rich saturation of Technicolor. Benton's final Hollywood commission was a 1954 promotional painting for *The Kentuckian*, starring Burt Lancaster as "Big Eli" and Donald MacDonald as "Little Eli." Accompanied by their faithful hound, the characters are shown mid-quest as they head westward to establish a new life outside civilized society. The distant undulating landscape of the West beckons the travelers to this mythic realm, where blue skies, freedom and a new beginning await.

"The Wedding Singer" the Musical Presented by the Teen Actorsingers

NASHUA – A talented troupe of 24 actors of aged 13-19 from Nashua and surrounding towns are sure to amaze with their rendition of the classic Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore movie, *THE WEDDING SINGER* (Rated PG). This terrific team under the Artistic Direction of Tim Stanley, Musical Direction of Henry Kopczynskie III, and the Choreography of Brittney-Lynne Stanley is set to astound any audience!

There will be four performances: July 17 at 8:00 pm, July 18 at 2:00 pm and 8:00pm, and July 19 at 2:00 pm. Shows will be held at the Janice B. Streeter Theatre, 14 Court Street in Nashua. All seats are reserved and

tickets may be purchased online at actorsingers.org, calling 320-1870, or at the theatre one hour before each show. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.

The show stars Nick Page as the spirited wedding singer, Robbie Hart and Emma Benson as Julia Sullivan, the idealistic waitress, dreaming of her perfect wedding day. Lille Elars appears as Holly, Julia's rambunctious and racy best friend and Brady Wall as Glen Guglia, Julia's long term boyfriend and fiancée. Robbie's wedding band is rounded out by Sean Vigeant as Sammy and Nicholas Mason as George. Katherine Towle is Linda, Robbie's soon to be bride and Rosie, played by Su-

san Dudka, is his grandmother. The role of Angie, Julia's bitter mom, will be played by Jill Tokac.

THE WEDDING SINGER is the story of Robbie Hart who dreamed of becoming a rock star. The year is 1985 and Robbie lives with his Grandmother Rosie while working as a wedding singer. However, his prospects are not all grim as he an-

nounces his upcoming marriage to Linda. At the same time he meets and gets to know the new waitress, Julia Sullivan, who has a long time boyfriend, Glen Guglia. As their love lives are simultaneously coming together and falling apart, what can possibly happen when they discover newfound feelings for each other?

Wearable Feltwork by Miriam Carter

JAFFREY – The wonderfully rich colors and invitingly tactile feltworks by Miriam Carter will be on display and for sale in the first floor Display Cases at the Jaffrey Civic Center from June 5 through July 2. You'll see hats, vests, scarves, of both whimsy and traditional style.

Miriam Carter comes from a long line of family felters. Her great uncle brought the traditional trade with him to the United States when he moved here from Germany, and her father worked in a felt mill. She took up the handicraft more than 20 years ago when she was spending time with her dad as he awaited a heart transplant. "We decided to explore craft making together. I couldn't find a hat to fit my head, so my dad went off to create a felt body hat. I styled it and thought, 'Hey, we have a product!'"

Felt making is one of the oldest fabric-making techniques. It's one of those seemingly magical processes, transforming fiber into cloth. If viewed under a microscope, wool fiber has hooks and scales, much like Velcro, Miriam explained. "The process is to get those fibers locking onto each other. You do that with moisture, agitation and pressure. It can sometimes happen by accident when you wash a wool sweater."

She dyes the fiber, makes felt, forms it into a hood then shapes it on a hat block and "cooks" it for about 10 to 20 minutes in a low-



temp oven to set the form. "Wool has a memory," she says. "You're taking advantage of what the fiber naturally has to offer." Miriam describes her hats as "colorful, happy stuff," an apt description for her vibrant hued swirls and moire-like patterned clothes and brimmed designs. She also makes felt clothing. But the lightweight hats are a love. "First and foremost I started out as a feltmaker who made hats, then I moved into clothes."

VouliDance Presents the timeless tale of Alice in Wonderland

AMHERST – Dancers from Amherst and surrounding towns will be coming together this Friday at the Amato Center for the Performing Arts to perform the beloved tale of Alice in Wonderland.

Our dancers and choreographers have poured their love and work into bringing Alice, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the sweet Dorm mouse, to life. It promises to be a wonderful adventure through the magical land of Alice's dreams. Don't miss it!

Alice in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym. It tells of a girl falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, human like creatures. The novel plays with logic, while its narrative and imagery has made a lasting impression in generations of children giving the story lasting popularity since the late 19th century.

VouliDance is a dance school founded on the philosophy that dancers of all ages and levels deserve the best possible training. We offer a comprehensive dance education program in multiple dance disciplines built from the American Ballet Theatre's National Training Curriculum, focusing on expert coaching and performance.

VouliDance offers children and adults performing opportunities like Alice in Wonderland and The Nutcracker. Audition this fall, September 13 at 2 p.m.

For tickets and information contact VouliDance: 603 554 8626 or email: vouli@voulidance.com

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 12 June 2015 at 6 p.m.
Amato Center for the Performing Arts, 56 Mont Vernon Rd, Milford, NH 03055 (603) 672-1002
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