

Kean Stage Announces New Performing Arts Season

HILLSIDE - Kean Stage's 2012-2013 performing arts season boasts an impressive lineup of world-class performances in six different venues all across its campus.

The Wilkins Theatre features the Royal Drummers of Burundi, the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba and the Black Watch and the Band of the Scots Guards who will appear for the first time at Kean in a performance of pomp and grandeur. The Concert Artist Series in its 15th season will feature faculty musicians performing chamber music in Enlow Hall and Kean Hall.

Dance enthusiasts will enjoy the awesome acrobatics in Cirque Chinois performed by the National Circus of the People's Republic of China; the visceral language of movement and sound in Sean Curran and the King's Singers performance of Travel Songs, and ballet classics like Don Quixote performed by the Russian National Ballet, New Jersey Ballet's *Sleeping Beauty* and New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble's *The Nutcracker*.

The Gene and Shelly Enlow Recital Hall opens the 2012-2013 season on Saturday, September 22 with Chick Corea. The line-up also features leading musicians and legends of our time in classical, jazz, pop

and world music including LeAnn Rimes, Arco Ensemble, Joshua Bell, Ben Vereen, African Children's Choir, Holiday Brass, Nai Ni Chen and Ahn Trio, Elaine Paige and 2 CELLOS.

The International Film Series returns this year is our featuring award-winning modern foreign cinema on Sunday afternoons in the Jules Irving Schwartz Lecture Hall in the new STEM building.

The Kean Theatre Series will present students performing *9 Parts of Desire* by Heather Raffo. The Gamemaster set in Paris in the 18th century and Tony Award winning musical *Hairspray*. The Kean University Dance Ensemble (KUDE) will showcase students in diverse and high-spirited works choreographed by faculty, alumni, guest choreographers, and students in Wilkins Theatre next spring.

The Kean University main campus is located at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union, and the address for the East Campus where Enlow Recital Hall is located is 215 North Avenue in Hillside.

Tickets are available at the Wilkins Theatre Box Office on campus, by calling (908) 737-SHOW (7469), and online at www.keanstage.com.



WATERCOLOR CLUB...The Essex Water Color Club's monthly meeting will feature a demonstration by Dorothy Skeados Ganek on Sunday, October 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Livingston Senior Community Center, 204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston. All are welcome.

Essex Watercolor Club to Host Artist Dorothy Ganek

LIVINGSTON - The Essex Water Color Club, beginning its 81st year of continuous activity in the watercolor painting community, announced its monthly meeting will feature a demonstration by Dorothy Skeados Ganek on Sunday, October 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Livingston Senior Community Center, 204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston.

Born in Athens, Greece, artist and jewelry designer, Ms. Ganek is primarily self-taught. A resident of New Jersey, she studied at the New York School of Interior Design from 1965 to 1968. She is an elected member of several societies including the American Watercolor Society and New Jersey Watercolor Society, and is a member of the National Association of Women Artists, Audubon Artists, and Allied Artists of America. She is listed in the 2002 edition of the Biographical Encyclopedia of American Paint-

ers, Sculptors and Engravers of the U.S.

Ms. Ganek uses the watercolor medium in bold colors and shapes often on handmade papers with collage. She carries with her childhood memories that are interwoven into her work through use of color and texture. A talented jeweler as well, her work has been published in art magazines, has been displayed at the Academy of Design; Montclair Art Museum; Saginaw Art Museum, Mich.; Seton Hall University; and in solo shows at Gallery 9, Chatham; Isis Gallery, Manhasset, N.Y.; New Jersey Center of Visual Arts; and the Juxtapose Gallery, Westfield.

The demonstration is open to the public and is free to members and \$5 for non-members and guests. Refreshments will be served. For further information, contact John Wolff, (973) 994-1597 or visit www.ewclub.com.

Poetry Series Offers Readings By LaVeglia and Thorburn

FANWOOD - The Carriage House Poetry Series invites the public to attend a free event on Tuesday, September 18, at 8 p.m. in the Kuran Arts Center on Watson Road, off North Martine Avenue, adjacent to Fanwood Borough Hall. (GPS use 75 North Martine Avenue). This reading marks the end of the summer hiatus and the start of the autumn schedule of readings. The featured poets will be Deborah LaVeglia of Cranford and Matthew Thorburn of New York City.

Back by popular demand is Deborah LaVeglia, who has been featured at the Carriage House several times over the years. Ms. LaVeglia lives in a Victorian-era home in Cranford with her husband Tony and son Evan. She is director of "PoetsWednesday" in Woodbridge, the longest running poetry series in New Jersey. Her work has been published in numerous poetry journals including *Paterson Literary Review*, *Tiferet*, *American Poetry Journal*, *Exit 13 Magazine*, *Negative Capability*, *Lips*, and *Edison Literary Review*.

She was a guest on National Public Radio and a featured poet at read-

ings in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Her chapbook, "Vigil," was published in 2000. Former poetry editor of *Black Swan Review*, Ms. LaVeglia conducts poetry workshops in schools and colleges, and she created the website "PoetsWednesday and More," which lists poetry events and venues in Central New Jersey.

Matthew Thorburn is the author of three books of poems, "Every Possible Blue" (2012); "This Time Tomorrow" (forthcoming 2013) and "Subject to Change" (2004), and a chapbook, "Disappears in the Rain" (2009).

A native of Michigan, Mr. Thorburn has lived in New York City for more than a decade. He is the recipient of a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, as well as the Mississippi Review Prize, two Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prizes, and fellowships from the Bronx Council on the Arts and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. His poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Poet Lore*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and *Pool*. He is a regular contributor to the reviews section of *Pleiades*. His critical writing also has appeared in *Jacket*, *The Laurel Review*, *Rattle*, *Poetry Daily*, and *Rowboat: Poetry in Translation*, among others.

The Carriage House Poetry Series is in its 14th year at the Kuran Arts Center, an historic Gothic Revival structure that was once a 19th-century carriage house, hence the name of the series. The September 18 reading is free and open to the public. An open mic will follow the featured performance.

For more information call (908) 889-7223 or (908) 889-5298. For online directions and information, visit carriagehousepoetryseries.blogspot.com.



Deborah LaVeglia



"A Perfect Ten" by Theodosia A. G. Tamborlane

Tamborlane Art Available In CF Stores

Cranford - Beginning this month, Cranford Artist will have her paintings on display in three Cranford stores: the Artist Framer Gallery, 17 North Avenue East; Cheese Please, 26 Eastman Street; and Dinner in a Pinch, 1 South Avenue, East.

"Theo" Tamborlane, currently is an active member of the Art Students League in New York City, as well as other artist groups and galleries in New York and New Jersey. All her paintings are for sale and she invites the public to see her diverse works at her studio by appointment. Her website is Tamborlane.com and her e-mail is Tamborlane@aol.com.

Alluem to Host Workshop to Benefit 'The Retreat Project'

CRANFORD - Alluem Yoga will host a special workshop led by Tari Prinster and Leigh Rousseau on Saturday, October 13, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. Almost everyone knows someone who has been effected by cancer. Feel free to attend one or both of these very special classes and practice in honor of them. Cancer survivors, those in treatment, caregivers, friends and family - all are welcome!

Proceeds from these classes will go to The Retreat Project, which brings yoga to low-income and under served women cancer survivors through annual retreats and local outreach classes.

The class schedule is as follows: 1 - 2 p.m., Flow with Leigh; 2 - 2:30 p.m., Raffle and light refreshments, and 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., Gentle Yoga with Tari. The suggested donation is \$20 for one class or \$35

for both (or give what you can). Please pay at the door.

Tari Prinster is the founder/director of The Retreat Project. She became a yoga teacher after a battle with breast cancer at age 56. Twelve years ago, during her cancer treatments, she discovered yoga was a powerful tool to manage the daily challenges of cancer treatments, as well as the side effects and life-long vulnerabilities they create. Since then, she has developed a unique, carefully constructed system of yoga poses and sequences based on the specific needs of cancer survivors, and created y4c (yoga4cancer), a methodology and practical guide to the benefits of yoga for all cancer patients.

Alluem Yoga is located at 347 Lincoln Avenue East, Cranford. For more information, visit alluemyoga.com or call (908) 276-9642.

Arthouse Film Festival Names Opening Night Film

MOUNTAINSIDE - After 21 years of keeping the opening night film a secret, New Jersey's Arthouse Film Festival is breaking tradition to announce that it will open this year's festival with "The Sessions," starring Helen Hunt, John Hawkes and William H. Macy.

Festival director Chuck Rose said, "This film already has tremendous Oscar buzz for what are expected to be three of the best performances of the year. We will screen it on our opening nights: Tuesday, October 2, at AMC Loews Monmouth Mall, and on Wednesday, October 3, at AMC Loews Mountainside. Fox Searchlight will release it in select cities beginning October 26, so we are honored and excited to have the opportunity to see it so far in advance."

The Arthouse Film Festival will run for 10 weeks at these two AMC theatres. Since launching in 1991, the festival has hosted 1,521 movie premieres with 988 live guest appearances.

Oscar winners and nominees Danny Aiello, Alan Arkin, James Cromwell, Frank Darabont, Jesse Eisenberg, Tony Gilroy, Ethan Hawke, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Jon Kilik, Melissa Leo, Viggo Mortensen, Chazz Palminteri, John Sayles, Marc Shaiman, Howard Shore, Aaron Sorkin, Fisher Stevens and David Strathairn have joined Dylan Baker, Famke Janssen, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Delroy Lindo, Derek Luke, Mary Stuart Masterson, David Morse, Connie Nielsen, Joe Pantoliano and Kevin Smith as guest speakers who have come to share their insights with festival participants.

"The program will always be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise," said director Mr. Rose. "Wonderful surprises and fantastic celebrities can pop up out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible. In the past two years, we premiered 64 films that later earned a total of 18 Spirit Award, 29 British Academy Award, and 21 Oscar nominations."

"Even before we started a couple of decades ago, I began working to create an international VIP network of actors, directors, producers, journalists and film industry pros whose jobs involve creating, finding and evaluating the cream of Sundance, Cannes, Toronto, Venice, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca and the other important film festivals. We also work to ferret out potential hits in the development and production stages so we are ready to pounce on the best films first," explained Mr. Rose.



FIRST LOOK... "The Sessions," starring Helen Hunt, John Hawkes and William H. Macy, pictured, left to right, above, and 20 more not-yet-released movies will premiere in the Arthouse Film Festival beginning in October at AMC Loews Mountainside and AMC Loews Monmouth Mall.

POPCORN™ Robot and Frank An Electrical Connection



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

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
Film Critic

Well, this is a real treat...one that ardent moviegoers will want to include on their dance card. In *Robot and Frank*, set in the near future, Frank Langella gives a touching demonstration in the subtleties of reality. Multilayered yet exquisite in its simplicity, his semi-retired cat burglar at a major turning point is sweet, sour and provocatively honest.

Directed by Jake Schreier from a screenplay by Christopher D. Ford, both members of the Brooklyn-based Waverly Films cadre and earlier anointed with the Alfred P. Sloan award at Sundance, it is a character-driven gem. Just doing what he's been doing for five decades, Mr. Langella again puts himself in position for an Academy Award nomination.

Whether a result of good dramatic savvy from this primarily stage actor or a function of our own fickle subjectivity, we like this fellow human. After all, as he mutteringly notes whilst explaining it to Robot, almost every bauble he's ever filched has been strictly high end, and it didn't hurt anyone but the insurance companies...those no good so-and-so's.

Yep, ex-con or not, Frank features himself as strictly class, an expert in his field, and he now has, thanks to his son Hunter's (James Marsden) concerns, a robotic caretaker whom he may regale of his exploits. Indeed, he recalls them in every detail, even if he doesn't remember that Harry's, his favorite hometown eatery in Cold Spring, N.Y., is no more.

Now there's the rub, or at least one of them, the bitter icing on the cake. Divorced to these 30 years, assumably for obvious reasons, Frank is apparently suffering from Alzheimer's, though you'd be pretty hard put to diagnose it. After all, this is a man who has lived by his wits, and not one to pass up a resource, positive or seemingly negative.

It takes us a while to grok his MO, mostly because Frank may not be in conscious control of all his newest mechanisms...particularly his variation on playing possum. His kids, the aforementioned Hunter, who Frank continually asks about Princeton (though he's long graduated) and the tree hugging Madison (Liv Tyler), are lovingly aggravated.

But what we come away with on first blush is that, despite claims of excess childhood baggage, especially from Hunter, these are good children and responsible citizens, their Dad's occupation notwithstanding. Yeah, things are never quite clear-cut or simple, and require careful examination, which is why it's much easier to be prejudiced than tolerant.

Tossed into this philosophical mix, upping the ante in the highfalutin treatise on value judgment, is the introduction of Robot, a whimsical deus ex machina meant to bring not only safety and succor to Frank's existence, but objectivity...supposedly. It's quite a matching, a parrying of diverse minds that segues into a dissertation on friendship.

But here's the deal. You see, Frank wants to "go out clean" as he puts it...meaning, from what we gather in his eyes when he waxes of it, to do one last great heist: a job so perfect that it transcends mere burglary. No, this will not only be his piece de resistance, but an achievement so elegant, so platonically perfect that it will stand as his life's vindication

Which is why, after initially railing against the invasion of Robot, he hatches a scheme. He will make a confederate of the machine, authoritatively voiced by Peter Sarsgaard. But not so fast, says Robot, who is programmed for Frank's welfare. He agrees to be impressed into service by the second-story man only if Frank accedes to a low salt diet.

With only a moment's hesitation, Frank accepts. Now they are partners in crime. The tutelage begins. Soon Robot is an expert lock picker, and cute as heck as he embraces the occupational lingo. And, as is so often the case with unusual affiliations, the camaraderie formed is far more profound than the intended purpose. The ensuing tête-à-tête charms.

Hip professors of ethics may want to include for dissection portions of the dialogue between the thief and his apprentice as right, wrong and rationale are humorously and intellectually rummaged with Socratic aplomb. Succinct yet smart, and interspersed with dark as well as giddy truths, the writing and Mr. Langella's intuition sublimely meld.

Oh, and there's a twist involving a pretty woman. Though not a great film in and of itself, Langella's tour de force makes "Robot and Frank" a fascinating étude in the art and wiles of aging. And while his mechanical co-star is only called Robot, if my crystal ball is right, it'd be nice to dub him Oscar, after the award Mr. Langella will win February 24.

Robot and Frank, rated PG-13, is a Samuel Goldwyn Films release directed by Jake Schreier and stars Frank Langella, Susan Sarandon and the voice of Peter Sarsgaard. Running time: 89 minutes.

Sally Cook

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thor of articles for *The New York Times*, *Family Circle*, *Family Life*, *Parenting*, *McCall's* and *Stagebill*. A graduate of Westfield High School, she and her family moved to Westfield when she was in the fourth grade.

A fan of team sports even then, Ms. Cook fondly recalls playing softball on a field in the northern part of Westfield. In addition, she remembers spending many hours at the Westfield Public Library and the huge role the library played in the lives of Westfield residents.

The author credits her mother, Ruth Williams, for many years a Wesley Hall Nursery School teacher, with instilling in her a love of books and reading.

It is a memory that has found its way into "Yankee Miracles."

"My mother died on the very day that I was asked to send my dedication for the book into the publisher," Ms. Cook explained.

"Yankee Miracles" is dedicated in part to her parents, Ruth and Dan Williams, both of whom lived in Westfield for over 30 years.

Ms. Cook is also the author of a picture book, "Good Night, Pillow Fight" and a work of nonfiction, "Another Season: A Coach's Story of Raising an Exceptional Son," (coauthored with Gene Stallings).

Ms. Cook will be returning to Westfield to sign books at The Town Bookstore on Saturday, September 15.

A portion of the proceeds from the book will be donated to medical charities, such as cancer research and other organizations that help children.

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