Announcements

Hilltop Circus Presents: The Case of the Missing Circus

WILTON —Gather up some clues and help us find the missing circus! The Case of the Missing Circus will be presented by the enigmatic middle schoolers of Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton. Performances will be held at Pine Hill on Thursday, February 19 at 7 pm, Friday, February 20 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, February 21 at 2 pm. Tickets are $12 for adults and $6 for children, and are available beginning February 9 at the Toadstool Bookstore in Milford, and Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton. Stop by during school hours or call 654-6003 to get your tickets. Get your tickets early, as they often sell out. MC/VISA accepted at Pine Hill only.

COURTESY PHOTO

Hilltop Circus Director and Pine Hill Alum Jen Agans

This year's show is directed by Jen Agans, a graduate of Pine Hill and a junior at Macalester College in MN. Jen's passion for circus began in 7th grade with her first Hilltop circus, and she has been performing and teaching ever since. Now back at Pine Hill, Jen is training a new generation of students who look forward to amazing you in The Case of the Missing Circus! Together with Hilltop veteran musical director Leslie Vogel, they have created a show that is sure to inspire and delight! Don't miss this entertaining Wilton tradition!

"Looking for Love"

"Love is in The Air" by Robin Frisella

At East Colony Fine Art

MANCHESTER – Join the artists of East Colony Fine Art for their annual Valentine Show which runs from February 14 through 21 at the gallery. This year's theme, "Looking for Love," finds East Colony's twenty-eight member artists pursuing the theme with a wide variety of subjects and styles, some challenging the viewer to find the word "love" hidden in a piece. The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the show at a Grand Opening Reception, complete with chocolate fountain and confectionary, on Saturday, February 14, from 5-8 pm.

The gallery is free and open to the public. East Colony Fine Art is located in Langer Place, 55 South Commercial Street, Manchester, NH. Gallery hours are T-F, 11-5 and Saturday 10-5. Gallery phone: 603-621-7400. Sullivan Frame Shop (located on premises): 603-624-8833. Web site: www.eastcolony.com.

Educational Farm Information Winter Program

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Drop off program for children ages 4-12. After-school activities may include: visiting with the animals, indoor or outdoor games, farm chores, nature walks or crafts in the farm's heated indoor classroom. Four-week sessions run 3:30-5:30pm. Ages 4 and 5 meet Wednesdays and ages 6-12 meet Thursdays. Cost is $40 per session. Limit 9 children, minimum 4.

NEEDLE FELTED BIRDS

Treat yourself to an early Spring, by creating your own songbird! Using beautifully dyed wool roving just a few simple tools, we'll create three-dimensional songbirds for you to decorate your home or office with. Needle felting is done by using colored wool roving, a foam block and barbed felting needle. The special needle is pressed into the fibers many times, causing them to interlock and to form into a shape. Bring a photo of your favorite songbird or create one from memory. Join us at the Educational Farm Monday, February 9, from 6-7:30 pm. Snow date: Wednesday February 11. Open to ages 10-adult, minimum 4 students, maximum 12. Registration fee of $25 includes instruction and all material. Registration deadline Feb. 2.

GIFT CERTIFICATE DRIVE

Looking for a great but easy gift for your animal friends at the Farm? How about Gift Certificates? Our farm costs over $4000 a month to run, and during the long the winter months we need your help! Gift certificates from BEDFORD FIELDS, FOOD FOR PETS, EASTERN PROPANE and PSNH will make a big difference for us. Please mail your contribution to: The Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford NH 03110.

The Educational Farm is located at 174 Joppa Hill Road, Bedford. Registration and more information at www.theeducationalfarm.org or call 472-4724.

CASA of New Hampshire's SnowFest at Loon Mountain

LINCOLN, NH – You can make a difference for New Hampshire's abused and neglected children, and have a great time doing it. On Friday, February 6 — a fun-filled day on the slopes of Loon Mountain that will benefit CASA of NH. There will be slalom ski races, raffles, lunch courtesy of the Common Man Restaurant and an awards presentation at the Governor's Pavilion. Activities begin at 9 a.m. and last through the afternoon.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for CASA's work with abused and neglected children in the state's court system. CASA is a statewide organization typically advocating for approximately 1,000 children on any given day. The CASA volunteers are appointed by district or family court judges to advocate for the children's best interests.

Online registration is available at www.casanh.org or by calling 626-4600. Entry fees are tax deductible. $500 for a team of four (including your company name and logo in the event program) and $95 for an individual provides participants with an all-day lift ticket, goody bag and a ticket to the awards luncheon. CASA volunteers advocate in New Hampshire courts for the best interests of abused and neglected children, so they can grow up in safe, permanent homes.

Drawings And Works By Northern Ireland Printmakers

Featured At Museum Of Art, UNH

DURHAM – Two new exhibitions, featuring drawings from the 18th – 20th centuries, as well as contemporary works by Northern Ireland printmakers, will be on view at Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, from January 24 – April 8. The preview reception for the exhibitions, "Drawing the Line" and "Renewal: Printmakers from the New Northern Ireland," will take place on Friday, January 23, from 5-7 p.m.

Drawing the Line

"Drawing the Line" examines the range of media, techniques, subjects, and styles that can be found in drawings from the 18th to the late 20th centuries. From representational to abstract, the selected images demonstrate the artists' mastery in the use of materials such as graphite, charcoal, Conté crayon, pastel, ink, and paint. Drawn primarily from the collection of the Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, the exhibition includes works by Sigmund Abeles, Samuel Bak, Caravaggio, Lewis Cohen, Jean Baptiste-Camille Corot, Frederick Trap Friis, John Hatch, Elyot Henderson, Jerry MacMichael, Lou Morgan, George Smillie, Herbert Waters, Charles Woodbury, and Francesco Zuccarelli, among others.

The exhibition was curated by Debbie Disston, director of the McIninch Gallery at Southern NH University and drawn from the collection of the Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire.

Renewal: Printmakers from the New Northern Ireland

"Renewal: Printmakers from the New Northern Ireland" features 18 of Northern Ireland's most significant contemporary printmakers, presenting 36 works which reflect the styles, interests and concerns of Northern Ireland's "post-troubles" years.

Fueled by a decade of peace, Northern Ireland is now experiencing an economic and cultural transformation. The exhibition highlights the renaissance taking place throughout Northern Ireland, where the region's cultural history and its contemporary art play a simultaneous role in this most ardent revitalization.

Works in the exhibition are drawn from two of Northern Ireland's most active printmaking workshops for artists, the Belfast Print Workshop and the Seacourt Print Workshop. Presenting artists include Anushiya Sundarlingam, Valerie Giananndrea, Simon McWilliams, John Breakey, Fiona Joyce, Struan Hamilton, Veronica Wallis, Ivan Frew, Terry Gravett, Lynda Hamilton, Frances Gordon, Jessica Hollywood, Jill McKeown, Cecilia Stephens, Deirdre McCrory, Sara Brown, Jean Duncan, and Lucy Turner.

January 28 - ArtBreak: Gallery Talk Debbie Disston, director, The McIninch Art Gallery, SNHU, and curator of the current exhibition "Drawing the Line," discusses the works on view. Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

February 4 - ArtBreak: Slide Lecture "Cityscape as Urban Prose" by David Smith, professor of Art History, UNH. Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

February 11 - ArtBreak: "Murals of Belfast" Van McLeod, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources, discusses the making of the award-winning documentary. Noon, free, Room A219, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

February 18 - ArtBreak: "The Boy Who Stood Still" A preview of the Department of Theatre and Dance's current production is presented. Led by Raina Ames, co-author and director. Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

February 25 - ArtBreak: Slide Lecture "Leaving the Troubles Behind: Images and Narratives from Northern Ireland" by Kathleen Shine Cain, professor of English, Merrimack College. Noon, free, Room A219, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

March 11 - ArtBreak: Concert David Ripley, Department of Music, UNH, performs. Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

March 25 - ArtBreak: Gallery Talk Ben Cariens, professor of Art, UNH, discusses works on view in the current exhibition "Drawing the Line." Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

April 1 - ArtBreak: Concert The UNH Symphony Orchestra performs under the direction of Christopher Hill. Noon, free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

April 5 - Spring Concert: The UNH Symphony Orchestra performs under the direction of Christopher Hill. 2 p.m., free, Museum of Art, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, University of New Hampshire, Durham.

For more information on the exhibitions and programs, contact the Museum of Art at 862-3712, museum.of.art@unh.edu, or visit www.unh.edu/moa.

The Museum of Art is open during the academic year: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; closed Fridays and University holidays, including March 13-22, and during exhibition changes.

The Actorsingers Announce Auditions *For The Producers*

The Actorsingers of Nashua will be holding auditions for their spring production of THE PRODUCERS. They will be held on Sunday and Monday at 6:00 pm, February 8th and 9th at Actorsinger Hall, 219 Lake Street in Nashua NH.

Auditions are opened to anyone age 16 and older, but teens under age 18 are asked to have a parent sign the audition form, due to the mature content of the show. Everyone auditioning is asked to prepare a short musical piece that displays the vocal range of the character being auditioned for. All auditioners will also be required to learn and perform a simple, short dance combination. Those auditioning for Max, Leo, Ulla, Roger, Carmen and Franz will also be asked to do a short reading from the show that will be provided at the audition.

A total of 5 performances will be held on May 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9th at the Keefe Auditorium in the Elm Street Middle School in Nashua, the largest theatre venue in the State of New Hampshire with an 1100-seat first floor capacity plus balcony.

The plot is about Max Bialystock who once was known as the King of Broadway but has now become a producer of broadway flops. He and his quirky, nervous accountant Leo Bloom develop a get-rich-quick scheme whereby they will produce the biggest flop in the history of Broadway, thus bilking their backers, (wealthy little old ladies) out of millions of dollars. The plan fails however when their show, 'Springtime for Hitler," is a smash hit. The story line of THE PRODUCERS is interspersed with a colorful collection of characters which include Franz Liebkind, the Nazi defector who penned "Springtime for Hitler;" Roger Debris, the gown-wearing flamboyant director and his common-law assistant Carmen Ghia; and Ulla, the sexy Swedish blond who believes and sings, "If You've Got It – Flaunt It!"

The show will be directed by veteran Actorsingers Kathy Lovering of Nashua; musical director and conductor, Judy Hayward of Mont Vernon; and choreographer Valerie Psoinos of Nashua.

Prepare Ye! Peacock Players Presents *GODSPELL*

NASHUA – Peacock Players presents the musical GODSPELL at the Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court Street, in Nashua, February 5th through the 15th.

One of the biggest off-Broadway and Broadway successes of all time, GODSPELL is based on the gospel according to St. Matthew. Drawing from various theatrical traditions, such as clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics, and vaudeville, GODSPELL is a groundbreaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus, with a message of kindness, tolerance and love.

Distinguished by Stephen Schwartz' score, GODSPELL is highlighted by a host of recognizable songs, including the international hit, "Day By Day." As the cast performs "Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All For The Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side," the parables of Jesus Christ come humanly and heartening to life.

GODSPELL is being crafted by a complete 2008 New Hampshire Theatre Award-winning team. The production will be directed by Timothy L'Ecuyer, musically directed by Judy Hayward, and choreographed by Martha Daniels Holland and Beth Fenske. The cast includes Mike Morrissey (Nashua) as Jesus, Andrew Barrett Cox (Bedford) as Judas, and an extraordinary ensemble of New Hampshire's most recognized and awarded young performers.

GODPSELL performances are: Thursday, February 5th at 7pm, Saturday, February 7th at 2 & 7pm, Sunday, February 8th at 2pm, Friday, February 13th at 7pm, Saturday, February 14th at 2 & 7pm, and Sunday, February 15th at 2pm. Tickets are $10-$15 (group rates are available) and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at (603) 886-7000 or visit us on the web at www.peacockplayers.org.

Visit Morrie All Month Long this February in Nashua

NASHUA - Mitch Albom's popular memoir Tuesdays with Morrie will open Yellow Taxi Productions' 2009 season at their new venue in downtown Nashua. NY Daily News wrote of the stage version of the Albom's tale about his college professor facing death; "A touching, life-affirming, deeply emotional drama with a generous dose of humor." Yellow Taxi, a professional theatre company located at 5 Pine Street, Extension in the mill yard in Nashua, will produce the play for a three weekend run starting on February 12.

Tuesdays with Morrie is the autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, a successful sports writer driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former Brandeis college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch sees Morrie on Nightline and learns that his former mentor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly class, held on Tuesdays, about the meaning of life. New York Magazine wrote, "Unforgettable! No matter how well you tell the story, the play makes it more vivid, more shattering, more humorous."

Doug Chilson plays Mitch in this production. Chilson is a Boston based actor who will be recognizable to Yellow Taxi Productions' audience as Ruskin in The Countess, John Daniels in Six Nights in the Black Belt and Major Steve Arnold in last September's Taking Sides. David White will portray Morrie. White who lives in Milford, NH played the famous conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler in Taking Sides and John Ruskin Sr. in The Countess both opposite Chilson.

Tuesdays with Morrie is directed by Yellow Taxi Productions' Artistic Director Suzanne Delle. Delle has a MFA in Directing from Catholic University and has helmed Yellow Taxi shows such as Topdog/Underdog, Clean Alternatives, The American Plan and The Last Five Years. Designers include Nashua resident Craig Brennan for Lighting and Boston based and BU instructor Ben Emerson for Sound.

Tuesdays with Morrie runs Thursdays to Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm from February 12-28. Tickets for adults are $25 and $15 for seniors and students. February 12 & 13 are preview performances and all tickets are just $10. Tickets can be purchased at www.ovationtix.com/trs/cal/1201 or by calling 6791-4558. They are also available one hour before curtain at the door.

For more information, please visit www.yellowtaxiproductions.org

PSNH – Costs for Ratepayers – The Ice Storm and "Scrubbers"

What are the anticipated costs ratepayers will be facing from PSNH as a result of the December 2008 Ice Storm. PSNH has petitioned the Public Utilities Commission to recoup costs for the ice storm, to be spread out over a few years.

In addition PSNH is facing a timeline regarding Merrimack Station, the Coal Power Plant in Bow.

30% of NH carbon emissions come from the Bow coal plant, a dirty source of energy production.

In 2006 RSA 125-0:11 was passed requiring PSNH to install scrubber technology to reduce mercury emissions. An earnings report in August 2008 disclosed that the scrubber installation estimate has increased from the original cost of $250 million to $475 million. NH PUC (Public Utilities Commission) ruled Nov. 12 that scrubber law requires construction must go forward. This scrubber will not bring the plant into compliance with national climate legislation. Full compliance is expected to cost ratepayers another $1 to $2 billion. This project is in the pipeline now to meet the 2013 deadline. This is a major concern for ratepayers.

Why? Because all information regarding meeting the reduction in emissions has not been provided. What will be the full cost of bringing Merrimack Station into compliance? Would ratepayers be better served by shutting down the plant and obtaining energy from other sources, including clean power or energy efficiency?

The NH Public Utilities Commission has refused to open a proceeding to obtain answers to these questions, ruling that the legislature left it no choice but to allow scrubber construction without knowing full costs and costs of alternatives.

Currently there is not adequate information about how this project will impact ratepayers as well as the environmental. Information is needed before any action is taken that may have a 30-40 year commitment. A law is needed to require the PUC to obtain information.

Senator Harold Janeway has introduced a bill to require the PUC to do a full analysis of the costs to ratepayers before scrubber construction proceeds. Ratepayers deserve to know this information.

Please call your state senator, for an updated status on this project and express your concern. You may want to ask for:

1. **the full cost of reconstruction and operating Merrimack Station in compliance with present and expected anti-pollution requirements; and**
2. **the cost and environmental benefits of viable alternatives.**

A public event was held on January 15 in Concord. January 23 was the deadline for public comment to PUC.