

COOLVINES HAS MOVED...200 FEET FROM OUR OLD SPACE!



Grand Opening - Saturday March 5th

Explore our expanded selection of Wines, Beers & Spirits • Wines will be open for tasting all day

127 Central Avenue, Westfield (next to Williams Sonoma) • Free Parking Behind Store • 908-232-5050 • www.coolvines.com

Arts & Entertainment

Cranford Dramatic Club's *Moon Over Buffalo* Shines Fully in Entertaining Comedy

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD - Farce doesn't have to be the Three Stooges. Farce celebrates confusion and involves a ridiculous situation in which everything goes wrong, yet the audience can see it coming. The Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) Community Theatre's latest production of Ken Ludwig's *Moon Over Buffalo* is complete with slapstick, twists and predictable turns that produce farce as its best.

By the same playwright as *Lend Me a Tenor* and similar to the behind-the-stage play *Noises Off*, the show finds doors slamming, people falling over furniture and identities being mistaken. The audience can't help but laugh at the absurd silliness.

Originally, the play opened in the '90s with Philip Bosco and Carol Burnett. Leads Jonathan Fishman and Lynn Langone in the Cranford production fill those size 12 shoes beautifully.

The fast-paced two-act play centers on a dysfunctional traveling theater troupe performing in Buffalo, New York in 1953. The lead actress, diva Charlotte Hay (Lynn Langone), shows disgust for her philandering husband, George (Jonathan Fishman) who plays opposite her nightly. The Hays are hams past their prime. They have worked in Hollywood, but never with significant success.

Their mercurial daughter Rosalind (Mandy Feiler) has left theatre life

behind in favor of life with a "normal" boyfriend, her nerdy bow-tied fiancé Howard (Juan Haro). But when she visits her parents at the Buffalo playhouse, she falls for her former fiancé Paul (Matt Burns), who works as the company's stage manager.

Eileen (Allison Acquafredda), a high-voiced "dumb blonde" stereotypical ingénue in the company, reveals her pregnancy by George, which throws wife Charlotte into a snit and George into a drunken stupor. Add Charlotte's nearly-deaf mother, Ethel (Arlene Britt), and Richard Maynard (Richard Colonna), a pompous would-be suitor for Charlotte into the mix and mayhem erupts.

The company learns that famed film director Frank Capra will attend the matinee performance to consider the Hay couple for a movie. Any performer can tell you that it's unsettling to know that a famous person is in the audience. To top it off, this second rate traveling troupe presents *Cyrano de Bergerac* one night and then switches gears to perform *Private Lives*, so the possibility for mistakes is high.

The actors race through a tangle of confusion to produce a woeful mixture of the two different plays in their hoped-for showcase presentation, and in the play's funniest scene, manage to set everything right by still more improbable coincidences.

Overall, CDC's version of *Moon Over Buffalo* is an energetic night of entertainment thanks to veteran per-

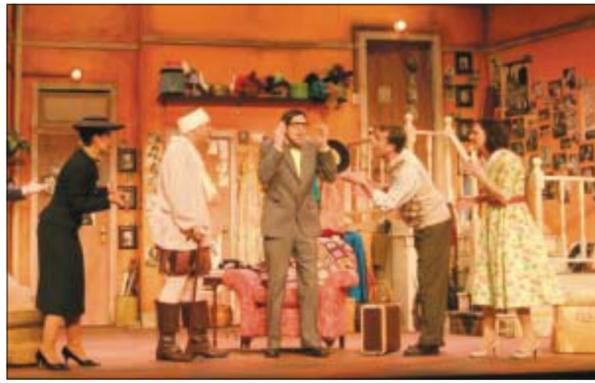


Photo courtesy of Rich Kowalski

MISTAKEN IDENTITY... Juan Haro, who plays the nerdy Howard in CDC Community Theatre's production of *Moon Over Buffalo* that continues through this weekend, is in the center of confusion. Lynn Langone, Jonathan Fishman, Juan Haro, Matt Burns and Mandy Feiler get caught up in the mayhem of the Ken Ludwig farce that features physical comedy, slapstick and absurd situations.

formers, great timing and spot-on direction by John Menter. No weak links in this acting pool; the cast plays their stereotypical characters full out. Especially terrific are Matt Burns as Paul whose frustration scene is a hoot; Mandy Feiler whose Rosalind's portrayal of every actor's nightmare, being on stage alone when the anticipated entrance of a fellow actor doesn't happen; and Jonathan Fishman who risks life and limb nightly in his pratfalls as an inebricated, rubber-legged George. Lynn Langone is especially delightful with her characterization of the egocentric Charlotte, obsessed with growing old.

John Menter shows he's not only a talented director, but shines in his

masterfully designed set of the Buffalo theatre's green room which was constructed by Terry Schultz and co-designed by John Hoppe. Costumes, by Cathy Cohane, provide a marvelously authentic trip back to the '50s. Professional lighting by Mark Reilly spotlights every bit of the physical comedy.

By the show's end, one character confesses that "actors are reckless and insane and people live their lives through them." If that's true, be prepared to have a wild ride at this crazy show.

Final performances will be on Friday, February 18, and Saturday, February 19, at 8 p.m. For information visit cdctheatre.org or call (908) 276-7611.

Roosevelt to Present *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

WESTFIELD - Roosevelt Intermediate School will present the classic family musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Performances will be on Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. There also will also be a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 6.

All shows will be performed on the main stage at Roosevelt, located at 301 Clark Street in Westfield.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown stars a cast of talented Roosevelt students including: Blake Fallon as Charlie Brown; Jackie Daaleman as Lucy; Daniel Coelho as Schroeder; Ben Howell as Linus; Jesse Zimmermann as Sally; and Lauren Echause as Snoopy.

The performers are accompanied by a live orchestra. Refreshments will

Intergenerational Orchestra Open House

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) has open seats for student musicians of all ages—from primary school through high school—for the remainder of the 2011 season and for the 2011-2012 season.

By joining now, you will be able to perform in the Spring Concert on May 1. There is a specific need for bassoon, bass, trumpet, trombone and percussion players. Three ensembles with varying musical skill levels are available.

Musicians must bring a music stand and instrument. The Orchestra rehearses at the Wharton Music Center, 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights. For more information visit njio.org, email info@njio.org or call (908) 603-7691.

be sold at the show and during intermission.

Tickets for the production are reserved seating. This popular musical is fun for kids of all ages, and sure to draw a large crowd.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 (\$8 for students) at the door. To purchase tickets in advance, visit westfieldnj12.org/education/dept/dept.php?sectiondetailid=9011 or contact Judy Augustino at judyandalan1@verizon.net.

In addition, Roosevelt students will be able to purchase tickets during lunch period on the Thursday, March 3, and Friday, March 4.

Nancy Ori and The Wizards Exhibit at Bouras Galleries

SUMMIT - Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights and the Wizards will exhibit at Bouras Galleries. The exhibit is from March 1, through April. The galleries are open to the public.

The Wizards is a group of five local photographers who have been working together since 2008 to support the efforts of Nancy Ori and the NJ Media Center in Berkeley Heights. While using their unique personalities and skill sets for this purpose, they also participate in a shared learning environment where each member is both teacher and student.

The subject of this group exhibit is monochromatic photography.

Bouras Gallery is located at 25 DeForest Avenue in Summit. For more information or to make an appointment at (908) 277-6054.



DRUM ROLL...Drummer Tommy Igoe, who has toured and recorded with Lauryn Hill, Art Garfunkel and Blood, Sweat and Tears and also wrote the drum book for the Broadway musical *The Lion King*, provided pointers on his craft to an auditorium full of students and parents at Saturday's "Day of Percussion" held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Passion for Percussion Evident at All-Day Seminar

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — The jazz percussionist Max Roach called the American drummer "a one-man percussion orchestra," and that feeling was clearly evident among performers and attendees on Saturday at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's fifth annual "Day of Percussion" that featured student performances, as well as clinics featuring renowned percussionists.

Sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Music Boosters, the all-day program led off in the morning with impressive performances by percussion ensembles from several area schools, including Ridge High School, Randolph Middle School, Randolph High School and North Brunswick High School. The percussion ensembles from Terrill Middle School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, under the direction of Charles Jackson and Joseph Reo, also performed.

Mr. Reo told *The Westfield Leader and The Times* that the event, which he termed a "mini-drum convention," was a "great opportunity [for students] to see professionals perform" and to get a look at "the latest percussion equipment out there."

Mr. Jackson echoed Mr. Reo, saying students got to "see each other perform and see professionals perform." He told *The Westfield Leader and The Times* that attendance and participation at the program has been growing each year. He also lauded the involvement of the parents, who he said helped with ticket sales, setting up the program and cooking the food. "The day would not run without them," he said.

The 20-minute sessions, which were held in the auditorium, had a steady flow of several dozen students, parents and potential percussionists filtering in and out. Attendees browsed the vendor tables in the surrounding hallways or stopped in several classrooms that had been converted into a small food court where

food and drinks were available. A variety of music-oriented items were raffled off as well, with prizes donated by a number of national percussion manufacturers, as well as local merchants.

John Gillick, a district music teacher and one of the organizers of Saturday's program, told *The Westfield Leader and The Times* that the event "gives our percussionists an opportunity to showcase their talents" and "allows us to celebrate the world of percussion." Mr. Gillick, who has taught in the district for more than a decade, praised the school district's music program, which he labeled "the best in Union County," because of the way that music teachers parallel their students as they progress from elementary school through middle school and beyond—"we get them, we mold them"—so that by the time they reach high school and join one of the bands, "they know us all" from the previous five or six years.

Attendance on Saturday swelled to a few hundred for each of the four hour-long afternoon clinics, which featured four nationally-known percussionists who shared with the enthusiastic audiences their vast experiences and offered advice on both the practical and technical aspects of their craft.

Professionals who took part in the event were: Dennis DeLucia, considered one of the most renowned percussion arrangers and teachers at Rutgers University and Piscataway High School; Leigh Howard Stevens, whose repertoire ranges from the Renaissance period to more contemporary marimba works, was called "the world's greatest classical marimbist" by *Time Magazine*; Tommy Igoe, who recorded with Lauryn Hill and Art Garfunkel and wrote the drum book for the Broadway hit, *The Lion King*.

Danny Seraphine, an original and founding member of the popular 1970s rock group, Chicago, rounded out the day.

WHS Theatre Department to Perform *Sweeney Todd*

WESTFIELD - Last spring when Rupert Holmes, the creator and writer of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, stood on the stage of Westfield High School (WHS) on closing night and proclaimed, "the last time I saw a production of Edwin Drood of this caliber was 25-years ago on Broadway," the theater erupted with applause.

Once again, the Westfield High School Theatre Department has chosen a particularly challenging and critically acclaimed production to tackle for the spring of 2011.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, a musical thriller, will be presented on March 10, 11 and 12

at 7:30 in the WHS auditorium.

The cast will include several returning young performers along with talented new cast members.

With music by Steven Sondheim and the book by Hugh Wheeler, the production will transport the audience to 19th century England to the barber shop of the former Benjamin Barker, who has been transformed into Sweeney Todd because of "many wrongs, what happened heaven knows, how many years ago."

For tickets and reservations call (908) 233-0563 or email WHStickets@westfieldnj12.org.

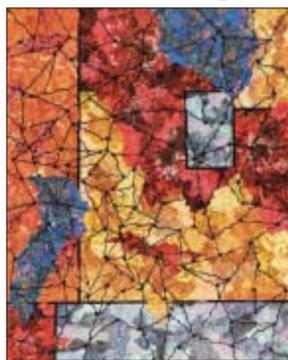
WF Art Association to Offer Demonstration on Collage

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Art Association will present a demonstration by Montclair collage artist Rachel Leibman on Sunday, February 27, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Community Room located at 425 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Rachel Leibman uses small pieces of paper as her palette and "paints" colorful, detailed and elaborate pictures. The collages are composed of images of ancient illuminated manuscripts, wall paintings and totems. Leibman incorporates manuscripts of different religions, languages and styles into each collage. The collages pay homage to those who came before us and celebrate the uniqueness of our varied heritages. At the same time, they portray the human interconnectedness and cultural melding that is our global society.

Although the source materials for the collages are sacred documents, Leibman does not consider them to be religious. Rather, for her, this cultural amalgamation represents a characteristically contemporary, secular and humanistic view.

Leibman works from the Franklin



Network by Rachel Leibman

Street Studios in East Orange. Visit her website at rachelleibman.com.

The Community Room is wheelchair accessible. Refreshments will be served.

For more information on this event, or the Westfield Art Association, contact Brooke Gardiner at (908) 233-5270.

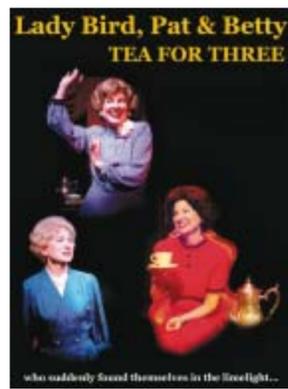
"Lady Bird, Pat and Betty" at the Fanwood Library

FANWOOD - On Sunday, February 27, at 3 p.m., the Fanwood Memorial Library and the Friends of the Library will present "Lady Bird, Pat and Betty: Tea for Three." This amazing performance reveals a gallery of intimate portraits of three remarkable, radically different First Ladies.

Award winning actress Elaine Bromka brings to life the fictionalized accounts of three presidential First Ladies - Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and a giddy, lively Betty Ford, in this brilliant play by Eric H. Weinberger.

Particularly apt in a time of heightened politics, this one-woman show is both funny and deeply moving, a thought-provoking exploration of these fascinating women and what they faced in this most unusual job. The author creates his vignettes from the biographical and autobiographical material of these ladies. Ms. Bromka takes on the persona of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford in this compelling perspective on the politics of love, devotion, and duty of First Ladydom.

For more information, contact the Fanwood Memorial Library at (908) 322-6400. This program is made possible by the support of the Friends of the Library.



who suddenly found themselves in the limelight...

CHUCK ROSE PRESENTS FILMMAKER SYMPOSIUM'S

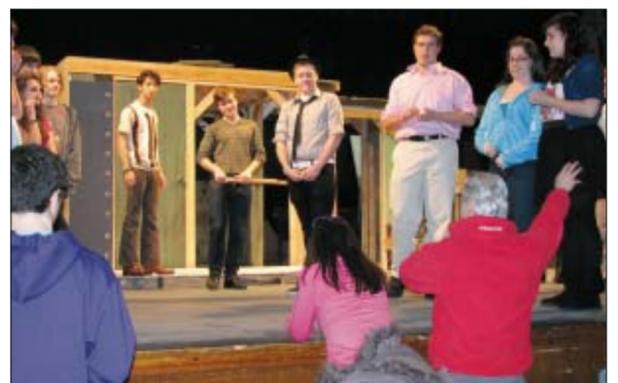
ARTHOUSE FILM FESTIVAL

PREVIEW THE BEST & SMARTEST NEW FILMS BEFORE PUBLIC RELEASE
ENJOY SURPRISE VISITS BY FILMMAKERS & ACTORS
REGISTER EARLY & SAVE
732-870-6012
WWW.PRIVATESCREENINGS.ORG

AMC LOEWS MOUNTAINSIDE STARTS IN MARCH

FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM

AMC LOEWS MONMOUTH MALL STARTS IN MARCH



DRESS REHEARSAL...The Westfield High School Theatre Department rehearses for their upcoming performance of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.