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JACKSONVILLE

FESTIVAL GUIDE '09

making the music happen

interview with George Hines of George's Music

free monthly guide to entertainment & more | march 2009 | eujacksonville.com

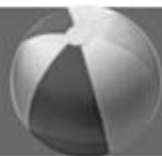
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» Get involved! Take the Unique Times, Practical Solutions Survey online at
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Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, March 10

Location: UNF University Center

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15

RSVP Deadline: Friday, March 6

» Register online at <http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/event> or contact Leslie Grayson at LGrayson@bizjournals.com or 904.265.2236.

Business JOURNAL



Survey developed by: **Barcelo & Company**

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on the cover

George's Music President
George Hines,
photo by Daniel Goncalves

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festival issue

march 09



FESTIVAL SEASON 09



The 13th Annual Taste of St. Augustine will be on April 25th at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

It's festival season once again. There are dozens of different events scheduled along the First Coast, beginning in March and going strong through the end of May. And though a few things have dropped off the list this year because of the dents in the economy, there is reason for excitement, especially for music lovers who will miss Langerado and Warped Tour. The void has been filled by the St. Augustine Harvest of Hope Festival. Best of all, the proceeds go to a good cause, help for migrant workers. Even if there isn't anything you'd like to hear at that music fest, there's bound to be one fest that plays what you like, from the Americana sounds at the Spirit of the Suwannee to the Jacksonville Jazz Festival. Festivals bring hordes of people who enjoy sunshine, fresh air and the evening stars all to the sounds of blues, rock, folk, country, Celtic and jazz. The many music festivals offer outstanding entertainment with performances by top headline talent and also showcase much of our area's treasure trove of local talent.

There's quite a variety of outdoor themed events from strawberries and azaleas to pirates, butterflies, music, food and art. Whether you're looking to sample lots of outstanding food or seeking that unusual piece of original art, you'll find it this festival season. You can stroll through the maze of artisans and crafters, who are unique among themselves, or sit back in your folding festival chair amidst the delightful scents of delicious food and watch the people parade by. You will be totally amazed at the carnival of characters you'll encounter.

EU Jacksonville's annual handy Festival Guide will help you find the perfect festival for you and your whole family. Art lovers, nature lovers, strawberry lovers and even speed lovers (not the drug) can all find a fest to fit them somewhere in the area, so take a look at our list and mark your calendars please!

MARCH

Harvest of Hope Festival

March 6-8, St. Johns County Fairgrounds, harvestofhopefest.com We shouldn't mourn for Warped Tour—we've got the Harvest of Hope. The list of bands is long, but here are just a few you might want to check out: GZA (of Wu-Tang fame), The National, Propagandhi, Tokyo Police Club and

Gaslight Anthem. Check out their website for a longer list. Tickets are \$29.50 per day or \$39.50 for a three day pass after February 1. (If you buy tickets ahead of time you'll get \$10 off the price of tickets). Camping sites are available for 3-day ticket holders at \$29.50, good for up to four people per site. (More info on page 12.)

Mad March Speed Fest 2009

March 6-8, Starke's Bradford Road Course, mmsf.gorally.com At the European Rally School & Motorsports Park, this year's Mad March Speed Fest will include Supermoto races, Time Attack Time Trials, Mad March Stages Rally 80 mile tarmac rally, and an Open Track Day for both public and competitor use. Call 352-473-2999 for more info.

63rd Azalea Festival

March 7-8, Downtown Palatka, flazaleafest.com The Azalea Festival is located Downtown on the banks of the historic St. Johns River. Parking is

plentiful and admission is free. Includes a 5K run. Start and finish is at Ravine Gardens State Park. Info: 386-328-1503

28th Annual Lions Club Seafood Festival

March 13-15, Francis Field in St. Augustine, lions-festival.com This Winn-Dixie sponsored three-day event is a favorite throughout Northeast Florida and features tons of delicious seafood, outstanding music and affordable arts & crafts. The event will be fun for all ages, so bring the kids. The business showcase, contests and prizes add to the fun. 4- 10 pm

George's Music Springing the Blues



on Friday, 10 am- 10 pm on Saturday, and 10 am-5 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$2 for adults, kids 12 and under free. Proceeds go to benefit Lions Club charities. Festival entertainers include the Cheryl Watson Band, Southern Lite, Katherine Archer, Marty Rabon with Full Circle and the dynamic sounds of Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike.

Jax Irish Fest

March 14, Jacksonville's Metro Park, jaxirishfest.com Are you Irish? Would you like to pretend to be? Or do you just like to knock back your Guinness? There will be the usual assortment of Irish arts and crafts and Irish-style entertainment. Listen to Spade MacQuade, laugh at comic Derek Coghlan and watch Irish dancing and much more! Check out the website for a full listing of entertainers. Let your shamrocks shine with Irish rockers the Blaggards, followed by Rathkeltair-one of the most talked-about bands on the Celtic festival circuit. An Triúr-a, a trio out of Gainesville, will be playing traditional Irish music. And a staple at all Irish fests, dancers from Glas Tara School of Dance and the Blake School of Irish Dance will bring their flying feet to the stage. This Celtic fun-fest delivers one of the most original, audience-friendly shows you will see anywhere.

St. Augustine Beach Birthday Bash

March 28, St. Augustine Beach Holiday Inn, (904) 501-1253 Twist and shout the night away with the Big Band sounds of the 21-piece All Star Orchestra at the 50th Birthday Celebration for the City of St. Augustine Beach. The party is from 7 pm until mid-

night and features great music, dance contests, tasty food, a complimentary cocktail and even discounts on rooms at the Holiday Inn at the Beach where the festivities take place. Tickets to the "Twist and Shout" party are \$40 each.

Jacksonville Beaches Founders Day Celebration

March 21, The Beaches Museum & History Center, bm-hc.com If you're already out at the Seawalk Pavilion for the Great Atlantic Seafood Festival, why not stop into the Beaches Museum for a free all-day celebration featuring food, music, arts and crafts? 10 am-3 pm.

Great Atlantic Seafood Festival

March 21, Seawalk Pavilion, jacksonvillebeach.org Chow down on Florida seafood, fried, boiled, grilled or blackened. Enjoy arts & crafts, rides, games and music for the whole family. Bands attending include Chroma, the Yankee Slickers, Late Nite Transfer, Salt-water Grass, Simplified, and headliner Blueground Undergrass.

17th Annual Lighthouse Festival & Michelob Ultra 5K

March 21, 81 Lighthouse Avenue St. Augustine, staugustinelighthouse.com Admission to the tower, museum and grounds is free from 11 am- 6 pm. The Victorian-era Light Station will be filled with children's games and crafts, pony rides, live enter-

tainment and refreshments. Please remember that for their safety, children need to be 44" tall in order to climb the tower, and an adult must accompany children under 12. The 5K Run begins at 4:30 pm and the Fun Run begins at 5 pm; both races will start and finish in front of the lawn of the keepers' house.

Suwannee Springfest

March 26-28, Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, magmusic.com/lineupspringfest.htm Camp, enjoy nature and some off-beat Americana bands such as the Duhks, Donna the Buffalo and the Lee Boys. (More info on Springfest on page 7.)

River Celebration Festival

March 28, Walter Jones Historical Park, myst-johnsriver.com Part of "Jax Parts Get Out There" Celebration. River rides, kayaking, children's games and activities, food, music, and more!



blueground undergrass

By successfully parlaying an extensive knowledge of bluegrass music with major elements of jazz and Southern rock, Blue-ground Undergrass has forged a unique, new listening experience, one rooted in the essentials of great American genres. The band has developed a solid reputation and nationwide following by playing its multi-faceted music mix coast-to-coast. BU is a stage full of talented musicians and instruments led by banjo picker Jeff Mosier. They have always been known for exciting performances and eclectic arrangements. Its sonic wall of twang-type sound pleases the whole spectrum of fans from hippies to cloggers to rockers...the perfect tunage to enjoy sumptuous seafood to.

Blueground Undergrass will perform on Saturday, March 21 at the Great Atlantic Seafood Festival at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach.

APRIL

George's Music Springing the Blues

April 3-5, SeaWalk Pavilion, springingtheblues.com Springing the Blues is a free outdoor blues music festival designed to celebrate America's indigenous musical form and promote support of the arts. The three-day oceanfront event features a number of renowned blues performers as well as numerous displays and activities geared for the entire family. The festival features performers on two different stages. Friday night kicks the blues off with the John Miller Band followed by J.P. Soars & the Red Hots, Regi Blue, and Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band on the main stage. The West stage features Tommy Thunderfoot & the Acceleratots, Toots Lor-

» continues on page 7 »

Coming in April!



14th Annual Flower & Garden Expo

Saturday, April 18

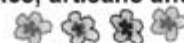
9am to 5pm

Sunday, April 19

10am to 4pm

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13th Annual

**"A Taste of
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with the Blues Music Festival

Sunday, April 26

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St. Augustine Amphitheatre

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and enjoy a
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All proceeds benefit EPIC Community Services, Inc.

valerie smith

The music of Valerie Smith is firmly rooted in the musical soil of her Missouri childhood. One listen to the conviction of Valerie's voice as she delivers a tune lets you know that she is no hot-house flower, but was raised in a real world of both hardships and joys. Valerie's delivery can range from the force of a prairie twister to the gentle softness of a spring rain. Once a public school teacher in rural Missouri, Valerie's music has taken her from coast-to-coast and around the world. She has become an ambassador of bluegrass music and has entertained music lovers in New York, London, Berlin, Dublin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and hundreds of other venues throughout the USA, Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe. She has been the recipient of IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) awards and was a Grammy nominee.

Valerie Smith with Liberty Pike will perform on Sunday, March 15 at the Lions Club Seafood Festival in St. Augustine.



19th Annual



Oceanfront
Music Festival
Seawalk Plaza
Jacksonville Beach, Florida

April 3rd, 4th & 5th 2009

WWW.SPRINGINGTHEBLUES.COM

TOMMY THUNDERFOOT AND THE ACCELERATORS
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** ARTIST LINE-UP SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITH OUT NOTICE

Special Thanks to Our 2009 Sponsors



M P F 3





Rhythm & Ribs Festival

rairie & the Traffic and 15-year old guitar avatar Conrad Oberg as headliner. On Saturday, the blues fill the sunshine with the great sounds of Skinny Legs & All, WSNB, Marquise "Manchild" Knox, E.G. Kight, Dave Herrero featuring Felix Reyes, Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malcolm, Eddie Shaw & the Wolf Gang, the Legendary JC's and Lucky Peterson. The Sunday lineup showcases Willie Mae, Samuel James, Nicole Hart & the NRG Band, Jim McKaba & the After Hours Band, Ed Cotton & the Smashed Ramblers, Robin Rogers, Roger "Hurricane" Wilson and Greg Baril closes the festival fun as the sun sets. Other activities include movies, a surf contest and much more. (Read about George's Music on page 9.)

Rhythm & Ribs Festival

April 3-5, St. Augustine's Francis Field, rhythmandribs.net Smack your lips and stomp your feet at this annual festival featuring championship barbecue dishes from around the country. A variety of outstanding entertainment throughout the weekend will be presented. The Red River Band starts the rhythm on Friday followed on Saturday by Sherry & The Psydelics, Spectra, J.W. Gilmore & the Blues Authority and headliner Leon Russell (see page 8). Sunday features ribs and Funk Shui and the Falling Bones. Admission is \$2 and \$5 Saturday. Friday 5- 10 pm, Saturday 11 am- 10 pm and Sunday 11 am- 5 pm

41st Mandarin Art Festival

April 11-12, Jacksonville's Mandarin Community Club, mandarincommunityclub.org Booths exhibit art and fine crafts including painting, jewelry, glass-work, pottery, sculpture, photography and more. Mandarin children will eagerly await the egg hunt held on Easter Sunday. Hundreds of children under 10 are expected to arrive with baskets in hand at 1:30 pm in Walter Jones Historical Park. Free parking and shuttle service at Mandarin Presbyterian Church and Albert Field will bring festival-goers to the show. A voluntary small donation of \$1 is requested as an entry fee. Proceeds are used to support the non profit mission and projects of the Mandarin Community Club. Go online or call 268-1622 for more details.

St. Augustine Spring Art & Craft Festival

April 18-19, Francis Field, staaa.org, 824-2310 St. Augustine's longest-running and most prestigious Art & Craft Festival comes to the Special Events field the weekend after Easter. Produced by the St. Augustine Art Association, the oldest arts group in the Sunshine State, this juried show features over 100 of the best and brightest artists

» continues on page 8 »

suwannee springfest *by erin thursby*

At once diverse and rooted in tradition, the Americana musical genre is one of the quirkiest genres you'll find in the world of music. Even if you've never been exposed to this genre, you're bound to find something at once familiar but different enough to be interesting at the Suwannee Springfest, which features an appealing blend of Americana bands.

Americana is sometimes narrowly defined. The Wiki entry calls it a form of alt-country, but it's become far more than that. Americana is folk, is blues, is rock and jazz. It's hillbilly fiddle music and every local traditional musical genre rolled into one. Americana, like America, can't be defined as any one thing. What it tends to be is a blending of musical styles, generally rooted in a local tradition of music. Zydeco, a form of Creole music, is one of the root genres you might see.

So the net for Americana is thrown wide. The Suwannee Springfest includes groups like the Lee Boys, who are rooted in gospel but draw from hard-driving blues, jazz and rock. They even come from Jacksonville, where their music grew out of a local church's brand of music. Two brothers, inclined towards the sound of the Hawaiian steel guitar, brought the electric lap steel guitar into the worship services of the House of God church in Jacksonville. Soon the pedal steel guitar was added, become the central instrument. The Lee Boys call it "Sacred Steel."

Listen to the Duhks, another group on the lineup, and you might think you've stumbled upon an American roots band that draws such traditional music as old-time bluegrass, with hints of Celtic coming through. But they aren't American. They're Canadian and they're drawing on a parallel tradition that has spawned excellent Celtic artists out of Nova Scotia and music that comes from a mixed French culture which can sound very New Orleans. It's tinged with blues and gospel, with a coloring of World music.

Donna the Buffalo is classically Americana. Each band member brings a different tradition of music into the mix. Mountain music, bluegrass, rock, old-time music and zydeco are brought together. Part of being Americana is using instruments that have fallen out of general use or are part of a small ethnic or local tradition. You might see the accordion, fiddle or even a scrubboard employed during one of their sets.

These are a taste of the Americana you'll find at the Suwannee Spring Music Fest on March 26-29. Check out the other artists in the lineup at magmusic.com/lineupspringfest.htm and check out the camping facilities at musicliveshere.com. Expand your musical horizons today! Take the trip to Live Oak for this mind-blowing fest.

2009 Great Atlantic MUSIC & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday March 29th

Seawalk plaza Jacksonville beach

Performance Schedule	
12:15	Saltwater Grass
1:30	Chroma
2:45	Yankee Slickers
3:30	kLoB
5:00	Late Night Transfer
6:30	Simplified
8:00	BlueGround Undergrass

BlueGround Undergrass

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from across the region with works ranging from glass, wood and jewelry creations, to sculpture, paintings, photography and more. New this spring will be performances by local musical, vocal, dance and theater groups on the main stage throughout the two-day event. A cultural booth will be on-site promoting area arts organizations and a new Kid-Zone will give children the chance to explore their creative sides and exhibit their works on the outdoor “Clothesline Gallery.” Also on display will be the “All County High School Art Exhibit.” Visitors will enjoy a wide variety of sweet and savory specialty foods and international wines and beer will be on tap.

14th Annual Flower & Garden Expo
April 18-19, St. Johns County Agricultural Center, epiccommunityservices.org This annual gardening extravaganza benefits EPIC Community Services. In addition to a wide variety of vendors offering beautiful and unusual plants, flowers, herbs and other gardening accessories, the Garden Club of St. Augustine offers a standard flower show and the Piece Makers Guild of St. Augustine offers a quilt show. Also an exciting schedule of expert lecturers will be sharing information for making your garden grow.

Bradford County Strawberry Festival

April 18-19, Downtown Starke, mainstreetstarke.com So you missed the Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City. Don’t cry, dry your eyes and schedule a drive to Starke, which has its own festival for these fabulous little fruits. See arts, crafts as well as “The Legends Show” featuring Elvis, Patsy Cline & more.

23rd Annual Cathedral Festival

April 18- 20, St. Augustine’s The Mission of Nombre De Dios, cathedralfestival.com From a flea market to Bingo and a bakery goods booth, you’ll find everything you’ve come to expect from a Catholic carnival, including a Midway, pony rides and raffles.

Suwannee River Jam

April 23-25, Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak, suwanneeriverjam.com Montgomery Gentry, Gretchen Wilson, Colt Ford and many other country music acts will be part of the line-up. Camping is available for the fest, see the site for more info!



Tree Hill Butterfly Festival

13th Annual Taste of St. Augustine & 3rd Annual 'Birth of the Blues' Music Festival

April 25, St. Augustine Amphitheatre, epiccommunityservices.org Pairing great food with great music from noon to 9 pm. St. Augustine’s finest restaurants will offer samples of their signature dishes as they compete for the coveted T.O.St.A. and People’s Choice Awards. Local and regional blues musicians Soul Slinkee, Stormy Weather Blues Band, Regi Blue, Al Stone Band and Kevin Marcus Dillon Band will provide music all day on the Amphitheatre stage. Come hungry and ready for fun! All proceeds benefit EPIC Community Services.

Butterfly Festival

April 25, Tree Hill Nature Center, treehill.org The festival features a butterfly exhibit, games and activities for children, live entertainment, special lecturers, food and much more. The event runs from noon to 5 pm and culminates with nature’s fireworks – a live native butterfly release. This is a sight guaranteed to delight young and old. \$10 per family, \$3 for a single person.

MAY

46th Annual Isle of Eight Shrimp Festival

May 1-3, Fernandina, shrimpfestival.com The Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival includes dozens of food booths featuring shrimp specialties. The Fine Arts Show has been ranked 38th in the nation by Sunshine Artist Magazine as part of their 200 Best Shows in the United States. Each year, the Festival is held in the historic Downtown Centre Street business district in Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island. The festival is a lively mixture of fun including an annual “Pirate Parade” to kick things off on Thursday and features juried fine arts and crafts show, antiques, live entertainment, Southwest Airlines Kids Korner, contests, pirates, free admission and 25 food booths featuring shrimp prepared every way possible by local non-profit organizations. For more information, access shrimpfestival.com or call toll free (866) 426-3542.

Gamble Rogers Folk Festival

May 1-3, St. Johns County Fairgrounds, gamblerogersfest.com The 14th Annual Gamble Rogers Folk Festival is back this year with a lineup of the best in national, local and regional talent beginning at 7 pm on Friday and concluding at 5 pm Sunday. Entertainers include Jesse Winchester, one of the finest songwriters of his generation, and the New Hip featuring seven-time International Bluegrass Music Association Bass Player of the Year Missy Raines.

Nationally-known storyteller Willy Claffin will perform “Sorry Is As Sorry Does” (a tribute to Gamble) along with his own set of unhinged comedy and musical surprises with his faithful sidekick Maynard Moose. Jack Williams will dazzle audiences with his guitar playing, Tracy Grammer will entertain with her distinctive voice and a mastery over her instruments and Gatorbone’s musical family of friends will bring its amazing spectrum of music back to the Bigtop Stage. Ben Prestage will play also his own brand of Florida Swamp Blues on a unique stereo guitar/bass combo with a drum kit and four foot pedals. There will be Contra dancing on Friday and Saturday nights after the Bigtop Stage concerts end. The festival grounds provide plenty of room for camping and the ever-popular Friday free pre-show fish fry returns again for paid attendees. Weekend tickets at \$60 each, RV hookups, and primitive camping reservations are on sale now at gamblerogersfest.org. Donations through the website are gratefully accepted to help keep the Gamble Rogers legacy alive and to pass it along to younger generations.

16th Annual Pont Vedra Art Festival

May 16-17, Sawgrass Village Ponte Vedra, Venuesplanning.com This is a two day art festival that runs from 10 am to 5 pm each day features fine art and crafts, a Kids Korner Art Center and plenty of food. Artists travel from all over to participate in this event. The festival is open to the public and has a long history in the Ponte Vedra Community.

Florida's First Coast Arts Festival

May 18- 24, St. Augustine Amphitheatre, floridasfirstcoastartsfestival.com The University of Florida, College of Fine Arts, School of Theatre and Dance will present Florida’s First Coast Arts Festival. Visitors will be able to see multiple performances of high-quality theatre and music productions as well as view award-winning sculptures on the grounds of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. The festival will present five different productions, the outrageous *Rocky Horror Show*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra with a family-friendly Pops musical presentation and A Night at the Opera will feature outstanding performances from some of the most popular operas of all time. Info: 352-273-0501. Festival tickets available at ticketmaster.com.

Jacksonville Jazz Festival

May 21-24, Downtown– Laura Street Corridor (Laura Street between Hemming Plaza and the Jacksonville Landing), jaxjazzfest.com The 2009 festival will continue the tradition of Jazz in Jacksonville with a variety of jazz genres and special components. Other activities include the Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition, the Art in the Heart Art Show & Sale, Wine Down: A Wine Tasting Experience featuring a variety of fine wines, the ‘Round Midnight Jazz Jam and a Jazz Brunch.



leon russell *by erin thursby*

Looking for a legend to listen to at one of local fests? Leon Russell will perform at Rhythm & Ribs Festival set for April 3-5 in St. Augustine.

Throughout the years, Leon Russell has kept up an incredible pace of touring, songwriting, collaborating and producing albums. When asked by EU Jacksonville how he manages to do so much, he simply says “It keeps me from having to take a real job.”

As a performer he’s turned out an unbelievable number of albums on his own, but he’s also written top hits for other performers such as B.B. King’s ‘Hummingbird’, Joe Cocker singing ‘Delta Lady’ and The Carpenters took ‘Superstar’ (which he co-wrote with Bonnie Bramlett) to #2 on the pop charts. In 1976 George Benson won the “Record of the Year” Grammy for his cover of Russell’s ‘This Masquerade.’ Not only that, but it turned out to be the first song in music history to hit #1 on the jazz, pop and R&B charts.

He’s a diverse, genre jumping performer. He’s perhaps best known for his album *Carney*, which he released in 1972, making him the biggest concert draw by the end of that year. He was known in the rock genre but he wanted to do something different, so he released a country music album, *Hank Wilson’s Back* under the name Hank Wilson in August of 1973.

He’s had a long association with Willie Nelson. In the late 70s they toured together and eventually did a country album together in 1979 called *One for the Road*.

Listening to his music, there’s a heavy blues influence that shines through. Asked what genres inspire him the most, he replies that it’s “mostly blues with a little classical and rock influence.”

Russell’s latest album, *Angel in Disguise (2007)*, is a work that Russell calls his best so far. And it is an amalgamation of all that’s unique about his sound. Rock, country, bluegrass and the blues are all woven through out the work. No doubt he’ll play a few songs from his newest along with old favorites at Rhythm & Ribs.

With a career that’s spanned 30 years, Leon Russell has collected some very devoted fans. They’re called the LeonLifers. They got connected by starting Leon Russell chat rooms in late ‘98. By 2000, they started to organize events and gave Russell a commemorative plaque for his achievements. In 2004, they hired Leon for a live private performance where they served him barbeque and presented him with a Gibson 335, a gorgeous mahogany guitar overlaid with a blue finish and Grover tuning keys. LeonLifer John Beyrooty says that, “It’s really a phenomenon, everybody has favorite groups and what we have, and what our generation has, staying with these artists that have been around for thirty years; I sincerely doubt that it will happen with today’s groups and today’s fans thirty years from now.”

You can hear Leon live at Rhythm & Ribs Festival on Saturday, April 4 at the St. Francis Field in St. Augustine. If you want a little preview of his sound, check out his website leonrussellrecords.com, where he’s got MP3s of his songs ready for download and you can listen to snippets before purchasing.

george hines

spotlight on festival presenter: george's music springing the blues

When George Hines sits down with a guitar across his lap his demeanor as the astute business man quickly transforms into that of a bright eyed kid in a candy store. And what a candy store he has. And the great thing is, he loves to share his bounty of treats. **by warren beads**



George's Music has been the title sponsor of our annual Springing The Blues Music Festival in Jacksonville Beach for the past twelve years. "Along with Sam Veal we've done some pretty cool things". Every year George's Music Springing The Blues festival brings in three days of the hottest names on the national blues scene and also reaches out to showcase much of Jacksonville's local talent.

This year's festival will be held April 3-5 at the Jacksonville Beaches Seawalk Pavilion and will bring to the stages (there are two) a stellar lineup including Regi Blue, Conrad Oberg along with Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band on Friday evening. Saturday shines up the blues all day with signature style as Skinny Legs and All (gotta love that band's name) starts the all-day musicthon just before noon and wraps the evening with the Legenday JC's and Lucky Peterson. Sunday serves up another day long helping of blues nourishment and closes the festival at sunset with the guitar stylings of Greg Baril.

George explains his endorsement, "Springing The Blues is unique. It is now the largest free music event in Florida. Jacksonville Beach and Springing The Blues just felt right. I really love the area. The people are so friendly and our store there is one of my favorites to visit."

George Hines loves music and cherishes musicians. "Our business is more about personal relationships than anything else." George's Music stores now number ten. Five are in Florida, two of which are here locally in Jacksonville Beach and in Orange Park. His other Florida stores are in Orlando and West Palm Beach and there are five in the Philadelphia area, where George's Music was launched in 1977.

George had grown up in the Philly area, taking piano lessons at six years of age.

"My first guitar was a Sears Silvertone then in 1969 I bought my first Gibson Les Paul". Hines played guitar and keyboards in local top-40 cover bands. "One was named Patchwork, as I remember". George graduated from Ursinus College, a small liberal arts college northwest of Philadelphia with a teaching degree in secondary education. He interned as a high school American and European history teacher briefly and just before his graduation realized "I had decided that I wanted to do something with my passion, music". So George took a leap of faith and leased a storefront in Spring City, just outside Philadelphia repairing instruments, teaching lessons and "...living on brownies and coffee, six days a week. I'm much, much better doing this," George chuckled with a twinkle in his smile and adds, "this is better!" But the essence of teaching enthusiasm for sharing the gift of music is never far from George's Music creed. George's Music sponsors "Blues In The Schools" where young minds are treated to live performances by top name talent and interactive discussions bring students a significant appreciation of music, and the joy it can be.

"When I was first learning guitar, there was nobody I could connect to in the music stores around Philadelphia so I saw an opportunity and decided there's got to be a better way." That launched a business ethic that is unrivaled in a market arena that's full of warehouse mentalities and minimal customer interaction. "When people come in to George's Music they are treated with respect by people who are interested in their hobby. We want to welcome our customer by name and that develops loyalty. There are two needs: the physical need, the product, what it costs. Then there is the emotional need. When you walk in to purchase a product, you want to feel recognized and appreciated." Today they teach over 2200 students and offer a music teachers referral service, a church musicians association and have a website with live video tutorials. Where were these guys when I was learning to play guitar?

Loyalty from musicians has to be earned and is a key ingredient enjoying a musical instrument. If you're comfortable with the guy selling you a new set of guitar strings and he suggests you try something dif-

ferent from your usual selection and you discover that you really like the sound of them, you're likely to return to that trusted friend when you're looking to upgrade your gear or you just have to know how to play a G minor 7th chord for that tune you're trying to learn. I know personally, over the years I've spent as much money, if not more, on guitar strings as I did buying the instrument, and I fancy really expensive guitars.

Mastering any instrument takes a lot of time, patience and practice and the folks at George's Music understand and empathize with the challenges, and relish the rewards. George's Guitar Club and online teaching programs can give that budding musician instruction and guidance all the way to becoming an accomplished player. "The online technology is great," Hines explains "our website is not designed to merely be a marketplace for selling instruments, everybody does that. What we try to create is a come together community for enthusiasts. We find the online experience can enhance the in-store experience"

When I asked George about his opinion on the new imitation music computer games he just smiled and said, "I have a Wii and Playstations 3 and love it. Guitar Hero and other interactive games introduce fans to the fun music can be and many will find their way to our stores". His wife Lisa agrees and added "we're even thinking about having a Guitar Hero challenge at one of the stores during Springing The Blues".

George Hines is known throughout the music industry for his savvy business sense, smart decisions and the ability to seek out and keep quality people. George is the chairman of the Alliance of Independent Music Merchants, a group of 52 leading independent retailers with more than 200 storefronts and doing more than \$700 million dollars annually in sales, which represents about 10% of the US retail market.

And the key to his success... "customers are #1. Our business matrix is like an inverted pyramid. The customer is our top priority, our associates follow and finally there's the management and development. I'm basically at the bottom because I'm farthest from personal contact with the customer, so I have to support everyone above me. I try to inspire people to do a good job. My primary role is head cheerleader. Everything is focused on the customer"

"What I really like is that we are actually changing people's lives. It's a big, big, big thing. I can't imagine my life without music. It's such a positive force. When I was growing up music was king. You think of the real needs of people. There's food, shelter and I like to put music really high on that list. The sheer power of making music provides something important to the human spirit, and I think what I'm doing is very important. I wouldn't have done it for these years if it weren't."

George's fervor for the business is contagious. You can feel it when you first walk in to a George's Music location and sense the pride of the associates and the friendly atmosphere of the experience. It's a fun factory fueled by dreams and enthusiasm. And his efforts are apparent every year presenting Springing The Blues Music Festival to thousands of blues fans.

If you catch the music bug at STB and seek that kid in the candy store experience, wander in to George's Music down on Third Street in Jacksonville Beach or check out their website at www.georgesmusic.com where you'll find guitars (George has more than 7500 in stock – wow!), amplifiers, sound equipment, drums, keyboards and all the coolest accessories you can imagine. There is anything and everything the music professional or hobbyist would want from top name manufactures like Fender, Gibson, Ibanez, JBL, Korg, Latin Percussion, Line 6, Ludwig, Marshall, Martin, Pearl, Peavy, TAMA, DW, Tascam, Taylor, Yamaha, QSC and Zildjian.

Music IS King! And long live the blues. See you April 3-5 at George's Music Springing The Blues. It's the perfect way to start your summer – sizzling with friends enjoying the hottest sounds around.

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www.rhythmandribs.net



ROAD TRIP

The First Coast has plenty of great music festivals to choose from but if you want to see big names like Paul McCartney, Springsteen or 50 Cent, you're going to have to travel. Huge music festivals like South By Southwest, Bonaroo and Coachella attract the biggest acts and promise a unique experience that you will tell your grandkids about (or not, depending on how much you party!). Below is a list of the major fests happening around the country between now and June and a look at just some of the bands scheduled to play them. Plan to use your tax return for tickets and gas money because these are not shows you want to miss! **by kellie abrahamson**

March 18- 22 **South by Southwest 2009** Austin, TX
Gomez, Katy Perry, Ben Harper, Meat Puppets, Lil Jon, Tori Amos, PJ Harvey, The Black Lips

March 27- 28 **Ultra Music Festival 2009** Miami, FL
Bloc Party, The Prodigy, The Ting Tings, Santogold, Perry Farrell, Rabbit in the Moon, Moby

April 4- 5 **The Bamboozle** Left Irvine, CA
Fall Out Boy, The Get Up Kids, 50 Cent, Deftones, Taking Back Sunday, The Used, Thrice

April 17- 19 **Coachella Festival 2009** Indio, CA
Paul McCartney, Morrissey, Band of Horses, The Killers, The Cure, My Bloody Valentine

April 24- 26 & April 30- May 3 **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival** New Orleans, LA
Neil Young, Bon Jovi, Dave Matthews Band, Wilco, Tony Bennett, Erykah Badu, Bonnie Raitt

April 25- 26 **Stagecoach Music Festival** Indio, CA
Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley, Reba, Kid Rock, Little Big Town

April 29- May 3 **Sunfest** West Palm Beach, FL
311, James Taylor, David Cook, UB40, G. Love & Special Sauce, Jack's Mannequin

May 2- 3 **The Bamboozle** East Rutherford, NJ
No Doubt, Fall Out Boy, The Get Up Kids, Taking Back Sunday, Rise Against, Gwar

May 16- 17 **Rock on the Range Music Festival** Columbus, OH
Slipknot, Motley Crüe, Alice in Chains, Korn, Avenged Sevenfold, Shinedown

May 23- 25 **Sasquatch! Music Festival 2009** George, WA
Kings of Leon, Sun Kil Moon (rumored: Animal Collective, The Decemberists)

May 29- 31 **Mountain Jam Festival** Hunter Mountain, NY
Allan Brothers Band, Coheed and Cambria, The Hold Steady, Girl Talk, The Lee Boys

June 11-14, **Bonaroo** Manchester, TN
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, Phish (2 Shows), Beastie Boys, Nine Inch Nails, David Byrne, Wilco, Al Green, Snoop Dogg, Elvis Costello Solo

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AT THE HARVEST OF HOPE FEST

rich diem of tubers *by carlos r. andujar*

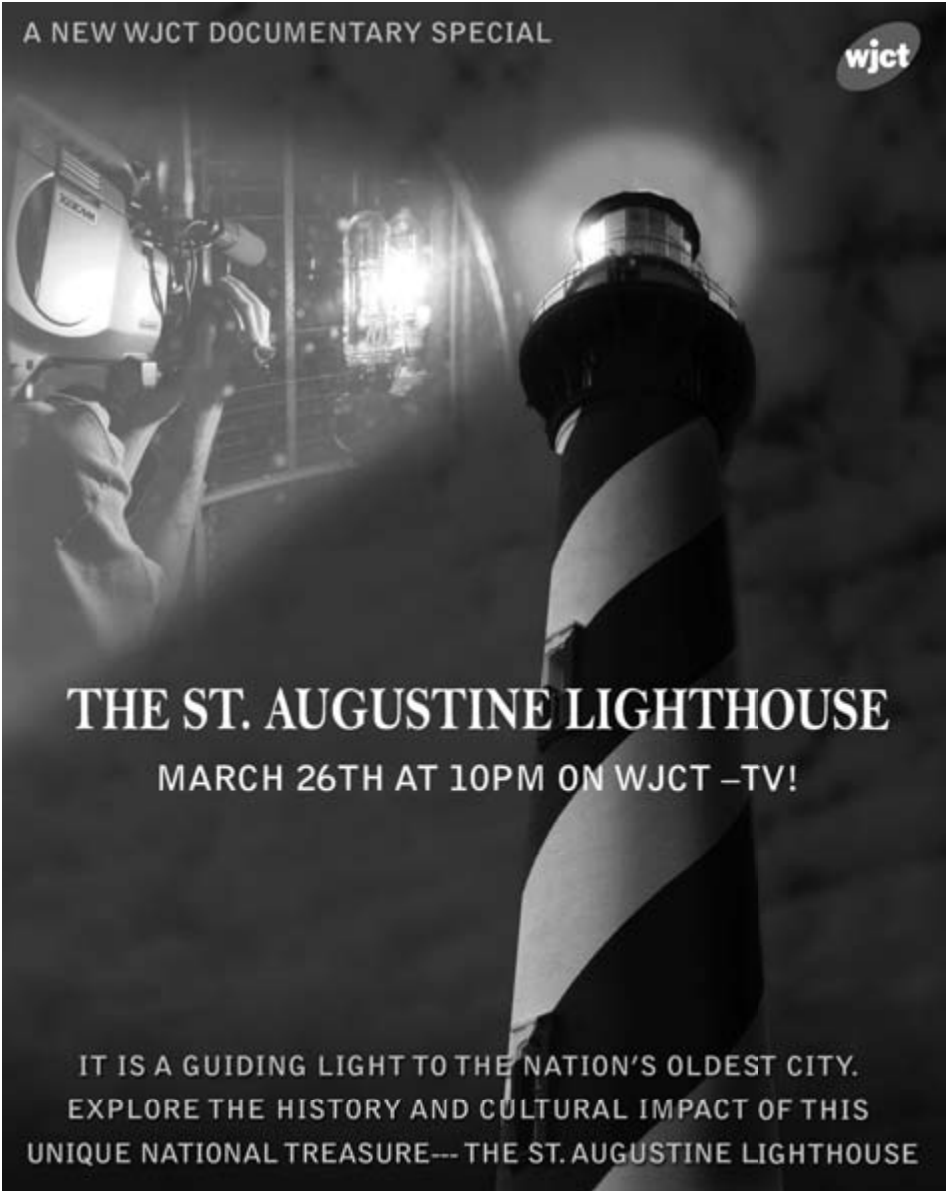
With only a few days until the anticipated Harvest of Hope Festival sets up camp in St. Augustine's fairgrounds, a lot of buzz is being generated to spread awareness of the event and its performers. With the recent pullout of headlining acts like Broken Social Scene and the Faint, HOH appears on the surface to have been dealt a small blow to its attraction of people to its noble cause. But don't abandon Hope just yet! They've actually added more bands than have been dropped from the bill. Fresh add-ons include KRS One, Black Kids and Gaslight Anthem.

Aside from well-known bands like Tokyo Police Club and the National, HOH will also prove to be a great showcase of our area's local talent. Among them is St Augustine's Tubers, slated to perform Friday March 6th of the event.

Vocalist/guitarist Rich Diem (12 Hour Turn, Solid Pony) is optimistic of the opportunity for St. Augustine. "I'm super excited about it," says Diem, "because Ryan Murphy (of No Idea) is in charge of running things and No Idea (Records) is helping out. It's kind of a wide range of music that's being offered, different music tastes you know? So, I think that's pretty awesome."

In addition to the musical prospect, the fest also hits close to home on ideals that the band values highly. Having derived the name "Tubers" from an agricultural term referring to rooted vegetables, the members in the band all grow and maintain gardens with their own vegetables. They are strong advocates of preserving the environment and DIY agriculture. As Diem admits, though, they still are inevitably forced to go out and buy food.

"More important than whoever's playing is the festival's excellent intention to benefit migrant workers and migrant families, which is incredible. The fact that someone that I know is doing what a lot of people in punk rock and DIY claim to do for something other than music instead for migrant farm workers and their families on a large scale is incredible. One thing I also keep in mind is the idea of knowing where you put your money in. I mean, even if you were to go to a fast food place like Taco Bell whatever little produce they might have comes from migrant farm workers, and a lot of times they're treated as slave labor. So, yeah, I feel that this being the subject of the whole event is really incredible."



FRIDAY 3/6	SATURDAY 3/7		
Girl Talk Less Than Jake Tokyo Police Club The Night Marchers The Mae Shi King Kahn & the Shrines Yip-Yip Rehasher Grand Buffet Ruby Coast Hollywood Holt Tim Barry Bomb the Music Industry Austin Lucas O'Pioneers Josh Small Liza Kate Look Mexico Brainworms Flatliners Paul & Ginger Dirty Money The Takers Tubers Anchor Arms Cheap Girls Alligator Failures Union Coyote Throat Laserhead The Winslows Reptile Theatre	Against Me! Lucero Propagandhi The Mountain Goats Bad Brains Tilly & the Wall The Bouncing Souls John Vanderslice Strike Anywhere HEALTH Wild Sweet Orange Valient Thorr Deerhunter Paint it Black None More Black Underground Railroad to Candyland Her Space Holiday Sundowner Lymbc Systm SUNBEARS! Static Radio (NJ) Antarctic Dirty Money After the Fall Smoke or Fire (acoustic) Hometeam The Beauvilles Averkiou Morningbell Hawks & Doves Bridge & Tunnel Mouthbreather Weapons to Go Mumpsy Ones to Blame Johnathan Appleseed BLORR	Viernes Jimmy Reeves & the Wolf River Juicy Pony City Lights Bloom T13C! Towers of Hanoi Willie Green Christina Wagner Lighthouse Music Blues Lightning Onslaught Dynamo Incoherent Barnaby Jones Mario Sevayaga County Road	Dave Dondero Kevin Seconds Fake Problems Whiskey & Co. Summerbirds in the Cellar Division Minuscula Vince P Ghost Mice Paul Baribeau Young Livers Good Luck Grabass Charlestons Tim Version Lauris Vidal & His Warm Guns Gatorface Virgins (FL) Monikers How Dare You New Bruises Emilyn Brodsky Ninja Gun Spoonboy EYC Cutman Protagonist No More imadethismistake Lost Hands Found Fingers Assassinate the Scientist So Pastel Worlds R.A.F. Buttons Shaking Hands Diet Cokeheads
SUNDAY 3/8			
		The National KRS One GZA/Genius The Gaslight Anthem Diplo Kool Keith (Dr. Octagon vs. Dr. Doom) featuring Kutmasta Kurt Black Kids Harlem Shakes Ra Ra Riot Tiger City MURS Holy F*ck Monotonix Kiss Kiss This Bike is a Pipebomb Hammel on Trial Keith Murray	

sunbears! *by kellie abrahamson*

Local indie-pop twosome SUNBEARS! have had audiences dancing and discriminating music bloggers buzzing since forming a little over a year ago. Band mates Jared Bowser and Jonathan Berlin have been busy recently recording their newest effort, *Dream Happy Dreams*, but took a moment to answer some of EU's questions via email. Here's the scoop on the record and their upcoming appearance at Harvest of Hope Fest in their own words.



EU: How long have you guys been making music together?

SUNBEARS!: Wow... let's see... for years! Not always as SUNBEARS! though. SUNBEARS! has been around for one year! Jonathan and I were in some bands together prior to this, but those bands are all extinct now!

EU: Your live shows are somewhat unique. Give people who may not have seen SUNBEARS! live yet an idea of what they'll see.

S: We just try to have a fun time at our shows. In my opinion, nothing is worse than spending your allowance on a boring show, ya know? SOOO we decided that it could be neat to have a video show synced to our tunes to project behind us! We also try to incorporate really neat lights, confetti, smoke, ETCETERA!

EU: You'll be performing at Harvest of Hope Fest. How will your performance be different given the setting?

S: Hrmmm... We really haven't put much thought into that yet, just kidding... but seriously, we're definitely up for trying something super different with it probably being daylight when we hit the stage. One idea is that we want to SKY-DIVE and open our parachutes and land on stage. We also thought about tying kittens to weather balloons and letting them hover above the crowd (assuming anyone is watching us!) I don't know... we just want it to be sweet! LOL.

EU: How did you get involved with Harvest of Hope Fest?

S: One of our good buddies, whose name I WILL NOT mention, hooked it up for us. He is a really great dude. We have not known him for that long, but we feel like we are lifelong friends. Unfortunately, he doesn't live here. If he DID live here, we would probably hang out every day. Sigh...

EU: Which bands are you looking forward to seeing?

S: We are really excited to see Ghost Mice, Brainworms, Diet Cokeheads, and Alligator.

EU: Tell us about *Dream Happy Dreams*.

S: Dream Happy Dreams is the second chapter in the history of SUNBEARS! It is more over-the-top and OUT THERE! than our previous works. We just wanted to make something happy and alive! It's got seven juicy tracks, and was recorded all over the country! We're really excited about how it has turned out, and we can't wait to share it with everyone! YAY!

EU: Besides the album and HOH, what else can we expect from SUNBEARS! in the near future? Any plans to tour?

S: ACTUALLLY YES! We just got invited on the east coast portion of the MATES OF STATE / BLACK KIDS tour. Soo... we said yes! We're really happy and excited about that! It's hard to believe, really! What a great opportunity! So other than that, we're gonna release the record, and hope for the best anyway!

The tentative release date for *Dream Happy Dreams* is sometime in mid-March. In the meantime, go to Harvest of Hope Fest for a full, live dose of SUNBEARS!

netscapades

by brenton crozier

the internet for saving edition



The sweet convenience of doing a little break-time shopping from the comfort of your desk is simply too much to resist at times. Amidst another one-time government bailout, companies making huge cuts due to the economy (wink, wink), the mass exodus of your neighbors and all the other run-for-the-hills, dire media discussion, you've probably decided it's time to make some micro-economic changes. Instead of turning to our old friend the World Wide Web for comedic T-shirts, music, books, electronic doohickeys and other whatnots, you can put your credit card numbers and private financial information on the Web for constructive purposes!

There are sites designated completely to helping you better budget your cash flow and aid in making you more mindful of your spending habits . . . as depressing as that can be. One too many lunches out? That extra outfit that you just had to have? You'll get the full breakdown of what percentage of your income you are spending in a particular area. Enjoy the shopping, but do so more responsibly with these tools.

www.mint.com

Mint is truly a comprehensive budgeting tool. First and foremost, it allows you to see where you are spending your money. Although you have to take the leap of faith to enter your credit and debit card information, it is completely secure and the only way to get a realistic assessment of where all that flow you are making is going. You'll get a user-friendly, daily breakdown so that you can see in vivid graph goodness, what your spending trends are. How much are you spending on that latte every morning? Then the real trick of it all is to improve! The great thing about Mint is that they don't leave you in the dark, giving you advice on how you can better your spending habits.

I know, you are probably suspicious. All your credit card information? A free service? Are you going to see charges on your next statement for lingerie, champagne and other frivolities? No, more than 850,000 people use Mint and more than 3,000 users a day are being added. It's proven and even heralded by leading financial publications. I have a friend who swears by it. You may ask, why don't you set up an account? Well, I'm scared to see my finances in telling graph form.

Mint also analyzes your credit card spending and payment history to see if you'd save money with a new credit card. You can either use their software to get a card more fitting for your lifestyle or a better interest rate on your current card. Reduce your debt, make a realistic plan for paying off student loans, save for retirement and even plan to buy a car with Mint's impressive software. Ok, I've convinced myself, I need you Mint.

There are many other free online budgeting tools including justbudget.com, mvelopes.com and betterbudgeting.com and you may find that one of these works better for you. But I doubt it.

\$\$ saving shopping tools

We all know that you're still going to spend money online, because self control is overrated, work is often boring and you love the gratification that comes in seeing the men in brown jog up to your door with a cardboard enclosed gift to yourself. So, at least shop smart with sites that will save you some dough.

www.ebates.com

Get instant cash back, rebates and fantastic coupons.

www.freeshipping.com

Yep, it's what it says it is! Find the merchant you're looking through in their directory and make that purchase without paying the first cent for the shipping.

www.upromise.com

Upromise is especially great for parents, but anyone can sign up. Make your purchases count towards college savings for your children, a niece, nephew, cousin, friend's kid, the annoying neighbor kid that leaves his bike on your lawn or anybody. You get generous discounts when you shop through their website and it all goes towards higher education savings.



It is cold here....

It's cold here. It's cold in my camper. It's cold in my office. Everywhere feels cold. But my heart (I know, it sounds cheesy) is warm. Bursting continuously - for the first time in my life. And for the most part, without the expectation of something in return.

I feel I am where I am supposed to be at this particular moment. Like when you find a 20-dollar bill on an empty street - the right place at the right time.

I'm sitting here at my first community association meeting, second day on the job. And in walks a 6 foot 3 man with a pair of square, old school glass frames and vibrant day-old blue jeans. I feel myself pause for breath recognizing this man as my Dad - only younger and happier looking. The clothes, his Alfalfa-like ears and erect posture - all strikingly similar.

Then I notice a sense of excitement wash over me. Briefly seeing this other person tricked my mind (for a split second) to believe this was my Dad. I felt so happy to see "him" venture outside his self-imposed, cave-like existence.

I wanted to get closer - to really see his features. To confirm what I already knew. Nevertheless, I knew if I met this man I would feel a certain amount of expectation and surprise.

If you've ever met someone's 'twin' you know what I mean. There's an automatic response to assign the person's persona you *do* know - to the person you *don't* know who looks similar. Often the expectation fails. Then all you're left with are preconceived ideas.

Sitting in my metal chair, my hands feel crusty and cracked. My nose feels wet from the cool air inside the empty church. All my senses are inundated with the newness of what surrounds me. At the back of the meeting, my ears are stretched, trying to hear what each speaker says - their voices reverberating off the empty walls, creating a series of echoes.

Now it's time for introductions. I assume I would be void of this task. Wrong. So unprepared as I was (again - 2nd day on the job), I'm called to the front of the room. It was like I was in sixth grade - called to the front of Ms. Johnson's history class to make a presentation on a topic I was supposed to have researched.

So I'm standing there fumbling to find words to describe what I am going to do for this community. And then came the dreaded question: "So . . . what is it *exactly* that you *do*?"

Okay - my problem with this question is that I don't *do* anything for this neighborhood yet. You know you have failed in some dramatic way to state your purpose when you are presented with that type of response. So I restate my mission - to bring lasting programs and services to this community.

Feeling my struggle to articulate, a soft-spoken woman in her 70s (a pillar of the community) tries to help explain what my organization has done in the area recently.

My dilemma with this whole scene lies in my expectation of the situation. I was expecting to just observe and not participate at my first meeting. And when you expect anything from anyone or anything - often it's a let down. Or that expectation ends up hurting or isolating someone. Expecting can put you in a place where you essentially take advantage of the situation. If you don't have expectations assigned to anything, you won't feel cheated.

My 55-minute drive home from Charlotte was spent in complete silence. Reflecting what had just happened and why I felt like I failed. Analyzing my expectations.

Just before bed, I turn on a light in my quarter-sized bathroom. From the corner of my eye a shadow scurries across the floor (tickity-tic). I don't recall how long it's been since I've seen a spider so incredibly *enlarged* and *furry* - maybe at a zoo when I was a kid. I start to panic.

My impulses take over. Gasping for air. Throat tightening. A real sense of, "Holy shit! What do I grab?" Not the toilet paper. A girly shoe! Smush-crunch. Its life ended.

I don't know what delusional state I have been living in to think bugs won't penetrate my "fortress" - especially living in the midst of a forest.

After decisively smashing the delicate critter and catching my breath - I realized I may have killed Charlotte. I assumed the spider was poisonous. But honestly I have no idea. I acted on a series of impulses surrounded by all the bad press spiders get.

Expectations often serve as the outer shell to the gooey center of assumptions and stereotypes. Both equally high in bullshit content.

It's not the spider's fault it gets lumped into the 'scary Halloween' category. Or that movies are made to play up this fear. Or that nature has given it eight legs. All the bad stereotypes spiders receive brainwashed me into a rapid state of paranoia.

Logically, the spidey was probably seeking refuge from the cold. Really, most spiders should be welcomed because they are carnivorous and keep other pests away.

After flushing the eight-legged critter down the toilet, I still felt no relief. I wrapped myself up like a mummy in my blankets. A small gesture to keep out unwanted bugs. But really, just to keep warm.

Because even after all this spider-enhanced excitement - it still feels cold. For some reason I expect it not to be.

meat and potatoes

notes from the sustainable farm front by jennifer mccharen

Today I planted potatoes. We grow organically at Down to Earth Farm, although we aren't certified. Food plants need more nutrients than Florida's soil provides, so we have to use fertilizer. After digging shallow holes, I tossed a handful of Nature Safe into each one. I used my

bare hands, and didn't think twice about inhaling the dust that was wafting up from the bucket. I like Nature Safe. It offers a simple way to ensure the nutrition of our crops. Because it's made from natural ingredients, and designed to be slow-release, we don't have to worry about im-

pacting our watershed with excess phosphorus which causes algae.

But it isn't perfect. The bag has a list of ingredients, mainly: feather, meat, bone and blood meals. It is a dried mash of meat-industry by-products. In short, our vegetables are car-



nivores. So this fertilizer is a pelleted contradiction. Our brave effort at sustainable agriculture is twined quite closely to the massive and entirely unsustainable sphere of industrial agriculture.

We see ourselves as part of a growing, underground movement to replace that industry with something holistically better. Better for the soil of the farms themselves, better for the eaters who consume what they produce, better for the communities that are supported by this new agriculture, and better for the states who choose this diversified, secure food system.

At this point, industrial and small-scale systems exist side-by-side, as our fertilizer makes clear. But what looks like a conundrum is actually evidence of a way in which the two are synergistic. Industrial meat production wouldn't be profitable if there weren't a market for the by-products. The company that makes our fertilizer uses what would otherwise be waste, turning scraps of bone and feather into valuable products.

I'm always tempted to throw this quirky fact at our vegetarian customers: that our veggies eat meat. I'm tempted to do so, not to discourage them, but simply to point out the persistent fact that we are connected to the world around us, even aspects of it that we try to avoid. We environmentalists should never pride ourselves on our separateness or the "righteousness" of being green. Even if your diet is entirely vegan and local, which would be quite an accomplishment around here, you can't hide behind your deprivations. At least for now, even the most sustainable ways to eat are tied to the least sustainable--and so we can't give up the fight.

Thankfully, it won't always be like this. Valentine's Day was the Northeast Organic Farmers Association winter conference in Vermont, a vibrant center of this movement towards better farms. It was clear, from a glance around the gymnasium where everyone gathered before lunch, that farming was becoming hip. I identify as a "farmpunk", and let's just say I was NOT alone. The number of young people at the conference was exciting. It nearly matched the number of older folks, "real" farmers we kids hope to learn from through apprenticeships. The keynote speaker was Andrew Meyer, who is leading a quiet revolution in Hardwick, Vermont, re-organizing the town's economy around sustainable farms and the food economy they produce. This fellow was no idealistic hippie. He was a savvy businessman with his heart in the right place. The success of his efforts speaks for itself.

Here too, the movement is alive. Each week the Beaches Green Market connects more eaters with farmers. The city has recently granted a status to small vegetable farms which will reduce their taxes. Nonprofit organizations are considering victory gardens. Even here, at the tiny farm I work for, we're looking to lease land from our neighbors to grow more food in time for the Riverside Arts Market, opening this spring.

Keep on eating the true food, Jacksonville!

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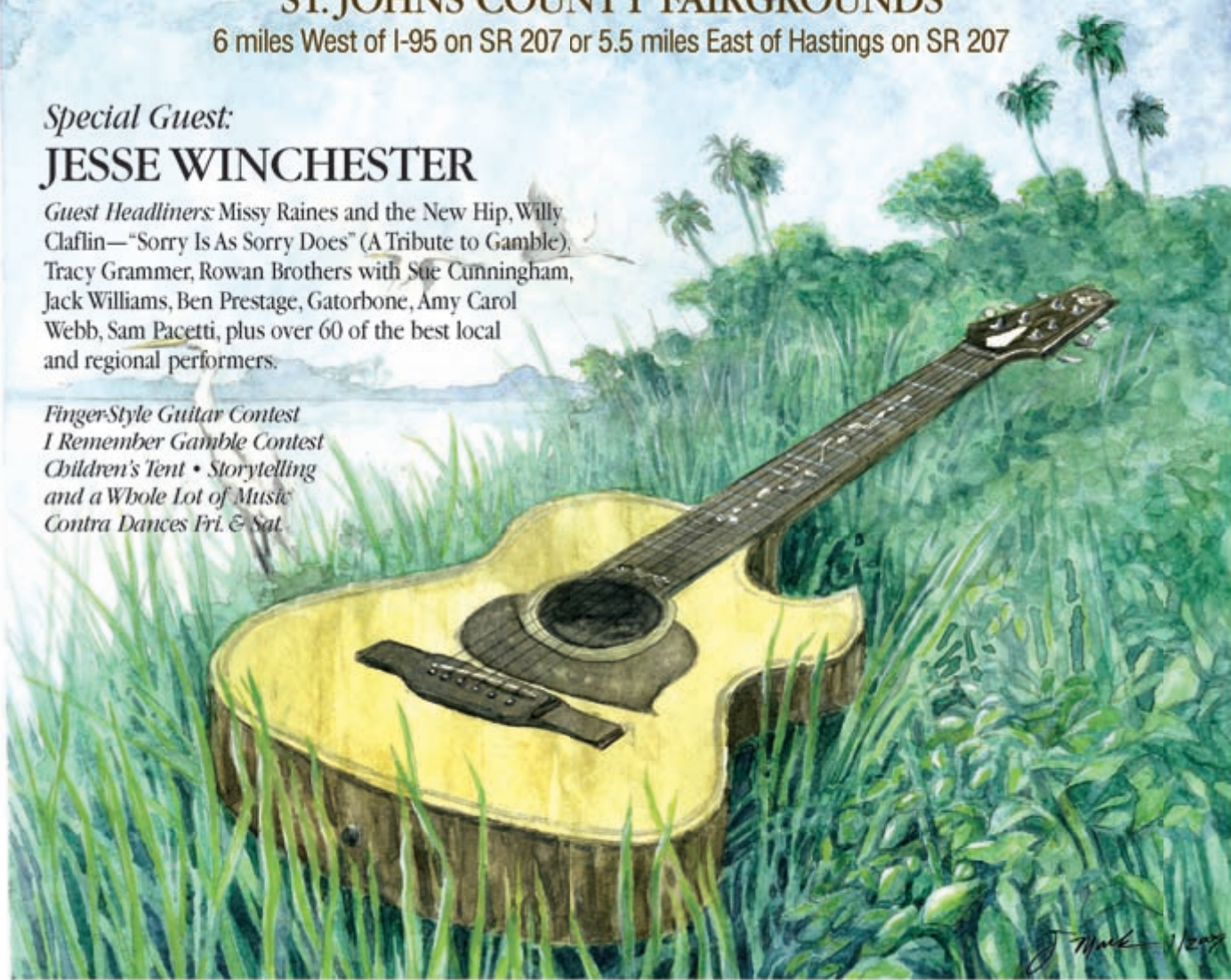
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dish update

where to eat, drink and be merry by erin thursby

Cilantro's on San Jose was my savior when I lived over in Mandarin. There just aren't that many Indian cuisine options in that neighborhood, and the food is good. Sanjit Kumar Rajak, co-owner and manager was recently arrested. First, he was here illegally; second, he had hired workers that were in the country illegally. The workers, who worked six days a week, were housed by Rajak and paid \$600 a week in cash. They were from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Cilantro's is understandably closed for now. Although I don't live in Mandarin anymore, I am sad it closed, despite the shady circumstances.

Here's a question: why are most of the Indian restaurants in or near Baymeadows? I'm sure that in the right location an Indian place on the Westside/Riverside would do very well. Maybe I'm just prejudiced because I now live on the Westside and love Indian food.

Also closed is Bella's. You may or may not have heard of them, since they opened and closed so quickly. They had taken the Dick's Wings space off of Southside.

Matthew's Market in San Marco closed in late January. One of owners, Chad Labenz, said it was due to the misconception that they were more expensive, according to a Jacksonville.com article. It's true that the sandwiches there were a steal and the items they sold in the market were about at the price level of Fresh Market. But as a friend of mine commented: "If they wanted it to be seen as inexpensive, they should have taken off Matthew's name." I can't disagree with that. Matthew Medure isn't just a person in Jacksonville, he's a brand. By putting his name on the market, it was seen as luxurious and expensive. Normally that's not a problem, it's an asset, but the economy has made it a liability.

Medure's, his Ponte Vedra restaurant, which closed late November of last year, is supposed to be reopening eventually and will feature lower cost items. Again, the name Matthew Medure does not equate to affordability in the minds of most people on the First Coast. He's going to have a devil of a time rebranding himself, if that's what he intends to do. I think that if he's lowering the price point he should be associated with the place but not use his name in the title.

Matthew's, his main restaurant, is still open and busy. In fact, they've been running a relatively reasonable prix fixe menu of four courses that serves two for just \$89. That's a super deal for one of the fanciest restaurants in town. Also, check out the coupons they've got in MINT.

In other food news, yet another sushi joint (unimaginatively named Sushi House) has opened up, this time on Edgewood, next to 1171.

smART bites: Why Look At Animals?

(Thursdays at 6 pm - 6:30 pm) smART bites gives you a 30-minute guided tour of the featured exhibition and collection. Get your "bite-sized" tour and tasty tapas from Café Nola at the Downtown Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) after work on Thursday evenings! Free with museum admission. Adults—\$8; Seniors (60 years and older)—\$5; Military (with current ID)—\$5; Students (with current ID)—\$5; Children under 2—FREE; MOCA Jacksonville members—FREE. Info: moca-jacksonville.org

St. Augustine Tea

(Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays) Bistro de Leon in St. Augustine (12 Cathedral Place) is now holding tea from 2:30- 5 pm Thursday through Sunday. French pastries, breads and espresso will also be available for consumption! Info: 810-2100

Victorian Tea

(Fridays & Saturdays) As usual, The Row on Riverside Ave. offers afternoon tea every Friday and Saturday from 1- 3 pm. Afternoon tea is \$15 per person plus tax and gratuity. Includes one sandwich assortment (chicken salad, egg salad, cucumber), one scone with clotted cream and jam and four petite desserts. Info: 354-5080 or rowrestaurant.com

5th Annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Wine Tasting Gala

(Friday, March 6 at 6 pm) The evening will feature a tremendous selection of over one hundred wines from around the world, including reserves which will be poured by wine experts, food tastings provided by dozens of local favorite restaurants, live music and a one-of-a-kind silent auction. Tom Coughlin will host the event and will be joined by other celebrity participants. To be held inside the Modis Building Main Lobby. All funds raised will support the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation in their efforts to assist local families who have a child battling cancer. Info: tcjayfund.org

28th Annual Lions Club Seafood Festival

(March 13- 15) This three-day St. Augustine event is a favorite throughout Northeast Florida and features tons of delicious seafood, outstanding music and affordable arts & crafts. Held at Francis Field. \$2 entry, kids 12 and under free. Proceeds go to benefit Lions Club charities Info: lionsfestival.com

Beer Dinner

(Saturday, March 14) Bold City Brewery will host a beer dinner, their very first, in fact! Cost is \$35 per person which includes five courses paired with five beers. Check out the menu online at jacksonvilleconfidential.com/2009/02/beer-dinner-at-bold-city-brewery.html. Seating is limited so reserve today. Info: 379-6551

A Day of Gardening

(Saturday, March 14 at 9 am- 3 pm) Don't just eat food, learn to grow it at the Duval County Extension Office. Spend the day learning about growing orchids, square foot gardening, hydroponic gardening, irrigation, tomatoes, citrus, green landscapes, micro-greens, rain gardens, native plants, and more. Info: Reserve your space by calling 387-8850 and send check for \$10 made payable to DCOHAC to Day of Gardening, 1010 N. McDuff Ave.

4th Annual PHiNS Gumbo Fest & Landing St. Paddy's Day Celebration

(Saturday, March 14) Proceeds benefit Planet Gumbo, providing financial support to feed the hungry at homeless shelters. The public can enjoy unlimited gumbo servings for \$10 each. The Girl Scouts of America will be selling cookies noon- 6 pm and the WAPE 95.1's St. Patty's Celebration will start at 5 pm. Hooters Green Bikini Contest 9 pm and more!

Global Food Supply

(Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm - 8 pm) Each year, the Great Decisions editorial board selects eight of the most pressing global issues and regions that will be the focus of the briefing books, television programs, and online resources. The Global Food Supply is just one of those issues. Held Downtown in the Main Library. Info: jpl.coj.net or 630-2366. Pre-Registration is required and the course guides can be purchased in the Friends of the Library Booktique.

Great Atlantic Seafood Festival

(Saturday, March 21) Florida seafood, fried, boiled, grilled or blackened at the Seawalk Pavilion. Arts & crafts, rides, games and music for the whole family. Bands attending include Chroma, the Yankee Slickers, Late Nite Transfer, Saltwater Grass, Simplified and Blueground Undergrass. Info: jacksonvillebeach.org

All Organic Cooking Class at Persephone Healing Arts Center

(Friday, March 27th at 6 pm -8 pm) This all-organic cooking class covers simple suppers and healthy sandwiches, including preparation of two grain salads with homemade dressings, herbal butter and herbal yogurt. The classes are designed to teach easy ways to create and cook healthy meals that encourage healthy and nutritional eating habits. Instructed by A. Schaeffer-Pautz, MD. Dr. Pautz is board certified in Internal and Holistic medicine. Space is limited. Registration reserves your space. Cost is \$85 Info: 246-3583



ingredient secrets

cornichon

Cornichons, also known as gherkins, start with a fresh cucumber-like vegetable that is then pickled while they are still small. These little guys are served with pates in France or strips of fried fish in other European countries.

They're basically baby pickles. Cornichons are the French version. They're more tart and not as salty as regular pickles. Because they're less salty, the sweetness is a little more pronounced.

The genuine article will be packed with white vinegar, mixed with tiny, peeled silver skin onions and spiced, generally with whole peppercorns and/or mustard seed.

In Jacksonville you can find them at specialty markets such as Olives & Oils, near the corner of Park and King.

If you have the patience to grow gherkins, you can also pickle them at home, a process that is not all that difficult. You'll find a ton of varying recipes on the internet.

It might be a French classic, but because it is, there's as much argument over what the "true" technique should be. It's a bit like Americans and barbecue. We get somewhat passionate over what "real" barbeque should be like, but then we resign ourselves to the differences in regional techniques, though even those can have variations.

The spices in the mix can be almost anything that might hold up to the vinegar. Thyme, cloves, garlic, allspice, coriander and even cinnamon might be part of the spice mix. Even the vinegar base can be something other than white vinegar. Red wine vinegar is sometimes used, although that can discolor the pickle and make for a rather homely pickle. As long as the pickles are tiny and packed with some sort of onion and a variety of spices, they're still considered cornichons.



Basil Ginger Mojito



Steak Tartar

Orsay has been in-demand as one of the newer places to nosh. It occupies the space where Crush used to reside and some of that French sensibility has rubbed off. What hasn't rubbed off is the snobbishness that one would sometimes encounter at Crush. **by erin thursby**

Last year Orsay expanded their seating. Besides the dining room in front, they have a lounge dining area in back, a spacious bar and a small private dining room.

If going out to eat is about having an experience you could never have at home, Orsay's steak tartar is the item you should be ordering. But it's not for the spice shy. When it was brought to my table, the first thing I noticed was the intense golden color of what I thought was olive oil. It was not olive oil. It was instead mustard oil, which is the major ingredient that sets this dish apart from other, more mundane appetizers you could order elsewhere. Mustard oil, the chef explained to me, isn't often found here in the States, at least not approved for human consumption. It can sometimes be found in Indian groceries but is generally labeled "for medicinal use only." Chef Brian Siebenschuh gets his shipped in from an Australian specialty company. It certainly adds a strong note to the tartar, while not overpowering it. Since it isn't mixed in with the tartar, you have the choice to douse your bites with as little or as much of it as you'd like. For some crunch, it's served with delicate, delightfully crisp slices of thin, toasted bread. The tartar itself, lean diced beef tenderloin, is formed into a little cake on the plate, mixed with capers, finely diced red onions and French cornichon- a wonderfully sweet, small pickle that I had tasted but had not known the name of before. Binding the mix together is a lightly spicy garlic aioli. Not only was it a tasty and complex procession of flavors, but it also made my chardonnay even more intriguing.

Duck is an erstwhile love of mine that I rarely get to indulge at home. A poorly rendered duck is such a sin that I hesitate to order it when I'm out, because I'm afraid it won't be up to my standards. Have no such fears at Orsay. I sampled the cassoulet, which included a tender and devotedly rendered piece of duck. This hearty and smoky bean dish was further livened up by Andouille sausage and bits of Eden Farms bacon. It is basically French soul food, and I loved it. There's nothing froo foo about this substantial dish.

The menu at Orsay does change with the season and availability of seasonal items. That's as it should be. Technique is key at Orsay, as it should be for any self-respecting French restaurant, but they start with the best ingredients for a base, while still keeping costs low enough to keep entrées under \$40. Entrées go from a \$9 omelet to a \$28 bouillabaisse, with includes assorted fish, sea scallop, wild Georgia shrimp and calamari served in a saffron tomato broth. The priciest item (besides a raw bar entry that is supposed to feed four) is surprisingly the Orsay Burger at \$30. But the price was understandable since they use some of the best ground beef available.

Appetizers, soups and salads go for about \$ 9- 13, with a few exceptions going much higher and lower.

The wine list ranges from about \$24 to \$200 a bottle, with a few over a thousand and over 200 selections. One great deal they have is a fixed price for their house wines. They look for the best sales on

excellent wines and then offer them up as the house wine, sometimes even at a loss. The price is always \$5 for the glass/\$50 for the bottle and features a sparkling, white, rose and red. The category is always changing to something they think is fun, exciting and an outstanding value. If you're looking for magnificence on a budget, the house wines, called Vin de Table Wines, are the way to go! At least you'll know when you eat there that you can get very well-priced wine.

As mentioned in a previous story, they proudly state that they are "anti-split plate charge," which means that you can share an entrée without having to pay an extra fee. Most restaurants serving at this level do have a split fee, so this is a boon for those looking for a touch of opulence at a not-so-opulent price. For a charming small meal, you and a friend can order cocktails and one of their more hearty entrées with a side of their filling fries (yes, they do serve fries).

Speaking of their fries, they are quite delicious. The thin cut fries come with ketchup and a simple aioli that I could become completely addicted to. The fries come with the steak frites, a safe, tasty choice for those without an experimental palate. It's a well-prepared hangar steak in a red wine jus at just \$17.

If you have room, try and squeeze in dessert. Strawberries have come into season and I tasted Orsay's lovely, traditional strawberry short cake surrounded by a fresh lavender syrup and served with a whipped mascarpone. They've also got a collection of playful sorbets, the usual crème brulee and a bread pudding.

Ambiance-wise, Orsay has a kind of lavish French indie sensibility, with glitzy chandeliers, raised wallpaper and two ever-so cool bars. The white of the main dining room is offset by a chocolate accent wall painted with a pink leafed tree. In this room, things are cozy and golden at the yellow marble-topped bar.

If you haven't visited the lounge dining area, it has clean but plush lines, with white micro fabric benches lining the sides. It has a luxe indoor patio feel because of the white party lights hung haphazardly from the ceiling. When the weather is nice, they open all the big bay doors in this room.

An oft missed aspect of Orsay is their bar and amazing cocktails. The cocktail hour is Tuesday to Saturday from 4 pm- 6 pm, with half-price Signature Cocktails, BTG wine and draft beer. And the cocktails are incredible. Most of them at least have a background note of savory or have a light subtle flavor, expect for Strawberry Fields, which is all sunshine and lollipops! The Pear Jalapeño Margarita is for the adventurous drinker. It hits you with all the flavors; first sour, then sweet, a little salty and then spicy at the finish. Normal prices for the cocktails run from about \$9- \$13, with most at \$10.

I came for the food and I'll come back for the drinks whenever I have a hankering for a well-crafted cocktail. At happy hour I can order their specialty drinks for \$6.50- \$4.50 and have an appetizer for around \$10. Whether you come for a full meal or a few drinks, Orsay is a luxuriant Avondale pleasure.



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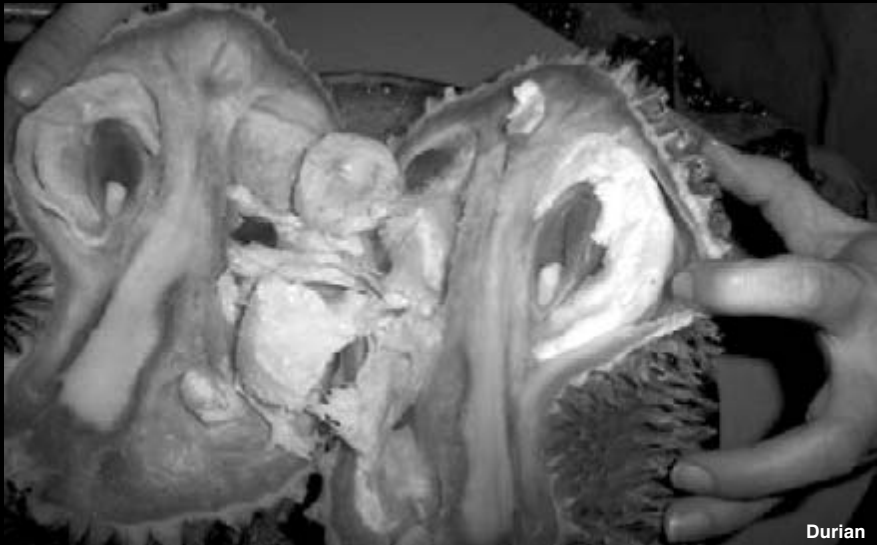
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OPENS IN THEATRES MARCH 27

trying new foods

fruit flavors by erin thursby



Durian

Every time I shop at the grocery store I keep a weather eye out for something I've never seen before. This is not difficult if I'm at, say, one Jacksonville's small Korean markets, but if you take a closer look, you'd be surprised what you can find on the shelves at Publix and even Wal-Mart.

I scout for the exotic mainly in the produce section, scouring the bins for any fruit that looks out of the ordinary. Here are a few of the fruits I've sampled in my quest to try something different...

kumquat

Kumquats are not the most exotic fruit. In fact, they even grow in Jacksonville yards. Still, there's a chance you may not have tried this adorable little fruit. If you haven't, then it's time to garnish your next fruity cocktail with kumquat rind. If you're not familiar with kumquats, they are a fruit a little larger than a quail's egg. Most are orange in color, with a sweet, edible rind and a surprisingly tart inside. The rind is often used as an edible garnish because it's sweet and bright colored. Their flowers are white and their branches are sometimes thorny, with dark green, shiny leaves.

You can find kumquats in Publix, but you might have to ask the produce manager to point you in the right direction. They generally keep them in plastic boxes, not unlike cherry tomatoes. At an Oriental market, you can pick up dried or candied version of kumquats. You might also find kumquat marmalades or jellies as well. All of these forms are excellent to use in savory duck dishes or as part of stuffing for chicken or turkey. You can also grill fresh kumquats on kabob along with savory meats, veggies or other fruits. Although this little fruit is tasty right off the tree, there are quite a number of ways to use kumquats in drink and food recipes. Basically, wherever citrus fruit is used in a recipe, you can probably replace it with kumquat (for recipes, see the website fooddownunder.com and search for kumquats).

tamarillo

I once found a tamarillo in Wal-Mart. I had no idea what it was and I bought it. Since then I have put finely diced tamarillo in home made vinaigrette and as part of a fruit compote. It has tiny, edible seeds, surrounded by a mild flesh. The taste of the tart fruit could best be described as a cross between tangerine and grapefruit. The texture in the center was a bit like pomegranate and the flesh around the center was the texture of a soft pear, a little less tart than the center of the fruit. The tartness of the fruit lends itself well to chutneys, and it's eaten as a breakfast fruit. It can be added to just about anything for just a bit of a mystery "zing."

quince

Quince is not a convenience fruit like apples or bananas. You can't just bite into a raw quince. The skin is too tough and, uncooked, the flesh is too sour. Luckily it comes in a paste or jelly form. It's got a floral flavor and mellows once it's cooked. You can find processed quince in a Euro grocery, or one that carries South American foods. Or you can just head to 13 Gypsies for a quince on cheese appetizer.

durian

The most exotic fruit on the list, durian is a fruit you have to try at least once. It's a huge fruit, larger than a pineapple. It's asymmetrical and covered in large spikes. I swear it played the part of a life-form from a distant planet in Star Trek. It is just about the stinkiest fruit you can buy. Do not cut it open inside your house. The fruit is actually banned on public transportation in the countries where it's popular. It stinks like something putrid rotting but as you bring a piece of fruit up to your mouth, the smell disappears and the fruit tastes creamy with a touch of onion to it. As smelly as durian was, I did live to tell about it.

Hopefully you'll be on your way to trying new fruits as well. You don't always have to live on the culinary edge to try something different. Whether it's a local favorite you've never tried or a gross out fruit like the durian, trying something unusual gives you a new understanding. Even if the experience isn't entirely positive, at least you'll have an interesting story to tell.



best buddies day

making a difference one friendship at a time by katherine stevens

It doesn't matter if you're 5 years old or 95 years young, everyone needs a best friend. Someone to call when you're distraught, someone to bake cupcakes with, go to baseball games with and cram into photo booths with. Someone to appreciate you for being who you are. And hey, a little self-esteem boost never hurt anyone.

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization that realizes how important these friendships are. In 1989, Anthony Kennedy Shriver spearheaded the organization to bring people together... people that might otherwise not meet. Their mission is to enhance the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, mainly by helping them establish friendships and make connections with the non-disabled.

What happens is citizen volunteers get paired with people with intellectual disabilities. The pair, or "buddies," hang out a few times a month. They go to Best Buddies events together, get to know each other and develop a mutually enriching friendship.

"Best Buddies doesn't just give someone a person to hang out with," says Julia Steffen, Program Supervisor of Best Buddies Jacksonville. "It gives them someone that they can call a friend and that's something that everyone needs."

Dana Sargent and her buddy Lisette were meant to be. Dana was working at Pine Castle, a facility that provides services adults with developmental disabilities, at the same time that Lisette was training there. But as life would have it, they had never met. Then, around 6 months ago, Lisette and Dana's paths finally crossed in the courtyard of Pine Castle. Lisette pulled Dana aside and asked her if she would be her "best buddy."

"At first you think that you're doing something good for someone else, but in reality it's a blessing for yourself," says Dana. "With Lisette and I there's no drama. It's truly a friendship. She'll come have lunch with me in my office or help me with work stuff. We have a great time together."

Along with providing a shoulder to lean on, Best Buddies holds monthly events for the pairs. There was a Valentine's Day dance in February, a trip to the Nutcracker Ballet in December and pumpkin carving in October. They also host *Business Buddies* monthly for young professionals to come together for a good cause.

The month of March is Best Buddies Month and Mental Retardation Awareness Month. So to celebrate, Best Buddies is hosting one of its biggest events, *Best Buddies Day*. This carnival-like occasion will offer game booths, dance-a-thons, entertainment and food. It's being held at Memorial Park on Sunday, March 15th from 1- 4pm. Admission for the event is \$5 for general admission and \$10 for the dance-a-thon, which includes a t-shirt. Both types of admission include lunch.

People with intellectual disabilities are often excluded from society because of their disability. Best Buddies hopes to change the perception of people with intellectual disabilities through these friendships.

"The thing is, everybody has an *ability*, and it's about focusing on what people *can* do," says Julia Steffen, Program Supervisor of Best Buddies Jacksonville.

For more information on Best Buddies visit: bestbuddiesflorida.org or email: MaryWhite@best-buddies.org



family events

Event listing provided by Jax4Kids.com

Discover
jax4kids.com
what, where & when for kids!



March 5 **Harlem Globetrotters** The Harlem Globetrotters perform in Jacksonville as part of their 2009 World Tour. Tickets range from \$18 to \$100. No video cameras allowed. Veterans Memorial Arena at 7pm, 904-630-3900

March 6 - 8 **Grand Opening of Asian Gardens and Komodo Dragon** Join the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens for the much anticipated grand opening of the Asian Gardens and Komodo Dragon exhibit. Significant features of the gardens include the Moon Gate; the Lotus Pool; the Orchid Pavilion; the Bamboo Mist Forest; and of course the komodo dragon exhibit, featuring two of the largest lizards in the world. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on March 6 at 9:30am at the entrance to the Asian Gardens. That will be followed by grand opening activities including Asian performers, musicians, and activities for everyone. Included in price of zoo admission. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens from 9am to 5pm, 904-757-4463

March 6 - 8 **The Great Jacksonville Book Sale 2009** Hard Cover, Paper Back, History, Cook-books, "How-To's," Health, Science, Psychology, Biographies, Business, Humor, Religion, Domestic Arts, Hobbies, Children's Books, Better Books and Sets, Much More, priced from \$0.50 to \$2. Free

parking and free admission. Friday, 10 am – 8 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm; Sunday, 12 noon to 6 pm. Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 904-353-0535

March 6 **The Sack of St. Augustine Searle's Raid** Relive a calamitous day in history as Historic Florida Militia reenact the Sack of St. Augustine, when in 1668, Capt. Robert Searle and his privateers sailed from Jamaica to loot the silver ingots held in the royal coffers at St. Augustine. Visitors can view, examine and photograph authentic 17th century arms, equipment and food. Townspeople and soldiers flee up St. George Street to the Redoubt at Orange and Cordova Streets in the Historic District. Admission is Free. Fountain of Youth Park and Plaza de la Constitucion, Downtown St. Augustine, 407-843-9967

March 7 **Dance Brazil** Blend of Contemporary dance and Capoeira featuring live musicians and Afro/Brazilian/Capoeira instruments along with vocals. Tickets \$30 to \$42, students \$10. UNF Fine Arts Center at 7:30pm, 904-620-2878

March 13 – 15 **28th Annual Lions Club Seafood Festival** This three-day event features live music, crafts, entertainment and lots of seafood. Kids activities include rock wall, bungee jump, giant slide, moon bounce, make your own crazy hat, Old Time Photos, spin art, sand art and more. Festival hours are Friday 4 pm to 10 pm, Saturday 10 am to 10 pm, and Sunday 10am to 5 pm. Admission is \$2 per person, children under 12 are free. Francis Field on Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, 904-825-1004

March 14 **Gate River Run and Junior River Run** The Junior River Run is free to any child 13 years and younger. All children who complete the one mile fun run will receive a t-shirt and goodie packet on race-day! There will be four separate one mile races for boys and girls 9 and under and 10 to 13. Following the race, there will be live music, post race refreshments, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide and more. Gate River Run, Jacksonville Municipal Stadium. Schedule of events: 7:45am - The Florida Times-Union 5K Run and Walk for Charity, 8:30 am - Gate River Run begins, 11 am - Junior River Run 1 mile fun run begins 11:15 am - Free Diaper Dash for ages 1 to 3 in heats by age: 12 months and under, 13 to 24 months, 25 to 36 months, and 37 to 48 months.

March 14 **Junior Angler Inshore Fishing Tournament** 2nd Annual Captains Club Kids Count Junior Angler Inshore Fishing Tournament. Anglers must be between ages 3 and 15 to participate. Entry fee is \$10 per angler prior to March 6, 2009 and \$15 per angler afterward. Registration closes at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 13th. Registration fee includes t-shirt and one (1) ticket for the Fish Fry. Tournament is limited to the first 100 registrations. Fish Fry for all participants on Sunday March 15 at 4pm. Captains Club, 13363 Beach Boulevard at 7am, 904-294-0959

March 14 **St. Johns Riverkeeper Family Boat Trip** Travel up the Ortega River aboard the S.S. Marine Taxi boat. Learn about the river and enjoy the beautiful scenery. River-related activities for children provided. Friendship Fountain Park, 1 pm – 3 pm. Cost: \$15 Adults, \$5 Children under 11. Reservations required. For information contact the St. Johns Riverkeeper Outreach Coordinator, Kelly Savage, kellydsavage@gmail.com, 904-252-7336

March 14 **Third Annual Jacksonville Irish Festival** All ages are invited to the Third Annual Jacksonville Irish Festival. Come visit the festival vendors, enjoy modern and traditional Celtic music, Irish dancing, Irish food and drink, and activities for the whole family. A children's area will provide activities including face painting and bouncy castles. Tickets are only \$10 for adults and \$2 for children under 10. Metro Park from 1 pm to 11 pm, 904-514-5063

March 20 **Movies in the Park** All ages invited to enjoy a free family movie. Free refreshments while it last. The movie will begin at dusk. Charles Clark Park, 8793 Sibbald Road from 6 pm to 10 pm, 904-630-4100

March 21 **Spring into Spring Snooze** Ever wondered what the zoo is like at night? Come have a late night tour of the nocturnal beasts, then let the nighttime animal chorus sing you to sleep. Two slices of pizza

per person, drinks, hands-on animal presentation, twilight zoo tour, a craft, nocturnal games, late night snack, continental breakfast and lots of fun! Ages 7-12. Cost: \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members Alligator Farm, 999 Anastasia Blvd, St. Augustine from 6 pm to 9 am, 904-824-3337

March 21 **Founder's Day Celebration** All day celebration featuring music, arts, crafts, food and more. Also, meet and greet local artist and Florida Highwaymen. Beaches Museum and History Center, 380 Pablo Ave. from 10 am to 3 pm, 904-241-5657

March 21 **17th Annual Lighthouse Festival** The historic Light Station will offer something for everyone, including local musicians and entertainers throughout the day, special games and crafts for children, food, living history portrayals, pony rides, terrestrial and maritime archaeology activities, contests and much more. Free admission. St. Augustine Lighthouse from 11 am to 6 pm, 904-824-3939

March 21 **Dog Lover's Day at Adventure Landing** This outdoor, family-fun event will create awareness of the ongoing overpopulation of pets, and hopefully provide many homeless dogs with a permanent home through the Dog Adoption Fair. Events will begin at 8 am with Breakfast with Scooby Doo (\$10.99 per person-includes breakfast buffet) followed by a free Meet & Greet until 1 pm with photo opportunities and performances from the award-winning K9's In Flight Frisbee Dog Shows. The Dog Adoption Fair will have shelters from Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. John's Counties represented through the First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP) non-profit organization. Adventure Landing, 1944 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach, 904-246-4386, www.AdventureLanding.com

March 21 **9th Annual Clash of the Titans Cheer and Dance Event** Cheer and Dance competition at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Admission for spectators: Day 1- \$15, Day 2- \$15, Children 6 to 17- \$10. Prime Osborn Convention Center from 7:45 am to 8 pm, 703-536-2954

March 25 - 27 **In Other Words** Geared to K-5, In Other Words brings together Professor Fleetfoot and his madcap friends on a zany exploration of communication. Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, 2445 San Diego Rd., 904-346-5620 ext. 122, da-arts.org

March 27 **Birdhouse Factory/Cirque Mechanics** Journey to an imaginary factory where every machine is used for one amazing feat after another. Early 20th century machines come together with circus acrobatics, aerial feats and comedic characters to tell a story of laughter, love, flight, loss and our interconnectedness. at 2 pm & 7:30 pm. UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Dr., Info: 904-620-2878, unf.edu/fineartscenter/performances

March 27 **Women's History Day** MOSH will observe Women's History Day with special activities focused on "Florida's Famous Females". MOSH from 10 am to 12 noon, 904-396-7062

March 27 **Movies in the Park** All ages invited for a free family movie and free refreshments while they last. Hanna Park at 6:30 pm, 904-630-4100

March 27 and 28 **Railroad Festival Days** The West Nassau Historical Society hosts their annual Railroad Festival Days, featuring Live entertainment, craft and food vendors, train and steam exhibits, and a parade on Saturday at 11am. West Nassau Historical Society, 45383 Dixie Avenue, Callahan, 904-879-3406

*Georgia O'Keeffe
& Her Times:*

*American Modernism from the Lane Collection
of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

February 5 through April 12, 2009

The Cummer
MUSEUM of ART & GARDENS

829 Riverside Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32204
904.356.6857
www.cummer.org

SPONSORS: Elkins Constructors, Inc. AIAA, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and City of Jacksonville



learn to ice skate...in jacksonville

photos and story written by daniel gonalves

Warm sun, sandy beaches, surfing and tan lines. These are things that come to mind when thinking about Florida. I'm a Canuck (aka Canadian) and I spent my childhood growing up in icy cold Canadian winters. My objective has always been to get indoors and warm up as soon as possible and avoid anything involving snow and ice.

If you've driven southbound on I-95 chances are you've seen the Jacksonville Ice & Sportsplex billboard by the Emerson St. exit. Living in a place where I'll never have to worry about shoveling a car out of snow, or driving over

black ice, this billboard always stands out to me as counterintuitive. Ice skating in Florida?

Having seen the sign on many occasions, I recently found myself wanting to do the opposite of everything I did in my formative years; run from the warm outside to the cold inside in search of what I had always so strongly avoided. I persuaded my Australian wife, who incidentally had lived in Montreal Canada for four years and had not once thought about ice skating (yes, we have a lot in common), to give it a try. She was a great sport and agreed to take the challenge. Katie Kight of Jacksonville Ice got us set up in the 8 week "Learn to Skate" program. Our instructor, Hansel, got us on the ice and started chipping away at our fears. Not an easy task, but lessons are definitely the way to go if you want to build your confidence on the ice.



While bragging of our progress on the ice around town, I quickly realized that quite a few people don't know this ice and indoor sport mega-plex exists. It's been around since 1992 and has undergone several changes over the years, including a name change from Skate World to its current moniker. Most recently, Jacksonville Ice opened up both sides of its complex and now you have the cool ice rink, as well as the room-temperature sportsplex on the other side.

If you're keen to get on the ice, there are a few programs to choose from. There's the learn to skate program, a figure skating program through the United States Figure Skating Association which is overseen by Vicky Morgan, the newly appointed Director of Skating, as well as several ice hockey programs that are overseen by USA Hockey.

They have different levels and age groups for each of those programs so if you're just starting out, or are a seasoned skater, you can jump in at your current level. There are adult and youth hockey leagues ranging from beginning to semi-pro and pick up hockey as well.

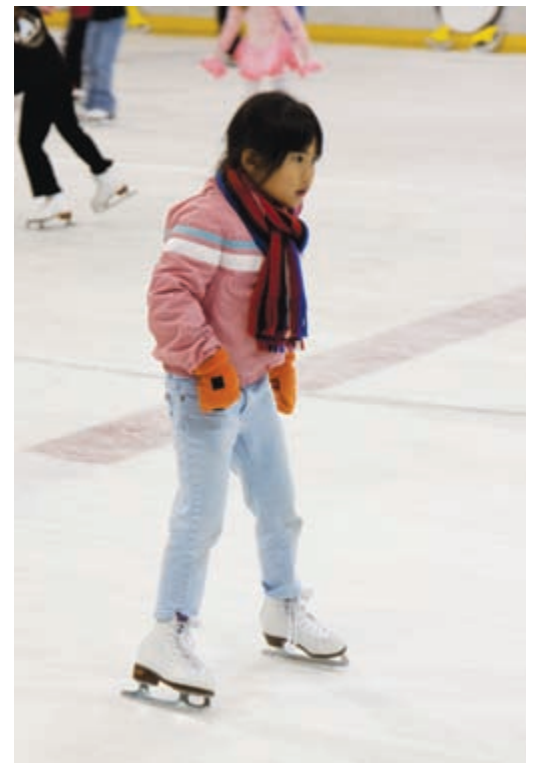
They have public ice skating everyday of the week, which is great if you want to go in for some fun, and is also a great way to give this whole ice skating thing a try. You don't have skates right? No excuses, they provide skate rentals which are included in some of the programs.

The indoor sportsplex side hosts many different programs. There are leagues including volleyball, soccer and basketball which are organized by JacksonvilleScene.com, and there is even a football kicking program taught by a former NFL Jaguar.

Admission and rentals is \$9 to \$13, depending on which night you go.

If you're looking for a place to take the little ones this summer, this is a great place to keep the kids cool in Jacksonville's sweltering heat while keeping them active. Camp starts June 8 and runs through August 4th. They have quite a few choices from figure skating, ice hockey and indoor sports camps.

Chances are you might have held or have been to a birthday party at Jax Ice. It's definitely a great alternative for a party. I was surprised to hear Katie say that they host church groups and hold lock-ins and camp outs for corporate team building events. They have a few packages to choose from at a few different price levels. For more information visit jaxiceandsportsplex.com



Camps June 8 - August 14, 2009

• hockey • learn to skate • sports • figure skating •

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Early Bird Discount for registrations received by March 31, 2009

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www.jaxiceandsportsplex.com or call **904.399.3223**

georgia o'keeffe & her times

American Modernism at the Cummer by donald henry dusinberre

Once again there's another really great new exhibit from the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. On display this month is *Georgia O'Keeffe & Her Times: American Modernism from the Lane Collection of Fine Arts in Boston*. The selections are from what many believe to be one of the finest collections of 20th century American Modernist art yet assembled.

At first, I was a smidge confused that there are actually just a few O'Keeffe paintings on display. I figured that since her name was the only one in the title, her work would be the main event. But her work is just a part of the exhibit; O'Keeffe is simply the star of the larger show.

From the very beginning of her career, Georgia O'Keeffe was the darling of Modernism. Spurred on by photographer Alfred Stieglitz (who would become her husband), she quickly earned the respect of her peers and the admiration of art lovers everywhere. She was the face of American Modernism for much of the 20th century.

Along with O'Keeffe's 12 paintings are works by other significant Modernist contemporaries, including Arthur Garfield Dove, Stuart Davis, Max Weber and Marsden Hartley. So even if you don't like the Southwestern subject matter typical of O'Keeffe's paintings, there are plenty of other paintings you might like.

If you're wondering why you'd prefer one artist's work over another even though they're all Modern, don't worry. There's no unified "look" to Modernism because it's a really broad definition essentially based upon what a Modern artwork should *not* be. In other words, the point was to create something that was new, either by appearance or concept.

It may be difficult to see what's so great about some of these works of art until you understand that they are unfettered examples of a new attitude in art. Think about it like this: Elvis' music seems pretty tame now, but it shook up the music world and changed it forever. Even though rock n' roll music has since become harder and edgier, Elvis was one of the first. Furthermore, his songs have never been discarded nor are they diminished by the efforts that followed. So it is with O'Keeffe and her other Modern contemporaries.

To help you along with that understanding, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens provides many



opportunities to learn more. Every Tuesday night is family night at the Cummer (free admission), and in addition to their special exhibitions and permanent collection, they always host a number of accompanying events for each new exhibition.

The month of March brings *Especialty for Seniors Talks & Tea* on Wednesday, March 18 or Thursday, March 19 at 1:30 pm. Call to sign up at 355-0630. In conjunction with *Players by the Sea*, the Cummer presents a one-woman play entitled *O'Keeffe!* by Lucinda McDermott. The show takes place on Tuesday, March 24 from 7 pm - 9 pm.

We don't get a chance to see this caliber of historical artwork very often, so take advantage of this opportunity while you can. *Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times* will run through April 12. For more information on this exhibition, visit the Cummer Museum website at cummer.org.

tree cup at the cummer

Café Nola, inside the MOCA gets its fair share of press, but did you know that you can now enjoy a pleasurable meal inside the Cummer? by erin thursby



If you haven't been to the Cummer Museum's café in a while, you're in for a pleasant surprise. They used to just serve smoothies, teas and coffee drinks, but since the fabulous Chef's Garden took over, they're offering all that and more.

At the Tree Cup you'll find fresh, pretty salads, gorgeously plated sandwiches, small appetizer plates, hearty soup and decadent desserts all at reasonable prices. Their Baby Blue Salad (\$5.95) sounded especially intriguing. Florida strawberries and mandarin oranges share a plate with gorgonzola cheese and baby lettuces.

The Virginia Ham Panini (\$6.95) is a favorite, served on herb-crusted ciabatta with warm melted havarti cheese. All of their sandwiches are served with chips, seasonal fruit or pasta salad.

They serve soup every day. It's well worth \$3.50 for a cup or \$4.95 for a bowl. If you

love asparagus, their truffled asparagus soup is a must eat!

The teas they offer are excellent, particularly their mellow but flavorful loose leaf Earl Grey.

All of the food is provided by the Chef's Garden, a catering company that runs their kitchen and caters Cummer events. If you have an event coming up that needs catering, you can come taste test the food that the in-demand Chef's Garden can produce.

Always check their boards for a special. I sampled the fennel grilled chicken, which was served on a bed of fresh green beans, spring greens and surrounded by thinly sliced cucumber tossed in a vinaigrette and topped with finely minced tomato.

Those that want to stop in for a meal don't have to pay to get into the museum. Just let the person at the front desk know that you're going to the café. It's a great place to catch lunch if you happen to work in Riverside. On Tuesdays they're open later, so you can grab a dinner bite until 9 pm.



tree cup at the cummer

Barnett Concourse- Cummer Museum, 829 Riverside Ave.
556-6857 ext 6275 **Hours:** Tues. 10 am- 9 pm; Wed.- Fri.
10 am- 4 pm; Sa.t 10 am- 5 pm; Sun. noon- 5 pm

blame it on the chickens

new work and shows in Jacksonville by madeleine peck

Though the nation is facing uncertain times, it seems that Jacksonville's art scene is steadily moving forward. Of course, many artists laughingly say that their life has been one long recession, so perhaps it's not surprising that artists keep making work.

Here is a look at some of the art happenings around Jacksonville starting with museums...

cummer museum of art and gardens

829 Riverside Avenue Jacksonville, 356-6857

This exhibition was organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Showing through April 12.

The Cummer Museum's current show: *Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times: American Modernism from the Lane Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, places O'Keeffe in the context of her contemporaries. Seeing the artists' works in proximity to one-another offers a kind of snapshot into the ethos of a small group of artists. However, of the selected group, O'Keeffe is not only the most famous, but also possibly the most enigmatic.

In the book *O'Keeffe and Steiglitz*, Benita Eisler quotes O'Keeffe, "I always have a curious sort of feeling about my things—I hate to show them, I'm afraid people won't understand, and I hope they won't—and I'm afraid they will."

The duality found in that quote is a thread running through much of O'Keeffe's life. And though her work has a sort of gleaming, organic precision, this is diametrically opposed to her personal life. Fiercely ambitious, O'Keeffe leads her life with a rigorous self-interest that almost seems Ayn Rand-ian. Seeing her work in the context of her contemporaries will surely lessen the seemingly solitary nature of her work and place her within a contemporaneous aesthetic, and by extension, ideology.

moca jacksonville

33 North Laura St., 399-6911

Why Look at Animals? was organized by George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, Rochester, NY. Showing through April 5.

MOCA Jacksonville, which is currently in talks with UNF to be acquired by that institution, has the show, *Why Look at Animals? Photographs from George Eastman House* on view. The photography show is an examination of the relationship between humans and animals. Marshal Adams, the museum's former education director said that it is often through these relationships that our humanity is revealed. He wrote: "We look at animals because their presence allows us to tell ourselves who we are. They are both like and unlike us, and it is by what we do and do not share that defines us as human."

Indeed, one need look no further than the show *Dogtown*, which dramatically chronicles the rehabilitation processes of abused and neglected dogs is a hit for the National Geographic Channel. As hard as the show is to watch, it is harder to turn away. Frida Kahlo, an artist of legendary fragility and strength, makes an appearance in *Why Look*. Crouched next to a fawn, her hand resting on its neck, Kahlo, looking exactly like herself—which is to say, completely unlike anyone else in the art historical pantheon—coolly appraises the camera as she smokes a cigarette. It is an uncanny image because the fawn, in its shyness is an apt metaphor for the twin of Kahlo's inner self. While she is (uncharacteristically, one imagines), utterly composed.

j. johnson gallery

March 6-April 24

Javier Marin, the artist who created the dramatic bronze woman's head that greets visitors on their way to the airport, will be showing new works at J. Johnson Gallery. The works, studies of horses and riders, are monumental in feeling and Baroque in execution. In these pieces, the riders take on a secondary role--the real focus is the equine figures. Restrained, elegant and dramatic, the bronzes owe a debt of aesthetics to traditional mounted military statues, and notions of heroism.



Bob Wallace "Lotus Fore"

cultural center at ponte vedra

50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra,

February 27-April 11

Painter Jim Draper has taken a lot of flack through the years, but he once said something that still resonates: "The most subversive thing an artist can do is make money." Though he's recently downsized his studio in response to economic realities, he still hasn't lost that thing that makes him endlessly intriguing: his own fascination with the absurd and sublime.

Draper has a show of new works at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra. In the drawings/paintings Draper says, "My thought was that we all need to develop a new way to look at things, at art, at the world, at money, at food, at government, at education, at every system and every element of our existence. That all being said, my chickens have helped me understand a lot about the way the world works. And it makes total sense. Input...output."

He then goes on to say, "New works? Not really, but I am changed. Not because of anything other than the chickens."

the library

200 Ocean St. www.thelibraryjax.com

March 4

ArtWalk Downtown has become a hub of activity, and the surprise, come-from-behind space that seems to be emerging is the basement of the (former) Hayden Burns Library. While the main floor of the space still is something of an art bazaar (bizarre?), the basement has come under the auspice of Clay Doran who also goes by the name Squid Dust. Doran and several collaborators, in time for every ArtWalk, use the space to showcase various projects, often designed on site as semi-installations.

The February show was a collaborative effort between selected artists and the general public. People walked away euphoric and elated...not at the whole of what they'd done...but with the act of participation. So chances are, whatever he comes up with for March will be fun, and off the wall.

On the second floor of the old library Trinity Baker is hosting what has only been revealed as, the "super fantastic funhouse extraordinaire event, *Surrealville*." Also upstairs and in the theater will be Ernest Jackson's *Sonnet Rock Impromptu* (a fusion of rock music and poetry).

Finally, the main floor will host two events, a book signing by former Jacksonville Jaguars player Tom McManus. The book? *We Will Always Be Pals*, a memoir of his relationship with his Korean War veteran father. The second event is the Open Gallery artists' event curated by Gray C. Solomon.

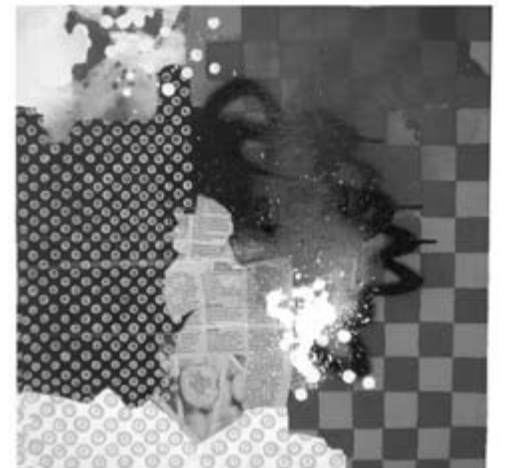
jane gray gallery

643 Edison Ave. 762-8826

www.janegraygallery.com

April 3-30

Looking forward into the beginning of April, Jane Gray Gallery hosts the 2009 iteration of *Bright Young Things*, a group show designed to showcase some of Jacksonville's emerging artists. Curated by Missy Hagar, she attempts to keep one eye on the future, while occasionally checking in with artists she has known in the past. The result is a mixture of artists who are returning to making art after a hiatus, and those who are finding their voice. Full disclosure, this writer is in the show, and is of the former category.



Dustin Harewood, "Cherry Clan"



Watercolorist, Leigh Murphy, is the featured artist for March at the Art Center Cooperative Inc.

visual art events

Through March 29 **Why Look at Animals?** *Why look at Animals?* is a major exhibition of historical and contemporary photography that surveys the various ways animals have been depicted photographically for the last century and a half. The more than 200 photographs have been drawn from the George Eastman House archive and from studios of contemporary artists around the world. **MOCA Special Lectures** March 12 at 6:30 pm, Wild and Wooly: Animals in Art with Debra Murphy-Livingston, University of North Florida. March 26 at 6:30 pm, All Manner of Beasts: Thoughts on Looking at Animals with Paul Karabinis, University of North Florida. Free with price of admission. MOCA The Museum of Contemporary Art, 333 North Laura St. Info: (904) 366-6911 or www.mocajacksonville.org.

Through April 6 **Roopali Kambo: Images of Entrancement** *Slum Dog Millionaire*, a film set in poverty stricken Mumbai, India clutched eight academy awards, sparking an interest in India's culture with millions of Americans. Jacksonville residents too can experience a look inside India's culture in *Images of Entrancement*, a gallery exhibit with works by India born artist Roopali Kambo. Accompanied by a free educational resource guide, *Images of Entrancement*, features Kambo's brightly colored canvases, offering gallery visitors an unique perspective on the relationship between human condition, emotion the role of daily environment. Admission is free. Gallery hours are Monday- Friday, 10 am - 4 pm and Thursday evenings until 7 pm. Galleries are also open two hours prior to all performances, and will remain open through intermission. Lee Adams Florida Artist Gallery in the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts, 283 College Drive, Orange Park.

Through April 11 **New Visions Jim Draper Exhibition** The Cultural Center presents the upcoming exhibition of Jim Draper's latest series of work, *New Visions*. Draper's work captures significant qualities of urban and rural life and the individual's place within it, the evocation of time passing, and a vivid representation of the real world. Meet the artist at the opening reception on February 27 from 6:30 to 8pm. Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 280-0614 ext 203

Through April 12 **Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times: American Modernism from the Lane Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** Featuring masterpieces by Georgia O'Keeffe, Charles Sheeler, Arthur G. Dove, Stuart Davis, and Marsden Hartley, the Lane Collection is considered to be one of the greatest collections of American modernism. This exhibition of 45 paintings traces the development and diversity of American Modernism through the eyes of a passionate collector. **Director's Lecture Series** on March 3 at 7 pm. Special slide show presentation and discussion of Alfred Stieglitz's photo portraits of Georgia O'Keeffe. Free admission for lecture. **Painting Workshop at The Cummer** on March 7 from 10 am to 4 pm. Leading area artist, Hillary Hogue, will guide participants through explorations of themes in 20th-century American Modernism in this one-day painting workshop. The workshop is for artists of all levels from beginners to advanced students and will emphasize individual attention. **Garden Week 2009** March 15 through March 19. Come celebrate the historic and nationally recognized gardens. Enjoy the festivities including the Sunday Gala Kick-off Celebration, Fashion Show by Sharon Batten, Hat Luncheon, Floral Demonstrations and Guest Lecture Luncheons. Info: 904-899-6038. **Cummer Theater: O'Keeffe!** by Lucinda McDermott on March 24, 7 to 9 pm. A powerful and deeply moving play about a relationship that has fascinated art critics and art lovers alike. With acuity, humor, and intimate insight, the play examines the making of the first star of the modern art world, Georgia O'Keeffe, by her husband and benefactor Alfred Stieglitz. First in an innovative new theater series presented with beaches-area Players by the Sea Theatre, O'Keeffe! stars the dynamic actress Cee Cee Hayes. Directed by Barbara Williams. Info: 904-355-0630. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, 829 Riverside Avenue, 904-356-6857. www.cummer.org.

Through April 11 **Florida Highwaymen Exhibit** and **Following Backus- Old and New Featuring Arno DeCordre** March 21 Founder's Day Celebration from 10 am - 3 pm with two of the Florida Highwaymen, James Gibson and Mary Ann Carroll, as well as Arno DeCordre. March 28, Florida Highwaymen, R.L. Lewis will be doing a live painting demonstration. The Beaches Museum & History Center, 380 Pablo Ave, Jacksonville Beach, 904-241-5657 or www.bm-hc.com

Through September 30 **Africa's Living Arts** This exhibition features beautiful handcrafted and factory printed textiles that tell stories of Africa's heritage, politics and social values using color, pattern and form

Calling All Artists To Be A Part Of "Art in the Heart of Downtown"

In conjunction with the 2009 Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the City of Jacksonville is proud produce "Art in the Heart of Downtown"—a juried art show and sale that will feature the work of prize-winning artists and master craftspeople from around the country. The show is complimented by a distinct wine tasting experience and the sounds of jazz in a vibrant festival setting. Festival attendees will be able to stroll through "Art in the Heart," located along the Laura Street Corridor in the heart of downtown Jacksonville. Don't miss this fine arts and crafts, outdoor, juried show. There will be prize money and awards, Friday set-up with 24-hour security, vibrant street festival setting Artist hospitality area and complimentary parking. The application is available online at coj.net. Entry Deadline: April 6. Show Dates: May 22-24, 2009.

to explore the traditional art of communication through adornment and display. Ritz Theatre & LaVilla Museum, 829 N. Davis St., 632- 5555

March 4 **Downtown Art Walk** First Wednesday Art Walk in Downtown Jacksonville, 5 - 9 pm. Art Walk is a free, self-guided tour of Downtown galleries and museums, as well as cultural venues, restaurants and businesses, rain or shine. Choose your own route, or begin at Headquarters at 100 N. Laura St. Fogle Fine Art & Consulting has hung all new artwork in the atrium for 2009. The Jacksonville Landing will provide free water taxi rides by S.S. Marine Taxi from 5-8 pm. Stop by the Main Library to vote for your favorite CANstruction entry created entirely from canned food designed and sponsored by area architects and enjoy a solo performance by Jacksonville Symphony violinist, Max Huls at 7 pm. "Recent Works - Images from Far & Near" Watercolorist, Leigh Murphy, is the featured artist for March at the Art Center Cooperative Inc., 31 West Adams St. Info: DTJAX.org or call 634-0303.

March 6 **St. Augustine Art Walk** First Friday of every month from 5 - 9 pm, Tours begin at Rembrandtz Fine Gifts for Fun People, 131 King Street, St. Augustine, (904) 829-0065 or staugustinegalleries.com

March 7 **Cardinal Points: The Different Directions of Jennifer Grey** Her first solo digital photography show at Bogda Gallery in Riverside this March. Photography is how she justifies her tendency to be easily distracted by shiny objects. Opening reception to be held Saturday, from 8-11pm. Viewing by appointment only the rest of March. Bogda Gallery, 1253 McDuff Avenue S. Joy McGinnis, proprietor. 904-472-9310

March 21 **Mural De' Spring Spectacular** An enchanted evening of art, music, food, cocktails, dancing and performance centered around the live creation of "Flight of The Butterfly," a mural created by local, but world renowned street muralist Jim Phillips and his team. The mural will be sectioned into pieces and auctioned off at the end of the night so come prepared to bid and contribute to a great cause and support art. Dress is Semi-Formal/Black Tie Optional. Cost is \$50.00 in advance or \$60.00 at the door (includes all beverages and food) www.jaxchalkfest.com. Passes can be purchased at art walk on March 4th inside the Haydon Burns Library. Info: 904-612-8491.

March 27 **Art After Dark** This show has become widely recognized as a unique and important showcase for many of our community's "undiscovered" visual artists. Most of the art works showcased this evening are for sale, and 90% of the proceeds will go directly to the artists. The Florida Theatre will showcase the works of 12 professional visual artists and several exceptional students throughout the unique setting of the ornate lobbies. You will have a chance to see Jacksonville's greatest architectural treasure from the point of view of a performer as you step onto the stage to explore the many exceptional offerings of the annual silent auction. Student artwork will be on display on the third floor of the lobby. Tickets: \$21.50, Florida Theatre, 7 - 10 pm. Info: 904-355-2787

If you have an art event you would like to have listed in EU Jacksonville, please send information to: info@entertainingu.com by the 20th of the month prior to the event.

turtle trails by erin thursby

Look out for the giant turtles! Not unlike the manatees and jaguar figurines that have graced our sidewalks and plazas, there are going to be colorfully painted turtles by various First Coast artists and sponsored by a number of local businesses and individuals.

The giant jaguars and manatees were developed by Bonnie Upright, who engineered and coordinated both of those projects. She's at the helm for this project as well, dubbed Turtle Trails.

Turtle Trails funds the Child Guidance Center, which helps children with mental issues such as anxiety disorders, abuse, divorce adjustment and depression. At the Guidance Center they get kids on the road to recovery.

Veronica Valentine, chief executive of The Child Guidance Center, told the Times-Union last April that the event was a good fit for the Center because it is different than the usual charity event and because it's "something that would be child-centered and family-focused and would relate to what we do."

Even on the design level, of the turtle statues they keep the kids in mind. It's true that real turtles don't have knees, but these turtles will. In the past, the jaguars and manatees proved very tempting for children, who love to climb all over them. The turtles are actually designed to be low enough to the ground to be kid friendly. In fact, the turtles are actually on bended knee so the little ones can sit on the turtle's knee. Like the jaguars they're less true to life and more cartoonish.

Unlike the jags, the relatively flat back of the turtle serves as a more of a flat canvas than the big cats or the manatees did. In fact, since the turtles are upright the artists will get two broad canvases to paint on, the relatively front of the shell and the curved back.

The response to the opportunity to paint these animal canvases nearly overwhelmed the organizers of the Turtle Trails. Local artists from all over the First Coast put forth more than 300 designs. About 1/3 of those were chosen to go forward into the painting phase.

These diverse animal shaped art projects have a higher purpose beyond the noble effort to give our cityscape color and to strengthen the identity of our city. On a practical level, these painted statues provide money to charity.

You can find the first of these turtles on display at the Landing inside, at the top of the escalators. This colorful turtle is called Monty the Monarch and is the work of Kimberly Stachurski. It's painted with the pattern of the Monarch Butterfly.

When the statue was unveiled, the artist was quoted by News4Jax as saying "The Monarch Butterfly to me is a symbol of transformation, and the children who come to the Child Guidance Center with problems, their lives are transformed."

The statues are sponsored by a local business whose name is displayed at the base of the turtle with a plaque. The turtle will then be auctioned off at a gala charity event in May of 2009.

The manatees and jaguars are still a part of the landscape here in Jacksonville. Here's hoping the big cats and sea cows won't mind sharing space with giant turtles.

For more info on this project, visit turtletrails.org.



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singin' in the rain

Alhambra Dinner Theatre review by dick kerekes

The Alhambra Dinner Theatre opened a bright ray of sunshine last weekend with *Singin' In The Rain*, the 1935 Broadway musical based on the outstanding 1952 film of the same name, starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. This brilliant musical has it all; hilarity, engaging performances, lively choreography and the catchiest tunes. It is Alhambra's stimulus entertainment package that lives up to the definition: something that quickens action, feeling and thought.

Action! The tap dancing is possibly the best ever performed on this stage, and you'll feel the urge to tap a toe or two. Feeling! Any time you can laugh until tears come into your eyes, you are going to feel sensational. Thought! The story takes the audience back into the world of Old Hollywood in the final days before silent movies and the start of the "talkies." You will be dazzled by the out-of-this-world costumes of the 20s and 30s.



Director/Producer Tod Booth has cast three of the leading roles with dynamic new talents in their Alhambra debuts. They can do it all: sing, dance, act and look beautiful. Remember the names, Todd Michael Cook (playing the Kelly part, Don Lockwood), Katherine Weatherford (as Kathy, the Debbie Reynolds role) and Jeremy Dumont (as Cosmo, the Donald O'Connor role). These young performers have the stage presence of long time veterans and they truly sparkle in this production.

The final leading role, Lina Lamont, the ditzzy silent movie star with the shrill voice, is done to absolute perfection by Alhambra favorite Kelly Atkins. The scene where she makes her first talking movie and has to use a microphone is an absolute laugh riot that will have you rolling in the aisles. Earlye Rhodes, whose acting has mainly been in the yearly *Christmas Carole*, is fantastically funny as Roscoe Dexter, the German film director.

True to the show's film origins, Booth has movie screens on either side of the stage with clips of some early silent swashbuckling films.

A show like this has to have glamorous girls, and Jessica Booth, Allison David, Katy Jacobson and Rebecca Maderski meet all the requirements with some spiffy dancing and singing in those wonderful costumes (designed by Camala Pitts and Dorinda Grogan from the Costume Crew).

Local actor Alex Nordin is another very talented local actor whose future seems bright in this business. You may have seen him in *The Fantasticks* at Limelight last year. He sings and dances as the leading man in the song 'Beautiful Girl,' in addition to playing a half dozen smaller parts.

Rounding out the cast are Alhambra regulars who can do it all, Tony Triano, Henry Brewster, Lee Hamby and Conrad De'Andrea (who is also the Choreographer).

Set Designer David Dionne gives us the Hollywood and movie set atmosphere with several scene changes, and yes, he does make it rain, so there will be 'Singin' in the Rain.' If you sit in the front row, you may catch a drop or two.

Tod Booth's crisp direction makes this a fast-paced show where there is never a dull moment. Joey Chancey took time off from touring the USA

with *The Wizard of Oz* to be Musical Director.

The songs have become standards and you will be surprised at how many you remember. They include 'Make 'Em Laugh,' 'Fit as a Fiddle,' 'You Stepped Out of a Dream,' 'You are My Lucky Star,' 'Good Morning,' 'Would You,' and of course the title song 'Singin' in the Rain.'

Singin' in the Rain continues until April 5 at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. Call 641-1212 for reservations. Performances nightly except Monday, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday.

You are going to fall in love with this cast and be sure to take the kids along, they will love it too. The dancing alone is worth the price of admission. So before the rain stops falling, be sure to see this show. It is fabulous!



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theatre events

Now through April 5 **Singing in the Rain** If you know and love the movie, you'll love this stage musical adaptation. It has everything the movie has plus extra songs by Gershwin, Mercer and Cole Porter. Alhambra Dinner Theatre 12000 Beach Blvd., 904-641-1212, alhambradinnertheatre.com

Now through March 8 **Intimate Apparel** Some dreams never die -- that is the underlying message behind this "intimate" drama, focused on lost love, determination, delusion and compassion. Limelight Theatre 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, 904- 825-1164 or (866) 682-6400, limelight-theatre.org

Now through March 14 **Forrest** You, the audience will choose the verdict as American Civil War soldier Nathan Bedford Forrest stands trial for war crimes. Forrest will undergo withering cross-examination and then must abide by your verdict. Original play by Jacksonville playwright. Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre, Atlantic Beach, 904-249-7177, abetttheatre.com

Now through March 22 **Eurydice** Sarah Ruhl reinvents the fantastic and hallucinatory myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine, Eurydice. Eurydice journeys through the jaws of death into the Underworld where she reunites with her father who teaches her about love, loss and the pleasures and pains of memory. Hippodrome, Gainesville, 352- 375-4477, thehipp.org

Now through March 29 **The Fantasticks** The New Gathering Theatre Complex, a 200-seat theater, provides an intimate setting for *The Fantasticks*, a classic coming-of-age story and the longest-running musical in history. Performances are 5:30 pm Thursdays - Sundays, Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$30 for children and includes a full buffet meal prepared by award winning Chef Arne Nordquist. Gathering Dinner Theatre, 1570 San Jose Blvd (in Mandarin Square). For reservations or more information, 904-638-8412, www.jacksonvilledinnertheatre.com

March 6 **Clean Comedy Night With Comedian Joby Saad** The Gathering Dinner Theatre Dinner Show - Doors Open 5:30 pm, show starts at 7:00 pm. Dinner & Show \$45.00 for adults. Jacksonville's Gathering Dinner Theatre, 11570 San Jose Blvd. For reservations and info: 904-638-8412, www.JacksonvilleDinnerTheatre.com

March 6 - 8 **Gilligan's Island the Musical** The most famous three hour tour of all comes to the stage. Come see your favorite television characters of old brought to life in this new musical. FCCJ Wilson Center-FCCJ South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd., 904-632-3373, artistseries.fccj.org

March 6 - 8 **Hansel and Gretel - UNF Opera Ensemble** Hänsel and Gretel is an opera by nineteenth-century composer Engelbert Humperdinck, who described it as a Märchenoper (fairy tale opera). The libretto was written by Adelheid Wette (Humperdinck's sister), based on the Grimm brothers' Hansel and Gretel. Robinson Theater, 8 pm, 904-620-2878, www.unfopera.com

March 6 – 8 **The Good Person of Sezuan** The production is full of music, visual impact, character, color and humor. The cast includes 30 Flagler students as well as several local children. Flagler College Auditorium 14 Granada St., St. Augustine. 904-826-8600, flagler.edu/page2.aspx?id=859

March 6 – 8 **International Dance Challenge** Times-Union Center, 904-633-6110

March 7 and 9 **ABET Auditions** Auditions will be held on March 7 at 2 pm and March 9 at 7 pm for *The Exact Center of the Universe* (Comedy-Drama). Performances are May 15-16, 22-24, 28-30. Setting: A small southern town in the 1950s and 1960s, Director: Celia Frank, Cast: 1 male in 30s to 40s, 1 female in 20s, and 3 females in 60s to 70s. Requirements: Cold reading from the script. Adele Garage Cultural Center, 716 Ocean Blvd., corner of 7th St., Atlantic Beach, 904-249-7177, www.abetttheatre.com

March 6 – 21 **Fuddy Meers** This poignant and brutal new comedy traces one woman's attempt to regain her memory while surrounded by a curio-cabinet of alarmingly bizarre characters. Players by the Sea, Jacksonville Beach, 904-249- 0289, playersbythesea.org

March 6 – 28 **Picnic** This Pulitzer Prize-winning drama takes place on Labor Day weekend in the joint backyards of two middle aged widows. When a stranger comes to town, the locals are upset by the changes he brings about in their social setting. Orange Park Community Theatre, 904-276-2599, opct.org

March 7 **Dance Brazil** DanceBrazil is an electrifying example of the globalization of dance. Mesmerizing and spirited, it is a vivid blend of the best of contemporary dance and Capoeira featuring live musicians and Afro/Brazilian/Capoeira instruments along with vocals. UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Dr. at 7:30 pm, 904-620-2878, unf.edu/fineartscenter/performance

March 7 **Jacksonville Ballet Theatre Presents Don Quixote** To dream the impossible dream... Featuring

guest artists, Zoica Tovar and Andres Estevez, Principal Dancers with the Orlando Ballet, the grand story of the adventurous dreamer from La Mancha soars onto the Florida Theatre stage with pageantry and flare. Event Time: 7:30 pm Ticket Prices: \$25, \$15 - Student, Senior, Military. Florida Theatre at 8 pm, 904-355-2787 or 353-3309, floridatheatre.com

March 11 **Robin Williams** Robin Williams' comedy tour, Weapons of Self-Destruction, has exploded onto the comedy scene, earning the comedian spectacular reviews. The show will be in a special theatrical setting making for an intimate and memorable night. Times-Union Center 300 W. Water St., 904-633-6110 or 353-3309

March 12 - April 15 **The Miracle Worker** William Gibson spins the tale of Helen Keller, cut off from the world through deafness and blindness, and Anne Sullivan, the woman who yearns to set her free. Limelight Theatre, St. Augustine, 904-825-1164 or (866) 682-6400, limelight-theatre.org

March 13 – 28 **Wait Until Dark** Three sinister con men embark on a mission to find a very valuable doll in a dark apartment, but get more than they bargained for when the blind resident returns home and begins to suspect something isn't right. Theatre Jacksonville, 904-396-4425, theatrejax.com

March 14 **30th Anniversary Spectrum Gala** This special event features the company premiere of Urban Dream, based on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Artistic Director Lauri Pncinich-Byrd's latest installment in her Equal Footing series with guest Phillip Pan. A revival of Full Circle, created for the Florida Ballet by Belgian choreographer Marc Bogaerts, and a special appearance by the Florida Ballet's past and present dancers are also in store. Florida Theatre, 904-355-2787 or 353-3309, floridatheatre.com

March 14 **Bellydance Superstars** The Bellydance Superstars are bellydancers like you would never imagine. Incorporating everything from traditional capes and veils to tribal tattoos and dreadlocks to post-modern fusion with veiled wings, finger cymbals, tattoos, and Arabic rap, these world-famous dancers have performed across the globe for royalty and the public alike. Tickets \$32 for adults, \$15 for children and seniors. Times Union Center, 8 pm, 904-630-3900.

March 15 **Death Plays the Market** When Alouicious Snee has to tell his investors they are flat broke, the market isn't the only thing that crashes in this fun-filled interactive murder mystery. Murder Mystery Theatre-Dave and Buster's Restaurant, 7025 Salisbury Rd. at 6 pm, 904-296-1525 (reservations required), mysteryplayers.com

March 20 **Comedian Ron White** Times-Union Center, 904-633-6110 or 353-3309

March 20 **Sinbad** Sinbad doesn't tells jokes- instead, he stalks the stage, telling real-life stories. He doesn't deliver payoff lines; he slam-dunks them! His comedy is large, physical and impetuous at 8 pm, Florida Theatre, 904-355-2787 or 353-3309, floridatheatre.com

March 20 **Danscape** This annual dance showcase affords upcoming dancers and choreographers the opportunity to hone their skills in a professional environment. See beautiful works created by choreographer-in-residence Judy Skinner, choreographer George Balanchine and Artistic Director Kim Tuttle. Dance Alive Gainesville, Phillips Center for Performing Arts, 311 Hull Rd., Gainesville at 7:30 pm, 352-371-2986, dancealive.org

March 21 and 23 **The Producers Audition** Auditions will be held on March 21, 2 – 6 pm and March 23, 7 – 10 pm. Be prepared with a least 16 bars of an up tempo show tune. An accompanist will be provided. There will be a dance combo taught and cold readings from the script. Location: Orange Park Community Theatre, 2900 Moody Ave, Orange Park, 904- 276-2599

March 24 – 29 **Fiddler on the Roof** The Tony Award winning musical embarks on its National Tour. In what is a huge theatrical feat, audiences will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the original Tevye, Chaim Topol, perform the role that made him legendary. FCCJ Artist Series Times-Union Center, 904-632-3373, artistseries.fccj.org

March 26 – 27 **Bollywood Choreographer with FCCJ danceWORKS** Rujuta Vaidya, acclaimed Bollywood choreographer and choreographer for the 2009 Academy Awards®, will have a local showcase for her work with FCCJ's performing company, danceWORKS. Vaidya worked with danceWORKS in between choreography assignments for a Britney Spears video and the Oscars®. Tickets: \$10; seniors, military and non-FCCJ students \$8; and FCCJ students \$5. Two performances, March 26 at 7:30 pm and March 27 at 8 pm at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts on the FCCJ South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd., 904-646-2361

March 27 – 28 **Cosi fan tutte** Mozart's celebrated comedy of manners and mistaken identities comes to JU. Performed in English with a twist of 1950's Americana! Jacksonville University at 7:30 pm, 904-256-7345, arts.ju.edu

March 27 **Birdhouse Factory/Cirque Mechanics** Journey to an imaginary factory where every machine is used for one amazing feat after another. Early 20th century machines come together with circus acrobatics, aerial feats and comedic characters to tell a story of laughter, love, flight, loss and our interconnectedness. UNF Fine Arts Center, 1 UNF Dr., at 2 pm & 7:30 pm, 904-620-2878, unf.edu/fineartscenter/performance

March 31 **L.A. Theatre Works Presents War of the Worlds and The Lost World** Join L.A. Theatre Works, America's premiere radio theatre company, for a special back-to-back double bill of chills, thrills and great literature as they present these masterpieces of science fiction and adventure. Florida Theatre at 8 pm, 904-355-2787 or 353-3309, floridatheatre.com



twist, turn, tweet

interview with Birdhouse Factory's Chris Lashua by kellie abrahamson

With so many cirque shows making the rounds it's getting increasingly difficult to decide which to see or even tell one from another. This month UNF is bringing one that is completely unique and is absolutely worth your time. Birdhouse Factory was a sensation off-Broadway and now it's coming to the Fine Arts Center for one night only. Chris Lashua, who is not only a performer in Birdhouse Factory but also the show's co-creator and creative director, was kind enough to speak with EU about the show. Here's what he had to say:

EU: How did you get started with the circus? What made you want to start your own show?

CL: My background is actually in bicycles and BMX. I used to do what's now the X-Games, vertical and skate ramp kind of work on a bike, and I was at a festival in China and I met one of the founders of Cirque du Soleil there back in 92...I worked for Cirque du Soleil for a number of years performing... and I was doing an act called the German Wheel, which is a seven foot wheel that you roll around [in] and steer around like a big coin. I was performing that with them and I built an apparatus that the wheel would sit on top of, like a set of rollers... and I started to build other machines after that and the idea for creating a show that would use these machines and showcase the interaction between acrobats and mechanical devices was really striking and kind of powerful to me... and I left Cirque to do freelance work and to try to pursue this idea. Luckily for me two of the people that I was working with on these machines were involved with... a circus training facility called the Circus Center of San Francisco. They do an annual show and they were interested in having this mechanical apparatus show... So we produced the show in 2005 and we've been doing it ever since.

EU: Give us an idea of the story that takes place in Birdhouse Factory.

CL: The Birdhouse Factory is actually a widget factory in the first act. It's an oppressive workplace in the 1940s and the workers line up for work ...and they do their jobs in a way that is the way we might think people did in these kinds of dark smoky places...years ago. In the first act the choreography is a bit heavier, a little bit more chunky, and midway through the first act a bird flies into the factory. As a result of the bird flying in, the workers completely lose interest in the work. The bird has an accident. I won't say what it is, but as a result of that accident and the workers' interest in taking care of the bird, they neglect their duties...and things change very much between the first and the second act in the show. The first act [the factory is] the traditional, linear, conveyer belts and machines and in the second act [it's a] much more wacky, non-linear, Rube Goldberg-like contraption factory. The acts that happen in that second act are more playful and nonsensical, there's clowning and things like that. So it's really two days in the factory and one day is the day the bird enters and the [other] day in the second act is many months later when the factory has undergone this radical change.

EU: What inspired the show's setting and story?

CL: It actually was kind of reverse engineering. These mechanical contraptions came first and early on when we were looking for a setting we thought it would be cool to have a factory setting. It's something that is not logical for circus but very logical for these machines and contraptions. I had seen an illustration for some paintings that were done by the Mexican muralist Diego Rivera. He was commissioned by the Ford Motor Company in the late 20s to do murals at the Detroit Industry Museum and essentially they were murals to glorify the assembly line. These murals show men and women working in the factory and [they have] this really great, chunky, blocky kind of iconic factory feel; machine-age kind of style. Those became the inspiration for the look of what would become Birdhouse Factory. So, it really started with the machines, the machines begot the setting: factory, and then the decision was made what kind, what style. Those murals really helped determine color palettes, the costumes, art directions for scenic elements and set design. The murals kind of informed the work of the entire show. From there, once we had a show set in a factory in the 1940s, the [question] was "What are we going to make in the factory?" and it was kind of a cool thought to make something completely illogical. This is a factory that looks like it should be making bombs or something. It's an industrial, dark place and it makes birdhouses. Why does it make birdhouses? So we decided to explore what might have happened in this industrial widget factory to make people change their minds and make something that is completely whimsical and fun.

EU: Who does this show appeal to?

CL: This is something we deal with all the time because it was created for a family audience so there's clowning and there's stuff that's appropriate for kids but most of us come from Cirque du Soleil where the focus really has never been about kids, it's mostly aimed at the 25 to 45 year old crowd with money... [Still] the setting itself, the 1940s... there's a nostalgia there that appeals to people that are older. There's kind of an intelligence in the way that the scene is set and the set is used that really appeals to people who might have a mechanical or engineering background. Then there's dance and choreography which is aimed at people who are more used to going to straight-up theatre or dance shows. So it's got a pretty wide range of appeal. We don't target any one [group].

Birdhouse Factory will be at the UNF Fine Arts Center on March 27th at 7:30 pm. Tickets range in price from \$32 to \$42 and can be bought online at unf.edu/fineartscenter. You can also order them by phone through the box office at 620-2878. To get a sneak peek of photos and videos of the show, visit birdhousefactoryshow.com.



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peace, love and enjoying life

interview with Jelón Vieira of DanceBrazil by **kellie abrahamson**

Part dance, part martial arts, part community outreach, DanceBrazil is so much more than entertainment. The company brings traditional Afro-Brazilian dance and Capoeira to stages around the world, thrilling audiences and impacting communities by sharing the art forms with children through workshops that build self esteem and self-discipline. DanceBrazil's artistic director Jelón Vieira, an acclaimed choreographer and master capoeirista, was kind enough to speak with EU about the company and what audiences can expect to see when they come to town on March 7th.

EU: Why did you decide to form DanceBrazil?

Jelón Vieira: I met Alvin [Ailey] when he was in Bahia in '72. When I came to New York I looked for him and I told him I wanted to study more dance and he gave me a scholarship at the school and my goal was really to dance in his company. He kept saying "No, no, no you have to do your own work. You have a lot to offer to this country. There's nothing Brazilian happening in this country." At that time when you talked about Brazil you heard about soccer or you heard about Carmen Miranda or you heard about Sérgio Mendes. Alvin said "You have to bring your culture; you have to bring Brazilian culture to the United States. You have to form your own dance company." Finally I decided to take his advice... At that time the name was The Capoeiras of Bahia which was a very difficult name for Americans to pronounce. Nowadays Capoeira is more popular, it would be easy now, but then it was very difficult. Then the late Alvin Ailey came up with the idea of DanceBrazil... He said "DanceBrazil says what you are, says what you do, says what you're all about."

EU: How is DanceBrazil different from other companies?

JV: Whoever sees DanceBrazil is going to have a very unique experience. First of all you will see Brazilian culture presented in a very contemporary way. What makes a big difference between DanceBrazil and other dance companies is how I explore my culture but also how I get inspired by Capoeira, the martial arts I do. Capoeira is very new to this country... Capoeira movement is very different from any other dance you've seen. But also the African influence is something new that I bring to my work.

EU: Tell us more about Capoeira.

JV: Capoeira is a dance like a fight and a fight like a dance. It is a martial art that [came from] Africans who were brought to Brazil as slaves in the early 1500s. As a way of self-defense they had to



develop this art form and camouflage it with music and dance... Many times when they were practicing Capoeira in front of the Portuguese, the Portuguese would enjoy it very much. They had no idea that was actually a martial art. Later on they used it to run away from the farms and from the slave quarters. Nowadays [Capoeira] is second to soccer as the most popular art form and martial art in Brazil. It's actually considered now the national sport of Brazil.

EU: You've been credited with bringing Capoeira to the United States. What was the initial reception like?

JV: In the beginning it was very difficult because I came here just when the United States was in the fever of Bruce Lee. Kung-fu, karate, Tae Kwon Do, all the movies about martial arts and no one had ever heard about Capoeira... With the music, the dance, no one took it seriously as a martial art. They always thought "Oh, that's just a dance"... I started going into karate tournaments, open tournaments to make people see and understand and believe that Capoeira, besides being a dance, is a martial art. In the beginning it was very, very difficult because no one had any idea.

EU: You formed an organization to train at-risk youth. Tell us about that.

JV: Capoeira Luanda is in Brazil... I look at it as social work. It's my mission as an artist and as a human being to help others... I'm not a social worker but my work is like social work... I come in and I teach Capoeira for the kids and help them find the right path in life. [We] give them determination, give them self-esteem. [We] make them proud of themselves and who they are, their culture.

EU: What sort of audiences do you typically see at a DanceBrazil performance? Who does the show appeal to?

JV: We have a very diverse audience. Everywhere we go the audience is very mixed. In the mid-90s we started going to San Antonio, Texas. The mayor of San Antonio at that time, I can't remember his name, he was at our performance and he loved so much how DanceBrazil attracted so much diverse community to the theatre. But [he] also [enjoyed] the workshop because San Antonio is so segregated; the black community sticks to themselves, the Hispanic community is on one side, white community on the other side. But when we introduced the workshop we brought everyone together. The mayor liked that so much that he helped [us collaborate with the Carver Community Cultural Center]. We did a long residency in San Antonio working with the community, bringing the community together.

EU: What do you hope people take away from DanceBrazil?

JV: I had an experience many years ago. I saw a dance company and the way they performed stayed in my mind, my heart up until today and at that time, for me, they were the best dance company in the world, the way they danced, the way they expressed themselves. In my direction, in my choreography, in my dance, that's what I'm trying to pass on to my dancers: show the audience that you love what you do. Get into their hearts, get into their minds so they'll never forget you; so they'll always keep coming back ... I want to leave a little bit of my culture with them... My work is all about peace, love and enjoying life.

See DanceBrazil at the UNF Fine Arts Center on March 7th at 7:30 pm. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$42. For tickets call 620-2878 or visit unf.edu/fineartscenter. For more information on Jelón Vieira and DanceBrazil, visit dancebrazil.org.

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a talk with topol

FCCJ Artist Series presents *Fiddler on the Roof* by erin thursby

My first burning question to the legendary Chaim Topol was about facial hair. Specifically, I wanted to know if he always grew a real beard for the part of Tevye. Apparently, he does. Like many actors he's adept at growing, shaving and changing his hair to suit whatever role he's playing. Not everything on the stage is guaranteed to be real, but his beard always is. That's good because I feel the same way about Tevye that I do about Santa Claus. It's always so much better if the beard is real.

Topol is the actor most associated with the role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. At the tender age of 30 he played Tevye, a man perhaps twice his age. He was asked to come to the audition in London because the director had seen him play an old Jewish man in *Sallah Shebati*, a critically acclaimed film.

When he showed up for the audition, says Topol, "They were very surprised to see a guy 29 or 30." Even so, he wowed them in auditions and they knew from his movie appearance that he could play a convincing older man.

"From the day I started to act on stage for some reason I was attracted to play older people. It didn't seem acting enough to be my own age."

Since then he's played the part in the movie and a number of revivals, winning a number of awards, including the 1971 Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy. Unlike those first performances as a guy barely out of his twenties, today Topol's had some of the life experiences Tevye has. He knows what it is to be married 25 years and he knows what it means to give a daughter away to a new husband.

"When your daughter comes and says 'I love him' and you know nothing about him... you are terrified." His own daughter played two of Tevye's daughters during the '90s, which added still another dimension to the role.

Even after playing the part for all these years he still finds something new in it, mainly because the actors around him change with every production.

"Every partner I have a scene with on stage brings something different." And Topol reacts to those differences as Tevye. He says that the difference in his relationship with other characters gives the chance to refresh his relationship with Tevye and the character he's playing opposite of at the time.

If you've seen the ads for *Fiddler on the Roof*, you might have noticed that they indicate Topol is retiring from the role of Tevye. It turns out that's a bit of a marketing ploy. When I asked Topol if he was really never going to play the role again, he said "I can't promise it." The ads announcing his retirement from Tevye, he says, "have nothing to do with me."

Such a gimmick is not beyond the pale. How many farewell tours did Cher have? They probably thought, because of his age, that Topol is unlikely to play the part again before he dies. But at 73, Topol is still going strong. He's spry enough that he's set to play Zorba the Greek in 2010. While he's best known for the role of Tevye, his career has spanned far more than that. From the Royal Shakespeare Company, to most recently, Uncle Honore in *Gigi*.

Even so, musical lovers should not miss this chance. It's hard to know if he's ever going to a U.S. national tour of *Fiddler* like this again. He's a busy man and the next time he plays Tevye might not be anywhere remotely near Jacksonville.

He's always been gentle with the humor in the first part of the play, rather than milking the laughs. He believes in the old saying: 'If you laugh too much in the first act, you won't cry in the second.'


While he enjoys playing the fun, boisterous scenes, it's the scenes where he says goodbye to his on-stage daughters that mean the most to him.

"These are the scenes that break my heart, but I cherish them... The loud silence in the audience sometimes is more rewarding than the big laugh. Because they're really with you."

As our interview was drawing to a close, there was something that Topol wanted to talk about beyond the world of acting and musicals. The most important thing in his life right now is the Jordan River Village, which provides a special place for terminally or seriously ill children. Jordan River Village is place where these kids can be kids, have a little vacation and time outdoors, all with their medical needs met. It's associated with Hole in the Wall Camps, the brainchild of the late Paul Newman. Topol has spent the last six years getting together a medical staff and building the camp. He's even sung songs from *Fiddler* at a benefit concert for the camp.

You can see and hear the legendary Topol in his legendary role from March 24- 29 for eight performances only at the Times-Union Center's Moran Theatre. Tickets range in price from \$26 to \$69. To order by phone with Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover call the FCCJ Artist Series Box Office at (904) 632-3373 (toll-free outside of Jacksonville 1-888-860-BWAY.) Discounts are available for groups of 15+ or 40+ by calling (904) 632-3228.





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Ryan Adams and the Cardinals

music events

featured music

March 6 **Umphey's McGee** Since forming in 1997, Indiana jam band Umphey's McGee spends half the year on the road habitually flooring audiences. Their anything-goes musicianship, humor and good-nature all make remarkable entertainment. The band shuttles between styles with precision, from straight-up pop and rock to jazz, prog-metal and classical. If you can name it, chances are Umphey's can play it. See for yourself when they play the Freebird this month. Tickets: \$20. Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

March 9 **Ryan Adams and the Cardinals** Ryan Adams announced at the beginning of the year that he's leaving the music biz later this spring. It's a loss many music lovers will mourn since Adams' decade-long career has been studded with critically acclaimed albums and Grammy nominations. Jacksonville fans are in luck because our fair city is one of the last ones he'll play before hanging up his guitar. Be at the Florida Theatre on March 9th for this not-to-be-missed show. Tickets: \$28.50. Florida Theatre, 355-5661

March 11 **Casper & the Cookies** Hailing from Athens, Georgia, Casper & the Cookies have been hard at work creating their own peculiar brand of indie pop since forming in the late '90s. Known for their kooky on-stage antics, the four-piece has a growing reputation for wildly entertaining shows, making this a concert well worth your time. Head over to TSI on the 11th for this one. You won't be sorry! TSI, 424-3531

March 14 **Willie Nelson & Family** The "Red Headed Stranger" himself is returning to the First Coast this month. Sure, he's been here plenty of times, most recently last year, but any fan will tell you that seeing Willie live is something that can be experienced a dozen times and never grow old. With more than 40 years in the business and over 70 albums to his credit, Willie Nelson knows how to put on a show that will have you dancing in the aisles. Break out your dancing shoes on the 14th when Willie graces the St. Augustine Amphitheatre's stage. Tickets: \$35- \$85. St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965

March 17 **Ani DiFranco** Ani DiFranco has written hundreds of songs, played thousands of shows, captured the imaginations of legions of followers, and jammed with folkies, orchestras, rappers, rock and roll hall-of-famers, jazz musicians, poets, pop superstars, storytellers and a martial arts legend. This month the prolific folk rock superstar is headed back to the Florida Theatre in support of her latest album Red Letter Year. Tickets: \$35.50-\$38.50. Florida Theatre, 355-5661

March 22 **Vetiver / Larkin Grimm** San Francisco-based folk band Vetiver have released four albums since their formation in 2004. Their most recent, last month's *Tight Knit*, shows the band's ever-evolving musical chops and proves this fairly young act is on the road to greatness. See them perform live at Café Eleven on the 22nd with Tennessee singer/songwriter/radical environmentalist Larkin Grimm. Tickets: \$8. Café Eleven, 460-9311

March 26 **The Ting Tings** With their hopelessly infectious pop tunes, the music of Jules De Martino and Katie White, better known as the Ting Tings, has been everywhere recently. From iPod commercials to the trailers of Hollywood films to the stage at Times Square on New Years Eve, it's hard to escape the booty-shaking beats that this British duo creates. Jack Rabbits invites you to get on the dance floor this month when the Ting Tings hit their stage. Tickets: \$15. Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

March 27 **Colin Hay** As the singer, guitarist and main songwriter of Australia's Men at Work, Colin Hay was responsible for penning several of the quirkiest pop hits of the early '80s. Once the group split in 1985, Hay decided to embark on a solo career which subsequently lead to nine albums and the formation of his own label. Hay is currently working on record number ten, rumored to be titled *American Sunshine*, and will be taking to the road this spring to spread a little bit of that sunshine around. See him at the Freebird on the 27th. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/day of show. Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

Pillar Grammy-nominated Christian rockers Pillar have been honing their infectious sound since forming in 1998. Moving away from their funk-infused tunes, today the band's music has a harder metal edge, yet their tenacious faith and powerful message has remained the same. The Tulsa-based four-piece will take to the Murray Hill Theatre's stage this month. Firefight and Me in Motion will also perform. Tickets: Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179

March 29 **Black Lips** Wild onstage antics have gotten Atlanta "flower punk" band Black Lips banned from several Georgia venues and even run out of the country on their recent trip to India. Shows have included vomiting, urinating, nudity, band members kissing, Power Wheel races, fireworks, flaming guitars and even a chicken. Despite this, or maybe because of it, Black Lips have built a solid fan base with their mishmash of blues, rock, doo-wop, country and punk. Check them out with Gentleman Jesse & His Men this month. Tickets: \$13/advance, \$15/day of show. Jack Rabbits, 398-7496



day-to-day

MARCH 1
JSO: Peter VS. The Wolf Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
This Providence / Sing It Loud / Cash Cash / Morning Light / Hands High Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Divisions / Talk Sick Earth Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Classic Patric with Patric Robinson Springfield Woman's Club, 791-9986
Fallen from the Sky / Signature Escape / Faith City Fiasco / Words in Red / The Marianas The Pit, 223-9850

MARCH 2
Billy Joel / Elton John Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309

MARCH 3
Rebelution / Giant Panda Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Rusholm Ruffians TSI, 424-3531
Music @ Main: Trio Florida Main Library, 630-2665

MARCH 4
Christian McBride Band Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Park Street Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Fullstop / Manatella TSI, 424-3531
Music @ Main: Art Walk with the Symphony Main Library, 630-2665

MARCH 5
JSO: Scottish Sounds and More Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Tammerlin European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
William Elliot Whitmore Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Remedy Drive / Quiet Science / Radio City Confessions Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179

MARCH 6
Copland House Concert UNF Recital Hall, 620-2864
JSO: Scottish Sounds and More Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Sarah Jane Cion Friday Musicale, 355-7584
UNF Opera Ensemble and UNF Chamber Orchestra

UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
Bulletproof Your Limousine / Ammo Nation Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Amateur Night at the Ritz Ritz Theatre, 632-5555
Rick Arcusa Band Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Umpfrey's McGee Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Valient Thor Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Southern Fried Funk Landshark Café, 246-6024
Shall We Commence / Embrace the Empire / Defeat the Oppressor The Pit, 223-9850
Ben Prestage Mojo Kitchen (Jacksonville Beach), 247-6636

MARCH 7
JSO: Scottish Sounds and More Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
UNF Opera Ensemble and UNF Chamber Orchestra UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Husky Burnette Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Transmit Now OC Liquor Store, 242-8884
Zac Brown Band Mavericks, 356-1110
Ritz Jazz Jam Ritz Theatre, 632-5555
Lauren Lapointe European Street Listening Room (Southside), 399-1740
Park Street Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Zac Brown Band Mavericks, 353-8464
Ithaca / We Are Endless / Marianas / Hope Runs



Deep / Hawarya The Pit, 223-9850
Formatta / Twisted Affliction / The Tell Tale Heart Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Saltwater Grass CD release show Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

MARCH 8
JSYO: Spring Concert Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Beaches Fine Art Series: Richard Stoltzman and the FSU Jazz Ensemble St. Paul's By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, 270-1771
UNF Opera Ensemble and UNF Chamber Orchestra UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
Vienna Teng / Haale Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Joe Buck Yourself / Just Call Me John / Johnny Apple Eyes Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
War of Ages / Destroy the Runner / Inhale Exhale Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179

MARCH 9
Kathleen Edwards Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Ryan Adams and the Cardinals Florida Theatre, 355-5661

MARCH 11
Badfish Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Casper & the Cookies TSI, 424-3531
Paper Scissors Rocketpack! Shantytown, 798-8222
The Secret State Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Mason Jennings Café Eleven, 460-9311

MARCH 12
JU Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Orchestra JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345
The Hot and Heavy / A Love like Pi / LookAlive / Andrea Gayle / Hands High The Pit, 223-9850
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
The Transfers Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Cypher 16 / Glorious Gunner Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Dan Schmidt European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740

MARCH 13
Clarinet Studio Recital UNF Recital Hall, 620-2864
JSO: Ben Vereen Sings SAMMY! Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547

ter: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
March N2 Madness Tour: The Fold / White Collar Sideshow / Deas Vail Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Wrong Way Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Unit Shifters Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Charlie Mcalister / Psychedelic Man / Guardians of the Thickets Shantytown, 798-8222
Captain Hook Box Seats, 908-7328
The Gator Country Spring Concert Series: Jimmy Wayne and Bucky Covington Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
World of Tourcraft: Alesana / Fall From Grace / Drop Dead, Gorgeous Landshark Café, 246-6024
Signal 20 Landshark Café, 246-6024
Alesana The Pit, 223-9850
Art is Alive Music and Art Showcase Freebird Live, 246-BIRD



MARCH 14
JSO: Ben Vereen Sings SAMMY! Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Seven Kingdoms The Pit, 223-9850
His Name is Iron / Sent By Ravens / Ladyfish / We Still Dream Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Science Hill Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Willie Nelson & Family St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
Blaggards Metropolitan Park, 353-3309

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(XIU XIU)
APR 24TH \$8 8:30 PM

ENTER THE HAGGIS
MAY 6TH \$10 8:30 PM

face 2 face, again

Two of rock’s legends are coming together this month for a show that is sure to have people on the First Coast talking for a long, long time. Billy Joel and Elton John have chosen Jacksonville as the place where they will kick off their 2009 Face 2 Face tour on March 2nd. This is the third time the duo has taken to the road together and it promises to be the best yet.

Billy Joel, also known as the “Piano Man,” had Top 10 hits for three consecutive decades and won a half dozen Grammy Awards throughout his career. The wildly popular singer-songwriter is the sixth best-selling recording artist in the United States, despite the fact that he hasn’t produced a new rock album since 1993. Having been inducted into the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Long Island Music Hall of Fame, Joel is one of the most celebrated musicians of our time.

Of course, his co-headliner is no slouch either! In his four-decade career, Elton John has been one of the dominant forces in rock and popular music, having sold over 200 million records. John has had seven consecutive number 1 U.S. albums and 56 Top 40 singles, helping him earn the ranking of #49 on Rolling Stone’s 100 greatest artists of all time listing. In addition to being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, John has also won five Grammys and an Academy Award and was knighted in 1998.

According to promoters, John and Joel plan to open this year’s shows on twin pianos and will trade vocals on a series of duets. A headlining set by each artist with his own band will follow and the shows will end with an encore featuring both headliners and their backing bands. Tickets for this dream gig range in price from \$49.50 to \$175. Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309



Captain Hook Shellfish Grille & Lounge (St. Augustine) 940-4700
Castlebay European Street Listening Room (Southside), 725-3929
The Rhythm Cure Band / Little Green Men Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Stephen Pearcy of RATT / A Fall to Rise The Pit, 223-9850
Bloodkin Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

MARCH 15
Jacksonville Symphony with Paul Galbraith Flagler College Auditorium, 797-2800
The Stick Martin Show Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Nevadaless / Gee Johnson / Shudre Da Persona / Shot Out / Precision / Big Jake The Pit, 223-9850
Oboe Quartet / Shepherd on the Rock / Clara Schumann Church of the Good Shepherd, 387-5691
Andy McKee Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Monica Monet / DJ Al Pete Mr. Q’s Funk Jazz Lounge, 683-1324

MARCH 16
A Slight Breeze Café Eleven, 460-9311
Bobaflex / Karma for Liars / Rock n Roll Chrome / Sacred Ground / Automation The Pit, 223-9850
Ampline / Cody Vann Doozers Pub, 738-8922



MARCH 17
Ani DiFranco Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Masters of Disaster Tour: Bonded by Blood / Ex-mortes / Witchaven The Pit, 223-9850
Blaggards Lynch’s Irish Pub (Jacksonville Beach), 249-5181
Captain Hook Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999

MARCH 18
Lost Apparitions / Buff Clout TSI, 424-3531

MARCH 19
The Living Wrecks / Mirrors and Wires Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
E for Execution Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Korby Lenker European Street Listening Room (San Marco), 399-1740
Toubab Krewe Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

MARCH 20
JSO: Charlotte and Ludwig Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Milena Pajaro van de Stadt Friday Musicale, 355-7584
Ron White Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 633-6110
Bastard Suns / Sangria / Dive Plane / name:bran /

Forced Culture The Pit, 223-9850
Amateur Night at the Ritz (Semi-Finals) Ritz Theatre, 632-5555
Vantage Bulletin Publishing Shantytown, 798-8222
The Gator Country Spring Concert Series: Darryl Worley and Jessica Andrews Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Tres Bien TSI, 424-3531
The Dirty Gringos Landshark Café, 246-6024
Simplex 1 / 1987 / EasyMark Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Eric Lindell Mojo Kitchen (Jacksonville Beach), 247-6636

MARCH 21
Solid Gold Doo-Wop Reunion Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 633-6110
Jacksonville Children’s Choir: An Evening of Bluegrass with David Holt Times-Union Center, 346-1636
Singod / Altar of Flesh / Infernal Propaganda / Bloodcraft Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Freedom Hawk Landshark Café, 246-6024
Lisa and the Mad Hatters Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
TSI’s 3rd Annual Black & White Ball TSI, 424-3531
Tempest Reign / A Fall to Rise / Aeva The Pit, 223-9850
Capital Lights / The Sophomore Attempt Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
Larry Magnum’s Songwriter’s Circle European Street Listening Room (Southside), 399-1740
Rehab Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

MARCH 22
Riverside Fine Arts Series: William Whitehead Church of the Good Shepherd, 389-6222
O.P.S. / F.T.N. / Downtown Brown Doozers Pub, 738-8922
Vetiver / Larkin Grimm Café Eleven, 460-9311

MARCH 23
Andrea Gayle / Eve of Shadows / Wings of Lead / Suicide Before Surrender The Pit, 223-9850

MARCH 24
Lavilla Piano Concert Lavilla School of the Arts, 633-6069
Late of the Pier Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Energy The Pit, 223-9850

MARCH 25



celtic women

Enya and Lord of the Dance have helped thrust Celtic music into the limelight and Celtic Women is helping to keep it there. The group has been dubbed “Riverdance for the voice” and the description is accurate. With a repertoire that ranges from traditional Celtic tunes to modern songs, the talented quintet has wowed audiences around the world with their poise, sophistication and jaw-dropping talent.

Formed in 2004, Celtic Women first got attention in the US after one of their sold out Dublin performances aired on PBS. Within weeks the group’s eponymous debut album *Celtic Woman* reached #1 on Billboard’s World Music chart, eventually breaking a long-standing record by staying at #1 for 81 weeks. Since then, nearly everything these talented artists touch turns to gold. Their three subsequent albums have all done remarkably well and their live performances are hot tickets in which every city they happen to play in.

Celtic Women will be performing at the Times-Union Center on March 30th and 31st. Tickets for these shows range from \$51 to \$101 and can be purchased through the FCCJ Artist Series site at artistseries.fccj.org. Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 632-3373



Colin Hay

Classic Albums Live: The Beatles- Abbey Road
Florida Theatre, 355-5661
Percussion Concert UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
The Wailers Plush, 743-1845

MARCH 26
JSO: Mahler No. 5 Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Weaver and Caitlin Mellow Mushroom (Fleming Island), 541-1999
The Ting Tings Jack Rabbits, 398-7496

MARCH 27
JSO: Mahler No. 5 Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
Cosi fan Tutti JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345
Riverside Fine Arts Series: John Williams Church of the Good Shepherd, 389-6222

Hall, 354-5547
Cosi fan Tutti JU's Terry Hall, 256-7345
Josh Gracin Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Blistur Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Bob Wayne & the Outlaw Carnies / Ghostwitch / Hollowbody Hellraisers Landshark Café, 246-6024
Big Engine CD release party The Pit, 223-9850
Hell Comes to Town / Civilization Doozers Pub, 738-8922
James DeFrates / Susan Brown European Street Listening Room (Southside), 399-1740

MARCH 29
Donna Wissinger and Steven Robinson Thrasher-Horne Center, 276-6750
The Black Lips / Gentleman Jesse & His Men Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Artimus Pyle / Big Engine / Sumthin Else / Chrome Yellow The Pit, 223-9850



Colin Hay Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
Pillar / Firefight / Me in Motion Murray Hill Theatre, 388-3179
The Gator Country Spring Concert Series: Chuck Wicks, Justin Moore and Richard Jaymes Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188
Elevated Hip Hop Experience / D.A.R.Y.L. TSI, 424-3531
Hello Danger CD release party Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Bound Landshark Café, 246-6024
My Own Sin / Feed Us / Dissonant The Pit, 223-9850
R.S.O. / The Petafiles Doozers Pub, 738-8922
The Legendary JC's Mojo Kitchen (Jacksonville Beach), 247-6636

MARCH 28
JSO: Mahler No. 5 Times-Union Center: Jacoby

Hollow Leg / Staring Daggers Doozers Pub, 738-8922

MARCH 30
That One Guy Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
Kenny G Florida Theatre, 355-2787
Celtic Women Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 632-3373
Jimmies Chicken Shack / JoEveritt The Pit, 223-9850

MARCH 31
Flute & Harp Concert with Members of JSO UNF Recital Hall, 620-2864
Celtic Women Times-Union Center: Moran Theater, 632-3373
North Mississippi Allstars Freebird Live, 246-BIRD

free for all

Money may be on a lot of minds at the moment but it's not an issue at the Landing this month. The Gator Country Concert Series is bringing some pretty big acts to the Downtown venue and country music fans will get to see them all for free. You can't beat that!

The fun begins on March 13th with performances by North Carolina singer-songwriter Jimmy Wayne and 5th season American Idol hopeful Bucky Covington. Then, on March 20th, chart-topping Tennessee native Darryl Worley and the lovely Jessica Andrews will be stopping by the Landing for a spell. Finally the series wraps up on March 27th with music from Fox reality-series star Chuck Wicks, hot newcomer Justin Moore and Florida crossover artist Richard Jaymes.

Once again, these spectacular concerts are completely free so there's no good reason not to come out to the Landing this month. We'll see you there! Jacksonville Landing, 353-1188

doo-wops forever

Bob Medina Godfather of Doo-Wop by rick grant



In the mid-1950s, Brooklyn native, Bob Medina, best known to many as Bobby Doo-Wop, hung around with such luminary doo-wop a Capella groups as Pookie Hudson and the Spaniels. Pookie wrote "Goodnight Sweetheart" and was a prime mover of this harmony genre for its history up until present day.

Bob is the local Godfather of doo-wop. He lives and breathes everything doo-wop. His house, his cars, and his store are all museums and reminders of the genre's colorful history. In fact, most people call him Mr. Bobby Doo-Wop.

Since a big doo-wop show is coming to the Moran Theater, I visited Bob at his home to get some background on this still popular musical genre. It turns out, Bob is a living historian of everything doo-wop. Many of the doo-wop stars are friends with Bob and he has, at one time or another, been involved with their music as executive producer or coordinator of

their projects. We sat down for a chat in his home, which is a fascinating museum of doo-wop and early rock'n'roll treasures. There are rare framed posters on the walls of Allan Freed's career of producing shows after his radio career. He has a rare Beatles poster and other valuable early rock'n'roll memorabilia.

Bob filled me in on how he got started as a doo-wop lover and eventually a doo-wop retailer. "I grew up with all these doo-wop guys and when I was younger, my brother and I sang with them. As I got older it was a hobby then when I came out here in 1990, I opened up my first store on Merrill Road in a place called Doo-Wops Forever. I'm still doing this today in a glassed in store at the Beach Blvd. Flea Market."

Then and now, his business is a treasure trove of vintage vinyl, doo-wop recordings in vinyl and CDs, and vintage games and game systems. He also sells rare 1950s-1960s vinyl recording from early rock bands of the era.

These oldie but goldie groups include Little Anthony and the Imperials, which are touring with the original members for this show. And, Bob is friends with Earl Lewis and the Channels, Frankie Ervin of The Shields, Dubs and The Magic, and of course, Pookie Hudson and the Spaniels.

While he sold CDs of his favorites in the beginning, it became apparent that there was a real demand for vintage products.

"Over the years the CD sales went down. So I started to sell vintage vinyl of the early rock'n'roll era and box sets. Now I'm the only dealer of vintage video games and game consoles in this region. People I don't even know send customers to me. It's amazing, people say that they went to Wal-Mart and they sent them here. So that has become a major deal for me. I have a large collection of doo-wop memorabilia." Bob handles such vintage video games as Nintendo, Nintendo 64, Super Nintendo, Sega, Sega Dreamcast, X-Box and Playstations 1 & 2 which still have throngs of gamer enthusiasts enjoying their classic games.

"Then I got into producing shows for doo-wop groups. I produced a CD called *The 40th Anniversary of Pookie Hudson and the Spaniels*. But I've been involved with the Doo-Wop scene all my life. I executive produced records and produced shows, as well as selling valuable doo-wop merchandise. I'm mentioned in a book titled *Group Harmony Behind the Rhythm & Blues*. The book mentioned how I helped Pookie Hudson and the Spaniels produce their 40th Anniversary CD. I've been the coordinator with Earl Lewis and the Channels by producing a CD for them titled *Earl Lewis and The Channels Take 1 and Take 2*."

"Years ago my brother and I had our own group called The Dynamics when I lived in Brooklyn. I got involved with a friend of mine in South Florida producing shows down there. Many of the groups have retired in South Florida and will occasionally do shows. So the doo-wop scene is much bigger in that region. But, I'm always amazed by how many people who live in Jacksonville come from New York who are also into doo-wop. They show up at my store and we reminisce about the good old days. I also get many young people who are curious about doo-wop because of the modern a Capella harmony groups like Boyz to Men and others. They are very respectful and interested of the history of this genre."

Bob's excited about the upcoming show, *The Solid Gold Doo-Wop Reunion*, scheduled to be at the Moran Theater Saturday, March 21st at 8pm.

"It's a stellar lineup of authentic doo-wop groups with as many original members as possible," Bob says of the show, "Sadly, many of the early members have passed away. Little Anthony and the Imperials will be performing with its original members. The Duke of Earl - Gene Chandler, Terry Johnson's Flamingos, The Marcells, and Kathy Young will also perform." Bob will be holding a free concert ticket give-away raffle from his Beach Boulevard Flea Market (11041 Beach Blvd.)location, just stop in to register.You can buy tickets for *The Solid Gold Doo-Wop Reunion* at artistseries.fccj.org or by calling 904-632-3373 or 1-888-860-BWAY.

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James Taylor

upcoming shows

- April 2 **Great American Jazz Series: The Mingus Big Band** UNF's Robinson Theater, 620-2864
- April 2 **Jacksonville Jazz Piano Competition** Florida Theatre, 355-5661
- April 3-5 **19th Annual Springing the Blues** Sea Walk Pavilion, 249-3972
- April 4 **Cheech & Chong** Florida Theatre
- April 5 **Chicago** St Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- April 5 **Chris Tomlin** Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, 630-3900
- April 10 **Hall & Oates** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- April 11 **Old Crow Medicine Show** Florida Theatre, 355-5661
- April 22 **Nickelback** Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, 630-3900
- April 16 **Larry the Cable Guy** Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, 630-3900
- April 17 **Joe Cocker** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- April 17 **Tiempo Libre** UNF Fine Arts Center, 620-2878
- April 17 **Yanni Voices** Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, 630-3900
- April 18 **Classic Albums Live: the Doors: the Doors** Florida Theatre, 355-2787
- April 24 **The Beach Boys** St Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- April 24 **JSO: Doc Severinsen** Times-Union Center: Jacoby Hall, 354-5547
- April 24 **James Stewart** Café Eleven, 460-9311
- April 24 **Jacksonville Jazz Festival** Laura Street Corridor (Downtown), 630-3690
- April 24 **Dinosaur Jr. / Mike Watt** Freebird Live, 246-BIRD
- April 28 **Ray Lamontagne** The Florida Theatre, 355-2787
- April 30 **311 / Red Jumpsuit Apparatus** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- May 1 **James Taylor** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- May 1 **Taylor Swift / Kellie Pickler** Jacksonville Memorial Arena, 353-3309
- May 3 **The Jagermeister Music Tour: Pennywise / Pepper** Plush, 743-1845
- May 4 **Kings of Leon** St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 471-1965
- May 6 **Enter the Haggis** Café Eleven, 460-9311
- May 7 **Gavin Degraw** Jack Rabbits, 398-7496
- May 24 **The Ten Tenors** Times-Union Center: Moran Theatre, 633-6110

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building community

interview with Tom Pennington and Jack Diablo of JaxScene by kellie abrahamson

Bemoaning that there's nothing to do in Jacksonville stopped being cool in high school. Thanks to the power of the internet, finding a place to go on a Saturday (or Monday or Wednesday) night is a mere click away and jaxscene.blogspot.com might be your only stop. JaxScene began back in 2007 when founder Tom Pennington went to a poorly attended concert.

"I believe it was a benefit show at the Skate Lab in Mayport. It was amazing; bands were playing on the top of this bowl while people were skateboarding. All I could think was 'Why isn't anyone here?'" Pennington recalled. "But Jacksonville at the time was like that. A good band would come to town and there would be 15 people there. That was sort of the icing on the cake that made me decide I wanted to do something about it."

That "something" would be JaxScene, a site dedicated to giving people their entertainment options. Each day Tom or one of the site's seven contributors will post a listing of things to do that night. From karaoke at TSI to dancing at the Pearl to Craft Night at Anomaly, JaxScene proves that there's *always* something going on in Jacksonville. But that's not all.

"We don't just tell you about an event, we go to them and you get to see pictures from that event," Tom explained.

The site's Flickr account has literally thousands of photos to look at, documenting events from as far back as 2003 to as recent as a couple of days ago. There are also over 70 videos to watch, so if you didn't make it to a show, you catch a few minutes of it in the comfort of your own home. When you visit JaxScene you can also find links to numerous local blogs, a playlist with over a dozen tasty tracks and "Street Interviews" with local scene-makers. The most recent addition to the site is the JaxScene Social Network, an online community that boasts 105 members to date. There, people can upload their photos and videos, meet other locals, chat about events and post on their friend's pages.

"We don't make any money off of it; it's just something that we do for the community. My whole goal with it all is just to build community and bring people together."

"It's essentially the same thing as a MySpace or a Facebook but it's obviously a more focused and targeted audience," said JaxScene contributor Jack Diablo, who came up with the social network side of the site. "The main idea behind it was to initially get people talking and start discussions about issues, but the part that is really taking off is the events part of it, [which allows] people to create their own events and promote their own things."

The addition of the social network is another step forward for the ever-evolving site and the next step could be an actual yearbook. Pennington is currently working on the ingenious project.

"I want to make Jacksonville's best coffee table book, I figure I have all the pictures. I want to convey the message of community. This is Jacksonville and we do have a scene, here it is," he said. "It will have all the best of our Flickr pictures but the categories will be more combined, like instead of just Crash the Satellites at Jack Rabbits it will have a local band section. It will help people get more familiar with Jacksonville as well. I also like the idea that if you perform or do something in Jacksonville it's possible it will be documented, for some reason I think that helps hype things up."

Running a site of this magnitude is undoubtedly a lot of work, but for Pennington and the other JaxScene contributors it's worth the time and effort.

"I took on this responsibility to make this city the best it can be," Tom said. "To get behind the things that I enjoy and hope they grow."

Jack's motivations are similar. "I would just like it to become the premier place [for] people in Jacksonville and specifically the urban core, because I think that's the target audience right now, to go to feel the heartbeat of the city and just [find out] what's happening. We don't make any money off of it; it's just something that we do for the community. My whole goal with it all is just to build community and bring people together."

EU decided to turn the tables on Tom and ask him some questions "Street Interview" style. Here are his answers:

Who would make a better ambassador: Jessica Simpson or Homer Simpson?

Tough question. It depends if Homer would be a TV celebrity or a fat guy that sucks at working in a nuclear power plant. If Homer was a celebrity that played a fat guy from Springfield on a TV show and Jessica Simpson was, well, Jessica Simpson and both had the opportunity to be ambassadors, I would say Homer. Just seeing a cartoon perform the task of a human would make the place he is representing amazing, cause for real who else has that.

What was the happiest moment of your life?

Whoa. I think I haven't had one that was like pinnacle I've always been waiting for it.

What's the first thing you notice about a person?

Their attitude.

How many hats do you own?

Right now one. My hat has been the same for 7 years but it's

like my 5th one. When it goes bad I always buy a new blue trucker hat and sew an Armageddon patch on it. I think it just fits me.

You just got a million dollars. What's the first thing you're going to buy?

I could say something smart like a house or a ticket to Rome but I would say a yellow short school bus. Only cause as long as I could remember I wanted a short school bus longer than anything else.

What would your porn name be?

If it's my first pet and first street I lived on, Teddy Fontainebleau.

Describe Jacksonville's scene in one word.

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Describe JaxScene in one word.

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a musical dialogue

You might call chamber music a musician's pleasure, their time to take a bow. While an orchestra is a grand thing, to be sure, it doesn't allow each artist to shine individually. The purpose of an orchestra is focused on the music as a whole, not the performers. **by erin thursby**

One of the founders of the San Marco Chamber Music Society, Ellen Olson, enjoys the difference between orchestral and chamber music. She recently began the group with a number of local notable musicians, including her husband Eric, who also plays the oboe for the Symphony. Ellen has played the viola for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra for over 20 years, but finds chamber music to be liberating because she has more say as to what to play and what goes into the music.

"I still have to agree with other people," she says, "but I feel like I have a lot more control over my artistic product." Instruments that don't normally get a solo in orchestra pieces, like Ellen Olson's viola, can get a chance to take center stage at a chamber concert.

Everything from classical, jazz, vocal performers, dueling pianists and the occasional banjo and sitar are part of chamber music today. The first chamber music concerts were played in large rooms in the mansions and castles of the elite. Sometimes they were paid artists; sometimes they were a string quartet made up of four daughters of a rich landowner. Here in Jacksonville today, they range from local JSO artists looking for a slightly different musical outlet to national and international stars on the chamber music circuit.

Musicians describe chamber music as more intimate than orchestral concerts. This can be a little puzzling to an audience member because most modern chamber music isn't held in someone's study or dining room, as it was when the genre was first dubbed. Instead, they are held in concert halls. In Jacksonville, you'll find most of the chamber music at churches or benefit dinners.

The locally-based San Marco Chamber Music Society holds their concerts in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, notable for its onsite harpsichord and marvelous acoustics. Most of the Riverside Fine Arts season, held at the Church of the Good Shepard, can also be characterized as chamber music, though they feature national and international artists.

However large or small the venue, up on stage you can pick out each individual as they play and you can even know who's playing what notes. Unless there's a solo within the music, you just can't do that during an orchestral concert.

Performers also say that there's more of a musical "conversation" between musicians, which contributes to the sense of intimacy. This musical conversation is important enough to the genre that it squeezes out the soloist, who's simply going to be talking to herself. So it's always at least two musicians, without a conductor, each listening to cues within the music and answering them with their own instrument.

The difference between chamber music and orchestra music, says Eric Olson is that "there's more dialogue. There's always dialogue in an orchestra, but the conductor really controls it. Here you're working together in a small group and each part has to work together. No one's conducting."

Most groups use structured, classical chamber music written for specific instruments. And they have plenty to choose from. Think of a great composer and they've probably written chamber music. Some like Schubert, wrote more chamber music than orchestral music. He composed 15 string



quartets; his famous quintet for two violins, viola and two cellos; two piano trios; string trios, a piano quintet and an octet for strings and winds. The composer Haydn is given the credit as the father of the chamber music, specifically as the father of the string quartet.

There's a long tradition of adjusting music to fit the instruments played. Most pieces originally written for one set of instruments can be adjusted to fit the instruments the group is using. It helps to have a talented musical arranger. Even then, your instrument might end up playing longer, higher or lower notes than usual. Some chamber musicians strive to adjust pieces that are a real musical stretch in order to showcase the true range of their instrument.

In the past, Ellen and Eric Olson, the married duo from the San Marco Chamber Society, have adapted pieces meant for the viola and the violin. That means that Eric, who plays the oboe, sometimes has to hold some incredibly long notes. You can hold a note on a violin that you couldn't hold on a wind instrument because eventually everyone runs out of wind.

Because others have joined the group, Ruxandra Simionescu-Marquardt (JSO) on violin, Christopher Chappell (JSO) on violin, Betsy Federman on cello (JSO) and Bonita Wyke (JU Opera) on piano or harpsichord, they've been able to use existing pieces instead of doing a lot of adaptation.

The San Marco Chamber Music Society holds free concerts with tax deductible donations from the public. You can also contribute by buying a bisque doll with a custom dress or a piece of original artwork to benefit the society. Their next concert will be at 7 pm on April 26th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, located at 3976 Hendricks Avenue. Part of the concert will feature a violin concerto in A minor by J.S. Bach, performed by violinist Ruxandra Marquardt, accompanied by small chamber orchestra. For more information on the musicians of the group, how to donate and upcoming concerts go to sanmarcochambermusic.org

inspired by... *Your monthly guide to lit-based entertainment* **by kellie abrahamson**

The financial crisis is hitting us all, but that doesn't mean you have to cut back on entertainment. Instead of ponying up for a movie or a stage show, head to the library and pick up the book versions of this month's lit-based offerings. You can experience the stories in the comfort of your own home (in your PJs if you like) and a library card is completely free. It can't get much better than that!

on stage

Fiddler on the Roof (March 2- 29, Times-Union Center, 632-3373)

Inspired by: Tevye and his Daughters by Sholem Aleichem

Sholem Aleichem dreamed up the character of devout Jewish milkman Tevye in the late 1800s. The life and times of this hardworking, world-weary man and his family served as the inspiration for the Broadway smash and subsequent film *Fiddler on the Roof* as well as 1939's *Tevya* and a German TV movie. Fans of any form of this story should pick up Alechem's book, which sheds more light on Tevye and his story.

The latest touring production of *Fiddler on the Roof* will star Chaim Topol, best known for playing Tevye in the 1971 film version, a role that won him a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination.

The Miracle Worker (March 13- April 5, Limelight Theatre, 904-825-1164)

Inspired by: *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller

Helen Keller's inspirational story is well-known to most but few have taken the time to read her illuminating autobiography. The book tells of this deaf and blind woman's journey from living a solitary existence to learning how to communicate using sign language. While her story has been told many times on television, in movies and on stage, there's nothing quite like reading it in Keller's own words.

The Limelight Theatre will be presenting William Gibson's adaptation of Keller's book, which won four Tony Awards when it hit Broadway back in 1959.

on screen

Watchmen (in theaters March 6)

Inspired by: comic series *Watchmen* by Alan Moore

Alan Moore's twelve-issue comic series is regarded as a seminal text of the comic book medium, so pick them up before hitting the theater. The books (and the film) take place in an alternate reality where nuclear war with Russia is eminent and superheroes are outlawed. In this tense climate, a group of vigilantes set out to investigate the murder of a former hero.

Race to Witch Mountain (in theaters March 13)

Inspired by: *Escape to Witch Mountain* by Alexander Key

Alexander Key's sci-fi tale has been adapted into three movies, the most recent being this month's *Race to Witch Mountain*. The film tells the story of twin teens with amazing powers who recruit a cab driver to help them get to safety at Witch Mountain. The book itself is much darker than Disney's takes and well worth a read.

march movies

NOW SHOWING

JONAS BROTHERS: 3D CONCERT EXPERIENCE The Jonas Brothers, Kevin, Joe and Nick pop off the big screen in a high energy 3D rockumentary. The film blends scenes from their “Burning Up” concert tour with special guest appearances by Demi Lovato and Taylor Swift. Rated G

STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUNG-LI Capcom’s *Street Fighter* vaults back onto the screen with this film from director Andrzej Bartkowiak (*Romeo Must Die*). Fanboys can start drooling now over *Smallville*’s Kristin Kreuk in the role of high-kicking heroine Chun Li, while Neal McDonough, Chris Klein, Michael Clarke Duncan, and a number of impressive actors round out the rest of the cast.

MARCH 6

WATCHMEN A complex, multi-layered mystery adventure set in an alternate 1985 America in which costumed superheroes are part of the fabric of everyday society. When one of his former colleagues is murdered, the outlawed but no less determined masked vigilante Rorschach sets out to uncover a plot to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes. As he reconnects with his former crime-fighting legion -- a disbanded group of retired superheroes, only one of whom has true powers -- Rorschach glimpses a wide-ranging and disturbing conspiracy with links to their shared past and catastrophic consequences for the future. Starring: Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup, Matthew Goode, Carla Gugino, Jackie Earle Haley, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, and Patrick Wilson. Rated R [watchmenmovie.warnerbros.com](#)

MARCH 13

LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT In the year of horror great remakes, here’s a revisit t+ +o Wes Craven’s 1972 scream classic. The night she arrives at the remote Collingwood lakehouse, Mari and her friend are kidnapped by a prison escapee and his crew. Terrified and left for dead, Mari’s only hope is to make it back to parents John and Emma. Unfortunately, her attackers unknowingly seek shelter at the one place she could be safe. And when her family learns the horrifying story, they will make three strangers curse the day they came to the Last House on the Left. Starring: Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Coiro, Martha MacIsaac, Riki Lindhome and Tony Goldwyn. Rated R

MISS MARCH Centerfold road trip! When Eugene (Zach Cregger) awakens from a four-year coma to hear that his once virginal high-school sweetheart Cindi (Raquel Alessi) has since become a centerfold model in Playboy Magazine. He and his sex-crazed best friend Tucker (Trevor Moore) decide to take a cross-country road trip in order to crash a party at the magazine’s legendary headquarters and win back the girl. It’s a buddy bunny-hop. Rated R



RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN The Rock meets E.T. When taxi driver, Freddy Hasby, gets more than he bargained for when he picks up two teen runaways. Not only does the pair possess supernatural powers, but they’re also trying desperately to escape people who have made them their targets. Starring: Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson, Ciaran Hinds, AnnaSophia Robb, Carla Gugino and Garry Marshall.

DUPLICITY CIA officer Claire Stenwick and MI6 agent Ray Koval have left the world of government intelligence to cash in on the highly profitable cold war raging between two rival multinational corporations. Their mission? Secure the formula for a product that will bring a fortune to the company that patents it first. For their employers--industry titan Howard Tully and buccaneer CEO Dick Garsik--nothing is out of bounds. But as the stakes rise, the mystery deepens and the tactics get dirtier, the trickiest secret for Claire and Ray is their growing attraction. And as they each try to stay one double-cross ahead, two career loners find their schemes endangered by the only thing they can't cheat their way out of: love. Starring: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Tom Wilkinson, Paul Giamatti and Rick Worthy Rated PG13

KNOWING In 1958, as part of the dedication ceremony for a new elementary school, a group of students is asked to draw pictures to be stored in a time capsule. But one mysterious girl fills her sheet of paper with rows of apparently random numbers instead. Fifty years later, a new generation of students examines the capsule’s contents and the girl’s cryptic message ends up in the hands of young Caleb Koestler. But it is Caleb’s father, professor John Koestler, who makes the startling discovery that the encoded message



predicts with pinpoint accuracy the dates, death tolls and coordinates of every major disaster of the past 50 years. As John further unravels the document’s chilling secrets, he realizes the document foretells three additional events -- the last of which hints at destruction on a global scale and seems to somehow involve John and his son. When John’s attempts to alert the authorities fall on deaf ears, he takes it upon himself to try to prevent more destruction from taking place. With the reluctant help of Diana Wayland and Abby Wayland, the daughter and granddaughter of the now-deceased author of the prophecies, John’s increasingly desperate efforts take him on a heart-pounding race against time until he finds himself facing the ultimate disaster -- and the ultimate sacrifice. Starring: Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne, Chandler Canterbury, Ben Mendelsohn Rated PG13

I LOVE YOU MAN Peter Klaven is a successful real estate agent who, upon getting engaged to the woman of his dreams, Zooley, discovers, to his dismay and chagrin, that he has no male friend close enough to serve as his Best Man. Peter immediately sets out to rectify the situation, embarking on a series of bizarre and awkward “man-dates,” before meeting Sydney Fife, a charming, opinionated man with whom he instantly bonds. But the closer the two men get, the more Peter’s relationship with Zooley suffers, ultimately forcing him to choose between his fiancée and his new found “bro,” in a story that comically explores what it truly means to be a “friend.” Starring: Paul Rudd, Jason Segel, Rashida Jones, Jaime Pressly and Rob Huebel. Rated R

MARCH 27

12 ROUNDS WWE champion John Cena is New Orleans Police Detective Danny Baxter. When Baxter stops a brilliant thief from getting away with a multi-million-dollar heist, the thief’s girlfriend is accidentally killed. After escaping from prison, the criminal mastermind enacts his revenge, taunting the cop with a series of near-impossible puzzles and tasks ...12 rounds...that Baxter must somehow complete to save the life of his fiancée. Starring: John Cena, Ashley Scott, Brian J. White, Taylor Cole and Aidan Gillen. Rated PG13

ADVENTURELAND When an uptight recent college graduate realizes he cannot afford his European dream vacation, he is forced to take a minimum-wage job at a local amusement park. Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Ryan Reynolds, Kristen Stewart, Martin Starr and Bill Hader. Rated R

THE HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT The astounding, well-documented story of a family forced to relocate near a clinic where their son was being treated for cancer. Strained financially and emotionally distressed, the family discovers their recently renovated home was a former mortuary with a dark history. After experiencing violent supernatural events both inside and out of the house, the family seeks the help of ghost hunters and the Catholic Church, which performs an exorcism. Starring: Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx, Elias Koteas, Kyle Gallner and Martin Donovan. Rated PG13

THE JANKY PROMTOTERS Two music promoters get the chance to book a top-selling hip-hop artist in their midsized venue. The pair are ill equipped for such a task and everything goes wrong. Starring: Ice Cube , Mike Epps, Terry Crews, James Lewis (II) and Tamala Jones.

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS When California girl Susan Murphy is unwittingly clobbered by a meteor full of outer space gunk on her wedding day, she mysteriously grows to 49-feet-11-inches tall. Alerted to the threat of this new monster, the military jumps into action and Susan is captured and secreted away to a covert government compound. There, she is renamed Ginormica and placed in confinement with a ragtag group of other monsters: the brilliant but insect-headed Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D.; the macho half-ape, half-fish The Missing Link; the gelatinous and indestructible B.O.B.; and the 350-foot grub called Insectosaurus. Their confinement is cut short, however, when a mysterious alien robot lands on Earth and begins storming the country. In a moment of desperation, The President is persuaded by General W.R. Monger to enlist the motley crew of Monsters to combat the Alien Robot and save the world from imminent destruction. Featuring the voice talents of Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie, Seth Rogen, Will Arnett, Rainn Wilson, Kiefer Sutherland and Stephen Colbert. Rated PG





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OPENS IN THEATRES MARCH 20



Beyond the Call, Around The World in Film at Theatre MOCA

SPECIAL MOVIE SHOWINGS

March 7

St. Johns River Revival – A Celebration of Our River

This is a celebration of the St. Johns River and the inspiration that it provides to so many people. **IN MARJORIE'S WAKE** is a documentary that celebrates nature, literature, and "sense of place" by helping viewers better understand the work of Pulitzer-winning Florida author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings by highlighting a trip she once took on the St. Johns River. **MY ST. JOHNS RIVER, OUR RESPONSIBILITY** is a 28-minute film produced by St. Johns Riverkeeper that focuses on our youth and their involvement with the St. Johns River. The film features high school finalists from the PSA Video Contest, kids who are tracking sources of pollution in their neighborhood, youth who use the river for recreation and shrimping, and students who are taking action in the classroom to protect the St. Johns River.

There will be presentations by Seth Dent and Keith Legette, two experienced sea kayakers who recently paddled the entire length of the St. Johns River (310 miles) in only 11 days and Michelle Thatcher, who has also traveled the entire length of the St. Johns River by kayak and is currently working on a documentary about her experience. There will be a performance by Jennifer Chase, an educator, playwright and musician. Jen has written and produced musical plays about the St. Johns that allow us to understand the powerful and creative force this historic river system has had on people here over time. Her original compilation of songs, "In Marjorie's Wake", was written to acknowledge her own inspiration from the St. Johns. 5 Points Theatre, 1025 Park Street, 2 – 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org or www.mystjohnsriver.com.

March 10

RANDOM LUNACY: VIDEOS FROM THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED All happy families are not alike, as proven by the radically itinerant Poppa Neutrino, and his family band of self-taught Dixieland musicians. *Random Lunacy*, directed by Vic Zimet and Stephanie Silber, follows The Flying Neutrinos as Poppa leads the family on a quest for pure freedom. They were homeless by choice, and for twenty years they documented their lives with an old HI-8 camera, capturing adventures that ranged from a stint in a Mexican circus to pitting a scrap raft against the Atlantic Ocean. Their greatest achievement – creating for themselves an alternate universe with a value system all its own. Down and out never looked so rich. Post Film Chat Back With Filmmaker. Part of the FCCJ Artist Series 2008-2009 Southern Circuit Tour Of Independent Filmmakers. FCCJ Nassau Campus – Nassau Auditorium, 7 pm, Free Admission, Info: 632-3373 or www.artistseries.fccj.org

Around The World in Film at Theatre MOCA

MOCA will be showing award-winning films from the Jacksonville Film Festival on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$6 for Members and \$8 for Non-Members. Info: 366-6911 x208.

March 5 **MORE SHOES** Struggling filmmaker Lee Kazmir reads the words of Werner Herzog, who advises that one could learn what the art of cinema truly means by "walking alone for 5,000 kilometers – let's say from Madrid to Kiev." Kazmir takes the advice literally and sets out from Madrid to cross most of Europe on foot. Overcoming physical struggles, language barriers, and his own mental isolation, he meets a cast of characters along the way who teach him his greatest lessons. Through encounters both heartrending and hilarious, Kazmir begins to realize that to understand filmmaking, he will first have to understand life itself. March 12 **SECRET TRIP** A feature documentary from the China Central Newsreel and Documentary Film Studio about China's postwar diplomatic missions and chronicling the experiences of the famous Communist politician Zhou Enlai and his secret meetings with Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon. Full of previously unseen archive footage. March 19 **INVISIBLES** Produced by acclaimed Academy Award winning actor Javier Bardem. The Doctors Without Borders organization sponsored this five-piece documentary on atrocities being committed and inflicted upon the underrepresented and poverty stricken around the world. These five filmmakers each create a heartbreaking vision of the state of affairs currently seen throughout towns and villages destroyed by war, famine, disease, and chaos. Focusing on individuals in Barcelona, the Congo, Uganda, the Central African Republic, and Colombia, the five shorts relate the painful conditions that these people are living in and all the agony they have suffered. March 26 **BEYOND THE CALL** In an Indiana Jones meets Mother Teresa adventure, three middle-aged men, former soldiers and modern-day knights, travel the world delivering life saving humanitarian aid directly into the hands of civilians and doctors in some of the most dangerous yet beautiful places on Earth, the front lines of war. Their specialty is going where death from land-mines, bullets, or bombs is as frequent as death from hunger, disease, or the elements. Their personal convictions and courage drive them to places such as Afghanistan, Albania, Chechnya, Cambodia, Burma, Thailand, Rwanda and the southern Philippines, on a journey into the heart of humanity and the soul of courage.

Not Just for Baby Boomers Film Series Enjoy free showings of Boomers' favorite films on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month at 5:45 p.m. in the Main Library's Hicks Auditorium. Info: (904) 630-1741.

March 12 **REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE** Three lonely teens try to find their places in the world in this saga of adolescent angst and rebellion that propelled James Dean to immortality. Nicholas Ray directed James Dean, Natalie Wood, and Sal Mineo, 1955. March 26 **THE THIN MAN** The chemistry was so right between Nick and Nora Charles that this film led to five sequels. The adventures of the suave detective, his sophisticated wife, and their clever dog Asta present a delightful combination of mystery and zany comedy. W. S. Van Dyke directed William Powell, Myrna Loy, and Maureen O'Sullivan, 1934.

March 27 **THE NEVERENDING STORY** The St. Augustine Amphitheatre presents Night Owl Cinema and will show *The Neverending Story* (Rated PG) on Friday, March 27. Doors open at 6:30 pm and movies begin at 8 pm. Food is available from local restaurants. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, A1A South in St. Augustine. www.staugamphitheatre.com/cinema.php

jacksonville's 48 hour film project

Imagine producing a film from beginning to end in 48 hours. Yes, writing, shooting, editing and scoring an entire production. If that's not enough, all you have is a character, a prop and one line of dialogue. Still not challenged? The genre of the film is determined by a random drawing. You may have Colonel Mustard with a wrench and the line "The butler did it" then draw a musical as your genre. Make it work. **by elizabeth copley**

If you're competitive, have a passion for filmmaking and enjoy living on the edge, the 48 Hour Film Project is for you. The competition offers two wild days and sleepless nights to complete the best short film. Each team selects its own cast, crew and equipment. 48 hours and a whole lot of coffee later, teams drop off their projects for review. Films are four to eight minutes in length and a screening is guaranteed to all who finish.

Now in its ninth year, the 48 Hour Film Project advances the art of filmmaking and promotes new filmmakers. The compressed time frame emphasizes in-the-moment creativity and teamwork. The Project encourages both experienced and first-time filmmakers to step out and make movies. 2009 is Jacksonville's third year participating in the national and international short film project.

According to the Jacksonville 48 Hour Film Project Producer, Mac McDonald, the competition began in 2001 with a small group of filmmakers from Washington, DC who wanted to see if they could produce a short film in one weekend that would be watchable. They were successful and their friends encouraged them to continue. The group took the project around the country to different cities forming teams to make short films in a weekend. Anyone could register to become part of a team. As it grew, it became too much for the group to manage so they decided to empower cities to conduct their own competitions, enabling them to determine if interest in making short films would hold. By the 2008 competition, 30,000 filmmakers made films in 70 cities worldwide. This year, it's even bigger. The first two years saw 26 Jacksonville teams compete; this year McDonald indicated he's expecting anywhere from 32 to 34 teams.

McDonald is pleased with how Jacksonville has embraced this competition, proving that there is a promising market here for short films. 2008 brought several new partnerships to the Jacksonville



ville competition with PRI Productions providing the screening resources at the Florida Theater.

In Europe, short films are an accepted art form just as feature films are in the US. All over Europe there are short film venues and even television channels dedicated to the art. Filmmakers are able to sell their short films, making enough money to produce more. As the short film market grows in the US (and this writer is seeing more and more short films on Sundance and the Independent Film Channel), local filmmakers will have the same opportunities as their European counterparts.

This year's competition will kick off Friday, April 3rd at 7 pm at the Jacksonville Landing. Films must be completed and turned in at the drop-off event at the Landing no later than 7 pm Sunday, April 5th. Screenings will be held at the Florida Theater on Tuesday, April 7th and Wednesday, April 8th. Judges for this year's competition will include industry professionals from New York, Los Angeles and South Florida.

If you have an interest in film, this is the place to begin your film education. Experience is not required! Volunteer to do food and drink runs, pick up the trash, make sure everything is back as it was before the shoot began on the production site – there is no shortage of jobs when it comes to making a film in a 48 hour timeframe. And there's no better way to learn the art of filmmaking than being directly on the set.

McDonald will post the Meet and Greet schedule at the River City Brewing Company on the project's website at 48hourfilm.com/Jacksonville. Visit the site for these dates as well as to register your team for the competition. The meetings will take place in February and March. Or, contact Mac McDonald at Jacksonville@48hourfilm.com for more information.



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Silk

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