

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 2009

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me.” Erma Bombeck.

The Art Center is the place to cultivate those talents. We do so with....

THEATRE....

Opening Friday, February 6, is the long awaited and highly regarded Noel Coward play, “Private Lives”. The play is about a couple, on their honeymoon, who unwittingly book an adjoining suite in the same hotel as their former spouse. A chance encounter on their adjoining balconies ignites the smoldering embers as two of them realize they still have feelings for each other. As if the plot doesn’t have enough seasoning, the play is spiced up with what is considered some of the best lines ever written as Coward deftly weaves his comic web of wit. Frank Malle, director, has chosen some great local talent with Tracey Williams, Cecil Sutton, Betsy McIntyre and Phil Nemy playing the two couples. Olivia Donnelly plays the French maid. “Private Lives” opened on Broadway in 1931, an immediate hit, starring Noel Coward, Gertrude Lawrence and Laurence Olivier. We feel we can measure up with such a talented cast, costumes by award winning Edmund Andreas, and set by Neva Williams and Chris Jones.

Performances are Fri and Sat at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. “Private Lives” plays Feb. 6 to March 7. Please call 640-8797 for more info and reservations. Don’t even think of missing this one!!!

Auditions* Auditions* Auditions* Auditions* Auditions* Auditions* Auditions* Auditions*

Sunday, Feb., 8, Monday Feb., 9, and Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. auditions will be held for “NOISES OFF”, the next play in our 2009 line-up. The play is a fast paced British farce about theater deliriums, a celebration of truly awful theater and a backstage explanation of how things got that way. Gai Jones, of the recent It’s A Wonderful Life success, returns to direct. All roles are open. The parts call for 5 males, ages 20’s to 70’s and 4 females ages 20’s to 70’s. Use American British dialect for auditions. Bring a personal calendar, headshot and resume. Sides will be available. Prepare a 1 minute comic mime portraying a variety of emotions. Performances are scheduled for March 27 – April 25. For further info contact Gai at “gaijones@sbcglobal.net.

ART...

This month, students of Bert Collins and Jannene Behl present “Honoring Our Mentors”, a pastel exhibition. Bert Collins and Jannene Behl are world renowned artists who live, show and teach art classes in the Ojai Valley. These students are a great testament to the influences of these remarkable women and have become quite good artists in their own right. Artist reception will be Saturday, February 7, from 1- 3 p.m. There will be live music by Byzantium and the Byzantium American Tribal Belly Dance Troup at 2 p.m.

The Front Showcase will show the 3 dimensional pieces of Barbara Evans. She has organized a 3 tiered display. The first part she calls “trash or treasures??” – abstract small figures of people made from recycled metal pieces such as nuts, bolt and scraps of metal. The 2nd, “fragile fragments”, are greeting cards reassembled from old illustrations and greeting cards and to complete the exhibit, she has a selection of handmade valentines.

The Beato Showcase will house the recent drawings of the Thursday morning Life Drawing Class with Nikki Lani as the subject in her traditional kimono.

LITERARY BRANCH....

On Monday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m., the Literary Branch and the Ojai Valley Poets Association will present a free event celebrating poetry. Members of the community will read favorite poems as part of the national Favorite Poem Project, begun in 1997 by National Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. Readers include: Polly Bee reading Guggenheim Fellow Christopher Buckley; Catherine Dain reading poetry of local favorite, the late Stan Brown; Robby Roberts entertaining with the work of an unknown Irish Benedictine monk; and Janelle Meister performing humorous poems by Shel Silverstein. Refreshments will be offered after the reading.

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New Class Starting..... **Norman Kirk** returns to teach a 6 week workshop in **Watercolor** techniques. This well-respected artist and teacher will cover a range of subjects with emphasis on composition, technique and concept. He prefers a small class size for maximum person attention. The dates are April 2 thru May 7. Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call Norm at 525-9788 to register.