



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER™

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 9

RALEIGH ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, DINING, EVENTS, AND MORE

FREE

Performing Arts in Raleigh



Sir Walter dons the mask from NC Theatre's "The Phantom" in front of the new Convention Center and Marriott City Center



HUMBLE PIE

Fred Benton loves some Humble Pie and you will too



FASHION

Consignment shopping: The thrill of the hunt



UNCORKED

Read up on Matt's wine tips in "Reading Between the Wines"

Raleigh Performing Arts Come Full Circle

Enjoy a Spectacular Cross Section of Entertainment in Downtown



By Elizabeth Shugg

Long before the invention of radio, television or movies, ancient Greeks amused audiences with orations of the “Odyssey” and “Iliad.” Storytelling evolved into theater, and the creation of Greek tragedies like “Oedipus” and Roman comedies like “Pseudolus” underscored the foundation of performing arts as a cultural necessity.

The Renaissance and Protestant Reformation of the 15th and 16th centuries produced notable playwrights Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson and, of course, William Shakespeare, who spawned a theatrical genre all his own. As the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries passed, performing arts incorporated more commercialization and technological innovation. Storylines focused on ordinary people. Critical reviews impacted performance perceptions and “natural” acting attracted the bourgeoisie. Theater, no longer presided over by religion and monarchs, could liberate itself to serve the masses. And it has.

Today, performing arts venues cover a superb cross



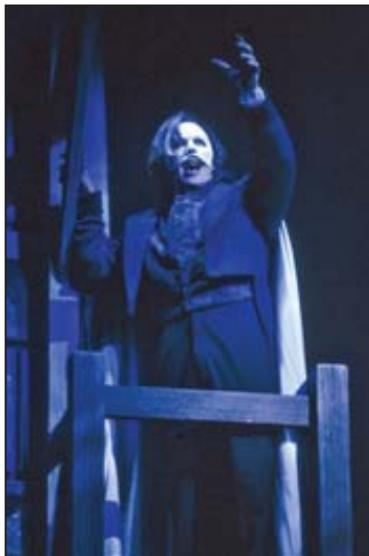
Scene from Broadway Series South's visually stunning production of “The Lion King”

section of genres, and Raleigh’s are no exception. Audiences can contemplate social issues highlighted in a Broadway Series South or NC Theatre production, indulge in the graceful elegance of the Carolina Ballet, and savor classical masterpieces performed by the North Carolina Symphony or the Opera Company of North Carolina. Theatre in the Park, Raleigh Little Theatre, Burning Coal Theatre Company and Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy

fuse original productions with classics to showcase local and national talent. And PineCone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music, has succeeded in defining North Carolina’s musical culture and identity. No doubt, performing arts options here are vast and varied and show that Raleigh has truly reached the next level of performing arts status.

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LEFT:
Michael Minarik portrays the title character in the North Carolina Theatre’s October production of *Phantom*. The play is based on Gaston Leroux’s novel, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and is filled with plot twists, enchanting music and fascinating characters.

UPCOMING ISSUES

Volume 4, Issue 10 - The Business of Downtown
Volume 4, Issue 11 - Gift Guide



The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh while the online publication focuses on a wider area surrounding downtown.

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Nigel Casey in "The Rat Pack: Live at the Sands" from Broadway Series South

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So, as the air turns crisp, dust off your fall finery and get ready for a night out on the town. We've outlined all of your options here, in our performing arts special issue.

BROADWAY SENSATIONS

For 11-plus years, **Broadway Series South** has delivered blockbuster hits

straight out of New York City. November 4th marks the opening of Broadway Series South's 2008-2009 season in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium with "Rain, the Beatles Experience," which runs through November 9th. Remaining 2008 shows include "The World's Greatest Magic Show" Nov 12-13, "Seinfeld" Nov 14, "An Evening With Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood" Nov 16, "Annie" Nov 18-23, "Manheim

Steamroller Christmas" Dec 1, "Chicago" Dec 2-7 and "The Rat Pack" Dec 30-Jan 4.

Shows scheduled for 2009 include "A Chorus Line" Jan. 6-11, Art Garfunkel and his band Feb. 6, "Stomp" Feb. 10-15, "Pink Floyd Experience" Feb. 19-20, "Dora the Explorer" Feb. 20-22, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" March 31-April 5, "Happy Days" April 14-19, "Lord of the Dance" April 24-26, "The Wizard of Oz" May 5-10, "High School Musical 2" June 13-21, and the North Carolina debut of the 2006 Tony Award-Winning Best in Musical, "Jersey Boys," June 24-July 18.

According to Jim Lavery, Broadway Series South General Manager, each season presents a new opportunity to connect with the public in a different way. "Our goal every year is to bring a well-rounded series home to Downtown Raleigh. This year's line-up includes some shows that are perpetual crowd pleasers and some new ones that promise to offer a fresh perspective. We are thrilled to be bringing JERSEY BOYS to North Carolina for the first time. Following the show's critical acclaim on Broadway, regional audiences are in for a real treat. We're confident our tried and

true patrons will enjoy the eclectic mix of shows and for those that have never attended one of our productions this might just be the year!" Log on to www.BroadwaySeriesSouth.com for more information.

North Carolina Theatre closes its 2008 season with Yeston and Kopit's "Phantom" Oct. 18-26, the story of a mysterious masked man living under the catacombs of the Paris Opera House who falls in love with street singer Christine and offers to train her for the opera. The theatre kicks off 2009 with "Miss Saigon" March 21-29, a moving performance set against stunning sets, and teams up with Broadway Series South June 13-21 to present the North Carolina regional premiere of Disney's "High School Musical 2." The show is appropriate for all ages and follows up the original "High School Musical" production.

On July 11-19 the North Carolina Theater celebrates its 50th anniversary of performing the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, "The Sound of

Continued on page 4

STRAIGHT from
BROADWAY!

BROADWAY

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All Broadway Series South productions take place at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium.

Center for the Performing Arts



Ira David Wood III as Captain Hook in North Carolina Theatre's "Peter Pan"

Continued from page 3

Music." Looking ahead, "West Side Story," a classic love story based on William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," is set to run Oct. 17-25, 2009, and promises high-energy music and dance numbers.

As the 2008 season closes, North Carolina Theatre says goodbye to Executive Director and Producer William Jones, who has accepted a position as presi-

dent and executive producer of Casa Mañana in Fort Worth, Texas. Casa Mañana, a \$10-million regional theater, produces and presents up to 20 live productions each year.

Jones began serving as executive director and producer of North Carolina Theatre in 2003. His commitment to youth education and outreach led to the opening of the North Carolina Theatre Conservatory in 2004. "I'm going to miss NC

Theatre like missing a limb," Jones says. "I'm excited about the new challenges ahead and will always be a part of North Carolina Theatre."

Lisa Grele Barrie has been with NC Theatre since 2003 and was promoted to Managing Director at the beginning of the year. As Development Director, she was instrumental in jumpstarting a dynamic fundraising culture by doubling contributed income over a five year period. She has also worked extensively in the community to forge meaningful partnerships and collaborations. Barrie commented, "NC Theatre celebrates our 25th anniversary season this year with a fabulous line-up of shows that reflect our commitment to artistic excellence and an expanded education program that engages aspiring young artists and underserved youth. Through renewed partnerships in the community and a passionate staff and board, NC Theatre is poised to begin a new chapter that honors its past while exploring new directions to expand its mission and vision into this community."

North Carolina Theatre's main stage productions are presented in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Visit www.nctheatre.com for ticket and show information.

HOMETOWN DRAMA

Raleigh boasts a treasury of local talent through Theatre in the Park, Burning Coal Theatre Company, Raleigh Little Theatre and Hot Summer Nights.

Continued on page 5

BROADWAY AT NORTH CAROLINA THEATRE
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Scene from Theatre in the Park's "Lion in Winter"

Continued from page 4

Theatre in the Park offers main stage and annual productions that captivate Raleigh audiences year after year. Located in the northern end of Raleigh's scenic Pullen Park and led by Executive and Artistic Director Ira David Wood III, this internationally-acclaimed theater boasted an attendance of more than 40,000 people last year alone.

Theatre In The Park celebrates its 61st Season with professionally per-

formed dramas, comedies, contemporary and classic productions including "Macbeth" by Shakespeare, and is best known for their annual holiday classic "A Christmas Carol," starring Ira David Wood III as Scrooge. This year represents the 34th anniversary of this family favorite, once voted into the "Top 20 events in the Southeast" by Southeast Tourism Society.

"A Christmas Carol" will run Dec. 5-17 in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, followed by "A Christmas Memory" Dec. 19-21. Other shows include "Macbeth" by Shakespeare Feb. 6-15,

"Life X 3" by Yasmina Reza April 17-26 and "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas June 5-14. To order tickets, visit www.theatreinthepark.com.

Burning Coal Theatre Company aims to produce explosive re-examinations of overlooked classic, modern and contemporary plays that address poignant social issues and themes with minimalist production values.

Burning Coal is housed in the newly renovated Murphey School auditorium, creating a 14-175 seat flexible performing space out of a 100-year-old historic building. The Murphey School auditorium was the room in which, in the summer of 1960, the Raleigh City School board met and voted to begin the desegregation of Raleigh schools. It was closed in

Continued on page 6

Burning Coal's new home in the renovated 100-year-old Murphy School Auditorium



TS.

"I could tell you stories. But that would be breaking bartender/client privilege."

- Jay, the beer whisperer

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THE RALEIGH TIMES

TO-DAY'S NEWS TO-DAY

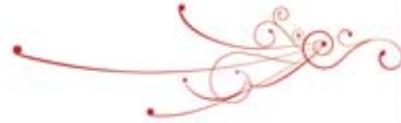


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"A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote is performed by Ira David Wood III every year immediately following "A Christmas Carol."

"A Christmas Memory" is a one man performance by David, performed at the Ira David Wood III Pullen Park Theatre

1977 when Wake County took over the school system. It sat dormant for 31 years until Burning Coal reopened the space in February, 2008, renaming it the Meymandi Theatre at Murphys School Auditorium.

Burning Coal's artistic director, Jerome Davis, is a professional theatre artist who has worked with some of the great performers and teachers of our time (Ellen Burstyn, Uta Hagen, Adrian Hall, David Edgar, Oliver Platt, and others). Says Davis

In December 2008, Raleigh Little Theatre will present the 25th anniversary performances of Cinderella at the Fletcher Opera Theater in the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Photo by Stuart Wagner



of Burning Coal, "Our mission is to produce 'literate, visceral, affecting' theatre that is experienced, not simply seen. We are working toward the creation of a fully professional company of theatre artists living in and working out of Raleigh. We like to do comedies, dramas and musicals that are about something, not necessarily serious plays but plays that are about something important to our people and our times. We mix these newer plays with classics by Shakespeare, Ibsen, Moliere, Beckett, etc., for the purpose of balance and contrast. We are also interested in developing new writers and new writing for the theatre and have staged world premieres or regional premieres of many new works in our 12 year history."

The theater launched its 2008-2009 season Sept. 11-28 with "The Prisoner's Dilemma," which featured a cast of 19 playing more than 40 roles.

Next up, "Hysteria" will appear at Meymandi Theatre Nov. 6-23. This Sigmund Freud and Salvador Dali farce set in 1938 London on the eve of World War II, features a wild "dream" sequence during which the set turns into a Dali painting.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" runs Dec. 4-21, Juan Mayorga's "Way to Heaven" is scheduled for Jan. 22-Feb. 6 and Ian Finley's "1960" will show April 9-24. All shows are located at Meymandi Theatre on Polk Street. To learn more about Burning Coal or to order tickets, visit their website at www.burningcoal.org.

Since 1936, **Raleigh Little Theatre** has entertained audiences with 11 captivating and educating productions annually. It all started when a group of Raleigh performers joined forces with technical workers from the Federal Theatre to create a community theater for Raleigh. Civic leader Cantey Venable Sutton played an important role in encouraging the Federal Works Progress Administration construction of the main theatre, amphitheatre and Rose Garden.



Lauren Kennedy in "Beyond Broadway" from Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy

Raleigh Little Theatre has only grown since then, and Managing Director Ellen Landau credits the theatre's continued success to its volunteers: "Volunteers have been the life blood of the theatre from the beginning. Six hundred volunteers fill over 2,000 jobs each season; our actors are all volunteers, as are members of the technical crews working the lights, changing the sets, pulling the curtain, showing patrons to their seats, or selling candy bars at intermission."

Remaining Raleigh Little Theatre shows in 2008 include "Deathtrap" Oct. 10-26, "Bunnicula" Nov. 7-23 and "Cinderella XXV" Dec. 12-21. Shows in 2009 include "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" Feb. 13-March 1; "Wiley and the Hairy Man" March 13-29; "Lend Me a Tenor" April 10-26; "Side by Side by Sondheim" May 8, 9, 15 and 16; "Bread and Puppet Theater" March 22-24; and "Cabaret" June 5-28. To order tickets, visit www.raleighlittletheatre.org.

Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy is a professional theatre company whose mission is to serve the citizens of Raleigh, Wake County and Eastern North Carolina by "keeping the lights on" and producing pro-

fessional theatrical performances in the 130-seat Kennedy Theatre at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts during the summer months. Hot Summer Nights aims to produce great black box style theatre shows that are varied in type, attitude and scope and employ actors, stage crew and staff of all ages, races and creeds from North Carolina and Broadway. The summer of 2009 will be Hot Summer Nights fifth season for Triangle audiences.

The theatre company is the brainchild of local businessman K.D. Kennedy, Jr. and his son Michael Kennedy and has become a family affair in recent years. "We are really trying to extend our range as a theatre so that it meets our goal of incorporating the best that NC and the southeast area has to offer as well as the best that NY has to offer. This helps us sustain our goal of being a small professional theatre with high production value, and creates the best scenario I could imagine", says Michael Kennedy. In 2007, Tony Award Nominee Alan Campbell (Sunset Boulevard, Contact) joined the company as Artistic Director along side his wife, Broadway star and Raleigh native Lauren Kennedy. As Publicity and Media Relations Director Hilary Russo sums up, "With a tour-de-force family like the Kennedys behind the wheel, coupled with their passion to keep the arts alive in Raleigh and their contributions to the Downtown Revitalization project, it's no surprise Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy has become one of the best professional theatres in the Triangle."

For more information visit www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org.

GRACEFUL INDULGENCES

True to tradition, the **Carolina Ballet** promises a mesmerizing line-up of performances during the 2008-2009 season. Led by Artistic Director Robert Weiss, the company will perform three world premieres and five

story ballets. Several of the performances will be accompanied by live music from the Ciompi Quartet, North Carolina Master Chorale and North Carolina Symphony.

The world premiere of “Don Quixote” debuts in conjunction with the Nasher Museum of Art’s exhibit, “El Greco to Velasquez: Art During the

Performers in “Swan Lake,” from the 2007 Carolina Ballet season



North Carolina Music Director Grant Llewellyn

Reign of Phillip III” at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Oct. 9-12. “Messiah” is scheduled for Nov. 26-30, followed by “Nutcracker” Dec. 19-28. The Carolina Ballet begins 2009 with “Balanchine—By George!” Jan. 29-Feb. 1, “Tolstoy and Shakespeare: Masterworks in Motion” Feb. 26-March 1, “Bernstein and Robbins: American Music and Dance” April 9-12, “Coppelia” April 30-May 3 and “Beauty and the Beast” May 28-31.

Founded in 1984 by Ann Vorus as the Raleigh Dance Theatre, the Carolina Ballet launched in 1997 with the acquisition of Weiss as founding artistic director. Previously, Weiss served as principal dancer with the New York City Ballet and past artistic director of the Pennsylvania Ballet. To learn more about the 2008-2009 season or to order tickets, visit www.carolinaballet.com.

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- Montevina Sangiovese
- Wingnut Zinfandel
- Saddlerock Merlot

MUSICAL MAGNIFICENCE

The North Carolina Symphony, Opera Company of North Carolina and Piedmont Council of Traditional Music, known as PineCone, all call Raleigh home. This trio of talented organizations complements the city's impressive performing arts offerings and also plays an important role in defining Raleigh's musical imprint on the region.

The North Carolina Symphony, founded in 1932, kicked off the first of 12 concerts in the 2008-2009 Duke Medicine Classical Raleigh Series on Sept. 12 with "From the New World to the West Side." Remaining 2008 concerts in this series include "Rhapsody in Blue" Oct. 24-25, "Russian Thunder" Nov. 7-8 and "Dvorak's Cello Concerto" Nov. 21-22. The series extends through May 2009.

The 2008 Friday Favorites Series includes Oct. 10, Jan. 9 and May 8 concerts. A third series, the 2008-2009 Fidelity Investments Pop Series, resumes Nov. 28-29 with the symphony's annual presentation of "Holiday Pops." "Bugs Bunny on Broadway" is set for Jan. 23-24 and The Pointer Sisters will join the symphony Feb. 20-21 with high-energy performances of "Slow Hand" and "Jump for My Love." "Blue Skies and Golden Sands" is scheduled for March 27-29 and "I Got Rhythm! Mickey and Judy's Hollywood" is scheduled for April 17-18. To order tickets, visit www.ncsymphony.org.

"There is so much to look forward to in the new season. I think the range of repertoire, the gifted guest artists and our own highly skilled musicians will answer Ian McEwan's poignant words in his novel Saturday: 'There are moments when musicians together touch something sweeter than they've ever found before in rehearsals or performance, beyond the merely collaborative or technically proficient, when their expression becomes as easy and graceful as friendship or love.' This is what we strive for, always, says NC Symphony Music Director Grant Llewellyn.

Musical talent blends with drama when the **Opera Company of North Carolina** performs. Now in its second decade, the company opened its 2008-2009 season in September with "I Pagliacci," an



From this year's Opera Company season: Cio-Cio-San, known as Butterfly, (Angela Maria Blasi) enchants her new husband Lt. Pinkerton (Adam Diegel). Goro, the opportunistic marriage broker, (Dean Anthony) is in background

intense theatrical performance combining lust, jealousy and revenge.

As the Opera Company's new principal conductor and artistic advisor, Timothy Meyers will conduct all three productions in the 2008-2009 season, cast all of The Opera Company's productions and assist the company with fulfilling short-term artistic goals as well as long-term artistic planning. At 33 years of age, Myers is one of the youngest artistic leaders of an American opera company. Says General Director Frank Grebowski, "Bringing Timothy on board marks a significant step forward for The Opera Company of North Carolina. Under his guidance, skills as a conductor, high performance standards, and artistic vision, the company's artistic growth, maturation, and diversification will certainly accelerate."

"La Cenerentola," set for Feb. 14-15 during the "Month of Love—and Lovely Music," follows a storyline much like "Cinderella," proving love does conquer all. "Rigoletto," which will be performed March 13-14, blends a terrifying curse with a gripping tale of revenge, aristocratic arrogance and fatherly devotion.

The Opera Company of North Carolina launched its "A Taste of Opera" series in September, which combines music with dinner. Tentative dates for this series include Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Jan. 15, Feb. 5 and March 5. Learn more at www.operanc.com.

PineCone, the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music, formed in 1984 to honor and celebrate traditional music

in North Carolina, which consists of fiddle tunes, ballads, bluegrass, blues, gospel, swing, folk and other traditional variations. PineCone is a private, non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of Triangle citizens. A wide range of musicians perform in PineCone's concert series. Some have played at Carnegie Hall while others are just starting out.

PineCone's Down-Home Series at the Progress Energy Center features Edgar Meyer and Chris Thile Oct. 15, Dailey and Vincent Nov. 12, Pickin' a Bluegrass All-Star Jam Jan. 8, Nanci Griffith Jan. 21, David Grisman and John Sebastian Feb. 7, Jake Shimabukuro Feb. 28, and Dan Tyminski Band and Tony Rice Unit March 11.

Edgar Meyer and Chris Thile, part of PineCone's Down-Home Series



PineCone's Music of the Carolinas Series includes "Ballot Box Ballads" with Suzanne and Jim Oct. 12, Loyd Arneach Nov. 16, Triangle Shape-Note Singers Dec. 14, Music from the N.C. Piedmont CD release concert in partnership with the N.C. Arts Council Folklife Program Feb. 8, Craicdown March 8, and Scott Ainslie June 14. (Several shows in this series have not yet been announced.) Other PineCone series include the Garner Family Series and Listening Room Series. For ticket information and a list of musicians, dates and locations, visit www.pinecone.org.

"Since 1984, we've been Raleigh's number one source for traditional roots music. Each year, we offer local audiences more than 125 music programs, including concerts, participatory music sessions, and weekly radio shows on 94.7FM WQDR—The PineCone Bluegrass Show. If it is high quality folk music that you desire, then PineCone has what you are looking for," says Executive Director William Lewis.

Since the days of ancient Greece, performing arts have transcended generations and crossed cultural barriers. Raleigh keeps that spirit alive with a wide variety and style of shows, and as our city grows, the performing arts options here will only increase. Get involved. Attend a play, opera or concert and become a part of something special.

Elizabeth Shugg is a local freelance writer and editor. Learn more at www.elizabethshugg.com



The History Behind the Hospital: The Story of Dorothea Dix

By Raleigh City Museum Staff

Today the Dorothea Dix Hospital has garnered much attention because of the controversy surrounding its closing. Numerous questions concerning patient relocation and permanent closure have been asked and remain unanswered, largely due to differing opinions. The one question that can be firmly answered, however, is "Who was Dorothea Dix?"

Dorothea Lynde Dix was born on April 4, 1802 in Hampden, Maine. Her family background no doubt influenced her later efforts to provide the mentally ill with proper care and facilities. Because Dix's father spent much time travelling and her mother suffered from depression, Dorothea moved to Boston to live with her grandmother. Dix's grandmother saw to it that Dorothea received a proper education, and Dorothea's passion for education inspired her to open a school at age 19.

Dorothea was plagued by her own health problems, suffering from "lung trouble" and depression. Today, most sources agree that what ailed her was tuberculosis, and in 1836 she closed her school because of her illness. Dorothea traveled abroad to Europe to recover, and once there studied new theories on caring for the mentally ill. It was there that she found her calling to reform the healthcare system in the United States.

Once back in the US, Dorothea traveled from state to state where she lobbied for the creation of healthcare facilities and increased understanding of the mentally ill. She was appalled to learn that many people who suffered from mental illnesses were imprisoned in jails and treated like criminals.

In 1848, Dorothea traveled to North Carolina and discovered the state's primitive stance in terms of healthcare reform. Understanding the challenge in front of her, she set up residence at the Mansion House hotel. The state's General Assembly was in session at this time, but legislators ignored Dorothea's proposal for a state hospital for the mentally ill.

While she was at the Mansion House hotel, a representative from Cumberland County, James C. Dobbin, also stayed there with his wife Louisa. Louisa Dobbin and Dorothea Dix became fast friends and when Louisa fell terminally ill, Dorothea cared for her throughout her sickness. Prior to her death, Louisa asked Dorothea how she could repay her friend for her kindness, and Dorothea requested that she ask her husband to speak to the General Assembly about her proposed bill for a mental hospital.

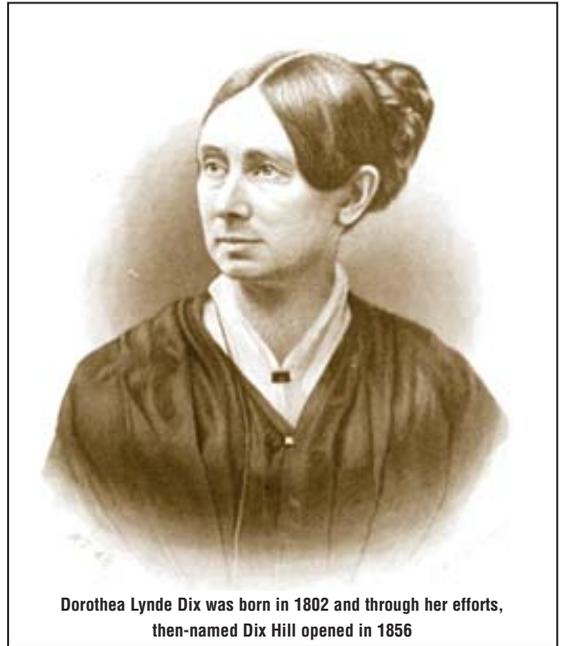
After Louisa's death, James made a moving speech to his fellow legislators and within a week a bill was passed to create the State Hospital for the Insane in Wake County.

Dorothea did not want the hospital named after her but agreed to name it Dix Hill, after her grandfather, Dr. Elijah Dix. After her death, Dix Hill became Dorothea Dix Hospital.

Alexander Jackson Davis served as architect for the hospital, and many prominent Raleigh families such as the Hintons and Mordecais had a hand in the hospital's creation. After eight years of construction, the hospital officially opened its doors in 1856 with 11 patients. County residents paid a special tax of roughly two cents per month to support the hospital.

Dorothea Dix Hospital occupies 425 acres of land and at its height had the capacity to care for over 600 patients. Though the future of Dorothea Dix Hospital is uncertain, the efforts of Dorothea Dix remain resonant in today's state healthcare programs for the mentally ill.

The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and is open from 10am-4pm Tuesday through Friday, and 1-4pm on Saturdays. If you have any questions, please call 919.832.3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.



Dorothea Lynde Dix was born in 1802 and through her efforts, then-named Dix Hill opened in 1856



Dorothea Dix Hospital occupies 425 acres of land and at its height had the capacity for over 600 patients



One of the many buildings at Dorothea Dix Hospital today

Humble Pie



By Fred Benton
Food and Dining
Editor

● was food editor
of Spectator
Magazine
(almost from the
publication's begin-

nings under Bernie Reeves and its end under Daily Planet), for about two decades. Humble Pie, a cornerstone restaurant of downtown Raleigh's warehouse district has been open nearly the same amount of time. In all that time our paths unfortunately never crossed. I'd heard of Humble Pie and the original owners, who were rumored to be wildly talented in food prep but were also a tad eccentric. I thought of Humble Pie in humble terms: a smallish downtown eatery where everyone crowded in. Not so, I soon learned with my first visit there recently. Humble Pie has one of the biggest outside dining terraces in downtown Raleigh plus the inside is almost cavernous, with strings of light hanging artfully around, adding to an atmosphere of festivity. It's a neat place. I like it and am now a fan of Humble Pie, from co-owner Jim



Beriau who could not have been nicer to the young but talented chef Raymond "Andy" Cordova.

My overall impression is that the menu is a hybrid of sushi, Mexican and California vegetarian, from simple to complex tastes. My publisher Crash Gregg, David Basnight of Beechwood Tours and I began our foray of the Humble Pie menu with something simple: the **Cheese Tray** featuring

assorted cheeses, a mirepoix of dates, walnuts, whole grained mustard and thin, buttery crostini (\$14)—and for me, a margarita since Jim pointed out that their margaritas are exceptionally good. They are. The one I drank was more like the original margarita that called for fresh-squeezed orange juice rather than an orange liqueur as part of its flavor base. Three cheers for this margarita. I don't drink often but when I drink, I like to drink superbly.

This was by no means a wasted effort. And of the cheese tray, I loved most particularly the creamy goat cheese that I topped with the works (a smear of date, a piece or two of walnut and a smudge of mustard.) What a grand taste to enliven the ol' buds. But the next appetizer, **Tempura Asparagus** (\$8) nearly knocked us out of our chairs. Fabulous! Crunchy as could be, and the asparagus spears cooked perfectly. In my mind there are now two restaurants that rank as having the best appetizers: An New World Cuisine in Cary and now, Humble Pie. Another memorable appetizer at Humble Pie is a hybrid of Mexican, French and Mediterranean: **Broiled Tetilla Cheese covered with a red grape gastrique (a sweet reduction) and fried lavosh** (\$7). What genius put this taste combination together has a superb palate. Another three cheers! Less appealing to me, perhaps it just lacked luster in this panoply of star-quality appetizers was the **Spinach Tart** (\$9) that was clearly upstaged by the crispy, all too **Southern Fried Green Tomatoes accented with an apple cider and**

Continued on page 11

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Robert Weiss, Artistic Director

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bacon aioli, Swiss chard and bacon lardons (\$9). The fried green tomatoes were really masterfully done, nice and crunchy without loss of integrity (which means the intrinsic tomato flavor was not lost to the fry) – and perhaps I'm being picky but the term "aioli" jumps out at me. Aioli is the mother of emulsion sauces, like mayonnaise. In fact, the French Duc de Mayon stole the recipe for aioli from the Spanish Court, took it back to his native land and suddenly mayonnaise was born, credited to the French. At any rate aioli is garlic mayonnaise—intensely garlic. To my memory there was no emulsion sauce with the tomatoes; instead, the vinegar-bacon combination was a wet dressing—very good

but not mayonnaise-like. Another star in the pantheon of Humble Pie appetizers has got to be the **Seared Sea Scallops served atop creamy garlic polenta with grape tomato relish and basil verjus vinaigrette** (a nice green sauce). This appetizer is \$12 and all I tasted when I sampled this dish was the scallops (excellent) and the polenta (I could have eaten a bowl of this!) My suggestion here is that you use a spoon to best capture all the flavors.

The **Tuna Tostado** (\$12) is a delectable and glaring example of Japan meets Tex-Mex as well as one of the most popular items on the menu which is **Godzilla Roll** (\$12) that features ahi tuna plus the sushi works: soy sauce, wasabi and ginger. Now one of Jim's favorite items on the



Chef Andy Cordova will keep your taste buds excited while at Humble Pie

menu is the entree **Chicken and Dumplings** (\$12). This is an authentic preparation of chicken and dumplings. There are actual dumplings. I think Southerners confuse chicken and pastry or chicken slick as being the same as chicken and dumplings. Chicken and dumplings, to me, a Mason-Dixon line preparation linked to the state of Maryland and parts of Pennsylvania. Chicken and pastry and chicken and dumplings is a matter of how the flour-fat component, that in both, is cooked in the hot chicken broth is cut. For dumplings the flour-fat is rolled and cut as for biscuits; for chicken slick the flour-fat component is rolled and cut, thinly or thick, in strips. At Humble Pie you get dumplings. But for me, my favorite entree is the **Ricotta and Butternut Squash-Stuffed**

Conchiglioni (\$13). Conchiglioni is a large conch shell-shaped pasta. To me this dish was autumn in every bite. I loved the major hit of butternut squash. I probably need to call Andy and ask him how to make this. Thanksgiving dinner in pasta!

For me this meal could only be completed by diving into Humble Pie's **Banana Nut Bread Pudding** (\$6) or **Key Lime Pie** (the "real" kind, not green!) (\$6). But to Jim and Andy, I had to ask, where's the humble pie at Humble Pie?!

I am pleased to heartily recommend Humble Pie for your dining out itinerary. And my compliments to chef Andy Cordova—a talented young man.

■RD

Be sure to check out Humble Pie's new sampler platters to taste a variety of tasty dishes



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Consignment Shopping

The Thrill of the Hunt



By Kelly Hubbard

Updating your wardrobe with the latest designer fashions each season can be enticing, but something even more appealing is snagging name-brand pieces for half the price. We're not talking about sorting through rows of sale racks in hopes of finding a discount; we're talking about consignment boutiques where you are almost guaranteed to find a great deal.

How often have you cleaned out your closet with the intent to give away anything that has not been worn in years? And, how often have you kept an item because you either paid too much money for it or swore that you would wear it soon? Consignment shops are a great way to recycle your clothing and accessories and give them a new life.

Slip into a trendy sweater dress by M Missoni or kick it up with a vintage pair of violet heels



It is a mutually beneficial set up: the consignors are able to bring in their garments that they no longer wear and get some money back in return, while the shoppers benefit from the deals on designer and unique pieces. Why not get the best of both worlds? Many consignors bring in items to trade and opt for store credit towards their next fabulous find.

Designer denim has really exploded in popularity within the past five years, with some pairs of jeans going for more than \$200. Local consignors can rock a different designer each month, selling a pair of 7 for All Mankind jeans and turn around to use store credit towards a pair of Joe's Jeans.

Take James McLamb, for example, who enjoys visiting Stuff Consignment in downtown Raleigh about once a week. On one recent visit, McLamb found a pair of True Religion jeans for \$85, which normally retails for \$195. He's a consignor who typically brings

Stuff Consignment, and usually visits the shop about five times per week. "I can find items for work, pick up a great pair of jeans – and Stuff has the best shoes," Chynces said as she gushed about her recent Prada heels purchase.

Women and men's shoes are a hot item that shoppers seek out in consignment shops. You can easily find a top designer with a price tag that's easy on your wallet. The same goes for formal wear like cocktail dresses, suits and tuxedos. "It makes shoppers feel good knowing that they're wearing a designer label," said Liz Johnson, owner of Revolver, an upscale consignment boutique in downtown Raleigh. "You're getting the quality of the name brand, and at times, for less than half the price."

Even though consignors bring in last season's trends, usually they're not out of style yet. Plus, there are still many

in last season's fashions to sell but is also interested in seeking out trendy or vintage pieces to add to his collection.

May Chynces can vouch for the thrill of consignment shopping. She works as a bar manager at The Pit, a barbecue restaurant around the corner from

Continued on page 13

David, I'm jealous. Everyone's raving about the new dishes. What about me?

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classic brands available for the taking, like Lacoste, Banana Republic and Polo, all of which are timeless. Ladies can pair a business-appropriate striped J. Crew dress shirt for \$18 with a vintage, olive green jacket for \$20 and then splurge on a Diane von Furstenberg dress. Guys who are looking to invest in a suit and tie for a special occasion or are just looking to add to their wardrobe can find it all in consignment shops.

If you're a dedicated consignment shopper, you can score by finding vintage pieces that will be sure to set you apart from the crowd. Revolver has a pair of vintage, royal purple heels – a trendy color for this season – with ruffle trim on the toe that resembles one of Prada's fall styles. Johnson said



Finding a great deal on accessories at Stuff can be just as thrilling as shopping for clothes



she receives great feedback from her customers who buy vintage. "People buy things from here and receive compliments from people asking, 'Where'd you get that!'" She said the cool factor is they are often wearing a one-of-a-kind piece. The best discoveries can be non-name-brand items that reflect a current trend because they are stylish but no one else will have them.

Revolver Manager Mary Holt Fickes explained that the concept of consign-

ment boutiques is like shopping in your friend's closet. "A lot of people purchase clothing for hundreds of dollars and wear it once," she said. "The great thing about consignment is that you can make a little money back on your purchase and you know it will go to a good home."

Consignment shops like Stuff Consignment and Revolver are dedicated to providing their customers with quality pieces in good condition and practice strong scrutiny during

their selection process. The stores will carry unique, designer or vintage items from the average person but you will also find clothes with the original tags still on. Some of these could be brand-new clothing from local boutiques looking to sell their seasonal inventory to make room for the next season of merchandise.

Accessories like shoes, purses, messenger bags, scarves and jewelry can be major investments, too. Consignment boutiques are a great place to search for a deal on unique or designer accessories to add to your attire. You will also find local designers' work in Revolver such as screen print tees and jewelry. J Bird Designs breathes new life into old hardware, charms and vintage buttons; check out her vintage button earrings for only \$10. In addition to clothing and accessories, Stuff Consignment also features interesting and original home furnishing items.

Stuff Consignment is located at 307 W. Martin Street and Revolver recently moved to its new location at 124 Glenwood Avenue in downtown Raleigh. Both stores are celebrating their three-year anniversaries this fall.

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Photo jbaz.net



Trish and John Healy from Hyde Street Holdings



Roger Krupa (Raleigh Convention Center) and wife Linda



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AROUND TOWN AROUND TOWN **AROUND** TOWN AROUND



Balazs Szabo, artist and author

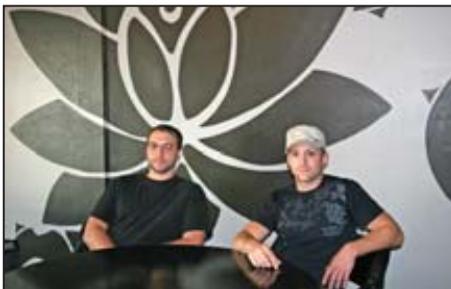


Lindsay, Billy and Elizabeth



Gwen, Tom and Ashley from Brooklyn Heights bar

The photos above were taken at various Raleigh Convention Center and Marriott City Center events



Paul and Jamie from Black Flower



Leboeuf and Hilary at Amra's



The Deep South Local Music Review

Each month, we look at three local bands within a wide range of music types, from rock to reggae, country to classic. You won't find any negative or bad reviews here, just bands worth hearing in your favorite local music hangout. Enjoy the reviews, check out the bands when they're in town, and be sure to mention you read about them in the Raleigh Downtowner Deep South Local Music Review.

Artist: **Birds of Avalon** Album: **Outer Upper Inner** Genre: **Rock/Psychedelic/Progressive** www.myspace.com/birdsofavalon



Birds of Avalon is made up of Cheetie Kumar (guitar), David Mueller (bass), Scott Nurkin (drums), Paul Siler (guitar) and Craig Tilley (keyboards/vocals). Their first album, *Bazaar Bazaar*, was released in May 2007 and followed by a tour with Ted Leo, who told *Harp Magazine* that Birds of Avalon was his "favorite new band." The Flaming Lips, also part of the tour, gave the band the same praise on their Web site. Shortly after, they set off for their European tour.

After spending most of last year on the road, the guys were ready to get back to making music. The EP *Upper Inner Outer*, released in March, was recorded without the use of any computers in an attempt to stray from the typical modern sound. Mitch Easter, the motivation behind this sound experiment, has produced for alt-rock favorites like REM, Pavement and Wilco.

According to the band's myspace page, this experiment led to "mysterious sounds and tones which you could never contrive deliberately...just what we were after." The group has managed to transform this method into an art form, as their style will rock you out, lift you up and draw you in.

Artist: **buzzround** Album: **buzzround** Genre: **Acoustic/Indie/Roots** www.myspace.com/buzzround

Jeff Debonzo (bass/guitar/vocals) and Spence Rownd (guitar/harmonica/vocals) started playing when they were still students at Leesville High School. The duo went their separate ways when Jeff headed to Appalachian State and Spence to UNC-Wilmington, but continued opening for local bands. All in their mid-20s now, buzzround's members also include Jeff's brother, Keef Debonzo (bass/guitar/vocals) and Matt Austin (drums/percussion), who joined the group about a year ago.

After two years of playing around South Carolina and at local venues in Raleigh, Boone and Wilmington, the guys finally released their self-titled CD just a few months ago. They are proud to have Joe Kwon, a current member of the Avett Brothers, as a featured artist on the track "With You."

Jeff describes buzzround's sound as "50's love song, Hootie-type pop, G-Love inspired ditties—really all over the place—centered around solid songwriting." He and brother Keef have significant musical influence to draw from, as their father Dave Debonzo fronted popular 70s bluegrass band, *Headin' South*.

The guys have recently developed ties with fellow Raleigh-based band American Aquarium, opening for them twice at Lincoln Theatre. Returning the favor, American Aquarium will open for the group in November.



Artist: **Arrogance** Album: **The 5' 11" Record** Genre: **Indie/Powerpop/Rock** www.myspace.com/arrogancerock



These guys are the first to admit that they did coin their name as a reference to their power to upstage other bands. But given their sharp sound, clever lyrics and passion for making music, their confidence is well-justified.

Arrogance began in 1969 inside a UNC-Chapel Hill campus dorm. Don Dixon and Robert Kirkland, then freshmen at the university, soon added keyboardist Marty Stout, drummer Scott Davison and guitarist Rod Abernethy. The albums *Give Us a Break* in 1973 and *Prolepsis* 1975 were both self-produced and self-released, an especially pioneering move for bands during that time.

Arrogance disbanded in 1983 after failing to receive the attention and acclaim that they knew they deserved. In the meantime, founding-member Dixon produced albums for REM, The Backsliders, Kim Carnes, Marti Jones, James McMurtry and Chris Stamey.

And thanks to Dixon's encouragement, his band came together once again for a 30-year reunion and the re-release of their catalog in 2000. With the release of *The 5'11" Record*, which includes previously recorded but unreleased music, Arrogance has finally gained the exceptional reviews and fan base they've always deserved.

The Deep South Local Music Review is written by Dave Rose with contributions by Elizabeth Barrett. Dave is the co-founder and co-owner of Deep South Entertainment. Formed in 1995, Deep South Entertainment is a record label, artist management company, and concert event production company with offices in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Nashville, Tennessee. Deep South is best known locally as producers of the Bud Light Downtown Live summer concert series, featuring national recording artists. Their latest addition to downtown Raleigh is Deep South—The Bar. Elizabeth is a UNC student working part time for Deep South and the Downtown Live concert series.



What Gen Y & Z are listening to...

By Elizabeth Barrett (Deep South Entertainment)

Wonder what music high school and college students are listening to and downloading onto their iPods? Each month we'll give you a quick look as to what you're likely to hear blaring out of dorm room windows on college campuses and out of car windows throughout the Triangle.



Artist: **The Virgins**
Album: **The Virgins**
(Alternative/
Indie Rock)

www.myspace.com/thevirginsnc



Artist: **The Black Keys**
Album: **Attack & Release**
(Rock)

www.myspace.com/theblackkeys



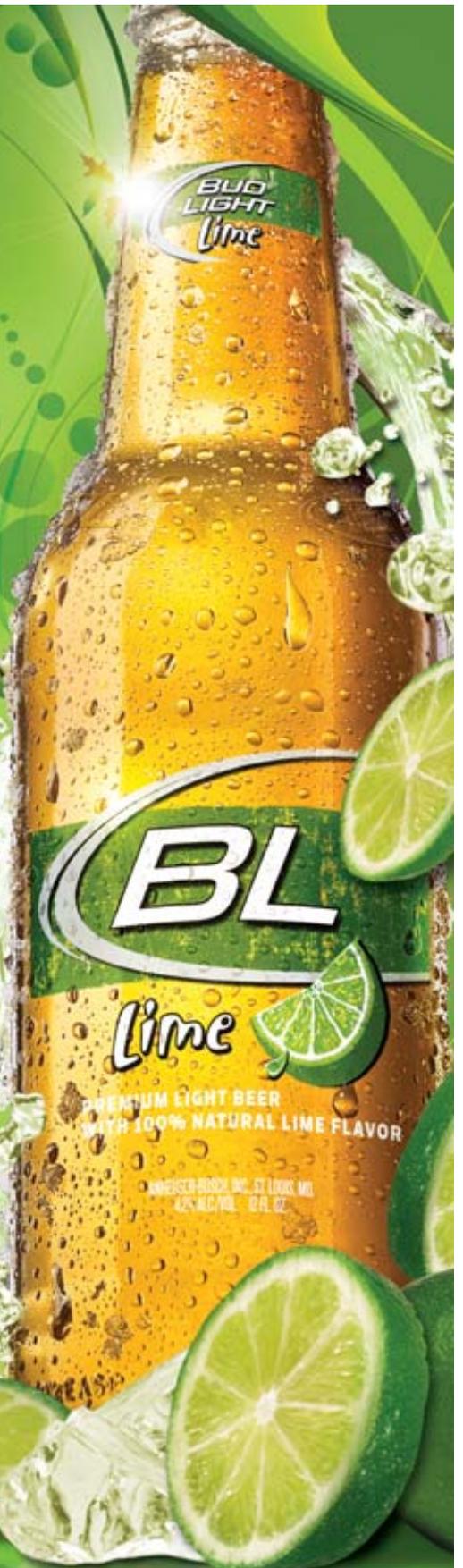
Artist: **Ratatat**
Album: **Classics**
(Electronic/Rock)

www.myspace.com/ratatatmusic

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Columbia, South Carolina



By Jack Glasure

When a long-time friend invited me to check out his adventure

guide service in the capital city of Columbia, SC, I had to check a map and make sure it met the one tank criterion in order to qualify for this column. Surprisingly, it did; it's a mere three-hour drive away. But he suggested I travel from downtown Raleigh by Amtrak instead—a roundtrip fare of just \$68 bucks. It



Kayaking on the Saluda River, near downtown Columbia, SC

sounded like a good way to catch up on some reading, so I gave it a shot. The train experience was better than expected, clean and comfortable actually, though the schedule required a bit of planning to avoid sleep deprivation. The Silver Streak comes through Raleigh on the Friday night southbound route around 9pm, arriv-

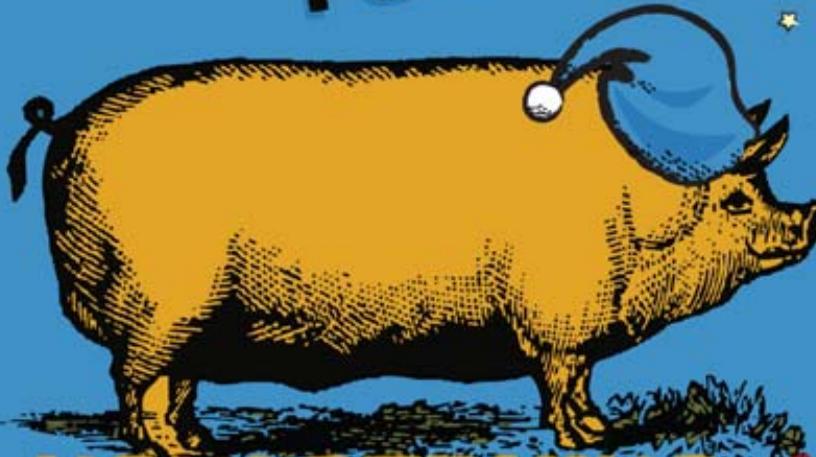
ing in Columbia at 1:30am. The northbound return departs Columbia Monday mornings at 2am, arriving back in Raleigh at 6:30am. Columbia is fortunate to have three rivers flowing through an area they call the Riverbanks Region, and the rivers are ideal for outdoor recreation. We spent the morning kayaking

amongst the rapids of the Congaree River, which flows right through the city and is paralleled by an extensive network of well-manicured greenways and boardwalks. Lots of people were running and biking on the trails, but we ran on the river rocks. I managed to follow closely behind my guide as he worked his way through a mile course of boulders. We occasionally waded across shallow areas, and as the afternoon heat arrived, swam in the deeper pools fed by an invigorating and refreshing current.

After soaking in some sunshine to dry off our shorts and shoes, we picked up a lunch day pack from nearby Earth Fare and drove 20 miles out of town to Congaree National Park, where we walked the 2.4 mile boardwalk loop trail. The park contains one of the country's last remaining stands of old-growth forest, including bald cypress and loblolly pines that reach up to 165 feet. Four national record trees are located within the

Continued on page 19

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park, and there are more than 150 trees larger than 12 feet in circumference. The forest canopy stands high overhead, enhancing the illusion of perpetual twilight. Barred owls often call during daylight, and they say that in the summer, a gentle rain is felt only

The Downtowner's One Tank Trip's Jack Glasure with Columbia host and outdoor adventure guide Noah Sager



as a fine mist below the forest's canopy.

The highlight of the trip was the vibrant sports bar scene. My friend showed me about two dozen hot spots over two nights, each unique in design, location and social amenities. There's a healthy competition going on in Columbia among the restaurants to attract sports fans with the best environment for watching ballgames. Every place we visited had comfortable seating, friendly service and the latest video technology. Since the University of South Carolina is located downtown, the sidewalk cafes and coffee shops were all busy, providing an active college town atmosphere.

If you'd like some help planning a trip to Columbia, just shoot me an email and I'll gladly connect you with my friend who can steer you in the right direction.

Safe travels!

One Tank Trips is a regular column about road trips to great destinations within a gas tank's range of Raleigh. Send us your ideas for future trips or stops along the way that we shouldn't miss to onetanktrips@raleighdowntowner.com.

Jack Glasure is Chief Marketing Officer at French/West/Vaughan and can be contacted at jglasure@fvv-us.com.



The 2.4 mile Congaree Boardwalk loop within the Park, containing four national record trees and more than 150 others which are over 12 feet in circumference

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By Fred Benton
Food and Dining
Editor

meat. I did find the mustard sauce that was served with both the oysters and the alligator too astringent for my taste, but the white rémoulade with the oysters was delicious.

A friend who had joined us at the table

opted for one of The Big Easy's most popular selections, the **half n'half po' boy** (\$8.75), which has fried oysters and fried shrimp presented on a roll. You'll see a lot of po' boy sandwiches on the menu here. Here's the story of how the po' boy and New Orleans

joined delectably greasy hands: In the 1800s, sisters at a local convent took pity on the poor children who lived near them. They were always knocking on the convent door begging for alms. Knowing that these children were hungry the sisters fried up batches of oysters and put them in a roll for easy eating and transport. A knock came at the door and a sandwich was offered—a sandwich that later became to be known as a "po'boy," commemorating the poor children who were the original beneficiaries of a potable feast that all of New Orleans soon began to crave.

It was a blustery fall day, plenty of wind chill, and a perfect day to visit The Big Easy, a Fayetteville Street mecca for the spicy food that made New Orleans famous. I dragged myself inside, not a bit hungry; however, a food writer must eat to make a living. I have to say that the atmosphere of The Big Easy, with its good spirits and friendly wait staff (that I had originally gruffly labeled as "too perky") got to me. While I didn't see a miracle, I did feel myself uplifted. The Big Easy is truly the big easy!

My friends and I began our taste of Cajun magic with two platters, the **Oyster Fry** (\$8.75) and **Alligator Bites** (\$7.75). Both were credible. The oysters were tasty, and just spicy enough to be warming. The alligator was a bit chewy, but apparently that's par for the course for the reptilian



Another must try at The Big Easy introduces you to a variety of menu options all on one platter, **A Taste of Louisiana** (\$13.75). The menu promises a "generous portion of jambalaya, chicken gumbo, fried shrimp or gator, red beans and rice." The chicken gumbo is truly reminiscent of one I've

Continued on page 21

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NoFo - 2014 Fairview Road, at Five Points, Raleigh, 821-1240. *BEST retail for feeding the eye and palate. nofo.com*

Waraji Japanese Restaurant - Duraaleigh Road, corner of Duraaleigh and Pleasant Valley roads, 783-1883. "If you knew sushi like I know sushi." *BEST sushi! warajirestaurant.com*

Nina's Ristorante - 801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. *BEST NY-style Italian!*

Trish the Dish Catering - Raleigh, 852-0369. *Fabulous fun food for the budget-minded!*

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. *BEST stuffed pork chop! BEST fried cheese souffle!*

William and Garland Motel - Hwy.58, Salter Path, 252-247-3733. *BEST budget-friendly family accommodations on the Crystal Coasts!*

The Black Mountain Inn - 828-669-6528. *Best in Black Mountain! Pet-friendly! www.blackmountaininn.com*

The Lamplight Inn - Henderson 252-438-6311. *Pet-friendly; great breakfasts! www.lamplightbnb.net*

Springfield Inn - a bed and breakfast, 252-426-8471, springfield@springfieldbb.com. *In Hertford, BEST breakfast! Farm-fresh everything!*

Dakota Grill - 9549 Chapel Hill Road (Hwy. 54), intersection with Cary Parkway, 463-9526. *BEST exotic burger (double bison burger), and BEST chili for pepperheads.*

An New World Cuisine - Corner of Westin Parkway and Harrison, Cary in Arboretum at Westin Shpg. Center, 2800 Renaissance Park Place, 677-9229. *BEST appetizers! My hands-down favorites are Shrimp Cupcakes and Shrimp Fritters. www.ancuscines.com*

Simpson's Beef & Seafood - at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads, 783-8818. *BEST prime rib! BEST coconut shrimp!*

Apex Chiropractic - Apex, 362-9066. *I could hardly walk. Acupuncture saved my life!*

Vic's Italian Café & Restaurant - City Market at 331 Blake Street, 829-1790. *BEST Lobster Ravioli, BEST Ricotta Cheesecake, BEST Chicken Piccata*

Tasca Brava - 607 Glenwood Ave., 828-0840. tascabrava.com *BEST Sangria, BEST Paella*

READER EMAIL POLL: At what restaurant do you feel you get the best value for your money? Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.



Continued from page 20

tried while in Louisiana and enjoyed its authentic flavor.

My friends know that I can't pass up onion rings and I have to say that the **Onion Rings** (\$1.35) here are sensational and crunchy as all get-out. I could have munched on these all day!

The Big Easy offers late night food until 2am seven days a week, a full bar area, and a Mardi Gras-style second floor overlooking the dining area below, complete with darts and pool table, great for a small group to congregate, eat and relax.

In my opinion The Big Easy lives up to its name. Enjoy!

■RD

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Full Bar: Yes

Outdoor Dining: Yes

Web Site: www.thebigeasy.com

Parking: Street or Moore or Alexander Square lots

Black Flower Now Open

A creative new addition to Glenwood South

From an unassuming building just around the corner from the bustle of Glenwood South comes a different kind of buzz, one that will last well after the night's end.....at least that's the kind of atmosphere Paul Lewis and Jamie Saad want to create at their new bar Black Flower. Located at 517 West Peace Street (just east of Mojo's), one of its main goals is to promote Raleigh's culture.

And to Black Flower, that means more than just enlisting artist Adam Peele to paint the graphic black-and-white flower awning, matching interior walls and wall paintings. It means giving him and all other local creative minds a venue in which to showcase their talents—and thereby giving all of Raleigh a place at which to see these area artists and musicians. With the rebirth of downtown and top-rankings from Forbes and Kiplinger's, Raleigh is attracting more businesses and establishing itself as a major market in the US.



What Black Flower plans to do is extend that revitalization and those accolades to the city's art scene, helping to develop a cultural identity for Raleigh. In creating a neighborhood bar for both locals and local talent, Black Flower will not only be supporting and exposing Raleigh's culture but also cultivating the community's interest in it.

Black Flower will be open seven days per week until 2am and will feature various live music. If the grand opening weekend was any indication of the success of Black Flower, it should do just fine.

Black Flower
 517 West Peace Street, Raleigh
 919.900.8147
www.black-flower.com

Visit our website for more bar photos.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

ON STAGE CALENDAR

Brought to you by 42nd Street Oyster Bar and their commitment to the performing arts and artists in Raleigh. 919.831.2811
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October 18-26

NC Theatre Presents
WYeston & Kopit's Phantom
Join NCT as we unveil the FIRST American Phantom, based on Gaston Leroux's thrilling 1910 novel. Experience a fuller, richer version of Phantom with a more developed plot, deeper characters, beautiful lyrics and soaring melodies. Like the Phantom, our ticket holders have a life-sustaining need for beautiful music - and this original is our salvation! To purchase tickets, call the NCT Box Office at 919.831.6941 x6944 or visit their website at www.nctheatre.com

October 24-25

NC Symphony Presents The Rhapsody in Blue

Program: Debussy: Nocturnes
Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue
Fauré: Pavane
Gershwin: Second Rhapsody ("Rhapsody in Rivets")
Ravel: Daphnis et Chloe Suite No. 2
Featuring: James Gaffigan, guest conductor, Anne-Marie McDermott, piano, Carolina Choir, lead by Susan Klebanow. For more information, visit www.ncsymphony.org

OTHER EVENTS

October 18-19

Art Raleigh
In the tradition of some of the world's most vibrant locales, Art Raleigh will transform the city into a weekend celebration of the state's fine art and craft community. This first-of-its-kind art fair will showcase Raleigh's leading galleries, arts organizations, and a juried arts and crafts exhibition and sale.

For more information, visit www.artsaliveraleigh.com

October 11

2008 "CHAIRity" To Benefit Habitat for Humanity of Wake County

To celebrate the role artists play in advancing cultural and social development, and to align that role with the contribution Habitat for Humanity makes to society, Purple Armchair will host the 2008 "CHAIRity," a gala fundraiser for Habitat/Wake County, which will be held in the store on Saturday, October 11.

Over 50 Triangle area artists have "recycled" old wooden chairs from Habitat/Wake's ReStore Center in Raleigh into one-of-a-kind works of art. The chairs-turned-art will be exhibited in public spaces around Raleigh for a month leading up to the evening of October 11, when gala attendees will bid on these unusual works of original art (both silent and "live"). Seventy-five percent of the winning bid for each door will be donated to Habitat/Wake County. The remaining 25 percent goes to the artists. The gala event, including live music, will be free and open to the public.

Purple Armchair, 600 North West Street, 919-341-8572, 7-11pm.
www.purplearmchair.com

October 26, Sunday

Second Empire 5k Classic
Second Empire Restaurant and Tavern

Empire Restaurant and Tavern is proud to present the 9th Annual Second Empire 5K Classic - one of the fastest 5K courses in the Triangle area on Sunday, October 26, 2008 at 2:00 PM. The event will once again feature the CU Fitness Center Pump 'n Run Competition. Located in downtown Raleigh in the elegantly restored Dodd-Hinsdale House, Second Empire combines history, atmosphere, and gourmet cuisine for an unforgettable dining experience. The exterior architecture of the Dodd-Hinsdale House is Second Empire Victorian, a style originating in France under Napoleon III. It represents the last example of this influence in Raleigh.

November 15, Saturday

7th annual Collectors Gala at Artspace
This is the only major fundraiser held each year in support of Artspace exhibitions, educational programming, and community outreach to children and adults in difficult circumstances. The event features the unique opportunity for guests to dine in artists' studios and to enjoy purchasing local artwork in both the live and silent auctions, as

Continued on page 23

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Continued from page 22

well as purchasing artwork displayed throughout the building.

Our schedule for the evening:
Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres and
Silent Auction Opens 6pm
Dinner 7:30pm
Live Auction 9pm
Silent Auction Closes 11pm

Individual tickets on sale now: \$125 per person. Table sponsorships are still available at \$5,000, \$2,500, and \$1,500 levels.

Visit www.artspacenc.org or call 919.821.2787 for more information.

November 16, Sunday



An Evening With Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, stars of the Emmy nominated *Who's Line Is It Anyway?* have teamed up to present an evening of extraordinary improvisational comedy.

Using their quick wit, Colin and Brad take contributions from the audience to create hilarious and original scenes.... Just like a live version of

'Whose Line!' Throughout the evening, the show becomes truly interactive as audience members are called to the stage to participate in the fun. Their high-profile presentations have played to sold-out venues all over the country. Don't miss the most exciting comedy event of the year!

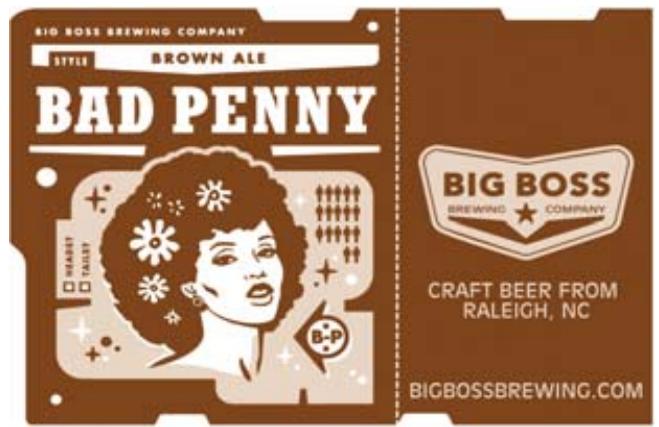
Visit www.broadwayseriessouth.com for more information and tickets.

"A Christmas Carol" Tickets On Sale



Theatre In The Park's original musical comedy adaptation of A Christmas Carol, based on the book by Charles Dickens and adapted for the stage by Ira David Wood III, December 9 - 17. Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh.

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Continued on page 25



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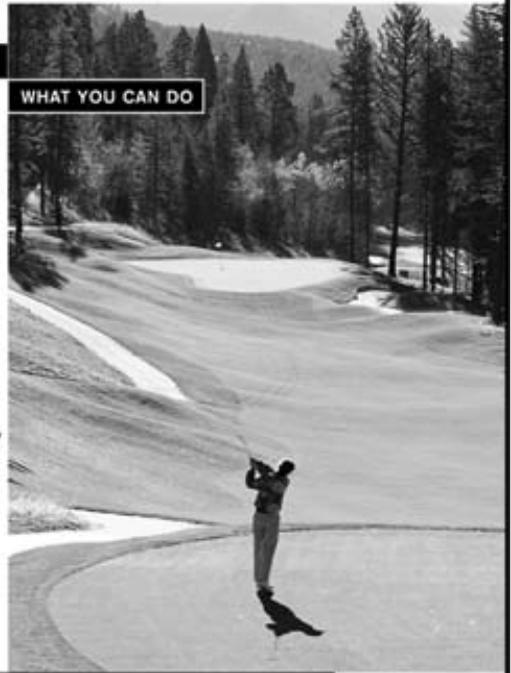
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Read Between the Wines



By Matt Fern

all right downtown Raleigh; let's discuss ordering a bottle of wine in a restaurant. The concept is simple. Wine is, after all, merely fermented grape juice made by farmers and offered by restaurants to compliment the chef's cuisine and make your dinner more enjoyable.

bottle of red, white or sparkling wine, or even a nice rosé. But if you do find yourself confused, a good starting point is this simple rule: red wine with meat; white wine with chicken or fish. Next read the wine list over. Keep in mind that not all wine lists are created equal; some may consist of few selections while others may seem more like reading War and Peace. Some may be arranged by region while others may be arranged by style. Some may give you descriptions of the wines while others may merely list the names. If you get a bit lost or need some advice, ask the server to be your guide. Tell them what you like to drink and what you're eating.

the bottle is in proper form and not spoiled, not an opportunity for you to say, "I've changed my mind. I just decided I don't want Chardonnay." If this small sample smells like an old library book, a wet dog or wet cardboard, you've received a "corked" bottle of wine. It happens. And they should happily bring you another bottle.

Okay servers, it's your turn. It should be noted that most people know that you aren't going to be waiting tables for the rest of your lives, and that they understand that this job is simply a great way to get yourself through college or supplement your income. But

gestions in a variety of price points.

As for opening a bottle of wine: After the guest has ordered the wine, bring it to the table, review the information on the bottle, and after they've accepted the bottle, open it (preferably without using your legs), making sure to pour the host a taste first. Once the bottle has been deemed acceptable, pour the bottle for the other guests at the table, and repeat as necessary.

Usually wine in restaurants is more expensive than in other places. But keep in mind that you're paying for the lengths to which the business has gone to find these great bottles of wine. If you have something special that you'd prefer, many places will let you bring something from your private collection for a small "corkage fee," usually between \$10 and \$20 depending on the restaurant. Though, always remember to call the restaurant ahead to check if this is okay and to see if that particular bottle is on their list. If it is one they already offer, leave your own bottle at home, lest the tacky police cite you. Oh, and I should add that it's also polite to offer the server a taste to enjoy after his or her shift (we can't drink on the job in NC!)

Going out to dinner should be a fun experience, and wine is meant to compliment the meal and contribute to the night's festivity. With these tips in mind, together we can de-bunk the "snooty factor" mistakenly associated with ordering wine. Customers will have more fun and servers will make more money. That sounds like a win-win situation to me!



However, when wine lists become difficult to navigate, this simple concept can get unnecessarily complicated. Hopefully the following tidbits will dispel a few myths regarding the "how-tos" of ordering wine and in turn, make your wining-and-dining experience a source of pleasure, not stress. The main idea is to have guests and servers work harmoniously to select the perfect wine for the situation.

First we'll start with rules for the customer. It's always a good idea to know whether you're looking for a

Remember, they're there to help.

When the server brings the bottle you've selected, you should actually listen to the information that he or she usually reviews—producer, variety, vintage, and appellation or any vineyard designates or other qualifications. This is your cue (not after the bottle's been opened!) to say, "Yes, go ahead and open" or, "No, that's not what I wanted." Next the waiter should offer you a taste. This part is important so listen up: The taste is for the sole purpose of finding out if

that doesn't mean you shouldn't learn a little bit about wine in general and more specifically, the wines your restaurant offers. Think of educating yourself as an investment; it'll make you more money in the long run. But if you do ignore my advice and remain "ifly" on the subject of wine, please don't feign expertise when prompted for a suggestion; the wrong wine can ruin a meal/date/meeting night. On the other hand, if you do know something about wine, please don't try to make rent by selling the most expensive bottle. Instead, have a few sug-

Matt Fern is a wine schlep at Seaboard Wine Warehouse and occasionally a server at Poole's Diner. He believes that it's Beaujolais season (but not the nouveau kind).

To send us your idea for a future Uncorked article, or to comment on a current column, please drop us a line to uncorked@raleighdowntowner.com.

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