



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

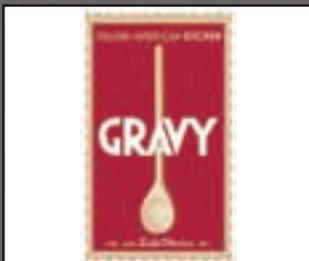
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 5

ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, BUSINESS, DINING, EVENTS, MUSIC, AND MORE

FREE

The 3rd Annual Raleigh Downtowner Magazine SUMMER GUIDE



GRAVY OPENS

The next restaurant from Empire Eats: Italian-American



DOWNTOWN DINING

Dinner at the Raleigh Times Bar and lunch at J. Betski's

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upcoming issue

GOING GREEN. Our 3rd annual green issue! Send your ideas green@raleighdowntowner.com on how we can be more environmentally responsible, save power and energy and recommendations on companies in downtown who are doing their part to be more green.



On the cover Rusted Root performs in front of a generous crowd at this year's Band Together charity event, helping to raise over \$125,000 for the Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood. Learn more about the event on their website www.BandTogethernc.org. | Photo courtesy John Lynner Peterson, Global Village Studio, 919-789-8450 www.globalvillag-estudio.com.

On the left A great crowd showed up for Band Together to see bands Rusted Root, The Rosebuds, Chatham County Line, and Hobex.



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The Downtowner is a local monthly print magazine dedicated to coverage of downtown Raleigh. Our online publication encompasses downtown and the surrounding area. The current print issue, ad rates/media kit, rack locations and archived issues are available at

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If you have suggestions for another location where you'd like to see the Downtowner, email us at delivery@raleighdowntowner.com. We love hearing from our readers!

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 The Paramount

Palladium Plaza
 The Hudson

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 Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
 Office of the Secretary of State
 North Carolina Theatre office
 Broadway Series South box office
 Raleigh Urban Design Center
 Empire Properties
 Raleigh City Museum
 Downtown Raleigh Alliance
 Raleigh Times Bar
 Morning Times
 French | West | Vaughn
 Landmark Tavern
 Sheraton Hotel info desk
 Progress Energy building lobby
 Cooper's BBQ

Capital City Club lounge
 Progress Energy Building
 commissary
 Fins
 Crema
 Raleigh Visitors Center

HILLSBOROUGH ST./NCSU

Second Empire Restaurant
 WRAL-TV5 lobby
 Porter's Restaurant (sidewalk)
 Irregardless Café
 Char-Grill (sidewalk)
 Goodnight's Comedy Club
 Clarion Hotel
 YMCA Hillsborough Street
 Theatre in the Park
 Beansprout Restaurant

CAMERON VILLAGE
 Suntrust Bank

BB&T
 Capital Bank
 Cameron Village Library
 Village Draft House
 York Companies
 Village Deli
 Great Outdoor Provision Company
 Foster's

GLENWOOD SOUTH

Sullivan's Steakhouse
 510 Glenwood business foyer
 510 Glenwood (sidewalk)
 Mellow Mushroom
 Hibernian
 Pouch/Bassment
 Catch 22
 Maximo Salon
 Sushi Blues / Zely & Ritz (sidewalk)
 Helios Coffee Shop (sidewalk)
 Salon 21

The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe
 Primp SalonBar
 Fly Salon
 Lee Hansley Gallery
 Bliss Salon
 Revolver Boutique

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Legislative Building cafe
 Peace Street Pharmacy
 NC Museum of History
 NC Dept. of Labor
 NC Dept. of Agriculture

FIVE POINTS/HAYES BARTON

Hayes Barton Pharmacy
 Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery
 Nofo @ the Pig
 Rialto
 Five Points Post Office (sidewalk)

Third Place Coffee
 Lilly's Pizza
 J. Edwin's Salon
 Hayes Barton Salon
 RE/MAX Capital Realty

SEABOARD STATION

Seaboard Imports
 Seaboard Fitness
 Seaboard Wine
 18 Seaboard (sidewalk)
 Ace Hardware
 Galatea

MOORE SQUARE

Artspace
 Duck and Dumpling
 Tir Na Nog Irish Pub
 Moore Square, by Big Ed's

POWERHOUSE DISTRICT

Blue Martini
 Napper Tandy's
 42nd Street

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Flying Saucer Bar
 The Pit Restaurant
 Jibarra Restaurant
 Deep South—The Bar
 Stuff Consignment

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INVEST IN DOWNTOWN RALEIGH'S

Summer Fun

BY ELIZABETH SHUGG

It's true: signs of the recession are everywhere. Grocery stores accept double coupons daily; families recycle cans for cash; and couples celebrate birthdays at home as the stock market goes up one day, then down the next.

But here's something you can confidently take stock in: downtown Raleigh's summer fun value is trending UP. Free outdoor concerts, educational museum exhibits and Independence Day celebrations represent just a few of the ways you can fit fun into your schedule—and budget—this summer. Here's our list of things to do, so open your calendar and start typing.

Music to Your Wallet's Ears

Experience **Music on the Porch at Seaboard Station** every Friday night from 7–9:30 p.m., June 5–August 28. Seaboard Station is located on the backside parking lot next to Peace China and the bands set up on the porch next to the restaurant. Peace China is sponsoring the music. Peace China has an on-premise license, so customers can enjoy a cold beer during the show, and several businesses will remain open to allow restroom access.



Bud Light Downtown Live returns on Saturdays June 27–August 8 featuring classic bands from the 1980s and 1990s. The Tubes, known for their No. 1 Billboard hit “She’s A Beauty,” play June 27 with The Loners, Acella Veal and Zydecopious. Joan Jett & the Blackhearts headline the July 11 show, accompanied by The Ts, Violet Vector and Schooner.

The devil comes down to North Carolina July 25 when The Charlie Daniels Band arrives in town. Count on Daniels, a North Carolina native, to deliver a down-home, knee-slapping performance with hit songs like “The Devil Went Down to Georgia.” Tonic closes out Bud Light Live Downtown August 8 with hits like “You Wanted More” and “If You Could Only See.” All concerts are free and take place from 2–11 p.m. in Moore Square. Learn more at www.raleigh-downtownlive.com.



The **Summer in the Park Concert Series** is a free event held for over ten years in Fred Fletcher Park just off Glenwood Avenue near Peace Street. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy an evening in the park with concerts beginning at 6pm. The City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department Arts Program sponsors the series, which continues throughout the summer every Sunday evening except July 5. A partial listing of bands and more information can be found on the city's website at <http://bit.ly/cn9Pv> or by calling Thea Fotiu, Arts Program Director for the Parks and Recreation Department at 919.831.6854.

Downtown music fans will be excited to hear that the Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is resurrecting Raleigh's favorite after-work music series, the original **Alive After Five**. Fayetteville Street will come alive later this summer with thousands of young to middle-aged fans enjoying music and socializing on Thursdays, transitioning from work to play on Raleigh's main street. Licensing the name from the original sponsor, WRAL, the new Alive After Five will follow in the footsteps as the original downtown event, complete with great bands, a local crowd and plenty of food and drink. The music series name is owned by WRAL and has been absent for a number

of years (we don't count the three that took place off Glenwood as being part of the original), with the radio station fielding calls almost daily asking when the event will return. At the suggestion of WRAL owner, Jim Goodmon, the Downtowner started making plans to make it happen. This year's event will be better than ever, involving local charities and merchants as well the art community to add a few twists to the unique event. More news and dates will be announced soon from the Downtowner.

Music for a Cause

Enjoy a night of classical music, champagne and chocolate July 2 from 8:30–10:30 p.m. at the Murphrey School's new Meymandi Theatre at 224 Polk Street. That's when the Brussels Chamber Orchestra will perform the opening gala concert to benefit the **Cross Currents Chamber Music and Arts Festival**. One of Europe's most promising young orchestras, The Brussels Chamber Orchestra will perform the Vivaldi Four Seasons with Nana Kawamura as violin soloist. Tickets cost \$50 and are available through the Free Range Studio by calling 919.821.3478 or emailing cjknowles@earthlink.net. Make checks payable to Friends of the Brussels Chamber Orchestra (a 501(c)(3) organization, so 50 percent of the ticket price is tax deductible). You can also use your ticket stub for free entry to Music Day at Marbles July 11 at Marbles Kids Museum (one ticket per each entry). Learn more at www.crosscurrentsfestival.com or www.brusselschamberorchestra.com.



Museum + Music + Movies

The summer concerts return to the North Carolina Museum of Art on Blue Ridge Road and are held in the Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Outdoor Theatre on

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Saturdays (with a couple of Friday shows). Featuring a lineup of great bands, the NCMA Summer Concerts are a popular destination each summer. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnics for the events (sans alcohol), but great food is also available on site at Blue Ridge, the Museum restaurant. Ticket prices vary according to artist and Museum members receive a discount.

Shows this summer include the Toubab Krewe Dance Party June 20, Sisters of Soul Bettye Lavette and Marcia Ball July 10, Dan Zanes and Friends July 18, local bands The Annuals and The Old Ceremony July 25, Chicago Blues Tribute featuring Hubert Sumlin and Bob Margolin (followed by a screening of Cadillac Records) on August 8, a blues/stringband extravaganza with Algia Mae Hinton, Willette Hinton, Lightning' Wells, John Dee Holeman, Phil Wiggins, and Wayne Martin and the Buggy Riders (followed by a screen of Godfrey Cheshire's Moving Midway) August 29, Paperhand Puppet Intervention on September 11 and 12, They Might Be Giants September 19, and Doc Watson/ David Volt on September 26. Get a full description and ticket prices at www.ncartmuseum.org/events/summerconcert.shtml. You can also pre-purchase tickets as well.

The Movies on the Lawn are also held at the Museum of Art. General admission is just \$3 and FREE to Museum members (yet another reason to join). This summer's movie lineup includes Frost/Nixon June 13, Man on Wire June 19, Dhoom: 2 June 26, Slumdog Millionaire June 27, Kung Fu Panda July 11, Milk July 17, Young at Heart July 24, Iron Man July 31, Kit Kittrege August 1, The Class August 7, The Visitor August 14, The Duchess August 21, The Sting with Paul Newman August 22, Gone with the Wind August 28.

Music for the Masses

Walnut Creek's summer concert series kicked off at the Time Warner Cable Music Pavilion June 6 with Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley and Jimmy Wayne. Additional June shows include No Doubt and Paramore, and Bad Company and The Doobie Brothers June 23.



July shows include 311 with special guests Ziggy Marley and The Expendables July 5, Aerosmith with ZZ Top July 7, Toby Keith with Trace Adkins July 11, and Kid Rock with Lynyrd Skynyrd July 24.

On August 1 you can see Nickelback, Hinder, Papa Roach, and Saving Abel. Rascal Flatts and Darius Rucker will perform the very next night, August 2. Coldplay, one of today's hottest bands, arrives in town August 6. And on August 7 Def Leopard, Poison and Cheap Trick will put on a heavy metal show in preparation for Crue Fest 2 on August 23. Creed is in town September 4, and The Allman Brothers Band and Widespread Panic perform October 11. Visit www.livenation.com for more information and to order tickets.



Next Door in Cary

The Koka Booth Amphitheatre in Cary is unlike any other venue in the area. Located among 14 acres of stately hardwoods and pines and situated next to Symphony Lake, the park has a capacity for 7,000 with seating both

on the spacious lawn and the specially-designed crescent deck. It's one of our favorite destinations to enjoy an outside show.

This year's impressive lineup includes Elvis Costello June 14, the Summerfest Symphony series where flip-flops are perfect attire for listening to the NC Symphony outdoors: Movie Soundtracks Under the Stars June 20; Cirque de la Symphonie June 27; Independence Day Concert/Fireworks (FREE!) July 4; Play-a-Video Game Symphony July 11; and Russian Masterpieces July 18; John Legend with India. Arie July 12; Corey Smith July 17; Robert Cray with Shemekia Copeland July 23; Jason Mraz with G. Love and Special Sauce July 29; The Soul Picnic with Mint Condition, Doug E. Fresh, Carl Thomas on August 8; Beer, Bourbon and BBQ Festival August 15; O.A.R. August 23; 2nd Annual Benefit Concert for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame September 6; Stryper, Pillar, Rush of Fools, Flight Patterns, Barlow-girl, Superchik and VOTA October 17; and Bonnie Raitt October 18.



On Thursday nights from June until August, the Booth Amphitheatre also plays host to **Movies by Moonlight**. Movie buffs are invited to attend this family-friendly event to watch movies under the stars. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a movie for \$3 (kids under 12 are free). Gates open at 7 p.m., and movies start at dusk. You can feel even better

about watching the movie since 75 cents of every ticket sold is donated to the Just for Kids Campaign at WakeMed.

Movies this summer include Kung Fu Panda June 11, Moonstruck June 18, Made of Honor June 25, Wait Until Dark July 2, He's Just Not That Into You July 9, Twilight July 16, Blade of Glory July 30, Mama Mia August 6, and Tales of Despereaux August 13.

An Old-Fashioned Outdoor Drive-In

Okay, it's a bit of a drive, but it's worth it to enjoy North Carolina's oldest operating drive-in theatre, The Raleigh Road Outdoor Theatre in Henderson (3336 Raleigh Road). In 2006, the new owners renovated and restored the theatre so a new generation of movie-goers can experience the old fashioned enjoyment of watching a drive-in movie. Movie listings and directions can be found at www.raleighroad-drivein.com. Their movie line is 252.438.6959.

First Friday Downtown

First Friday is one of Raleigh's most popular evening events. Enjoy a free self-guided tour of local art galleries, studios, museums, retail, restaurants, and alternative art venues. Music, beverages and finger food are available at most locations. To get around, drive, take a rickshaw, ride the free R-line circulator bus, or join the Raleigh First Friday bicycle crew (just show up at the NCSU Bell Tower at 7 p.m. with your bike). Look for the First Friday flags outside



local businesses and pick up a free map, which can be found at most locations. For a downloadable First Friday map and location listing, visit www.Raleigh-Downtowner.com/firstfriday. We'll be adding new photos of the First Friday venues, with a few new locations each month.

Get Out for Fun

Take sports in a totally different—and social—direction with the TRI SPORTS Social Club. This organization, also known as MEETandCOMPETE.com, assembles Triangle professionals of all ages for a myriad of sports such as basketball, beach volleyball, flag football, kickball, and even broomball. All sports are co-ed and full teams, groups of friends and individuals are encouraged to register for leagues. They also have an extensive social calendar of summer



activities including an annual visit to Spain for the La Tomatina Tomato Fight. Find out more at www.trissc.com.

American Celebrations

Celebrate the North Carolina State Capitol's 169th birthday this year at a party serving up barbecue and live music. Call 919.733.4994 for more information.

When July Fourth rolls around, you've got urban and suburban options for where to celebrate. The annual Independence Day celebration at the North Carolina State Capitol will once again feature a patriotic concert and picnic, and "Old Fashioned Fourth" area depicting how North Carolinians celebrated the holiday long ago, musical performances, food, and

historic demonstrators. The event takes place on the Capitol grounds from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Learn more at www.ncstatecapitol.org.

The Triangle's largest Independence Day celebration returns to the Koka Booth Amphitheatre at Regency Park in Cary July 4. The North Carolina Symphony will perform, lead by Assistant Conductor Joan Landry and featuring Resident Conductor and Summerfest Artistic Director, William Henry Curry. Fireworks sponsored by the Town of Cary will follow the concert, which is free. Gates open at 5pm and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. Learn more at www.ncsymphony.org and www.boothamphitheatre.com/summerfest.htm.

Gates for the N.C. State Fairgrounds' free July Fourth Celebration open at 5:30 p.m., with games, inflatables, music, and more lasting until about 8:30 p.m. Fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, all indoor activities will remain as scheduled and the fireworks display will be rescheduled for July 5 at 9 p.m. Visit www.ncstatefair.org/events/7-09.htm for details.

Start celebrating Independence Day July 3 during Raleigh's First Friday Gallery Walk. Sponsored by the Downtown Raleigh Alliance and the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, First Friday is one of downtown

Raleigh's most popular traditions, offering participants an opportunity to tour the city's art, music and dining scene from 6–9 p.m. the first Friday of every month. Just look for First Friday flags to locate participating venues. Visit www.godowntownraleigh.com/FirstFriday for additional information.



Museum Musings

The N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences has opened its doors to a delectable special exhibit through September 7. "Chocolate" offers a deliciously unforgettable journey through the sumptuous treat's history. The story begins in the rainforest with the unique cacao tree, whose seeds provide the foundation for making

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EMPIRE Eats

UNCOMMON EXPERIENCES, DOWNTOWN RALEIGH



chocolate, which has served as gifts for the gods and a symbol of wealth and luxury. It continues with a presentation of how the ancient Mayans in Central America used chocolate nearly 1,500 years ago and how the Aztec civilization of 16th-century Mexico valued cacao seeds as though it were money. Upperclass European society's discovery of chocolate helped transform chocolate into a mass-produced world commodity.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$5 for members of the military, \$5 for students, \$4 for children age 5-11, and free for children under age 5 and museum members. Learn more at <http://natural-sciences.org>.

Kids will love the N.C. Museum of History's "Knights of the Black Flag" exhibit which explores the legacy of the high seas' most infamous rogues. View perfectly-preserved artifacts and learn about pirate legends and history. Admission is free for ages 18 and under, \$5 for ages 19 and up, and \$4 for senior citizens, active military personnel, and adult groups of 10 or more.

Another exhibit at the N.C. Museum of History, "Elected to Serve: North Carolina's Governors," explores how governors have helped shape North Carolina through contributions to agriculture, industry, education, and other areas. You can even view dresses the First Ladies and Gov. Beverly Purdue wore to inaugural balls over the years. For additional information, visit <http://ncmuseumofhistory.org>.

A Healthy Market

The Moore Square Farmers Market offers downtown residents fresh produce from local farms every Wednesday from 10:30 am-2 pm through August. Meet local growers and artisans; experience the chef series, live music, and rotating crafters on select dates; and pick up a delicious lunch provided by a local restaurant. Go to www.godowntownraleigh.com/farmersmarket for more information.

For fresh produce and NC goodness seven days a week, visit the



State Farmers Market just across the MLK Expressway on Lake Wheeler Road (exit 287 off I-40). Covering 75 acres, the modern facility has plenty of outdoor covered produce and goods for sale as well as up to 225,000 feet of climate-controlled, all-season retail and wholesale spaces. Visit <http://bit.ly/farmersmarket> or www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/facilities/markets/raleigh for hours and more details.

Getting Around

If you haven't ridden an historic Raleigh Trolley, plan to take a tour this summer. Raleigh Trolleys operate every Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm through December and depart from Mordecai Historic Park on the hour. The narrated tour lasts about an hour with stops throughout downtown. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for ages 7-17. Children 6 and under can ride for free. For more information contact Mordecai Historic Park at 919.857.4364.

Complete your outdoor experience this summer by hailing a Raleigh Rickshaw. Drivers ensure customer comfort and some play music through iPods connected to small speakers. All Raleigh Rickshaw drivers have taken training classes through the Raleigh City Museum to learn more about the city's history to share with customers as they ride through town. Learn more about Raleigh Rickshaws, their

drivers and how to reserve one for your next outing at www.raleighrickshaw.com.

Kid-Approved

Kids have nearly as many—if not more—options for how to spend their summer downtown as adults do. Here are ways to entertain the troops as the mercury rises.

- N.C. Museum of Art Outdoor Movies: "Kung Fu Panda" on July 11 and "Kit Kittredge: An American Girl" on August 1.
- Marbles Kids Museum: www.marbleskidsmuseum.org
- Moore Square Farmers Market: www.godowntownraleigh.com/farmersmarket
- N.C. State Farmers Market: www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/facilities/markets/raleigh
- N.C. Symphony's Summer Concert Series: www.ncsymphony.org
- The Magnificent Mile Race and Fun Run: www.ncroadrunners.org/magmile/index.html
- Parks and Hiking: visit www.triangletracks.com/notes/Outdoor_TRACKS for a complete list of parks and hiking trails in Raleigh and throughout the Triangle
- Raleigh Rickshaw Rides: www.raleighrickshaw.com
- Historic Raleigh Trolley: www.raleighnc.gov (type "trolley" in search window)



For a complete listing of children's events being held throughout the Triangle this summer, including FREE summer movies, click on www.triangletracks.com/events.

Elizabeth Shugg is a writer in Apex.

blue grass • bloody marys • bbq
 last sunday of the month
 march-september
 starts at 2pm
 605 Glenwood Avenue
 919.239.4926
 7 days, 5pm to 2am
www.brooklynheightsbar.com
 Must be 21+ for membership
 Memberships available online

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Friday, June 19
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802 Semart Drive, Suite #106
 In the rear parking lot of Seaboard Station off Peace Street
833.8668 • www.seaboardmusic.com



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

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This Month's Reader Rewards

- Four tickets to an upcoming **Broadway Series South** show. Broadway quality shows brought directly to you. www.broadwayseriesouth.com
- Four tickets to an upcoming **Carolina Ballet** performance. Experience world-class ballet here in Raleigh. www.carolinaballet.com
- Four \$30 **Segway Guided Tours** from Triangle Segway, located in City Market next to Moore

Square. Take a memorable sightseeing adventure of Raleigh's historic landmarks on an eco-friendly self-balancing Segway. www.trianglesegway.com

- Four \$25 gift certificates to **The Mint Restaurant** located on Fayetteville Street, in the heart of downtown. www.themintrestaurant.com
- Four \$25 gift certificates to **Solas**. Dine, lounge, roof. Raleigh's all-inclusive three-floor restaurant, dance lounge and rooftop experience. www.solasraleigh.com
- Four \$25 gift certificates to **The Oxford**. A British gastropub in the heart of downtown Raleigh. www.oxfordraleigh.com
- Four \$25 gift certificates to **Sono**. Sleek. Sexy. Sushi. Downtown. www.sonoraleigh.com

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The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is searching for contributing writers and photographers for both our print and web editions. If you're passionate about any of the topics below, or have a new idea you'd like to pitch, send us an email to writers@raleighdowntowner.com.

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|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Music | Travel | Books |
| Events | Sports | Movies |
| Fashion | Investing | Cooking |
| Nightlife | Government | Real Estate |
| Visual Arts | Environment | Photography |
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RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE



ARTISTPROFILE

The Abstract World of Gerry Lynch BY LEE HANSLEY

Art is made in as many diverse environments as the art itself—kitchen tables and countertops, basements and bedrooms, makeshift backyard shacks and even plush studio buildings designed for the express purpose of making art. Some of the best art can be made in the most unlikely spaces. A good example in downtown Raleigh is the work of Gerry Lynch which is created on the second floor of an old commercial building in Boylan Heights. The studio features an array of windows overlooking a railroad track and just beyond and framed in razor wire, the bland and brutal landscape of maximum security Central Prison. However, Lynch's work has no relationship to what she sees through that expanse of windows.

Her work, rooted in modernism and specifically in expressionism, embodies the pathos of her

ambiguous subjects. Only occasionally do her titles provide a clue for what the artist may be trying to evoke. But the subject that sets the artist off on her journey doesn't really matter. The viewer can come to his own conclusion, relating on a visceral level.

Gerry's studio is itself a work in progress. There are racks and racks of finished panels and canvases, hundreds of tubes of paint in various stages of use, containers filled with brushes and other implements used in crafting her surfaces. Scraps of canvas, printed images from post cards, books and magazines for inspiration and reference and bits and pieces of cut metal that look like they've been through the shredder surround her. All this goes into the artmaking of Gerry Lynch. This studio is a reflection of her art and the nucleus of her own peculiar world.

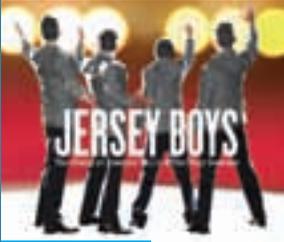


STRAIGHT FROM BROADWAY

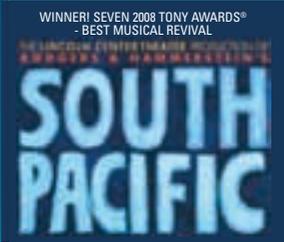
BROADWAY

09/10

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HOLIDAY
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XANADU
2/9-2/14



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Prairie
The Musical
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Riverdance
5/4-5/9

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The artist has a very open approach regarding use of materials. Virtually anything and everything that can be applied to canvas or panel are fodder for Gerry. Lately her works have incorporated more metal than paint. These works have a distinctly urban aesthetic; they reference the throwaway-attitude of the machine age with built-in obsolescence. She takes the society's jetsam, retools and manipulates it, twist and folds it, bends and cuts it to create something new. The canvas or panel becomes the backdrop for the pieces that are applied and it establishes a parameter for viewing a carefully placed assemblage of objects. Something new is born.

Gerry, who is surprisingly youthful for her 71 years, grew up in Boston and earned an education degree at Boston State College (now Massachusetts University), and later a Master's Degree in painting and textile design at Montclair University in 1988.

Gerry moved to Raleigh in 1990 when her husband Bill Lynch accepted a job offer at a semiconductor firm in Research Triangle Park. For the first time in her life, Gerry declared herself a full-time artist and rented a studio at ArtSpace. While there she mainly made monoprints and small to midsize paintings. She began to feel confined and wanted to burst forth with larger works. She moved about five years ago to her current studio where she is free to work in a much larger space.



She had begun to explore the use of metal before she relocated the studio, but she purposely focused on metal in her art at the new light-filled studio on Lenoir Street. She began cutting up strips of metal and using them in her work, adhering metal to canvas and panel alike. There were like collage elements in her work. From there she graduated to using metal as her ground and she began etching into the metal surfaces.

Unfortunately for Lynch, about the time she moved her studio, metal skyrocketed in price. The price of metal forced her to think smaller. As a direct reaction to what was going on in Iraq, she began faceting small metal objects that hung in groups. She called these works IEDs (improvised explosive devices). She made over 200 of her IEDs from metal and other found objects. Oddly, most are delicate and alluringly beautiful as objects.

"Things aren't always what they appear," Lynch says of her Iraq-inspired pieces. "People are getting

killed and kids are being blown up from these shiny objects that are really deadly, yet look appealing and beautiful. I was never able to make the objects appear menacing," she states.

One cannot encounter the work of Gerry Lynch without feeling an Asian influence. Her brush work and her overall aesthetic are Asian. The sparseness or negative space in her work reinforces and emphasizes the areas where design elements are employed.

She currently has a large polyptych (a work of art composed of several connected panels) entitled "Six Days in May" on permanent display in the lobby of the Fletcher Opera Theatre at the performing arts center downtown and two large-scale paper pieces on loan and displayed on the ballroom level of the new Raleigh Convention Center.

While she was in ArtSpace, Gerry Lynch was clearly one of the most consistent and inventive artists housed there. Her studio was where you could always expect to experience something new and inventive, a surprise even. Now that her studio is much more private, her work is now more creative and solid.

When asked what's next for Gerry Lynch, she admits, "I'd like for my work to be recognized by the museum."

Is anybody paying attention on Blue Ridge Road?

Lee Hansley is a former newspaper editor, museum curator and now owns Lee Hansley Gallery on Glenwood South.

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Gravy Opens Downtown

BY CRASH GREGG

In its fifth establishment downtown, Empire Eats—a sister company of Empire Properties, owned by developer turned restaurateur/downtown advocate Greg Hatem—has now added Italian-American to their list of restaurant offerings with the recently-opened Gravy.

First, you might ask, what does the name mean? We've had people ask if the restaurant will feature Southern fare, assuming that gravy meant one of the staples of

sauce, more or less, not Southern gravy.

When Greg and his wife, Samantha Smith of the News & Observer fashion column, began dating, they would venture into North Raleigh to Bella Monica where they could enjoy dinner outside the downtown "fishbowl." Samantha had previously met the owners, Corbett and Julie Monica, while writing her retail beat for the N&O she got to know them. Fast forward a year or two years and Greg is trying to help them find a space downtown. The timing wasn't right for Bella so nothing resulted from the search. When one of Greg's commercial tenants closed up shop, Riviera Resto, it left a restaurant-ready space opening. With no takers in the slow economy, talks began again with the Monicas (plus Trevor Chambers, Julie's brother-in-law) and a partnership was formed. With Empire Eats concentrating on its strong suit, running restaurants downtown, it let Bella Monica and its chef focus on the culinary aspects of the restaurant.

Speaking with Corbett and Greg while at a recent pre-opening dinner at Gravy, Corbett told us, "Gravy will be reminiscent of a village restaurant in Manhattan. We're taking some elements from Bella and contemporizing them. Many of our original menu items will be there, but with a twist. Our wine list will be all-Italian, with a lot of boutique wines rather than all large winery labels."

"We're really excited about this project because nothing exists like this in Raleigh," Greg explained. "We're not doing a Bella Monica II. Gravy will be an Italian-American restaurant. We're not pretending to go back to Sicily, just great food like you'd find in New York or Philly or cities where

there's a heavy Italian community influence. We're taking some of their staples and then adding other chef-driven plates. The restaurant will have its own chef, Roeh Lewit, and not just a kitchen manager. Roeh is excited about this project and has put his own mark on it, which is what we wanted—something chef-driven. He was able to take the vision of our partners and put his particular spin on it."

Chef Roeh's most recent from a stint at Gjelina in Venice, California, and previously at Riviera Resto, the space's last tenant. His thoughts on Gravy, "I would describe Gravy as having the familiarity and freshness of home-cooking, but done with downtown attitude and style. Everything will be done from scratch, in-house. It'll be like a having a great meal at home, but with 100 other friends joining you. Jatie, previously at Vin, will be our Sous Chef, and we're working on some great ideas that you'll see on the menu here at Gravy."

Noting the quickness of the last project's completion, it's apparent that Empire Eats restaurant know-how has grown since their first venture in the Duck & Dumping several years prior. Proud of their accomplishments, Greg agreed, "We're getting better and better at it. We have a clearer vision about what we're trying to create at the beginning, and the team that we have now is absolutely amazing, from the chefs all the way to the servers. One thing I think people understand now is what Empire Eats is. They know the high caliber of food and service that our restaurants provide. That's why we work with folks like David Mao (The Duck & Dumping), Ed Mitchell and Loren Thompson (The Pit) and Corey Palakovich (Raleigh Times). And that's why we're able to attract

the best and brightest from all over who want to work in our restaurants."

Gravy will be open for lunch and dinner six days a week, Monday through Saturday, opening at 11am daily, closing at 10pm weekdays and midnight on the weekend. The average lunch price will be around \$10, with dinner in the \$10-18 range. A full bar is available in addition to a food-friendly Italian wine list. 🍷

PHOTO Gravy Chef Roeh Lewit with co-owners Greg Hatem, Trevor Chambers and Corbett Monica (being the proud new father that he is, Greg wanted to make sure we noticed the baby bottle in his shirt pocket)



good-old fashioned cooking: brown gravy. Not even close. The word gravy was used by early Italian-American immigrants to describe pasta sauce used as a condiment. In Italy, there are two types of sauce, *sugo* and *salsa*. Sugo comes from *succo* (meaning juices) and refers to rich meat-based sauces or a thick vegetable sauce. Salsa is a semi-liquid sauce used as a condiment (like spaghetti sauce). The translation from sugo/salsa to sauce/gravy may have occurred when immigrating families first settled into new neighborhoods in America. Some families translated the Italian for what they put on their pasta as gravy, while others translated it as sauce, and the expressions have been passed down through the generations ever since. So Gravy = pasta

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Hot Summer Nights Sizzles with a New Team

BY HILARY RUSSO

Hitting Five Never Felt So Hot! As Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy enters its fifth season, it will be under the direction of someone new, someone who plans to go full steam ahead—Raleigh native and Broadway actress Lauren Kennedy. Taking over a theatre company is no stretch for Lauren as acting is in her blood and her family's name is on the building, after all.

"This kind of grassroots operation has always been exciting for me. I love being surrounded by people who just want to tell stories and entertain," says Lauren. "Raleigh has been building a wonderful arts community and I want to be a part of it."

This professional summer theatre company started in June 2005 when Lauren's father, Raleigh business man K.D. Kennedy, Jr., and her younger brother Michael had a vision: The Kennedy men wanted to help promote downtown Raleigh's revitalization by keeping the arts alive during the summer months, a time when most people leave for the beach.

During the last four seasons, Hot Summer Nights has been called one of the best theatres in the Triangle, pulling in the combined talents from both Broadway and North Carolina. For Lauren, the combination sparked an even better ensemble ... a staff consisting of not only her husband, Tony Award-nominated actor Alan Campbell, but also local professional actors Adam Twiss, Andrea Twiss and Hilary Russo. Everyone on staff this year has worked with Hot Summer Nights in the past, so The Fab Five are a perfect match in Lauren's opinion. "We have collected an incredible group of actors and creators. We love what we do and are passionate about keeping the theatre a vital place."



College, Hot Summer Nights' sister school in Wilson, NC. Lauren and Alan believe that this partnership with Barton will help keep the ideas and creativity flowing.

"I want to continue to educate as well as entertain," explains Lauren. "I want to offer workshops and master classes with professionals in addition to the concept that seeing good theatre helps you recognize good theatre."

For more on Hot Summer Nights, visit: www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org.

Hilary Russo is a professional actor, on-air talent and publicist. She can be seen hosting the independent film show "Second Cinema" statewide on Time Warner Cable. She is also an award-winning broadcast journalist and writer. Visit www.hilaryrusso.com

PHOTO The new Fab 5 at HSN (L to R): Adam Twiss, Andrea Schulz Twiss, Alan Campbell, Lauren Kennedy, and Hilary Russo. Photo by Katherine Kennedy.

Other changes are also in the works. The theatre is taking a "recession-friendly" approach by not only lowering their ticket prices (\$18-\$22), but also producing four shows instead of the usual six. "Sylvia" (June 17-28), "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" (July 8-19) and "The Turn of the Screw" (July 29-August 9) will be shown at the intimate 100-seat Kennedy Theatre, part of the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. "Drift" (September 12-20), a new musical by Lauren's friend and New York composer Jeremy Schoenfeld, will be performed at the new Lauren Kennedy and Alan Campbell Theatre at Barton

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What is SPARKcon? It's a four-day celebration of the creativity from around the Triangle community. This year on September 17-20, Raleigh's Fayetteville Street, as well as public spaces, clubs, and stages will be filled with art, music, dance, film, fashion, design and much more.

SPARKcon celebrates local cultural richness through an open-source approach to diversity, collaboration and cross pollination. It's not a city program, a non-profit, or an economic development stunt. It's completely grass-roots "by the people for the people." Join as downtown Raleigh explores and showcases the creative spirit of the Triangle.

Beginning on June 16, SPARKcon will be soliciting the latest and greatest of deepest natural resources—our own creativity. Whether its fashion, poetry, dance, graffiti, community ideas, or other modes of expression, we want to showcase the best we all have to offer.

Visit their website at sparkcon.com and check out the entry forms for this year's SPARK events.

The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is a proud sponsor of SPARKcon and active member in musicSPARK, storySPARK, and artSPARK. More volunteers and sponsors are needed, so visit www.sparkcon.com for more information on how you can help.

calls for participants and other info at sparkcon.com

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Raleigh Times Bar BY BRIAN ADORNETTO

Located in the completely restored 103-year-old Times building, The Raleigh Times Bar is steeped in history. As soon as you walk in you'll see a 20-foot-long photo taken in 1912 of paper boys picking up their stack of newspapers in front of this same building, the old home of the Raleigh Times newspaper. Lining the rest of the exposed brick and stripped plaster walls are photos, clippings and artifacts from important events and people that helped shape the city of Raleigh. The idea behind the decor was to highlight the local culture, and that it certainly does.

Even though the building was kept as close to its original state as possible, it has modern industrial elements, a contemporary menu and an expansive beer list that includes the newest brews as well as old favorites (like PBR). The space itself is broken into three sections: Through the front door is the main bar area and tables in front and back; on the right is a separated dining room. For smokers, there's the

Smoking Times on the left which features another full bar (hand carved in 1865 in Bayonne, NJ) as well as additional tables.

Akin to the personality of the bar's feel, the staff is laid back and fun. It's obvious that they're there not only to serve but also to make sure you have a great time. And that's exactly what our server, Christmas, did.

Though we've previously done a Let's Do Lunch article on the Times back in October of 2006, we felt obliged to revisit for dinner. The menu has changed quite a bit since our last profile and the Times is perfect for a casual dinner before heading to a show at the Progress Energy Center or discovering the ever-growing nightlife options downtown. The menu at The

Raleigh Times Bar (designed to look like a 1912 edition of the namesake's newspaper) is a mix of gourmet sandwiches, salads, full plates, and upscale twists on traditional bar food. From the sandwich section, we sampled the French Dip (slices of house roasted prime rib and melted provolone topped with caramelized balsamic onions and natural jus), the Buffalo Chicken, and the hulking Raleigh Times Burger (made with a half pound of fresh house-ground beef). All were perfectly cooked and so well seasoned that we were unable to decide which we liked best.

We also had the entrée-sized Chop Salad and Country French Salad. The Chop Salad was absolutely delicious with fresh bacon, creamy gorgonzola, and crunchy fennel. It was simultaneously smoky, tangy, sweet, and salty. The texturally-intriguing Country French Salad was a huge hit with our table as well. This salad features flavorful roasted beets, blue cheese, fresh pears, and walnuts. The



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- Michael Feinstein: The Sinatra Project Saturday, June 13
Standing in for the NC Symphony 7:30 pm
- Elvis Costello & the Sugarcanes Sunday, June 14
7:30 pm

JULY

- John Legend with special guest India.Aire Sunday, July 12
- Corey Smith Friday, July 17
- Robert Cray Band Thursday, July 23
- Jason Mraz w/special guest G. Love & Special Sauce Wednesday, July 29

AUGUST

- Soul Picnic featuring Mint Condition, Doug E. Fresh and more Saturday, August 8
- Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival Saturday, August 15
- O.A.R. Sunday, August 23

SEPTEMBER

- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Benefit Concert II Sunday, September 6

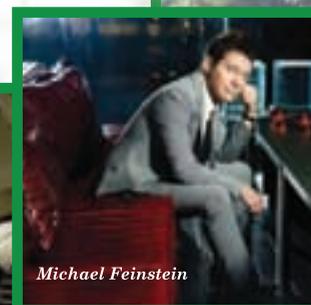
OCTOBER

- LifeFest featuring Stryper, Pillar, Barlowgirl and more Saturday, October 17
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GM David McCants and Chef Corey Palakovich

ingredient that made this dish so memorable, though, was the Kriek vinaigrette made with a Belgian lambic *Oude Beersel Kriek Vieille*, a wild-fermented wheat beer. It added a fruity, slightly sour complexity to the salad and was like no other dressing we had ever tasted in town.

For a vegetarian dish, we found the Cannellini Bean Cakes crunchy and moist, and most importantly, extremely satisfying. Served on a bed of sautéed leeks and sun dried tomatoes, this dish showcased Chef Corey Palakovich's creativity and understanding of complimentary flavors.

The standouts among the bar fare were the BBQ Pork nachos (made with

Ed Mitchell's famous barbeque) and the Fried Calamari. The nachos were everyone's choice as best overall dish. The combination of house-fried chips, homemade pico de gallo (fresh Mexican salsa), queso fresco (a white, soft, moist, crumbly, mildly flavored Mexican cheese), fresh jalapenos, and BBQ pork is outrageous. The Times Bar's calamari is not your run of the mill greasy marinara-laden pub fare—crisp, light and tossed with diced fresh tomatoes, feta cheese, olives, lemon juice, and a touch of garlic—making it another impressive dish in Chef Corey's repertoire, as well as my personal favorite. We can't go without mentioning the Chicken Fried Pickles just because they're pickles... that are fried. Not a side for everyone, but we found them to be pretty tasty, especially with the roasted garlic ranch dipping sauce.

But the food isn't the only reason to visit. The Raleigh Times Bar is a beer-lover's paradise. Its diverse inventory includes rare boutique beers whose flavor you might not even recognize as beer, as well as local microbrews. General Manager David McCants

explains, "Our idea is to capture the most stylistically correct brews. It doesn't matter if they come from small farms in Belgium or airport hangers in Fuquay-Varina. We want it to be all about the beer." But beer isn't the only beverage of choice. Bartenders here whip up amazing cocktails featuring delicious homemade mixers made from only the freshest ingredients.

The Raleigh Times Bar is a great place for dinner, lunch, or a late-night snack and drinks. It has a fun atmosphere, creative and tasty food, a remarkable beer list, and friendly, knowledgeable staff. It's clear why this place is such a popular downtown destination seven days a week. 🍷

Our favorite local foodie, Fred Benton, is taking some time off from his Food Editor position at the Downtowner.

Brian Adornetto is a culinary instructor, freelance food writer and personal chef. He teaches regularly at A Southern Season in Chapel Hill and his business, Love at First Bite, offers private cooking classes and intimate dinner parties. For more information, please visit him at www.loveatfirstbite.net.

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Batter Up! A Look at the History of Baseball in Raleigh

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

Baseball first made its way into the hearts of Raleigh citizens when the Union Army occupied Raleigh at the end of the Civil War in 1865. Raleigh did not experience any battles within the immediate area and to pass the time Union troops amused themselves with a popular northern pastime, baseball. Civil War soldiers played at Baptist Grove (now Moore Square), Camp Russell, and Nash Square.

Raleigh citizens quickly fell in love with baseball and the earliest baseball diamond, created in 1866, was built on a plateau overlooking the city near the Joel Lane home. Around this time, Wake Forest students also created a baseball diamond and played against nearby communities.

Segregation dominated baseball's first years in Raleigh. Early white teams included the Athletics, Swiftfoots, and Stars. African-American teams such as the Pastimes and Socials also adopted baseball early on, though it would be many years before teams integrated or played against one another. The Nationals were the most popular African-American team and boasted higher attendance than their white counterparts.



Local teams took up collections to buy their uniforms. At games, winning teams received a ball and bat as their prize, an



important means of collecting necessary equipment. Protective gear, however, did not exist in the early years of baseball in Raleigh. By 1885 several cities formed the North Carolina Baseball Association and the game became more organized. During this time, professional players were hired to a small extent, though they were eventually let go for economic reasons.

William Wynne is considered the first North Carolinian to play for the major leagues. Born in 1869, he played for the Raleigh Amateurs in the 1880s. He later went on to play for the Washington Senators of the National League in 1894. Wynne once pitched seven games in six days with an open gunshot wound in his right arm. Ever the character, Wynne was the first person recorded to ride a bicycle down the Capitol steps and then attempted to ride down the steps of the Washington Monument only to have his bicycle seized by guards. Wynne also started the radio station, WRCO in 1924, which he later

sold to Durham Life Insurance, becoming WPTF in 1929.

As Raleigh moved into the 1900s, new baseball clubs such as the Capitals were born and the city began to see a wider division between professional and amateur leagues. Many neighborhoods had their own amateur team and often played games for local charities. Local businesses competed against one another and women's teams were recorded as early as 1889.

On a professional level, the Capitals served as Raleigh's minor league team for several decades and played at Devereux Meadow Baseball Park. The Capitals enjoyed many exciting seasons, especially in 1959 when Carl Yastrzemski (he went on to play for the Boston Red Sox) was voted Most Valuable Player. Interest in minor league baseball tapered off in the 1960s, and by 1971, Raleigh was without a minor league team. In 1991, minor league baseball returned to Raleigh in the form of the Carolina Mudcats. Today Raleigh citizens have their pick of two local teams, the Carolina Mudcats and the Durham Bulls, showing us that baseball is alive and well around our capital city. 🏆

*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. Check out our newest exhibit, **Portraits of Raleigh: Images of a City and Her People**, which opened to the public March 6, 2009. Part two of **Portraits of Raleigh**, titled **Series II**, opened to the public Friday, June 5, 2009 at 6pm. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.*



PHOTOS Left: 1949 St. Augustine's College baseball team. Center: Raleigh High School baseball players, circa 1950s.

High School Musical 2 Hits Raleigh

BY KRISTIN BUIE

North Carolina Theatre announces the regional premiere of Disney's *High School Musical 2*, presented by Capital Bank. Round two with the East High Wildcats runs June 13-21 at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. The story picks up where *High School Musical* left off; only the setting has changed. School's out for the summer as Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, and their East High friends land cool summer jobs at Lava Springs Country Club. The club's annual talent show is around the corner and Troy agrees to sing with Sharpay. The drama unfolds between Troy and Gabriella as they wonder if their love will survive the summer break. *High School Musical 2* is packed with high-energy dance numbers and the songs you know and love from the movie—like "All for One," "Fabulous" and "You Are the Music in Me."

North Carolina Theatre's production of Disney's *High School Musical* in the spring of 2007 was one of the top grossing shows in the theatre's history. When auditions for the second installment of the Disney franchise were held at Crabtree Valley Mall earlier this year, over 180 teens showed up. After four rounds of

auditions, locally and in New York City, 50 talented youngsters were chosen.

Local Teacher Part of the Cast

Broughton High band director Jeffrey Richardson, also known as "JR," has been cast as Mr. Fulton in the show. For the past 31 years, JR has grown the Broughton program to include a marching band, symphonic wind ensemble, concert band, two jazz ensembles, and an indoor winter guard unit. He has received several awards for his years of service as a teacher and is thrilled to be a part of the cast. "I live High School Musical everyday!" says Richardson.

Local Teens Work With Broadway Director

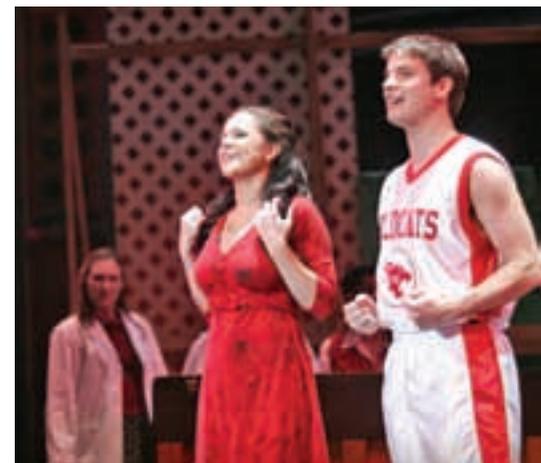
No matter what part each cast member plays, they all have the unique privilege of working with North Carolina Theatre's artistic director and director of Disney's *High School Musical 2*, Casey Hushion. Hushion has directed 14 shows for North Carolina Theatre including *Phantom*, *Chess*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The King and I* starring Lou Diamond Phillips, and *Jekyll and Hyde* starring Sebastian Bach.

Hushion gives some insight on casting and the local talent pool in Raleigh: "Usually, this kind of production would be done with professional adult actors playing high school kids. With the remarkable talent pool we have here, we were able to cast over 30 local high school-aged kids to be in the show. The auditions felt like an episode of *American Idol*, with each better than the next. They just blew me away. I set out to cast about 16 kids and ended up with a full cast of 50 because the talent, energy and enthusiasm were irresistible. They understand the world of being in high school enough to make it real; they make the show more honest in a natural and effortless way. I feel if we are able to focus all of their collective energy, they are going to make something very special of this production and they could blow the roof off the place!"

Lisa Grele Barrie, Executive Director of North Carolina Theatre says, "Casey is a consummate theatre professional and radiates an energy and enthusiasm for her craft that is contagious. She brings out the best in everyone and the results are delivered on stage in each production that she

touches. We are so fortunate to have her on our team!"

Tickets for Disney's *High School Musical 2* are \$16 to \$46 and can be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000 or online at www.nctheatre.com. Walk ups are also available at the NC Theatre



Box Office located at One East South Street in downtown Raleigh.

Capital Bank, presenting sponsor for High School Musical 2, has kindly underwritten 250 free show tickets for families who have been impacted during the economy. 📺

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Capital Bank CEO Grant Yarber and Clay Aiken with the winners of the Outstanding Musical category of the Capital Awards ceremony

From the Capital Awards (L to R): Brian Williams, Ray Walker, Tito Hernandez, Lisa Grele Barrie, and Donna Gregory



PK and friend at Solas

Photos from the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) future site preview meeting

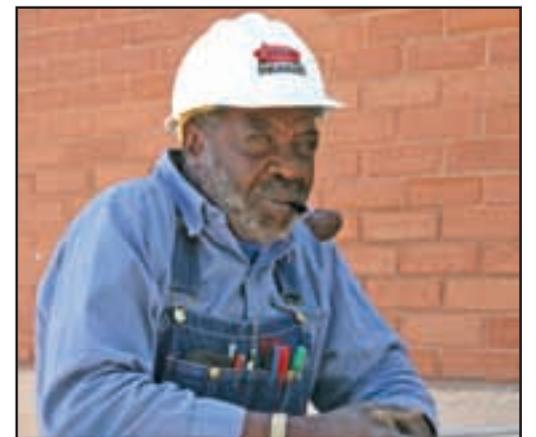


AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN

Niall (center) and the boys at Solas



Mary-Ann Baldwin (r) and daughter Lauren on the R-line



Taking a break downtown

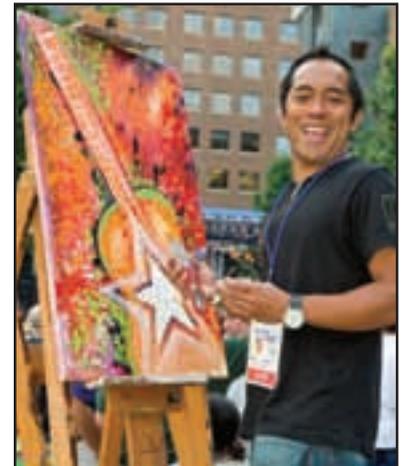
Tripp Tracy and RPD Officer Palczak



Prakash and Kendra at Mosaic



Owner Brandon (and friends) at Cashmere's grand opening



AROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWNAROUNDTOWN



Photos above from the Raleigh City Museum Time Warp Fundraiser

Leslie and friend out at the Mint



Emcee Sharon Delaney at Strut 09



Raleigh Downtowner Magazine fashion writer Kelly Hubbard and assistant editor Chris Adams at Strut 09



RALEIGH TAKES THE RUNWAY

Three spring fashion shows bring local design and art to the catwalk BY KELLY HUBBARD

Raleigh Fashion Week & Strut 09

New York and Milan have their own fashion weeks—it's about time Raleigh did, too. The inaugural Plaza Condominiums Raleigh Fashion Week played off of the success of the Strut08 runway show and expanded it to a three-day event to celebrate fashion, beauty, music and dance.

Founder Brian Williams believed Raleigh was ready to experience and host an extended fashion showcase to display the work of national designers with roots in the Triangle area, such as fashion icon Alexander Julian and Peter Milan luxury sportswear, as well as highlight the talents of local boutiques and designers.

Held at the Raleigh Convention Center May 14-16, an expo was open to the public each afternoon where local businesses displayed their merchandise. Thursday night's show kicked off with "Emerging Artists Night" that featured the work of N.C. State University's School of Design and College of Textiles students. Friday night highlighted women's and men's formal wear, including the celebrity walk, and the finale of The Plaza Condominiums Raleigh Fashion Week was on Saturday night with the Strut09 runway show.

The N.C. Triangle Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure of breast cancer was the benefiting charity of Raleigh Fashion Week. The special celebrity runway show featured local TV, radio and entertainment personalities as models. Donna-Maria Harris of CW22, NBC 17's Sharon Tazewell, WRAL-TV's Valonda Callo-way, WRAL-FM's Lynda Loveland, Tripp Tracey—the voice of the Carolina Hurricanes—were just a few that made their way down the catwalk.

Each aspect of the Raleigh Fashion Week events and designs had a connection to North Carolina. The works of Meschantes Corsetry, which has production and design studios in the area, could be spotted throughout the event; beautiful and sexy, the intricate designs of the classic couture garments were a runway hit. Austin Jade Murray is a Cary High School graduate and offers a line of comfortable, feminine attire with bold, flattering colors. A fashion legend with roots in Chapel Hill, Alexander Julian offered attendees an exclusive showing of his spring line of men's and women's fashions.

N.C. State students and graduates received great responses for their pieces, as well. A breezy, orange dress from Alison Russell's "Evolution of Form" earned a "wow" from the audience. Katerina Kaplan's "le Fleurs de Crème" creations were a dream with each outfit made of lovely cream and orange fabrics.

Bailey's Fine Jewelry added some bling to the event by draping models with diamonds and pearls. Even familiar commercial brands such as Banana Republic and Hudson Belk added their touch to the runway.

If you didn't get a chance to grab tickets to this year's runway shows you can watch a replay of the action when The CW22 and MyRDC air Strut09 TV specials in mid-June.

Art to Wear

Another annual fashion show took place April 23 on N.C. State's campus in Reynolds Coliseum as a collaboration of the College of Design and the College of Textiles students. The Art to Wear Fashion Show is unlike a typical runway performance; it gives students the opportunity to combine creativity with technical skills to develop innovative fashions that are beyond day-to-day attire.

Close to 30 students auditioned to have their designs featured in the show and 15 were chosen by a panel of three industry judges: Myriah Zaytoun, a designer for Ralph Lauren from Raleigh, Nico Morrison, a Meredith College graduate who has an organic clothing line in Los Angeles, and Kate Kretz, an artist from Burlington. Amy Quinn was this year's student director as she worked to complete her masters in textiles and apparel technology and management. Quinn met with faculty advisors Dr. Cindy Istook (Textiles) and Jan-Ru Wan (Design) and oversaw eight commit-

tees to supervise every aspect of the show from staging to the Web site.

"Art to Wear is just a neat show because students really spearhead it with advice from faculty from both colleges and it's so great to see the students work together," Quinn said. "Attendance for this show has grown over time from a few hundred people to almost 3,000 this year. It is a testament to the great designers."

Threads

While some student designers were featured in Raleigh Fashion Week shows and Art to Wear, an event called "Threads: Senior Collection 2009" specifically showcased the work of 21 senior designers in N.C. State's College of Textiles on Thursday, April 16. The student collections are a result of their time spent working in the senior studio class.

Kate Sykes was the student director for this year's performance; she is a fashion and textile management major with a concentration in fashion and product development. According to Sykes, the seniors have had a chance to display their work for the past few years but this was the first year the students "gave the show an identity and really played it up."

As student director, Sykes was responsible for coordinating details with the senior class, the dean and various faculty members. The whole show was done on a very tight budget; Sykes and fellow students transformed the College of Textiles courtyard into a beautiful fashion show setting complete with lighting, a DJ and a runway on the water—which meant jumping into the frigid water to set up and break-down the runway.

The first Threads show was a success with about 500-600 students, family, faculty and industry professionals in attendance. "It was the best feeling looking out into the audience at the beginning of the night and seeing how large the crowd was," Sykes said. "It blew me away. It really made all of our hard work and dedication so worthwhile." 📷

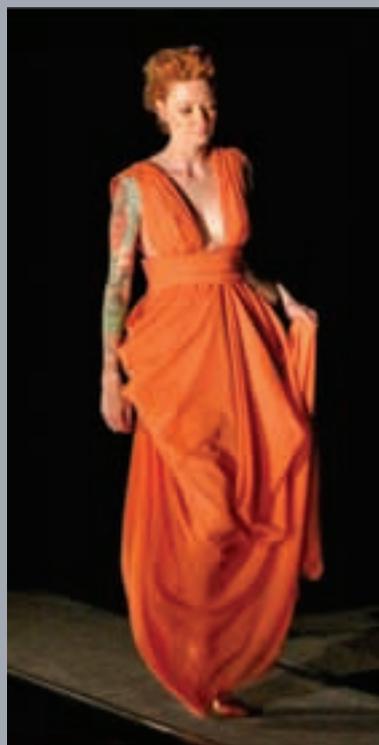


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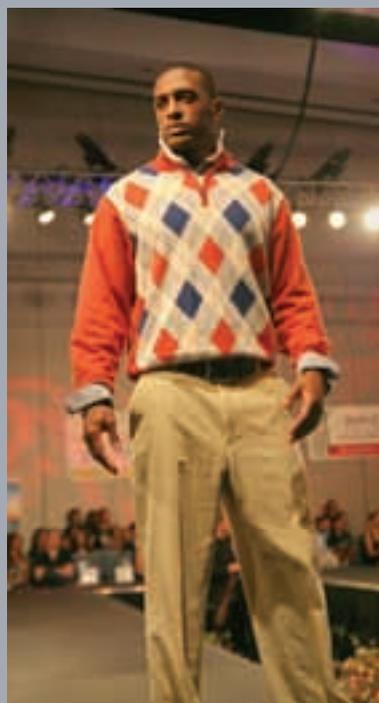


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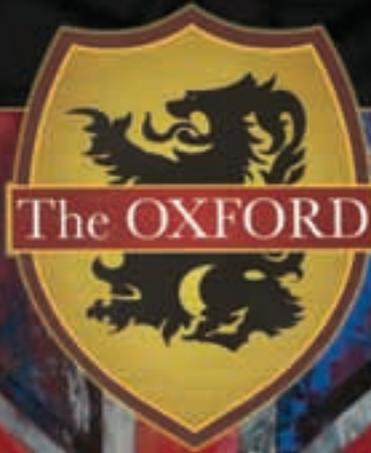
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The Deep South Local Music Review

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.



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 producer 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. She is also managing Lucid Talent Agency, a booking agency for local and regional talent.



Ariel Down

Album: *Shine*
Genre: Alternative/Progressive/Rock
www.myspace.com/airieldown

I first saw Ariel Down's singer Beaux Foy several years ago when he was randomly pulled onstage at a Better Than Ezra show and wound up playing guitar with them for a song. Now, years later, Ariel Down will be sharing the stage with Better Than Ezra again at Downtown Live this summer.

Since 2003, Raleigh's Ariel Down has played hundreds of shows across the nation and has gotten radio airplay in North and South America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. The band even incorporated its own production company and record label, Autumn Rain Records.

Beaux Foy (vocals/rhythm guitar), Michel Barbachan (lead guitar/violin/mandolin/keys), Taylor Traversari (drums/percussion), Michael Abe (rhythm guitar/didjeridoo/keys), and Cade Edmundson (bass/background vocals/harmonica) all play an active part in the band.

Their newest album, *Shine*, was released last February. Like the band's debut *Vision*, released in July of 2006, *Shine* was also recorded by John Plymale (Squirrel Nut Zippers, Meat Puppets) at Overdub Lane in Durham, NC.

Raleigh Downtown Live: August 22 with Better Than Ezra (featuring Adam Pitts, The Urban Sophisticates, 96rock Garage Band winner)



Swagger

Album: *Swagger*
Genre: Pop/Rock/Southern Rock
www.myspace.com/swaggernc

According to Swagger's MySpace page, these Raleigh rockers use "loud guitars and forearm-burning drum fills, yet also endeavor to provide enough space in [their] music to allow the catchy vocal/guitar melodies to cascade through." But this is just a self-description; wait until you hear the real thing for yourself.

There's no denying that adding up Aaron Wiig (lead guitar), Brian "BT" Torrence (rhythm guitar), David Arnead (bass), Dallas Perry (lead vocals), and Dal Stephenson (drums) equals good music. But what we really love about these guys is their dedication to creating tracks about the good things in life. Sure, they have a few music-industry standards—ballads about a lost love or a broken heart—but the majority of this group's songs will make you feel anything but down and depressed because according to these five, life is too short to "wallow in the mire." We agree.

Swagger's self-titled debut was released in early 2009 to an eager audience. Grammy-nominated producer John Custer helped the band with the album, and the legendary Brent Lambert of Kitchen Mastering in Carrboro helped master it.

Raleigh Downtown Live: June 13 with Filter (featuring Charm City Devils, Bill West, Bright Young Things, The Fifth, Swagger, Ethan Hanson)



Schooner

Album: *Hold on Too Tight*
Genre: Folk/Minimalist/Soul
www.myspace.com/schooner

This Carrboro-based group originally started as a 4-track project by Reid Johnson in 2003. Today Schooner's current lineup includes brother and sister Reid and Kathryn Johnson, Billy Alphin (The Ashley Stove, The Rosebuds) and Maria Albani (Pleasant, Un Deux Trois).

The band has released two full-length records and two limited-edition EPs, both of which earned them good reviews from publications such as CMJ, Harp, Salon.com, and Chrome Waves. And they've also earned high praise for their performances in music festivals like NXNE and Pop Montreal in Canada, and Holy City Pop Fest in Columbia, SC.

Schooner is wrapping up sessions with Jerry Kee at Duck Kee Studios (where Superchunk, Kingsbury Manx, Tift Merrit, and the Carabines have all made music) and is on schedule to release a new album in late 2009.

Raleigh Downtown Live: July 11 with Joan Jett & The Blackhearts (featuring The T's, Violent Vector & The Lovely Lovelies, The Beast, Panyelo)

What Gen Y & Z are listening to...

BY ELIZABETH BARRETT
(Deep South Entertainment)

Wonder what music college and high school 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.



The Tallest Man on Earth

Album: *Shallow Grave*
Genre: Acoustic/Blues/Folk
www.myspace.com/thetallestmanonearth



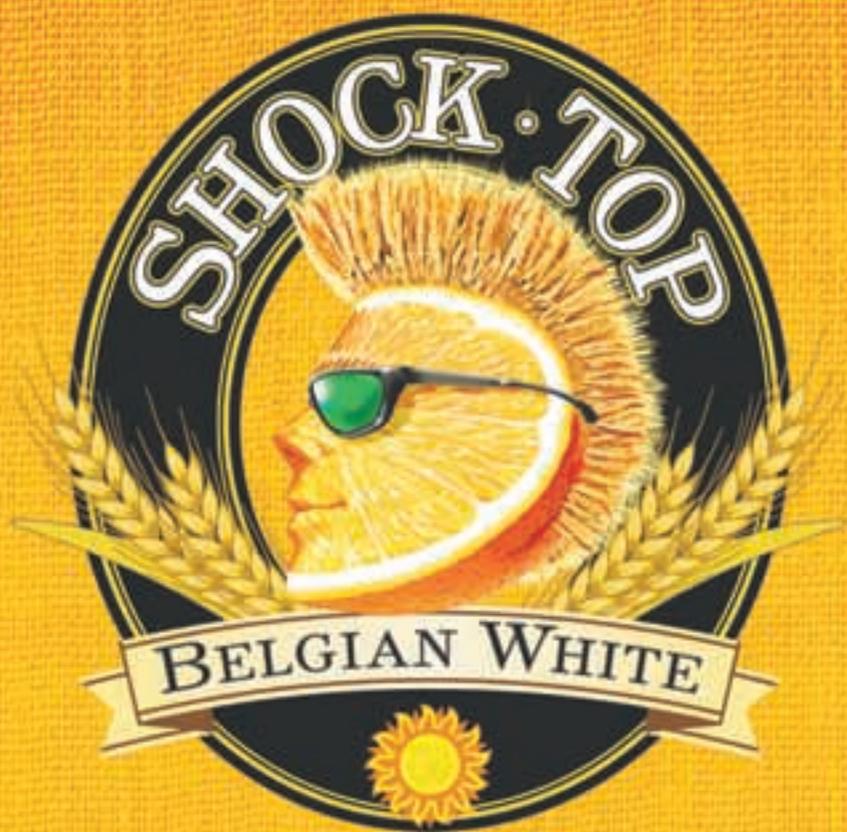
Passion Pit

Album: *Manners*
Genre: Big Beat/Pop/Soul
www.myspace.com/passionpitjams



Camera Obscura

Album: *My Maudlin Career*
Genre: Alternative/Pop
www.myspace.com/cameraobscuraband



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Five Points

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS: PART 6 of 7 BY CHRIS MOUTOS

Raleigh is fortunate to have several downtown neighborhoods, each with its own distinct character, and the Five Points area is no different. As you approach downtown Raleigh on Glenwood Avenue, you come across tree-lined medians and streets that offer a special blend of housing, services and entertainment. And while it's difficult to resist looking from side to side at the landscape and structures, beware of cars parked in the street! (Part of Five Points allows for street parking in the right hand lane during certain hours).

The area known to Raleighites as Five Points is a melting pot of smaller neighborhoods centered around a quaint business district. What creates the area's "five points" is the intersection of Glenwood Avenue with Fairview and Whitaker Mill Roads. It is loosely bound by Byrd and Oxford Streets to the north, Saint Mary's Street to the west, the Norfolk-Southern Railway and Wade Avenue to the south, and White Oak Road, Reaves Drive and Carson Street to the east.



Five Points was established when the need for housing increased with the city of Raleigh's continued expansion in the early 20th century. Developers, architects and city planners at the time had interesting ideas for providing people with convenient housing and efficient transportation to the



city's core. State workers, businessmen and others enjoyed proximity to work as well as the streetcar services provided. With growth came these first planned communities, and following World War I several neighborhoods emerged with that same downtown-centered philosophy.

The Five Points neighborhoods include Vanguard Park, Bloomsbury, Hayes Barton, and Roanoke Park. During the 1920s, more than 250 bungalow and Colonial Revival units were built in the Bloomsbury area. Planning for Roanoke Park and Vanguard Park also began during this time.

The platting of these neighborhoods was influenced by the work of Earle Sumner Draper, a prominent and talented landscape architect who designed parts of Hayes Barton. He was a pioneer of planning developments as "units" and integrating all types of housing along golf fairways and other greenbelt-type buffers. Draper

designed the Hayes Barton landscape with roads that hugged and followed the contours of the topography. This allowed for small areas of parks and greenways to be tucked into medians, street corners and property niches.

The architecture of the homes in the Five Points area is a showcase of styles popular from 1915 to 1950 and includes a wide variety of styles: Tudors, Spanish Colonials, Ranches, Bungalows, Foursquares, Colonial, and even Modern.

But for those of you looking to take in something other than the area's architecture, take a stroll through the business district and enjoy perusing the numerous antique shops or catching a movie at the historic Rialto, a landmark Raleigh theatre. You can enjoy a glass of wine or dinner at NoFo at the Pig (which also doubles as a specialty gift shop), or beer and a steak at The Pointe Restaurant. If you're in the mood for something more casual, you can have a slice of pizza at Lilly's or a cup of coffee and conversation at Third Place.

But, whatever you do, remember to keep your eyes on the road! 🚗



Chris can be reached for comment (and sales inquiries!) at chris@raleighdowntowner.com. Photos by Kathryn Rathbun

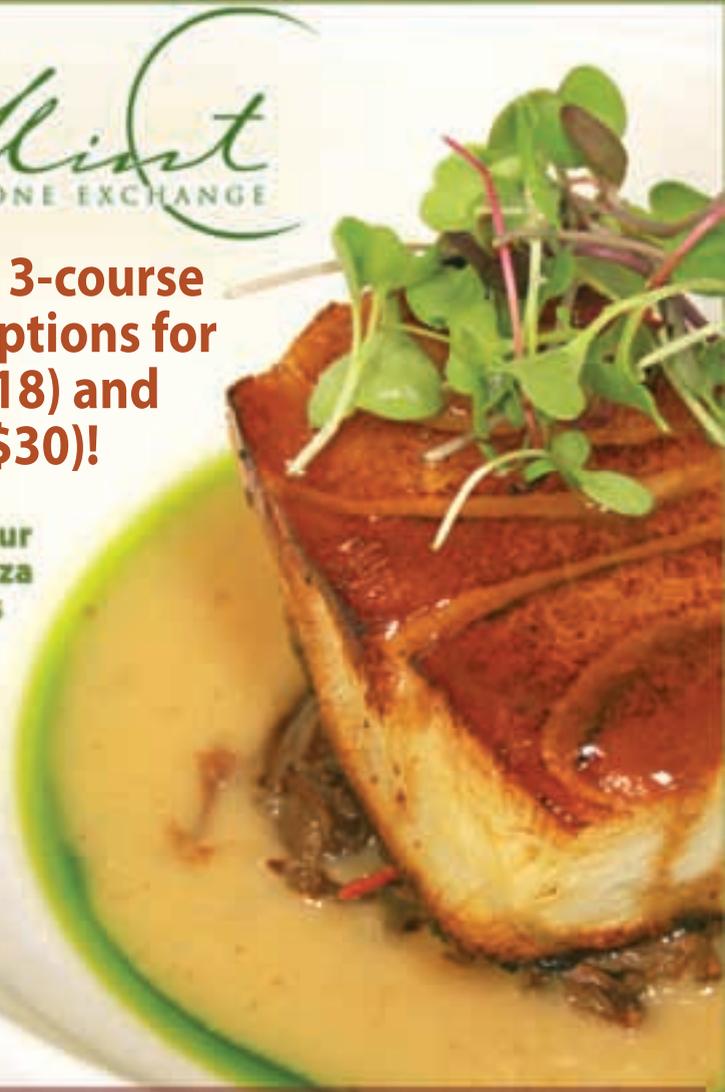


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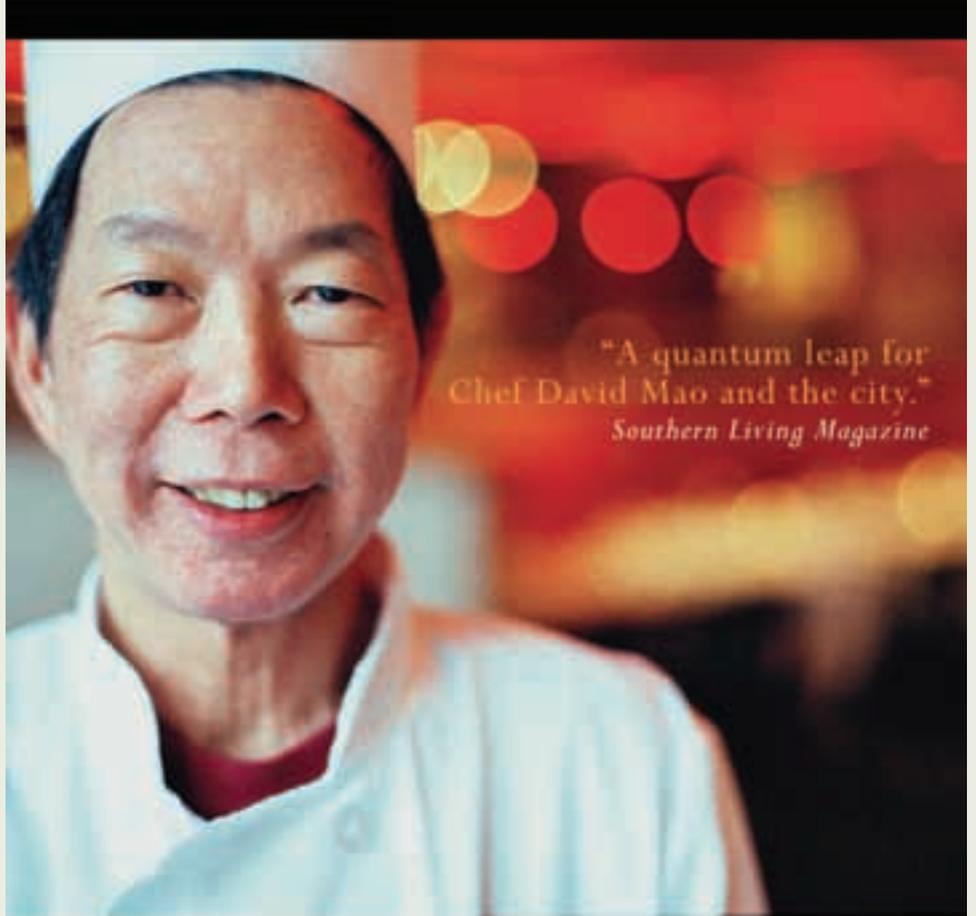
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J. Betski's BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Food Writer



Our favorite local foodie, Fred Benton, is taking some time off from his Food Editor position at the Downtowner. Local chef, culinary instructor, and food writer, Brian Adornetto is helping out during Fred's absence.

If you crave hearty food with very bold flavors, look no further than J. Betski's, Raleigh's only Central European restaurant which specializes in German and Polish cuisine while showcasing Austrian and Hungarian influences.

Recently adding a lunch schedule to their restaurant, J. Betski's has the look and feel of a contemporary German Dining Hall. Its terra cotta tiled floor, exposed wooden ceiling beams and wrought iron accents are tempered with richly stained wooden tables and tall windows. Beyond the windows is an inviting biergarten that seats 24. This covered outdoor patio features iron lamps and tranquil, landscaped trellises. Dining at one of the elevated wooden tables is a

delightful seasonal treat. On the other side of the dining room is a chocolate-colored wooden bar complimented by a long mirror etched with a coat of arms and garnished with traditional German beer steins.

The stellar service is led by General Manager Jeremy Jennings who is not only hospitable, but also a beer connoisseur. He adeptly guided us through J. Betski's impressive beer list (the first I've seen offering smoked beer) which consists exclusively of Central European brews, some of which will not be found anywhere else in our state.

In keeping with the focus on the beer selections, the menu is designed to pair well with the variety of beers. While a few of the recipes come from owner John Korzekwinski's trusted family collection, Chef Todd Whitney has modernized them with a deft gourmet touch and supplements these offerings with inspired dishes of his own. As soon as the first plate comes to the table, we could see

BETTER LIVING

BEST OF THE BEST!! And now our new READER POLL!! (see below) Fred Benton knows the Triangle! Benton, long-time lifestyle journalist covering the Triangle for over 20 years, has definite ideas about businesses that he feels are particularly consumer-friendly and offer superlative product and service. This list is the sole property and decision-making of Fred Benton and BetterlivingNC Productions and is not affiliated with the Raleigh Downtowner. This list is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio and is heard throughout southeastern NC.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. *The BEST steaks!*

42nd Street Oyster Bar - 508 West Jones Street, Raleigh, 831-2811. 42ndstoysterbar.com *BEST Seafood Salad!*

The Point at Glenwood - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh, 755-1007. *BEST Reuben Sandwich!*

Lilly's Pizza - Five Points, Raleigh, 833-0226. lillyspizza.com *BEST pizza! BEST house side salad! BEST beer selection!*

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 Coast!*

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

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

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

larrybeans.com - 828-1234. *Your web site for BEST coffees.*

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!*

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!*

Broadway Series South - Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6060. *BEST dramatic arts performances; stellar 09 season that includes "Chorus Line" and "Wizard."*

READER EMAIL POLL: What is your favorite restaurant in Raleigh?
Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.

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that the chefs at J. Betski take great pride in the food they make and how they present it. With the exception of a few condiments (mustards and jams mostly), everything is made in-house. The sausages, breads, sauerkraut, seasonally changing pierogies, quark (a soft, fresh, white Central European cheese), and desserts are all homemade.

The delectable sausages at J. Betski's are perfectly seasoned and melt in your mouth (after these, you'll never go back to the "previously frozen" supermarket variety). We also sampled the moist and velvety Beef and Spinach Pierogies which had a hint of caraway as well as the classic creamy Potato and Cheese Pierogies.

The Smoked Salmon and Frisee Salad features house-cured smoked salmon (affectionately called "bacon of the sea" by regulars), thin-sliced potato and avocado, vodka dill crème fraiche (a fresh, soured cream), and a poached egg. Its brightly colored layers and interesting flavor

combination make it a hit with salmon lovers.

The Crispy Spareribs with Cooked Sauerkraut and Apricot Ginger Glaze are a must for lunch. This dish was the unanimous favorite at our table. The dueling textures of the crunchy exterior and lusciously tender meat were exceptional. The glaze and sauerkraut played off the ribs wonderfully. The Cheese Spaetzle was a

close second, though. The tiny dumplings were tossed with a variety of cheeses, baked until gooey, and then topped with caramelized onion. Yes, it's as delicious as it sounds and truly would be a meal in itself.

For lunch or dinner, J. Betski's provides satisfying and flavorful food at an outstanding value. 🍴

Brian Adornetto is a culinary instructor, freelance food writer and personal chef. He teaches regularly at A Southern Season in Chapel Hill and his business, Love at First Bite, offers private cooking classes and intimate dinner parties. For more information, please visit him at www.loveatfirstbite.net.



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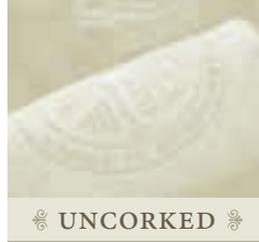
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To Cork... or Not to Cork

BY JOEL MORGAN



At their most primitive stage, wine containers were nothing more than animal skins and a simple plug. Around fifth century B.C., the Greeks developed the now iconic cork method for sealing their wine. During the Middle Ages, cork disappeared and was replaced with simple twists of cloth or leather, occasionally topped off with sealing wax. Cork made its comeback in the 1600s but . The predominant closure then was the glass “stoppie,” with the luxury version made of ground glass. The advent of the corkscrew in 1681 (or “steel worm” as it was called at the time) brought corks back into popularity, but stopples remained popular as late as 1825.

What the Cork Is It? The scientific name for the cork tree is *Quercus Suber* and it's a slow growing evergreen oak that flourishes only in specific regions of the Western Mediterranean World. While most trees will die if their bark is removed, the cork tree has two layers of bark. The inner layer is alive and grows in layers and the outer dead layer which can be removed without damage to the tree. The first harvest of cork doesn't take place until the tree is about 25 years old but it isn't until the third harvest, at the ripe age of 52, that the bark's size and density are ready for use. An average cork tree can yield between 13-18 useful harvests in its lifetime.

There are basically six major types of wine bottle enclosures:

Say It Taint So While cork is the preferred method of closure with the majority of winemakers throughout the world, it has its drawbacks, the main one being *cork taint*. Cork taint is a condition where wine is tainted by the presence of a chemical compound called TCA (or 2,4,6-Trichloroanisole if you really want to know), which is the result of the interaction of cork being exposed to moisture, chlorine and mold after the wine is bottled. A mild case of cork taint can make the

wine simply smell like cork but a badly corked wine may smell musty, like damp cardboard or old newspaper—or at its worst, wet dog. Although the wine flavors are destroyed by cork taint, it poses no health danger. According to research done in 2005 by *Wine Spectator*, seven percent of a sampling of 2,800 bottles of wine percent was tainted. Even with the problems of cork taint, many wineries remain staunch in their use of natural cork.

Go Synthetic There are of course other alternatives to natural cork. Synthetic corks are made from plastic or synthetic polymer compounds. They are designed to look and “pop” like a natural cork but there's no risk of TCA contamination. One producer of synthetic wine corks is Noma-corc, whose world headquarters are in Zebulon, North Carolina (www.nomacorc.com). Many wineries are switching to synthetic closures because it retains the look of traditional corks but none of the risks. Synthetic corks don't generally seal well enough for wines meant to age long-term, so they are used for those meant to be drunk within a year or two.

Screw It A second alternative to natural cork is the screwcap. For many years, New Zealand wineries have been exclusively using screwcaps for their wines. A screw cap is a metal cap that screws onto the grooved threads of the neck of a bottle. The most well known type of screwcap closure is called a Stelvin, named for the original manufacturer. This is a screw-type aluminum capsule with a long skirt that creates an airtight seal which keeps the freshness and aroma of a wine for a longer time. Screwcaps, especially when used with a tin-foil liner, seem to show the most promise for long-term aging in the bottle.

Zork? A third type of closure is the Zork, which was recently invented in Australia and features the conveniences of a screw cap with the popping of a cork. It can be easily removed by hand by removing the spiral tear tab to break the seal and pulling out the Zork (which

is how the popping sound is created.) Unlike the natural cork, the Zork can then be easily resealed. The Zork is also 100 percent recyclable as it's made from food grade polymers. Because it is a relatively new type of closure, the Zork is not yet used by many wineries.



Crown Me Another non-cork closure for wine is the crown cap. Crown caps are simply larger versions of the same type of cap that is used on bottled beer. Some Italian winemakers have been using the crown caps for their sparkling wines in the lower tiered price range with marginal success in public perception. Crown caps provide a seal which keeps oxygen out while keeping the bubbles in the bottle.

Vino-Seal Finally there is the Vino-Seal, a glass stopper surrounded by a plastic o-ring used to create an air-tight seal. So far it has been released in Germany, Italy and the Pacific Northwest of the U.S, and is getting high marks from consumers. Roughly 300 wineries are using this type of seal has been popular with high-end wineries. Advantages are that the stopper is quick and easy to remove and it can be used to reseat the bottle.

Although natural cork is the more widely-known closure method, it is yet to be seen whether or not any of the other options will replace the cork in popularity. Of course there are always preferences. For instance, eco-conscious winemakers and consumers want a closure that is bio-degradable or can be recycled and reused, while bartenders prefer screw-cap and crown cap closures for expediency and efficiency. As for myself? I just want a great glass of wine to enjoy.

Joel Morgan is a wine distributor for Epicure Wines, committee member for Triangle Wine Experience, and an avid wine geek.



DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

From the Downtown Raleigh Alliance

Dear Reader,

As another summer season unfolds, you will find Downtown Raleigh is primed to host a myriad of exciting arts, cultural, and entertainment events. This edition provides a guide to many downtown opportunities whether you are seeking somewhere unique to explore with the family on a weekend or a concert to invite neighbors or co-workers to experience with you. Discover



DAVID DIAZ
President and CEO
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.YouRHere.com

how downtown is evolving as a crossroads for people, regardless of age and whether one has lived here for decades or is a newcomer.

Two free, on-going events we encourage you to check out are the Moore Square Farmers Market, held each Wednesday from 11:30am-2pm through August at Moore Square. The market features local growers and artisans, live music, and rotating crafters as well as a variety of delectable items from local restaurants that prepare lunches on a rotating basis. Secondly, get out for the First Friday Gallery Walk, held during evenings on the first Friday every month.

This is truly a fun-filled introduction to downtown's ever-changing and exciting scene. Check out www.YouRHere.com for a calendar of exciting events happening downtown all Summer, parking locations, and details and maps for the programs listed above.

Plan to get out this summer in downtown Raleigh!

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Raleigh Downtowner Magazine*.

New Businesses



Busy Bee Café
225 Wilmington Street
6 am–2 am (M-F), 7 am–2 am (Sat, Sun)
www.busybeeraaleigh.com

Restaurant/bar opening in a historic location in downtown proper. Offering small plates, salads, sandwiches, sides, and “other stuff” for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late-night. Live music/DJs, upstairs outdoor seating, plenty of microbrews on tap.



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10 QUESTIONS

Lisa Grele Barrie—Executive Director for North Carolina Theatre

ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY CHRIS ADAMS

1 What is your vision for the NCT in the next five years? Well, I like to use the phrase “we’re entering into our next era of excellence.” The theatre was founded 25 years ago and with a solid foundation, this next five years has a very clear mission which is to strengthen the cultural vitality of the region and cultivate musical theatre. We plan on doing this by producing outstanding Broadway musicals and developing the next generation of artists through youth training performance and outreach.

2 How has the current economic situation affected the theatre industry? Indeed there’s no question the economy has affected our industry, and it’s a nationwide issue. Art is considered a non-necessity. If someone is forced to decide between electricity, food and a theatre ticket, obviously they would choose the important necessities and not the latter. However, we know that even during the Depression, audience attendance actually rose. Art nourishes and sustains us during the darkest hours; people want to escape reality. Movie attendance is at an all-time high, so my quest is to educate our community that we have very affordable ticket prices. I recognize the fact that there are tough choices to be made, but art can uplift us and give us when we’re feeling down. It’s a challenging time for the arts so our job now is to increase our audience. We want to prevail this year, not just survive.

3 What is a “normal” day for you? There really is no normal day. That’s what makes it fun because on any given day, I have plenty to manage, both here and at the conservatory. I try to get out in the community as much as I can, whether it is to do a lunch, speak at an event, or to meet with an investor or board member. Ultimately, a lot of what I do is to engage and inspire my staff, investors and community, and to ensure our brand is out there. Of course, during show time it’s entirely different.



There’s always something happening and there’s never a dull moment.

4 How was life at Bucknell (University)? That was a long time ago but I had fun! I was a sorority girl, Tri-Delta, and I think of some of the crazy things, but that’s another story. I was a psychology major, which has helped a lot with what I do now, dealing with people. Back then I was able to simply be on my own and there was no big push to know what I wanted to do.

5 Tell us about your family? I have a great family. My husband, Tom Barrie, is director of the School of Architecture at N.C. State. I have two teenage boys, Ian and Simon and they are cool individuals, very different, and engaged in a little of everything: sports, music, etc. We have three cats at home and we all love living downtown. As a working mother, proximity makes my life work and it’s very important that I encourage my staff to balance their work and personal life. Family comes first.

6 Do you have a favorite NC Theatre show or musical? I like them all, but one of my favorites is *Ragtime*. It was a collision of cultures written by E.L. Doctorow and I think it really speaks to the human condition. It was the most amazing and moving production, one that I thought was sensational. *Miss Saigon* and *Dreamgirls* were great too, so those would probably be my top three.

7 Do you have any hobbies? I love to garden. I really love being in nature. I also enjoy taking Yoga at Blue Lotus downtown. I find that it helps me focus and balance and keeps me in a good mental state. I love to walk, read and spend time with my family. I used to travel all over the world with my husband, but now we’re more low-key so we go to the mountains, the ocean or someplace downtown.

8 If you could choose a second career, what might you do? Doctor. I have always had a fascination with medicine. I watched “Medical Center,” “St. Elsewhere” and I was an “ER” junkie. To me, someone who is able to open up a body and fix it with their hands is truly amazing. I was or will be a doctor in my next life and I can see myself in scrubs. That would be an amazing contribution to society to be able to heal.

9 Do you email, text or engage in the Facebook community? I am a big emailer and I use it a lot at work and at home, but I’m not on Facebook. Because I spend a lot of my day in front of a computer screen, it’s the last thing I want to do when I get home. I want to hang out in my garden, pet my cat, and see my kids’ faces; I want to be out in the real world.

10 What is your favorite food? I love any good food and especially any kind of different exotic food. I do love Thai food. I enjoy going to a buffet because I’m able to choose everything. 🍴

French | West | Vaughan

BUSINESS PROFILE BY C.F. EVANS

“You R Here.” Chances are you’ve seen the messages from the Raleigh Downtown Alliance’s new branding campaign using this slogan. What you may not be aware of is that the campaign was created in the heart of downtown by Raleigh’s French | West | Vaughan (FWV), one of the Southeast’s largest independent public relations firm.

Headquartered in downtown’s old Tucker Furniture Warehouse on West Hargett, FWV was created in 2001 when Raleigh public relations firm Richard French & Associates merged with Tampa-based ad agency West & Vaughan. “Both companies had such strong reputations before the merger,” says Rick French, founder of Richard French & Associates and chairman and CEO of FWV. “We combined the names to build on those reputations.” And the firm’s reputation is continuing to grow. Among FWV’s accolades are *PR Week’s* Multicultural Marketer of the Year Award, 2007; a Top 20 Creative Agency ranking every year since 1997; and the Bronze Anvil award for the Lee apparel brand “Riders: A Media Tea Party for Dolls of All Sizes” press event.

“We’ve had a nice run,” says French. Our full service public relations agency was ranked 17th among the nation’s largest independent public relations firms by O’Dwyer’s Market Report with net fees of just under \$12.5 million in 2008.

In 2004, the firm opened an office in Manhattan, bringing the total number of offices to three with 70 employees. Their client roster has nearly 70 companies, with 50 of the companies being the firm serviced out of the Raleigh office. Top companies like Wrangler, Bob Mackie, Pfizer, American Express Financial Services, CIAA tournament and Campbell University School of Law are just a few to retain FWV’s services.

Where is French | West | Vaughan’s latest office location? Cyberspace. The firm launched a virtual office in *Second Life*, an interactive online community with more than three million

users around the globe. “We got into it because we had counseled a couple of clients on how to use it to extend their brand,” explains French. “Our client, Canada Post Borderfree, has done very well with [*Second Life*]. They’ve been able to sell products and services online.”

Why build a large PR agency with national reach in Raleigh? According to French, the Raleigh area offers a strong, diverse economy that is great for building a business. “The economy here is not dependent on a particular industry sector,” he says. “[Raleigh’s] industries range from pharmaceuticals and bioscience to hardware and software development, plus all of the associated professional services. That diversity makes us a little less recession prone.”

In 1997, although most of the city’s public relations firms were located in rapidly growing North Raleigh, FWV moved their office to Raleigh’s downtown center. A far cry from today’s bustling location of choice, downtown Raleigh at the time was home to vacant shops, very few restaurants and empty commercial offices. “We were a pioneer when we opened the agency downtown; it was really not the place to be,” says French. “But we thought it was important to be in downtown. We believed there would be a resurgence soon in downtown. As Raleigh has spread out, people are looking back to the downtown. It’s the city’s creative hub.”

Today French sees his own employees becoming a part of the in the energy generated in the downtown area. “Our employees walk to lunch or go out for drinks after work; there’s a lot of activity.” Another trend French sees is people choosing to live downtown to be near

work. “Look back 20 years to where Raleigh was, and see where it is now,” says French. “It’s pretty exciting. In the next 20 years I see Raleigh emerging as a world-class city.”

That excitement is evident on FWV’s recent work on the Raleigh Downtown Alliance’s branding campaign (French also serves as the vice chairman of the Raleigh Downtown Alliance). “Prior to the campaign, there was not a cohesive branding strategy for the downtown area,” he says. “Why is downtown the place to be? We felt our campaign assembled assets and put cohesive positioning strategy in place. It turned into a really smart campaign that will likely be up for a lot of awards.”

French’s biggest concern for the future of downtown is that previously-announced projects will not get the funding needed to move forward. “It’s a very relevant concern right now with banks; the mentality of “if you build it they will come” is gone. The area is very dependent on the economy turning around and developers getting funding.”

Despite economic concerns, French believes Raleigh is on its way to becoming one of America’s top cities, with downtown at the center. Once was the time when being downtown seemed an isolating experience. “These days, the main thing anyone seems to complain about now is paying for parking,” laughs French.

Carolyn Evans is a freelance business writer. She has managed communications, investor relations and financial reporting for various corporate and non-profit clients, including the Council for Entrepreneurial Development, LIPSinc and Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). She can be contacted at cfevans@earthlink.net.



PHOTO Members of the management team of FWV: Front row, L to R: Adam Cohen, executive creative director; Wendy McCarthy, VP; Chris Shigas, VP; Rick French, chairman & CEO; Paige Parker, group account director; Jessica O’Mahony, VP; and David Gwyn, president. Back row L to R: Dana Walker, controller; Jon Pritchett, vice chairman.

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EVENTS CALENDAR



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June & July

Koka Booth Amphitheatre Concerts • June 13: An Evening with **Michael Feinstein: The Sinatra Project**. \$30+ • June 14: **Elvis Costello and the SugarCanes**. \$39.50+ • June 20: **NC Symphony: Soundtracks Under the Stars**. \$20+ • June 27: **NC Symphony: Cirque de la Symphonie**. \$25+ • July 12: **John Legend** with special guest India. Aire. \$41+

Movies by Moonlight at Booth Amphitheatre

• June 11: Kung Fu Panda-PG • June 18: Moonstruck-PG • June 25: Made of Honor-PG 13 • For more information, visit www.boothamphitheatre.com.

June 12-14 & 18-21

Theatre in the Park, **Charley's Aunt**, Directed by David Henderson • Charley and Jack pressure fellow student Fancourt to pose as Charley's Brazilian Aunt Donna Lucia. Their purpose is to have a chaperone for their amorous visits with Amy and Kitty. Complications begin when Fancourt, in drag, becomes the love object of old Spettigue and Sir Francis Chesney, in this classic farce. • Show and ticket info: www.theatreinthepark.com

June 12, 19 & 26

Music on the Porch • Seaboard Station (Located on the backside parking lot next to Peace China and Ace Hardware) from 7-9:30 pm • A neighborhood/business partnership brings back the fun with free music every Friday night this spring and summer. The band will setup on the porch next to Peace China. Please feel free to bring lawn chairs and take over the parking lot area. Enjoy a cold beer while you relax. Several of the businesses will remain open to allow access to restrooms. • For more information, visit www.seaboardmusic.com

June 13-21

North Carolina Theatre, **Disney High School Musical 2: On Stage!** • Music Director Edward G. Robinson • Troy, Gabriella and all your favorite friends at East High School land cool summer jobs at Sharpay and Ryan's family-owned country club. With the club's annual talent show right around the corner, things begin to heat up as Troy agrees to sing with Sharpay. Will Troy and Gabriella realize that they're meant to be? Or is it already too late for them to sing one last song together? • www.nctheatre.com.

June 17-28

Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy, **Sylvia** • A 22-year marriage is compromised by a dog who suddenly enters the relationship. This hilarious, touching comedy shows how far people will go to accommodate man's best friend. General Admission is \$22.00 (\$18 for students with valid IDs, Seniors and Military) • For tickets call 866.811.4111 or visit www.hotsummernightsatthekennedy.org

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