

SOCIETY & THE ARTS

THE BOCA RATON NEWS • JUNE 17, 2007

FAU SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT



Julie Daniels, George Sparks, Madelyn Savarick, Trent Blanton, Richard Gamble, Rebecca Simon, Photo: Jon Way

Summer Lineup Includes "Noises Off," "Bye, Bye Birdie" and a Musical Revue

The Department of Theatre and Dance in Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters presents its 2007 Festival Repertory Theatre. The lineup will include the action-packed comedy "Noises Off," the musical comedy "Bye, Bye Birdie," and a musical revue entitled "American Songbook: Irving Berlin." The series opens Friday, June 22 and closes Sunday, July 29. The shows will take place on FAU's Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road. A full schedule can be found and tickets can be purchased by visiting www.fauvents.com or by calling 800-564-9539. Ticket prices

are \$20 for one show with group and package prices available. Children 12 and under are \$10.

There will also be a reception sponsored by FAU's University Club on Saturday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. before the opening of "Bye, Bye Birdie." Tickets are \$45 for the reception and show and can be purchased by calling 800-564-9539.

"Noises Off," written by Michael Frayn and directed by Jean-Louis Baldet, is a classic door-slamming farce full of slapstick and physical comedy. The play gives us a look at the behind-the-scenes misfortunes of a repertory theatre

company's production of "Nothing On." New York Times critic Frank Rich wrote that "Noises Off is, was, and probably always will be the funniest play written in my lifetime."

"Bye, Bye Birdie," by Michael Stewart, Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, is an upbeat musical about teen-idol and Elvis-like singer Conrad Birdie, who has been drafted into the army. Birdie's publicist Albert and his secretary Rose come up with the idea to have Conrad premier one last hit record before he is called up. The director for this production is Tim Dial, with choreography by

Clarence Brooks.

FAU's summer repertory theatre is performed by Equity actors along with graduate and undergraduate students. This year's Equity actors are Kathryn Lee Johnston, Peter Haig and Bruce Linser. Johnston has appeared in several films including "City of Ghosts" and "Private Victories" and on television in "Spin City" and "Welcome to New York." Haig is a Carbonell Award winner and appeared on Broadway in "Dr. Cook's Garden" and off-Broadway in "Mod-Donna" and "Othello." Linser has performed locally at the Caldwell Theatre, GableStage, the Maltz Theatre and

the New Theatre. Two of FAU's graduate student actors also have Broadway experience. Trent Blanton toured with "Les Miserables" and Rebecca Simon toured with "Fiddler on the Roof." Simon was also named Best Supporting Actress 2007 by the "New Times."

Festival Rep 2007 is presented by Madelyn Savarick, and Jim and Marta Batmasian, with support from the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council and Toojay's Deli. For further information, call 561-297-2977.

REBECCA REPORTS...



Rebecca Coleman
Society Editor

Carole Boucard, PR Director for the Boca Resort & Club updated me on plans for the Resort's Piazza, scheduled to reopen in Spring 2008, as the Palm Court. A spectacular renovation by French architect Thierry Despont is underway. Despont, you'll remember was responsible for the Resort's new lobby. Apparently, the new design will open the area to more natural light and the ceiling will be raised and replaced

with a transparent ceiling. The good news is the new Palm Court will feature real palm trees! I can only imagine the size of the watering can!

Congratulations to South Florida VIPS and Kids in New Directions celebrating their first anniversary of fund raising July 20. Nicole Flier founder of South Florida VIPS along with Lori Ludwig called to fill me in on their first anniversary celebration, July 20. The celebration is a bar hop through Boca Center with an after party at Absinthe at the Marriott. I'm proud to say I put the VIPS together with KIND and over the past year the group has raised over \$10,000. Call KIND Executive Director, Natalie Cwick, at 561-962-4185 for more details.

Art world impresarios, David and Lee Ann Lester have resurfaced-literally with their innovative SeaFair floating art fair concept. David called to let me know that the 228-foot "Grand Luxe" megayacht will be visiting Miami for Art Basel Miami Beach in December. My alma mater, the Norton Museum of Art, will benefit from a Vernissage event during one of the yacht's visits in February.

Talking of art--next time you're flying out of Palm Beach International Airport, don't miss Boca artist Becky Anderson's photograph, "Umbrellas of Florida" in the airport's "Fun About Town" exhibit. Organized by Palm Beach County's Art in Public Places program, the exhibition is on view through October 3.

Looking ahead to next week. Tuesday, I'll be at the ribbon-cutting for the new Mrs. B's Gift Baskets store. Generous owner, Miriam Brown, is well known to Boca non-profits. Then I'll be joining Kate Volman and Kellie Kuecha for their Women that Win bridge builder event at Seasons 52. And finally, I'll be dashing over to Sunrise Cinemas at Mizner Park for a preview of the new Edith Piaf bio movie, "La Vie En Rose!"

And that is life in Boca... *Rebecca*

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SOCIETY & THE ARTS

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