

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

New contract for Moody

In conjunction with unveiling performances for its 2015-16 season, the Winston-Salem Symphony also announced that it has negotiated a new contract with music director Robert Moody. Currently in his 10th season, Maestro Moody will continue as music director of the



Moody

Winston-Salem Symphony for an additional three years under the terms of the new contract.

"Our orchestra has experienced tremendous success since Robert became music director in 2005, and we look forward to continuing to share world-class musical experiences with him for another three years,"

Winston-Salem Symphony board chair Joia Johnson said.

Maestro Moody also has served as artistic director of Arizona Musicfest since 2007 and music director of the Portland Symphony Orchestra (Maine) since 2008.

"There was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to continue serving as music director of the Winston-Salem Symphony, and I am excited to continue sharing world-class musical experiences with audiences from across the region," Maestro Moody said.

Black History Month tour

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museums & Gardens is offering a special tour during February in honor of Black History Month.

The "A Hidden Legacy: The African American Influence in Southern Decorative Arts" tour will be offered on Wednesdays and Fridays (Feb. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27), at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Saturday tours (7, 14, 21 and 28) will be held at 11 a.m., with an additional 2 p.m. tour on Feb. 21.

The tour is also available by advance appointment during regular museum hours by calling 336-779-6140 at least one week in advance.

Tours will take place at MESDA in the Frank L. Horton Museum Center at 924 South Main Street in Winston-Salem.

"A Hidden Legacy: The African American Influence in Southern Decorative Arts," is a 45-minute tour focusing on the African American stories behind some of MESDA's most iconic objects, including works by North Carolina cabinetmaker Thomas Day; the Edgefield, S.C., potter David Drake; and the Baltimore, Md., painter Joshua Johnson.

The tour is included with the purchase of an All-in-One ticket (\$23 for adults and \$11 for children ages 6-16) and free for current Friends of Old Salem and current Friends of MESDA.

All-in-One tickets can be purchased at the Visitor Center. Tickets for the tour only are \$11 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-16. Tickets for the tour may be purchased at the Frank L. Horton Center Desk.

For more information please visit old-salem.org/hidden-legacy-tours.

Ballet at DCCC

The Charlotte Ballet company will bring the grace, poise and energy of its art to Davidson County Community College during a performance at 11 a.m. on Feb. 4 in the Dr. Edgar Holton Reich Building on the Davidson Campus. The event is open to the public.

Charlotte Ballet is a professional dance ensemble that has received national recognition for its excellence in programming, education and outreach, and dance training.

The Charlotte-based group's performances are known for their high energy, precision and speed, as well as the dancers' ability to perform a versatile repertoire ranging from full-length classical ballets to innovative contemporary works.

At DCCC, the group will provide an interactive educational performance titled "Black, Blue & Green."

The program uses themes of black history and blues music, conservation, pollution, waste and environment. It includes choreography by Mark Diamond, Sasha Janes and Dwight Rhoden.

"We are excited to host this innovative and dynamic form of performance art for students, staff and community members to experience right here on the DCCC campus," says Lynne Watts, director of student life and leadership at DCCC.



Photo courtesy of DCCC

Delta Arts will open latest quilting show

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Rd., will present the fifth in its biennial exhibition of quilts with the Tuesday, Feb. 3 opening of "Samplers and Symmetry V: Pieces by Area African American Quilters." The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, April 25. The opening reception is Thursday, February 5 at 6 p.m.

Begun originally as a "fill in" exhibit, Samplers and Symmetry has grown to hold a major spot in Delta Arts Center's exhibition planning. Quilters from many areas of the

triad eagerly respond to the invitation to show their creations and Delta Arts Center welcomes the opportunity to enlighten and educate the community to this rapidly growing art form. Though still a practical craft resulting in much desired items of warmth, quilting has grown to become an art form that can be enjoyed by those with minimal sewing ability to those with advanced skills, employing computerized sewing machines and specialized cutting devices to save time and energy and hurry the quilter to the fun part-piecing the quilt.

Former exhibitors have been invited again this year and through social media we hope to find other quilters whose work can be shown for the first time. For those wishing to learn quilting, Clementine Mauney, exhibitor and a former Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools family and consumer science instructor, will teach classes at Delta Arts.

To further show the uniqueness and versatility of quilting and share one woman's use of quilts to tell a story, Delta Arts Center will present Dr. Anne Parson, assistant professor of history at UNCG, and students in the school's Museum Studies program in a presentation about the quilts of Gwendolyn A. Magee, a High Point native who died in 2011.

In September 2014, UNCG presented "Lift Every Voice and Sing: The Quilts of Gwendolyn Ann Magee," a stunning exhibit that depicted her "unique perspective on race and the Black Experience." Twelve works exhibited were based on the text of James Weldon Johnson's song of the same name. Dr. Parson and the students will discuss Magee's life and the themes of her quilts and share images and information associated with their research. "Lift Every Voice" closed in early November, but six of Magee's quilts can be seen at the High Point Museum in the partner exhibit "Pieces of the Past: The Art of Gwendolyn Magee," on view until Feb. 21.

Learn more at deltaartscenter.org.

Stained Glass presenting 'Clybourne Park'

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Stained Glass Playhouse, 4401 Indiana Ave., will present the play "Clybourne Park" the first three weekends in February.

"Clybourne Park" spans two generations, 50 years apart. In 1959, Russ and Bev are selling their desirable two-bedroom at a bargain price, unknowingly bringing the first black family into the neighborhood (borrowing a plotline from Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin In the Sun") and creating ripples of discontent among the cozy white residents of the community.

In 2009, the same property is being bought by a young white couple, whose plan to raze the house and start again is met with equal disapproval by the black residents of the soon-to-be-gentrified area. Are the issues festering beneath the floorboards actually the same, 50 years on? Bruce Norris' excruciatingly funny and squirm-inducing satire explores the fruit of the fault line between race and property.

All actors portray different characters in each act. Greg Voglesmeir plays Russ and Dan, while Sara Butner portrays his wife, Bev, in Act 1 and Kathy in Act 2. Krishma Steele is Francine and Lena, with Hayden Crawford playing her husband, Albert, in Act 1 and Kevin in Act 2. Mat Tabat plays Karl and Steve, with his wives Betsy and Lindsey played by Kady Ann Tilley. Jack Holbrook plays the single characters of Jim, Tom and Kenneth.

The play is directed by Alvin Tyndall and is being staged in arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

It will hit the stage on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 8, 15, and 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$13 for seniors (60+) and \$11 for students. Call 336-661-4949 for more information.



McKinney returning as Robeson

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Paul Robeson," a play about the history-shaping singer and actor, is returning to the local stage on Tuesday, Feb. 3 for one night only.

The two-act musical features the rich baritone of Jason McKinney, who plays Paul Robeson, and Christopher Bagley as Robeson's accompanist.

Playwright Phillip Hayes Dean shows why Robeson was a man of almost mythical, larger than life stature: a star college and professional athlete, powerful intellect, lawyer and world-renowned singer and actor.

Best-known for his signature song, "Ol Man River" from the musical



File Photo
Jason McKinney (standing) with Christopher Bagley.

"Showboat," this son of a freed slave used his fame to fight against fascism

abroad and racism at home. McKinney has performed at venues around the world and sings as a section leader in the Centenary United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and serves as cantor in his synagogue in Spartanburg, S.C.

The show is coming to R. J. Reynolds Auditorium, 301 N. Hawthorne Rd., at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for R.J. Reynolds students and \$25 for general admission adult seating. Advance purchase, student and group discounts are available. For more information contact RJR at 336-703-4541 ext. 52812. A portion of proceeds go toward the Arts Magnet Program at Reynolds High School.



Press Photo
Dr. James L. Fortuna Jr.

Professor releases second book

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. James L. Fortuna Jr., a popular Forsyth Technical Community College instructor has released his second collection of short fiction, "A Burning of Ducks and Other Stories."

Fortuna – whose provocative first book, "The Gator and the Holy Ghost and Other Stories of a Slightly Reconstructed South," garnered significant local attention – has touched the lives of thousands of students at Forsyth Tech both in his courses and as the founding advisor of the Forsyth Tech Philosophical Society.

Fortuna may be best known in Winston-Salem for his role in bringing the Holocaust Studies courses to Forsyth Tech, and the same sense of justice that moved him to devote so much of his life to making sure that the truth about the Holocaust is never forgotten permeates the stories of his new collection.

The primary themes of Fortuna's fiction are race and religion – topics some publishers find intimidating. His stories are most often set in the South. Fortuna says that despite the South's attempts to "fit comfortably into a new century, for me at least, it stubbornly refuses to relinquish its own uniqueness and its own peculiar fascination with those very themes of race and religion."

Fortuna points to the current headlines from Missouri and New York and elsewhere as evidence that his themes "shine brightly indeed as fundamental to understanding the very complex relationships of region to region and generation to generation."

"I think it is by our successes and failures at dealing with these themes that any definition of a United States of America can be achieved," he said. "Fiction is one way, and not a very perfect way, of making sense of the world around us. Fiction is the way I was dealt, so I continue to play this hand as best I can."

Fortuna's books are available in paperback and for Kindle e-book at amazon.com or from Lightnin' Bug Publishing via Facebook or Google+.

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