

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### R. Kelly has appendix surgery

CHICAGO (AP) — R. Kelly missed a court appearance on child pornography charges this week after undergoing surgery for a burst appendix, his lawyer said.

Attorney Terence Gillespie said the 40-year-old R&B singer underwent surgery Sunday, shortly after being admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. The court hearing last week.

Gillespie said last Thursday that Kelly was in good condition and was expected to be released from the hospital later in the day.

Kelly, whose real name is Robert Kelly, has pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of child pornography and is awaiting trial. Kelly was charged in 2002 with engaging in videotaped sex acts with an underage girl.

In December, a Cook County judge issued a ruling that allowed Kelly to travel out of state for business purposes without permission. Kelly was in Miami to perform at a Super Bowl party over the weekend.

### Limón Dance Company to perform at NCSA

This year's Winter Dance Concert will feature some of the North Carolina School of the Arts' most talented ballet and contemporary dancers performing with the internationally acclaimed Limón Dance Company. NCSA's School of Dance is hosting the Limón Company for a three-week teaching residency during February that will culminate in performances for the public.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 22-24 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Stevens Center. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. For more information or to order tickets, call the NCSA Box Office at 336-721-1945 or visit [www.ncarts.edu/performances](http://www.ncarts.edu/performances). There will be a 30-minute Question-and-Answer session after the opening night performance Feb. 22.

One of the world's premier modern dance companies, the Limón Dance Company was founded by Mexican-born dancer José Limón in 1946. Limón's work as a dancer and choreographer was celebrated for its lyricism, fluidity and innovation in equating the role of the male dancer in modern dance with that of the female. Limón died in 1972, making the Limón Company the first American modern dance company to outlive its founder. His work is now ably continued by Carla Maxwell, artistic director of the company since 1978. Of their work, the Village Voice writes, "For drama, virtuosity, and grace, there's no finer company."

### Weinberg in concert with UNCG Jazz Ensemble Feb. 24

Max Weinberg, best known as the longtime drummer for Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band and as the leader of the Max Weinberg Seven, house band for the TV talk show "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," will appear in concert with the University of North Carolina Jazz Ensemble on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The concert, which will be held at the Carolina Theatre in downtown Greensboro, will take place at 7 p.m. The performance is part of the UNCG University Concert & Lecture Series.

Weinberg has played with some of the most prominent contemporary musicians. One of the highlights of his career was performing the instrumental "Night Train" with President Bill Clinton at his 1992 inaugural ball.

Weinberg will team up with the UNCG Jazz Ensemble for an evening that is sure to bop and swing.

"I'm thrilled that the UNCG Jazz Ensemble will get a chance to perform with Max Weinberg," said Steve Haines, director of the school's Miles Davis Jazz Studies Program. "This is a tremendous opportunity for UNCG jazz students to experience playing music with a seasoned musician. The show itself will be both exciting and entertaining, with lots of fun and laughter."

Tickets are \$26, \$22 and \$18. Seniors, children under 12 and students receive \$2 discount. UNCG student tickets \$9, \$8 and \$6.

For ticket information, call (336) 334-4849. Tickets are available through the University Box Office Web site at <http://boxoffice.uncg.edu> and through the Carolina Theatre box office at (336) 333-2605.

### NCSA alum named one of top student cinematographers

Brian Melton, a 2006 graduate of the School of Filmmaking at the North Carolina School of the Arts, and Lyle Vincent, who will graduate in May from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, will receive the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) John Alonzo Heritage Award during the 21st Annual ASC Outstanding Achievement Awards gala in Los Angeles on Feb. 18 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel. The Heritage Award recognizes outstanding achievements in student filmmaking.

Melton, who was born in Virginia and raised in Atlanta, received a bachelor's degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts School of Filmmaking. He submitted the short 16 mm film Red Autumn, which tells the dark tale of a relationship between an aging ex-con and a young, innocent girl. He says that the nature of the story allowed him to take risks and experiment.

Vincent, who was born and raised in Connecticut, will earn a master's degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in May. When he enrolled in the NYU graduate film program, his intent was to pursue directing but he soon found his passion in cinematography.

## Film festival starts Feb. 21

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

More than 30 films ranging from animated shorts to documentaries and feature-length movies, will be presented Feb. 21-24 during the Carolina Film and Video Festival, the annual showcase sponsored by the Department of Broadcasting and Cinema at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



Bahrani

This year's event, which will be held at Elliott University Center at UNCG and the Carousel Cinemas in

Greensboro, includes a film nominated for three prestigious Film Independent's Spirit Awards — the independent film world's alternative to the Academy Awards along — with films featuring Oscar-nominated actors and directors.

Fifteen films produced by North Carolina filmmakers will be showcased on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Among those films is "Take a Sip," an animated short film directed and drawn by UNCG graduate Rachel Woodhouse that depicts shenanigans by a mischievous dragon painting that comes to life at night.

"Even though film festivals have proliferated in North Carolina, filmmakers in the state still have a difficult time showing their work to home audiences," said Kimberlianne Podlas, director of the festival and assistant professor of broadcasting and cinema at UNCG. "We wanted to ensure that the best North Carolina films were shown at this festival."

More than 300 films from around the world vied to be included in this year's edition of the long-running festival. Films



to be screened range from "Alive and Well," a satire about a badminton team that crash lands and considers cannibalism in order to survive, to "The Shovel," a Hitchcockian-style thriller starring Oscar nominee David Strathairn.

Awards totaling over \$4,000 will be presented in nine categories during the Winners Night on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Judges for the competition include North Carolina-born director, writer and editor Ramin Bahrani, whose film "Man Push Cart" depicts the life of a former Pakistani rock star who now sells coffee from his push cart on the

streets of Manhattan. The film was shown to acclaim at the Sundance and Venice Film Festivals and received three Spirit Award nominations last year.

A free screening of "Man Push Cart" will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22, in the EUC auditorium.

Ticket prices are \$5 for the public, \$4 for UNCG students and some events will be free. For ticket and schedule information, visit [www.carolinafilmandvideofestival.org](http://www.carolinafilmandvideofestival.org), or contact the Department of Broadcasting and Cinema at 334-4197.



Angus MacLachlan

## Screenwriter MacLachlan will speak at museum

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Reynolda House Museum of American Art will resume its series of popular Gallery Talks during the showing of the exhibition, "Grandma Moses: Grandmother to the Nation."

The talks take place on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and feature local personalities discussing a particular aspect or theme of the exhibition.

The setting is informal, with participants moving from one painting to another, and questions and discussion are encouraged. The talk is followed by a cash bar reception.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20 the gallery talk will be led by playwright, screenwriter, and actor Angus MacLachlan, who wrote the screenplay for "Junebug." This 2005 feature-length independent film was directed by Winston-Salem native Phil Morrison, and it earned universal critical acclaim and an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress. A Winston-Salem native and graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts, MacLachlan's plays have been produced locally and off-Broadway, in theaters in Los Angeles, Chicago, London, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, Feb. 27 the talk will feature Reynolda House Assistant Curator Allison Slaby. She will relate Grandma Moses to American art in the 1940s and 1950s, including Abstract Expressionism and Regionalism. Slaby will ask such questions as, "How can we understand the art of Anna Mary Robertson Moses when compared to that of, say, Jackson Pollack? Is there an American art tradition in which we can situate Grandma Moses?"

The cost is \$5. For information, please call 336-758-5150. This series is made possible through the support of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

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## Post's 2007 Smooth Jazz Series to kick-off March 3

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



Dee Lucas

Post Entertainment will present the start of its 2007 Smooth Jazz Concert Series with featured artists saxophonist Dee Lucas and local jazz group FreePort.

Lucas, a self-taught musician, did not pick up the saxophone until the age of 28. Through self-reliance, determination, and discipline Dee Lucas, now at age 40, is considered one of the hottest up and coming jazz artists in the industry. He has opened for many great jazz artists including Roy Ayres, Ramsey Lewis, and Nneena Freelon. "Remembrance" was Lucas' debut CD. A portion of the proceeds from the CD sales were donated to the "Screen For Life" National Colon Cancer Action Awareness Campaign in honor of his idol, saxophonist George Howard, whose life was cut short due to the disease. Lucas released his sophomore CD, "Something to Ride 2" on Feb. 6.

FreePort will be opening for Lucas. Freeport is a local band with a great sound and a growing following.

The concert will be held on Saturday, March 3 at the Arts Council Theatre. The tickets are on sale for \$25 (reserved seating) and can be purchased on line or by calling 336-287-1616. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m.

Visit Post Entertainment Web site at [www.post-jazz.com](http://www.post-jazz.com) for more information.

## Jennifer Holliday to perform at Charlotte gala

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

CHARLOTTE — The Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Carolinas Gala will feature Broadway singer Jennifer Holliday. She will give a special performance at the 12th Annual HRC Carolinas Gala on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Holliday's portrayal of the heroine, Effie Melody White, in the Broadway production of Dreamgirls catapulted her to stardom and national recognition. Her performance garnered her the 1982 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical and her first Grammy Award for Best R&B Female Vocal Performance for her signature torch song and Top 40 Hit "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." Her second Grammy would come three years later for her rendition of Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday," a moving tribute to the late Mahalia Jackson.

Currently, Holliday gives

concerts throughout the world and performs with many symphonies across the country. She made her motion picture debut in "The Rising Place," an independent film for Flatland Pictures. She was also a recurring special guest star on the hit Fox TV show "Ally McBeal" during its entire five-year run as Lisa Knowles the outspoken choir director at Ally's church.

In addition, Holliday has performed at the White House for Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, and she recently performed in "The Singer and the Song: In Performance at the White House," a primetime special for PBS. In 2000, she received an honorary doctor of music degree from the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Founded in 1980, HRC is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve LGBT equality. HRC effectively



Jennifer Holliday at Winston-Salem State in 2005.

See Holliday on A11