

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Renée Fleming set to kick off symphony's season

Internationally-acclaimed soprano and Metropolitan Opera star Renée Fleming will open the Winston-Salem Symphony's 2010-2011 season with a gala concert of opera arias, art songs and musical theatre favorites. The concert will be presented at Reynolds Auditorium, 301 N. Hawthorne Road, on Monday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Fleming

Fleming's program with the Winston-Salem Symphony will include selections from Gustav Mahler's "Rückert Lieder," Antonín Dvořák's "Song to the Moon," and arias from Giacomo Puccini's "La Bohème." In addition to accompanying Fleming, the Winston-Salem Symphony will perform works by Richard Strauss, Puccini, Richard Wagner and Morton Gould.

Often called "the people's diva" for her down-to-earth, remarkably unaffected personality, Fleming has also been called "the Grace Kelly of Opera" for her beauty and style, and "La Regina del Metropolitan" (Opera Chic) a nod to her position as the undisputed reigning soprano in America today.

With a voice described as "luscious cream and coloratura diamonds" (New York Post), she has charmed audiences around the globe in operatic performances, recital appearances, and on recordings ranging from opera to rock. Of a 2009 recital given by Ms. Fleming The Seattle Times noted, "If you weren't already in love with [Fleming] when you arrived...then you definitely left wrapped around her finger..."

Tickets are \$30 - \$125 and may be purchased at the Symphony Box Office (201 N. Broad Street), by calling 336.464.0145 or online at www.wssymphony.org.

Fire dancing duo will give performance tomorrow

Kara Chambers and Jacob Felder of Exuro Entertainment will give a fire dancing performance on Friday, Sept. 3 on a busy downtown street.

The pair will perform two shows, 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., in front of the Community Arts Café, 411 W.4th St. The café is located in between Spruce and Marshall streets.

Felder is a longtime yoga instructor and personal fitness trainer who also works as a choreographer and dance instructor. Chambers began fire performing four years ago after mastering belly dancing, circus arts, modern interpretation and a number of other disciplines. For more information about Exuro Entertainment, go to www.exuro.org.



Performers Kara Chambers and Jacob Felder.

Local artist receives fellowship

Eighteen artists in North Carolina are recipients of the 2010-2011 North Carolina Arts Council Artist Fellowship Awards in the categories of choreography, craft, film and video and visual arts. Artists receive a \$10,000 fellowship.

Installation Artist Young Kim of Winston-Salem is one of the recipients. Kim fabricates site-specific work using unconventional materials, such as salt and red clay, to create portraits that are highly temporal and fragile. A meditation on memory and the human condition, Kim's images reinforce our connection to the cycles and processes of the natural world around us.

This summer, Kim's work is featured as a part of the group show Coincidental Opposites at the Causey Contemporary Gallery in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the ArtPrize competition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum in Michigan.

Last year, Kim was awarded a \$5,000 Curatorial Award by Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts for his installation Salt & Earth. He received his bachelor's in graphic design from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., and a master's from the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Goldberg quits musical to be with ailing mother

LONDON (AP) - Whoopi Goldberg left the London production of "Sister Act" to fly back to the U.S. after her mother had a stroke.



Goldberg

Goldberg was due to appear as the Mother Superior in the convent-set musical until the end of the month.

Producers say the 54-year-old star flew home last Friday after learning of her mother Emma's illness. They said "the thoughts and sincere best wishes of the producers and the entire 'Sister Act' company are with her at this difficult time."

Goldberg is a producer of the stage version of her hit 1992 movie about an on-the-lam singer who hides out among a group of nuns. It is due to open on Broadway next year.



Nellie Ashford's "Steppin' Out."

'Nellie's People' opens at Delta Arts

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Nellie's People," an exhibition featuring the paintings and collages of folk artist Nellie Ashford, opened at the Delta Arts Center, 2611 New Walkertown Road, on Tuesday. The show will be on display through Oct. 15.

Ashford, a native of Charlotte, will visit the Center on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. to give a lecture during an opening reception for the exhibit.

Ashford proclaims, "Yes I am a folk artist. The advantage is, I tell people, I am allowed to break the rules that a trained artist dare not do."

Her work can be described as naive, but each piece is meticulously constructed with a sophisticated eye to composition and color. Each of her pieces recalls her upbringing. She grew up in rural, small, black communities during the 1940s and 50s.

Several of the 24 works in the show capture women in daily tasks like preparing meals, washing, shopping and teaching. Ashford clothes each figure with vintage fabrics, creating in each collage a feeling of movement and fluidity.

Ashford - who has earned the Artist Achievement Award from Charlotte's Afro-American Cultural Center - studied at North Carolina Central University and Shaw University, where she received a degree. She spent many years teaching in the Mecklenburg school system. She counts legend John Biggers as one of her mentors. Ashford's work can be found throughout the country and abroad in countries like Canada and Swaziland.

Artist Q co-starring in 'Bouncers'

Play will be the first at new Hanesbrands Theatre

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Charlotte spoken word up-and-comer Quentin "Q" Talley will star in "Bouncers," the first play that will be staged in the new Hanesbrands Theatre, one of the venues in the new Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts.

"Bouncers" is a dramatic comedy centered around working class British bouncers. It will run from Sept. 5 - 25. Winston-Salem natives Ben Baker, Travis Smith and Lee Spencer will star alongside Talley, the 2009 Metrolina Theatre Association emerging artist of the year.

A native of Greenwood, S.C., Talley has been a major figure on the national poetry slam circuit. He has shared the stage with Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nikki Giovanni, Cee-Lo, MC Lyte, Ted Turner and Tavis Smiley.

He has released his second album and one-man show entitled, "Take Cover." As an actor, he recently performed as Armpit in "Holes" with Children's Theater of Charlotte; as Blue in "Blue" at Actor's Theater of Charlotte; and Benjamin in "The Mojo and The Sayso" with his own On Q Productions.

He founded On Q Productions in Charlotte to produce classic, contemporary and original performance works that reflect the experiences of minorities, especially African Americans.

Now on its third year, the company has produced works ranging from "For Colored Girls," "Dutchman," "Day of Absence" and "In the Blood." Last year, the company made its mark with the original production, "Miles & Coltrane: Blue(,)" which premiered to sold-out audiences in New York City and Edinburgh, Scotland at the East to Edinburgh Festival and Fringe Festival.

For ticket information, contact the Hanesbrands Theatre at 336-747-1414 or visit www.rhodesartscenter.org.

Friends of Coltrane to recreate Harlem's heyday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Friends of John Coltrane will present "Harlem Nights: A Musical Celebration of the Harlem Renaissance."

This fundraising event will be held at Centennial Station, 121 S. Centennial Street in High Point on Saturday, Sept. 25. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be dedicated to implementing the International John Coltrane Jazz and Blues Festival in High Point.

"Harlem Nights" is a celebration of the music and dance of the Harlem Renaissance. A group of performers from Greensboro will take on the personas of greats like Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, Billie Holiday, Cab Calloway and Sarah Vaughn. Although these musicians preceded John Coltrane, they added to the great influence of his music.

Coltrane, who often collaborated with fellow legends Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk, is known as the pioneer of the "free jazz" sound of the '50s and '60s. He was only 40 when he died of liver cancer in 1967, but Coltrane continues to be one of the most influential and best-selling



N.C. native the late John Coltrane.

names in jazz.

Many members of The Friends of John Coltrane, worked for years to make the John Coltrane statue outside of High Point City Hall a reality. The statue was dedicated on Sept. 20, 2006, near what would have been Coltrane's 80th birthday.

There will be two "Harlem Nights" shows. The 1 p.m. show that will include lunch; and a 6:30 p.m. show that will include

dinner and an after-party. General admission tickets are \$35.

Tickets can be purchased through the High Point Theatre, 220 E. Commerce Ave., by phone, 336-887-3001; in person; or online at www.highpointtheatre.com.

For more information about The Friends of John Coltrane, visit www.friendsjohncoltrane.com.

'BAD' BOYS



Photo by Baglio Photography

Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band will perform Sept. 10 at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum annex. The 9 p.m. show will take the audience on a musical journey of the life of Pop, who died a little more than a year ago. The band includes: (from left) Nyk Baglio (drums), Darion Alexander (bass), Patrick Cross (guitar), Taalib York (lead vocals), Joseph Bell (lead vocals), Vamsi Tadeballi (saxophone) and Ray McCall (trumpet). General admission seating is \$17.50; group tickets are \$13.50. For group tickets, call 336-734-1586. For more information, go to whosbadmusic.com or www.ljvm.com.

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PR Photo

The three current members of the Commodores.

Commodores to play Aggie event

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Commodores will headline N.C. A&T's Alumni Homecoming concert on Friday, Oct. 8 at the Koury Convention Center, 3121 High Point Road in Greensboro. A buffet reception will start at 7 p.m., followed by the concert at 8.

For over three decades, the Commodores have been a force in the music industry. The group was formed in 1968, when the members were students at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. After being discovered by Barry Gordy, the Commodores embarked on a career with Motown. They would eventually go on to sell more than 60 million records worldwide.

The group's string of hits include "Brick House," "Easy," "Machine Gun," "Oh No" and "Sail On." The Commodores' 1986 single, "Night Shift" earned the group its first Grammy award. This recognition was even more significant since it occurred after the departure of group member Lionel Richie, a Motown legend in his own right.

Reserved table seating prices are \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,200. Individual tickets are \$100.

For ticket information, visit the N.C. A&T Ticket Office or call 336-334-7749.