

diversions Hampton Arts.net

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

THE AMERICAN THEATRE



Avery*Sunshine Duo
Saturday, March 5, 8:00pm

PHOEBUS FILM CLUB | EDDIE SHAW | VIRGINIA OPERA | A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN | BEAUSOLEIL
AVEC MICHAEL DOUCET | WELLINGTON UKELELE ORCHESTRA | JULIUS CAESAR | THE HILLBENDERS



Great Hotels Guests Love

AMENITIES

- Complimentary Hot Express Breakfast Bar
- Free WIFI and wired Internet access
- Must see Interactive board in lobby
- Unique design guest rooms
- Indoor heated pool and outdoor patio & sun deck
- 24 Hour Fitness Center
- 24 Hour Business Center
- Dry cleaning available same day service
- Microwaves and refrigerators in each room

1813 W Mercury Blvd, Hampton, VA 23666

Hotel: (757) 838-8484 • Fax: (757) 826-0725

www.hixhampton.com • www.holidayinnexpress.com/hamptoncolsm

IN THIS ISSUE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

PREMIER PERFORMANCE SERIES

- 3 Eddie Shaw: The Legend Returns
- 4 A Night with Janis Joplin
- 5 BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet
- 6 Avery*Sunshine Duo
- 7 Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra
- 8 American Shakespeare Center: Julius Caesar
- 9 The HillBenders present The Who's TOMMY: A Bluegrass Opry

FAMILY FUN SERIES

- 11 Deep River: The Marian Anderson Journey
- 11 Hurrah Players: Sing Out America

LIGHTHOUSE SERIES

- 12 Phoebe Film Club Series
- 17 Todd Rosenlieb Dance
- 17 Riddick Dance Presents: The King Project
- 18 Hampton Roads Philharmonic Series

OUR REGULAR

- 20 **Encore** — A look at the recent events at The American Theatre
- 21 **Yoga Therapy** — Yoga at the Theatre
- 22 **From the Director** — Joe Tsao



Wellington International Ukelele Orchestra, pg. 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PREMIER PERFORMANCE SERIES

JANUARY 2016

Sat. January 30, 8pm
Eddie Shaw: The Legend Returns

FEBRUARY 2016

Tues. February 23, 7:30pm
A Night with Janis Joplin
Sat. February 27, 8pm
BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

MARCH 2016

Sat. March 5, 8pm
Avery*Sunshine Duo
Sat. March 12, 8pm
Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra
Sat. March 26, 8pm
American Shakespeare Center: Julius Caesar

APRIL 2016

Sat. April 2, 8pm
The HillBenders
Sat. April 9, 8pm
An Evening with Buddy Holly: featuring Robbie Limon
Sat. April 23, 8pm
John McCutcheon

MAY 2016

Sat. May 7, 8pm
Leftover Salmon
Fri. May 13, 8pm
Latin Passion

FAMILY FUN SERIES

Sat. Feb. 13, 2:30pm
Virginia Opera: Deep River: The Marian Anderson Journey
Sun. May 15, 2:30pm
Hurrah Players: Sing Out America

LIGHTHOUSE SERIES



Jan. 28, 7:30pm
View Our Shorts: Short Film Festival

Feb. 25, 7:30pm
Girls in the Band
March 10, 7:30pm
Batman: The Movie — 50th Anniversary
March 24, 7:30pm
Booker T. Mattison: One Night, Three Films
April 7, 7:30pm
West Side Story
April 21, 7:30pm
Ingredients: A Farm to Table Earth Day Event

PFC SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. Jan. 8, 8pm
Plan 9 from Outer Space
Sun. Jan. 17, 2:30pm
'Perfessor' Bill Edwards: Silent Film

HR PHILHARMONIC

Sun. Mar. 6, 2:30pm
Hampton Roads Philharmonic Series

DANCE SERIES

Fri. Mar. 18, 8pm
Todd Rosenlieb Dance: Spring Concert
Sat. Mar. 19, 8pm
Todd Rosenlieb Dance: Spring Concert
Sat. Apr. 16, 8pm
Riddick Dance Presents: The King Project



BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, pg. 6



www.pomoco.com

POMOCO

Chrysler Jeep Dodge
Ram and Mitsubishi
Hampton
4116 West Mercury Blvd
826-1100

POMOCO

Nissan Of Hampton
1134 West Mercury Blvd
838-6111

POMOCO

Chrysler Jeep Dodge
Ram and Fiat
Newport News
12629 Jefferson Avenue
369-3565

POMOCO

Used Car Center of
Hampton
4202 West Mercury Blvd
826-1100

POMOCO

Used Car Center of
Hampton
1134 West Mercury Blvd
838-6111

POMOCO

Used Car Center
Of Newport News
12625 Jefferson Avenue
833-8100

Pomoco®
Peace Of Mind... Of Counsel

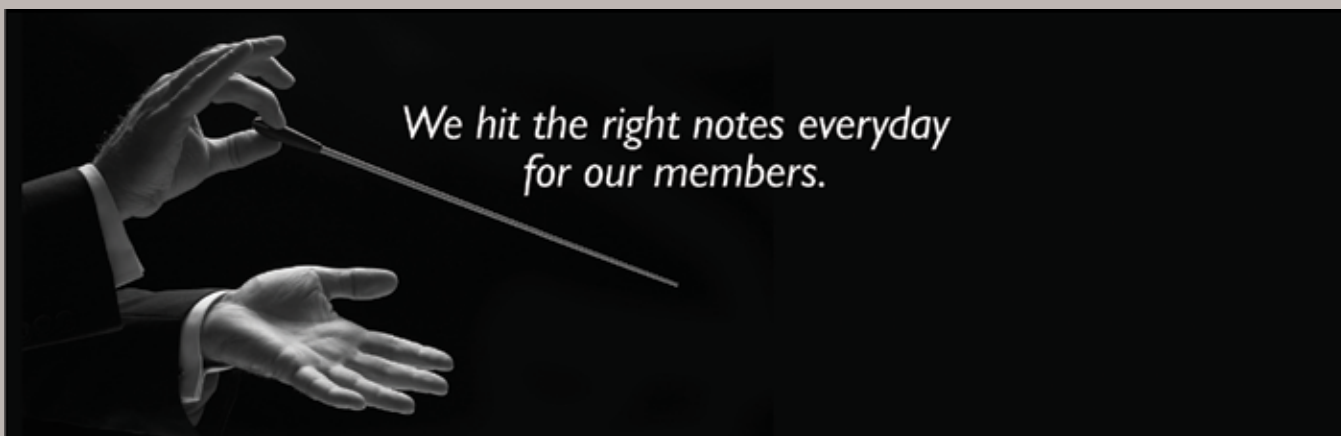
Peninsula
Custom Framing
Locally Owned



Canvas Stretching • X-Stitch Framing • Large Selection of Frames • Local Art
Framer of The American Theatre

757-262-0055

2312 W. Mercury Blvd., Hampton VA 23066 • Tue-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 10-4pm



*We hit the right notes everyday
for our members.*

- Personal Banking • Business Banking • Loans
- Mortgages • Insurance • Investment • Retirement

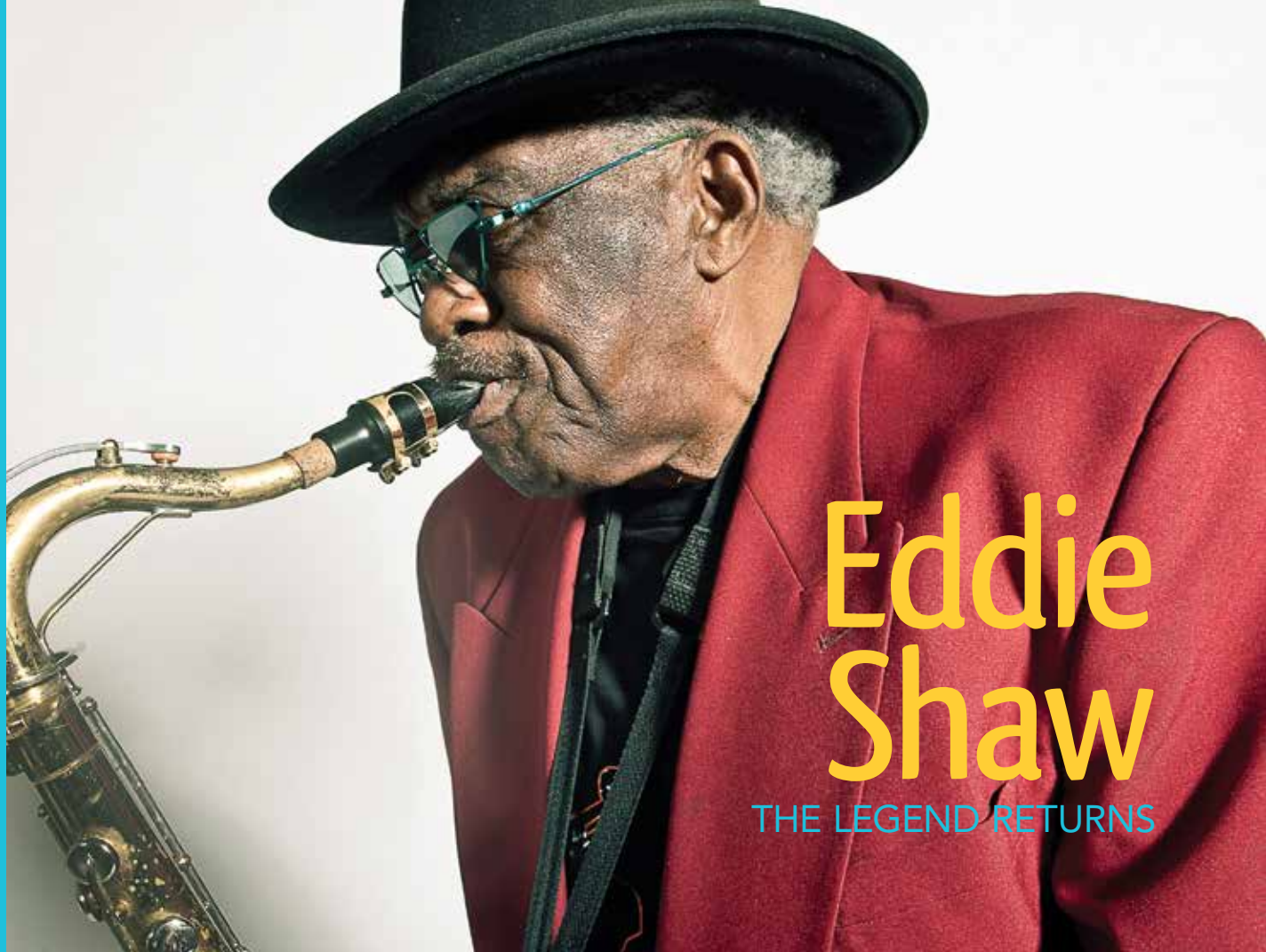


The Smarter Way to Bank.

bayportcu.org

Membership eligibility required. Certain restrictions may apply. This credit union is federally insured by the NCUA.





Eddie Shaw

THE LEGEND RETURNS

What better way to welcome 2016 than to celebrate the return of the blues legend that left American Theatre audiences last season begging for more? Yep, Eddie's back! 2014 Blues Hall of Fame inductee, Eddie Shaw continues to build upon his unparalleled career as a Chicago blues saxophonist/bandleader in a city where guitar, harmonica and piano players have long ruled the roost. A multiple Blues Music Award winner and perpetual nominee in the Instrumentalist-Horn category, Shaw has blown his industrial-strength sax with the likes of Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters and Magic Sam. And with his Wolf Gang he has racked up the most road mileage of all Chicago bands over the past four decades, crisscrossing the country from Maine, where his upbeat, high-energy blues is a particular favorite, to countless points south and west.

In 2012, while working with some of Hampton Roads' most accomplished blues musicians, Eddie released *Eddie Shaw And The 757 Allstars Still Riding High*, an album that recapped his illustrious career as blues man extraordinaire and received a nomination for "Best Traditional Blues Album" for the 2013 Blues Blast Awards. Eddie's ties to the '757' go beyond the album; he is a long-time supporter of the Fernando Jones Blues Camps, including our very own 'Hampton Blues Kids'.

Saturday, January 30, 8:00pm
\$35/\$30

sponsored by

"...still singing with real grit and blowing his saxophone with the verve of a houserocker."

— FRANK-JOHN HADLEY



BAKERY • CAFE • CATERING

series sponsored by



A Night with Janis Joplin



Like a comet that burns far too brightly to last, Janis Joplin exploded onto the music scene in 1967 and, almost overnight, became the queen of rock & roll. The unmistakable voice, filled with raw emotion and tinged with Southern Comfort, made her a must-see headliner from Monterey to Woodstock. Now, you're invited to share an evening with the woman and her influences in the new Broadway musical, *A Night With Janis Joplin*. Fueled by such unforgettable songs as "Me and Bobby McGee," "Piece of My Heart," "Mercedes Benz," "Cry Baby" and "Summertime," a remarkable cast and a breakout performance by Tony Award nominee Mary Bridget Davies, *A Night With Janis Joplin*, written and directed by Randy Johnson, is a musical journey celebrating Janis and her biggest musical influences—icons like Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Odetta, Nina Simone and Bessie Smith, who inspired one of rock & roll's greatest legends.

Mary Bridget Davies has taken the country by storm with her critically acclaimed performance and will reprise her role at The

American Theatre. Davies received the 2013 Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Best Actress in a Musical and was nominated for a 2014 Tony Award for Best Actress.

"Producing a version of the Joplin screech that starts somewhere around the singer's ankles, wends its way up into the back of her throat and shoots off into the farthest reaches of the theater." — THE WASHINGTON POST

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30pm
\$68/\$63

sponsored by





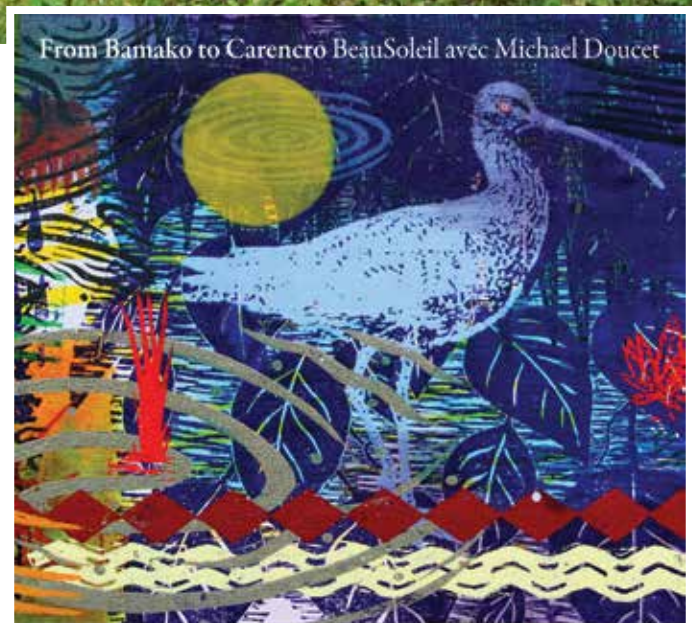
BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

*"BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet
— they play music that's honest
to the bone!" — ALLEN TOUSSAINT*

This season we are pleased to welcome back BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, a group of artists who are thought of as family here at The American Theatre. Since forming in 1975, Grammy winners BeauSoleil have claimed their undisputed role as the most esteemed Cajun group in music. BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet take the rich Cajun traditions of Louisiana and artfully blend elements of zydeco, New Orleans jazz, Tex-Mex, country, blues and more into a satisfying musical recipe. From The Grand Ole Opry to Newport Folk, from concert hall to dance floor, the music of BeauSoleil continues to captivate audiences the world over. They are regular guests on Garrison Keillor's National Public Radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*.

For their first studio release in four years, and the 25th in their 39-year career, BeauSoleil teamed up with Nashville based roots music label Compass Records. "We've recorded a lot of albums, yet we always seem to come up with new songs saying things that haven't been said," comments bandleader Michael Doucet. The band named their 2013 album *From Bamako to Carencro*, a title that alludes to the cultural and migratory connection between Bamako, in Mali, West Africa, and Louisiana, a connection that draws a sonic bloodline back to BeauSoleil's roots.

Saturday, February 27, 8:00pm
\$45/\$40



sponsored by 
BayPort
Credit Union



"..hooking your eardrum from the first moment a note reverberates, that level of performance prowess is rare and worthy of celebration. So, drumroll please — pull back the shades and bask in The SunRoom by Avery Sunshine." — SOUL TRACKS

Avery*Sunshine Duo

Having wowed the crowds at last year's Hampton Jazz Festival, it became clear that Avery*Sunshine is without a doubt one of the most dynamic voices in the creative music scene. Known for her invigorating and combustible live performances, Avery*Sunshine is lauded for her compelling and revealingly honest song writing and impeccable vocal quality. The earthy and charming singer has lent her vocals to the silver screen and collaborated with the likes of Roy Ayers, Will Downing, and Musiq Soulchild. She has also lent her choral directing and choirs to a few live performances from Michael Bublé, David Foster, Anthony Hamilton and Jennifer Holiday.

With the release of *The SunRoom*, it is obvious that Avery*Sunshine and Dana "BigDane" Johnson are no ordinary stars and that their magnetic field of positivity has a gravitational pull that is destined to resonate with the masses. Their mission is simple: to inspire and encourage people to pursue whatever their life calling is and to operate at the highest level of themselves through that calling — ultimately to #SHINE. If you experienced Avery*Sunshine live at the Hampton Jazz Festival, then you know that her shows are not merely concerts but more like homecomings or family reunions — even if you attend alone! By the end of the show you will be singing along, hugging your neighbors and smiling uncontrollably.

Saturday, March 5, 8:00pm
\$43/\$38

sponsored by

THIS IS
Hampton
VIRGINIA



Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra

sponsored by
**GOODMAN
& SONS** Jewelers

Last season, their onstage energy nearly tore the roof off of The American Theatre. This season, they'll return to finish the job! Hailing from the home of *The Hobbit* movies and sharing DNA with Flight of the Conchords, New Zealand entertainment powerhouse The Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra are in hot demand worldwide for their winning combination of charming humor, disarmingly small ukuleles, and sublime musicality.

The band's repertoire is a superbly eclectic curation of songs appropriated from many genres alongside tunes from the South Pacific, all packaged into a spectacular, unmissable funfest. Expect to hear fantastic "ukulelefied" versions of rock and pop classics by the likes of

Justin Timberlake, Dolly Parton, Cyndi Lauper, Blondie, Salt n Pepa and much, much more.

The band's number one rule is: "If you know the words, sing along. If you don't know the words, sing along!"

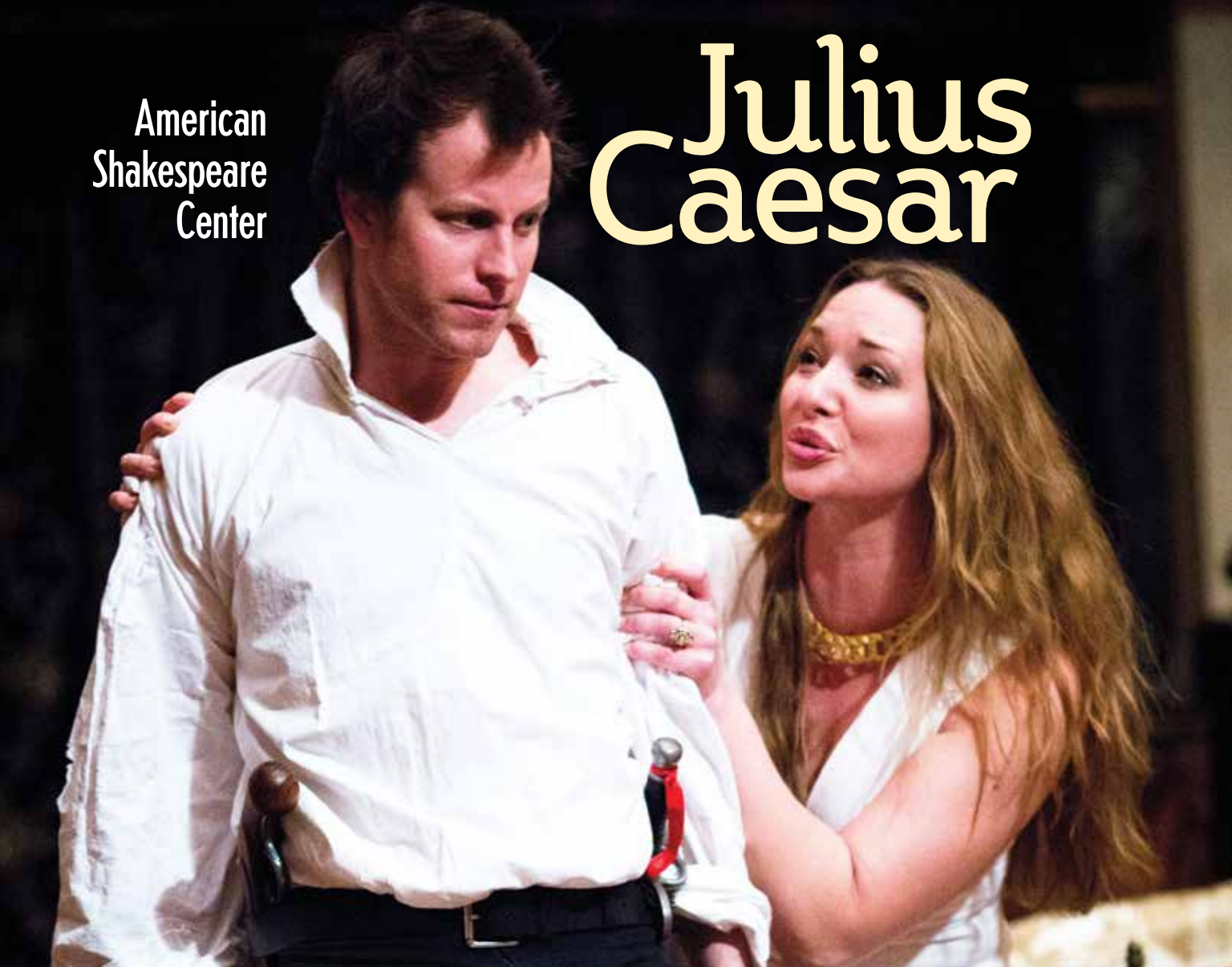
Saturday, March 12, 8:00pm
\$43/\$38

"Pop hits reworked into thrilling ukulele singalongs with comedic banter aplenty."

— NEW ZEALAND HERALD

American
Shakespeare
Center

Julius Caesar



"Raise your hand if when you studied Julius Caesar in high school you found it mind-numbing and boring. If ever one of William Shakespeare's plays cried out to be seen on the stage rather than read on the page it's Julius Caesar. Yes, it contains some of the most beautiful speeches that Shakespeare ever wrote. The use of rhetoric and phrasing to make political and linguistic points is masterful. On the page, Julius Caesar can feel stilted with many a Roman character, Publican and Plebeian to keep straight. The American Shakespeare Center's... production proves that a dynamic and clear production that emphasizes not only the language but the heart and soul of its characters is the best way to bring Julius Caesar alive for a twenty-first century audience." - Diane Holcomb Wilshire

In this profoundly moving, thrilling, and deeply human play, Shakespeare shows us a world on fire, a world spinning out of control, a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. Julius Caesar is a dazzling masterpiece of betrayal, violence, and perhaps most surprisingly — love. The American Shakespeare

"...a political thriller that, even though we know the outcome so well, plays with a Game of Thrones urgency."

—SHAKESPEAREANCES.COM

Center specializes in riveting, heart-pounding performances of Shakespeare and other early modern works. Like early modern acting companies, actors play multiple roles in a single show. The house lights remain on during performances, and the actors surround themselves with audience members on three sides. This inclusive arrangement allows the audience to enjoy the same festive sense of community experienced at Shakespeare's original Blackfriars Playhouse in London.

Saturday, March 26, 8:00pm
\$32

sponsored by





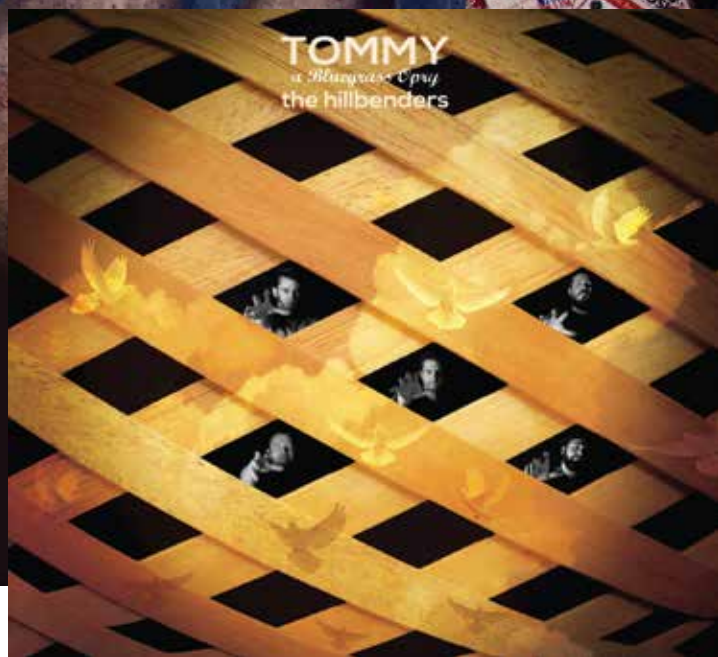
The HillBenders present The Who's TOMMY A Bluegrass Opry

*"Ever since I was a young boy I played
the silver ball"*

Maybe not your standard bluegrass lyric, but a line known by all the world from the biggest rock opera of all time, The Who's *Tommy*. 45 years after its original release, this classic of classic rock has now been fully realized as a full length bluegrass tribute featuring Springfield, Missouri's The HillBenders. Conceived and produced by SXSW co-founder and longtime musician/producer Louis Jay Meyers, this Bluegrass Opry brings a new perspective to Tommy while paying total respect to its creators.

Originally composed by guitarist Pete Townshend as a rock opera that tells the story about a deaf, dumb and blind boy, including his experiences with life and the relationship with his family. The original album has sold 20 million copies and has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame for "historical, artistic and significant value."

With a perfect mix of virtuoso musicianship and rock star vocals,



The HillBenders bring Pete Townshend's original vision to life in a new and exciting way. It's amazing to hear banjo, dobro, mandolin, bass, and guitar bring the same energy and vision to *Tommy* as The Who did with a full rock band and orchestra. The live performance is a full 75 minute show covering the original album from start to finish with special video accompaniment and audience participation. *Rolling Stone* named The HillBenders' performance of *Tommy* one of the '50 Best Things We Saw' at SXSW 2015, come and see for yourself!

Saturday, April 2, 8:00pm
\$40/\$35

sponsored by



BAKERY • CAFE • CATERING

WE SHOULD TOTALLY HANG OUT.



Where else can you take a boat ride to an island fortress, come face to face with Blackbeard the Pirate, ride a hundred year-old horse, catch the latest IMAX® movie in 3-D and shoot off into the cosmos all in one place?

Explore Hampton's signature attractions with one combo ticket at one low price.

SEA TO STARS
TICKET

\$39 for adults and
\$25 for kids ages 4-11

Call 800.800.2202 for
details or VisitHampton.com

THIS IS
Hampton
VIRGINIA



One of the most celebrated singers in the twentieth century, Marian Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States. Virginia Opera celebrates Ms. Anderson's incredible journey with a newly commissioned program about her rise to a pre-eminent spot among the world's concert artists in spite of racial attitudes of the times, which she met with courage, grace and determination. Major milestones depicted include her debut with the New York Philharmonic at age 28; her meeting with composer Jean Sibelius on her first European concert tour; the cancellation of her performance at Washington's Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution and the subsequent historic concert given at the Lincoln Memorial; and her ground-breaking appearance as the first African-American artist to sing with the Metropolitan Opera. Musical selections performed include excerpts from the repertoire associated with Anderson's career, including spirituals and patriotic songs as well as music by Bach, Donizetti, Sibelius, Verdi and others.

Saturday, February 13, 2:30pm
\$10

"My teenager... was a little apprehensive about attending... After the Opera got going, she really enjoyed herself. She did not want to leave her seat during intermission. The performance was perfect." — PATRON REVIEW ON TICKETMASTER

HURRAH PLAYERS: PRESENT



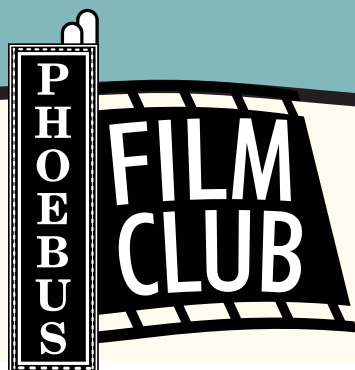
Let freedom ring with a star spangled musical salute to the land of the free and home of the brave! With patriotic songs and uplifting dances, this original production by The Hurrah Players is sure to put pride in your heart and joy in your step. A combination of songs both old and new, the music demonstrates that while over history many things have changed, this expression of pride and hope remain a constant part of the American experience.

Sunday, May 15, 2:30pm
\$10

"I am an American; free born and free bred, where I acknowledge no man as my superior, except for his own worth, or as my inferior, except for his own demerit." — THEODORE ROOSEVELT

series sponsored by





After a successful first season, Phoebus Film Club (PFC) returns to offer a unique series of film events featuring vintage Hollywood classics, thought provoking documentaries and special events, and movies by local filmmakers. The series is overseen and curated by The American Theatre in consultation with local film fans dedicated to presenting diverse, interesting, and engaging films. You can learn more and get involved by visiting our Facebook group, Phoebus Film Club, and by visiting www.hamptonarts.net.

Push Comedy Theater 'Mock-U-Cinema' Plan 9 from Outer Space

Friday, January 8, 8:00pm
\$8



We asked a group of hilarious improv masters to riff on one of the most terribly fantastic B-movies of all time, as it's screened. Yes, our talented and snarky friends at Push Comedy Theater will provide the running commentary during the screening of this Ed Wood classic and will even get you involved. All the while, we'll be seeking answers to the big questions: Who's really behind the cape? Will Vampira ever speak? And just why does that scar keep moving?

Silent Film with 'Perfessor' Bill Edwards

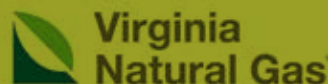
Sunday, January 17, 2:30pm
\$15

Bill returns for an afternoon of ragtime piano favorites and screening of *Our Hospitality*, a Buster Keaton classic silent feature film. In *Our Hospitality*, sole heir Willie McKay (Buster Keaton) journeys by train from New York City to Kentucky to claim his fortune amid a decades-old feud with the Canfield family. En route, he meets and is smitten with young beauty Virginia (Natalie Talmadge), who invites him to dinner, but he realizes too late that she is the only daughter of patriarch Joseph Canfield (Joe Roberts). The rules of hospitality protect McKay from harm in their house, but he must outwit her brothers to resolve the feud.

As always, Bill will have plenty of stories to share about the film and will perform his popular audience sing-along songbook of ragtime piano tunes.



series sponsored by





View Our Shorts: Short Film Festival

Thursday, January 28, 7:30pm
\$8

Back by popular demand after a fun night of great local shorts last season, we will again give local filmmakers the chance to put their work up on our big screen. So for one night, we'll welcome a host of talented local filmmakers. What's on the visual menu? You're gonna have to come to find out. Here's all we can tell you: 1) they are all shorts — 4 to 19 minutes in length — and 2) it's going to be memorable. You get to score the films from your seat and based on the audience results we'll award to the director and crew of the top three crowd favorites the very cheap looking, but oh-so coveted, Golden Lighthouse Local Film Trophy. The twist? This year there are cash prizes involved for the winners, too! Things are going to get interesting.

film festival sponsored by



STRANDED EYELAND

Directed by: Ernie Smith

Stranded Eyeland is the age old story of a woman scorned. Christy suspects that her husband has been unfaithful, but the relationship continues. One fateful weekend, a sailing trip goes awry, opportunity knocks and Christy answers. Stranded Eyeland is a short, dark comedy that will leave you cheering for the villain. Wait, who is the villain here?



THE COLONIAL PARKWAY: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR ECONOMY

Directed by: Michael Lemley

Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown: 450 years of history linked by 23 miles of parkway that helps shape our local economy. Produced by Kaylee Boger, Rachel Burch & Michael Lemley



SPECIAL DELIVERY

Directed by: James Shearer

Winner of the 48 Hour Film Project for Hampton Roads. Our genre was Inspirational, and this is the story of a man at the end of a long life, and his one regret-the jetpack he ordered as a boy that was never delivered.

"THE TIDE"

Directed by: Jon Abrahams

"The Tide" by Skye Zentz is an ode to Norfolk and the vibrant places that make up her hometown. More than 250 people and 30 locations participated in the making of this music video that has served to grow more love for the city throughout Hampton Roads.



PASS ME BY

Directed by: Tomeka Winborne

"Pass Me By" portrays a career woman, Nya Washington, who is too busy to notice a good man when he's right in front of her, until an embarrassing moment makes her pay attention.



REGENT UNIVERSITY FILMS: THE OTHER SIDE

Written and Directed by: Beecher Reuning

A comedy about two scientists struggling to maintain their funding from their sponsor who expects outrageous scientific discoveries like time travel.

TERRANCE

Written and Directed by: Justin Garcia

An amusing romantic comedy about a fun basketball team mascot who is actually a shy girl who wears her tiger costume on dates to boost her confidence.

SHOW AND TELL

Written and Directed by: Aaron von Busek

An action fantasy of a showdown between a Western gunslinger and a futuristic time traveler that has a surprising and rather amusing conclusion.

Girls in the Band

Thursday, February 25, 7:30pm
\$8

They wiggled, they jiggled, they wore low cut gowns and short shorts, they kowtowed to the club owners and smiled at the customers...and they did it all just to play the music they loved. This award-winning documentary tells the poignant, untold stories of female jazz and big band instrumentalists and their fascinating, history-making journeys from the late 30s to the present day. The many first-hand accounts of the challenges faced by these talented women provide a glimpse into decades of racism and sexism that have existed in America. The Hampton Citizen's Unity Commission will lead a talkback after the film.



Batman: The Movie

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Thursday, March 10, 7:30pm
\$8

Before the recent dark and brooding movie depictions of Batman, there was this 1966 classic take on the comic book hero. The hit TV show would soon follow, introducing an entire generation to the words 'BIFF' and 'POW'; come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the film and see why legions of fans still call Adam West, 'My Batman'. The Caped Crusaders (Adam West and Burt Ward) are called in as a last resort when the criminal masterminds of the millennium team up to conquer Gotham City. The arch-villains of the United Underworld — the Joker, the Penguin, the Riddler and the Catwoman — combine forces to dispose of Batman and Robin as they launch their fantastic plot to control the entire world. From his submarine, Penguin and his cohorts hijack a yacht containing a dehydrator, which can extract all moisture from humans and reduce them to particles of dust. The evildoers turn the nine Security Council members in the United World Building into nine vials of multicolored crystals! Batman and Robin track the villains in their Batboat and use Batcharge missiles to force the submarine to surface.

Booker T. Mattison: One Night, Three Films

Thursday, March 24, 7:30pm
\$8

We proudly present an evening of short films by local filmmaker Booker T. Mattison, an author and filmmaker who wrote the screenplay for and directed the film adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's classic story *The Gilded Six Bits*, which aired on *Showtime*. *The Hollywood Reporter* said, "Mattison's direction and feel for her characters match up to Hurston's sterling piece of fiction...full of atmosphere and strongly developed characters." Mattison has taught Literary Criticism at the College of New Rochelle in New York, film production at Brooklyn College and Advanced Directing, Screenwriting and Directing Actors for the Camera at Regent University in Virginia.



EXIT 13

Exit 13 explores the journey of an overnight bathroom attendant at a remote truck stop. One night he witnesses something that he wasn't supposed to see...

Starring Jeffrey Buehl, Dan Pinto and Sal Mistretta. Written, produced, directed and edited by Booker T. Mattison. Produced by Carrie Specht. Director of Photography Cybel Martin.



HABEAS CORPUS

Habeas Corpus is the story of a man who can't get over the death of his father so he steals his body from the funeral home.

Habeas Corpus stars Chad L. Coleman (*The Walking Dead*, *The Wire*), Tim Reid (*Sister Sister*, *WKRP in Cincinnati*), Jamie Hector (*The Wire*, *Heroes*) and Lee Chamberlin (*All My Children*, *Electric Company*).

Written and directed by Booker T. Mattison. Produced by Lorene M. Wales. Edited by Dave Garcia. Cinematography by Nic McLean. Original Score by Ray Chew.



BAMA AND FRED

Bama and Fred is a story of forgiveness and lost love found. Bama struggles with depression as she grapples with the recent death of her husband. An unexpected visit from Fred forces her to confront her painful past in order to win her fight for independence.

Starring Novella Nelson from *Antwone Fisher* and Ted Lange best known for his role as the bartender, Isaac Washington, in the 1970s TV series *The Love Boat*, *Bama and Fred* was produced by Courtney Jackson, written by Sandra Bowes and directed by Brian Gerber. All three were students in Regent University's Cinema and Television Department at the time of the production. Executive Produced by Booker T. Mattison for his Advanced Production class at Regent.



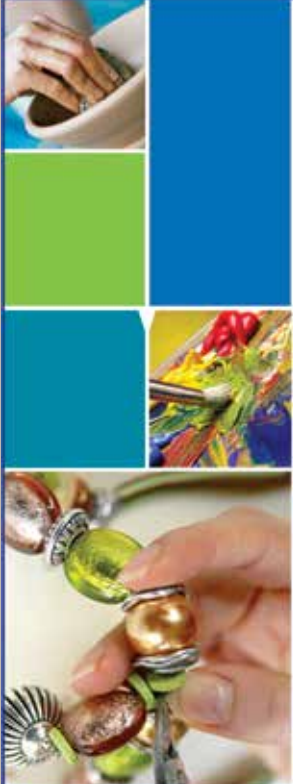
Your
Guide
 to **Local**
Family Fun

Macaroni Kid



Entertain, Stimulate & Exhaust Your Kids
williamsburg.macaronikid.com

Kids Classes Giveaways
 Local Activities * Discounts
 Youth Camp Guide & Deals
 Sports Event Calendar



OLD POINT is PROUD to SUPPORT ARTS and CULTURE BLOSSOMING in HAMPTON ROADS.

We're honored to be a part of such a creative and vibrant community. It is our goal to continually offer a fresh perspective when it comes to your financial needs. We look forward to helping you achieve your goals.



OLD POINT
NATIONAL BANK
OldPoint.com
 757.728.1200



OLD POINT
TRUST
OldPointTrust.com
 757.599.2200

©2011 Old Point National Bank
 Member FDIC



keep your
ROOTS LOCAL

**ROOTED IN HAMPTON ROADS
 — SINCE 1945 —**

1139 W. PEMBROKE AVE.
 Near Downtown Hampton
mcdonaldgardencenter.com | 757-722-7463

McDonald
 Garden Center



Todd Rosenlieb Dance

SPRING CONCERT

The American Theatre is proud to again welcome an organizational pillar of our local arts community and a dear friend to Hampton Arts, Todd Rosenlieb Dance, performing cutting edge, innovative and inspiring modern dance repertoire from Hampton Roads' only professional modern dance company.

The company blends classical and modern forms, the "downtown" spirit, hints of pop culture and a keen sense of musicality. An eclectic sensibility allows for the use of a diverse musical palette that ranges from Brahms to Rufus Wainwright.

Todd Rosenlieb Dance performs an original modern dance repertoire featuring works by Todd Rosenlieb, Ricardo Melendez, Erick Hawkins, Jon Lehrer and Bill Evans. This company of seasoned professionals has been presented locally by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Virginia Arts Festival, the Virginia Opera Association, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Choreographers Festival, the Regional High School Dance Festival, Virginia Musical Theatre and Lyric Opera of Virginia.

National appearances include the Indianapolis Symphony, the South Carolina Dance Festival, Piccolo Spoleto, Lorraine Graves & Friends at Martha's Vineyard, the Wellspring Project in New York, the "Yes Virginia Dance" concerts in Richmond, the "Small Dance Festival" in Harrisonburg, the American Cancer Society in Lancaster, PA, and Kim Whittam and Dancers in New York. Todd Rosenlieb Dance has been off our stage for far too long, their return promises a unique concert specifically designed for American Theatre audiences, igniting vitality, energy and passion.

Friday, March 18, 8:00pm
Saturday, March 19, 8:00pm
\$30

Rosenlieb's creativity provided the audience with a delightful evening of beauty, wit and color. Overall, it was a charismatic night, and Rosenlieb captured contrasting essences of movement through great choices of music.

— THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT



RIDDICK DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

The King Project

In collaboration, choreographers David Riddick and Marshall Swiney are creating a full evening of multimedia dance theater collage. The performance is in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the writing of Dr. Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech for the famous March on Washington in 1963. By placing Dr. King's very important speech to the performance setting, the two choreographers explore not just the meaning of the text, but create a fusion of contemporary movement with sounded oration, blurring the boundaries between the speech and dance performance.

Saturday, April 16, 8:00pm
\$25
\$15 Senior and Students (ages 7–college)





Photograph by Bob Harper Photography

Hampton Roads Philharmonic Series

Hampton Arts is proud to welcome back this impressive group of local musicians for an unforgettable performance. In 2013, talented professional and amateur musicians in the community — active and retired military, music teachers and students, senior citizens and youth — signed on to the dream of creating a new orchestra to serve the area, and by that summer, the Hampton Roads Philharmonic (HRP) was born. The HRP is led by Steven Brindle, a young conductor that has been recognized as a burgeoning local talent.

The HRP now presents four programs each season throughout the Hampton Roads area, regularly provides chamber ensembles to local events and organizations, and continues to garner enthusiastic public acclaim. Welcoming familiar and new composers alike, the orchestra actively commissions new works each season. By the end of its second season, the HRP will have premiered six new compositions.

This season HRP will showcase the virtuoso talents of an outstanding young musician. The Sunday afternoon concert is an event not to be missed.

"I would strongly suggest that everyone support this new group. They will surely develop into an artistic force to be reckoned with. Kudos to them and their conductor.." — PATRON REVIEW ON TICKETMASTER.COM

Hampton Roads Philharmonic Presents MENDELSSOHN'S VIOLIN CONCERTO IN E MINOR, (OP. 64) WITH ÀNNIKA BRYNN-LASCARA JENKINS

Italian-German, fiery and passionate, violinist Ànnika Brynn-Lascara Jenkins is a virtuosic performer and celebrated scholar-musician. In 2013, she was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and selected as a National YoungArts First Prize Winner. Currently, she is



the first Young-Artist-in-Residence of Symphonicity, the Symphony Orchestra of Virginia Beach. She has performed on NPR's *From the Top* and was recently a featured performer and speaker in the PBS documentary *Becoming An Artist*.

Sunday, March 6, 2:30pm
\$20

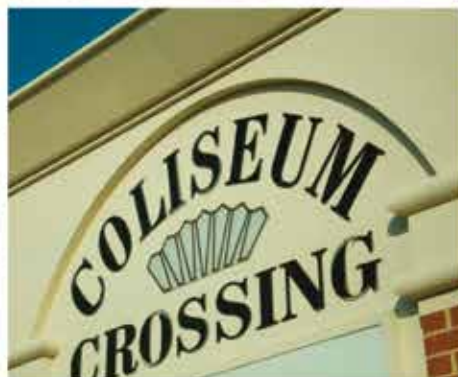
"...a fantastic musician, a role model for her peers and younger people because she's so dedicated to excellence and so filled with joy from her music making."

— JOANN FALLETTA, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR,
VIRGINIA SYMPHONY/BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC



stop by a few hundred
of your favorite places

COLISEUMCENTRAL
GET CENTERED



Coliseum Central is the premier Hampton Roads destination for retail, dining, lodging and entertainment. Boasting over 1,900 acres and 600 businesses at the intersection of I-64 and Mercury Boulevard, you'll be sure to find anything you need in one convenient location.

COLISEUM CENTRAL INCLUDES: Coliseum Business Center, Coliseum Corner, Coliseum Crossing, Coliseum Marketplace, Coliseum Specialty Shops, Coliseum Square, Executive Crossing East, Executive Crossing West, Goodman Square, Mercury Plaza, Peninsula Town Center, Power Plant, Riverdale Plaza and Todd Center.

coliseumcentral.com 757.826.6351





Freda Payne delivered a powerhouse performance.



Bill Jenkins & The Virginia Mountain Boys returned for a night of Bluegrass the way it was meant to be played.



Mary Wilson, the original Supreme!



Hurrah Players took us to the magical Land of OZ.



The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album reimaged by Toronto's Art of Time Ensemble.



Special thanks to our volunteers who helped us decorate the building for the holidays.



Katie Deal captured the essence of Patsy Cline.

Yoga Therapy with Dr. Dilip Sarkar

AT THE AMERICAN THEATRE

Dilip Sarkar is one of the foremost experts in Yoga Therapy who combines his 45-year experience in Conventional Medicine with his extensive knowledge of Integrative Medicine, including Ayurveda and Yoga Therapy. Students will enjoy Dr. Sarkar's relaxing session of breath work and meditative motion. Classes take place in the Dance Studio of The American Theatre; no experience in yoga is required and students of all levels will be comfortable, as the poses are adaptable to provide the desired intensity. Students should provide their own yoga mats and wear comfortable clothing.

Wednesdays, 6–8pm, unless a performance is scheduled at The American Theatre. Please call to confirm a class.

\$40 for 5 classes or \$10 for a single session, collected at the beginning of each class.



THE
BODY
SCULPTING
OPEN



IFPA Pro Qualifier

Men's Physique and Bodybuilding Competition
Women's Figure, Bikini and Physique Competition



February 6, 2016

The American Theatre

125 E. Mellen Street, Hampton, VA 23663

Entry Deadline: January 30, 2016

Show Times
Men's Competition – 10am
Women's Competition – 4pm

Tickets can be purchased at:
www.ticketmaster.com
Charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000
Or at any Ticketmaster Outlet
They can also be purchased at the door
the day of the event

Ticket Prices
\$30.00
\$15.00 children (ages 2-12)
Under age 2 are FREE when seated on
adult lap.

For More Information
Show Promoter: Kevin Parrott
757-291-1115
sculptyourbod@aol.com

Download an Entry Form at
www.kparrott.com



Figure



Bikini



Men's
Physique



Women's
Physique



Male
Bodybuilding

JOE TSAO, DIRECTOR

Terri Vander Vennet
Assistant Director (Finance
and Administration)

Kevin Spence
Assistant Director
(Operations and Events)

Jeff Stern
Artistic Director

James Warwick Jones
Gallery Manager

Bessie Crofts
Box Office Manager

Kiara Warren
Marketing Manager

Sandra Sanders
Changeover &
Housekeeping Manager

Matt Shufflebarger
Food and Beverage Manager

Rich Best
Production Manager

HAMPTON COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

NANCY EASON, CHAIRPERSON

Patrice Billingsly

Lynda Burke

The Hon. Linda Curtis

Jim Dees

Joshua Head

Laura Fitzpatrick

Jackie Merritt

Buena Reese

Deborah Reese

Gail Rehmert

THE CHARLES H. TAYLOR ARTS CENTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DEBBIE SCOTT, PRESIDENT

Richard M. Bagley, Jr.

Pearl Braxton

The Hon. Douglas E. Miller

Dr. Jeffery O. Smith

The Hon. Christopher W. Hutton

THE HAMPTON ARTS FOUNDATION

DUNCAN GARNETT, PRESIDENT

Donna Palmer, Vice President

Hansford Post, Treasurer

Nancy Adams

Nancy Lawson Allen

Ann Marie Batten

Margaret Blake

Sheryl Crawley

Cindy Cutler

Letia Drewry

Nancy Eason

Steve Hussell

Kenneth M. Krakaur

Bud Longo

Roxanne Lopez-Brown

The Hon. John Miller

Tisha Rose

Debbie Scott

The Hon. Joseph H. Spencer, II

Jim Thompson

DIVERSIONS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

Enjoyed by more than 60,000 readers
per issue.

DESIGNED BY

Mellen Street Creative

PRINTED BY

Carter Printing

SPONSORSHIP

We offer many effective solutions
to promote your business or
events. For information on
sponsorship opportunities,
including advertising in our
printed publications and online
platforms, contact Kiara Warren,
kmwarren@hampton.gov,
757-896-1237.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Vive la France...we stand with you!

‘Turning Hampton Arts Upside Down’

I'm sure by now you have noticed that we
have made some big changes to the layout of
Diversions.

We've literally turned half of this publication
upside down, essentially creating TWO
publications as one. Each section has its own cover
art showcasing the highlight of its programs for
the publication period, as well as the same number
of content pages. Depending on which way you
open up the magazine, we have created a dedicated
publication for performing arts, events and
activities at The American Theatre, and another for
visual arts, focusing on happenings at The Charles
H. Taylor Arts Center. Our intention is to reinvent
Diversions as a marketing asset by creating a better opportunity to give
equal prominence to performing arts and visual arts thereby reflecting the
equal importance of both of those disciplines in our mission statement and
service delivery. Another intended outcome of this new 'reversible' design is
to make the visual arts portion of this publication more graphically rich by
enhancing it with additional photos of artwork and activities. What better
way to talk about visual arts than with more visuals?!

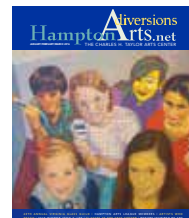
We hope that you will enjoy the new *Diversions*. Your feedback is welcome.

On behalf of the Hampton Arts team, thank you for your support
in 2015. I wish you good health, good fortune
and happiness in the New Year! See you at the
Theatre and the Arts Center.



Joe Tsao, Director

Hampton Coliseum/Hampton Arts Commission



OUR MISSION

To advance the arts and enhance the quality of life for all
Hampton Roads residents and visitors by:

- Educating and inspiring teachers, students and life-long learners to embrace the arts through exhibition, workshop and educational study, volunteerism and community outreach.
- Providing opportunities for Hampton Roads artists to showcase and develop performing, visual and educational arts in both traditional and non-traditional formats.
- Presenting unique, world-class caliber arts that appeal to a diverse citizenry, promoting a deeper cultural awareness.