

DYPAC production of 'Beauty and the Beast' will include performances for the deaf



With Dave Rzucidlo's sets, Mishell Schutt's costumes and Kim Schutt's orchestra to surround them, a cast of about 100, including Joe Roberts (left), Sam Ramirez, Molly Zaleski, Derek DeMarco and Allison Bradley will bring the musical "Beauty and the Beast" to The Trenton Village Theatre.

The Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center has been rehearsing since July on its latest production, and it's finally time to open the doors to the Trenton Village Theatre and say, "Be our guest."

DYPAC will present the musical "Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Flat Rock Community Auditorium, 28100 Aspen, Flat Rock.

This is musical version of the classic children's story of Maurice (played by Larry Craft) and his daughter, Belle (Molly Zaleski). When Maurice gets lost in the woods on his way to the city, he stumbles across the Beast's spellbound castle. The Beast (Sam Ramirez), angered at the intrusion, imprisons Maurice. Belle offers herself in exchange for Maurice's freedom. The Beast accepts, and soon Belle learns of other enchanted inhabitants of the castle. Lumiere (Derek DeMarco), Cogsworth (Corey Shorter) and Mrs. Potts (Allison Bradley) decide

Belle is the one they have been waiting for who can break the spell.

Directed by Mary Zaleski, this is one big production, featuring a cast of more than 90 young performers ages 5-19 from 16 Downriver communities and a 12-piece orchestra under the direction of Kim Schutt.

The show will continue its run at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 19; and at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 20.

As big as the cast is, it gets a bit bigger for those shows on Nov. 19.

Thanks to a grant from the Daimler-Chrysler Corp., both performances will be shadow interpreted by members of Terp Theater, a Detroit-area company that provides shadow interpreters for the deaf in theatrical productions.

Rather than stand off to one side and sign throughout the show, shadow interpreters closely follow the actors onstage — shadowing them — moving as they do directly within the action of the scene.

The advantage of this style

is that it allows deaf viewers to follow the show without having to decide whether to look at the interpreter or the action.

Former Miss Deaf Michigan April Lindburgh will be a guest narrator at the 7:30 p.m. performance.

"We are excited about this narrator because she represents the deaf community," said DYPAC co-founder Debbie Jackson. "The other narrators will be local community members. This excites us because it adds a cross-generational aspect to what we are doing and because it brings positive role models to our young people, and lets them know that the adults of their communities do care."

Tickets for "Beauty and the Beast" are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students.

Tickets are available online at www.dypac.com, by phone at 1-734-362-8153 or by mail at: DYPAC; 2447 W. Jefferson; Trenton, MI 48183.

Taylor Northwest Little League craft show; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 4; Taylor Loyal Order of Moose hall, 9981 Telegraph; table rental, \$25; 1-313-292-0155.

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child, in every one of these, there's a space for you," Smith said. In many of the paintings, the baby is gazing out at the viewer, establishing a sense of connection.

As tastefully as they are done, Smith knows some may find it challenging or even offensive to consider a woman breastfeeding a baby to be a religious icon, but she said that is because people in the West have been indoctrinated by Latin and Greek interpretations of scripture.

Thirteen years ago, Smith took a course at the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis called "Preaching from the Syriac Fathers."

"I learned about these beautiful feminine images and metaphors and the poetry that describes the persons of the Trinity, written by the Syriac fathers, who wrote in Aramaic Hebrew," Smith said.

"We've heard of the Latin fathers and Greek fathers, but we've very seldom in the west heard of the Syriac Fathers, who wrote in this strange language."

Yet the Syriac writings were the only ones that existed for the first four centuries of Christianity's existence, Smith said. Until the translations to Latin and Greek, The Holy Spirit was always referred to in feminine terms, using feminine metaphors and pronouns.

The Syriac fathers referred to Christ as "the living breast" and made references to God feeling man stirring in the womb.

"So this has been buried and this is the best-kept secret in the Catholic church," Smith said, "the good old conservative Catholic Church that just voted once more in Rome to have priests stay celibate and not get married."

"If they went back to their own fathers of the church, this is what they'd find."

It's not that Smith is being confrontational in her presentation as she is being educational.

Portraying God in feminine terms is something that only gets widespread attention, she said, when someone is referring to Gaea (The mother god of the universe in ancient Greek mythology) or when feminists are trying



Photo by E. L. Conley

Reaching back to the earliest Christian texts for inspiration, Sister Nancy Lee Smith chose to portray her icons as modern women, as in this portrait of an unwed teen mother.

to make a point.

In most of those instances, she said, people don't realize there is an actual basis in Christianity.

From an artistic standpoint, Smith took photos of her subjects and cropped the image to make the portraits dramatic and inviting, then enlarged them when she painted for an even more powerful effect, one

that engulfs the viewer with a sense of intimacy.

The DCA Skylight Gallery will show "mother god and the secrets of the ancient fathers" through Nov. 23.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 1-734-287-6103 or visit www.downriverarts.org.

CRAFT SHOWS

Country Christmas arts and crafts show; 6 to 9 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow; Trenton Cultural Center, 2427 West Road; 1-734-675-7300.

Holiday bazaar; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; Faith United Methodist Church, 2530 Charlton, Trenton; luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; advance tickets, \$7, recommended; pasty supper, 5 to 7 p.m.; donations to the youth group; 1-734-671-5211.

Holiday craft gala and bake sale; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; Christ the King Church and School, 15600 Trenton Road, Southgate; hot lunch available; 1-734-285-9697.

Country craft and holiday bazaar; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; lunch served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Leonard Duckett Center behind Ecorse Presbyterian Church, 4207 W. Jefferson; 1-313-386-1050.

St. Sebastian Christmas Fantasy Show; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; Fr. Brennan Activity Center, 20710 Colgate, Dearborn Heights; 1-313-278-1266.

Christmas Fantasy arts and crafts sale; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; the Fr. Brennan Activity Center of St. Sebastian parish, 3835 Merrick, Dearborn Heights; refreshments, raffles, bake sale.

St. Paul United Church of Christ craft show; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; 24158 Goddard, Taylor; 1-313-383-3078.

Presbyterian Women of Allen Park Presbyterian Church's Holiday Extravaganza craft show; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; 7101 Park Ave., Allen Park; 1-313-388-1280; proceeds support outreach mission work.

Craft and vendor show; St. Paul Lutheran Church, 19109 Craig St., New Boston; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday; 1-734-753-4848.

Arc Downriver holiday bazaar; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; 4212 13th St., Wyandotte; children's games, silent auction, crafts, boutique, bake sale, pictures with Santa, basket raffle; food, coffee and doughnuts; 1-734-283-0710.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic School PTG holiday bazaar; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; school gym, 266 Antoine, Wyandotte; home party companies, crafts, bake sale, raffles, food; 1-734-778-1799 or 1-734-283-5739.

Holiday bazaar and bake sale; 5 to 8 p.m. next Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 17; Maurice salad lunch, 11:30 a.m.

to 1 p.m.; \$6; carryouts available; reservations recommended; 1-734-285-7415.

St. Francis Xavier fall craft show; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 19 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20; 4259 W. Jefferson, Ecorse; some table available to rent, \$30 for one day, \$35 for both; 1-313-383-8514 or 1-313-383-8210.

Crafters and vendors sought for the Barth Elementary School craft and vendor bazaar; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 19; 38207 Barth Road, Romulus; food, raffles; 1-734-532-1250 or 1-734-941-7482.

Ladies Auxiliary holiday craft and vendor show; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19; Pvt. James Donovan V.F.W. Post 7910, 25620 Van Born, Dearborn Heights; table rentals available at \$15, \$20 with electrical; 1-734-658-0257 or 1-734-697-1355.

Craft and vendor show to benefit the Pallottine mission in Tanzania, East Africa; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 19; Wyandotte Knights of Columbus Council No. 1802, 2430 Biddle Ave.; baked goods, concessions, raffles; 1-313-999-4467, 1-734-281-0380 or 1-734-283-9710.

Tables available; holiday craft show; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19; Newport VFW Hall, 5144 N. Dixie Highway; large table rental \$15, small \$8; 1-734-289-2080 or 1-734-289-3452.

Christkindlmarkt (Christmas market); 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19; Germania Club Downriver, 23156 King Road, Brownstown Township; crafts, gifts, bake sale, attic treasures, photographs with Santa, raffles, lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; table rentals \$20; 1-734-722-5141 or 1-734-284-2908.

Holiday craft and vendor show; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19; Pvt. James Donovan VFW Post 7910 Ladies Auxiliary, 25620 Van Born, Dearborn Heights; tables available, \$15 or \$20 with electricity; 1-734-658-0257 or 1-734-717-3729.

Loyal Order of Moose craft show; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20; 9981 Telegraph, Taylor; table rental, \$25; 1-313-645-2640.

Arts and crafts show; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3; Cory Elementary School, 35200 Smith Road, Romulus.

Irish Christmas bazaar; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3 and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 4; Ancient Order of Hibernians hall, 24242 Grand River, Detroit; tables available to rent; 1-313-565-3317.



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