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Year 28, No. 13

Celebrating 28 Years of Community News

November 28 – December 4, 2012

Join Cherish the Ladies in a Celtic Christmas Celebration



Photo/Alessandro Tosto

Cherish the Ladies will perform at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts continues the holiday season with a performance from Grammy®-nominated Irish band Cherish the Ladies. This all-female Irish-American ensemble places their signature mark on classic holiday tunes in this one-night-only concert. This performance will take place on Sunday, **December 16** at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$55 (prices are subject to change). For tickets or for infor-

mation, visit AnnenbergCenter.org or call 215-898-3900. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Annenberg Center Box Office.

This long-time Annenberg Center favorite will ring in the holidays with a performance that combines instrumental talent, stunning vocals and traditional Irish step dancing. Praised by *The New York Times* as a "jovial symposium on Irish Music," Cherish the Ladies uses their unique Irish flair to put a refresh-

See Cherish the Ladies to Perform on page 8

Gold Medal in Natural History Art Goes to Exceptional Fish Artist

Public is Invited to Attend Free Talk on December 5

A leading artist, naturalist and conservationist with a unique ability to paint fish so lifelike they seem to jump off the paper will receive the Gold Medal in Natural History Art from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, it was announced recently.

James Prosek, dubbed "the Audubon of the fishing world" by *The New York Times*, was 20 when he completed his first book, *Trout: An Illustrated History*, featuring 70 of his watercolor paintings of North American trout. Since then, the Connecticut artist has published a dozen books about fish and displayed his paintings in galleries and museums across the country and the world. He co-founded a conservation initiative called World Trout in 2004, which raises money for coldwater habitat conservation through the sale of T-shirts featuring trout paintings.

Prosek will receive his award and speak about his life's passion in a free public event on Wednesday, **December 5**, at the Academy. The program starts at 6:30 p.m., and Prosek

See Meet Artist James Prosek on page 5



Artist James Prosek, here at work in his studio, is the recipient of the Academy's Gold Medal in Natural History Art.

CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS FOR FUNDING STAGED READING OF LOCAL THEATER COMPOSER'S NEW MUSICAL *FRESH!*

For Wynnewood musical theater composer Michael Bihovsky, "the old college try" meant writing a full-length pop-rock musical about his freshman year at NYU. The result was *Fresh!*, a show with Broadway ambitions that is prepping for its first staged reading in New York City.

To help fund the production, Bihovsky has launched a Kickstarter campaign. Kickstarter – a pioneer in so-called "crowd-funding" – allows artists to attract financial backers by offering gift incentives at a variety of giving levels. To appeal to donors, Bihovsky has created a short video featuring songs and video footage from the show. The video highlights the musical's diverse content by transitioning between comedic numbers (such as "I'm afraid of Virginia Woolf") and more somber, reflective material.

For Bihovsky, *Fresh!* isn't just about entertaining; it's about advocacy for a number of social issues, including what he terms "invisible illnesses" –



says Bihovsky. "It was really hard, and I found myself drawn to people who were also going through monumental life struggles. With their help, I learned that it's the most challenging struggles in life that define us, and that teach us invaluable lessons. For me, those lessons became this show."

See Help Fund Michael Bihovsky's Musical on page 5

chronic physical or emotional conditions that are not immediately apparent to an outside observer. Bihovsky himself has Ehlers-Danlos

Opening number of "Fresh!" as performed off-Broadway in the "Scene It! New York" competition. Show creator Michael Bihovsky is second from right.

Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that primarily affects his joints, ligaments, and tendons.

"When I got to college, I was just starting to experience all of these strange symptoms,"



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Storybook Musical Theatre Presents Three Beloved Musicals for the Whole Family!



Alice with some friends from "Alice in Wonderland" one of the three family musicals being presented by Storybook Musical Theatre's during its 2012-2013 season opening in December.

Storybook Musical Theatre, one of the Greater Philadelphia area's premiere children's theater companies will present its 21st season of three original musicals for family audiences. The musicals are based on stories from Lewis Carroll, the Grimm Brothers and an old English legend. These beloved tales have themes involving honesty, caring, sharing and friendship. The Abington based, non-profit, professional Equity children's theatre will present performances at two locations in the Greater Philadelphia area.

Storybook's season opener is "Alice in Wonderland." This original adaptation by Patricia Goldberg, Storybook's Artistic Director, is based on the classic story by Lewis Carroll. Jeff Reim composed its original music. "Alice in Wonderland" will be performed from **December 19 to 30, 2012** at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center, 800 Tomlinson Road, Bryn Athyn, PA (Huntingdon Valley). "Alice" will conclude its run from **January 8 to 12, 2013** at the Bluett Theater at St. Joseph's University, 54th & Overbrook Ave., in Philadelphia. The musical follows Alice on a wondrous and eccentric journey as she steps through the looking glass and encounters some very strange characters including the Queen of Hearts, Mad Hatter, Caterpillar and sleepy Dormouse.

The second show involves the courageous and legendary character, Robin Hood. "Robin Hood," an original musical based on the Old English tale, will be presented from **February 26 to March 10, 2013** at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center. This rollicking, good-natured story, includes many adventures of Robin and his band of Merry Men as they steal from the rich, give to the poor and outfox the sly Sheriff of Nottingham and save the fair Maid Marian. The story is performed by a troop of traveling players who become different characters in the adventures.

The final offering of the season will be the magical and mysterious story of "Rumpelstiltskin," based on the fairy tale by the Grimm Brothers. One of Storybook's more popular musicals tells the story of the daughter of a boastful miller, who marries a greedy king. She must guess the name of a lonely little man, who has the unusual talent of being able to spin straw into gold, to save something precious to her. Don Kersey wrote this musical with music by Steve Leibman. "Rumpelstiltskin" first plays from **May 7 to 11, 2013** at St. Joseph University's Bluett Theater, then from **May 28 to June 2** at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center. It concludes with a summertime run at the Mitchell Center from **July 23 to August 3, 2013**.

Individual tickets for all Storybook shows are \$12 for children and \$14 for adults. School and group discounts of up to 30% are available, as is a reduced rate 3-show subscription plan. Show times vary with each production. All Storybook shows are appropriate for ages 3 and older, and everyone gets to meet the cast for a handshake, photo, or autograph after every each performance. For information, to obtain a seasonal brochure, or book a group or school trip, call Storybook Musical Theatre at 215-659-8550 or visit www.storybookmusical.org.

Help Fund Michael Bihovsky's Musical

Continued from front page

"The characters in *Fresh!* each have their own struggles to overcome," says Bihovsky, "whether its EDS, anorexia, guilt, or abandonment, the question for each of them is, 'How do I take these very scary things, and use them to make me stronger?'"

Bihovsky views this reading as a chance to workshop *Fresh!* in front of an audience of industry professionals, and as an opportunity to add to the show's already impressive production history, which includes selections that were performed Off-Broadway as finalists in the "Scene It: New York" competition.

To learn more about *Fresh!* or to donate to its Kickstarter campaign, visit www.michael-bihovsky.com.

Meet Artist James Prosek

Continued from front page

will sign copies of his latest book, *Ocean Fishes: Paintings of Saltwater Fish* (Rizzoli New York, October 2012). To register, go to <http://prosek.eventbrite.com/>.

The award and talk coincide with an exhibit of Prosek's work on display in the Academy's Art of Science Gallery through **January 21**. *James Prosek: Ocean Fishes* features 14 life-size watercolors from his latest book. These are extremely detailed paintings of Atlantic sailfish, king mackerel, mako shark, swordfish, and others with which the artist has had a personal experience. The largest fish in the series is the 12-foot-8-inch-long blue marlin, based on a fish the artist traveled to the Cape Verde Islands, off West Africa, to see.

"James Prosek's extraordinary paintings are so infused with life that they seem to jump off the paper," said Robert Peck, curator of art and artifacts at the Academy and chairman of the Gold Medal selection committee. "Like Audubon, the artist to whom he is often compared, James goes well beyond depicting the superficial appearance of his subjects. There is a power in his work that stays with you long after you have left the exhibit."

The Academy established the Gold Medal in Natural History Art in 1980 to recognize people whose artistic endeavors and life's work have contributed to the understanding and appreciation of living things. Previous recipients include photographers Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter and naturalists and authors Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Matthiessen and John McPhee.

"Receiving this medal from the Academy is a huge honor," said Prosek. "I'm thrilled beyond words to be in the company of some of my greatest influences and heroes, including Peterson, Matthiessen and McPhee."

In preparation for his next work, which is a personal inquiry into how nature is named and ordered, Prosek will be an "artist in residence" at the Academy in early December and will use the time to discuss with Academy curators how species are scientifically organized and classified.

Prosek has written for *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*. His other books include *Joe and Me: An Education in Fishing and Friendship*, *The Complete Angler: A Connecticut Yankee Follows in the Footsteps of Walton*, *Fly-Fishing the 41st: Around the World on the 41st Parallel*, and the children's book *A Good Day's Fishing*. He wrote and co-produced a Peabody Award-winning fishing documentary shown on ESPN and is currently working on a documentary on eels for the series "Nature" on PBS. He lives next to a fishing pond in Easton, Conn. For museum information, call 215-299-1000.

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