

'Two Friends' exhibition now at Cape May's A Ca Mia

CAPE MAY - "Two Friends", a two woman exhibit featuring water color paintings by local artists, Laurie Schiffelbein and Anna Marie Zabielski, is on display now through Dec. 5 at A Ca Mia Restaurant, 524 Washington Street. A "Meet the Artists Reception" is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. Light refreshments provided by A Ca Mia. A Ca Mia Restaurant is open to the public for lunch and dinner starting at 11:30, Friday and Saturday; and Sunday for lunch 12 to 3 p.m. All artwork is for sale. Call 609-884-

6661 for more information. Laurie Schiffelbein is excited to present a new series of work titled "Cape May in Blue". Six watercolor paintings featuring Cape May scenes have been skillfully rendered in shades of blue. Laurie Schiffelbein's expertise as a watercolorist can be seen in the sunlight glistening on the water and the silhouettes of sailboats against a backdrop of the Cape May County Veterans' Memorial Bridge in "Cape May Harbor in Blue". Laurie Schiffelbein's work can also be seen at The Artist's Co-op

Gallery, located in the West End Garage, 484 W. Perry St. (609) 770-8261; and at Cape May's 5th Annual Designer Show House, 511 Franklin St., 884-5404. Anna Marie Zabielski presents a selection of her favorite watercolor paintings. Anna Marie is known for her impressionistic style and use of bright clean colors. Anna Marie's studio/gallery is located at 156 Stevens St., in West Cape May. She also has her artwork on display at the Designer Show House.



"Congress Hall Cabanas in Blue," original watercolor by Laurie Schiffelbein.

East Lynne presents 'Christmas in Black and White'

CAPE MAY - "Boston Harbor, 1895, a gray morning, the deck wet, the iron all beaded with frost, all the longshoremen in heavy pea-jackets, the whole ship in a

bustle, and the favored first-class passengers just leaving. Among the hundreds of people going and coming, pushing and hauling, stands Nora, an Irish girl, her knitted hood

already covered with frost, and tears hanging from her black eyelashes. The poor thing looks right and left and up the pier and down the pier - and in that whole crowd of busy people - her big brother is not there, as he promised to be and should be."

Thus begins one of Edward Everett Hales' Christmas stories, "9 Linwood Street," one of several that are part of East Lynne Theater Company's world premiere, "Christmas in Black and White." Based on the writings of American authors, its holiday time from the point of view of African-Americans and newly arrived immigrants from 1845-1935, adapted and interpreted by two master storytellers: Stephanie Garrett and Gayle Stahlhuth. Garrett is a popular participant in ELTC's "Tales of the Victorians." Last season, Stahlhuth presented "O. Henry's Christmas Stories" as a solo show, portraying over thirty different characters, for which Jacob Schaad, reviewer for "The

Gazette," awarded her the "Jacoby Award" for the year's Best Female Performer.

The tales are told in storytelling fashion, where each performer portrays multiple roles. With the flick of a wrist, the bend of the waist and the change in the tone of voice, a character can come to life in a heartbeat. Tales included are based on the works of Zora Neale Hurston, T. Thomas Fortune, Chester Himes, Edward Everett Hale, and local resident, Chris Clemens's story about the Whaler's Cottage and the Coachman family who owned it, right here in Cape May County.

Gayle Stahlhuth is in her eleventh year as ELTC's Artistic Director, and as such, has directed over half of the 54 shows she's produced, including "Why Marry?," the first play to win the Pulitzer Prize. She's appeared in Off-Broadway, regional, touring productions, and on the Chautauqua circuit. Recently, she performed in

the five-character musical "One Man Band" starring Broadway-veteran Ken Jennings, written by James Lecesne and Marc Elliott, with music by Emmy-winner Larry Hochman, at Luna Stage.

Stephanie Garrett is a storyteller, who has worked at Historic Cold Spring Village and appeared in ELTC's "Women and the Vote," "Rain" and "The People of Cape May v. Johan van Buren." She is also a favorite short-story performer for ELTC's popular "Tales of the Victorians," where members of ELTC read American classics on the porches of B&Bs to the delight of tourists and locals - a favorite Cape May pastime, and is past President of the Greater Cape May Historical Society.

Performances of "Christmas in Black and White" are on Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28; Sunday, Dec. 6; Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 at 8:30 p.m., where the company is in residence, at The First

Presbyterian Church, 500 Hughes Street. Tickets are \$23 general admission; \$13 for full-time students; and anyone age 12 and under is free. For reservations and information, call 884-5898 or go online to www.eastlynnetheater.org. To make a reservation using a credit card, call 866-280-9211.

Season tickets for the 2010 Mainstage Season of ELTC, now celebrating its 30th year, are available and make a great present. Only \$90 for five terrific shows.

"Christmas in Black and White" would not be possible without season sponsors Curran Investment Management, Alethea's Restaurant, La Mer Beachfront Inn, and funding received through a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the generosity of many patrons.



Gayle Stahlhuth and Stephanie Garrett in East Lynne Theater Company's production of "Christmas in Black and White."

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CM Stage hosting three special evenings

CAPE MAY - Cape May Stage, with the generous support of PNC Arts Alive, is hosting three upcoming special evenings of theater at discount prices. The theatre's compelling production of Athol Fugard's "Master Harold... and the Boys," now playing at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse, has scheduled a free jazz concert featuring local jazz legend

Lois Smith on Nov. 21, followed by a popular 'Pay What You Can' performance on Nov. 22 and a half-price 'senior night' on the 27. These discounted events round out the final two production weeks of what theatre-goers hail as "the Equity theatre's most dramatic production of the season."

Featuring a combination of jazz favorites such as "I Got

the World on a String" and "Blackberry Winter," audience members at the playhouse will enjoy a free concert starring local jazz legend, Lois Smith, on Saturday, Nov. 21. Simply purchase a ticket to see the 8 p.m. performance of the Stage's current hit, "Master Harold... and the Boys" and enjoy the free concert immediately following the play. Smith has been thrilling audiences in the region for many years with a voice that has enough power and emotion to fill an auditorium or a good-sized church.



Jazz legend Lois Smith

On Sunday, Nov. 22, the public is invited to attend a 'Pay What You Can' performance at 8 p.m. The ticket amount paid is entirely at the discretion of the theatergoer and is intended to draw those who are deterred by the traditionally higher prices. Whatever tickets have not been sold for that evening's performance will be 'Pay What You Can' and will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis fifteen minutes before the start of the show. Lastly, on Friday, Nov. 27, seniors 62 and over, are invited to attend an 8 p.m. performance of the Drama Desk award-winning play, "Master Harold...and the Boys" at the discounted rate of only \$12.50 per ticket - that's fifty percent off regular box office prices.

In "Master Harold...and the Boys," playwright Athol Fugard weaves together a story valued for both its universal themes of humanity

and its skilled theater craft. Featuring a cast of three professional actors from both New York and Los Angeles, the play's beautiful and haunting dialogue and message of hope inspire the recognition that there is much work to be done to bring people of different races together.

Cape May Stage, with support from PNC Arts Alive, encourages audiences to take advantage of these upcoming special promotions. "Master Harold...and the Boys" plays Wednesdays through Sundays at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse located at the corner of Bank and Lafayette Streets in Cape May. The final performance of the current run is at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening, Nov. 28. Call (609) 884-1341 for reservations and information or visit the theatre's website, www.capemaystage.com.

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