

Luray bluegrass fest turns 50

EVENT» Oak Leaf and Mountain Music concert runs July 2-4

The town of Luray is rolling out the red carpet as the world's bluegrass community gets set to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first ever bluegrass festival. The Oak Leaf Bluegrass & Mountain Music Festival at Luray Caverns is the Shenandoah Valley's largest bluegrass and mountain music festival and promises to be

the must-attend family event for 2011. It will be held July 2 to 4. Dr. Ralph Stanley's meet-and-greet begins the veritable "Who's Who" list of guest appearances by bluegrass and mountain music legends. Performers include: Bill Clifton, the original 1961 festival organizer and promoter; Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group, who appear regularly on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion"; and Shenandoah Valley-based Nothin' Fancy have

If you go

- » **What:** Oak Leaf Bluegrass
- » **Where:** Town of Luray
- » **When:** July 2 to 4

hosted their own festival in Buena Vista since 2001 and won Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America's "Entertaining Group of the Year" three consecutive years, 2008-2010. Gov. Bob McDonnell recognized the Oak Leaf Bluegrass & Mountain Music Festival, for celebrat-

ing "the 50th anniversary of this important moment in Virginia's history and the Commonwealth's rich heritage of bluegrass music." There will be displays of 18th- and 19th-century arts and crafts, Shenandoah Valley wine and local beer tastings, a selection of Valley favorites and eclectic food vendors and children's activities. Attendees may take in plenty of jamming and field picking, music workshops and slow jams, mountain clogging expositions and on the eve of July 4th, the town of

Luray will cap off the celebration with a fireworks display. Gate opens at 9 a.m. each morning and rough camping is available. The Oak Leaf Bluegrass & Mountain Music Festival is a Sanctioned Event for the National Park Service's 75th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the Skyline Drive. For more information, call 540-209-3540 or visit www.shenandoahmusictrail.com.

News release

Dancin' an Unlimited performance

MANASSAS» Jazz Dance swings to 'Stars, Stripes and Stagelights'

Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Company will present a free performance July 2 at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater at Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. The venue will open at 7 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., with free parking next to the amphitheater.

In case of inclement weather, the show will be July 3. "Jazz Dance Americana: Stars, Stripes and Stagelights" will feature concert jazz dance pieces and a patriotic medley for the holiday weekend.

The show not only celebrates our nation's independence but also commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's First Battle of Bull Run. The show will include "An American Salute" with such patriotic musical favorites as "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Living in America" choreographed in the jazz dance style; "Drum" with percussive, tribal rhythms combined with African dance influences to create a high intensity, powerful performance full of jumps, leaps and turns; and "Into the Night" with a slow tempo and strong lines to draw the audience into its rich form and expression. Jazz dance is America's indigenous dance art form and a blend of African and European dance traditions.

Dancin' Unlimited generates the power and passion of the live jazz dance experience.

Founded in 1973, Dancin' Unlimited is a nonprofit, professional jazz dance company whose mission is to promote, produce and present jazz dance.

For the past 25 years, Dancin' Unlimited has produced and performed in the annual Jazz and Tap Dance Festival as part of a commitment to bring the art of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Company will present a free performance July 2 at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater at Northern Virginia Community College in Manassas.

If you're going

- » **WHO:** Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Co.
- » **WHAT:** Patriotic Jazz Dance

- » **Performance WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. on July 2
- » **WHERE:** Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater, Northern Virginia Community College
- » **COST:** Free

NVCC Educational Foundation. Series sponsors include Country Chevrolet and NOVEC.

For more information, visit www.nvcc.edu/businesses-and-community/arts-theatre/mary-louise-jackson-amphitheater/events.html or call Amanda Corrigan at 703-530-8298.

Northern Virginia Community College

jazz dance to the community. The performance is part of the Summer Evenings Under the Stars series, made possible with funding from the

Barber's Best Bets

The lowdown on what's up on screen, on stage and on the club, concert scene

BY JOE BARBER

MOVIES: Opening June 29 — "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" is the third film in the series of big budget blockbusters from director Michael Bay, based on the television cartoon show and toy line. This time, the Autobots are racing against time to stop the Decepticons from finding and utilizing a weapon on the dark side of the Moon.

» Opening July 1 — Tom Hanks is "Larry Crowne," a popular, veteran employee at a "big box" retail store whose life is turned upside down when he's suddenly fired for not having a college degree. Hoping to regain his job, he begins taking classes at a community college and catches the eye of one of his professors (fellow Oscar winner Julia Roberts.) Hanks co-wrote and directed the film. "Monte Carlo" is a comedy about a group of middle-class girls visiting Paris who are suddenly swept up into the world of the international jet set when one of them is mistaken for a British heiress. Selena

Gomez (The Wizards of Waverley Place) heads the cast.

» In Theaters Now — As we approach the mid point of the summer movie season, here's a quick assessment of what's worth seeing.

"X Men: First Class" has been the class of the summer of superheroes. It's an imaginative restart of a franchise that seemed to have run aground, thanks to sharp direction by Matthew Vaughn ("Kick Ass") and strong acting by James McAvoy ("Wanted,") Jennifer Lawrence ("Winter's Bone") and Michael Fassbinder.

"Beginners" is a funny and deeply moving semi-autobiographical story about a recently widowed 75-year-old professor (Christopher Plummer) who stuns his 33-year-old son (Ewan McGregor) when he announces he's come out of the closet and plans to live as a gay man. Plummer delivers the kind of multi-layered and detailed performance that richly deserves the Oscar buzz it's getting. Finally, "Hey Bo: Harper Lee &

"To Kill A Mockingbird," offers a fascinating view of the author of that compelling coming-of-age novel and its long-lasting effect on its devoted readers. Newly discovered letters and other documents from and about the reclusive Lee highlight the film, along with comments from fans of the book, including Tom Brokaw, Oprah Winfrey and others. The documentary is playing exclusively in the Washington area at the West End Cinemas, 2301 "M" Street, N.W., in the District. Let's hope the rest of the summer offers more films of the quality displayed by these three movies.

» On DVD — Paul Giamatti won a Golden Globe and should have been an Oscar contender for his lead performance in "Barney's Version," available on DVD and Blu-ray Tuesday. He plays Barney, a cigar chomping, hockey loving, constantly harried television producer from Canada. The arrival of his 65th birthday has lead him onto the path of self-examination, looking at the forces that shaped his life. MPAA Rating: R for profanity,

mild violence and sexual situations. Joe's Rating: Three and One-Half (**1/2) Stars.

THEATRE: The Shakespeare Theatre Company offers a new production of "The Merchant of Venice" at Sidney Harmon Hall in the District. Set in the cutthroat world of international finance, one imagines Shylock might want more than that pound of flesh in this economy. This Merchant is open for business through July 24.

The Kennedy Center will present the touring edition of the Tony Award-winning musical "Next to Normal" on its Eisenhower stage, beginning June 28. Alice Ripley will re-create her role as a wife and mother struggling with depression. She won a Tony and a Helen Hayes Award for the same role in prior incarnations of the show. Normal runs at the Kennedy Center through July 10.

The Studio Theatre has extended the run of its critically acclaimed production of "Venus in Fur." The play will now run through July 10.

CLUBS & CONCERTS: Wolf Trap takes a bit of a break until June 30, when "Mama Mia!" returns for a brief run through July 3. The State Theatre in Falls Church offers another Five Dollar Comedy Night on July 1, featuring a group of local stand ups. The Birchmer presents two well known names: Kenny Loggins on June 27 and Todd Rundgren on June 28.

Comedian Gary Valentine does a four night stand at the DC Improv from June 30 to July 3. Soul singer Cheryl "Pepsi" Riley visits Blues Alley in Georgetown on June 30. The Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra celebrates "The Big Band Sound of World War II" at the Alley on July 2 and 3.

Eric Brace & Last Train Home return to the area with a show at the Rams Head Tavern in Annapolis on July 2 and Trace Adkins performs at Pier Six Pavilion in Baltimore's Inner Harbor on July 1.

Joe Barber's entertainment reviews and reports can be heard Fridays through Sundays on the WTOP-FM News Network (103.5, 103.9, 107.7 & Wtop.com.) He can be seen regularly on WETA-TV's Around Town.



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