

# ARTWORKS

**CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL:  
PUTTING WEST VIRGINIA ON THE NATIONAL STAGE**



# CONTENTS

**FALL 2010**

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN THEATER FESTIVAL	PAGE 4
RON HINKLE GLASS	PAGE 6
WRITERS RETREAT	PAGE 7
REMEMBERING BYRD	PAGE 9
CHALLENGE AMERICA: FESTIVAL	PAGE 11
FACEBOOK AND ARTISTS	PAGE 13
SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH VASILIA SCOURAS	PAGE 14
ADA NOTES	PAGE 16
POETRY OUT LOUD	PAGE 18



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Grants and services of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and West Virginia Commission on the Arts are made possible in part by a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the West Virginia State Legislature.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

The arts define who we are and what makes West Virginia – and West Virginians – unique among all others. We celebrate that in each issue of *Artworks*. The artists, arts organizations and community leaders, are finding innovative ways to incorporate their cultural heritages, philosophies and experiences into their daily lives. One only has to travel the state to see the energy that is building a strong creative community in the Mountain State. At the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, we support our state artists and their diverse traditional and contemporary works. In this issue you will find examples of the best that West Virginia has to offer. We are excited to feature artists like Ron Hinkle and his amazing glass work at the Culture Center and highlight emerging artists like Vasilias Scouras who represents fresh and energetic ideas through her paintings.



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**COVER IMAGE:** Jason Denuszek as Math and Amelia Workman as Soph. Photo by Ron Blunt

### QUESTIONS?

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All publications and application forms are available in alternate formats.

# (re)MEET THE ARTS STAFF



**JEFF PIERSON** Director of Arts

Under the leadership of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the Arts Section created core values that identified our mission and goals for the arts in West Virginia. The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the West Virginia Commission on the Arts are committed to increased participation, education, sustainability, collaboration, communication and leadership in the arts. In these times of hardship and uncertainty I believe it is going to become increasingly important that we have a very direct connection to our constituents. Increased communication both through our office and face to face interactions will ensure that we do not lose touch with organizations that are vital to our communities.

One of the most successful advocacy tools is sharing an experience. We cannot advocate for the arts unless we ourselves participate, so get out and see a live performance, attend an art opening, encourage those close to you to paint, sing, write, and dance no matter their age.



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Cultural Facilities  
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ADA  
Governor's Arts Awards

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Arts in Education  
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Mini-Grants  
Performing Artists on Tour

CONTEMPORARY  
AMERICAN THEATER  
FESTIVAL

# PUTTING WEST VIRGINIA ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

BY ALEX LEMLEY

West Virginia. Home of the Mountaineers, rolling hills, Appalachian people and nationally renowned theater?

Little do most West Virginians know but for 20 years now, Shepherdstown is the harbor of the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) at Shepherd University. The Festival produces theater productions with modern themes; challenging and entertaining their audiences. Starting with a \$120,000 budget in its first season, back in 1991, the festival became a tourist destination driving a million dollar impact toward the Eastern Panhandle. Its goal was, and still is, to sustain an artistic process of innovation and daring, diverse stories while creating a profound and ever-evolving relationship between the audience and the work.

And that very goal began with its founder, Ed Herendeen. Herendeen, who helped CATF produce 85 new plays, 32 world premieres, and eight new play commissions, also serves as Producing Director. He strived to create a playwright's theater and a place for the birth of new theater. And he wanted that in Shepherdstown.

With its brick-laden sidewalks and historic landmarks, the college town holds more culture on its main street than most towns do in all of their city limits. Local artists and merchants flood the shops of the quiet town, which many describe as scenic and quaint. And on the outskirts of downtown, sits Shep



Scene from *Inana* by Michele Lowe. Zabryna Guevara as Shali Shalid and Barzin Akhavan as Yasin Shalid. Photo by LaBrell Guy



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Yankee Tavern* by Steven Dietz. Anderson Matthews as Ray. Photo by Ron Blunt. *Dear Sara Jane* by Victor Lodato. Joey Parsons as Sara Jane. Photo by Ron Blunt *Breadcrumbs* by Jennifer Haley. Helen-Jean Arthur as Alida and Eva Kaminski as Beth. Photo by Judy Olsen

herd University, one of Princeton Review's 2010 Best Southeastern colleges, right on the Potomac. Not to mention, all of this nestled in the mountains, is only 90 minutes from Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Shepherd's campus provides three performance areas, offering an atmosphere suited for any and all plays. The Frank Arts Center stage is a proscenium space; while the Studio Theater, located in Sara Cree Hall, holds a black box facility; and the latest, which opened in 2008, is the Center for Contemporary Arts, a perfect spot for the experimental show; changing the environment of the space to complement each play.

And so with the stage set 20 years ago, the Contemporary American Theater Festival was born. In that time period more than just plays have made an impact. CATF creates an experience for the actors, staff and theater goers. From tech lectures on the "backstage" aspect of how scenery, lighting and production is created to stage readings, and guest speakers, the month CATF takes over Shepherdstown is a jam packed one. Many plays offer post-show discussions with the actors and directors and lectures with playwrights, to better enrich the theater experience.

"The type of growth the actors see here, the magic the audience experiences, is unlike any other festival. The people who write these plays create unique stories and the fantastic town of Shepherdstown strongly supports the telling of these stories—somehow the stars aligned perfectly to make this collaboration thrive. The CATF and Shepherd University partnership was fate," Herendeen said.

Many of CATF's company members belong to Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists, and Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

And continuing the wonderful relationship CATF holds with Shepherd University, the festival employs several college students as summer interns. Working throughout the summer months, the interns are eligible for annual scholarship funds and fellowships.

National recognition of CATF is abundant, from this year's playwright, Michele Lowe, receiving The Francesca Primus Prize for *Inana*, to three CATF featured plays, *Dear Sara Jane*, *The Pavilion*, and *Flag Day* being Pulitzer Prize nominees. Media such as National Public Radio, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal* have all featured the festival, its works, and the people over the years.

"CATF provides this wonderful showcase of culture and creativity nestled here in West Virginia; an artistic gift of which many people are unaware. Once they come to Shepherdstown their image of our state and region changes dramatically and they return year after year." Peggy McKowen, Associate Producing Director of CATF for the past four seasons, said.

The festival ended this year on August 1 after a successful month-long run, including Sen. Jay Rockefeller presenting the president of CATF's board of trustees, Lisa Younis, with a plaque of his Congressional Record submission. The honor recognized the festival as an economic power for the state and building creativity in West Virginia for 20 years.

CATF will return next year for another summer in Shepherdstown and until then, Herendeen is on the hunt for more stories of the now.

"What's in store for next year? Being in this town and continuing to produce great scripts, new ideas, and entertain our audience. To stay relevant and consistent in the theater world you have to be ever changing and we strive to do that year after year," Herendeen notes.

# Ron Hinkle brings his unique glasswork to the Culture Center at the Capitol Complex

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is featuring a new exhibit. Ron Hinkle Glass, as one of the West Virginia's Gift to the World series, in the Lobby Gallery of the Culture Center in Charleston. The exhibit has the theme "While You Were Sleeping," and resembles a glass flower garden. There are approximately 1,000 pieces of glass in the show including flowers, stars, orbs and leaves in a variety of shapes and colors – all set against the backdrop of a night sky.

Hinkle is an accomplished master glass artist who embodies great passion and appreciation for glass and the history of glass making. He was born in Buckhannon and developed a love of glass at the young age of 12.

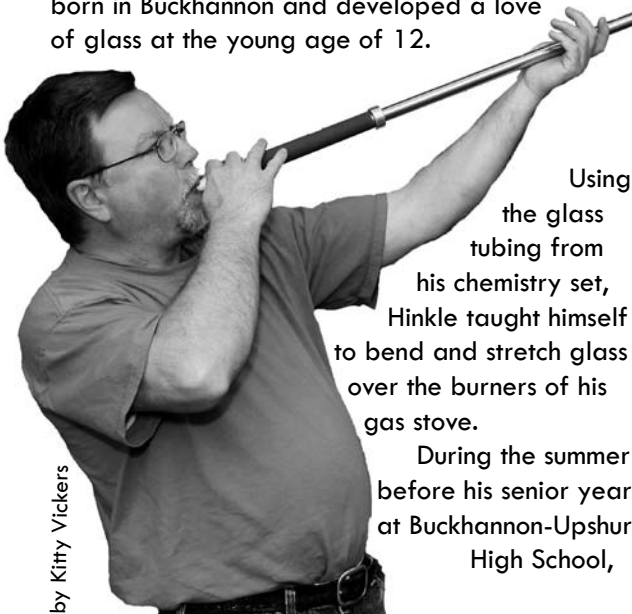


photo by Kitty Vickers

Using the glass tubing from his chemistry set, Hinkle taught himself to bend and stretch glass over the burners of his gas stove.

During the summer before his senior year at Buckhannon-Upshur High School,

Hinkle learned that the glass factories in nearby Weston needed summer help. He began working for Louie Glass and ended up spending the next 20 years there, learning from the masters, while developing his own style.

Within a few years, Hinkle began working independently during his breaks and after work to learn the art of glass blowing. He soon was assigned to a glass blowing position, where he remained for 14 years. He began crafting paperweights during every spare moment and secured an apprentice to assist him. In mid-1993, Hinkle left Louie Glass and opened Hinkle's Dying Art Glassworks on Jan. 1, 1994 in Buckhannon. He initially sold his work wholesale, particularly to Princess House Consultants. For the first five years, his business grew by 30 percent each year. His art glass is available in more than 30 states and select international locations. In December 2005, he changed his company's name to Ron Hinkle Glass.

Hinkle's work has been featured on the West Virginia Governor's Tree and the Christmas Pageant of Peace trees at the White House. His product line includes designer vases, rondels, bowls, stemware, table lamps and a series of novelty figurines including animals, fruit and flowers. He currently is developing a line of handcrafted custom lamps in collaboration with blacksmith artist Jeff Fetty of Spencer.



"While You Were Sleeping" Installation at the Culture Center, Charleston



STORY AND PHOTOS BY COLLEEN ANDERSON

West Virginia's first full-time artist residency program, the Aurora Project, is close to accepting its first fellows. Artists from around the world will spend three to six weeks in Aurora, West Virginia. The program will provide studio space, lodging and food while they work, without distractions, at their own art. The Aurora Project will eventually accommodate visual artists, sculptors, photographers, musicians, writers, performing artists, art historians and others.

The Aurora Project is built, literally, on the bones of an old resort complex. Century-old guest cottages have been lifted from their crumbling piers, replaced on concrete foundations, wired, plumbed, framed, and adapted to meet ADA specifications. Restoration of roofs, gutters and windows is ongoing.

For the past three years, a few lucky writers have been "test-driving" the Aurora Project by convening for semi-annual weekend retreats. The next Aurora Project Writers' Retreat is scheduled for November 4-7, 2010.

The short-term writing retreats serve two purposes: they help Aurora Project administrators anticipate the challenges of running longer-term retreats; and they introduce the Aurora Project to people who can spread the word about the residency program.

Until the permanent artists' residences are completed, Aurora Project board members provide housing. Michele Moure-Reeves, one of the program's three founders, uses her country inn, Brookside Inn and Retreat Center, as a home base. An accomplished chef, she also prepares the excellent food Aurora writers enjoy. Several other community members donate the use of guest cottages.

Beginning with the first Aurora Project Writers' Retreat, in May 2008, the long weekends have followed a similar pattern. This is a retreat, not a conference. There are no workshops or panel discussions; the writers come for solitude and uninterrupted creative time.

They arrive at about seven on Thursday evening. This is get-acquainted time; over hors

d'oeuvres and wine, participants enjoy reunions and make introductions.

By nine or ten, most have retired to their rooms at the inn or have followed guides to local guest cottages.

On Friday morning, after a communal breakfast, writers seek out private spaces for reflecting, writing, reading, walking, sleeping — whatever they need to nourish their art.

Some writers work in their rooms, while others prefer the public spaces, including various nooks, crannies and a wide wraparound porch. Some write in notebooks, others set up computers. Some choose to stroll in Cathedral State Forest, just a stone's throw away. Others hike up the hills in the

group for dessert and a public reading by a well-known writer with West Virginia connections. West Virginia's poet laureate Irene McKinney headlined the 2009 fall retreat; this year, poet Maggie Anderson will be the featured guest.

On Sunday morning, after yet another sumptuous breakfast, the writers close their notebooks and reluctantly say their goodbyes. Some will have added chapters to novels or written poems, essays or songs. Some will have listened to wood thrushes, caught up on sleep and cleared their minds to begin the next writing project. Some will already be looking forward to the next Aurora Project Writers' Retreat.



For more information about the Aurora Project or the Fall Writers' Retreat, contact Michele Moure-Reeves at [info@auroraproject.org](mailto:info@auroraproject.org).

John Nakashima, Irene McKinney, Susan Truxell Sauter, Tom Miles working on a manuscript.

opposite direction. The only rule is that no one may disturb another's privacy without an invitation.

After supper on Friday, writers usually organize an informal reading for their peers. Each person who wishes to share is allotted a short time for reading aloud.

Saturday's daytime hours are devoted, again, to solitude and quiet time. Beginning last year, however, the Fall Writers' Retreat featured a Saturday evening treat: after a special private dinner, a few community members joined the

**“Dance is the hidden  
language of the soul.”  
Martha Graham**



# Remembering Byrd

by Lou Karas and Judge M. Blane Michael

## Lou Karas

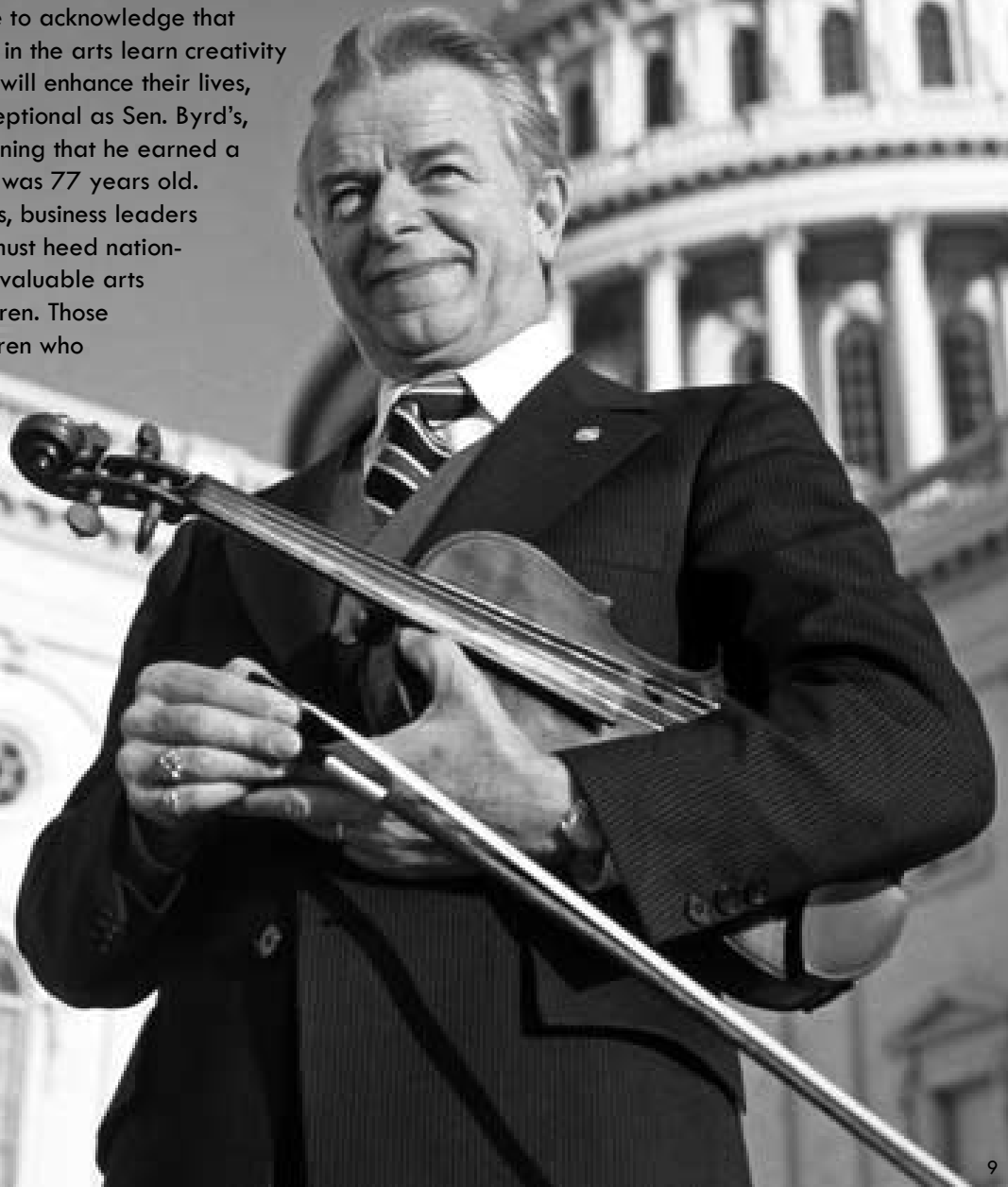
Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., was a man of character and strength. His legacy in the U.S. Senate will have an impact on West Virginia and our country for years to come. As history remembers how he loved West Virginia and his work in the Senate, the Appalachian Education Initiative also remembers his love of the arts.

Music, poetry and oratory were part of his everyday life. Images of Sen. Byrd playing his beloved fiddle, speaking with feeling and reciting poetry remind us that the pleasures we take from the arts stay with us all of our lives.

This is a suitable time to acknowledge that children who participate in the arts learn creativity and self-confidence that will enhance their lives, even into careers as exceptional as Sen. Byrd's, a man who so loved learning that he earned a college degree when he was 77 years old.

As parents, educators, business leaders and public officials, we must heed national studies that show how valuable arts education is for our children. Those studies confirm that children who take art classes, play in the band and perform in school productions are learning more than what paintbrush to use, which instrument they prefer and whether they care more for drama or dance. They are developing creative thought processes and building self-confidence each time they take a class. They are learning to think independently, trust their judgment and push themselves to excel.

The arts are as important to our children's development as science, social studies, reading and math. They help to build character and team



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## Judge M. Blane Michael

Some years ago, there was a proposed amendment on the Senate floor to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Senator Byrd made a powerful speech opposing the amendment. He acknowledged up front that he had not agreed with every grant the NEA had ever made, but he thought the objectionable ones were but a tiny few.

With moving words, the Senator drew on his own background to explain why it is vital to have public funding for the arts. He told the story about how, as a young boy, he wanted a violin in the worst way. Young Robert Byrd's adoptive father could not really afford to buy him a violin, but the father scrimped and saved and finally got enough money together to make the purchase. In his speech, Senator Byrd described the big day:

My foster father was a coal miner, and through the sweat of his brow, he bought me a violin. I can remember the Saturday afternoon when we piled

into a large flat-bed truck and went from Stotesbury to Beckley, about 15 miles away.

I went back home that night. I had a violin case tucked under my arm with a violin in it. My dad paid all of about \$28 or \$29 for this violin, violin bow, and violin case. I went home that night and had visions of becoming a Schubert or a Chopin. I could see myself being one of the great artists. Those were dreams.

Senator Byrd continued:

I can remember that my dad was very poor, the man who raised me. At Christmastime, he never gave me a cap buster or a cowboy suit. . . . But he gave me a watercolor set or a drawing tablet or a book. . . . [I]n passing this legislation . . . and providing funds . . . we are in a sense providing a little watercolor set or a drawing tablet . . . to some talented, ambitious, deserving [and] achieving person.

. . . Who knows, out of these funds there may [be not] just one, but there may be many masters -- as they develop the talents that are borne within their genes. Many people have those talents and never have the opportunity to develop them. So, where we can . . . provide the opportunity and the encouragement, we ought to do it. That is a side of life -- a side of our culture that is uplifting. We should not attempt to dampen it down, or discourage [it,] or put it beyond the reach of those who cannot otherwise afford it.

\* \* \*

Let us defeat this amendment and . . . continue to make it possible for some future masters to lay their talented hands upon the culture of our own civilization and thereby benefit all of posterity.

This short speech demonstrates how keenly Senator Byrd appreciated the importance of dreams to the fabric of civilization, the importance of encouraging worthy dreams, and the importance of supporting those dreams so they might come true.

**“Reality leaves a lot to the imagination”**

**John Lennon**



## FestivALL project gives kids a chance to be artists

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BETTY RIVARD

This past June, Charleston celebrated the Fifth Annual FestivALL, “where a city becomes a work of art.” For the first time, FestivALL included a Children’s Art Fair which was coupled with the Library Street Fair. Funding was provided through a Challenge America grant from the WV Division of Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The event provided something for children of all ages. Along Capitol Street tents were erected, performers entertained and art activities gave families a chance to explore art together. The fountain on the library plaza was stocked with yellow rubber ducks giving small children a chance to fish and play in the specially set up sandboxes. On the main stage, magicians made magic, a dog act provided amusement for dog lovers and music was provided by drummers and singers. The Princeton based all-girl band, Miss Behavin’, whose ages range from ten to thirteen years old, sang their hearts out while playing electric guitars. Their impressive drummer provided a fast driving rhythm, keeping the energy up and the crowd happy.



Professional artisans set up learning stations, where kids learned about different art forms. The children then had the opportunity to create “make and take art”, which included jewelry, weaving, calligraphy, paper marbling, working with clay and planting flower pots made from recycled paper.

The tents provided space for young artists from both the East and West Sides of Charleston to come together to show their drawings and hand-made crafts. While their proud families watched, the children sold their work to an eager crowd. The young artists were able to experience the thrill of having a piece of their work studied and appreciated by a large audience of supporters. They were able to keep 100% of the profit from the work they sold, resulting in many proud and joyous faces. Two jurors reviewed the children’s art and awarded special ribbons. Additional art supplies were also awarded to the winners. A special Art Hero Award was given to honor Deborah McHenry-artist, lawyer and



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### What is Challenge America-WV?

The focus of Challenge America is on innovative enhancement of public arts experiences; outreach documentation and evaluation. The West Virginia Commission on the Arts sees the Challenge America-WV as a way to reinforce existing programming by supporting projects that deepen the level of participation in the arts; reach further into communities to include all interested participants; connect community members through the arts to strengthen and celebrate community importance; and to continue to open new pathways to learning for all West Virginians. **The following new priorities will also help achieve those goals:**

- provide statewide impact or create models for future projects
- build infrastructure through community cultural planning
- develop and document creative methods to involve artists with youth and families in underserved communities
- create and document innovative arts experiences that are above and beyond the applicant organization’s normal scope of programming.

facebook

Jason Kiley's Photos - Ceramic  
Photo 2 of 22 Back to Album · Jason's Photos · Jason's Profile

# SOCIAL MEDIA OFFERS ARTISTS A NEW WAY TO SHOW THEIR WORK

BY STACI LEECH

Friend invites. Farmville applications. Relationship status. These are common phrases for many societies and Facebook has made that possible. Facebook is a social website that helps friends, new and old, connect to share different aspects of their lives.

A popular practice is moving quickly through the friends of Facebook. Many people use the web site for simple, affordable (free), and vast promotion for themselves and any type of social event. People use it to advertise businesses and creative aspirations.

Artists have welcomed Facebook as a tool to expand communities and reach more diverse audiences. This social site allows artists and designers to reach a demographic that might otherwise never see what they create. Rob Cleland an artist from Charleston WV shares, "I don't post all my art. I figure people wouldn't go out to see it then. I post stuff from my sketchbooks because it wouldn't normally get seen." It has become a terrific marketing tool, another avenue of exposure for work that's not only convenient, and free, but easily reaches the most people in a quick approachable manner. Works can go largely unnoticed in galleries and other web sites, but now they have the ability to be seen by more because of a wider availability. Checking one's Facebook page has become the same as checking one's phones messages or email. Glen Brogan, an artist working from both Huntington and Charleston WV says, "I have a Facebook "fan page", which is a page where people can check out my new artwork, new T-shirt designs I have up for sale, art shows I'm going to be in, etc. They can choose to "like" my fan page and will automatically get updates about my work on their Facebook news feed." Becoming a fan or "friending" someone has removed some awk-

ward introductions. Facebook is the new handshake/hello to contacts and supporters that could be beneficial in the future. "Facebook is the new business card. Keeping in contact with other artists, shops, and galleries is much easier than calling. People are more likely to contact you through Facebook than call you out of the blue," says artist Jason Kiley from Huntington WV.

People are more willing to discuss artwork or any subject over Facebook. Communication among not only friends and families, but employers, employees, teachers, and working individuals occurs through email and web sites. Facebook is another means to discussing important information. Facebook is assisting the replacement of outdated ways of sharing information. It is also feeding the craving that humans have for using and posting imagery. "Even the cave painters "posted" images on cave walls in Europe, and we don't really know why, or even why this dates back to a certain point, and not before? Anyway it makes sense to me that the desire for artists and others to communicate is alive and well on the "walls" of Facebook. Art is, after all, a form of communication, a way to connect. This allows artists who find it difficult to travel or socialize to have a gallery or get to exhibit works.", states Mark Tobin Moore an artist from Charleston WV.

Artists have found a niche in the Facebook forum. Art is made approachable for the masses and not only a select few. Facebook has accepted the friends request from artists and artists have accepted Facebook as a friend with open arms.

# SeVen queStions

WITH MIXED MEDIA ARTIST VASILIA SCOURAS

**ARTWORKS:** What was your first experience with Art?

**VASILIA SCOURAS:** I don't particularly recall my first experience per say- It's just something that's always been there. I was very lucky to have an elementary school art teacher who recognized what made me tick and parents who have always supported me and all of my creative interests. I was exposed to a lot of working artists at a very early age and I think that made a huge impact on me. It made being an artist a tangible thing; I wasn't just looking at their work in books or magazines. They were real people, and they inspired me. I have always been in a creative environment that has allowed me the means to make art.



**ARTWORKS:** Why do you make Art?

**SCOURAS:** I make art because it feels good...it's just what I do, it's that simple. Different mediums take me to different places and that is what determines what type of a project I start or finish on any given day. I am always thinking of the next painting. I feel that everybody should have an outlet to express themselves no matter what medium they choose: painting, writing, acting, dancing or singing.

**ARTWORKS:** What artists influence you?

**SCOURAS:** I have always been attracted to the painterly qualities of the Fauves; particularly Henri Matisse and Andre Derain. The Fauves bold use of color and texture is absolutely incredible. While I consider myself to be primarily a painter, I like the tactile qualities of collage and assemblage works- for inspiration in this realm I turn to Dadaist Kurt Schwitters. I adore the strong, female artists of the 20th Century- Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, Louise Bourgeois, and Elizabeth Murray. I have been somewhat obsessed with Maria Lassnig for the last couple of years. Her 'body awareness' paintings are currently one of my favorite bodies of work. She chooses to illuminate the simplest of human emotions and feelings in her work, and I believe that is what makes it so potent; every living being can empathize and relate on one level or another.

**ARTWORKS:** Where do you draw your inspiration?

**SCOURAS:** I have always drawn the most inspiration from traveling. I thrive off of experiencing new places and meeting everyday folks in a place that is not so "everyday" for me. You can learn so much by throwing yourself into other cultures and I absolutely thrive on those experiences. My Greek-American background is to blame for much of the symbolism in my work. The Greek Orthodox Church is rich with symbolism and I have always been fascinated with how symbolism and metaphors can be linked with imagery and emotions in such an abstracted way.

**ARTWORKS: What roll does the emerging artist play in the arts?**

**SCOURAS:** I think emerging artists provide a different kind of energy for the community. We are always looking for something new and different these days, the emerging artists usually offer something new or different. Being an emerging artist allows you to develop and experiment more than if you have an “established” style, there are no expectations

**ARTWORKS: How does your environment impact your work?**

**SCOURAS:** I find myself constantly surrounded by creative individuals both out in the world and in my home. My home is a bright, colorful place full of things I love and artwork by people whom I am constantly inspired by. I am surrounded by people who make art. The art community is very supportive of each other and the work we do. I am always charged when I go out and experience the arts. The arts are a part of the work that I do.

**ARTWORKS: Why is public art important?**

**SCOURAS:** Public art is vital to the growth of communities; especially the creative community. FestivALL Charleston and East End Main Street have both done a wonderful job of opening the door and giving West Virginia artists a platform to reflect on their identity and show it off; that is only something that will continue to grow. The beauty of public art is that it exposes individuals who might not regularly make their way into a gallery, or a museum-pretty cool.

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life”

Pablo Picasso

“It does not really have one” by Vasilias Scouras



## National Endowment for the Arts develops new Accessibility Checklist

In a effort to provide more user friendly resources to arts organizations with regards to making not only the facility but also the programs accessible, the National Endowment has taken steps to provide this brief document to assist organizations in becoming more universally accessible. This plan is similar to West Virginia transition plan that was developed in conjunction with the Center of Excellence in Disabilities that has proven effective in changing the way we look at accessibility.

This new checklist can be found at <http://www.arts.gov/resources/Accessibility/Planning/BriefChecklist-Final-7-26-10.pdf>, if you have questions about accessibility, please contact our 504 ADA Coordinator Rose McDonough at 304-558-0240 (phone) 304-558-3562 (TDD) or by email [rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov](mailto:rose.a.mcdonough@wv.gov)

**“Disability is an art,  
an ingenious way to live”  
Neil Marcus**



Kyle-Anne Breeden

## New Regulations for Americans with Disabilities Act

The U.S. Department of Justice announced that the revised Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations for state and local governments and places of public accommodation will be published in the Federal Register. After publication, the new rules generally take effect in six months and the new design standards in 18 months. Arts administrators should be aware of how the new rules will affect cultural venues such as theaters, museums, parks, and performing and arts centers.

### Changes include:

- Revisions to the ADA design standards
- New rules for the sale of tickets for accessible seating
- New definitions for service animal and wheelchairs and powered mobility devices
- Monitor the ADA web site for announcements, guidance, and fact sheets about compliance and implementation of the new rules.



# Guide provides resource for accessible activities



West Virginia is fortunate to have many places across the state where individuals with special needs, including children, older adults and individuals with disabilities, can have fun!

"A Guide to Accessible Recreation in West Virginia" is the state's primary resource for residents and visitors looking for accessible recreation opportunities.

The Guide is part of a comprehensive recreation initiative by the West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS), a program at the Center for Excellence in Disabilities at WVU, to put as much recreation information as possible in one place. The WVATS recreation initiative includes a statewide recreation calendar, recreation workshops and conferences, and technical support to help sites increase the accessibility of their programs and facilities.

From art galleries and historical sites to fishing and camping, the Guide includes more than 140 sites in 52 counties. Listings in the Guide and on the upcoming calendar can be found by activity or county so you can find something, somewhere, that's just right for you!

Sites do not have to be 100% accessible to be included in the Guide. In many cases, sites can have accessible parking, entrances, seating or bathrooms but only be accessible on one floor. Special icons were developed for the Guide to help distinguish between Accessible features, Not Fully Accessible, and Not Accessible/Not Applicable. Self-reporting surveys were used to compile the information, although every attempt is made to ensure the information is accurate.

The guide and calendar were possible thanks to the support WVATS received from its state partners, including West Virginia Division of Tourism, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Challenged Athletes of West Virginia, the Community Living Initiatives Corporation, RetireWV and others.

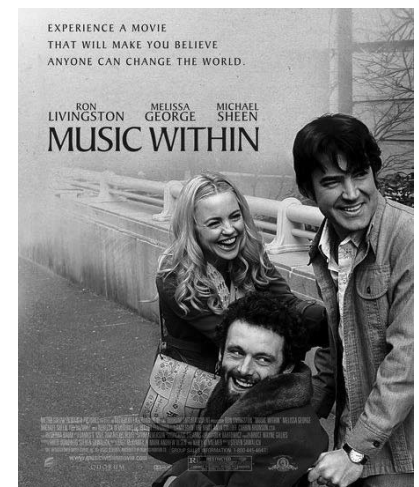
Copies of the Guide can be found at all state libraries, visitor centers and at local Convention & Visitor Bureaus. In addition, the guide can be viewed online at [www.cedwvu.org/programs/wvats/recreation/index.shtml](http://www.cedwvu.org/programs/wvats/recreation/index.shtml). Individuals unable to access the online version can call 1-800-841-8436 to request alternate formats although printed copies are limited and will only be distributed upon special request.

## Film documents the story behind Americans with Disabilities Act

The true story of Richard Pimentel, a brilliant public speaker with a troubled past. Pimentel's idol is College Bowl founder Dr. Padrow, but upon trying out for Dr. Padrow, the ambitious young speaker is informed that he won't have anything to talk about until he has lived a full life.

Realizing that there is some merit to Dr. Padrow's observation, Pimentel subsequently enlists in the military and prepares for duty in Vietnam. Later, while fighting on the battlefield, Pimentel loses most of his hearing and is left with permanent tinnitus. He returns home frustrated. When others inform him that he will never achieve his dreams because he is deaf, the determined veteran makes it his mission to prove them wrong.

But it is not as much about changing others' perceptions of persons with disabilities as it is about altering their perceptions of themselves, and with a little help from foul-mouthed genius Art Honeyman, free-spirited beauty Christine, and mercurial, hard-drinking veteran Mike Stoltz, Pimentel will play a pivotal role in creating the Americans With Disabilities Act, and finally discover his inner music.



# POETRY OUT LOUD

## 2011 WEST VIRGINIA STATE FINALS



Jasmine Lewis and Caleb Stacy from 2010 Poetry Out Loud West Virginia State Finals.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History (WVDCH), in partnership with the National Endowment of the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, present Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. A program in its sixth year, Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Over 325,000 students across the nation competed for the chance to travel to the National Finals last year. This contest is open to all West Virginia students in grades 9-12. Schools are invited to participate in classroom and school wide competitions. School winners will advance to the WV State Final, to be held on March 4th and 5th, 2011, in the Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater of the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston. The WVDCH will provide overnight lodging for school winners and their families, and reimburse travel costs for those outside of Kanawha County.

The state winner will receive \$200, with \$500 for the purchase of poetry books awarded to the winner's school, and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Finals, April 27-29, 2011. The state runner-up will receive \$100 with \$200 going to the winner's school. At the National Finals, Poetry Out Loud will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarship prizes and school stipends, including \$20,000 for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion, and \$10,000 and \$5,000 for the second- and third-place finalists. The remaining nine finalists each receive \$1,000, and the schools of the top 12 finalists each will

receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books.

This year, the WVDCH will introduce a semi-finals round on March 4th, and conclude the competition with a final round on Saturday. Students, teachers and families travel from all over the state to participate.

Many opportunities are available for participation in this program. For more information or to register, please contact Stacy Kepple, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator, at (304) 558-0240, ext. 721, or [Stacy.L.Kepple@wv.gov](mailto:Stacy.L.Kepple@wv.gov). Additional information is available online at [www.poetry-outloud.org](http://www.poetry-outloud.org) and at [www.wvculture.org/arts/pol/index.html](http://www.wvculture.org/arts/pol/index.html).



From left to right: Jeff Pierson, Stacy Kepple, 2010 State Champion Jasmine Lewis, Poet Nikki Giovanni, and Actor Chris Sarandon



River City Youth Ballet performance, 2010 Governor's Arts Awards

## WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

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# mark your **calendars**

**NOVEMBER 10 2010**

WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

**JANUARY 31 2011**

ARTS DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

**MARCH 4, 5 2011**

POETRY OUT LOUD WEST VIRGINIA STATE FINALS

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

West Virginia Commission on the Arts  
[www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org)

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation  
[www.midatlanticarts.org](http://www.midatlanticarts.org)

West Virginia Development Office  
[www.sbdcwv.org](http://www.sbdcwv.org)

West Virginia Division of Tourism  
[www.wvtourism.com](http://www.wvtourism.com)

West Virginia Humanities Council  
[www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org)

National Endowment for the Arts  
[www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour  
[www.pennpat.org](http://www.pennpat.org)