

NORTH TYNESIDE ARTS E-ZINE

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www.norhtynesidearts.org.uk

The first of this year's folk/roots music programme at the **BUDDLE ARTS CENTRE** is on Saturday (10 Feb) when **DIESEL THERAPY** make a welcome return. This North East-based alt-country band - Jim Hornsby (guitar and vocals), Danny Holmes (guitar), Sean Taylor (fretless bass) and Eric Green (drums) - fuse original bluegrass, Western swing and Americana, and are a great live experience. They went down a storm at their sell-out gig at the Buddle Arts Centre last May, when they launched their latest album "The Turf House". You can find more about the band on their website. Doors open at 7.30pm with licensed bar, show starts around 8pm – tickets from the box office 0191 200 7026. Weblink: www.dieseltherapy.com

More gigs presented by Priory Promotions over the following weeks are -

A double-header with local favourites **THE CAFFREYS** plus **WINTER**, on 9 March. The Caffe probably need little introduction - one of the very best live bands around, with melodic, country-tinged sounds and their famous three-part harmonies - their show in December was a sell-out, so book early for this one! And there's the added bonus of a debut Buddle Arts Centre visit from Swedish band Winter - led by main songwriter and vocalist Anna-Lena Winter, they have some similarities to compatriots The Cardigans, but remind E-zine most of the great lost Dutch band Bettie Serveert. Their current album "Ten Songs" is their third – check out tracks and more info from their website.

Weblinks: www.thecaffs.com

www.winternet.nu

On 30 March, **CLIVE CARROLL** makes a welcome return - one of the very best guitarists in the country. Reviewing his 2004 album "The Red Guitar", fROOTS magazine said, "Truly a guitarist for all seasons, Carroll here delivers an album full of ornamentation and filigree, putting him up there with his peers such as John Renbourn and Tommy Emmanuel. Inspirations run from newgrass and fusion jazz to the inevitable Irish stylings, all cleanly arranged and immaculately interpreted." With John Renbourn, he co-wrote the score for the film "Driving Lessons" (starring Julie Walters and Rupert Grint) which was shown on ITV1 before Christmas.

Weblink: www.clivecarroll.co.uk

HEIDI TALBOT, BOO HEWERDINE & TOLA CUSTY come to the Buddle Arts Centre on 4 April. Irish singer Heidi Talbot fronts one of the top Celtic bands, Cherish the Ladies, with a voice which has caused reviewers to reach for their thesauruses to find synonyms for 'sumptuous', 'beautiful', and 'impossibly lovely'. Boo Hewerdine is former lead singer with The Bible, and is regular guitarist for Eddi Reader (he's on her new

album "Peacetime") - his own album "Harmonograph", featuring his versions of songs he has written for others, was nominated as album of 2006 by Cherry Red supremo Iain McNay - "an underrated and enormously gifted songwriter who has that magic knack of writing songs that really do get under your skin". Irish fiddle player Tola Custy is regarded as one of the absolute best in his field. Together, their live performance has been described as "sheer, unadulterated class".

Weblinks: www.heiditalbot.com
www.boohewerdine.net

And 20 April sees **TONY McMANUS** back at the Buddle Arts Centre after a number of years. John Renbourn calls him "the best Celtic guitarist in the world" and who are we to argue? Former BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards nominee for Musician of the Year, he's built up a huge worldwide reputation for his live performances and studio recordings.

Weblink: www.tonymcmanus.com

All these shows start at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm with licensed bar) - for tickets and enquiries, contact the Buddle Arts Centre box office on 0191 200 7026.

The winners of the 2007 **BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARDS** have been announced – and there were a couple of gongs each for two of the acts who've been part of the North Tyneside music line-up. Bellowhead, who starred at the Mouth of the Tyne Festival's Tynemouth Priory world/roots event in July, won Best Group and Best Live Act. And Seth Lakeman, who's played the Buddle Arts Centre quite a few times (most recently in October 2005) picked up the Folk Singer of the Year accolade and the award for Best Album for "Freedom Fields" – given the way his career has exploded into big venues and large-scale festivals over the last 12 months or so, we're not sure we'll be able to get him back to Wallsend in the near future, but you never know. The Awards event is being broadcast on Radio 2 tomorrow evening (7 Feb) at 7pm. Details of all the winners on the Awards website.

Weblink: www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/events/folkawards2007/winners.shtml

More events at the **BUDDLE ARTS CENTRE** this month –

On 16 February, **NORTH TYNESIDE YOUTH MUSIC COLLECTIVE** present their first monthly showcase gig of the year, featuring some of the best local young bands - each of these gigs (presented in association with our own TIME Studio music resource) has 3 or 4 bands on the line-up, drawn from more than 50 who are part of the Collective. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start - tickets £2.50 on the door. More info from TIME Studio on 0191 200 1173 or e-mail TimeRecordingStudio@hotmail.com

After a very successful national tour of "A Handful of Sand", **MONSTER PRODUCTIONS** are back on home turf with another of their shows for younger audiences, "The Tree of Life", on 22 & 23 February. Performed by storyteller Chris Bostock and actor Peter Ross, the show follows the African legend of Trokki the Tortoise and his wonderful dream in which he sees the Tree of Life. This production is a festival of storytelling, music and puppetry, specially created for 4-8 year-olds. Performances are at 11am & 2pm both

days - tickets £3 from 0191 200 7026. Contact the Monster Productions office on 0191 240 4011 for enquiries about large group bookings and the resource packs which accompany the show.

Weblink: www.monsterproductions.co.uk

And on 24 February at 7.30pm **OPEN CLASP THEATRE COMPANY** are back with their new play "Tonic". It's the World Cup, and four women are determined to get away from it all, but an uninvited guest and a suitcase full of money throw their plans into disarray. The development of the play was directly informed by young women in the region as part of the Mind the Gap project looking at mental health issues - more details on the Open Clasp website. Tickets are £6.50 (£5 concs) from the box office 0191 252 3505. If you can't get to the Buddle Arts Centre for this performance, then it's also on at other North Tyneside venues 20-23 February - details in the Events Summary below. Suitable for 16 years-old and over.

Weblink: www.openclasp.org.uk

A couple of musical offerings coming up at **SAVILLE EXCHANGE** in North Shields -

On Friday (9 Feb), the latest **LUNCHTIME RECITAL** features young pianist Robert Scamardella. He studied at the Guildhall School of Music for 5 years, and in 2002 was a BBC Young Musician of the Year finalist. The programme will include works by Haydn, Chopin, Liszt and Ravel. Starts 1pm, tickets £5 (£4 with season ticket) from 0191 252 3505.

Weblink: www.mastermusicians.co.uk

And the next **JAZZ AT THE EXCHANGE** event is on 16 February at 8pm, with Andy Cooper's Euro Top Eight. Longtime Kenny Ball reedman Cooper (clarinet & sax) leads a band composed of eight of Europe's top trad jazzmen - including giants of the UK scene Mike Cotton (trumpet) and reedman John Barnes, plus continental stars Peter "Banjo" Meyer from Germany and France's Pascale Michaux - performing classic sounds from Dixie to Swing. Tickets £10 (£9 concs, £5 students) from the box office 0191 252 3505. Check the website for details of what Jazz at the Exchange has on offer later this year.

Weblink: www.jazzexchange.co.uk

There are two epic productions at **WHITLEY BAY PLAYHOUSE** on the horizon -

"RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET!" is a unique mix of Shakespeare, sci-fi and rock 'n' roll, featuring red hot songs from the 50s and 60s - "Good Vibrations", "Monster Mash", "Great Balls of Fire" and many more - and the North Tyneside-based company TALENT present their new version on 14-17 February. This is a group of young actors and singers - about 90 will be involved in this production - run by the Council's Education service; they've brought "Les Miserables" and "A Musical Showcase" to Whitley Bay Playhouse over the last two years, as well as performing at a range of events including at The Sage Gateshead. And for this show they'll be joined by a special guest - local BBC weatherman Paul Mooney, who'll be appearing in a cameo role as a newsreader. So join Captain Tempest and the crew of the Intergalactic Starship Albatross in this cosmic adventure of truly meteoric proportions! Shows are 7.15pm each

night, tickets £8 (£6 under-16s and senior citizens, group booking discounts available) - box office 0191 252 3505.

TALENT always welcome new members to audition – check out their website or phone 0191 200 1525 for more details.

Weblink: www.brightsparks-nt.org.uk

From 26 February to 2 March, **TYNEMOUTH AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY** present “Titanic - the Musical”. Probably the biggest undertaking in the Society’s history - there’s a cast of 70 for a start, plus two directors, and it’s been two years in the planning - this was a huge hit when it opened in New York in 1997, sweeping the board at that year’s Tony Awards. Not connected to the James Cameron film, the show tells the story of some of the actual passengers on the Titanic’s doomed maiden voyage. The Society have undertaken extensive research to ensure the authenticity of the production - even having the publicity photos taken in the White Swan Hotel in Alnwick, which boasts a dining room with original fittings from the Titanic’s sister ship, the Olympia. Performances are 7.15pm each night, plus a Saturday 2.15pm matinee (3 Mar). Tickets £10.50 with various discounts available - details from the box office 0191 252 3505

Details of all events at Whitley Bay Playhouse, including the film programme, plus those they support at other venues such as Saville Exchange, on their website - where you can also purchase tickets online and sign up for their mailing list.

Weblink: www.whitleybayplayhouse.co.uk

Booking for **TYNEMOUTH PRIORY THEATRE**’s next production opens on Monday (10 Feb) - “Party Piece” by Richard Harris. This is a fast-paced comedy, set in adjacent back gardens, which deals with the complex relations between neighbours and families.

Performances are on 3-10 March, at 7.30pm each night – tickets £7 from the ansaphone booking service 0191 292 9292. You can also find out more about the Theatre – how to join, backstage guided tours, coffee mornings, forthcoming productions, open evenings –

by checking their website or e-mailing Theatrepriory@aol.com

Weblink: www.homestead.com/tynemouthpriorytheatre/index.html

Back to the Buddle Arts Centre, and the current **ADHOC GALLERY** exhibition is “Journeymen” by **NICK BANKS** and **BRIAN ORD**. Both artists were trained as and practised as sculptors, before recently concentrating more on two-dimensional work - Banks using wall-based layers of oils and wax, Ord using collage printed onto canvas and then painted. This is their first joint show, and includes some 30 works on sale at prices from £350 to £1,300. The exhibition continues until 24 February, admission free - open Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 10am-5pm, Wed 10am-8pm, Sat 11am-5pm, and during evening events on 10, 16 & 24 Feb.

A full-colour catalogue, including a specially-commissioned essay by critic, curator and artist Peter Suchin, is available to visitors to the exhibition, or anyone unable to get to the gallery can request a copy, free of charge, by e-mailing

art.river@northtyneside.gov.uk with ‘Journeymen’ in the subject box and details of your name and address. The catalogue is also viewable as a pdf download on our webpage.

Weblink: www.northtynesidearts.org.uk

Continuing at **GLOBE HUB** gallery in North Shields is "Signs of Conflict" - new work by Yorkshire-based artist **IAN CALE**. He has exhibited in North Tyneside before - his exhibition "Kessel" was shown at AdHoc Gallery in April 2003 - and his current work follows on from that as part of an ongoing project about the former East Germany, where he spends an increasing amount of his time. This has led to the development and exploration of different mediums including photography, film, print and the documentation of found objects. He attempts to capture the impact of conflict and occupation on cities including Berlin, Leipzig & Dresden, by exploring civilian and military locations which are often abandoned and forgotten places such as hospitals and derelict apartment blocks. Further info about the artist and the "Kessel: Signs of Conflict" project available from his website. The exhibition continues until 3 March, admission free, open Wed-Sat 11.30am-5pm - more info from 0191 259 2614.

Weblink: www.iancale.co.uk

And showing simultaneously at the sister gallery Globe City in Newcastle is a show by internationally-celebrated Newcastle artist **GERALD LAING**, exploring the Iraq war in a series of paintings which are informed by the Pop Art style which the artist first developed in the 1960s. As part of the exhibition, audiences will also have the chance to select and view films made by students at the Independent Film & Television College in Iraq, which give a powerful insight to life in Baghdad since the war began. More info from the gallery website, or phone 0191 222 1666.

Weblink: www.globegallery.org

And a reminder that the current artwork in **THE BRIDGE** in Tynemouth Station - "Thought Journey" by Keri Townsend – remains in situ until at least the middle of March, maybe a bit longer. Townsend's work is an intricate, meticulous response to the engineering and architecture of one of the most artistically challenging visual arts spaces in the region. Made from 22 miles of steel wire and 4,500 nails, the complex geometry of the piece links roof-girders, walls and floor through three inverted cone-like shapes that trace an intimate conversation with the station's architecture and the journeys people take. One of the artist's inspirations for the piece is her feeling that in the 20 seconds or so it takes to walk across the bridge between the two platforms, a small thought can turn into something large, or a confused set of thoughts can become resolved and clarified. "Thought Journey" can be viewed 24 hours a day, admission free.

If you're looking for something different for half-term, then **SEGEDUNUM ROMAN FORT, BATHS & MUSEUM** and **WALLSEND LIBRARY** have teamed up to bring you "The Awesome Egyptians Family Fun Day" for 5-11 year-olds, on 21 February from 10am. It's all free, but entry is by ticket only as places are limited - contact Wallsend Library 0191 200 6968 to book a place (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Weblink: www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum

Finally, another mention of the **ARTS DEBATE** - Arts Council England's major inquiry into the public value of the arts. Although the website has been live for a while, it isn't officially launched until Monday (12 Feb). The Arts Debate is a large-scale public engagement exercise to explore what people value about the arts, and the different ways in which they create, consume or participate in the arts. Setting the scene, Peter Hewitt, Chief Executive of Arts Council England (and incidentally a former arts officer in

North Tyneside) said “It’s time we found out more about how people perceive and engage with the arts – and how they might do so in the future.” Everyone working in or interested in the arts is invited to have their say by checking out the website.
Weblink: www.artsdebate.co.uk

EVENTS SUMMARY

9 Feb, 1pm - Robert Scamardella piano recital, Saville Exchange (0191 252 3505)

10 Feb, 8pm - Diesel Therapy, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

14-17 Feb, 7.15pm - Talent “Return to the Forbidden Planet!”, Whitley Bay Playhouse (0191 252 3505)

16 Feb, 7.30pm - North Tyneside Youth Music Collective, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

16 Feb, 8pm - Andy Cooper’s Euro Top Eight, Saville Exchange (0191 252 3505)

20 Feb, 7.30pm - Open Clasp Theatre Company “Tonic”, Shiremoor Centre (0191 252 3505)

21 Feb, 7.30pm - Open Clasp Theatre Company “Tonic”, CVS Centre Whitley Bay (0191 252 3505)

22 Feb, 7.30pm - Open Clasp Theatre Company “Tonic”, White Swan Centre Killingworth (0191 252 3505)

22 & 23 Feb, 11am & 2pm - Monster Productions “Tree of Life” (0191 200 7026)

23 Feb, 7.30pm - Open Clasp Theatre Company “Tonic”, Saville Exchange (0191 252 3505)

24 Feb, 7.30pm - Open Clasp Theatre Company “Tonic”, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 252 3505)

26 Feb-2 Mar, 7.15pm - Tynemouth Amateur Operatic Society “Titanic - the Musical”, Whitley Bay Playhouse (0191 252 3505)

3 Mar, 2.15pm & 7.15pm - Tynemouth Amateur Operatic Society “Titanic - the Musical”, Whitley Bay Playhouse (0191 252 3505)

3-10 Mar, 7.30pm - Tynemouth Priory Theatre “Party Piece”, Tynemouth Priory Theatre (0191 292 9292)

9 Mar, 8pm - The Caffreys & Winter, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

30 Mar, 8pm - Clive Carroll, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

4 Apr, 8pm - Heidi Talbot, Boo Hewerdine & Tola Custy, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

20 Apr, 8pm - Tony McManus, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

EXHIBITIONS SUMMARY

Until 24 Feb - Nick Banks & Brian Ord "Journeymen", AdHoc Gallery (0191 200 7132)

Until 3 Mar - Ian Cale "Signs of Conflict", Globe Hub (0191 259 2614)

Until 3 Mar - Gerald Laing "Iraq War Paintings", Globe City (0191 222 1666)

Until mid/end Mar - Keri Townsend "Thought Journey", The Bridge Tynemouth Station

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

Let us know if you've got anything to tell us about arts events and activities in North Tyneside and we'll do our best to include it - e-mail to mike.campbell@northtyneside.gov.uk

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