

NORTH TYNESIDE ARTS E-ZINE

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<http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/tourist/arts.shtml>

Welcome to the (slightly delayed) first E-zine of 2008.

First up, North Tyneside Council is working on a new **ARTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY** for the borough, to set out the priorities for the next three years. The first stage is to determine the key themes for the strategy, and as part of the consultation process two discussion sessions have been arranged for the arts sector in North Tyneside - professional arts organisations, professional artists and arts practitioners, and voluntary arts groups such as theatre clubs, writing groups, art societies, etc. Both sessions are being held at the Buddle Arts Centre on Wednesday evening (23 Jan) at 5.30pm, and next Tuesday morning (29 Jan) at 11am. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Buddle Arts Centre's office on 0191 200 7132, saying which session you'll be coming to. If you are unable to attend either session, there will be opportunities to comment on and have input to the strategy as the detailed content is being put together - anyone wishing to be kept informed about this, e-mail mike.campbell@northtyneside.gov.uk

The **BUDDLE ARTS CENTRE**'s music programme for the year kicks off soon with three gigs offering a truly international flavour.

First up, on 2 February, it's a Californian double-bill featuring **STEWBOSS** and **DEAD ROCK WEST**. Led by singer-songwriter Gregg Sarfaty, Stewboss are classic Americana - sepia-toned, melodic roots rock. You can hear touches of Tom Petty, Wilco, Sparklehorse, The Band and especially Counting Crows in their songs, but extensive US touring and some acclaimed albums have helped them carve out their own sound and an increasing reputation. This gig is part of a major acoustic UK tour. Check out their MySpace page for more info and a selection of tracks:

<http://www.myspace.com/stewboss>

Dead Rock West are Cindy Wasserman and Frank Lee Drennen. As their name suggests, there are strong country and southern folk influences, but mixed with garage rock, power pop and rock 'n' roll. The quality songwriting and tight musicianship is brought together by the seamless vocal harmonies of the two band members. Their debut album "Honey & Salt" was engineered by Grammy winner Richard Dodd (Tom Petty, George Harrison, Steve Earle, etc) and has won them a growing fanbase. <http://www.deadrockwest.com>

Radio 2's Bob Harris is a big fan of both bands, and is featuring them in a live session on his show this Saturday (26 Jan).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/shows/bobharris>

Another double-bill on 12 February brings together two acclaimed blues guitarists from either end of the world. Australian singer-songwriter-guitarist **JEFF LANG** has built up a reputation for startlingly original performances, weaving skilled blues guitar around his songs, effortlessly playing complicated parts but never at the expense of the songs themselves, and allowing the unique energy of each gig to shape the songs. Inspired by elemental blues, gospel, Hendrix and Ry Cooder, he's developed his own distinctive sound. He has toured with the likes of Bob Dylan, Loudon Wainwright III, Richard Thompson, Dr John and Ani Di Franco, and his 2002 collaboration with Bob Brozman won an ARIA award (Australia's equivalent of a Grammy) for Best Blues and Roots Music album. Find out more on his website at <http://www.jefflang.com.au>

From much closer to home, **JOHN WHITEHILL** has been a mainstay of the Tyneside blues and roots scene for more than two decades. A founder member of Paul Lamb and the Kingsnakes in 1988, he was with them for 15 years, and was also a long time stalwart of the Blues Burglars. Voted Best British Blues Guitarist no fewer than four times, he's regarded as one of the few home grown guitarists since Peter Green to capture convincingly the tone and phrasing of the Chicago-style blues guitar sound. He's released a solo album "Guitar Slinger", and toured and played with many of the biggest names in UK and US blues. <http://www.bluesburglars.co.uk/biogs.html>

Making his Buddle Arts Centre debut on 14 February, **ADRIAN LEGG** is another true guitar virtuoso. Impossible to categorize as a player, he incorporates virtually every genre on his guitar in a virtuosic instrumental style with striking use of effects, bringing electric approaches to acoustic playing. Regarded as comparable to Robert Fripp and Richard Thompson, over nearly 20 years London-born Legg has demonstrated his ability to combine superb technique with sensitive melodies into an almost orchestral sound. Find out more from his website. <http://www.adrianlegg.com>

All these events start at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm - licensed bar available). Tickets for each event are £11 advance (£12 on the door) from the box office 0191 200 7026. Discount on ticket price available for Buddle Arts Centre Supporters Card holders.

The strong line-up of music at the Buddle Arts Centre this spring continues with the Matt Schofield Trio, Junco Partners, Tony McManus and Andy McKee - see the Events Summary below for dates.

As we informed readers in the last issue, the Buddle Arts Centre is now the place to buy tickets for events at **SAVILLE EXCHANGE** in North Shields, and there are a number of performances coming up next month:

On 8 February, **JAZZ AT THE EXCHANGE** presents its latest monthly concert, featuring a return visit to North Shields by Papa Joe's All Stars. Led by drummer Jerry Card, this London-based band plays the music of Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver (the 'Papa Joe' of their name). The band includes former Acker Bilk sidesman Ken Sims on cornet and legendary clarinettist Charlie Connors. Starts 8pm, tickets £11 (£10 concs & Buddle Arts Centre Supporters Card holders, £5 students). For more info about the Jazz Exchange programme and to join the

mailing list, check out their website.
<http://www.jazzexchange.co.uk>

“A Swell Party” on 15 & 16 February is a celebration of the music of Cole Porter presented by **TYNEMOUTH AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY**. Performances are 7.30pm each night, plus a 2.30pm Saturday matinee (16 Feb) - tickets £9 (£8 senior citizens & under-16s).
<http://www.taos.tv>

North Tyneside-based theatre company **CLOUD NINE** had a prolific 2007, and they start the new year with what is probably their most ambitious production so far. “The Selkie” is a new take on an old myth, written by Valerie Laws and directed by Neil Armstrong. Set amongst a present-day dysfunctional family living on the North East coast, the play blends ancient Northern myth, transformation, comedy, drama and live music. Roanne, an overweight, overworked and under-appreciated wife and mother becomes strangely drawn by the call of the sea and believes she may be turning into a selkie - legendary seal people who could also live as humans. Her mother was lost to the sea - is she about to go the same way, or is she in touch with forces beyond normal understanding? The five-strong cast are supported by live sea music from The Keelers and singer Katie Doherty. “The Selkie” is premiered early next month at The Sage Gateshead before touring the region and finishing up with two performances at Saville Exchange on 22 & 23 February, 7.30pm each night. Tickets £9 (£6 concs, £1 discount on ticket price for Buddle Arts Centre Supporters Card holders).
<http://www.cloudninetheatre.co.uk>

Box office for all these events is 0191 200 7026. Please note that tickets booked in advance must be paid for in advance (most debit and credit cards accepted), although tickets can also be bought on the door if available. The seating arrangements vary for each event, so check with our box office. We will be putting the seating plans on our website soon.

Saville Exchange is on the corner of Howard Street and Saville Street, about 6 minutes' walk from North Shields Metro station. The venue is fully accessible, and there is a bar for most events.

The Buddle Arts Centre's **ADHOC GALLERY** exhibition programme for 2008 gets underway with “The Tyne”, a collection of paintings by members of the **BUDDLE ART GROUP**, inspired by the river and its environment. There are some 40 works on show, along with a selection of paintings on other subjects by group members. The Buddle Art Group is an older people's art society - the oldest member is 99 - who meet every Wednesday at the Buddle Arts Centre, working with guest tutors and arranging occasional painting trips within the area.

“The Tyne” was opened last week (16 Jan) by Councillor Joan Bell, Chairman of North Tyneside Council, who noted the link between the exhibition's subject matter and her designated charity, the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade, which has been a feature of the river since it was founded as England's first such volunteer brigade after a famous wreck in November 1864 claimed 32 lives (this was the inspiration for Mark Mooney's recent exhibition at the Globe Hub gallery). For more details about

the Chairman's Charity or to make a donation, contact the Chairman's office on 0191 200 6893 or e-mail jayne.stewart@northtyneside.gov.uk Find out more about the TVLB and their Watch House Museum on their website.
<http://www.tvlb.org>

"The Tyne" continues until 16 February - open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm (Wed until 8pm), Sat 11am-5pm and during evening events. For more information about AdHoc Gallery, go to the gallery page on our website:
http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/tourist/artsnews.shtml?p_ID=5254

The new installation in **THE BRIDGE TYNEMOUTH STATION** is being constructed at the moment. "Inside" is by artist Stephanie Imbeau - born and raised in the USA, and recently graduated with an MA in Fine Art from Newcastle University - and explores ideas of community, belonging and isolation. There'll be more information in the next E-zine. Meanwhile, if you missed the work shown in The Bridge over Christmas by Left Luggage Theatre, check out the video which they've posted on their MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/leftluggagetheatre> - scroll down the page slightly to view. Left Luggage are currently undertaking a residency at Battersea Arts Centre in London, and specialise in site-specific work, responding to the history and memory of people and place to create an immersive theatrical experience - their piece for The Bridge was inspired by their show "Day Return", taking the audience on a journey to the Christmas Top Hat Dance and the eccentricities of the British seaside.
<http://www.leftluggagetheatre.co.uk>

For more info about the installation programme in The Bridge, e-mail ylanafirst@talktalk.net

VOLUNTARY ARTS ENGLAND (VAN) are holding two free workshops in North Tyneside next month for voluntary arts groups and anyone involved in voluntary arts provision, looking at the ways in which IT can help groups develop and promote themselves - covering topics such as websites, specialist software, technical support, financial management, etc. The workshops are on 26 February at the Shiremoor Centre - find out more by contacting Brian Bell at VAN on 0191 230 4465 or e-mail brian@vaengland.org.uk There are more details about the workshops, and information about the work that VAN do to support the voluntary arts sector nationally, on their website.
<http://www.vaengland.org.uk>

Congratulations to poet - and North Tyneside resident - **SEAN O'BRIEN** on winning the prestigious TS Eliot Prize earlier this month for his latest collection "The Drowned Book". Uniquely, Sean has won the Forward Prize three times, but this is the first time he has won the TS Eliot Prize, awarded annually to the best new poetry collection published in the UK or Ireland. The judges - who included another North Tyneside resident poet, WN Herbert - described the collection as "fierce, funny and deeply melancholy", exploring themes of submergence, dereliction, purpose and preoccupation.

It's also time once again for the annual **BBC RADIO 2 FOLK AWARDS**, and heading the list this year is Martin Simpson, whose show at the Buddle Arts Centre was one of the highlights of last autumn's programme. Martin has five nominations - for Folk Singer of the Year and Musician of the Year, Best Album for "Prodigal Son", Best Original Song ("Never Any Good") and Best Traditional Track ("Andrew Lammie"). He'll also be playing live at the awards ceremony on 4 February, when the results are announced. You can catch highlights of the event a couple of days later on Mike Harding's Radio 2 show. Other performers familiar to Buddle Arts Centre audiences, including Chris While & Julie Matthews, Show of Hands and Jez Lowe, have also been nominated - see the full shortlist at this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/events/folkawards2008>

You may have noticed in the details earlier on of what's coming up in February that the offer of discounts on ticket prices for **BUDDLE ARTS CENTRE SUPPORTERS CARD** holders is now being extended to selected events at Saville Exchange - so this is a good time to sign up to the scheme to take advantage of the increased benefits on offer. There's now well over 1,000 cardholders, and as well as money off tickets they also receive invitations to all AdHoc Gallery exhibition openings, and regular mailings. To join, simply send an e-mail to the.buddle@northtyneside.gov.uk with 'Supporters Card sign-up' in the subject box, and including your name, full postal address, and contact telephone numbers - or fill in a form next time you're in the Buddle Arts Centre. We've just done our annual analysis of where cardholders live, and once again it proves what we always say - that the Buddle Arts Centre is both a local and a regional facility. So while a quarter of members are from Wallsend, and another quarter from elsewhere in North Tyneside, nearly half are from other parts of Tyneside and the North East region - with some being from places even further afield such as London, Wales, Hampshire, Scotland and Dorset.

Finally, we were very sad to learn that the writer **CHRISSIE GLAZEBROOK** has died after a long illness. She struck gold with her debut novel "The Madolents" (2001), which delighted reviewers and was a hit with adult and teenage readers alike. Having known Chrissie for many years, from when she was working at the old Northern Arts in the Published & Broadcast Arts department - she was also a North Tyneside resident - we were happy to find space for her in the Buddle Arts Centre to work on her second novel, which was published as "Blue Spark Sisters" in 2003. To quote from Kitty Fitzgerald's tribute in The Independent, "There was so much writing left for Chrissie Glazebrook to do, so much talent unexcavated" - read the full obituary at this link: <http://news.independent.co.uk/people/obituaries/article3249842.ece>

EVENTS SUMMARY

2 Feb, 8pm - Stewboss and Dead Rock West, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

8 Feb, 8pm - Papa Joe's All Stars, Saville Exchange (0191 200 7026)

12 Feb, 8pm - Jeff Lang and John Whitehill Band, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

14 Feb, 8pm - Adrian Legg, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

15 Feb, 7.30pm - Tynemouth Amateur Operatic Society "A Swell Party", Saville Exchange (0191 200 7026)

16 Feb, 2.30pm & 7.30pm - Tynemouth Amateur Operatic Society "A Swell Party", Saville Exchange (0191 200 7026)

22 & 23 Feb, 7.30pm - Cloud Nine "The Selkie", Saville Exchange (0191 200 7026)

14 Mar, 8pm - Matt Schofield Trio, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

29 Mar, 8pm - Junco Partners, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

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

17 May, 8pm - Andy McKee, Buddle Arts Centre (0191 200 7026)

EXHIBITIONS SUMMARY

Until 16 Feb - Buddle Art Group "The Tyne", AdHoc Gallery (0191 200 7132)

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

To join the mailing list, just e-mail to the.buddle@northtyneside.gov.uk with 'Subscribe to E-zine' in the subject box.

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