

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE ARTS

Celebrate Your Next Birthday Party with the DAC



Just sit back and relish every moment of your son or daughter's "special day" as the children create eye-catching art work which can be enjoyed by all for years to come. Call today to schedule your child's next party.

Darien Arts Center
Office Hours Monday - Friday 10 - 4
Phone (203) 655-8683 Fax (203) 655-9470
Box Office (203) 655-5414
Web Site: arts.darien.org
Executive Director: Amy Allen
Administrative Assistants: Amanda Bennett,
Lynn Kelly
Dance Director : Bonnie Gombos
Music Director: Juanita Bosee
Theatre Director: Chris Smalley
Visual Arts Director: Anne Tabacco

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March

Darien Players present
Almost Maine by John Cariani
March 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 at 8 pm
March 13, 20 at 2 pm

May

Darien Players present
Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence
and
Robert Edwin Lee
May 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 pm
May 15, 22 at 2 pm

Dance: *Junior Dance Concert*
May 14

53rd Annual Art Show and Sale
Receiving May 29 & 31

Memorial Day Parade
May 30

June

Senior Dance Concert
June 4

53rd Annual Art Show and Sale
Reception June 3
Art Show and Sale June 4-11

VISUAL ARTS NEWS

Would you like to see something other than WHITE this winter? After several snow delays a new adult oil painting workshop is scheduled to begin on March 2nd in the DAC Visual Art Studio! Dreaming of more colorful days ahead, picture yourself out on our beautiful Long Island Sound as you learn to paint **Seascapes in Oils**. This class will incorporate oil painting basics and techniques with an emphasis on painting seascapes and shore scenes. Beginners as well as advanced painters are welcome to participate in this class with Joseph Lamorte, a life long seascape artist! Five Wednesdays: March 2 – 30, 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon.

Then, beginning April 6th, Joe will turn to **Landscape Painting in Oils** just in time for spring! This class will again cover oil painting techniques both basic and advanced. The instructor will help students explore landscape painting from a very realistic approach, and also explore abstract interpretations. Five Wednesdays, April 6 – May 11 (no class April 20th), 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon.



Joseph Lamorte will teach two new classes in Oil Painting during the Spring term

Register for one or both of these new workshops now!
Call 203-655-8683, or visit arts.darien.org.

PLAYERS NEWS



Mario Fuentes of Port Chester and Lynne Barasch of South Salem rehearse for *Almost, Maine*

“Everyone can relate to *Almost, Maine*” says Amy Allen, Executive Director of the Darien Arts Center about the March production by the Darien Players.

Part of the play’s appeal lies in its unusual and magical setting which is also the title of the play. The fictional town of Almost, Maine has a population of 300 and is a supernaturally sparse and beautiful place where magical things occur. Clear dark skies, shooting stars and a spectacular Aurora Borealis are featured as prominently on stage as are the play’s characters: nineteen men and women, played by nine actors, falling in and out of love in nine unique, unpredictable scenes over two acts.

Almost, Maine director Carin Zakes has assembled what she calls “a dream cast” of local actors. This show marks Zakes’ third production at the DAC, including *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Getting Away with Murder*, which attracted the attendance of theatre legend Stephen Sondheim. The romantic and supernatural themes of *Almost, Maine* will be enhanced with original music created especially for the production by Broadway composer and conductor Keith Levenson.



Almost, Maine will be presented in the DAC Weatherstone Studio, on March 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26 at 8 pm; March 13 and 20th at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 general admission; Seniors/Students \$15. For reservations, tickets or more information call 203-655-5414; or visit arts.darien.org.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Darien Arts Center's painting instructor, Matthew Burcaw leads mural project at Artworks in downtown Darien

The Darien Arts Center (DAC) is very excited to announce that we have been awarded a 2011 Thriving Youth Task Force Mini-Grant from the Community Fund of Darien. The DAC, in collaboration with members of Darien's Youth Asset Team (YAT) and art assistants from Darien High School, will host a one day, fun-filled and educational workshop titled *My Darien: A Mural Painting Workshop*. The workshop theme is inspired by the historic WPA murals preserved on the walls of the Darien Town Hall depicting colonial life in Darien.

To prepare DAC painting instructor Matthew Burcaw and his assistants, Judy Groppa, a DAC board member, will lead a short lecture on the significance and historical context of these murals. Afterwards, with professional instruction, participants will create a multi-panel mural illustrating their vision of contemporary life – a modern day map of Darien.

The mural painting workshop will be offered on April 11, 2011 at the DAC's Visual Art studio, free of charge to Middlesex Middle School students. The maximum number of middle school participants will be 45. Those who are interested in participating will be required to register in advance.

Upon completion, the mural will be exhibited in the Darien Town Hall lobby during the month of May 2011. An artist's reception, open to the public, will be held with the date and time to be determined.

THEATRE NEWS

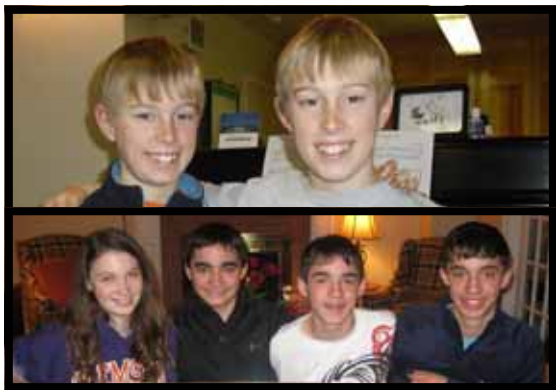
The Theatre department has enjoyed a wonderful first semester here at the Darien Arts Center. The first semester saw the Musical Theatre performers in *Wonderland!*, an unabashedly silly adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. The Drama students explored everything from Fractured Fairy Tales in *The Three Little Elephants* to classics in *Stone Soup* and even the Bard himself in the Drama Level II's production of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare...Abridged*. This semester we are excited to build upon an excellent start with a variety of classes for all ages. Join the **Musical Theatre Ensemble** as they travel to another magical land in *OZ!*, a hilarious musical based on Frank L. Baum's classic *The Wizard of Oz*. This show will be performed in the DAC Weatherstone Studio on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

The Theatre department is also offering Drama classes for all ages. The **Myths and Magic** class allows preschoolers a chance to begin their creative roots and does so with a combination of music, movement and imagination. **Beginners Drama** is a class for grades K-1 and will be exploring the magical world of Dr. Seuss with a performance based on *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* The **Drama for Young Actors I** class for performers in grades 2-4 takes a trip to the wild side with an adaptation of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are!* Also, join **Drama for Young Actors II** on the high seas in a rip-roaring adventure as they



Students in the Musical Theatre Ensemble class rehearse "Wonderland!" which was performed on January 29, 2011

MUSIC NEWS



Seeing Multiples! Twins Matthew and Christopher Drake, and quadruplets Courtney, Ryan, Drew and Tyler Costantino share a love of music at the DAC

The Music department is doubling and quadrupling the interest of our community in our classes. Just ask the Drakes and the Costantinos! Identical twins Matthew and Christopher Drake have taken piano lessons for many years and are still eager to hone their musical skills. Matthew recently performed Freddy Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody", while Christopher played a rousing version of the Lennon/McCartney hit "Let it Be" at our December recital which included 40 students.

Along with several others, the Drakes will develop their classical skills this spring as they grapple with the demands of the National Music Certificate Examinations for piano. The Costantino quadruplets are eighth graders at the Middlesex Middle School. As teens, Courtney, Ryan, Drew, and Tyler endeavor to try something new and our Music program offers the opportunity for kids and adults to do so!

Our program continues to grow with the addition of our new faculty in voice and percussion. Victor Tkachenko brings his experience as a teacher of voice, vocal repair, speech and acting, along with his experiences as a vocalist and director. He will take students as young as seven. Please check our website for more information regarding the addition of percussion lessons to our program.

Michele Grace and Chris Coogan will return with their **Vocal Performance Class** on April 11, 2011 at 7:30 pm in the music studio. Our summer plans include private lessons in piano, guitar, voice, percussion, group vocal performance, **Kindermusik®** classes and an **African Drumming Camp!** Stay tuned for more information.

DANCE NEWS

The Darien Arts Center's Dance students are busy and excited getting ready for their upcoming concerts; this year, Junior concerts are on May 14th at the Town Hall Auditorium and the Senior concerts are on June 4th at the Darien High School Auditorium. The Junior and Senior Companies have just performed on the Palace Theatre stage participating in Dancefest. The Senior Company will be performing on The Purchase College stage on February 27th for a DRA fundraiser, and the Junior Company and Martial Arts performing group will be at Darien's "A Day to Create" on March 5th in the Town Hall Gymnasium.

The Dance Department is also very excited about the continuation of **Danceabilities**, a special hands-on creative movement class for students with disabilities. Both the teachers and assistants are thrilled with the progress of our students.

Look for our summer workshop schedules in early March. We offer a very popular pre-school **Art and Dance Workshop**, as well as an **Art, Dance and Theater Production Workshop**, which incorporates three disciplines to allow the students to create a final production which will be performed on the last day. We offer a **Choreography** class for the intermediate and advanced student to be exposed to many different styles of dance and **Summerdance**, which allows older students to learn choreography, make a costume, learn about stage make-up and put on a performance during the final class. The Martial Arts program will also be continuing throughout the summer for new and current students. For more information about the summer workshops, go to arts.darien.org and click on the summer banner.



Junior and Senior Concert performances give students a chance to show off what they've learned.