

Theater company offers \$20 tickets

Trinity Repertory Company announced that it plans to continue its tradition of making a night at the theater affordable for all by making 5,000 \$20 tickets available for the rest of its 2008-2009 season.

These \$20 tickets will be available for select seats in every performance of every show – from classics like Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun” and Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest” to newer works like “The Secret Rapture,” by David Hare and the world premiere of “Shapeshifter,” by Laura Schellhardt.

“For 45 years, Trinity Rep has been Rhode Island’s theatrical home, and we have always provided great entertainment at a great value. We know that many people in our community are feeling the effects of the economic problems right now, so we created this \$20 ticket program to let our friends and neighbors know that an entertaining, enriching night at the theater is still within everyone’s reach,” said Trinity Rep Artistic Director Curt Columbus.

“We’re so pleased to be able to offer a \$20 price for 5,000 of our seats,” echoed Trinity Rep Executive Director Michael Gennaro. “It has always been Trinity Rep’s mission to be Rhode Island’s ‘public square,’ to foster and enrich a thriving community dialogue. This economic crisis has been very democratic, because it has touched everyone. We want to make sure that people and their families know that they still have the opportunity to enjoy live theater.”

There will be a limited amount of \$20 tickets available for each performance, and the tickets will be available for purchase by phone at 351-4242, daily between noon and 8 p.m., online at www.trinityrep.com, and in person at the box office at 201 Washington St. in Providence.

This discount does not apply to prior purchases, or for remaining performances of “The Receptionist.”

Islander to perform at songwriting celebration

Jamestown Ed McGuirl will be featured at the Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA) big show to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Songwriters in the Round shows at AS220 in Providence. The celebration will take place on Friday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m.

For the past five years Ryan Fitzsimmons has hosted the monthly Songwriters In The Round Show. These shows are highly entertaining and the audience members get to hear four different versions of songs written for that evening’s show that were based on a single theme that was chosen by the prior months audience.

This series has produced hundreds of new, original songs and many of them were featured on the two CDs that have been released as a result of the series.

The format for this celebratory evening will be three rounds of four songwriters presenting two songs each, followed by the Ryan Fitzsimmons Band at the end of the night.

Ryan will soon be retiring from his full-time position of host and the duties will be taken on by a rotating series of hosts.

For more information, visit www.risongwriters.com.



Kids are allowed to get into the action during Storytime at the Jamestown library. Here, from left to right, Isabelle Piccerelli, Ula McCarthy and Finbar McCarthy have librarian Denise Wilson’s permission to play with snowballs inside.

Photo by Jeff McDonough

Interim librarian introduces new programs for kids

By Eileen M. Daly

Interim Children’s Librarian Denise Wilson has a host of exciting children’s programs in mind for the upcoming months. Wilson has been filling in for children’s librarian Rowena Burke since early this fall when Burke left on a medical leave. Although it is likely that Burke will be returning (at least part-time) by the end of this month, Wilson has pledged to stay on until Burke is able to fully resume her duties.

Wilson holds an MLIS degree from Simmons College. She and her husband Jerry recently moved to Newport from Massachusetts. “We met in Newport,” Wilson said, “and about five years ago we purchased a house there. After my husband’s company was sold, we were looking for a change. Our children are grown and out of the house so we decided to sell our home in Grafton, Mass. and move to Newport full-time.”

Wilson said that she and her husband, both 53, felt they were too young to retire fully so they decided

to look for interim work instead. “It’s worked out pretty well,” she said. “We’re both working at interim jobs that we got around the same time and in between we travel.”

Since coming to the library this fall, Wilson has been involved in the creation of a number of programs. During October, Wilson said, the children worked on making haunted houses. “The haunted houses are like gingerbread houses except with more chocolate,” Wilson said. “Whenever I make them everyone gets to eat,” she added with a laugh.

Last week, during school vacation, Wilson made use of the left over craft materials from previous programs. “We had a craft day called Craft-o-mania. I just put together all of the crafts we had left over from previous programs—the ones that weren’t enough for a full program on their own—and we used them for a variety of different projects,” Wilson said.

One of Wilson’s favorite programs is the Story Time Program. Currently, there are several different

Story Time Programs available at the library, Wilson said. The Mother Goose Time is held on Wednesday’s in January and February from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. This program is for children ages newborn to 36 months. There are also two Story Time Programs for children ages 2 to 5 years. One program is led by Wilson and is held on Wednesday January and February from 11:15 to noon. The other is led by Dianne Edgar and is held on Fridays January and February from 11:15 to noon.

Wilson said that she likes to give parents of 2-year-olds the option of attending the younger or older group depending on the activity level of the child. “Some 2-year-olds need to be up and moving while others are fine with sitting quietly, so I like to let the parent decide,” she said. Wilson is also introducing a new Story Time Program. Pajama Story Hour is open to children of all ages and will be held on Tuesday evenings January and February from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. “I hope this group will be good for parents who cannot make it in during the day,” Wilson said.


Wilson said there would be plenty of activities available during the winter months. “On Jan. 27 we are planning to make dragon masks and have a dragon dance afterward with the children wearing the masks in honor of the Chinese New Year,” she said. “We will also be doing something during the February school vacation. I am thinking of maybe a movie one day and some kind of science activity on another day.”

In describing why she loves her job, Wilson said, “I love children’s literature. I really enjoy presenting at story time and seeing the children’s reactions. You never know how they are going to respond,” she said.

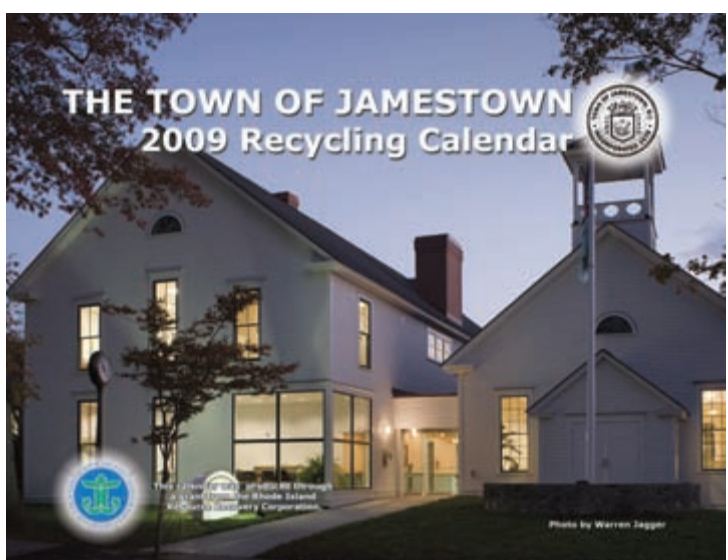
“It is an opportunity to be silly and have fun, but really it is all about the kids,” she said. “The children make the magic.”

Wilson also pointed to the support she has received from her co-workers and the larger community as one of the reasons her job has been so enjoyable. “The staff here have been wonderful,” she said, “and the community has been really sweet and supportive as well.”

Wilson also wanted to make sure that the Friends of the Library organization was recognized. “The Friends of the Library group puts on some really great children’s programs,” Wilson said. “There is always something interesting going on at the library.”



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