

THE METROPOLITAN *dÉtroit*



Photo Credit: Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau

White Clouds on the Hillside Traverse City Cherry Blossoms

By Mike Norton

The annual May blossoming of the cherry trees in Traverse City is one of America's most impressive floral displays. Ironically, it's a show that few outsiders ever see.

There's no denying the spectacle itself: 2.6 million blooming cherry trees climbing the steep glacial ridges like battalions of tidy white clouds, their soft lines contrasting with bright new grass, acres of yellow dandelions and the cobalt blue waters of Grand Traverse Bay.

"It's one of our big secrets," says Sarah West of the Chateau Chantal, a 65-acre vineyard and winery estate on the nearby Old Mission Peninsula, in the heart of Traverse City's

fruit-growing country.

Cherries are deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life in Traverse City, which bills itself as the "Cherry Capital of the World." (Quite rightly, since 75 percent of the world's tart cherries – the kind used in pies, pastries and jams – are produced within a few miles of this charming resort town.)

Most Traverse City cherries are grown on two peninsulas that lie just to the north of the city: the Leelanau Peninsula, a roughly triangular land mass along the Lake Michigan shore, and the narrower Old Mission Peninsula, which runs for 20 miles up the center of Grand Traverse Bay. Renowned for their natural beauty, these two peninsulas are bathed by deep glacial lakes and bays that create an

unusually mild "microclimate" with cool springs, dry summers and long warm autumns that extend the growing season well into October.

This anomaly was discovered by the Rev. Peter Dougherty, a missionary to the local Ottawa and Chippewa Indians who planted a cherry tree at his Old Mission settlement in 1852. No one expected the tree to survive so far north, but it did – and it wasn't long before arriving settlers began planting cherries, peaches, apples and apricots of their own.

First to bloom are the sweet cherries – about 600,000 of them. Then, within a few days they're joined by 2 million tart cherry trees. Unlike the ornamental cherries familiar to visitors to

Washington D.C., these blossoms are pure white, though from a distance some trees seem to carry hints of pink from their red twigs, while others take on a touch of light green from the emerging leaves around them. The color intensifies within a week, however, when light pink blossoms of 670,000 apple trees suddenly appear.

Continued on Page 9

Business Ownership Next Move For Unemployed

Ann Arbor, MI – Becoming unemployed is challenging on many levels, but many may feel a sense of relief from the day-to-day tension of meeting unrealistic objectives, pleasing a boss they don't respect and depending on an institution for financial stability. As a career alternative in a jobless economy, many unemployed are parlaying their talents and joining the over 24 million small businesses owners operating a business in the U.S.

"Today we're living in the age of the "New Career Economy" which calls for careers based upon self-sufficiency, personal control and rewards more closely tied to one's personal efforts," says president and COO Brian Miller of The Entrepreneur's Source (TES). "And business ownership is on the rise for just those reasons. People want to take control of their lives," Miller continued.

There are two coaches, building teams of business coaches, in Michigan, to help people in career transition explore whether business ownership has the potential to meet their personal goals, needs and expectations. "With all economic indicators pointing to a jobless recovery for 2010, there will be many business savvy types exploring business ownership as their next career move," Miller said.

As a regional developer for The Entrepreneur's Source, Vance Meyer and Jeff Scheffler each lead a team of franchise business coaches, offering career opportunities to those business owners who have a passion for

helping aspiring and established entrepreneurs, and who see business coaching as a career.

"Ideal TES business coaches are individuals who now want to take control of their future and parlay their skills into a new career direction, by helping others take control of their future" said Brian Miller. "Business coaching has become a highly-sought after service in the small business market," he added.

According to an American Management Association study, 52 percent of businesses use coaches today, while 37 percent of companies who do not use coaching say they will implement such programs in the near future.

Business experience, whether from the corporate world or the kind gained as an entrepreneur, are both valuable in understanding and working with the many type of clients seeking business ownership. However, in a franchise system like The Entrepreneur's Source, business coaches are well trained to help take clients through a discovery process to identify their lifestyle goals, needs and expectations. They are also armed with introductory business education programs for aspiring entrepreneurs considering business ownership.

According to the Entrepreneur's Source, business coaching offers a desirable lifestyle with the ability to work out of a home office and manage a schedule around lifestyle needs.

THE SPRING IS A WONDERFUL TIME IN PORTUGAL

As a country with seven tourism regions, and more than 300 miles of beaches, there is a lot more to Portugal than one might think: flowers are in bloom in the warm hillsides of Madeira and the Algarve. Temperatures climb into the 70s, and airfares are still quite affordable. In fact, four airlines now fly directly to Portugal from the United States.

Getting to Portugal

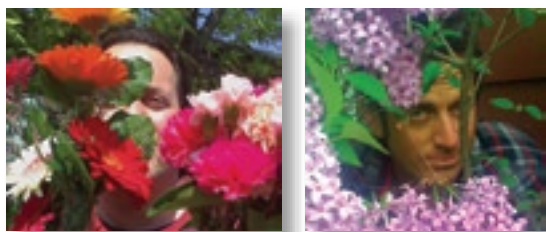
1. Year-round daily flights are available to Lisbon from Newark on TAP Portugal or Continental Airlines. **2.** TAP Portugal also offers year-round direct flights from Newark to Porto twice a week. **3.** from Philadelphia on U.S. Airways. **4.** from Boston on SATA/Azores Express.

The SATA/Azores Express flights from Boston also serve Ponta Delgada on the Azores island of São Miguel and Lajes on the Azores island of Terceira. Additional seasonal flights on SATA/Azores Express are available to Lisbon from Providence, Rhode Island and Oakland, California.

See Portugal on Page 9

Letter from the Editor

Word to your Mother



It's Mother's Day this month, readers, and for those of us fortunate enough to have ours would do well to remember them. There are many reasons to be thankful for Moms, too many to list within this note, but there is one story I wish to share.

My brother and I were young; Mom was single, working hard to raise her boys, whom you can probably guess were perfect gentlemen. New Year's Eve was on its way and Mom asked if we would like to spend it with her. She wanted to take us out - dinner and a movie.

Though, we didn't know it at the time we didn't have much money. Mom did a fine job providing for us, working several jobs to care for our needs, but as children we simply did not understand the realities of living off the income of a single parent. She must have worked a little extra, and made a few more sacrifices, to have enough to take her boys out.

Our evening began at home, Mom dancing with my brother, while the three of us washed and dressed for dinner. She was the *Disco Queen* during that point in her life and definitely knew how to move. From my room, I could hear Nicky laughing, asking to "*play the record again*" so Mom could teach him what she knew. I listened to *News Of The World* while I tried in vain to get my hair right.

We piled into the car, a yellow, 70's Ford Maverick, with black stripes and took off for Woodward, en route to the then famous *Suzi-Q*. There we sat, in a booth, in the center of a lively, boisterous room, eating *the best fish-n-chips ever*, laughing and having a wonderful time. As I sit here now, I can feel that simple moment in my bones.

"What movie are we gonna see?" Nicky asked. "Why don't we see '*Every Which Way But Loose*'" Mom said. "It's supposed to be funny and they have a chimpanzee in it." Nicky's eyes lit up and he broke out in a smile, revealing his missing tooth.

We drove to the *Abbey Theatre*. Mom bought tickets and inside spoiled us with popcorn, soda and candy. The theatre was crowded but we found good seats, and for the next 90 minutes we laughed so much our sides ached.

The film ended before midnight and we asked what we were going to do next. Mom looked at her watch, "I don't know." "Can we see this movie again? Can we?" "Sure," Mom said. "Let me get the tickets."

It wasn't until years later, I discovered that Mom didn't buy tickets for that show - she had no more money. Instead, she asked an employee if we could sneak through another screening. "Go ahead" he said. "I don't think the manager will know."

A single mother and her sons, 1978.

Thanks Mom,
Nick & Tony

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Emails to the Editor

Christmas in Spring

Reading *The Metropolitan* in the *Delta Lounge*. Their background music is the Christmas tune *Let It Snow*, on piano... Now followed by the *Romeo and Juliet Theme*... and, again with another Christmas song, *Winter Wonderland*.

Shane Pliska, Blackberry

Email to Self

Did you really write “..the experience - priceless” in your *Lafayette Vs American Coney* piece? I know it was late, well past three, and you were sipping steadily from a bottle of bourbon, but that’s no excuse - really embarrassing. Don’t let it happen again.

Me, my computer

Lost At Sea

Hope everything is wonderful, springtime no?
 Todays Forecast: Sunny with lots of sun. Chance of rain 10%. Chance of drinking 97%.
 Chance of sailing 100%. Chance of fishing 100%. Chance of swimming 100%.
 The catch of the day is Chardonnay. Cheers to your health everyone!
Smile today, life is good.

Linz, Puerto Rico

What the WiFi?

I was reading your paper and found myself giggling a bit when I read that there is free WiFi at the Landing Strip!! Who in the hell needs WiFi there???? Just was amused by that one!

Astacia, DTW

Editor's brother does good

Hey Nick,
I just wanted to say thanks for helping out at Healthy Kids Day. You were a big reason why the event was a success. The South Oakland YMCA appreciates everything you do for us. Thanks for your support.
Sincerely,
Jon, www.ymcadetroit.org

The Jokes On You

A man walks into a bar with a sheet of asphalt under his arm and says to the bartender, "a beer please, and gimme one for the road."

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much but the reception was excellent.

Diana Millar, Baton Rouge, LA

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Reading Is Sexy



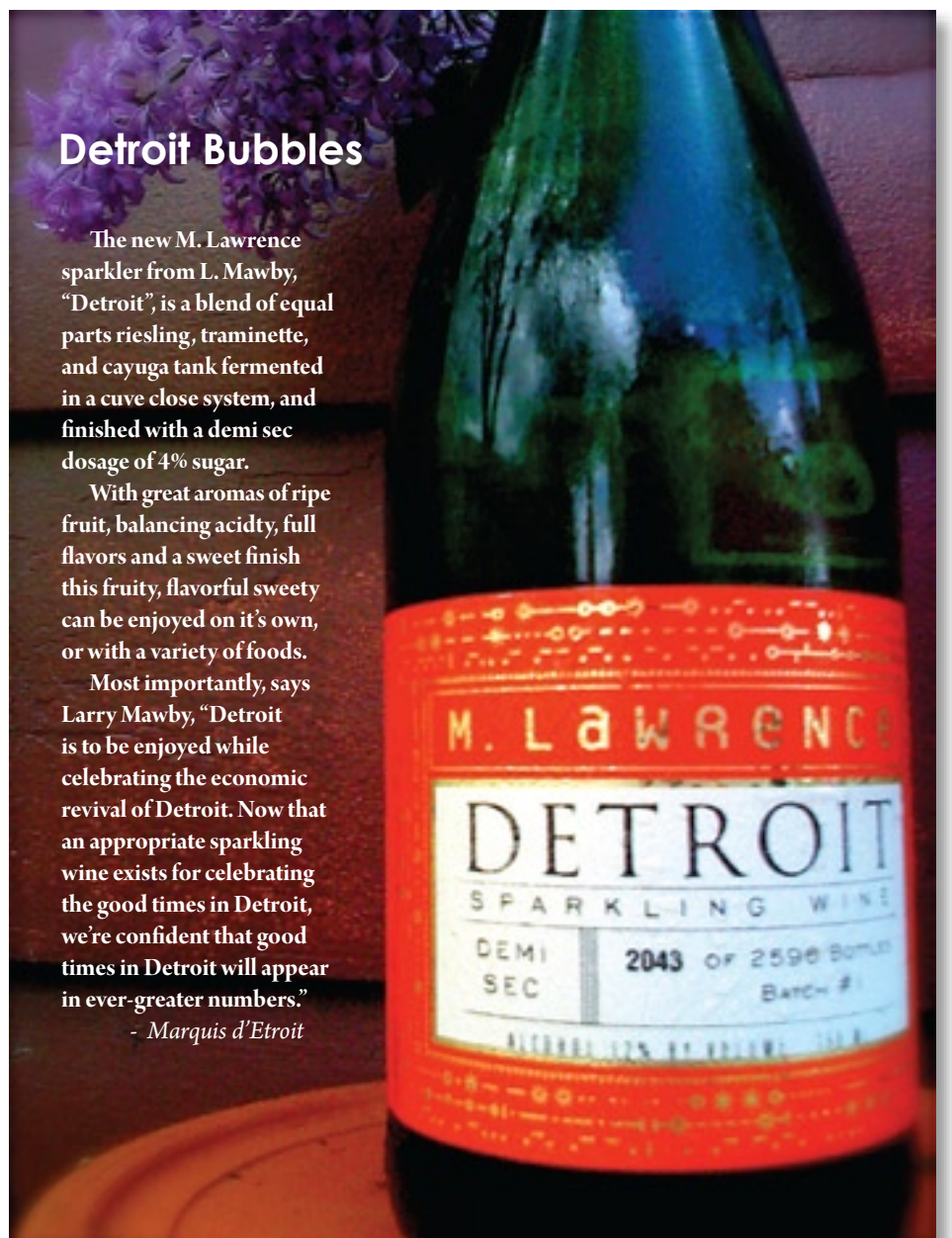
Detroit Bubbles

The new M. Lawrence sparkler from L. Mawby, "Detroit", is a blend of equal parts riesling, traminette, and cayuga tank fermented in a cuve close system, and finished with a demi sec dosage of 4% sugar.

With great aromas of ripe fruit, balancing acidity, full flavors and a sweet finish this fruity, flavorful sweetie can be enjoyed on it's own, or with a variety of foods.

Most importantly, says Larry Mawby, "Detroit is to be enjoyed while celebrating the economic revival of Detroit. Now that an appropriate sparkling wine exists for celebrating the good times in Detroit, we're confident that good times in Detroit will appear in ever-greater numbers."

- Marquis d'Etroit



BELLE ISLE

aka Hog and Swan Island

What did this place ever do to you?



Detroit Yacht Club

By Thomas Brank,

Recently, I had a meeting at the Detroit Yacht Club (DYC). It was refreshing to see what a well-run organization it is. What is most impressive is the building, architecture, grand, old and ageless. Its great history and tradition makes a statement on every floor and in every room. Craftsmen, true artisans built something of lasting quality. The DYC is considered by many to be the finest of its kind in the entire country. It was built with pride and in spite of hard economic times it has been maintained with pride. A well-earned showcase, something the DYC and the city can call its own. For the rest of us, be thankful and grateful it is still here.



There is a fishing pier a short distance from the yacht club, I walked to the end, looked up and down the river, then thought about the drive one must take around Belle Isle in order to get to the point where I was standing. I was reminded of the Belle Isle of some years ago.

I grew up just across the river from here, came here as a kid, like many of us, East side, North side, West side, most everyone came here. Polish, Italian immigrants, beautiful black grandmothers from the Southlands, and yeah, even a few Irish thrown in.

Sundays were picnic days, blankets spread out; the aroma of fresh home cooking filled the air. Some, from the old country, wore coats and many wore ties. A fine mix of families and you know what, most all of them picked up after themselves. Yeah, they diligently put their trash away. They did it as a matter of pride. They knew from their southern civility and European upbringing, you don't trash Mother Earth. Whether one came from money or not, most from that era knew you have to take care of the land. We live on it, it's ours, and as our Ottawa brethren knew well, it is a gift.

Belle Isles canals were used for canoeing, woods, giant lilac and shrubs, hide and seek for kids. The Aquarium is (was) the oldest in the U.S. The Greenhouse Conservatory and gardens still radiate beauty. Music, concerts on weekends in the band shell, and a ferry ran daily from the mainland. A fine stable with well-cared-for horses for riding. Many may remember ice-skating the back ponds and hot chocolate to warm up the winter. Scott's Fountain is still a thing of beauty at dusk (thank God). The old Casino is used for... what?

Now, I know there has been some effort, money and better management to try and bring back to life some parts of this wonderful, historic island gem. An island other cities would truly fight for. There is also an effort to clean up the Detroit River, which is working to some degree.

When I walked the pier back to the waters edge, I looked down on the shoreline. The bottles and beer cans washed up made one's heart sink and weakened one's spirit just a bit. Is this place finished? Are we washed up? Is civility and cleanliness gone forever in this town? I think there is a bastion of hope. I think it is the Detroit Yacht Club, still holding its own, with pride and care during a tough time.

Thomas Brank was born and raised in Detroit and now writes from the Leeland Peninsula.


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YMCA MISSION: to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



The YMCA is a United Way Agency. Financial assistance helps ensure everyone belongs at the YMCA. Call for details.



Combo Platter



Stuffed Cabbage



Ava

Polonia Restaurant

- Na Zdrowie-

As you know, we at *The Metropolitan* have been appealing for Anthony Bourdain’s return to Detroit, to experience a little more of what this city has to offer than his show, *No Reservations*, let on during its one and only visit. Having said that, we must agree with Tony’s choice of *Polonia Polish Restaurant*, located in Hamtramck and featured on his program.

A favourite amongst Metropolitan’s since 1986, *Polonia* offers no nonsense, stick to your ribs, traditional Polish fare, in a setting that is always lively, and at a surprisingly affordable rate. For this trip, we brought our little polka, Izabela, along as our “official Polish food taster”. She did not disappoint.

On this particular evening, we arrived at *Polonia* only to see a long line of diners waiting in the rain for their turn to be seated. No velvet ropes, no scensters explaining whom they think they know, just hungry neighborhood people anticipating an enjoyable time. Like my Nan always said, “a long line outside means good things inside.”

Once again, Nan was right. Inside, we were greeted by our friendly server, Ava, and immediately directed toward shots of cherry liquor that were currently on special (\$1.50). “And, that’s how the poles get it started”, Izabela assures us. “You should see when someone gets married - we just drink and drink all weekend long (laughs).” Another round, Ava - Na Zdrowie!

Feeling warm and tipsy, we placed our order consisting of *Stuffed Cabbage*, with mashed potatoes and vegetables (\$7.95), the *Polish Combination Plate* - stuffed cabbage, sausage, pierogies, mashed potatoes and kraut (\$8.95), and an order of *Hungarian Potato Pancake* (\$7.95) for the *Polish Princess*.

All hearty, delicious, satisfying plates, filled with flavor and history - but why did we bring an official “Polish food taster” only to have her order a Hungarian dish? “Because, it’s sooo good!” she says. And, it was. *Bardzo Dobrze, Smaczne Jedzenie!* Very good, tasty food! And Tony, if I hadn’t said it before I’ll say it now; *Dziekuje* - If any restaurant in Detroit deserves to be nationally recognized, *Polonia* is certainly one of them.



Polish Princess

Words & photos - AB

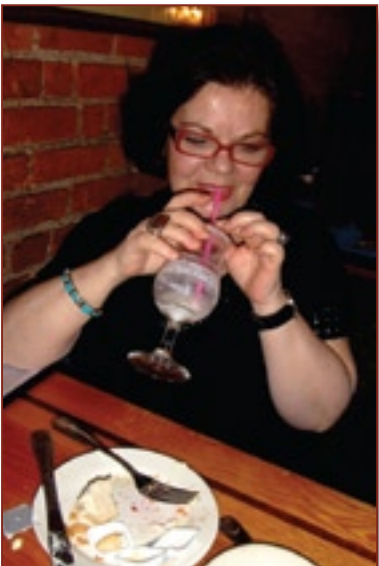
Polonia Restaurant, 2934 Yemans Street, Hamtramck Mi 48212 , 313.873.8432

Pegasus Taverna: OPA!

Don’t fill up on the bread



Lamb Shank



Greek Taster

Nestled snugly beneath the Greektown Casino, right smack dab in the middle of Greektown itself, rests a classic in Detroit food culture and fiery good times, the *Pegasus Taverna*.

The *Pegasus* remains much as it did back in the days of *Trapper’s Alley*, fun and boisterous, with a laid-back romanticism common among Greeks, fine food and good living. The addition of an enticing cheese and sweet counter, providing customers with a second chance to take home baklava or rice pudding, works well alongside the open kitchen where one may watch beef and lamb roast slowly over an open flame.

Widely considered the finest Greek restaurant in town, The Metropolitan sent it’s very own official “Greek Food Taster”, Pamela Nikolopoulos, on assignment to see if we could substantiate the claims.

What we discovered is that even after 24 years of the Pegasus shouting “Opa!” - every time it serves *Saganaki* (\$6) - it is still possible to frighten an authentic Greek with an appetizer of flaming cheese (as seen pictured alongside this article). No worries, we soon calmed the nerves of Ms. Nikolopoulos with a pair of Pina Coladas.

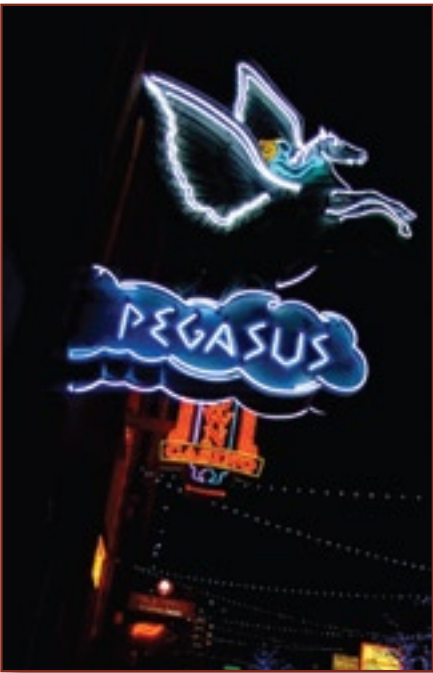
Our second starter, *Scordalia* (\$5.75), was garlicky and satisfying when sopped up with thick slices of fresh Greek bread, but one word of warning; don’t fill up on dough when dinner is on the way.

The *Veal Lemonato* (\$18.95) was sautéed in a mixture of lemon and oregano and served with peas and potatoes. Delicious. An order of the *Lamb Shank* (\$15.95) - one of the specials of the evening - proved to be tender, flavorful - bone still in - and literally rested off the plate. Finally, a traditional Greek dish of Pastitsio, macaroni mixed with spiced ground beef, grated cheese and Bechamel sauce (\$12.95). Comforting.

According to our official “Greek Food Taster”, our meal was spot on and our whole evening delightful. Ms. Nikolopoulos enjoyed the *Lemonato*, appreciated the chiseled good looks of our distinguished server, and had an explanation regarding her fear of pyrotechnics; “I’m half Scottish”, she said.

- AB

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Daniel Cascardo

The World Is His Canvas



Utilizing abstract shape and form, self taught visual artist, Daniel Cascardo, works in bold, vibrant color, forever pursuing the child-like fantasies of his youth. Though, Cascardo's work displays a certain amount of whimsy, he always begins with a thought, a purpose, rather than painting impromptu. Cascardo's murals can be found in Dearborn, Ferndale and Taylor, Michigan, and on various walls of Chicago. In addition to canvas, Cascardo has worked with everything from the pizza box to the human form.

Brancaleone: Murals, pizza boxes, canvas and the human body - where do you most enjoy applying your brush?

Cascardo: The world is my canvas. I prefer painting on hard surfaces like wood, drywall, or canvas stapled to the wall because I can be aggressive with my brush, pounding the surface like a drum and feeling the energy from the vibrations of each stroke. Painting on non-traditional surfaces like pizza boxes or tight fitting body suits gives my work another level of appreciation. The work enters the world of the viewer making a connection to things that they are familiar with.

Brancaleone: Why the pizza box?

Cascardo: The pizza boxes came out of a conversation with the owners of Amici's Pizza in Berkley, MI. They are fans of my work and wanted me to have an art exhibit in their gourmet pizza shoppe and martini bar. After looking at the venue I came up with a show called "Out of the Box". The cardboard surface was great to work on and the possibilities were endless. The show was very successful, with plenty of sales and a whole lot of fun.

Brancaleone: Is sexuality intended when paint & materiel are applied to the human form?

Cascardo: There is definitely a sexuality and exotic element to apply paint and material to a human form. Sexuality in a beautiful sense, as an appreciation of the body, exotic, not erotic is my intention. The human form is transformed into a fantastic creation, not undermining the natural beauty of the body, but embellishing it and bringing it to a place where fantasy and reality exist.

Brancaleone: How does a canvas begin and when does it end?

Cascardo: The canvas begins when inspiration cannot be contained. Whether it is in painting, music, drama, dance or any other form of creativity there comes a time when you begin. Like the bud that all of a sudden blooms into a flower, my work begins when it is time. Before that there are many thoughts, feelings, and experiences that contribute to my inspiration. It ends when it ends. It is somewhat of a mystical thing how a work of art ends. Only the artist knows when their work is done.

Brancaleone: Influences in your work

Cascardo: My work is mostly influenced by my life. I can look back on the many experiences and emotions in my life and know that they will somehow make their way into my art. My Italian heritage, my strong Christian Catholic faith, my spirituality, family, friends, travels and traditions all influence my work. I can relate to artists like Chagal, Miro, Dali, Picasso, and Kandinsky but my work stems from my life experiences. As a kid I was intrigued by the work of Walt Disney and always admired his accomplishments. Growing up in the sixties and seventies I got much influence from cartoons and animation. I love the imaginative power of the medium and often use cartoon images in my work.

Brancaleone: Any artists in Michigan we should keep an eye on?

Cascardo: I think there are many talented artists in Michigan most of which are not known by the general public. Those who are known are challenged to keep their name and art alive. I believe that Detroit is a dormant volcano ready to erupt at any moment. The economy, tension, diversity, culture, businesses, history, resources, and talent are all potent ingredients to spur an artistic revolution. The artists here have more character than any other place on the planet. They know how to survive. I would say to keep your eye on everyone.

- AB

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Top 10 Michigan Women in Business Airport Authority’s Lori Ballard



Detroit, MI - Lori Ballard (WCAA) has been named among the 2010 “Top 10 Michigan Women in Business” by the **National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)** Greater Detroit Chapter.

“The Airport Authority is extremely proud of Lori on this well-deserved honor,” said **WCAA CEO Lester Robinson**. “She has truly been a champion for building collaborative business relationships with various organizations and entities whose charge is to promote opportunities for small, minority and women-owned businesses.

The annual awards program, now in its 16th year, recognizes women who are making a difference in Michigan businesses. Each of the ten awards recognizes an individual for their specific, exemplary contributions. Ballard was specifically honored with this year’s “Red Tape Buster” award, which is bestowed upon a woman in government that has consistently demonstrated commitment to helping women business owners.

“We had a phenomenal group of nominees this year. Our members are moving business forward, and helping to support and uplift a sagging Michigan economy. Our honorees are a fantastic group of women, each with very compelling stories of sacrifice and success,” said **Leah Arnold, NAWBO Greater Detroit Chapter President Elect**.

Ms. Ballard joined the Airport Authority upon its establishment as an independent government entity in 2002 to operate **DTW** and **Willow Run Airport**, having previously worked for Wayne County Department of Airports since 2001. In her role as Small Business Facilitator, she works to enhance the Airport Authority’s Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program by increasing the number of certified SBE companies and increasing the funds spent with SBE certified companies through the use of strategic outreach efforts.

Delta to Link Detroit with Sao Paulo, Brazil

Detroit, MI - Delta Air Lines announced today that it has filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to begin new, non-stop service between Detroit Metro Airport and Sao Paulo, Brazil, effective November 4, strengthening Detroit’s role as major East Coast international gateway for the world’s largest airline.

“Today’s announcement further strengthens Detroit Metro Airport’s role as the second-largest hub and a global gateway for the world’s largest airline, which is a huge part of what makes DTW such a powerful economic asset to Southeast Michigan,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson.

“Detroit’s first non-stop service south of the equator will be a boon for our automakers that need more convenient access to the emerging Brazilian market,” said Joe Cambren, WCAA Director of Air Service Development. “The Airport Authority has been working with Delta to make the case for this service for some time and we look forward to supporting its success.”

Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) is the second-largest hub for Delta, the world’s largest airline. Having served more than 31 million passengers in 2009, DTW is the busiest airport in Michigan and ranks as one of the world’s busiest air transportation hubs.

GET YOUR WINGS

Ann Arbor, MI – The first annual Learn to Fly Day is being held across America on May 15. Set by the Experimental Aircraft Association, EAA, the day is meant to encourage, educate, and inspire anyone interested in aviation and obtaining their pilot’s license. Over 300 flight schools and organizations across the country are opening their doors and offering reasons for future aviators, young and old, to pursue their dreams and discover why people have been inspired by flight since the Wright Brothers first flew.

Learn to Fly Day Events across the nation will offer tours of flight schools, a presentation that answers the mysteries of obtaining a sport, commercial, or private pilot’s license; and creating endless possibilities and options in order to pursue a new hobby or career in aviation.

Aviation Center Inc, Solo Aviation Inc, and University of Michigan Flyers in Ann Arbor, MI, are opening their doors on May 15. Presentations for Aviation Center Inc will be at



10:00am and 3:00pm, Solo Aviation Inc at 10:00am and 2:00pm, and University of Michigan Flyers at 10:00am, 11:00am, and 12:00pm. Presentations will consists of a 30 to 40 minute information session on learning to fly along with a tour of their school and time to talk with flight instructors and pilots.

During this Great Recession, people have cut back and put their interests on the backburner as they tried to work through it. There is a general stereotype that flying an airplane is only for the rich. A new type of pilot certificate called Sport Pilot has changed the traditional notion that one must spend a fortune to be a pilot. Earning this certificate can cost as little as \$3500 and airplanes are easily available for rent, as most pilots do not own their own airplane and flying clubs and flight schools exist to allow pilots to own a share of a plane, thereby reducing the cost of flying.

To find and register at a flight school near you, visit www.LearnToFlyDay.com.

Romulus-based Pritula & Sons wins \$2.6M contract

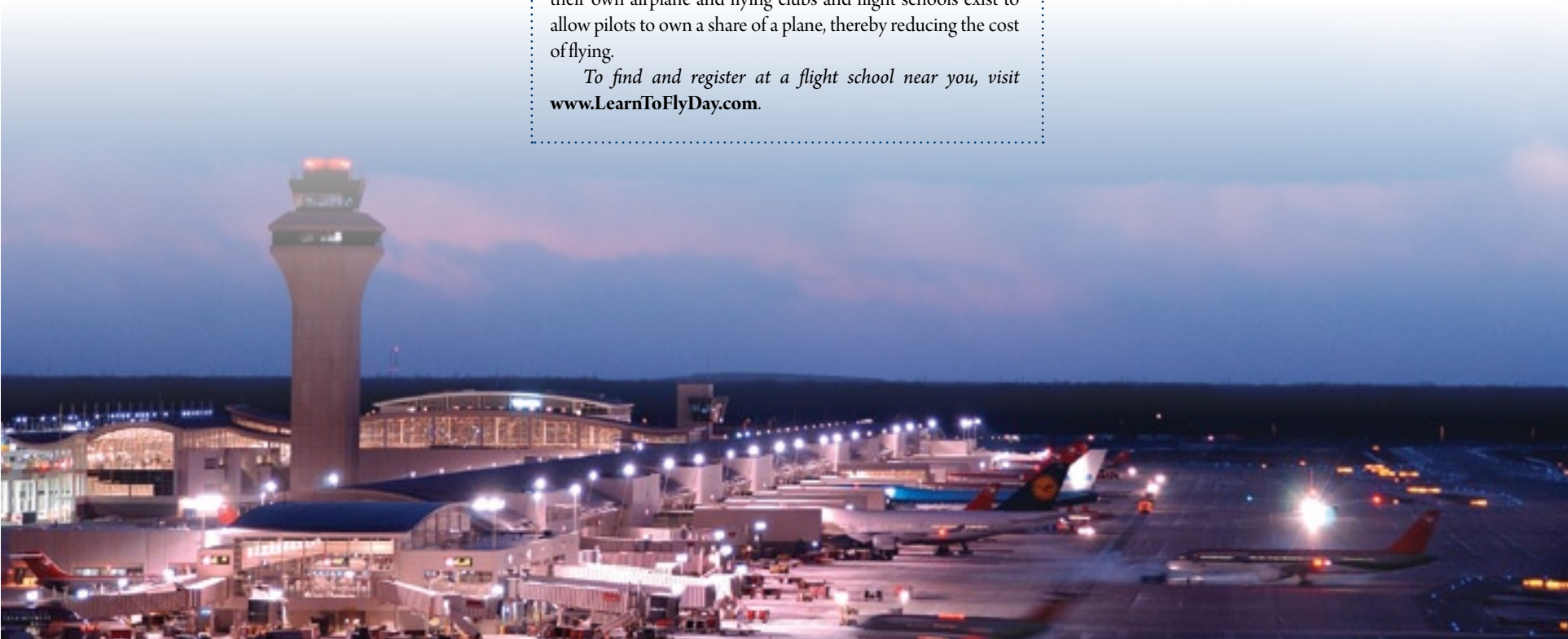
The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) has awarded a major contract for facility and infrastructure maintenance to Romulus-based William A. Pritula & Sons, LLC for projects at both Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP). The contract is valued not to exceed \$2,632,500 for the initial, one-year term and includes two, one-year renewal options.

“The Airport Authority is pleased and proud to have been able to award a major contract to a small, local business right in our backyard,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “We take great pride in our commitment to supporting local, small businesses and this award underscores our airports’ significant economic impact on the Southeast Michigan community.”

The contract, recently approved by the Wayne County Airport Authority Board, will allow the Airport Authority’s Facilities and Infrastructure Management Division to perform necessary pavement rehabilitation on public roadways and the airfields, which cannot be completed by in-house maintenance staff due to the scope and complexity of such repairs. The Airport Authority anticipates spending as much as \$7.9 million over the three-year maximum term of the contract depending on actual needs and the availability of funds.

William A. Pritula & Sons, LLC, is a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) under the Airport Authority’s SBE program launched in 2008. Pritula & Sons also listed two additional SBE firms as subcontractors in their bid proposal--S&J Asphalt Paving of Canton, Mich., and Couger Sales & Rental of Novi, Mich.

“I look forward to tackling these projects on the airports’ airfields and roadways,” said President and Owner Bill Pritula. “Keeping these two airports in operationally-capable condition in important to the economy of this region and I am confident that Pritula & Sons can do a top-quality job.”



Traverse City Cherry Blossoms

Continued from Front Page

Unfortunately, the mild microclimate that makes this all possible doesn't guarantee that the cherry bloom will happen at the same time every year. There are wide variations on onset and duration of the blossom from one season to the next – as early as May 5 and as late as



Photo Credit: Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau

May 28 – and even from one orchard to the next. Generally speaking, areas farthest away from deep water tend to bloom earlier and finish more quickly, than those along the coast – and often the difference can be as much as a week.

“Typically, the areas around Acme and Williamsburg are usually way ahead of the orchards that are closer to the water, and the tip of the Old Mission Peninsula starts much later than the base,” says Bill Klein of the Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station near Suttons Bay.

Such a dramatic display calls for celebration, and Traverse City residents have always observed the onset of the spring bloom with

appropriate festivities. Early celebrations were a rough-and-ready business centered around the farm community -- an annual “blessing of the blossoms” performed by local clergy, followed by an informal potluck at the nearby church.

But over the past 15 years, the rapid development of Traverse City's wine industry has brought new spring visitors to the area, and the area's wineries have begun promoting the blossom season as a time to enjoy spring's distinctive culinary treasures – tender asparagus shoots, sweet strawberries, and the delectable morel mushrooms gathered in the local forests. Accompanied, of course, by the region's distinctively fruity wines.

Chateau Chantal was the first winery to widen the popularity of the celebration by collaborating with other Old Mission Peninsula vineyards and restaurants on an event called Blossom Days. Today the festival includes barrel tasting of reserve vintages from the peninsula's five wineries and special menu offerings at local restaurants, but it still retains some of its original religious flavor.

“It's really our way of getting the growing season off to a good start by asking for a good year and a plentiful harvest,” she says. “But what's nice for the visitors is that this is one of the few times when the winemakers have the time to hang out and talk with them in the cellars and show them a little of what they do.”

It wasn't long before the wineries and restaurants of the Leelanau Peninsula created their own spring blossom event. Called the “Spring Sip & Savor,” it mixes “new release” wine tasting and gourmet meals at 13 of the peninsula's wineries.

But for many visitors, the best part of the season is simply getting out and driving along the winding peninsula roads to see the hundreds of flowering trees set against the green grass, the yellow dandelions and the deep blue waters of the lake.

JAPAN: Hanami Cherry Blossom viewing

Cherry blossoms are moving north into the Tokoku Region where blossoms are opening typically three to five days later than average. Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) in Kakunodate and Hirosaki should experience full bloom during the latter half of the Golden Week.

Location	Opening	Best Viewing
Kakunodate	April 29	May 3 to 9
Hirosaki	April 27	May 1 to 7
Hakodate	May 8	May 12 to 17
Sapporo	May 9	May 13 to 18

Source: Japan weather association forecast actual cherry blossom dates. Japan-guide.com estimated best viewing times. Use forecasts at your own risk.



PORTUGAL

FACTS

CAPITAL CITY

Lisbon, also called Lisboa, boasting a population of two million.

POPULATION

10.6 million, about the same size as the state of Pennsylvania.

LANGUAGE

Portuguese. English is also quite common.

TIME ZONE

Five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST) in the United States. The Azores are four hours ahead of the EST.

CURRENCY

Portugal uses the Euro (€). All banks have automatic exchange machines (Multibanco).

CHIEF CITIES

Largest: Lisbon and Porto

Regional cities: Aveiro, Beja, Braga, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Évora, Faro, Guarda, Leiria, Funchal, Ponta Delgada, Portalegre, Santarém, Setúbal, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real and Viseu.

Madeira

Discovered in 1420, Madeira is a semi-tropical island 800 miles southwest of Lisbon in the Atlantic Ocean. The island is blessed with a perfect climate: always warm in winter and never too hot in summer.

Funchal, the capital of Madeira, has a romantic air thanks in part to constant sunshine, a bay surrounding the city, botanical gardens, elegant resorts and fascinating landscapes. World-class hotels rise on black cliffs, and casinos, nightclubs, and restaurants

make any night a night to remember. Madeira's steep topography gives the island six distinct climate zones, changing with each rise in altitude. The landscape also contributes to some of the best hiking in Europe, with trails that follow water channels (called “levadas”) past waterfalls and spectacular views. Madeira's nearby smaller island, Porto Santo, has a coast covered with dunes and vineyards, and shows off an incredible six mile-long sandy beach.



The Toast of Old Iron Sides

By Marquis d'Etroit

From the time of Da Gama to the age of the steamship, the island of Madeira served as a supply and fuel stop for countless sea voyages. Madeira's location along the trade routes to Africa and the Americas made it a strategic port for provisioning the new colonies, and the colonists in these new territories were a thirsty bunch. The export of wine to America quickly grew to 30,000 barrels annually.

In 1665, Charles II prohibited the shipping of European goods to the West Indies and America unless these goods were being shipped with British ships from British ports. Madeira had been intentionally left out of this decree, because it meant more tax income for the king.

The new American colonies became a favorite trading partner with Madeira and well-known colonists, like General George Washington, were great friends of this wine. Washington enjoyed the wine so much, it is said he drank a pint of it daily.

When it came to important revolutionary events, Madeira wine was often there. The first presidential inauguration and the appointment of the city of Washington as the capital were celebrated with Madeira, as was the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The legendary frigate the U.S.S. Constitution was even baptized with Madeira wine. Known as “Old Ironsides,” it is the oldest ship in the world still afloat. Some say it is not only the ship's special sandwich live oak planking construction that has helped it last so long, but its Madeira wine treatment as well.

Today's Madeira comes in a range of styles, from young, light and dry, to the rich, honeyed vintages from over 100 years ago. The younger wines are refreshing and lively and pair well with aged cheeses and savory snacks. The richer, darker styles of Madeira are the perfect end to an autumn meal and are best enjoyed on their own.

Modern Turmoil Finally Leads to Democracy

Portugal remained in a state of flux during much of the 19th and 20th centuries. An invasion by Napoleon was narrowly repelled, and when a Portuguese king fled to the colony of Brazil, the country experienced a civil war in the 1830s. A constitutional monarchy soon took control and passed progressive social reforms until they were toppled by another revolution in 1901. But in 1926, a military coup changed the power structure once again. António Salazar took control as prime minister, running a dictatorship that survived until 1974. While Salazar's rule wasn't as repressive as some in neighboring countries, thousands of people were imprisoned and thousands more left for better economic opportunities abroad. In 1974, military forces overthrew the dictatorship and ended all hostilities in Portuguese Africa, thus influencing a new Republic. Twelve years later, a democratic Portugal joined the European Union.

PORTUGAL





OPERA'S MOST INTENSE POLITICAL THRILLER **TOSCA** RETURNS TO THE DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

By Gay Paris

With more political intrigue, romance, and thrill than the *Bourne Identity* or Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code*, Puccini's *Tosca* is one of opera's most exciting and dramatic works.

An intense romantic thriller, *Tosca* is a tale of obsessive love, manipulation and betrayal. The ravishing diva *Tosca* finds herself torn between her lover, the painter Mario Cavaradossi, and the villainous chief of police, Baron Scarpia. In an attempt to bend *Tosca* to his will, the Baron suggests that *Tosca* give herself to him in exchange for her lover's life - the Scoundrel! The plot ensues with jaw dropping twists and a declaration of vengeance that is vowed to continue far beyond the grave.

Tosca contains some of the most dramatic of Puccini's famous music, including "*Recondita armonia*", "*Te Deum*", "*Vissi, d'arte, vissi d'amore*" and "*Ecco un artista*!"

An opera in three acts with Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, *Tosca* is based on French playwright, Victorien Sardou's drama "La Tosca" and remains one of the world's most popular operas.

The role of Floria Tosca will be alternately performed by Mary Elizebeth Williams (15,22) who returns after making her MOT debut in 2008, as Cilla in Margaret Garner, and Tiziana Caruso (19, 21, 23) who also returns after her 2008 debut as Magda in La Rondine.

The role of Mario Cavaradossi will be alternately performed by Antonello Palombi (15, 19, 22) and Noah Stewart (21, 23), both of whom are returning to Michigan Opera Theatre.

Conducting Puccini's score is Italian maestro Giuliano Carella. French stage director Bernard Uzan returns to stage *Tosca* after collaborating as a librettist and stage director for David DiChiera's world premiere of *Cyrano* in 2007.

The opera will be sun in Italian, with English subtitles projected over the stage, which is fine with me because I have always found Italian to be the most sensuous language to the ear. Ciao Bella boys!



May 15 - May 23
Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit
313-237-SING, www.MichiganOpera.org.



CATS

May 18-23, 2010
Fisher Theatre
3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit
313. 872. 1000
BroadwayinDetroit.com

FISHER
THEATRE

By Gay Paris

On May 11, 1981, CATS opened at the New London Theatre in the West End. Eight years later it celebrated its first important milestone: after 3,358 performances CATS became the longest running musical in the history of British theatre.

CATS opened on Broadway October 7, 1982 at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York City and continued to live up to its motto "Now and Forever." On June 19, 1997, CATS became the longest running musical on Broadway. It ended its 18-year run on September 10, 2000 with 7,458 performances - a record that was broken by *The Phantom of the Opera* on January 9, 2006 when *Phantom* celebrated its 7,486th curtain.

Based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, and with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, CATS won seven 1983 Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Lighting and Best Costumes.

In October of 1991 CATS became the longest continuously touring show in American theatre history. Five continents, 26 countries, over eight and a half million audience members and 27 years later, CATS is still America's most loved family musical. Celebrating not only 27 years but the birth of the musical spectacular, CATS is still revolutionary and awe inspiring.

All those statistics aside, CATS made me laugh, CATS made me cry. In fact, CATS made me buy my first Cat, Caligula, within weeks of experiencing this purrrfect performance and I never looked back. Seven cats later - and who knows how many pounds of kitty litter - and I am still a cat person.

Put your feather boas on for this one!

INTERVIEW Elizabeth Williams

SOPRANO MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS - DIVA FIT -

By Anthony Brancaleone

Though she was born in the *City of Brotherly Love*, soprano Mary Elizabeth learned to walk in the *City of Lights*. Age twenty-five, fresh out of Luther College, in the cornfields of Iowa, Mary Elizabeth moved to France and joined the young artist program at the *Opera National de Paris*, during what Ms. Williams refers to as "a critical time in my development as a singer."

It was in those romantic streets, Mary Elizabeth learned to appreciate architecture, learned to eat - "the French spend more money on food than they do *things*" - and learned to walk, both literally and figuratively.

"Everything we do off the stage effects what we do on the stage," Ms. Williams points out. "People in Paris walk everywhere. It's nothing to walk half an hour to see a movie, and they are happier and calmer for it." Walking to market, absorbing life in all its beauty, becoming fluent in a variety of languages and "being able to flourish in a culture not my own" marked a period of self discovery that must have worked its way up on stage for the Opera singer.

"Every situation allows more colours," Ms. Williams explains. "And, after two and a half years in Paris, I added a bevy of colour." But, Mary Elizabeth is quick to mention that life in Iowa was just as important. "Both experiences taught me two different things."

Mary Elizabeth will perform *Tosca* at the *Michigan Opera Theatre* but at the moment she is considering places to eat in Detroit. "I'm horrified with how expensive it is to eat out in this city" she exclaims. But, then she remembers her favourite Thai restaurant, *Bankok Crossing*, from her last time in town, when she sang *Silla* in *Margaret Garner*. "They have very good food and they're nicely priced" she laughs.

Arriving late from another show in Grand Rapids, Ms. Williams is working hard with the cast, covering the staging of the second Act, rehearsing 11-8, and assures the shortened time will not adversely affect her performance.

"I have no trouble getting into the grove if I

have rehearsal and I'm getting that" she says. "The important thing is that I must be prepared to be vulnerable. There is a more immediate connection with the audience when I'm vulnerable. *Tosca*, I know well, and I have worked with the Director and the tenor, whom I have known since I was nine, so everything should be fine"

Ms. Williams claims to have "resisted Opera as a career for a long time." An English major, Mary Elizabeth had wanted to parlay her degree into law, en route to becoming a Judge. "I wasn't convinced Opera was a viable career option," she explains laughing. "Actually, it's not, but I'm doing it anyway."

"The classical arts are a constant battle to *lose money as slowly as possible*", continues Ms. Williams. "Opera has a very difficult time just making back the money it takes to produce the show."

So, why go through the process of production if it's such a risky endeavor? "Pure acoustical sounds will make you feel," offers the Soprano. "It's an animal reaction between two humans communicating, and that is something one can't duplicate through recorded music - digital specifically." A reason as good as any - the Opera is, after all, one of our highest art forms.

"And, what of our stage here in Detroit," I ask. "Do all theatres offer the same opportunities?"

Mary Elizabeth responds by relating a scene from the movie *Hoosiers*, where Gene Hackman's character, the coach of a small high school basketball team, asked one of his players to measure the distance between the boards and the hoop prior to the State Championship game. "It's the same," Hackman says. "It's the same everywhere."

"Of course, I have no control over the acoustics or the costume," muses Ms. Williams. "which, can sometimes pose a challenge . . . lest, I throw a Diva fit."



INTERVIEW Anastasia Lang & Adam Steiner

NINE LIVES ARE NEVER ENOUGH

By His Most Royal Majesty

One of ze most fabulous musicals of all time, CATS, iz set to hit ze stage at ze Fisher Theatre, midtown d'Eetroit. Imagine my surprise, when I discovered this tour of ze production contains performances by - human beings - as opposed to ze much superior Feline.

Reluctantly, I accepted ze commission for Monsieur Adam Steiner - playing ze role of ze incomparable *Rum Tum Tugger* - and ze lovely, Mademoiselle Anastasia Lange (Purr) - playing ze role of *Grizzabella*, - and I, his Most Royal Majesty, to *s'entrevoir*.

During our conversation, I was forced to resist ze advances of Mademmoiselle, and her attempts to seduce me, but as usual, I conducted myself in ze most professional manner befitting of a gentleman.

His Most Royal Majesty: Meow Meow's to you both - My first question iz, whether or not you had seen ze extraordinaire CATS before you were called upon to perform in ze production?

Adam: Well, I had really . . . (cut off)

HMRM: Ah ta ta Monsieur - please, allow ze lady to go first.

Anastasia: Thank you, . . . *His Most Royal Majesty*.

HMRM: It is nothing, my pet. But, please, call me *Esteban*.

Anastasia: Ok . . . Esteban . . . I had seen CATS when I was seven or eight, in either Grand Rapids or Detroit. I knew they were animals but I thought the play took place in outer space.



Anastasia Lang, Grizzabella of CATS

HMRM: I'm sorry, Anastasia. Did you say *animals*?

Anastasia: Cats - I meant to say cats.

Adam: I had never seen CATS, which creates a bit of a catch-22. On one hand, I didn't know what to expect, but that allowed me as a performer to come with a fresh mind.

HMRM: (short paws) Thank you, Adam... How does one audition - *Anastasia* - for such a difficult and complex role? I would imagine that attempting to impersonate a Feline would be among the most impossible of tasks.

Continued on Page 13

HERMÈS: NORTH AFRICAN JEWELRY COLLECTION BRIGHTENS SPRING AND SUMMER AT ARAB MUSEUM

By Gay Paris

Noble Jewels: North African Jewelry and Photography from the Xavier Guerrand-Hermès Collection presents never-before-exhibited pieces of stunning North African jewelry and late 19th- and early 20th-century photographs by some of the period's most prominent photographers.

Collected over three decades by Xavier Guerrand-Hermès, *Noble Jewels* illuminates the diversity and beauty of traditional North African jewelry design. Ornate necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings show the inventive compositions and dazzling creations of North African jewelry designers and silver workers. Crafted from combinations of silver, coral, amber, coins and semi-precious stones, the exquisite collection includes wedding necklaces, hair ornaments, bracelets, earrings and fibula used to keep veils in place. The jewelry featured in *Noble Jewels* shows the common threads that run through North African societies, and also local variations in materials and motifs.

"From simple ornaments that would be worn by a child, to elaborate jeweled necklaces for women of wealth, the Guerrand-Hermès collection is a treasure that reflects the richness of the cultures of North Africa as well as the collector's superlative taste," says Elsie McCabe Thompson, president of the Museum for African Art.

North African jewelry came to the attention of Western collectors in the 19th century, the period when archaeological monuments in North Africa were being explored, visited, and, in some cases, pillaged. The most important photographers of the day, including the Scotsman George Washington Wilson, the Neuridine brothers from France, and the Turkish photographer Pascal Sabah, visited the region and photographed landscapes, architecture, markets, and people adorned in their jewels. Many of the images were used in postcards, while others remained hidden in little-known collections.

Xavier Guerrand-Hermès is a director and vice chairman of Hermès of Paris. He represents the fifth generation of the family to be involved in the ownership and management of the Paris-based firm. Guerrand-Hermès has founded the renowned Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace, which actively supports inter-religious dialogues.

The exhibition of jewelry and historic photographs, from the North African nations of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia, opens to the public on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, with complimentary jewel-themed desserts from 5:30-7 p.m., at the Arab American National Museum.

Arab American National Museum
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan, 48126
313. 582. 2266



Photos: Museum for African Art/Karin L. Willis.

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Photo courtesy of Finer Arts Photography

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AUTHOR JEREMY WILLIAMS DISCUSSES

DETROIT'S BLACK BOTTOM COMMUNITY

Black Bottom was located on Detroit's lower east side and bounded by Gratiot Avenue, Brush Street, Vernor Highway and the Grand Trunk railroad tracks. The community emerged between 1914 and 1951 out of a need for black migrants to find a place for themselves.

Racism and housing discrimination in the South forced many blacks to migrate to the North.

Many sought employment in Detroit's burgeoning industrial metropolis. Black Bottom became a social, cultural, and economic center of struggle and triumph. The community began to decline in 1941 when Mayor Edward Jeffries marked the area for demolition and urban renewal.

Williams, a local historian, combines research with archived photographs for an insightful look at Black Bottom's early beginnings, its racial transformation, the building of a socioeconomic ally solvent community through various processes of institution building and networking, and its ultimate demise and dislocation of its residents.

The cost of the event, which takes place on Wednesday, May 12, at The Detroit Historical Museum, is free for Detroit Historical Society members and \$10 for the public.

For more information call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org



Die! Mommie! Die!



FERNDALÉ, MI – *Die! Mommie! Die!* is a campy melodrama evoking the 1960's "Psycho-Biddy" thrillers that featured aging cinematic icons like Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, and Lana Turner. Faded pop singer Angela Arden is trapped in a corrosive marriage to film producer Sol Sussman. In pursuit of happiness with her young employed TV. star lover, Angela schemes to murder her husband. Will a resentful daughter, an emotionally disturbed son, and a botched acid trip expose all of Angela's deep, dark secrets?

Charles Busch is the author and star of such plays as *The Lady in Question*, *Red Scare on Sunset* and *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, which ran five years and is one of the longest running plays in Off-Broadway history. His play *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* ran for 777 performances on Broadway and won Mr. Busch the Outer Circle Critics John Gassner Award and received a Tony nomination for Best Play. He wrote and starred in the film versions of his plays, *Psycho Beach Party* and *Die! Mommie! Die!*, the latter of which won him the Best Performance Award at the Sundance Film Festival. In 2003, Mr. Busch received a special Drama Desk Award for career achievement as both performer and playwright.

Die! Mommie! Die! opens Friday, May 14th and plays for an exclusive four week engagement ending on Monday, June 7th. Tickets are \$20.00 on Friday and Saturday nights at 8PM, \$15.00 for Sunday matinees at 3PM and Monday 8PM performances are HALF OFF normal ticket price at \$10.00 a ticket.

The Ringwald Theatre
22742 Woodward Avenue
Ferndale, MI 48220, 248-545-5545
WhoWantsCakeTheatre.com



SHOE. The Speed of Life

By Anthony Brancaleone

Fresh off a road trip, that included a week at SXSW, SHOE. celebrates the release of their latest effort, *The Speed of Life*, with a live performance in the Cass Corridor's *Alvins*.

The Speed of Life is filled with poppy, sing-along, dance tracks, firmly rooted in Detroit's Motown sound, complete with beautifully arranged upbeat horns, and support from a rhythm section that playfully challenges the ear without impeding the record's forward motion. The boys in the band stopped by to chat about recording, road-tripping and playing music at *The Speed of Life*.

Why SHOE. ?

Dustin: Long story short - I just chose a noun. I was hating every name that was being thrown around & knew I would eventually hate this name too so I just chose a noun. Then I put a period on the end, because it seemed like such a simple name that I thought I would have problems in the future, which we are having now with the discovery of *Shoe* from Tasmania.

Jamiel: What he said.

Influences in the music -

Dustin: I grew up on *Beach Boys* & *Beatles* but sang gospel music in my teens. After moving to Detroit, I immersed myself in the Motown sound (cause it's so good!) then discovered *Radiohead* & rock n' roll & everything changed for me.

Jamiel: As far as my bass playing goes, *Paul McCartney*, *Donald "Duck" Dunn*, and *James Jamerson* have always influenced me.

Sean: I started playing drums to *Led Zeppelin* and *Nirvana* records and got a feel for the heavy, pocketed, drum feel. During high school, I played in a couple of jazz bands, which in turn taught me more of the subtleties to playing for sound, and not yourself, essentially, a healthy mix of *John Bonham* and *Art Blakey*.

On songwriting

Dustin: For this album I had most of the meat of the songs worked out, the chords & lyrics, then brought them to Jamiel & Sean, who made them better. We played most of them live for about 9 months or so before recording. During that process we began writing more as a band, like *Places We Go*, which Jamiel had sort of been working on & brought to us.

Arrangement

Dustin: The horn arrangements come from *Michael Krammers* (New York). I had ideas of how I wanted them to sound but was blown away by what he came up with.

And the studio

Dustin: This is our 4th album, & the 3rd one we have recorded with Chris Koltay at *High Bias Records* in Detroit, which is located on Michigan Ave. across from *Slows BBQ*, which is, of course, a bonus.

Life on the road with Shoe. is all about ...

Dustin: Not annoying each other too much. I know I sing every word of every song that comes on the radio, & that's just one example.

Jamiel: Really?! I go out of my way to annoy Dustin.

Listening to anything we need to know about?

Dustin: Well, I just got my first ipod this year for my birthday (I know, I'm a little late) So, I'm listening to a lot right now. *Phoenix*, because I love their music! It just sounds, and makes me feel, sooo good! *Nina Simone*. I fell in love with her voice & music about 10 years ago & love to listen to her late at night when I'm driving. *Steve Wonder*. He's one of my favorite singers & I've been listening more to him the warmer it's getting outside.

Jamiel: *Mirrortwin* (*Lucas Sisters*) and *Troy Gregory*. Even if I didn't play with them, I would be a huge fan of both. Also, I heard *Secret Twins* from Ann Arbor lately and they were fantastic.

Sean: *Bars of Gold*, *Mirrortwin*, *Secret Twins*, *Child Bite*, *Sea of Japan*, *The Telephone Callers*.

Anything you want to say to your mom for Mother's Day?

Jamiel: Thank you for being Super-Human.

Sean: Thanks for the Puccini and Verdi when I didn't even know any better.

The Speed of Life is on itunes or @ www.moreshoe.com

BALANCE 016: AGORIA

By Marquis d'Etoit

With his recent spell-binding DJ sets at the *Balance 16: Agoria* release party and at the infamous *Sunday School For Degenerates* party in Miami, Agoria is now ready to bring his distinct track selection and mixing style to some of North America's most forward thinking venues. Kicking off in New York City, with stops in Windsor, Detroit, and El Paso, the tour culminates with a much anticipated main stage performance at the 10th anniversary of the electronic music festival in Detroit.

Agoria, otherwise known as **Sebastien Devaud** wasn't bitten by the dance music bug until he was out of his teens, but once he began hunting imported 12"s from the US and Germany in his native France, there was no turning back. His production career began in 1999, with his debut album *Blossom* and first compilation following in 2003 – and it was clear even in those early days that a serious new talent was emerging. Blending the throb and groove of deeper, stripped-back techno with a keen sense of musicality, emotion and atmosphere, his is a sound that transcends beyond mere dancefloor disposability.



"The concept of both CDs is all about balance. Literally. In my mind a balance is not a middle position; it's a perfect equilibrium. I'm trying to be as close as possible to this idea. I have tried to find this fine line where the balance is just right." Explains Agoria. "In the end, more than a DJ compilation, this is a manifesto of my passion for music and for mixing"

Agoria North American Tour Dates

- May 21: New York, NY @ 50 Bowery www.biatchcorp.com
- May 22: Windsor, Canada @ Boom Boom Room www.boomboomroom.ca
- May 27: Detroit, MI @ Pulse Lounge www.pulsedetroit.com
- May 28: El Paso, TX @ Malib Discotheque www.myspace.com/malibunightclub
- May 30: Detroit, MI @ Detroit Princess Riverboat
- May 31: Detroit, MI @ Movement Electronic Music Festival www.movement.us

Richie Hawtin (aka Plastikman)



As a DJ, a label owner, a producer, a performer, and a contributor to the development of music and performance technology, Ritchie Hawtin is one of the electronic music community's most active participants.

Movement 2010 will be the 3rd stop on the first ever global Plastikman tour, and only the 2nd stop in the U.S. The combination of LED lighting and interactive technologies, set to an updated Plastikman soundtrack, sets the stage for an unforgettable experience. 2010 will see Hawtin's musical history and technological experimentations converge, allowing Plastikman to once again reconfigure the futuristic musical landscape.

www.plastikman.com

IS DIRECTOR LYNN ROTH A LITTLE TRAITOR?

By Anthony Brancaleone

It took five years for director Lynn Roth to complete her second film, *The Little Traitor*, starring Alfred Molina, a journey that began with the infamous words, "I have a book I want you to read" and led to the realization of one of Roth's life long dreams, shooting a movie in Israel.

On this evening, Roth sits in a hotel room in San Francisco, taking interviews and considering the destiny of her film, a little story of two people, an older soldier in the English Army and a boy coming of age, during a point in history when Israel became a state.

The film is based on the book, *Panther in the Basement*, by Amos Oz, widely considered a preeminent writer in Israel, and was adapted for the screen by Director Roth. "I'm very happy with the script," Roth says. "But, if you give a script to twenty-five different people you're bound to get twenty-five different opinions."

One of Roth's mentors was the late British actor and director, John Houseman, who worked with the likes of Orson Welles, before Houseman and Roth met on set of the television series, *The Paper Chase*.

"I learned how to direct, write and produce at the same time from John and became pretty good at that," says Roth. "The more one does it the more one does it well," she explains.

"One has a sense, I think, an instinct, for writing. I've always understood characters, I need character, and if I have that the rest falls into place."

Roth admits to being challenged by the play on words by Oz, and his cerebral, literary style, she knew she had to make it "more visual" and "accessible" to an audience, so she got to work highlighting sections of the book that she felt would translate well to the screen.

Once the script was finished, Roth began her role as Producer and quickly discovered that she could not secure distribution for the film prior to shooting. "Something inside me was just possessed to get it out," Roth says of the experience. "I would

let nothing stop me.

From the moment I read the book I fell in love with the characters and knew that I had to make this film - produce it and direct it."



everything together."

When Roth's plane landed in Israel she remembers asking herself, "Is this real? Is this really going to happen?" "But, then something takes over," she says. "An extraordinary amount of adrenalin and you just know you have to get the job done."

During the shoot, the war broke out in Lebanon and there were concerns of whether

or not the film would be able to continue. Roth and the crew kept going with what they were doing and got everything they needed. Well, almost everything.

"As a director, I would've liked the Producer to give us more money, more extras in the film, time, but I'm happy with what we have," she says with a little laugh. Now, Roth spends most of her time screening *The Little Traitor* with audiences, an act that gives her time to appreciate her work. "This film always captures my attention," Roth says. "I'm engrossed in it, caught up in the warmth and charm of the performances."

"My hope is that people of all kinds, Arabs, Asians, Italians will relate to this story of a little boy coming of age, and enjoy spending an hour and a half experiencing a little bit of Israel during that period."

Audiences have been doing just that. *The Little Traitor* has screened for 18 straight weeks in Del Ray, Florida, and for 6 weeks in Palm Beach, and is now running in the Detroit metropolitan area at the Landmark Maple Art III.

REVIEWED BY DharmhXcore

CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 2
INFINITY WARD/ACTIVISION



Living with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder is rough. Its even worse when you have no cool war-time scars to show off. That’s what I now suffer from after playing Modern Warfare 2. All the madness, without any “real” battles or fire-fights.

This was my first dive into the fast paced world of the Call of Duty series. Having played tons of FPS’s (first person shooters) ranging from Goldeneye - for the N64 - to Halo, Fallout 3, Left 4 Dead and tons other 3rd generation games, I have learned the controls pretty well. This game was no different, technically. Aim, shoot, duck, repeat. No big deal.

What I was not ready for was the intensity of the game. You get hit twice, you’re done. Hit with one grenade, you’re done. There is just an onslaught of enemies, both Russian and Brazilian, and always someone to shoot before they kill you.

Taking the game online is even worse. Nothing feels as bad as getting killed by a 12 year old kid while he’s screaming profanities at you. You can’t say anything to him, because you don’t have the game, or the free time this kid has, so all you can do is watch as he snipes you from half way across the level.

The single player game was fun but fell a little short. Modern Warfare 2 was made to be played with friends - making for great moments in bonding.

Call Of Duty exceeded my expectations across the board. From top notch graphics to a wide variety of weapons and attachments, plus a story line with some good twists.

8 OUT OF 10
-Find DharmhXcore on XboxLive

NINE LIVES ARE NEVER ENOUGH

Continued from Page10

Anastasia: I went to an *Open Call*. There are hundreds there who look like you, dress like you, and I sang, “I dreamed a dream” from *Les Miserables*. The funny thing is, I’m part of an Eco-friendly movement and my friends were asking if I was really going to wear all that makeup, and the fur coats.

Adam: Old-fashioned *Open Call* for me too. I went one morning, as a replacement, signed in, sang, and I was called within 24 hours.

HMRM: And, did you celebrate, *Mademoiselle*, after you received the call?

Anastasia: I was in Boston when I got the Call Back, visiting my boyfriend, on a bus, actually, and I didn’t answer because of all the people. When I got to the station I phoned them back. We went to Neptune Oyster and celebrated with Champagne and lobster rolls.

Adam: I had to work at 7pm - waiting tables - and didn’t think I got it. But, by 7:30 they called and I left work right on the spot. I phoned my dad and ... (interrupted)

HMRM: Did you say, *boyfriend*, Anastasia?

Anastasia: Yes - we had lobster rolls.

HMRM: (long paws) Tell me, what iz it like to take ze stage in such an important production.

Anastasia: It is such a thing to play a role that’s been done - a lot of expectation. I start from a very simple place and go from there.

HMRM: That’s it - *a very simple place*?

Adam: For me, when the overture starts, you walk in and must fully commit to the audience. It doesn’t matter how you feel - *the show must go on*. You may be screaming outside the stage door but once you’re on stage the magic begins.

HMRM: What does your boyfriend do? Does he have lustrous fur like me? (Awkward paws) Let me ask you, *Anastasia*, do you even like Cats?

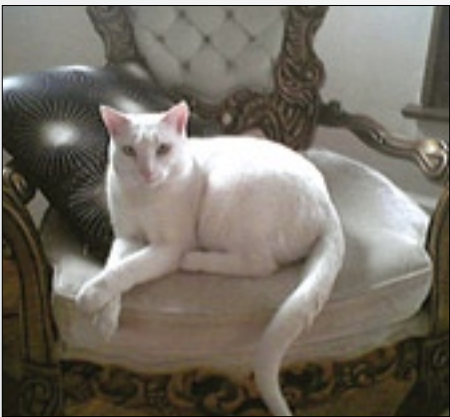
Anastasia: Yes, I do, Esteban. I have a mutt, part Burmese/Himalayan mix.

Adam: I’m allergic to Cats.

HMRM: I am sure that you are, *Monsieur*. (Paws) Do you and your “Eco-friendly” group of human beings believe that Felines should be spayed, neutered and declawed?

Anastasia: Yes, it’s quite necessary to neuter and declaw, my cats were always, and it definitely saved the furniture.

HMRM: How ... *philanthropic* of you.



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