

Shain Gallery heads south

Myers Park gallery opens exhibit in Ballantyne Resort

by Sean O'Connell
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Ballantyne Resort's list of amenities has increased by one.

The luxury facility, located at the intersection of Johnston Road and Ballantyne Commons Parkway, recently opened an art exhibit created by Gabrielle Shain-Bryson, owner of the Shain Gallery.

"We are excited about showcasing a variety of artists to the guests at Ballantyne Resort,"

said Shain-Bryson. "Our extensive collection offers something for almost everyone, while complementing the décor of the resort and adding a layer of culture and entertainment."

Chas Fagan, Kim Schuesseler, Jane Schmidt, Henry Barnes, Christy Kinard, Connie Winters, Jim Chapman, Amy Dobbs, Raphael Vincentes and Stefanie Lieberman are some of the artists included in the exhibit.

The artwork on display on the mezzanine level is available for purchase, as well. For information and pricing inquiries, call 704-248-4055. □



Bobby Cochran/CW photo

Artwork from Jane Schmidt, right, makes up a portion of the new exhibit currently on display at the Ballantyne Resort.

Robot reboots

Comedy troupe upgrades stage, material for fresh run

by Jonathan Reed
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"Bigger, badder and more brassy" are the words local comedian David Pollack uses to describe the upcoming Robot Johnson run at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's McGlohon Theatre.

The Queen City sketch comedy troupe ended a run at the Duke Energy Theatre in late May and it didn't take long for Blumenthal to ask Robot Johnson for an encore.

"We did the Duke Energy shows with an understanding that we'd be kept on in some capacity, but this is an incredible development," Pollack noted.

After honing its act at the Graduate in Plaza Midwood, Robot

Johnson already adapted its small-stage antics for the larger Duke Energy stage. Now, the actors are back at the drawing board developing their act for another venue upgrade.

"We have to make a bigger show for a bigger space," Pollack said. "There's a lot of stagecraft elements to consider. We're used to working intimately with the crowd in smaller spaces, so it's been an adjustment."

Pollack said the crew is excited for the limited-run status as it prepares for a five-show run June 20, 21 and 27. Expect more songs, new sketches and the signature, potty-mouthed Talking Baby.

Robot Johnson will share its opening night with Slam! Charlotte, the Queen City's champion-caliber poetry team. Tickets, \$8, are available by calling 704-372-1000 or visiting www.blumenthalcenter.org. □

Save the date!

Amid vacation plans and summer camps, the last thing on Charlotteans' minds would be thinking ahead to fall concerts. A few notable events have popped up on the Charlotte Weekly radar, however, and below are some tickets worth grabbing before it's too late.

Tickets already are on sale for "Avenue Q," the closing production of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Broadway Lights series, playing at Belk Theater July 22-27. Hailed as a hilarious send-up of an iconic PBS children's show (media are discouraged from making the parallel, but it's not too hard to figure out), the show is tailored to audiences over age 13. For showtimes and tickets, starting at \$20, call 704-372-1000 or visit www.blumenthalcenter.org.

Adults aren't the only ones who need a concert to beat the summer heat. Fortunately, The Wiggles (The Beatles for the preschool set) will bring their most recent tour, "Pop Go The Wiggles," to Cricket Arena for two shows on Sunday, Aug. 24. Tickets, \$18-\$38, go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday,

June 30, through Ticketmaster or by calling 704-552-6500. The higher-end tickets include a Wiggles-themed gift package.

The Neighborhood Theatre will host Southern rockers The Black Crowes for a two-night stand Nov. 6-7. Tickets, starting at \$55, go on sale Saturday, June 21. Also mark your calendars for a pair of September shows at the theater: the Indigo Girls hit NoDa Sept. 14 (sales start July 1) and Pinback, one of indie rock's finer purveyors of so-called "math rock," arrive Sept. 25 (sales start July 11).

Horror fans will rejoice when legendary filmmaker George Romero comes to town Sept. 19-21 for "American Zombie: George A. Romero's Film Revolution." Featuring six movie screenings, a special meeting with Romero and a zombie-themed party, the weekend pays homage to one of the genre's greatest. For more on event locations and tickets, visit www.zombiestakecharlotte.com. □

—Jonathan Reed

The 2008 Charlotte Shakespeare Festival

Romeo and Juliet

June 5 - 22

Wednesday - Saturday at 8:00pm

Sundays at 6:30pm

Outdoors at The Green Uptown

for more information and directions visit:

CharlotteShakespeare.com

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