

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Downtown film fest bows Friday

The Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival, an 'Evening in Roma' and 'Romeo and Juliet' are also upcoming

JODI LEE REIFER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The fundamental things apply, as time goes by. After six months of planning, "Casablanca," the 1942 classic, opens the inaugural Downtown Staten Island Film Festival.

The Best Picture Oscar winner will be one of more than 60 movies screened over four days at six St. George venues, including the neighborhood's municipal parking lot, which will be converted into a drive-in movie theater.

"Casablanca," the only Friday night feature, plays at 8. Tickets for that show only are \$12.50 with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Katrina relief. The rest of the proceeds will help children's charities selected by the Staten Island Rotary Club, which is running the festival with the Downtown Staten Island Council.

Among the program's highlights are kids' favorites like "The Muppets Take Manhattan," playing Saturday at 2 p.m. in the St. George Theatre; quirkier picks like Fellini's "8½ Women," showing Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Cargo Cafe and recent blockbusters like "Ali," playing Sunday at 5 p.m. in the St. George Theatre.

The Staten Island Museum and the St. George Library Center will be devoted to smaller films, while Karl's Klipper screens shorts.

John Travolta steers "Grease" into the drive-in Saturday at 7 p.m. "Pink Floyd: The Wall" follows at 10:30 p.m. Jack Nicholson's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," puts the drive-in to bed Sunday at 10:30 p.m.

Admission to all movies, except drive-in features, is \$7.50 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children, ages 2 to 10. Drive-in admission is \$22.50 per vehicle, regardless of how many passengers, or \$7.50 for chair seating, with weekend passes available.

For a list of movies, special events, maps and brochures, visit www.downtownsi.com or call (718) 273-6369.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Orange is all the rage this weekend.

The annual Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. in Willowbrook Park at Eton Place and Richmond Avenue.

The organic star attractions will be on sale, with decorating stations set-up throughout the event. Also at the event: A petting zoo, crafts, carousel rides, a honey bee exhibit, the pet adoption mobile and puppet shows.

Admission is free, but there will be small fees for some activities. Call (718) 667-2165 for



A scene from the film "Casablanca" plays on an inflatable portable screen in the St. George Municipal Parking lot during a test run for this weekend's outdoor film festival.



The Greenbelt's annual Pumpkin Festival is Saturday and Sunday.

more information.

ORCHESTRA FANFARE

Having added a jazz ensemble and guest artists to its upcoming program, the Richmond County Orchestra cannot be chided for launching the 2005 season with insufficient fanfare.

Sunday's 3 p.m. performance at St. John's University on Grymes Hill will premiere an ambitious new work, "WaFoo Suite," featuring the orchestra and WaFoo, an Island-based, Japanese-American jazz ensemble. Kazuo Nakamura, bass for both ensembles, wrote the piece.

Ted Boasso, an 18-year-old New Orleans guitar student, will sit in with WaFoo. The young musician moved north after Hurricane Katrina destroyed his school and has been admitted to LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts.

The program will also showcase guest violinist Charles Rex, a longtime member of the Philharmonic and former associate concertmaster, on Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee" and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto.

The concert will be performed under the baton of Alan Aurelia, founding conductor of the Richmond County Orchestra. Tickets are \$8-\$12 at the door.

— Michael J. Fressola

CEMETERY WALK

The Staten Island Museum orchestrates a walking tour of

Moravian Cemetery, Sunday at 2 p.m.

Richard L. Simpson will point out graves of famous residents and antique tombstones. The program is free for museum members and \$10 for the public.

To register, call (718) 727-6278 ext. 2.

MARCO POLO TALES

Marco Polo hits the Silk Road again this weekend.

Staten Island OutLOUD reads from "The Travels of Marco Polo" Saturday at 2 p.m. in honor of Italian Heritage Month at Blue Heron Pond, 222 Poillon Ave., Annadale.

The Italian explorer's travelogue details his 24 years of adventures from Venice, Italy across Eastern Europe to the Middle East and to Asia to the court of Kublai Khan, founder and first emperor (1279-1294) of the Chinese Yuan Dynasty.

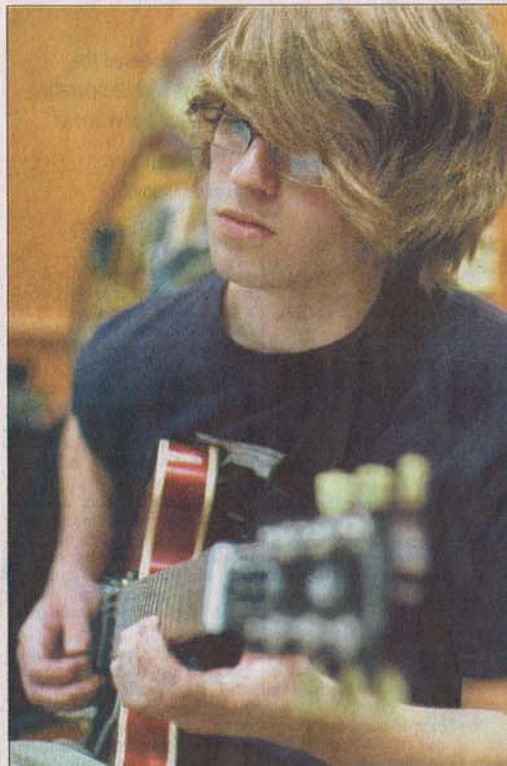
Admission is free. Call (718) 907-0709 or e-mail sioutloud@yahoo.com.

'ROMEO AND JULIET'

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" opens this weekend at the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre.

Written in iambic pentameter, the play is also known for its copious use of rhymed verse.

The famed story — made into more than 40 movies — revolves around the teen title characters' doomed romance opposed by their warring families.



Ted Boasso, who moved to New York from New Orleans, rehearses with the Richmond County Orchestra.

The show begins its three-weekend run Friday at 8 p.m. and continues Saturday, Oct. 13-15 and Oct. 20-22 at the same time with 3 p.m. matinees Sunday and Oct. 16 and 23.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$12 for seniors and students. The Shakespearean Theatre Company performs at Sea View Rehabilitation Hospital Center and Home, 460 Brielle Ave.

'EVENING IN ROMA'

Old World Italian music reaches Huguenot this weekend.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Theater Group presents "An Evening in Roma" a revue featuring songs such as "Come Back to Sorrento," "Al Di La," "Mambo Italiano" and "O Mio Bambino Caro."

The cast of 25 adults and 15 children perform 35 songs in just over two hours.

The show goes up Thursday at 8 p.m. and continues Friday and Saturday same time in O'Mara Hall, 5371 Amboy Road.

Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. Call (718) 966-0671.

OIL & TERRORISM

A documentary probing the oil industry's role in global terrorism will be screened Friday at the College of Staten Island. The college shows "The Oil Factory," directed by Audrey Broby and Gerard Ungeman, at 6:30 p.m. in the Green Dolphin Lounge in the Student Center.

A discussion will follow.

The screening is part of "The U.S. and Globalization," a series hosted by the Professional Staff Congress, the faculty union. Admission is free.

'BURNT MAPS AND CHARTS'

Award-winning poet Catherine Doty reads from her latest book, "Momentum," Sunday at the Noble Maritime Collection.

The poet received the 2003 Marjorie J. Wilson Award, as well as fellowships and grants from the Academy of American Poets, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island.

In "A Ship Called Momentum," she writes, "I burnt my maps and charts; I can't find the stars/Don't know how to reach your nourishing soil/Waves crash and tremble, and break upon the deck/filled with clutching seaweed and bones of the dead."

A former New Brighton resident she contributes a weekly kids' page feature for this newspaper. Born and reared in Paterson, N.J., she now lives in Boonton, N.J. and teaches sixth grade language arts at Millburn Middle School.

The Noble collection is on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 1000 Richmond Terr., Livingston. The reading begins at 2 p.m. and is free with museum admission of \$3 and \$2 for students and seniors. Call (718) 447-6490.

Jodi Lee Reifer covers arts and entertainment for the Advance. She may be reached at reifer@siadvance.com.



SENERITY: The big screen of the cult sci-fi TV show, is a bona fide hit. Sean Markey and Summer Glau are among the stars.

MOVIE TIME

These movie schedules provided by the theater are subject to change.

ATRIUM, Eltingville

SENERITY (PG-13) — 1, 3:30

INTO THE BLUE (PG-13) — 1, 4:35, 6:45, 9:05.

CONSTANT GARDENER (R) — 8:05.

JUST LIKE HEAVEN (PG-13) — 4:15, 6:25, 8:35.

LORD OF WAR (R) — 5:30, 8:05.

CRY WOLF (PG-13) — 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35.

EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13) — 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45.

40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN (R) — 4:15, 6:35, 9.

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (PG-13) — 2, 3:45.

CORPSE BRIDE (PG) — 12, 1:52, 7:20, 9:10.

FLIGHT PLAN (PG-13) — 12:45, 7, 9:05.

UA HYLAN PLAZA, New Dorp

INTO THE BLUE (PG-13) — 3, 9.

FLIGHT PLAN (PG-13) — 2:30, 6:50, 9.

CORPSE BRIDE (PG) — 2:35, 8.

JUST LIKE HEAVEN (PG-13) — 7:05, 9:10.

EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13) — 3, 5:35, 8:15.

UA STATEN ISLAND, Travis

INTO THE BLUE (PG-13) — 3, 8:30.

SENERITY (PG-13) — 3:30, 6:00.

THE CONSTANT GARDENER (R) — 5:55, 8:50.

AN UNFINISHED LIFE (PG-13) — 8:30.

CORPSE BRIDE (PG) — 3:05, 9:20.

FLIGHT PLAN (PG-13) — 3:20, 8:15.

ROLL BOUNCE (PG-13) — 3:30, 8:15.

CRY WOLF (PG-13) — 3:30, 8:15.

JUST LIKE HEAVEN (PG-13) — 5:50, 8:10.

LORD OF WAR (R) — 3:30, 8:15.

EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE (PG-13) — 6:45, 9:15.

THE TRANSPORTER 2 (PG-13) — 6:45, 9.

40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN (R) — 9:15.

SKY HIGH (PG) — 3:15, 5:45.

UA STADIUM 16, Mariners Harbor

SENERITY (PG-13) — 12:05, 8:25.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE (R) — 2:40, 5, 7:25, 9:45.