BDAAC NEWSLETTER

February 2008

WWW.CINCINNATIARTS.ORG/BDAAC

BDAAC Spreads Holiday Cheer

In an effort to make children's holidays brighter and support teachers, BDAAC provided a special day of puppets and fun for third and fourth grade students at the Academy of Multilingual Immersion Studies (AMIS) on December 14. AMIS's student body includes a large number of children who are working to learn English as their second language.

The students were treated to a performance by Madcap Puppets entitled *Thistlewig's Traveling Story Wagon*, featuring: "Three Billy Goats Gruff," "Wiley and the Hairy Man," and "Cornelius and the Witch."

At the conclusion of the program, children adjourned to the cafeteria where they enjoyed cookies and juice and saw an example of a puppet that each student would make in their classroom. All materials for the puppet project were provided by BDAAC along with some instructional support by local fiber artist Kimberly Wilfong Sigman who worked with the teachers in advance.

Due to Cincinnati Public Schools' budget cuts, AMIS no longer has an art teacher so the puppet project was most welcome. When the students finished their puppets, teachers utilized the children's newly constructed friends as instructional tools to make reading and writing come to life. BDAAC is proud of its small contribution to brightening the holidays of students and supporting public education.

BDAAC Newsletter to E-Newsletter

In an effort to reduce costs, save trees and extend landfills, BDAAC plans to transition its newsletter to an electronic document. In an age where more than half of the homes in the United States now have home computers, we hope to gradually send more and more newsletters to you via email.

For now, we will continue to publish in both a print and electronic format. As we build our electronic mailing list, we will reduce the amount of newsletters we print with a goal of ultimately sending the entire publication from our computer to yours. This will also provide us with an opportunity to send special communications to you regarding events and activities supported by BDAAC, and to link our newsletter to other CAA communications of interest.

If you would like to receive future publications electronically, please send an email to sfinn@cincinnatiarts.org with the subject line "BDAAC email list."

THIS.IS.AMERICA

Challenging our perception of diversity

by the Know Theatre of Cincinnati

March 6, 7:30 PM & March 15, 7:30 PM

Weston Art Gallery, Aronoff Center for the Arts

A series of monologues culled from personal experiences involving the dynamics of race, gender and creed. The stories are told in first person, highlighting the many misconceptions we as individuals sometimes have about individuals from other walks of life. The show challenges perceptions and opens the door for personal reflection and group discussion in a post-show talk back with the actors. Recommended for grades 7-Adult.

These performances are free and open to the public.

Who are We. . .?

The Cincinnati Arts Association (CAA) manages and operates the Aronoff Center for the Arts and Music Hall, and is dedicated to supporting performing and visual arts and fostering their appreciation.

In 1996, CAA and its Education & Community Relations Department formed the Building Diverse Audiences Advisory Committee (BDAAC) to produce a strategic plan to attract a more diverse audience to its venues.

BDAAC is a committed group of citizens illustrating diversity from within the community that acts as an advisor to, and ambassador for, the Cincinnati Arts Association. BDAAC's purpose is to assist CAA in addressing the programming, service and cultural needs of Greater Cincinnati's diverse communities.

Our 2007-08 committee members are:

- **J. Stephen Dobbins**, Chair, Brown Mackie College System
- **Michael Beck,** Midwest Latino LLC
- **Marvel Gentry Davis,** BMC Software
- **P. Ann Everson-Price,** Professional Singer
- **Linda Gravett,** Gravett & Associates
- **Jimmy Jackson,** J P Morgan Chase Bank
- **Karen Jenkins Smith,** Northern Kentucky University
- **Doni Jessen,** Muñiz & Associates
- **Antonio Muñiz-Olan,** Independent Insurance Agent
- **Evelyn Sears,** Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery Services

Cincinnati Arts Association Staff:

- **Van Ackerman**
  Director of Marketing & Public Relations
- **Brenda Carter**
  Director of Human Resources
- **Steve Finn**
  Director of Education & Community Relations
- **Steve Loftin**
  President & Executive Director

Spotlight on BDAAC Member: Karen Jenkins Smith

Energetic. Committed. Positive. Free Spirit.

These adjectives all describe one of our newest BDAAC Committee members, Karen Jenkins Smith. We are fortunate to have benefited from her talents since September 2007, and she has already demonstrated through her efforts with the Madcap Puppet Theatre show in December that she is an enthusiastic supporter of people of all ages who are interested in the arts. (see story "BDAAC Spreads Holiday Cheer")

Karen is the Coordinator of Supplemental Instruction at Northern Kentucky University and is also on their faculty as a Developmental Writing Instructor. Her guidance under the Supplemental Instruction program provides structured study groups for high drop out courses at the college, in order to ensure that potential leaders of tomorrow aren't discouraged by courses like chemistry!

Karen has a strong work ethic that emerged when she worked as a teen for her father, a C.P.A. Her experiences have taken her into all kinds of endeavors – from volunteering at a Cowboy Museum in Colorado, to interning at The Smithsonian Institute, to serving as a columnist for the *Cincinnati Herald,* as well as contributing articles for *Applause!* Magazine. Karen has a keen interest in the arts and a unique talent that she's putting to great use. She has started a small greeting card company, Our Spirit and Soul, for which she takes candid pictures of everyday people, doing everyday things, for the front of the cards. Her goal is to teach children how to take photographs and pull them together into a collage of meaningful art.

Karen has enjoyed her interaction with other volunteers on the BDAAC Committee and looks forward to having many more opportunities to discover what energizes others in the arts world.

2007-08 SEASON — *WE WILL ROCK YOU!*

From February through April 2008, the Cincinnati Arts Association will present ten exciting 2007-08 Season events – a diverse selection of entertainment options that is sure to rock a variety of Aronoff Center audiences. These intriguing additions to another vibrant Tri-state arts season are certain to continue CAA's long-standing mission of presenting an eclectic mix of alternative entertainment choices to Cincinnati theater-goers. The dynamic new season offers something for everyone, showcasing an entertaining mix of music, theater, dance, and family fun.

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

Friday, February 22, 2008 ~ 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 23, 2008 ~ 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sunday, February 24, 2008 ~ 2:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Jarson-Kaplan Theater

A hilariously insightful one-man play about the ways men and women relate, *Caveman* has both sexes roaring with laughter and recognition.

RAIN: The Beatles Experience

Wednesday, March 12, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

An unforgettable multi-media, multi-dimensional experience that covers the Fab Four from their very first Ed Sullivan Show appearance through the Abbey Road album.

ARTHUR LIVE! – Arthur Tricks the Tooth Fairy

Saturday, March 15, 2008 ~ 3:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

Based on the popular books and PBS-TV series, this all-new musical adventure is a storybook come to life onstage!

The Acting Company presents MOBY DICK REHEARSED

Orson Welles' stage adaptation of the classic novel by Herman Melville

Thursday, March 20, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Jarson-Kaplan Theater

A mesmerizing theatrical tour-de-force based on the classic big fish story.

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

Performed by Gary Mullen & The Works

Saturday, March 22, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

The internationally-acclaimed tribute band Gary Mullen and the Works will rock you with rebel-rousing renditions of Queen's greatest hits, from "Bohemian Rhapsody" to "Another One Bites The Dust."

THE GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS

Thursday, April 3, 2008 ~ 7:30 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

Award-winning acrobatics, awesome strength, and traditional dance mix in a family-friendly show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.

GORDON LIGHTFOOT – The Legend in Concert

Friday, April 4, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

Don't miss this rare opportunity to share an evening with music legend Gordon Lightfoot, performing such timeless classics as "If You Could Read My Mind" and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald."

RING OF FIRE: The Music of Johnny Cash

Saturday, April 5, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

Stories of passion, redemption, humor and salvation set the stage ablaze in this new Broadway musical celebration of the world's most favorite rebel.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Tuesday, April 29, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 30, 2008 ~ 8:00 PM

Aronoff Center ~ Procter & Gamble Hall

For nearly half a century, this acclaimed African-American modern dance company has been thrilling audiences around the world.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

- www.CincinnatiArts.ORG
- **(513) 621-ARTS [2787]**
- Aronoff Center Ticket Office
- For group sales of 10 or more, call (513) 977-4157

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Weston Art Gallery

located in the Aronoff Center for the Arts

January 25-March 22, 2008

Hairrier: the Hovering Drone by Jimmy Baker and Nathan Tersteeg (Dungeon Thud)

Jimmy Baker and Nathan Tersteeg reunite as Dungeon Thud in an ambitious installation that combines sound, video and performance staged on an abstracted Harrier Jet complete with spewing artificial hair.

January 25-March 30, 2008

Miracle Pennies and Other Stories: Photography and Video by Nate Larson

A Chicago-based artist and photographer, Nate Larson's photographic work uses visual and textural narrative to explore the way in which we construct meaning in contemporary culture through the lenses of religion, consumer behavior, and secular mythologies.

Utopian-Bands and Related Works by Mark Harris

Mark Harris explores imagery of intoxication as a form of utopian representation. His film captures a glimpse of the cultural changes sweeping through China and celebrates Beijing rock bands as the return of the repressed – microcosmic utopian communities once stifled by a Chinese Communism focused on national social reorganization. The video debut of *Utopian-Bands* will be accompanied by a series of paper cutouts and photographs informed by Harris' experiences in China.