

Now Playing

BLITHE SPIRIT — Ghost story starring Ann Whitney (*Home Alone, The Fugitive*) in the title role **2 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11** at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$31, 574-267-8041, wagon-wheeltheatre.org

A CLOSER WALK WITH PATSY CLINE — Best Schotz Dinner Theater Production that tells the life story of the legendary country music singer and is intertwined with her music **7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 15-16** at Old Train Depot, Pierceton, \$35, 574-594-2090; **7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18** at Impact 2818 Epworth Forest Conference Center, North Webster, \$35, 574-834-2212

DREAMGIRLS — Fort Wayne Civic Theatre presents Tony-winning musical about three young singers breaking into the changing music scene of the 1960s **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12** at Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$18-\$26, 424-5220, www.fwcivic.org

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY — Gaslight Playhouse dinner-theatre production of Gerard Alessandrini's cabaret-style comedy musical that lampoons Broadway's greatest moments **6:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 9-11** at American Legion Post #86, Kendallville, \$22, 242-1543, www.gaslightplayhouse75.com

HANK WILLIAMS: LOST HIGHWAY — A classic country musical biography of the legendary singer (call for times) **Wednesday-Sunday thru Aug. 26**, at the Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres, Nappanee, \$6.95-\$45.16, 800-800-4942, www.amishacres.com **PLAIN AND FANCY** — A musical comedy at the Round Barn Theatre (call for times) **thru Oct. 20** at Amish Acres, Nappanee, \$6.95-\$45.16, 800-800-4942, www.amishacres.com

HARRY POTTER AND THE OBNOXIOUS VOICE — Ecstatic Theatrics presentation of a parody play spoofing the boy wizard and written by local playwright Jeannette Jaquish **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11, 17-18, 24-25** at west side of Franke Park, Fort Wayne, free, 484-5946, www.ecstat-theatrics.com

I LOVE A PIANO-AN IRVING BERLIN REVIEW — Salute to the American songwriter that includes a large song-catalog revue of his work **8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15; 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 17-18; 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21; 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22; 2 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 24-25** at Wagon Wheel Theatre, Warsaw, \$12-\$31, 574-267-8041, wagonwheeltheatre.org

PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM — Woody Allen's comedy about a bookish man obsessed with Humphrey Bogart **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11 and 17-18** at Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35, 424-5622, www.arenadinnertheatre.org

THE TWELVE — Original Rock Opera presentation of the Gospels as told from the perspective of the apostles **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11** at Heartland Church, Vance Avenue, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$10 (5 and under free), 483-1770

Asides

AUDITIONS

SCARLET FEVER FORT WAYNE BURLESQUE — Auditions for all talents including dancers, vocalists, jugglers and musicians **4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12** at VIP Bar and Grill, Fort Wayne, 409-7390, www.fortwayneburlesque.com

AN O. HENRY CHRISTMAS (Nov. 2-4 & 9-11) — Auditions for Christmas play **7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14** at First Missionary Church, Fort Wayne, 246-1989, www.allforonefw.org

ADVENTURES OF HUCK FINN (Oct. 5-8) — Auditions for Fort Wayne Youththeatre production **4-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 4-5** at Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, 422-6900, www.fortwayneyouththeatre.org

ANANSI THE SPIDER: HERO OF WEST AFRICA (April 19-22, 2013) — Auditions for Fort Wayne Youththeatre production **4-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, March 5-6, 2013** at Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, 422-6900, www.fortwayneyouththeatre.org

PLAZA SUITE (April 26-May 11, 2013) — Auditions for Neil Simon comedy **7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, March 10-11, 2013** at Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, 424-5622, www.arenadinnertheatre.org

Planning Calendar

AUGUST

THE HALF-STITCHED AMISH QUILTING CLUB — Story of a mismatched lot who join together for a quilting class, by award-winning, bestselling author Wanda E. Brunstetter (call for times) **Aug. 24-Dec. 8** at Blue Gate Theater, Shipshewana, \$29-\$44, www.riegsecker.comphptheater



July 28 - August 12, 2012

Book & Lyrics by Tom Eyen Music by Henry Krieger

See it live! The Tony Award winning musical that the hit movie was based on!

Guest Director: Dianne Shaw

“One Night Only” “Family” “You Are My Dream”
“Steppin’ To The Bad Side”
“(And I Am Telling You) I’m Not Going”

260.424.5220 fwcivic.org

Show Sponsor



A Spirited Wagon Wheel Show

The Wagon Wheel Theatre's only non-musical production of the season, Noel Coward's "improbable farce," *Blithe Spirit*, presents a satirically dismal interpretation of marriage among the privileged. Author Charles Condomine (David Schlumpf) is a haughty boor, emotionally dominated by his beautiful wife Ruth (Jennifer Dow). As research for a character he's writing, he invites an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati (Ann Whitney), to perform a séance. She unwittingly conjures an "ectoplasmic manifestation" in the form of his first wife Elvira (Kira Lace Hawkins) who died seven years prior. As she takes up residence in the house, Ruth blames Charles for subconsciously summoning Elvira, who is more passionate and vibrant than Ruth, even dead.

Although Charles claims to be over Elvira, the "astral bigamist" can't help but enjoy having her back. But rather than become Ruth's sister-wife, the "morally untidy" Elvira hatches a scheme to keep Charles for herself, as secrets of her past are revealed. The scheme backfires and Charles' domestic problems get way out of hand.

Written in 1941 wartime England, the play is a classic, thanks to Coward's wittily rapid-fire dialogue, although it has been criticized as being misogynistic. The Wagon Wheel leads play their parts perfectly, from their British dialects to their comic pacing to their physical comedy and grace. A particularly hilarious scene involves Charles hurling insults at the invis-



Curtain Call
JEN POIRY-PROUGH

ible Elvira while Ruth believes he is speaking to her. In addition to the verbal banter is the visual humor inherent in any ghost-centric comedy. Elvira makes herself known to Ruth by mischievously making objects appear to float in mid air. Madame Arcati and Ruth try to speak with the invisible Elvira and never quite look in the right place or focus on her when they are.

Schlumpf manages to make the smug Charles likable as he reveals his vulnerabilities. As Elvira, Hawkins is radiantly ethereal, but with a slightly maniacal gleam in her eye. She gracefully flits about the stage, never quite standing still as she wreaks havoc on her husband's second marriage. Jennifer Dow's Ruth is elegant and sophisticated but gradually loses her cool self-assurance as she realizes the dangers her rival could impose.

Ann Whitney lights up the stage as the dotty old medium. She sings nursery rhymes with her unseen "control" (a seven-year-old girl who died in the late 1880s) and gesticulates floridly as she contacts the

BLITHE SPIRIT
Thursday, Aug. 9 • 2 & 8 p.m.
Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11
8 p.m.
Wagon Wheel Theatre
2515 E. Center St., Warsaw
Tix.: \$31, 574-267-8041

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WAGON WHEEL THEATRE.ORG
574.267.8041 • toll-free 866.823.2618
2515 E. Center St., Warsaw, IN 46580

i love a
PIANO

An Irving Berlin Review
August 15-25, 2012

Current Exhibits

ARTLINK MEMBERS' SHOW — Members exhibit one piece of their recent original artwork in a non-juried show **Tuesday-Sunday thru Aug. 14** at Artlink, Fort Wayne, 424-7195, www.artlinkfw.com

ARTS IN THE PARK — Artists from throughout the U.S. will exhibit a variety of styles, media, color and form **Monday-Friday thru Aug. 18** at Hugh N. Ronald Gallery, Arts Place, Portland, 866-539-9911, www.artsland.org

DOUGLAS DAVID PAINTS TOWN AND COUNTRY — Works by renowned Indiana painter **Tuesday-Sunday thru Aug. 10** at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.com

F.A.M.E. — Exhibition of the art of young children **Monday-Friday thru Aug. 30** at First Presbyterian Church Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-7421, www.firstpres-fw.org/the_artsgallery

FLORAL FEVER — Floral art of different mediums by local artists **Monday-Friday thru Aug. 31** at Northside Galleries, Fort Wayne, 483-6624, www.northsidegalleries.com

GWEN GUTWEIN: BARNS OF INDIANA — The functional artistry of Hoosier barns on exhibit **Tuesday-Sunday thru Sept. 2** at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.com

IPFW ART STUDENTS LEAGUE — Fine Arts and Visual Communication and Design students will show a variety of 2D work including prints, drawings and paintings **daily thru Sept. 2** at Old Crown Coffee Roasters, Fort Wayne, 422-5282

JUSTIN JOHNSON AND JAMES FREEMAN — Mixed media from Johnson, the University of St. Francis gallery director and ceramic works from Freeman, a nationally recognized Michigan artist are on display **Tuesday-Saturday thru Aug. 10** at Crestwoods Gallery, Roanoke, 672-2080, www.crestwoodsgallery.com

LISA RANSOM SMITH AND SUZANNE BELLOWES — Pastels and mixed media pieces (Smith) and silk jewelry (Bellows) **Monday-Saturday, Aug. 2-30** at The Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927, www.theorchardgallery.com

MARS IN 3D — The German Space Center exhibit explores the past and future of the red planet **Tuesday-Sunday thru Sept. 2** at Science Central, Fort Wayne, 424-2400, www.sciencecentral.org

THE NEXT GENERATION — High school and college students' art **daily thru Aug. 26** at Clark Gallery, Honeywell Center, Wabash, 563-1102, www.honeywellcenter.org/

RUDI KLIMPERT, A JOURNEY OF COLOR AND LIGHT — Signature oil paintings **Monday-Friday thru Sept. 7** in the upper College Union on the North Manchester Campus, Manchester University, 982-5285

SAM MINNICK — Exhibit of oil paintings **daily thru Aug. 31** at Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, 373-0505, www.fireflycoffeehousefw.com

SUGAR AND SPICE AND EVERYTHING NICE — Art, jewelry and more by Christina Baloski, Greta Sirois and Amy Moser by appointment **daily thru Sept. 1** at Dragonfly Arts Studio, Fort Wayne, 414-1390, www.dragonflyartstudio.com

SUSAN SURACI — Oil and acrylic paintings by local artist on display **daily thru Aug. 31** at Henry's Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 426-0531, susansuraci.com/

SUMMER SPECTACULAR — Seasonal artwork by nationally recognized artists **Tuesday-Saturday thru Sept. 15** at Castle Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-6568, www.castlegallery.com

VENTURES IN CREATIVITY 2012 — Fort Wayne Artist Guild's annual exhibit **daily thru Aug. 17** at Weatherhead Gallery, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, 672-8390, www.fortwayneartistsguild.com

THE VOICE IN THE FOREST — Multi-media works by Michael Rhodes by **appointment thru Aug. 18** at the Lotus Gallery, Fort Wayne, 420-9642, www.lotusfw.com

Artifacts

ART EVENTS

OUTDOOR ART FAIR — More than 25 regional artists display their work; food and wine available **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18** at Satek Winery, Fremont, free, 495-9463, www.satekwinery.com

DECATUR SCULPTURE WALK KICKOFF — Inaugural art event featuring original life-size sculptures by local artists **Thursday, Aug. 23** at Second Street business district, Decatur, free, www.decatursculpturewalk.com

TASTE OF THE GARDENS — Culinary arts and fine art surrounded by garden landscapes **11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25** at Wellfield Botanic Gardens, Elkhart, 574-266-2006, www.wellfieldgardens.org/taste-of-the-gardens.html

FINE ART COLLECTORS SALON — Social gathering of artists and collectors in celebration of the arts **6-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30** at Castle Gallery, Fort Wayne, 426-6568, www.castlegallery.com

Coming Exhibits

AUGUST

CONTEMPORARY REALISM BIENNIAL — A national invitational and juried exhibition which highlights the strength and innovation of America's current trends in realism **Tuesday-Sunday, Aug. 11-Oct. 28** at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 422-6467, www.fwmoa.org

JULIE WALL TOLES — Works on display **Friday-Saturday or by appointment, Aug. 25-Sept. 29** at the Lotus Gallery, Fort Wayne, 420-9642, www.lotusfw.com/lotusfw.com/Upcoming_Events.html

WABASH ART GUILD — Member artwork on display that utilizes a variety of mediums **daily, Aug. 29-Sept. 25** at Clark Gallery, Honeywell Center, Wabash, 563-1102, www.honeywell-center.org

This Week

FANDANA FESTIVAL — Huntington's music, art and film festival **Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11** at Huntington University, Huntington, \$10-\$48, 356-6000, www.fandanafestival.com

CARNIVAL FOR A CURE — Alzheimer's benefit and anniversary celebration with food, carnival, silent auction and rummage sale **10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10** at Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, Wabash, free, 563-8402, www.asc-seniorcare.com

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH ANNUAL WINE TASTING — Wine and Beer Tasting Party with live music **7-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, \$25, 432-0268, www.seasfw.org

SETONFEST — Family-oriented fun with live music, bake sale, games, rides, cornhole tournament, teen activities and beer tent for adults **3-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, free, 432-0268, www.seasfw.org

FUNFEST BY THE RIVER — Live music, festival food, a diaper derby, carnival rides and more **Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 9-11** in downtown North Manchester, free, 982-7644, www.northmanchesterchamber.com

MIDDLEBURY SUMMER FESTIVAL — Parade, live music, festival food, crafters, children's activities and more **Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11** at Memorial and East parks, Middlebury, free, 574-825-5980, www.middleburyfestivals.com

PICCADILLY CIRCUS — Acrobats, circus animals, clowns, motorcycle stunts and more **4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Aug. 9-10; 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11; 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12** at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$8.75-\$38, 877-373-0477, www.thefuncircus.com

MDA FUNDRAISER — Bake sale, sidewalk sale and raffle to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association **8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11** at Mad Anthony Title Company, Lancia Office Centre, Fort Wayne, freewill donation, 449-9169

WINE & BEER FESTIVAL — Wine makers and craft brewers of Indiana offer a taste of their creations **2-6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11** at Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$30, 484-2543, www.jani.org

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF SHOES — Local celebrities model fashions in this annual Women's Bureau fundraiser **5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15** at Landmark Reception Hall, Fort Wayne, \$40, 424-7977, www.womensbureau.com

Authors, Reading, Poetry

NO FENCES ALOUD — An open mic night for writers, particularly in the genres of short stories and poetry **7 p.m. first Thursday of every month** at the Peace Frog Coffee House, Fort Wayne, free, 755-5527

PURPLE REIGNED ON ME BOOK SIGNING — Poet Mikki White will sign copies of her newest work **1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18** at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Glenbrook Square, Fort Wayne, free, 482-3720, store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/store/2313

THE NEVER PRAYER BOOK SIGNING — Author Aaron Michael Ritchey will be available to sign copies of his young adult book **3-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18** at Firefly Coffee House, Fort Wayne, free, 373-0505, www.fireflycoffeehousefw.com

Storytimes

BARNES & NOBLE STORY TIMES — Storytime and crafts **10 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays**, Barnes & Noble, Jefferson Pointe, Fort Wayne, 432-3343

STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: **ABOITE BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Baby Steps, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, **421-1320**

DOWNTOWN BRANCH — Storytime for preschools, day-cares and other groups, **9:30-10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5; 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Fridays thru Sept. 14** and **Oct. 5-26; PAWS** to read, **6:30 p.m. Thursdays Sept. 6-Oct. 25**, 421-1220

DUPONT BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime for ages 3-5, **1:30 p.m. Tuesdays & 10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, PAWS to Read, **4:30 p.m. Wednesdays**, **421-1315**

GEORGETOWN BRANCH — Born to Read Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays**, Baby Steps, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read, **4 p.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursdays**, **421-1320**

GRABILL BRANCH — Born to Read, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, **421-1325**

HESSEN CASSEL BRANCH — Stories, songs and fingerplays for the whole family, **6:30 p.m. Tuesdays**, **421-1330**

LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH — Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, PAWS to read, **6 p.m. Mondays**, **421-1335**

NEW HAVEN BRANCH — Babies and books for kids birth to age 2, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, **421-1345**

PONTIAC BRANCH — Teen cafe, **4 p.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read **5 p.m. Thursdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, **421-1350**

TECUMSEH BRANCH — PAWS to Read, **6:30 p.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime for kids age 3-6, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, YA Day for teens, **3:30 p.m. Wednesdays**, Wondertots reading for ages 1-3, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, **421-1360**

SHAWNEE BRANCH — Born to Read for babies and toddlers, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **11 a.m. Thursdays**, **421-1355**

WYANDALE BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**, Born to Read Storytime for babies and toddlers, **10:15 a.m. Tuesdays**, PAWS to Read, **4:30 p.m. first and third Wednesdays**, **421-1365**

WOODBURN BRANCH — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, **421-1370**

Kid Stuff

SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC ROCK CAMP — Week-long program for experienced musicians ages 12-18 **10 a.m.-4 p.m. thru Friday, Aug. 10** at Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, \$350-\$400, 432-8176 ext. 1961, kelly_lentine@sweetwater.com

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH POWER — Demonstration and exploration for upcoming school year of available library technology **2-4 p.m. & 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9** at Allen County Public Library Downtown Branch, Fort Wayne, free, 421-1220, www.aapl.lib.in.us

BLITHE SPIRIT - From Page 21

spirit world. She travels everywhere by bicycle, wearing steampunk leather goggles. Madame Arcati is a lovably bohemian, life-affirming soul in a shiny turban.

The supporting cast is also fantastic, particularly Annie Yokom as the Condomine's barely competent new maid with her own secret. Stephen Anthony and Hillary Smith play the Condomine's friends, Dr. George and Violet Bradman. Violet is a sweet, slightly over-excitabile young thing, and her husband constantly tries to control her into behaving with proper British decorum.

Although written in 1941, directors Ben Dicke

and Andy Robinson (also providing the season's most entertaining curtain speech) have set this production in 1961. The time change allows for a different variety of beautiful costumes, designed by Stephen R. Hollenbeck. The play climaxes with a chaotic series of clever special effects as befitting a Wagon Wheel production.

As Madame Arcati proudly declares, "Amateur" is a word I cannot tolerate." Thanks to the always outstanding professional cast and crew of the Wagon Wheel Theatre, this thoroughly entertaining production is anything but.

jen@greenroomonline.org

ART CLASSES

Kids' Art Exploration
August 15, 6-7 p.m.
\$20 supplies included

Photoshop Image Stitching
August 11, 1-3 p.m.
\$30 bring your laptop

Drawing the Human Head
August 18, 9 a.m -12 p.m.
\$40 supplies included

Contact Artlink for details.
424-7195 artlinkfw.com

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