

FALL 2011

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The newsletter of the Prairie Arts Council

Mini Christmas Tree Festival at the Prairie Arts Center - Nov. 4 - Dec. 3

The Mini Christmas Tree Festival will feature a silent auction of 28 individually designed and uniquely decorated trees by creative artists. The trees range from 18" to 32" tall. The First Friday Opening Night Reception for the Mini Christmas Tree Festival will be on Friday Nov. 4 from 5-7 p.m. at the Prairie Arts Center Gallery with Christmas entertainment at 6 p.m. The gallery will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. throughout November.

On December 3 from 1-4 p.m. there will be the Mini Christmas Tree Festival and a handmade Christmas Gift Boutique in the gallery. A Christmas Carol Sing-Along will be held at 2 p.m. in the theater followed by hot chocolate and cookies in the gallery. The last chance to enter a bid in the silent auction for a beautiful Mini Christmas Tree will be at 4 p.m. The lucky winners will have a lovely addition to their holiday decorations. Please join us for lots of fun and enjoy the Christmas spirit!



The 2011 Mini Christmas Tree Festival takes place Nov. 4 - Dec. 3. Don't miss this holiday event!

Start your Holiday Season with the PAC Children's Christmas Play

The eighth annual Prairie Arts Council Children's Christmas Musical, entitled "The Santa Fraud," was again written specifically for the children participating by Rachel Gorenz, who also serves as co-director along with PAC Theater Director David Gorenz. Peter Hamilton is acting as assistant director, and Amber Backus is the show's accompanist. Theresa Cotter is producing.

"The Santa Fraud," a title suggested by cast member Dylann Hall, is the story of Santa Claus's dishonest, greedy nephew, Forest, and his associate, Scarlet, who, through trickery, take over the North Pole, turning it into a for-profit Christmas theme park. It is then up to the elves, reindeer, and other assorted quirky citizens of the North Pole to overthrow Forest and Scarlet and restore the true spirit of Christmas to their beloved North Pole home.

Due to a wonderfully large turnout at auditions, the directors decided to double cast the show to allow every child to have an opportunity to perform. The Red Cast and the Green Cast perform the same show, alternating performances.

The Green Cast will be performing on November 17, 18, and 19. Green Cast members include Justus Bystry as Forest, Brianna Legner as Scarlet, Amelia Bystry as the Grand High Elf, Mia Bowen as Annabelle, Myah Headley as Sugarplum, Emily Boes as Peppermint, McKenna Martinez as Dasher, Jacob Leach as Donner,

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Courtney Pointer as Winter, Maggie Daluga as Garland, Leanna Martinez as Cocoa, Kimmy Glenn as Crystal, and Milo Bystry, Nicole Carlone, Debbie Daluga, Timmy Daluga, Olivia Eiken, and Hensley Leach round out the chorus.

The Red Cast will be performing the November 19-20 matinee performances. Red Cast members include Doran Cotter as Forest, Miriam Moore as Scarlet, Noah Irizarry as the Grand High Elf, Shannon Cotter as Annabelle, Asia LaPlante as Sugarplum, Vicki Tieman as Peppermint, Cameron Tieman as Dasher, Margaret Moore as Donner, Dylann Hall as Winter, Sabrina Bickett as Garland, Courtney Cook as Cocoa, Kimmie Glenn as Crystal, and Rachel Cook, Chelby Hall, Cearra LaPlante, Myla

McCune, and Tori Anna Pellegrini serve as the chorus.

“The Santa Fraud” will be performed at the Prairie Arts Center (24 Park Avenue East, Princeton) November 17, 18, and 19 at 7:00 PM by the Green Cast, and November 19 and 20 at 1:00 PM by the Red Cast. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under and seniors 60 and older. You can reserve tickets by calling the PAC Ticket Line at (815) 200-4789.



2012 Prairie Arts Council Gala

The seventeenth annual Prairie Arts Council's gala will be held on Friday, February 3rd at 7 PM at the Elks Club in Princeton. This year, the Prairie Arts Council will honor Dr. Dick Dorsch with the “Lifetime Achievements in the Arts” award. Dick has been very active in local theater for years, including the Prairie Arts Center, Stage 212, Act IV, River Valley Players in Henry and Homestead Festival plays as well as other theater productions. This will be the third “Lifetime Achievements in the Arts” award that will be made to recognize and honor special people who have made such important contributions to the arts. Mary Win Norris was the first recipient of this special reward at last year's gala and last year. Nedda Simon was honored as the second recipient of this award.

The gala is the main fund-raiser for the Prairie Arts Council, and these funds will be used to continue and enhance the many programs that the PAC offers for our local community. The PAC is a completely volunteer organization, and its only sources of funds are donations, memberships and the gala. Your support of our efforts in making the arts accessible for all members of our community are greatly appreciated. Linda Gustafson is serving as the chair for this special event and can be reached at 815 872-9181.

LIVE @ the PAC! - New Concert Series Was Kicked off Oct. 7

The Prairie Arts Council presented the first of its “Live @ the PAC” concert series on Friday, October 7th at 7 PM. The series featured local bands and their diverse music. The first concert presented James Van Fleet and the Packrat Machine and Cosmic Smuck, two local bands which are both well-established in the area.

James Van Fleet and the Packrat Machine is an experimental hybrid of country, bluegrass and folk rock music. Although on a tight budget, the band relies on the wealth of private junk collections, garage sales, auctions and ingenuity to procure the necessary musical components to drive the aesthetics of their art.

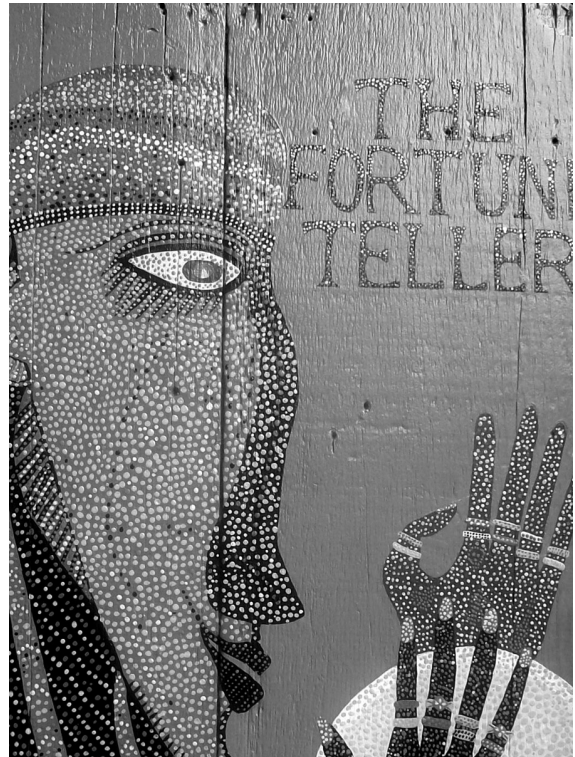
Cosmic Smuck is a band from Princeton made up of Big J, Jared Strader and Doug Johnson who all write the songs that they play and switch off instruments during their concerts. They mainly play original songs that they have written and occasionally play popular cover songs. They blend all of their favorite musicians/artists and influences into their music. They don't fit into any specific genre as they play as they write or how the songs write themselves. They try to spread the message of love, acceptance and tolerance in their music. It's all about having a good time.

Funky Folk Art by Dave Taylor coming in December to the PAC Gallery

In December, local artist Dave Taylor will take over the PAC Gallery with his Funky Folk Art show. The show will kick off with an opening reception on Friday Dec. 9. "I am thrilled and excited to be able to have a show at such a wonderful place as the Prairie Arts Center Gallery. It is a great facility and I am honored to have been asked to have a show and wrap a big year of gallery shows at the P.A.C.", says Dave, a 2008 selection into the Illinois Artisans Program.

Dave is a self-taught artist who has been painting for about 11 years. His goal is to make unique, eclectic, one of a kind pieces that will put a smile on your face. Dave tries to have fun with each piece, not take it too seriously, but also show the passion he has for his work. He started painting as a way to relax and be creative, and he can still say the same. He incorporates several different styles; Southern Folk, African, Southwest, Mexican, Aboriginal, and Americana Art. Dave calls his work, Funky Folk Art. In the past he almost always used acrylic paint on wood, and if possible Dave likes to use old recycled wood. In the last two years he has started painting a few pieces on canvas. Dave will use lots of color and detail in his pieces, and often incorporates the use of dots in the design. "The dotting has become somewhat of my trademark lately", says Dave. Most of his pieces are of the wall art variety, but he also does yard art, statues, furniture and has painted on everything from wood sticks

to fiberglass animals.



For his December show, Dave will have many new pieces as well as many pieces he has sold or donated in the past 10 years. Mark your calendars and plan on attending the opening reception on Dec. 9th, there will be food & drink, music, fun, a few surprises and lots of Funky Folk Art.

Thank you to all who have volunteered for our events this summer and fall:

Gallery Hosts: Ramona Wedding, Diane Van Den Borre, Lynne Weber, Betty Losey, Mary Michael, Cindy Smucker, Barb Ollila, Sharon Peterson, Susan Berry, Carol Dremann, Mary Rumley, Marci Jagggers, Lou Brown, Anna Roadhouse, Barb LaVelle, Barry Mayworm, Ramona Wedding, Kay Telfer, Esther Tracy, Frances Hassler, Jan Lohaus, Lisa Stefani, Kathy Ballard, and Linda Gustafson.

Ushers: Lou & Paul Brown, Diane Van Den Borre, Kathy

Ballard, Barry Mayworm, Joanne Swan, Mary Rumley, Carol Dremann, Ami Chamaberlain, John & Mary Damon, Gayle Grace, Jon McCutchan, Pam Hanson, Mary Ellen Dugosh, and Lisa Stefani.

Refreshments: Marilyn Anthony, Joan Cichy, Joan Marella, Joann Swan, June Harmon, , Susan Barlow, Ami Chamberlain, Barb Schiff, Kathy Ballard, Jan Lohaus, Esther Tracy, Cathy Elliott, Kathy O'Malley, Esther Tracy, Anna Roadhouse, and Janet Morris.

Dave Gorenz sends special thanks to Rachel, Justus, and Amelia Bystry and family, Nathan Headley, Dan Acker, Dylan Carlson, Jamie and Abbie Bickett who helped build sets and organize and move costumes.



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theprairieartscouncil.org



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Upcoming Events

- Nov 4 5-7:00 p.m. - Open House for the 2011 Mini Christmas Tree Festival
- Nov 15 5:30 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting at the Princeton Public Library
- Nov 17-20 Children's Christmas Show - *The Santa Fraud*. Performances are Nov. 17, 18, and 19 at 7:00 p.m. with the Green Cast and Nov. 19 and 20 at 1:00 p.m. with the Red Cast. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under and seniors 60 and older. Reserve by calling 815-200-4789.
- Dec 3 1-4 p.m. - Mini Christmas Tree Festival - LAST DAY - Featuring a Christmas Gift Boutique with handmade gifts and a Christmas Carol Sing-Along at 2 in the PAC Theater.
- Dec 9 5-7:00 p.m. - First Friday Gallery Opening, "Funky Folk Art" with artist, Dave Taylor
- Dec 10 - Jan 8, 2012 PAC Gallery - "Funky Folk Art" - Gallery open Sat-Sun 1-4 p.m. Wed. 6-8 p.m. (closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan 1)
- Dec 20 6:00 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting
- Feb 3, 2012 7:00 p.m. - 2012 PAC Gala at the Princeton Elks Club

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