Our Summer Guide – featuring more than 1,800 events – can be found on newsstands and also browsed here. Below are Mike Schulz's highlights for the next two weeks and the whole summer.

River Cities' Reader - Issue 779 - May 26, 2011

Theatre

Don't Talk to the Actors

Richmond Hill Barn Theatre

Thursday, June 2, through Sunday, June 12

Throughout the history of American theatre, there have been a number of directors famed for their presentations of numerous works by one particular author: Mike Nichols directing Neil Simon plays, Elia Kazan directing Tennessee Williams plays, Lloyd Richards directing August Wilson plays, Susan Simosky directing Tom Dudzick plays ... .

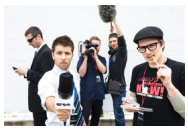
If you're not familiar with those last two names, Simosky is the area helmer who, for the Richmond Hill Barn Theatre, brought playwright Dudzick's charming, hilarious Pazinski-family trilogy to life in three excellent summertime productions: *Over the Tavern* in 2005, *King o' the*

Moon in 2007, and *The Last Mass at St. Casimir's* in 2009. And like the swallows to Capistrano, this summer finds Simosky returning to Richmond Hill for another of the author's works: *Don't Talk to the Actors*, running June 2 through 12.

A behind-the-scenes comedy that explores the difficult and sometimes terrifying process of producing a new theatre piece, Dudzick's 2007 offering concerns Jerry Przpezniak, a fledgling playwright set to enjoy the first Broadway staging of one of his works. "Enjoy," though, isn't really an appropriate term when it comes to the show's rehearsal process, which finds Jerry and his fiancée struggling to deal with a persnickety stage manager, a pair of has-been stars from an early-'80s sitcom, and a director who offers the author the titular – and, sadly for Jerry, *ignored* – piece of advice.

Described by the *Orange County Register* as an "irresistible" comedy that "hits all the right notes," and by the *Buffalo News* as "drop-dead, scream-out-loud, tear-wrenchingly funny," Richmond Hill's production looks to be another biannual treat from Simosky and Dudzick. And while there's no word on whether *Don't Talk to the Actors* will lead to its *own* theatrical trilogy, I, for one, would totally welcome titles boasting equally fine advice for audiences, and can only hope that Dudzick gets cracking on *Don't Slowly Open Cellophane-Wrapped Candy* and *Leave Your Freakin' Cell Phone in the Car*.

For more information on, and tickets to, *Don't Talk to the Actors*, call (309)944-2244 or visit RH Players.com.



Music

Summer Camp Music Festival

Three Sisters Park

Friday, May 27, through Sunday, May 29

If it’s Memorial Day weekend, it must be time for the annual Summer Camp Music Festival, the three-day outdoor fiesta taking place May 27 through 29 at Chillicothe, Illinois’ Three Sisters Park. With this eagerly anticipated campground event featuring workshops, art shows, vendors, family activities, and some of the country’s finest jam and indie bands performing on six separate stages, there are hardly words enough to describe Summer Camp.

Unfortunately, my What’s Happenin’ pieces have gotten kinda lengthy lately, and I’ve been told I only have 100 words with which to suggest the Summer Camp experience. So, without further ado ... .

“Umphrey’s McGee, moe., Widespread Panic, Huey Lewis & the rUMors, Bruce Hornsby & the Noisemakers, Bassnectar, STS9, The Avett Brothers, The Pimps of Joytime, Euforquestra, Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band, Chicago Farmer, Lubriphonic, Henhouse Prowlers, Ernie Hendrickson, Girl Talk, Yonder Mountain String Band, De La Soul, Bela Fleck & the Flecktones, Keller Williams, Slightly Stoopid, Lotus, Wiz Khalifa, EOTO, Cornmeal, The New Mastersounds,

Big Gigantic, SOJA, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, The Wood Brothers, Tea Leaf Green, Mimosa, BoomBox, Papadosio, Deadelus, Family Groove Company, Future Rock, Gaelic Storm, Greensky Bluegrass, and Brainchild."

I actually could've squeezed a few more musicians in there, but my boss considers "STS9," "EOTO," and "SOJA" to be four words each. Damned acronyms.

Three Sisters Park is located at 17189 North Route 29 in Chillicothe, and tickets to the festival are available by visiting SummerCampFestival.com .

Comedy

Tammy Pescatelli

Quad-Cities Waterfront Convention Center

Friday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

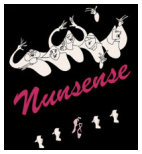
In all honesty, the process of writing bi-weekly What's Happenin' pieces that aim to be not only informative but *funny* is oftentimes a challenging one. These pieces, though, are much easier to compose when I'm writing about someone who's already pretty darned funny, so allow me to offer a huge "Thank you!" to the folks at the Quad-Cities Waterfront Convention Center for the venue's June 3 booking of comedienne Tammy Pescatelli. Let the hilarity commence!

To be sure, this star of TV and the touring circuit – and a former Quad Citian who spent two years as a morning-show co-host for former radio station 98.9FM – has had plenty of opportunities to make people roar. With her appearances on such talk shows as *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Last Call with Carson Daly,*
and
The Bonnie Hunt Show
, Pescatelli has wowed both hosts and audiences with her unique and pointed observations on fame, motherhood, and her Italian-American heritage. She was a finalist for the second and third seasons of NBC's
Last Comic Standing,
plus the grand-prize winner of Comedy Central's 2010 Standup Showdown. And her comedic talents have even extended to the big screen, with Pescatelli featured prominently in the independent comedies
Made in Brooklyn
and
Everybody Wants to Be Italian
(plus, though she might prefer I didn't mention it, a locally made 1991 release titled
Beauty Queen Butcher
, which is hysterical in its own right).

But nothing will give you a better sense of Pescatelli's buoyant sense of humor than Pescatelli herself. It is, therefore, a pleasure to let the comedienne speak for herself: Click here for a YouTube clip from a 2008 standup set,
here
for Pescatelli's performance on the comedy showcase
Just for Laughs
, and
here
for a sampling from her reality series
A Standup Mother
, featuring shots of her playing before a crowd at the Quad Cities' own Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse!

Trust me, this What's Happenin' piece is a lot funnier online than it is in print.

Tammy Pescatelli plays the Quad-Cities Waterfront Convention Center at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are available by calling (800)724-5825 or visiting Bettendorf.IsleOfCapriCasinos.com .



Theatre

Nunsense* and *Altar Boyz

Clinton Area Showboat Theatre

Thursday, June 2, through Sunday, June 12

The Clinton Area Showboat Theatre is about to begin its 2011 season of stage entertainment, and you'd expect that the venerable venue would launch its summer, as it has in years past, with a rollicking musical comedy enjoyed by audiences the world over. This time around, however, Artistic Director Patrick Stinson isn't jump-starting Clinton's season with one of those productions. He's jump-starting it with *two* of them.

In a delightful piece of synergy, the Showboat will not only stage Dan Goggin's beloved off-Broadway smash *Nunsense*, but its boy-band *doppelgänger Altar Boyz*, with both shows running in repertory June 2 through 12. (
Nunsense
debuts on Thursday, and
Altar Boyz
premieres the following night.) With
Nunsense
presenting the sweet and hysterical stylings of its five Little Sisters of Hoboken, and
Altar Boyz
gently satirizing its squeaky-clean young singers on their "Raise the Praise" tour, both shows are sure to deliver two hours' worth of sensational music and comedy. And while the productions will alternate performances on Thursdays and Fridays, you can actually catch a double-feature on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesday the 18th, with one starting at 3 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. It's heavenly! It's divine! It's nonsecu-larious! It's
Nunsense
and
Altar Boyz
!

Meanwhile, character gender aside, let's see how good you are at telling them apart! Which of the following song titles is from *Nunsense*, which is from *Altar Boyz*, and which one is actually from neither?

1) "Benedicite"

2) "Body, Mind, & Soul"

3) “The Calling”

4) “Epiphany”

5) “Everybody Fits”

6) “Growing Up Catholic”

7) “Holier Than Thou”

8) “I Am Here for You”

A) *Altar Boyz*

B) *Nunsense*

C) Neither

For *Nunsense* and *Altar Boyz* tickets, and for further information on the Clinton Showboat’s 2011 season, call (563)242-6760 or visit ClintonShowboat.org .

Answers: 1 – B, 2 – A, 3 – A, 4 – A, 5 – A, 6 – B, 7 – B, 8 – C. That last song is actually from Broadway's current musical-comedy smash, The Book of Mormon. *In a future Showboat season, who else is up for* three *shows performed in repertory?*

Event

***American Pickers* Weekend**

Downtown LeClaire

Saturday, June 4, and Sunday, June 5

“Hey, Jeff!”

“Hi, Mi – . I don’t believe it. What have you done to yourself *this* time?”

“I’m getting prepped for the June 4 and 5 *American Pickers* Festival in downtown LeClaire! How do I look?! Could I pass as a Picker?”

“I hate to ask what you were thinking.”

“I’m thinking the weekend is gonna be a blast! For the second year in a row, LeClaire is taking two days to celebrate the success of that great History Channel reality series – and stars Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and Danielle Colby-Cushman – through an enormous outdoor festival. And this year’s fest promises to be even bigger and better than last year’s, with live music, a classic-car show, a petting zoo, a flea market, karaoke, food vendors, and garage sales held throughout the city!”

“Yes, I’m aware of that.”

“Frank, unfortunately, is unable to be there. But both Mike and Danielle will be around for question-and-answer and autograph sessions, and you can even enter a raffle for the chance to win lunch with the Pickers while they’re in town! Doesn’t that sound great?”

“Yes, it does.”

“Twilight Cruises is going to be offering boat trips along the Mississippi River on Saturday, and both days will find Roy ‘Mushroom’ Flachs – who previously appeared on the *American Pickers*

show – appraising people's antiques. Oh, and I forgot to mention the contest! There's going to be a Picker Lookalike Contest, with prizes going to festival visitors who most resemble one of the series' stars! Hence, the new look!"

"Yes, but you don't look anything *like* Mike or Frank."

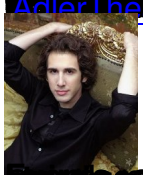
"I *know*! But check out the tats! I've got that contest prize in the *bag*!"

"I hate to break it to you, Mike, but you don't look like Danielle, either. So for your sake, I hope those press-on tattoos weren't expensive."

"Um ... *press-on* tattoos ... ?"

For a full schedule of American Pickers *Festival events, go to VisitLeClaire.com . For a 2010 feature article on*
American Pickers
, visit
RCReader.com/y/pickers
.

AdlerTheatre.com [redacted]



iwirelessCenter.com [redacted]

BixSociety.org [redacted]

MVBS.org/test [redacted]

RockIslandCountyFair.com [redacted]

BowtownDavenport.com [redacted]

CPride.org [redacted]