

MORRIS Life



FAITH MATTERS
Chester scholar to address the graduates of Assumption College for Sisters in Mendham. **D2**



FALLEN IDOL
LaKisha Jones was voted off 'American Idol,' leaving three contestants still in the running. **D3**

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THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007

Living urban art

Madison's Dan Fenelon gives shelter youth a cool way to express themselves

Human Interests



Lorraine Ash

Madison Artist Daniel Fenelon watched as two teens from the Morris County Youth Shelter — one with black paint, the other with yellow — made their way around a 15-by-3 foot canvas. They painted like Franz Kline in big, bold lines.

"They let it all out," said Fenelon, 46. "One girl said, 'I totally love this. I could do this all day.'"

This 10-session class, called "Abstract Freedom," is the fourth he has conducted for shelter youths with the help of Morristown area-based Creative Heartwork. Founded by Sociologist Karen Carbonello, it is the state's first healing arts organization for children who face serious illness, disability, separation, poverty, abuse and neglect.

Working with Fenelon are Meredith Carleton, a board-certified art therapist on the Creative Heartwork team, and two shelter counselors, who maintain discipline and can identify gang symbols in the art. They are forbidden — one of Fenelon's few rules.

"Dan finds the positive in everything," Carbonello said. "He lets the kids put down all that's troubling them and focus on the art. Just last week he won the Outstanding Professional in the Arts Award from the Arts Council of the Morris Area, largely for the way he works with kids."

By this time, shelter youth know many of the styles Fenelon uses in his private work. A graduate of the School of The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, he is a self-employed artist who makes designs for a wide



Madison artist Dan Fenelon peers through a Tree of Life project featuring urban vinyl dolls, a new art medium. He directed teens at the Morris County Youth Center on how to paint the dolls to depict not only their inner lives but what it is that brings them joy.

DAWN BENKO / DAILY RECORD

range of purposes, including logos for the Chicago Shakespeare Festival and products based on theme bikes from the reality show "American Chopper."

Mostly, Fenelon is known for his bold urban tribal look, which fuses ancient motifs and styles with themes of the contemporary world both on canvas in acrylic paints and in the emerging new medium of urban vinyl art, popularized by Hong Kong artist Michael Lau in the late '90s.

The urban vinyl movement, just hitting the East Coast, features painting plain white vinyl doll figures. Fenelon's commercial collections — a custom vinyl doll sells for \$700 — are colorful and embrace

fun themes from sci-fi to surfing.

Each of the youth in Fenelon's "Tree of Life" class got to paint two vinyl dolls, one depicting their inner lives and the other whatever picks up their spirits. Though they each could have kept one, all opted to donate both their dolls to their class "tree of life."

"The trees will go on tour to hospitals and corporations," Carbonello said, "along with a blurb on how the arts heals kids."

Delving into his cartoon career, Fenelon also led the youths in "Comic Relief," a class in which each made his own comic book, as well as "Urban Totem Pole," where one class painted a 12-foot totem. All the projects allow youths to



BUDDY ENDRESS

Four of Fenelon's custom vinyl dolls are, clockwise from above, Munx, Totem Toyer, Kahoona and Koobla. Fenelon got his inspiration for the dolls from visiting the National Petroglyph Monument in New Mexico and the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

express themselves without worrying what anyone thinks and without breaking any rules, Fenelon said.

He got the idea to use his art in this way when he saw "Favela Rising," with his wife Kadie, at the 2005 Tribeca Film Festival. The film tells the story of a reformed drug trafficker in Rio De Janeiro who creates AfroReggae, a grassroots movement that uses the arts to transform angry, hopeless youths. For Fenelon, it is another way to make art live in the modern world.

More: For more on Dan Fenelon's work, visit www.wavedog.com. Wavedog is his name in the urban vinyl world.

"Human Interests" appears every Thursday. In each column Lorraine Ash explores interesting angles on local life that may otherwise escape attention. Reader mail is welcome at lvash@gannett.com.



TAKE 5

THINGS TO DO TODAY

BENEFIT

Appraising Silver on the Road, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum's spring benefit, presented by appraiser Sarah Shinn Pratt, 1 to 3 p.m. Tea and refreshments follow the presentation. Tickets are \$50. Call (973) 538-2404.

SOCIAL

Open Door Toastmasters meet, 7 p.m., at Denville Community Church, 190 Diamond Spring Road.

CHEERLEADING

Lightning All-Star Competition Cheerleading Team (national and international champions) open call for girls and boys kindergarten thru 12th grade (as of September 2007), National Sokol Hall, Pine Street and Highland Avenue, Boonton. Contact Kim at (973) 331-9911 for times and more information.

FAMILY

Family carnival, 6 p.m., kids under 12 free, at St. Mary's, 345 S. Main St., Wharton. For more information call, (973) 366-0184.

LUNCHEON

Fendi, Coach, MAXX, Mary Frances, and Vera Bradley will be the guests of honor at the Friends of the Morris Museum's Old Bags Luncheon 11 a.m. at The Morris County Golf Club. The luncheon will feature a silent auction of more than 100 new, gently used and vintage designer bags donated by top designers, committee members and museum supporters. Luncheon highlights include the auction at 11 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m., and a Spring fashion show by Talbots. Tickets are \$75 and \$100. For more information, call Joen Luy Ferrari, event chairwoman, at (973) 445-0220.

For more things to do, see www.dailyrecord.com.

HOW TO REACH US

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HOT THIS WEEK

MUSIC NOTES

MOVIE REVIEW

SNEAK PREVIEW



FOR THIS WEEK

Multimedia musical work

As befits one of the stars of a new musical composition, the Orchestrophone in the Morris Museum has a gaudy exterior. Flowers adorn its front, gilt curlicues decorate the edges, and wooden organ pipes proclaim its purpose.

And when it blares out its bravura rendition of "The Sidewalks of New York," sounding a bit like a circus caliope but with pedigree, it cements its claim to stage center.

Built around 1910, the mechanical instrument will make its 21st-century concert-hall debut via film Saturday at Morristown's Community Theatre when the Colonial Symphony presents the world premiere of "Orchestrophonia," a multi-media work by Norman Lowrey, head of the music department at Drew University.

Two music boxes from the museum's Murtogh D. Guinness Collection of mechanical instruments will be on stage with the orchestra and others will be seen and heard in the movie that accompanies Lowrey's work.

Saturday, 8 p.m.

'Henry V' opens theater's season

The new, extended 2007 season at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison begins with a lengthy lesson in history that will extend all the way to November.

If the premiere of "Henry V" is evident quality of the long journey that awaits us, then lead on, Bonnie J. Monte.

Certainly, this "Henry" presents a large quantity of quality, from an astonishingly deep cast to an old-school set that transports its audience back to Shakespeare's fabled Globe Theatre. Most of the action takes place on a weathered, wooden circle, with the bare wings wide open to show wooden scaffolding, where props and furniture are stacked when not in use.

"Ghost Whisperer" co-star David Conrad returns for his third leading role here and is a convincing monarch. His matinee-idol looks serve the part well, but his steely gaze and regal posture are the product of solid stage experience.

Tuesdays-Sundays, through May 27



Zombies feast on England

"28 WEEKS LATER" (101 minutes, R, ★½) Six months after the flesh-munching infected prowled Britain like rabid dogs in the horror hit "28 Days Later," the rage virus returns to create new zombie cannibals in this woeful sequel. Director and co-writer Juan Carlos Fresnadillo presents a strained story and a barrage of turgid action that looks like inferior outtakes from the first movie. Robert Carlyle stars as a man who survived the plague that decimated Britain and now is among survivors in a fortified area of London guarded by U.S. troops supervising the country's repopulation. After Carlyle is reunited with his two kids, incompetence and idiocy by the insanely overconfident military help unleash the virus again. The key military roles are filled by Rose Byrne, Jeremy Renner, Harold Perrineau and Idris Elba. The sequel has a nasty spirit and unlike the original, has no sense of humor, and often, no sense at all.

— David Germain, AP Movie Writer

Opens Friday

ALL THIS AND MORE IN TGIF! **FRIDAY**