

Entertainment highlights: Dance, comedy, Women Exposed ...

Compiled by Kristina Wood
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A different Mitch

This one does comedy: Mitch Fatel "quickly engages the audience and then catches them off guard with his mixture of mischievous dialog and off color comments," a press release says. "While laughing at observations only Mitch can get away with, we are left wondering if he truly understands what he just said. We never know." You can try to know today through Monday during his gigs at the Funny Bone. He's a hot ticket on XM satellite radio; he's been on Leno's and Letterman's shows; and he made the top 10 in Comedy Central's "Standup Showdown" earlier this year. Rising star? You decide.

Women Exposed

No, it's not a News of the Weird headline. This annual fundraiser is by women for women and features a silent auction, raffles, visual art, music and performances by a host of creative female souls including Kaia members, the Mbira Queens, Merrie Sloan and Kate Long (with 30 artists, we don't have the space to list them all). The benefit for Middle Way House, WE:4 2009 opens 7-9 p.m. Friday in The Lodge, 101 E. Sixth St. (Sliding scale donation of \$5-\$10 will be taken at the door.) Gallery hours are 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

Dance

Lots of feet will be moving, turning and springing into the air on area stages and dance floors. Today jives with the Bloomington South Swing Dance, with live music by South's jazz bands in the school's cafeteria (7 p.m., \$5). Then, lots over at the Waldron, 1. Windfall Dancers illustrate the "7 Deadly Sins" through movement and an amusing lecture (8 p.m. Saturday and also April 2-4), 2. Peasant Disco dances to hits rocking the post-socialist world (9 p.m. Saturday, \$5) and 3. IU contemporary dance faculty showcase new choreography put to spoken word, videogame soundtracks, opera and new works (3 p.m. Sunday, \$5). Meanwhile, IU presents its Spring Ballet with a modern spin on "Swan Lake" and "My Eyes Opened" (8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, \$8-\$20).

Jazz future

As the weather warms up, spirits can too at "The Future of Jazz" concert, 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Waldron Auditorium. See the region's pre-college talent, with groups from Bloomington High School North and South, students from Jackson Creek Middle School, Tri North Middle School and Unionville Elementary School and the Musical Arts Youth Orchestra Combo. In the style of NPR's "From the Top," the fifth annual showcase has young musicians performing jazz standards and selections from Miles Davis' "Birth of the Cool" album and more. Admission is \$5-\$10; see www.jazzfrombloomington.org.

Variety show

"Ladies and Gentlemen, tonight we enter the world of Border Radio. A world of flimflam men, radio preachers and raw, radio power ... " So begins the next live variety show by WFHB, 8 p.m. Friday in the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. One of the H-T's very own will be in it, as well as Cathi Norton, Dennis Riggins and His Firehouse Swing Things, Jason Fickel, Art "the Hoagy Man" Heckman, and a special Firehouse Gospel Group. Out-of-town guests include Nashville, Tenn. recording duo Jeni and Billy. These acts, a local cast of radio performers, radio skits, live sound effects and more will transport you back to an earlier age of "Border Radio," when psychics and purveyors of snake oil prevailed. The show's in a bigger space this time around so more can see the hilarity unfold before them. The show will also be broadcast live at 91.3 and 98.1 FM in Bloomington, at 106.3 for Ellettsville, at 100.7 for Brown County and online at wfhb.org as well as on CATS television.

World culture

Lotus Blossoms has its World Bazaar 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday in Binford Elementary School, with arts and crafts, music and interactive demonstrations, free and open to the public. Giving live performances will be the IU International Vocal Ensemble, monks from Bloomington's Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, veena player Rama Cousik, Jungle Joe's Flea Circus, Ritmos Latinos salsa dancers and the Binford Drum Group. Enjoy face painting, make friendship bracelets, wander info stations and more.

Meanwhile, on campus: March is Irish-American Heritage Month. Celebrate during the first-ever Bloomington Celtic Culture Weekend, Friday through Sunday. Registered participants will be busy in workshops on Irish-Gaelic language, old-style dance, song and sport. The general public can hear Keith Collins' Gaelic harp music and see a performance by the IU Identity Irish Dancers Saturday afternoon in the Union (\$5 donation). Sunday, the IU-Bloomington Hurling Club will have a friendly match against the Indianapolis team in the IU Rec Field, at the bypass and Fee Lane. For more, see www.indianaceltic.org.

Ceramics

Japanese anime, Asian landscape painting, animals and nature are all reflected in Michelle Summer's ceramics. See the Portland, Ore., artist's work at a free workshop (2-4 p.m.) and reception (5-8 p.m.) for "The Undiscovered Cupboard," 5-8 p.m. Saturday at the newly minted Bloomington Clay Studio, 6900 Gross Lane — "tucked away on about 3 acres of quiet and wooded conservation land," according to the studio's Web site. For more, call 340-4831 or see <http://bloomingtonclaystudio.com>.

Mitch Fatel



"Women Exposed"



Michelle Summer, who will be at Bloomington Clay Studio, for her "Undiscovered Cupboard" exhibit.



