

● What's On

Fundraising is an art at MK Gallery

MK GALLERY

BY GEORGINA BUTLER
georgina.butler@jpress.co.uk
@GeorginaLButler

MK Gallery is taking part in a fundraising match challenge that could see any public donations doubled by the city's community foundation.

The scheme started on May 1 and will continue throughout this month until MK Community Foundation's limit is reached.

Contributions made to the gallery via www.localgiving.com will be doubled at no additional cost to the donator.

The current exhibition at MK Gallery by Mexico City based, UK-born, artist Melanie Smith continues until June 15.

This showcase features film, photography, painting and sculpture.

The Project Space exhibition Art and Dementia, which is on display until June 1, shows work created by people with dementia and their carers.

Over the last year, Shenley Wood Village and Arts for



EXHIBITION ON: Film, photography, painting and sculpture by Melanie Smith is at MK Gallery until June 15

Health have worked in partnership to provide opportunities for those touched by dementia to participate in art workshops.

The workshops are supported by a grant from the MK Community Foundation

and aim to help people with dementia to lead a fulfilled life.

Clare Wood, head of development at MK Gallery said: "We invite people to make a donation as early as possible in May.

"Anyone who does will ef-

fectively be helping more people to experience, learn, participate in and enjoy the arts."

Visit www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/Supporting-You/localgiving/localgivingmatchchallenge.

From jazz to city wonders

SEVEN WONDERS

If you had to put together a list of the seven wonders of Milton Keynes, what would feature?

One man's answer to the question will come together at a free exhibition in York House Centre in Stony Stratford from May 15-17.

Visitors are able to pop in between 12 noon until 6.30pm.

Trevor Jeavons has been working on this project by making preparatory sketches, canvases and notes at Stony Stratford Library.

As well as being an artist, Trevor leads the band Good Time Jazz and has played piano in clubs in the Delta City (New Orleans), as well as performing with many jazz legends during his career.

The band's classical jazz style features traditional, ragtime, boogie-woogie and blues sounds.

Their speciality is blues and ballads of the 1920s and 30s, through Bessie Smith to Fats Waller with an emphasis on New Orleans.

These musos aim to capture the authentic sound of a bygone era, balancing serious jazz and blues with humorous "ricky-tick" numbers such as "The Sheik of Araby".

It's "trad" with a roving-



TREVOR JEAVONS

microphone-songstress, plus piano boogie-woogie, slapping double bass and syncopating drums.

If we've readied your eardrums for some Good Time Jazz, there are plenty of opportunities to be entertained by Trevor and co.

Trevor plays in a duo with his son Dylan at Stony Stratford brasserie Cameron's on the first Sunday of every month.

The full band plays on the first Wednesday of each month at The Crown in Stony Stratford.

And, on the last Friday of every month, the full band plays at Cafe Rouge in Central Milton Keynes.

For more details about Good Time Jazz visit www.goodtimejazz.co.uk.

Time travel for musical fans

MUSICAL THEATRE

Fans of musicals from throughout the decades will have lots of memorable songs to sing along to as theatre group Company MK transports audiences from the 1920s to the present day.

The committed and versatile theatre group will stage Musical Through the Decades at the Ridgeway Centre in Wolverton from May 24 to 26.

The show is packed with timeless songs plucked from hit musicals including Showboat, Anything Goes, Oklahoma, West Side Story, Wicked and Matilda.

Company MK holds auditions for each new show so the group is ever-evolving and always brimming with the freshest new talent.

The cast is drawn from across the new city and they are set to deliver some great performances.

Director, Alex Taylor, said:



IN REHEARSAL: Company MK putting everything into their art

"We've put together lots of great songs all in one show, and we're sure that the audience will have a fabulous time enjoying songs they know and love alongside some new favourites.

"And, what's more, the interval tea-and-cake stall is be-

ing manned by the wonderful Cake Decorators Guild!"

Performances begin at 2.30pm

Tickets are £12 for adults (concessions £10).

Call 07804 448050 or visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/companymk to book.

Get writing, listen to music and support HULA this May

THINGS TO DO

Writers can get help and support at new workshops.

MK Arts Central, in the 3rd Floor (south) Station House, will host the first of Linda Dunscombe's new writers' workshops tomorrow from 7pm until 9.30pm and then every second Friday of each month.

Focusing on novels, scriptwriting and short stories, sessions are just £8 each, with £1 off for members.

To register, visit www.linda-dunscombe.co.uk/mk-writers-workshop.

On Saturday, award winning writer John Thynne will host a one-day beginners' short story and flash fiction course from 9.30am to 3pm.

Places are £40 (the cost includes a light lunch) and are

limited so be sure to book in advance. Leave a message on MK376286, call 0775 9873418 or email thynnefamily@yahoo.co.uk.

> A demonstration on cooking food in just a matter of minutes will form part of the attractions at a fundraising morning for Willen Hospice on June 4.

Usborne Books, Partylite, and Handbags will have stalls from 9.30 until 11.30am for the event at Woburn Sands Village Hall.

Organiser Karen Relf will be selling Pampered Chef Products with a percentage of profits going towards Willen Hospice.

Willen Hospice's Florence The Cow mascot is also due to attend to promote the Mid-night Moo on July 12.

> A blossoming musical

talent will take centre stage with Milton Keynes City Orchestra on May 22.

Vintage Classics, at The Venue, Walton High, will see conductor Maxime Tortelier lead Yamaha Scholarship winning pianist Dinara Klinton through Mendelssohn and Beethoven.

For more details visit <http://mkco.org/WhatsOn/Concert-Listing/Vintage-Classics>.

> Don't miss HULA's May Fete on May 18.

Glebe Farm is the place to be from midday to 4.30pm, with a fun dog show (entries from 11.30am), games, car boot sale, stalls and more.

Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children with all proceeds to the care and welfare of HULA's rescue animals.

Fame is the name of the game in hit new musical

ENTERTAINMENT

BY GEORGINA BUTLER
georgina.butler@jpress.co.uk
@GeorginaLButler

The kids from Fame always did sing that they wanted to live forever and their dynamic dance routines and show-stopping songs will live on at the city theatre from Monday.

Prepare for a hi-octane roller coaster ride through dizzy heights and crashing lows as a talented group of star-struck wannabes embark on their quest for the ultimate accolade – fame.

With society at “talent” show saturation point, it seems everyone wants their five minutes of notoriety but the students at the world famous High School for Performing Arts, New York, are on the journey of their lives to ‘light up the sky like a flame’.

Ambition, triumph, romance and heartbreak conspire to steer them off-course and the pressure proves to be too much for some but the rest are going to ‘fly’!

Fame – the Musical is directed by award-winning director/choreographer Gary Lloyd, whose credits include

‘Remember, remember, remember – yes, it’s Fame’

Thriller Live, 20th Century Boy, Flash Mob and The Story of Mark Bolan.

Featuring all those songs that everyone has sung into a hairbrush at some time or another – and some breathtaking dancing – this is sure to be an unforgettable, feel-good musical experience.

Fame – the Musical runs from Monday until Saturday May 17.

Call MK Theatre Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes to book.

> Headmaster of British rock Nick Lowe, will preside over the assembly of music lovers at The Stables this evening as he brings his Technicolour sonic scope of sounds to the Wavendon venue.

From rock to country, to soul to pop – nothing is off limits for Nick as long as it has a groove.

Loud and proud, Spiers & Boden have made the genre of spontaneous, punky English folk very much their own.

Catch the multi-instrumentalists (John Spiers plays melodeon and concertina, while Jon Boden plays fiddle and guitar) tomorrow.

Also tomorrow is the chance to experience Wet Wet Wet’s songwriter and bass player Graeme Clark’s distinctive solo sound.

Saturday brings The Bon Jovi Experience – the only Bon Jovi tribute band to have shared a stage with the man himself – or the Laurence Jones Band over on Stage 2.

Subtle but powerful quartet SANS, with multi-instrumentalist Andrew Cronshaw, combine the sweeping melodies of Armenia and English folk songs on Sunday.

Welcome a new week and, on Monday, Graham Gouldman and Friends will have a heart full of songs to share, while Tuesday features Madison Violet.

This Toronto-based duo unites JUNO-nominated singers Brenley MacEachern and Lisa MacIssac.

Finally, Indian classical music maestro Debashish Bhattacharya will entertain on Wednesday.



FAME: The Musical comes to Milton Keynes Theatre stops off at MK Theatre from May 12-17



THEY'RE GOING TO LIVE FOREVER: The kids from Fame do not disappoint with a number of dazzling dynamic dance routines

Play entertains in every way

POWER OF THE THEATRE

Pepper’s Ghost Theatre Company promise to make you laugh, cry and feel shivers run down your spine with their latest captivating production.

May marks the tenth anniversary of Pepper’s Ghost and, together with The Play’s The Thing Theatre Company, performers will present Our Country’s Good at Stantonbury Theatre from Wednesday.

Written by Timberlake Wertenbaker, the play tells the true story of the first penal colony in Australia and a young, ambitious lieutenant, Ralph Clark, who agrees to direct a play with the convicts in the main roles.

He is looking to get noticed – and perhaps even receive a promotion – but along the way his actions change lives for the better.

Producer and director, Rosemary Hill, said: “This play

is a fitting one to be performing to coincide with the tenth anniversary as it celebrates the redemptive power of the theatre.

“It’s funny, spine-chilling and ultimately supremely uplifting.”

Our Country’s Good runs from Wednesday until Saturday May 17, with performances at 7.30pm, plus a 2pm matinee on the Saturday.

Call the Box Office on MK 324 466 to book.

Get your bake on as celebrity chef reveals recipe secrets

THEATRICAL TREAT

Great British Bake Off star Paul Hollywood is preparing to demonstrate his skills in the kitchen with a one-off show at MK Theatre.

Foodie fans will be treated to demonstrations of some of his favourite recipes.

Throughout the show, Paul will reveal some of the juiciest

secrets of being a TV chef and take the audience on a journey through his life in baking.

Audience members have the chance to put their own questions to Paul in an open Q&A so whatever your culinary curiosity, be prepared to ask!

The show will culminate with four lucky randomly

chosen audience members being invited up onstage to bake alongside Paul.

Paul Hollywood: Get Your Bake On comes to Milton Keynes Theatre on Sunday, May 25, with performances at 2.30pm and 8pm.

Call the Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or visit www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes.