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Worth a look

Music

Jazz at Stanford Shopping Center

It's a rare opportunity to be able to walk away satisfied from Stanford Shopping Center without having spent a dime.

But this summer, Summerfest, presented by the San Francisco Jazz Festival, will make that possible. A variety of jazz bands will perform free concerts each Thursday from June 7 to Aug. 9 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the center's Clock Tower Plaza.

Many of Summerfest's artists are from the Bay Area, such as Berkeley High graduate Dayna Stevens, who is scheduled to open Summerfest on June 7 with his quintet. The group also includes Menlo Park native and Grammy-nominated pianist Taylor Eigsti.

The rest of the lineup is: Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums on June 14, Jamie Davis on June 21, the Terrence Brewer Quintet on June 28, Le Jazz Hot Quartet on July 5, Louie Romero y su Grupo Mazacote on July 12, the Marc Cary Trio on July 19, the Chuck MacKinnon Mactet on July 26, Pamela Rose on Aug. 2 and Mitch Woods and his Rocket 88's on Aug. 9.

Go to <http://www.sfjazz.org> or call 415-788-7353 for more information.

New media

Talk on media trends

For viewers of network television who have apathetically wondered "what next," a June 6 discussion about the changing nature of media might be of interest. Peter Leyden, managing editor of the original Wired magazine, is scheduled to give a talk called "What Next? Our Historic Technological and Media Transformation: The Demise of Old Media, the Rise of New Media, and the Massive Ramifications of America, Businesses, Non-profits and You."

The Media Center in Palo Alto will host Leyden to discuss the implications of the current transformation of technology and media in the United States. Leyden gives a larger context to newsworthy technological happenings, aiming to prepare individuals, organizations and businesses to adapt to their increasingly Internet-savvy surroundings.

This event will take place at the Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. An optional \$10 donation is requested. Call 650-494-8686, ext. 36, or go to <http://www.communitymediacenter.net> for more information.

Theater

Mid-Peninsula Shakespeare Festival

Menlo Players Guild might not have a home theater anymore, but its Festival Theater Ensemble continues to give free Shakespearean performances at Mid-Peninsula High School. This year's summer festival begins with William Shakespeare's "The Tragedy of Julius Caesar," which tells of the dangers that ideals and ambitions can pose. It opens this Saturday evening, with additional performances on Sunday and June 10 and 22.

Shakespeare's "Pericles, Prince of Tyre," to be performed on June 15, 16 and 24, relates one man's dramatic odyssey of love and loss. On June 8, 9, 17 and 23, the Festival Theater Ensemble will also perform Moliere's comedy "Tarfuffe," which satirizes blind hypocrisy, religious piety and blatant deceit.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. at Mid-Peninsula High School, located at 1340 Willow Road in Menlo Park. Audiences are advised to dress appropriately for a chilly evening outdoors. Refer to 650-322-3261 or <http://www.menloplayersguild.org> for further information.

Menlo Players Guild was previously based at Menlo Park's Burgess Theatre, which was torn down in 2002 due to structural damage.

Art

'Plein Air and Beyond'

The latest exhibit at Avalon Art and Yoga Center focusing on outdoor art might evoke nostalgia for the sidewalk painting adventures of Mary Poppins and company.

After years on chalking up sidewalks at street-painting festivals, Palo Alto artist Erin Tajime Castelan seals her chalked drawings on canvas with a water-based varnish, creating the effect of an oil painting. The exhibit also includes oil paintings that Castelan has made en plein air (outdoors).

The opening reception for the exhibit "Plein Air and Beyond," which runs through July 7, will take place on June 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 370 California Ave. in Palo Alto. For more information go to <http://www.avalonyoga.com> or call 650-324-2517.

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