
RAAC Newsletter April 2015



Hello friends,

April is bursting with great events!

We lead off the month with Oscar-award winning "Birdman" on Apr 3. But this is just the warm-up band for the big event - our first annual Film Festival during the weekend of Apr 10-12. I've screened segments of the selected films and they're impressive! Along with seeing the films, the Festival will give you a chance to meet and talk with talented Rappahannock filmmakers.

If you're a visual artist and want to submit artwork for the RAAC-Castleton Art Competition, you'd better hurry. The deadline is Apr 15; details are below.

You don't have to be a visual artist to enjoy RAAC's new website. After months of design and technical work, we just launched a completely revised website that should make your site visits easier and more enjoyable.

We're winding up our annual membership drive, and the response has been overwhelming with a very fast pace of renewals plus new RAAC members. If you haven't already, please join us and your neighbors in supporting the arts in Rappahannock! [Click here](#) to join/renew online or to retrieve a copy of our letter and a form that you can print and return.

Coming up on May 1, 2, and 3 is the RAAC Theatre production of "You Can't Take It With You." Reserve your seat now on our website; performances sell out fast. And please consider participating in Give Local Piedmont on May 5.

Matthew Black, President, RAAC



RAAC Newsletter

Vol 3, #3

April 2015

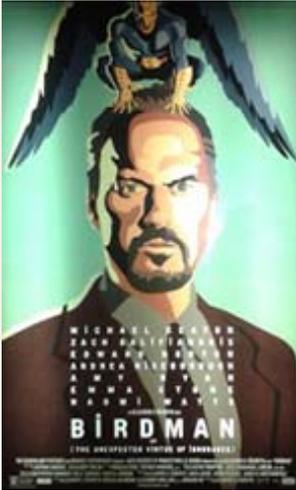
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RAAC Board member





Click on the photo above
to view the video.



First Friday at the Movies "Birdman"

Fri, Apr 3, 8pm, \$6
The Theatre At Washington
291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747

**Starring Michael Keaton, Zach Galifianakis,
Andrea Riseborough, Emma Stone,
Naomi Watts, and Edward Norton**

**Directed and co-written by
Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu**

Comedy/drama; 119 minutes
**Rated R for language throughout,
some sexual content, and brief violence**

**Awards: Winner of four Academy Awards,
including Best Picture, Best Director,
Best Cinematography, and
Best Original Screenplay**

The critically-acclaimed black comedy "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)" tells the story of a washed-up actor (Michael Keaton) - famous for portraying an iconic superhero - as he struggles to mount a Broadway play. In the days leading up to opening night, he battles his ego and attempts to recover his family, his career, and himself.

-From www.birdmanthemovie.com

Peter Travers, Rolling Stone movie critic, writes:

I'm jazzed by every daring, devastating, howlingly funny, how'd-they-do-that minute in Birdman. Powered by Michael Keaton's pinballing tour de force, Inarritu's cinematic whirlwind is an exhilarating high. No true movie lover would dare miss it.

-As quoted in www.rottentomatoes.com

Please note that we will have **open captioning** for "Birdman."

Upcoming film: "Trip to Italy," May 1

[Click to visit RAAC's First Friday at the Movies webpage.](#)

The Film Festival at Little Washington

Apr 10-12

The Theatre At Washington

291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747



The Film Festival is just around the corner and Little Washington is buzzing with excitement! There's still time to indulge your inner cinephile and buy your tickets to this weekend of entertaining and thought-provoking works from Rappahannock's own award-winning filmmaking community.

Opening Friday evening with the hilarious mockumentary "Almost Alpine" and closing with the momentous historical drama "Copperhead," you'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll stop and marvel at the depth of the talent in our county.

[Click here](#) to check out the program schedule and get your tickets. And keep an eye out for the paparazzi!

Full Festival pass: \$30

Daily pass, \$15

Individual film, \$5

(Limited numbers of tickets will be on sale the day of the event at the theatre box office.)

[Click to visit RAAC's Film Festival at Little Washington webpage.](#)



RAAC-Castleton Art Competition deadline Apr 15

Entries for the art competition are coming in - and we're eager for more! **Don't forget the deadline is April 15.**

Rappahannock visual artists - join others in celebrating music through your art. We're accepting two-dimensional artwork that captures the look, sound, experience of music through representational or abstract art. Or capture a theme from one of the Festival's operas, such as Romeo & Juliet.

Three esteemed judges will select finalists. There will be separate categories for adults and high school students. The grand winner will be featured on the cover of this year's Castleton Festival program! A reception and exhibit of all finalists at Middle Street Gallery will be held later this spring.

For guidelines and application, description of awards, and judges' bios, [click here](#).

[Click to visit RAAC's website.](#)

**RAAC Community Theatre
"You Can't Take It With You"**

**Fri, May 1 & Sat, May 2 at 8pm
Sun, May 3 at 3pm
310 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747
Tickets \$15**

Don't miss RAAC Theatre's production of "You Can't Take It With You." Written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, the play looks in on the Sycamores and their houseful of fellow eccentrics.

Set in the Upper West Side of New York City, this three-act comedy reflects some of the flux in society during the Depression and between the two world wars. The play endures because its themes about individuality, class, global interconnectedness, and the role of government still ring true today.

The play premiered on Broadway in 1936 and won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The screen adaptation won Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director.

The RAAC Theatre production features a large cast and is directed by Peter Hornbostel.

For reservations and seating information, [click here](#). If you don't have Internet access, call 1-800-695-6075.

[Click to visit RAAC's Community Theatre webpage.](#)



The logo for Give Local Piedmont features the words "GIVE LOCAL" in a blue, hand-drawn font above "Piedmont" in a similar style. A blue location pin icon is positioned over the letter 'i' in "Piedmont".A graphic for the date May 5, 2015, Tuesday. The word "MAY" is in red above "2015" in red. To the right, a large red "5" is followed by the word "TUESDAY" written vertically in red.

**Make a gift to RAAC through
Give Local Piedmont**

Tuesday, May 5, 12am though 11:59pm

Help build community through the arts by donating to RAAC through Give Local Piedmont.

On May 5, the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation is joining more than 100 communities throughout the United States for a national day of local giving called Give Local America. NPCF has launched the Give Local Piedmont program as a way to make it fun and easy for individuals to support the many worthy local nonprofits that serve the Piedmont area, including Rappahannock County.

Contributions made online on May 5 through Give Local Piedmont may become eligible for matching funds and prizes to the organizations you support.

To make a donation to RAAC through Give Local Piedmont, just [click on this link](#) any time between 12am and 11:59pm on Tuesday, May 5.

We encourage you to make a contribution to RAAC on May 5. With the help of your generous donations, RAAC will continue to provide dynamic arts programs and grants in Rappahannock County.

[Click to visit RAAC's website.](#)

Introducing our new RAAC website and logo!

GET THE NEWS

When you next visit us at www.raac.org, you're in for a pleasant surprise. After many months of behind-the-scenes work, we launched our new website. It's a major redesign that changed the appearance and layout, navigation around the site, and the underlying software to make it more maintainable. Our updated logo now has a cleaner, more contemporary look that still reflects our core mission of building community through the arts.

We hope you'll find the new site more open and spacious, easier to use, and better organized from your perspective. We've also made it easier to reach specific RAAC programs to ask questions or volunteer. We improved the [calendar](#), archived past [RAAC Newsletters](#), and improved the links to relevant county info. We hope the new website will make it easier for you to find what you need while enjoying the ride. Please send us your ideas or questions about the new website to info@raac.org.

Those of you who've been through major website redesigns know how much time and energy is required to reach launch velocity. Many kudos to Lynn Dolnick who initiated this enterprise and led us through the redesign work, to Kathy Farmer who provided editorial and content suggestions, to Bette Mahoney for initial design ideas, and to Tod Morgan who did the heavy technical lifting.

Please take a look and go for a spin!

[Click to visit RAAC's NEW website.](#)



Mitchell Fund 2014 grantees

Profiling Headwaters mosaic project & Kid Pan Alley in performance

Colorful mosaic panels (example at left) were created by students in 3rd through 6th grades under the direction of artists Patti Brennan and RCES art teacher Lori Grady, and sponsored by Headwaters' After School Enrichment Program at RCES.

See all their creations in the front lobby of Union First Market Bank!



Kid Pan Alley's intergenerational song-writing residency, "Across the Ages," paired elders Jane and Carl Coon (with children at lower left), John Bourgeois, and others involved in public service with kids in sharing their stories and writing original songs.

The residency culminated in a free Kid Pan Alley concert of songs written by the children and featuring the kids and Paul Reisler's Kid Pan Alley Band.

[Click to visit RAAC's Mitchell Fund webpage.](#)

**Meet Nancy Raines
RAAC Board member**

Nancy and her husband Dick, and their three sons have been weekenders in Rappahannock for 33 years (first thing they did after getting married was buy their little piece of heaven). Recently, however, the term is less appropriate since Dick and Nancy generally spend five days in Rappahannock and two in the city each week.



This flip-flop is due in no small part to the fact that Nancy is the new owner/operator of the Theatre in Washington, Virginia . . . a job that eats up a huge amount of her time (even though Wendy seemed to manage the whole thing effortlessly).

The Raines family was initially drawn to Rappahannock by the mixture of beautiful countryside, friendly people, and creative spirit (at one time known as "soil and soul"). This creativity is so apparent in the abundance of talented artists in the county. It has been Nancy's pleasure to help showcase this wonderful local talent by co-chairing the RAAC Art Tour since 2011.

In her early years, Nancy was in private legal practice in Washington, D.C. She moved on to the Department of Justice and from there to the General Counsel's Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Along the way she has been a PTA president, "hands-on-science" and reading volunteer in public schools, and member of several local civic organizations.

When and if Dick finally retires, they hope to complete the transition to full-time Rappahannock residents, a process that shouldn't be too difficult since this place already feels like home.

[Click to visit RAAC's website.](#)

Mark Your Calendar!

**For all the details, additions, and
schedule changes, visit [RAAC's calendar](#).
New events are added frequently, so please check often.**

www.raac.org

The Rappahannock Association for the Arts and the Community
PO Box 24
Washington, VA 22747

1-800-695-6075

RAAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed solely by volunteers.
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