

# RAAC Newsletter February 2018

**Hello friends!**

RAAC has some great upcoming programs to keep us entertained and stimulated in the company of friends and neighbors during the final weeks of winter.

It's not often that our First Friday movie falls on Groundhog Day, so it's a rare opportunity to revisit the classic film on the day for which it was named. The story focuses on a weather forecaster (Bill Murray) who realizes that it's Groundhog Day over and over again. While initially feeling doomed, something happens amidst the cycles that breaks the endless repetitions, a change that adds humor, depth, and heart to this story of discovery. The show is at 7pm February 2.

Second Friday RAAC Talks will be at the library on February 9, when John Beardsley will revisit his widely hailed exhibit, "Black Folk Art in America." In honor of Black History Month, Beardsley, an acclaimed art historian and county resident, will show us and talk about the amazingly powerful treasures in the exhibit and discuss the continuing effects of that exhibition today.

Soup & Soul will feature Flint Hill resident and designer extraordinaire Michael Dennis on February 17. Michael currently creates one-of-a-kind artist's books in his studio, and he'll share his creative process with us. If you missed getting reservations, click [HERE](#) to put your name on our active wait list. We usually accommodate most on the list.

Work is underway for two spring productions at the RAAC Community Theatre: "Good People" on March 24, 30, 31 (click [HERE](#) to buy tickets), and "A Thousand Clowns" on May 11, 12, 13. Looks like an exciting theater season this spring!

Artists and organizations, don't forget that **March 15 is the deadline** for RAAC's Claudia Mitchell Arts Fund grant applications! Information is available [HERE](#) on our website.

Finally, RAAC's annual membership and general fundraising drive begins in mid-February. A letter will be arriving in your mail soon. FYI - we now have the ability to accept appreciated securities; click [HERE](#) for details. RAAC greatly appreciates your participation and the contributions that enable us to fulfill our mission of building community through the arts.

*Thanks!*

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**



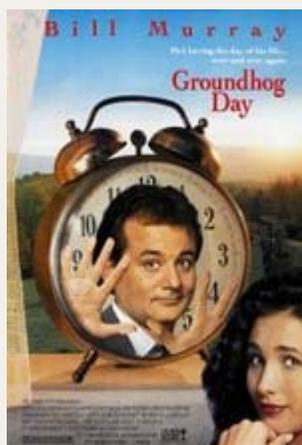
## *RAAC Newsletter*

**Vol 6, #1**

**February 2018**

**In this issue . . .**

- Feb 2** First Friday Movie  
"Groundhog Day"
- Feb 9** Second Friday Talk  
John Beardsley
- Feb 17** Soup & Soul
- Mar 17** Michael Dennis, Feb 17  
Bill Harris, Mar 17
- Mar 24, 30, 31** RAAC Community Theatre  
"Good People"
- Feature** Art Beat Rappahannock  
Feb 2018



Click on the photo below to play the movie trailer



**First Friday Movie**

**"Groundhog Day"**

**Friday, Feb 2, 7pm, \$6**  
*(Popcorn, candy, and water available for purchase)*

**Little Washington Theatre**  
**291 Gay Street, Washington, VA 22747**

- Starring:** Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliott
- Director:** Harold Ramis
- Writers:** Danny Rubin (screenplay & story), Harold Ramis (screenplay)
- Awards:** Won 1 BAFTA Film Awards, another 6 wins & 15 nominations
- Genre:** Comedy, fantasy, romance;  
101 minutes; Rated PG

A reluctant weather man is sent to cover a story about a weather forecasting "rat" (as he calls it). This is his fourth year on the story, and he makes no effort to hide his frustration. On awaking the 'following' day, he discovers that it's Groundhog Day again, and again, and again. First he uses this to his advantage, then he comes the realization that he is doomed to spend the rest of eternity in the same place, seeing the same people do the same thing EVERY day.

*-Written by Rob Hartill*

[Click to visit RAAC's First Friday Movie webpage.](#)



## Second Friday Talk

### John Beardsley

Friday, Feb 9, 8pm

**Rappahannock County Library**  
**4 Library Lane, Washington, VA 22747**

February's Second Friday talk features John Beardsley, who will speak at the library in honor of Black History Month.

An acclaimed art historian and a Rappahannock resident, Beardsley will discuss "Black Folk Art in America, 1930-1980, Then and Now." His talk has a double focus - he will look back at a stunningly successful exhibit he curated with Jane Livingston in 1982, and he will look at the ongoing impact of that exhibition today.

"The Washington Post" hailed that 1982 show as "vast and vivid, important and uncanny," and "Time" called it "a fiery, marvelous folk show." Today it continues to stir controversy and inspire new shows, including one that opened at the National Gallery of Art on January 28.

The treasures assembled for the "Black Folk Art" show stunned onlookers. "How can unknown art so strong exist?" the Post asked. "How did these 20 artists - these laborers and barbers, most old, poor, and untutored, working by themselves in the alleys of this city, in the basements of New Orleans, or in tattered southern shacks - produce objects of such power?"

Beardsley will explore such questions with us and will examine the riddles and arguments the show stirred up. His talk is built around slides taken from that dazzling show, which was assembled not by cajoling masterpieces from museums but, in the words of the New York Times, "put together piece by piece on the rumor, hearsay, and hot tip."

*February's talk will take place at the library.*

***The talk is free. All are welcome.***

*[Click to visit RAAC's Second Friday Talk webpage.](#)*



## Soup & Soul

### Michael Dennis

Saturday, Feb 17

### Bill Harris

Saturday, Mar 17

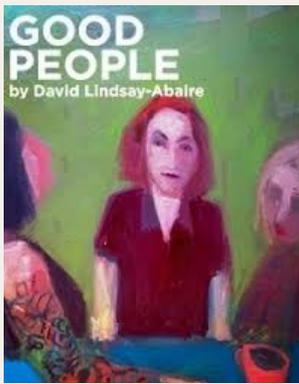
RAAC's annual Soup & Soul series offers an opportunity to hear from local artists about their work and their creative process. The events are held in host homes in the county and include a potluck dinner along with soup provided by the hosts.

**One benefit of RAAC membership** is early notification of these events. RAAC members received an email last Dec 1 with a specific members' link on the RAAC website to purchase tickets at \$20 each. Tickets were then made available to the general public on the website early last Dec. When events are full, the RAAC website allows you to **place your name on the wait list**. We are often able to accommodate additional folks as we get closer to the event.

The 2018 Soup & Soul series will feature designer and bookbinder Michael Dennis on Feb 17 and jazz pianist Bill Harris on Mar 17.

- **Michael Dennis**, another veteran of RAAC's Artists of Rappahannock Studio & Gallery Tour, has an MFA in design and for 30 years ran his own graphic design firm and designed exhibitions on art, music, and dance for the Library of Congress. After moving to Rappahannock with husband Paul Smith, he opened a book arts studio in Flint Hill, where he crafts one-of-a-kind artist's books composed of tiny pieces of colored paper that are perfectly inlaid to form a seamless planographic surface.
- **Bill Harris** is well known to local music audiences as a jazz pianist and singer. Harris is also known and admired well beyond our borders, and he is listed in Washingtonian Magazine's "Best of Jazz in DC," having won the Hennessy Cognac Best of DC Jazz Competition. Bill has performed at the Smithsonian, Blues Alley, the Kennedy Center, and best of all, at Little Washington Theatre.

*[Click to visit RAAC's Soup & Soul webpage.](#)*



## RAAC Community Theatre

### "Good People"

**Saturday, March 24, 8pm**

**Friday, March 30, 8pm**

**Saturday, March 31, 8pm**

"Good People," a play by David Lindsay-Abaire, opened on Broadway in 2011, winning both a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award. The "Variety" reviewer commented that "if 'Good People' isn't a hit on Broadway, there is no justice in the land." We have no doubt it will be a hit on Gay Street as well.

"Good People" is a tough but also gentle play, often spiced with humor. Set in South Boston, it could be set in any poor neighborhood in this country where many wind up spending their lives. A few break free, although it is sometimes hard to say whether they or the less fortunate are the "good people" the play is all about. Perhaps it is all of them. Or perhaps not. You will have to judge for yourself.

The actors in our production are well known to our Rappahannock and nearby audiences. Stephani Mastri, who most recently appeared in "Arcadia" at our Theatre, plays the leading role of Margi. Her friends Jean and Dottie are played by Erin Platt and Maureen Day. Hugh Hill, a recent transplant to the county, plays the lead male role of Mikey, and Gail Kitch plays his wife Kate. Bob Stockmaster is Stevie. Andy Platt is the voice that calls the numbers in the backstage bingo game. Peter Hornbostel directs. He adds that this may be the best cast he has ever worked with.

**There will be only three performances. Tickets are \$15. Reservations are strongly recommended; click [HERE](#) to buy your tickets!**

*All performances will be held at the RAAC Community Theatre, 310 Gay St., Washington, VA.*

#### ***Upcoming Theatre performances:***

- "A Thousand Clowns," May 11, 12, 13

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



## Art Beat Rappahannock, February 2018

*Featuring non-RAAC arts events in Rappahannock County*

### Theatre

- Feb 10, 4pm, **Scrabble School**, Taryn Weaver, singer, songwriter, and storyteller performs as Harriet Tubman in the 2018 Black History Month program sponsored by the Scrabble School Preservation Foundation. Free event, open to the public, Donations gratefully received. Come early at 3:30pm for light refreshments. [DETAILS](#)
- Feb 18, 2pm, **Little Washington Theatre**, Lions Club's James A. Bland Music Contest. Free event, open to the public. [DETAILS](#)

### Music

*This venue hosts live music in February.*

- **Griffin Tavern** [DETAILS](#)

*To submit an event, email [artbeat@raac.org](mailto:artbeat@raac.org).*

**Please note:** For inclusion in Art Beat, event details should be emailed to [artbeat@raac.org](mailto:artbeat@raac.org) by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

## 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](http://www.raac.org)

**Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community**

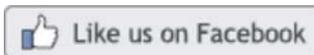
PO Box 24

Washington, VA 22747

1-800-695-6075

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

Email us at [newsletter@raac.org](mailto:newsletter@raac.org)



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