

**Hello friends!**

Happy end of summer! I hope you're enjoying the wildflowers, river walks, and gatherings with friends - great antidotes to the heat and humidity! RAAC is taking advantage of these languid summer days to get ready for our fall and winter offerings. Please take a look below to save some dates for upcoming events - library talk, theater performances, film-talkback, and more.

A fascinating Film-TalkBack event is scheduled for Friday, September 6 that will feature a wonderful documentary, "The Biggest Little Farm", combined with an after-movie conversation with Mike Sands of Bean Hollow Grassfed and other Rappahannock farmers. This acclaimed film should be a great complement to the 11th annual Rappahannock County Farm Tour on September 28-29 and the recent RappNews article about young Rappahannock farmers.

John Bourgeois launches our Second Friday RAAC Talks series on September 13 at the Rappahannock County Library and will give us a window into the famous "President's Own" Marine Corps Band (and more). RAAC's Community Theatre is staging Samuel Beckett's masterpiece, "Waiting for Godot", that will run September 13, 14, 20, 22 - reserve your tickets soon! And check online in a few weeks to reserve tickets for the often sold-out "No Ordinary Person" performances scheduled for October 4,5,6.

Note that we're taking a fall break from screening First Friday movies to assess community interest in monthly movies at the Little Washington Theatre. We've noticed a decline in attendance and want to take a look at why and explore next steps. Look for a short online survey later in September asking for your input.

You'll also see in this month's newsletter some of RAAC's Mitchell Arts Fund recipients putting their grants to work. Specifically, Rappahannock's first-ever John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival and a 1000 Faces theatrical performance will both take place during the day and/or evening on September 28.

Save the date! RappAtHome and RAAC are organizing another Community Square Dance on October 26 at the Sperryville Fire Hall.

Finally, if you aren't already, I encourage you to be a sponsor of this year's Fall Art Tour, the big November 2-3 event showcasing our local artists and promoting tourism in our county. You can donate online by [clicking here](#). You can also find our sponsorship letter and reply form there. By the way, all net proceeds from the Art Tour are channeled back into the community through Mitchell Fund grants.

As a school boy at heart, I always look forward to new beginnings marked by Labor Day. I look forward to seeing you in September.

**Matthew Black, President, RAAC**



*RAAC Newsletter*

**Vol 7, #7**

**September 2019**

## Contents

**Sep 6** Film-TalkBack Documentary:  
"The Biggest Little Farm"  
*Includes after-movie  
conversation with  
Rappahannock farmers*

**Sep 13** Second Friday Series  
Colonel John Bourgeois  
Director (retired),  
Marine Corps Band

**Sep 13, 14  
20, 22** RAAC Community Theatre  
*Waiting for Godot*

**Nov 2 & 3** Artists of Rappahannock  
15th Annual Fall Art Tour

**Feature** Mitchell Arts Fund  
Don't miss these  
two big events  
presented by the 2019  
Mitchell Fund grantees!

**Feature** RAAC on Social Media

**Feature** Rappahannock.com  
*Community Events Calendar*



*Photo from  
movie trailer*

## Film-TalkBack Documentary: "The Biggest Little Farm"

**Friday, Sep 6, 7 to 9pm**

**Included is an after-movie  
conversation with  
Rappahannock farmers**

"The Biggest Little Farm" has been a sensation on this year's film festival circuit. The documentary chronicles the exploits of Molly and John Chester, a Los Angeles-based chef and cinematographer who buy 200 acres of barren land an hour north of LA and establish a farm. And not just any farm. It's a modern-day Eden of organic food production, ecological restoration, and environmental diversity in which plants, animals, and humans coexist within a self-contained biome of balance and sustainability.

Like most idealists, Molly and John are forced to reckon with unwelcome realities, such as pests, predators, punishing wildfires, and wind, and biblical rainstorms. The film captures the triumphs and defeats of the Chesters' enterprise with arresting intimacy. There are even sadder losses in "The Biggest Little Farm," which as it proceeds becomes a gentle, lyrical ode to the natural rhythms of life, death, and regeneration.

This is a must-see film, not just for the primer it offers in how foodways, farming practices, and larger environmental forces are crucially connected, but for its

dazzling imagery of nature in action, both by way of breathtaking close-ups and sensational aerial shots of the farm and its environs. [The above was adapted from a May 14 film review by Ann Hornaday in the Washington Post]

Come watch this beautiful and thoughtful 90-minute documentary, and join in the post-movie discussion led by local farmers on September 6. "The Biggest Little Farm" offers an interesting slant on agricultural issues and values in Rappahannock County. The film also dovetails with the recent RappNews article on young Rappahannock farmers and the upcoming Rappahannock Farm Tour. And, Common Sense Media highly recommends this film for children 10 years and older [link: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/movie-reviews/the-biggest-little-farm>]. Tickets are \$5/person.

*[Click to visit RAAC's Film Talk-Back webpages.](#)*



## **Second Friday Series Colonel John Bourgeois Director (retired), Marine Corps Band**

**Friday, Sep 13, 8pm  
Rappahannock County Library**

The Second Friday Series will kick off the 2019-2020 season of talks with Rappahannock's own Colonel John Bourgeois.

For many years Bourgeois was director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. He calls his talk, which looks back at his long and celebrated career, "Sins of My Youth." Bourgeois will draw on music from a newly released album of "The President's Own," and he'll tell stories from a memoir-in-progress.

Bourgeois's career spanned nine presidential administrations, from Eisenhower to Clinton. Along the way he collected too many honors to list. Come hear tales from a French horn player who rose to become, in the words of the Secretary of the Navy, "a national treasure."

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



Patric Stewart, left, and Ian McKellen in Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"

## **RAAC Community Theatre "Waiting for Godot"**

**Friday, Sep 13  
Saturday, Sep 14  
Friday, Sep 20  
Sunday, Sep 22**

RAAC Theatre will kick off its 2019/2020 season with a production of Samuel Beckett's award-winning and challenging play, "Waiting for Godot". Now in rehearsal, the play is being directed by Mike Mahoney, whose

at New York City's  
Cort Theatre in 2013

*Photo by Sara Krulwich,  
The New York  
Times/Redux.*

previous directing credits include "The Gin Game" and "Arcadia." The actors are well known to the RAAC community and include Andy Platt, Stephanie Mastri, Hugh Hill, Scott McMurtray, and Maeve Ciuba.

Becket was a Nobel Laureate, and his "Godot" is widely considered to be one of the great plays of the 20th Century. It is regularly performed all over the world, in many different languages, and by many leading actors.

Becket's literary agent describes the play: "two wandering tramps, Vladimir and Estragon, wait by a lonely tree to meet up with Mr. Godot, an enigmatic figure in a world where time, place and memory are blurred and meaning is where you find it. The tramps hope that Godot will change their lives for the better. Instead, two eccentric travelers arrive, one man on the end of the other's rope. The results are both funny and dangerous in this existential masterpiece." A critic described it as "a witty and poetic conundrum."

### **Theatre marks 10th year aligned with RAAC**

In 2009, with the passing of Ki Theatre founder Julie Portman, Ki aligned with RAAC. Since that time the Theatre's offerings, scope, and audiences have grown. This year marks the 10th anniversary of that successful collaboration. Look for special announcements and events celebrating the legacy of the Theatre and the milestones reached as a part of RAAC.

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



## **Artists of Rappahannock 15th Annual Fall Art Tour**

**Save the dates!**

**Saturday & Sunday  
November 2 & 3**

The 2019 Fall Art Tour will have more artists and fine art of all types to enjoy and new studios and galleries to explore. Over 100 artists will be showing their work in over 40 studios and galleries throughout Rappahannock County.

The Tour begins at Art Tour Headquarters at the Washington School, 567 Mt Salem Ave., Washington, VA. There you will see a visual feast of representative art on display at the Main Gallery. For a \$10 per person admission fee, you will receive a guide and map to direct you to the artists you most want to visit on your self-guided tour through the gorgeous scenery.

The Fall Art Tour is truly a unique experience for art enthusiasts and countryside adventurers from near and far. Don't miss the wonder of this extraordinary community event!

[Click to visit RAAC's Art Tour webpages.](#)



## Mitchell Arts Fund

**Don't miss these  
two big events  
presented by the 2019  
Mitchell Fund grantees!**

**Saturday, September 28**

### **Event 1:**



### **John Jackson Piedmont Blues Festival**

**Noon to 8pm**

All are welcome at this first-ever, day-long tribute to Rappahannock native and 1985 NEA National Heritage Fellow John Jackson. Presented by Virginia Cooperative Extension, the event includes:

- Live music by guest musicians Wayne Henderson, Phil Wiggins, Eleanor Ellis, Robert Glasker, Jeffrey Scott, and the Rappahannock Unity Choir
- MC'ed by Frank Matheis of Living Blues magazine
- Jam sessions (bring your instrument)
- Food and craft vendors

Location:

Eldon Farms, Clover Hill  
4432 Sperryville Pike, Woodville

Tickets - \$8 in advance, \$10 at the gate; free to kids 14 & under accompanied by an adult.

*Bring your lawn chairs.*

---

### **Event 2:**



### **1000 Faces Mask Theater at Castleton Festival Grounds**

**Gates open at 5:30pm**

**Music at 6pm**

**Mask performance at 7pm**

- For 20 years, 1000 Faces Mask Theater has been performing original plays and music in Rappahannock. Enjoy an evening of music and performance. It's a short drive from Eldon Farms to the Castleton Festival grounds. Actors wearing giant masks and the 1000 Faces Band will present company founder and artistic director Peggy Schadler's newest original play "Another

Crack in the Cosmic Egg."

Location:  
Castleton Festival Tent  
7 Castleton Meadows Lane, Castleton

Suggested donation \$10 at the door  
Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic

Contact Peggy Schadler  
by Email at [peggyschadler@gmail.com](mailto:peggyschadler@gmail.com)  
or call 540-987-8823

*Click to visit RAAC's Mitchell Arts Fund webpages.*



## RAAC on Facebook

Do you have photographs taken at RAAC or RAAC-sponsored events that we could share on our Facebook pages? We'd love to see them, and if we end up posting your photos, we will give you a shout-out as the photographer!

Be sure to identify the event and where a photo was taken. It would be great if you could let us know who's in the photo as well. Send your submissions to [info@raac.org](mailto:info@raac.org).

*Click to visit RAAC's website.*

## Access RAAC's Social Media

Click below to access RAAC on  
**Facebook**



## Rappahannock.com Community Events Calendar

Click **HERE** to visit the comprehensive local events calendar hosted by Rappahannock.com.

*Click to visit RAAC's website.*

## Mark Your Calendar!

For all the details, additions, and schedule changes for RAAC events, visit **RAAC's calendar**.  
Our website is updated frequently, so please check often.

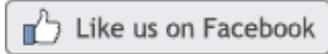
**[www.raac.org](http://www.raac.org)**

**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)**



Copyright © 2019  
All Rights Reserved.