

Artistic Film Affirms Family Love

By Veronica Velasquez
Staff Writer

"The one thing you do feel when someone you love is dying and you can't stop it is the loud tick of time."

Peter Hedges said that when he wrote "Pieces of April" after losing his mother to cancer.

The author of "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" makes his directorial debut with "Pieces of April," the story of a young woman, estranged from her mother, who dares to invite the family over for Thanksgiving. The film, released Oct. 17, stars Katie Holmes, Oliver Platt, Patricia Clarkson and Derek Luke.

In addition to the strain of resolving not to fight with her mother, and her nervousness at how the family will react to her African-American boyfriend, (Luke), April endures the added pressure of discovering that her oven is broken. She is forced to wander the apartment complex, the turkey roasting pot in her arms, seeking the kindness of strangers to help her get the dinner cooked.

The family, meanwhile, which consists of April's father, Jim, her mother, Joy, her grandmother and her brother and sister, are making the daylong trip to April's run-down apartment in Brooklyn. The car is filled with all the usual family trappings of polite faces and barely subdued hostilities.

It isn't just that Joy and April had a fight. They never

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did anything but fight. April, burned by the cruel anger of Joy's temper many, many times, has been reduced to licking her wounds and trying to remember that she is worthy of others.

Joy, subjected to the horrors of April's childhood hostilities, which included setting more than one of her siblings on fire, feels she must watch her back whenever she is near her dangerously unpredictable daughter. It is as if the cancer that is currently feeding on her is secondary to the anticipation of the two of them carving emotional wounds into each other yet again.

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Katie Holmes, best known for her role as Joey on television's "Dawson's Creek,"

comes through as a complex, emotionally-damaged character. She portrays April, who was "named after the moody month" by Hedges. April is a young woman filled with pain and conflict over the long-ago, animosity-ridden relationship and subsequent split with her mother, who is in the latter half of the stages of breast cancer.

The character of Joy (Patricia Clarkson) does not come out and say, 'I have breast cancer'. Instead, she rides along in the car, pale and wan, answering her family's anxious inquiries of 'Are you OK?' over and over again.

We see her vomiting in the bathroom of a service station. She rinses off her wig, then replaces it on her head before looking in the mirror. Back in the car, Joy looks through a photo album that her son has put together. A black and white photo shows Joy holding her bare breasts in her hands.

"This is my favorite," she says with a tender smile. "I miss them."

It is apparent that April is fragile, both by her fairylike stature and her ragged emotional state. But there is nothing weak about her resolve. With doors literally slamming shut in her face, her steely determination forces her onward, arms wrapped around the turkey pot, to make her strange appeal to every single resident of the tenement.

"April is stubborn and wants to prove herself and doesn't want to be told what to do," Holmes remarks, "but throughout the movie she discovers the importance of family and the importance of being vulnerable, and that it's okay to love people."

Bobby knows the power of love; he loves April deeply. Faced with the emotional wreck April has become on this day, rather than stand around like a helpless male, wringing his hands, Bobby follows her around on her orbit of frustration, doing his best to calm her, to tell her that she is good enough, that the dinner will be fine.

The film received a standing ovation at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

"It was just insane," remembers Clarkson. "We were all very excited."

"It's one of those movies I think doesn't hit you right away," says Holmes, "but if we've done it right, you realize how very true the film is for some people."

Local Galleries Schedule Fall Exhibits

By Veronica Velasquez
Staff Writer

The John O'Lague Galleria in Hayward will host a new art exhibit for the month of November.

Sixteen local artists and photographers have collaborated to present "Art of the Sea and Ships," which will run from Nov. 6 to Dec. 24.

The exhibit also will feature ship models created by the artist Henry Nguyen.

Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., walking distance from Hayward BART. An artist's reception will be held Friday, Nov. 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

From Nov. 6 to Dec. 20, Hayward's Green Shutter Gallery will present its annual "Holiday Arts Show" of

original art work created by members of the Hayward Arts Council.

Featured works for show and for sale will include holiday greeting cards, jewelry, ceramics, photography and paintings. The show will offer an opportunity to observe the talents of local artists as well a chance to get a head start on shopping for unique gifts this Christmas season.

There will be an artists' reception Nov. 8 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Green Shutter Gallery is located at 22654 Main Street, between B and C Streets in downtown Hayward.

Both events will be free. More information is available from the Hayward Arts Council 510-538-2787 for more information.

CSUH Chekhov Play Portrays 1888 Russia Nov. 14

By Tiffany Dias
Staff Writer

Performers in Cal State Hayward's next Studio Theatre production, Anton Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," will bring a wide range of experience to the stage Nov. 14.

"Uncle Vanya," a play written in 1888 contains elements of both

humor and drama. The backdrop is turn-of-the-century Russia, where a retired professor lives on his ex-wife's estate with his new wife Yelena and the professor's daughter Sonya, who is almost the same age as her step-mother.

When Dr. Astrov, an experienced but weary physician, comes to treat the professor, drama ensues as Astrov and Vanya fall in love with Yelena, and Sonya is in love with Astrov.

The play, directed by Mary Gibboney, expresses "the absurdity of people sitting around doing nothing while loudly complaining that their lives were wasted because they did nothing," according to the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The cast rehearses for several hours, six days a week. The actors are students, parents or spouses, many of whom have jobs.

Some find making time for rehearsal to be tough.

For Genevieve Kolve, the freshman theater major who plays Yelena, rehearsal is part of the business.

"I've always done way too much," she said. "It's easier for me because I live on campus, but it's still stressful."

Leticia Bradford, who plays Mrs. Voinisky, has managed to find time to be a mother, wife, free-lance drama teacher, unclassified graduate student and actor in "Uncle Vanya."

Although Bradford has a relatively small role in the play, she dedicates herself to teamwork and unity of the cast and crew.

"Being part of the team creates unity," she said. "It doesn't matter if I'm the main part or not."

Chekhov is one of Russia's most cherished storytellers. He produced comical one-acts as well as full-length tragedies during his time.

After a disappointing review of his play "The Seagull," Chekhov realized that many actors did not understand their roles. At the age of 44, Chekhov died of tuberculosis and was buried in Moscow, but is still considered by many to be the greatest

Russian raconteur and dramatist of the modern era.

Performances will be Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$8 general admission to \$6 for seniors and youth, to \$5 for CSUH students.

Wind Ensemble Comes Home

By Yuka Yoshida
Staff Writer

The Wind Ensemble "Home" Tour Concert, featuring the University Wind Ensemble and the James Logan High School Wind Symphony, will take place on Monday, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Cal State University Theater.

General admission is \$7, \$5 for seniors and non-CSUH students, and free for CSUH students with proper identification.

Timothy M. Smith, professor of music at CSUH, and Ramiro Barerra, of James Logan High School, will conduct their ensembles during the concert. The CSUH Music Department hosts the event.


Every fall the top wind and jazz ensembles return from touring and play the home concert to give the community an opportunity to hear what they've been doing.

This year, the ensemble played six concerts in three days. Venues were as varied as a high school auditorium and a cafeteria, so that students could get used to playing in different environments while at the same time introducing their music to a wider audience.

This particular concert featured music composed within the last ten years. The Wind Ensemble will perform for 45 minutes, and the James Logan High band will perform for the second half of the program.

"This group from James Logan High School is one of the best high school bands in California," said Smith. "Everyone will be surprised. We have very talented students here."


More information about this and other performances is available at www.isis.csuhayward.edu/music or at (510) 885-3167.



"Market Based Environmentalism vs. the Free Market"

Roy Cordato
Vice President for Research
John Locke Foundation
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Wednesday, November 5, 2003
2:45 PM in the University Union, Room 311
California State University, Hayward



Free and Open to the public.
Light refreshments will be served.

Questions (510) 885-2640

Parking permits are available in lots C, G, & K for \$1.50.

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"A Very Hungry Girl"



Jessica Weiner is an *Actionist* - motivating and inspiring people to take action in their everyday lives. Jessica practices her everyday *actionism* through her ground breaking and empowering work as an author, speaker and performer.

A Very Hungry Girl (Hay House/September '03), Jessica's first book, chronicles her own self-discovery and ultimate recovery from an eating disorder, and explores how she has helped thousands of young people address a multitude of self-esteem related issues.

Jessica started her career as the founder of the ACT Out Ensemble, a national touring theater company based in Indianapolis. She is the author of numerous social issue plays covering topics such as eating disorders, relationships, school violence, date rape and hate crimes. Jessica's work has reached millions of people nationwide and has been used to fuse the gap between healing and action in high profile crisis hotbeds such as Columbine High School following the massacre in 1999.

Recently, Jessica became the youngest recipient to be honored by Penn State University with an Alumni Achievement Award. Jessica was also awarded with the Nuvo Cultural Vision Award from the city of Indianapolis for her artistic work and activism.

Jessica has been featured on CNN, MTV, "The View," "Good Morning America" and in *The Washington Post*, *Teen People* and countless other media outlets. She is also in development with a major television studio for a nationally syndicated talk show.

October 29, 2003 @ 7:00 PM
CSUH—University Theater

FREE

Also, join us on Oct. 29th @ 12:00p for
a book signing of "A Very Hungry Girl" at the
Pioneer Bookstore

FREE