Nothing is more empowering than large gatherings of students with the same interests with the time and space to interact with each other and professionals in their fields. Maryland has an abundance of these opportunities through county and state festivals and I am always thrilled to attend.

The fantastic Howard County Theatre Festival was held on Thursday Jan 5, 2017 at Howard Community College. More than 300 theatre students from 12 high schools attended 20 possible workshops. The students were focused, energized, and hungry for guidance toward professionalism. Congratulations to the team of theatre teachers in Howard County. Your hard work is obvious in the disposition of your students!

The ever-growing Maryland High School Dance Showcase at Goucher College offered 368 students, from 32 schools from 9 counties, 24 master classes by 14 master teachers and the opportunity to present 33 pieces in 2 concerts. This is the 28th year of the showcase and this year, a college and university panel of dance educators from Goucher, Towson, Coppin, Catonsville Community College, Anne Arundel Community College, the University of Maryland - College Park and Baltimore County were all represented. Three scholarships were awarded and the Maryland All State Dance Ensemble members were announced. I offer a special thank you to Suzie Henneman and Judi Fey for their ongoing organization, and to the dance teachers across our state that are creating environments that produce young artists of the highest caliber.

Unsung Heroes Art Competition

The ArtEffect Project, with cash prizes totaling $13,500, teaches students their power to create positive change by honoring the legacies of Unsung Heroes from history.

The competition is open to U.S. and international students in grades 6-12, and is free to enter. The final deadline to submit art is February 15, 2017.

For full competition guidelines and a free 10 step art lesson plan, please visit www.lowellmilkencenter.org/arteffectproject/.
The stars have to align in a special way to stage a fully produced musical successfully. There are many, many moving parts that all, somehow, have to come together in just the right way. Congratulations to the fantastic team at the Chesapeake Bay Middle School, directors, Jamie Turtzo and Kristen Bishoff, musical director, Carin Antochy, sound and tech director, Dave Wasnock, and set designer, Jacob Palo, on a terrific production of *Willy Wonka Junior*. With obvious support of long-time arts advocate, Principal Mike Dunn; the creative team, parents and students took this production to the next level. Thanks for the invitation!

---

**Chesapeake Bay Middle School Produces WILLY WONKA JUNIOR**

The stars have to align in a special way to stage a fully produced musical successfully. There are many, many moving parts that all, somehow, have to come together in just the right way. Congratulations to the fantastic team at the Chesapeake Bay Middle School, directors, Jamie Turtzo and Kristen Bishoff, musical director, Carin Antochy, sound and tech director, Dave Wasnock, and set designer, Jacob Palo, on a terrific production of *Willy Wonka Junior*. With obvious support of long-time arts advocate, Principal Mike Dunn; the creative team, parents and students took this production to the next level. Thanks for the invitation!

---

**Imagination Stage Presents: THE FRESHEST SNOW WHYTE**

February 11-March 18

Explore the galaxy in the year 3000 when Imagination Stage presents *The Freshest Snow Whyte*. Written and directed by Psalmayene 24, with music by Nick “tha 1da” Hernandez, discover who really is the “freshest of them all” in the futuristic, Hip Hop adaptation of the classic fairytale, *Snow White*.

**The Freshest Snow Whyte**, best for ages 5+, runs February 11-March 18, 2017 in Imagination Stage’s Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre. Tickets start at $10, and can be purchased online at [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org), at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available. To RSVP to Opening Night February 11 at 7:00 p.m., please email press@imaginationstage.org.

---

**Fine Arts Coordinator, Emily Cory, Directs EVITA at Broadneck High School**

A Lloyd Webber classic, reimagined! And, for the first time at Broadneck High School, Bilingual!

Enjoy this hit musical about the life and legacy of Eva Peron, the First Lady of Argentina. Through Evita’s story, BHS students have an opportunity to explore the media’s role in politics and women’s rights.

*Evita* runs February 16-February 25, 2017 in Broadneck High School’s Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online [broadneckmusical@gmail.com](mailto:broadneckmusical@gmail.com), via phone (410-626-8362), or at the door. To RSVP to an invited press run Friday 17 at 7:00 p.m., please email broadneck.musical@gmail.com.

A short video of the cast can be found here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXykw_e3Vk&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXykw_e3Vk&feature=share)

---

**Maryland Thespian Festival**

Under the leadership of Frederick County’s Dorothy Delucci, the *Maryland Thespian Festival*, held at Towson University, had 711 students from 35 schools in the counties of Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery, Howard, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s, Washington, and Baltimore. One of the goals for next year’s festival is to add a Jr. Thespian Festival on Thursday and to add college auditions. In addition, the organization began a fundraising drive to assist troupes that are financially unable to attend the festival.

This year’s Howard County Dance Festival was held on January 28 at Centennial High School, organized by Holli Tucci. The 12 high schools each presented two works on the concert that was adjudicated by Jennifer Combest, Joan Nicholas-Walker and me! It was an exciting, dynamic evening of dance and I always look forward to attending.
Saint Mary’s County Visit

What could be better than creating choreography for the Chopticon High School production of CINDERELLA and spending a day with the mighty fine arts teachers of Saint Mary’s County Public Schools? Not much! The students were ready and well prepared for our rehearsal by director Christie Blewett and musical director Jaclyn Chapman. We had to work quickly to stage three large musical numbers and have time for reflection. The fine arts teachers worked through the concept of formative assessment with a quick creative assignment in their art forms followed by reflection and discussion. The theatre team met to get an overview and structure to use devised theatre in their classrooms. It was a great 2.5 days in a very beautiful part of our state.

SMCPS Fine Arts Teachers

DANCE IQUAIL Presents: BLACK SWAN

DANCE IQUAIL presents Black Swan at Kraushaar Auditorium on the campus of Goucher College on February 23 and 24 at 7:30pm - 9:30 pm.

Choreographed by Iquail Shaheed, the project explores the experience of the black ballerina as a window into issues of race, identity, and isolation, incorporating elements of performance art to investigate these psychological tensions.

For more information and to purchase tickets: http://diqblackswan.bpt.me/

Strings Workshop at Belvedere Elementary

Dr. Dana Semos invited me to observe the string workshops conducted by Dr. McWhorter of SouthWest Strings, who also generously donated 20 instrument care kits as well as two $50 gift certificates for students. Dr. Semos reports, “By the end, the students were super charged and ready to go home with a whole lot of knowledge to put into practice. Dr. McWhorter has been a fountain of knowledge and hopefully we will have a great partnership with SouthWest Strings in the future.” Students were well-prepared and anxious to improve their technique. A great afternoon!
**The Scarborough Foundation**

Do you have students in your local school system who display extraordinary natural abilities in music, dance, theater arts, or the recording arts and sciences? If so, once again The Scarborough Foundation may be a resource that can cultivate their love for the arts. The Scarborough Foundation awards scholarships and grants to Maryland public school students in elementary, middle, and high school to assist in the advancement and pursuit of their potential through the arts.

The foundation’s mission, as a 501 (c) (3) public charity, is to provide scholarships and grants to financially assist extraordinarily gifted public school students in the educational advancement of music, dance, theatre and the recording arts and sciences.

The Scarborough Foundation has resources available to support aspiring students to ignite their inner passion and help cultivate their love for the arts. To discover if The Scarborough Foundation is a resource that can assist you, visit our website at thescarboroughfoundation.org.

**MTEA THRIVE Conference**

Presented by the Maryland Theatre Education Association, the MTEA THRIVE Conference is a theatre educator empowerment conference with experiential workshops that are designed to give theatre educators the opportunity to explore their craft.

Attendees will experience the joy of reconnecting with their craft as theatremakers, tools and tips to apply to their own classes, and a unique opportunity to connect and network with theatre educators and organizations from across the state of Maryland. All attendees will select three workshops that they would like to attend during the online checkout process. Register now to guarantee your placement in each workshop. This event has limited spaces.

Workshop leaders include Ken Skrzesz, Patrick Crowley, Lisa Nathans, Dan Wagner, Connor Dreibelbis, Dana Peragallo, and more to come!

For more information and to register: [https://mdtheatreedu.ticketleap.com/mtea-thrive-conference/](https://mdtheatreedu.ticketleap.com/mtea-thrive-conference/)

**MATI Follow-Ups Demonstrate Professional Growth and Artistry!**

A final meeting was held to celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of MATI teachers who brought greater creativity, artistry, and inquiry to Maryland classrooms this year. Teachers shared and reflected on areas of growth, challenges and future possibilities. Those on the arts education pathway reported on their exciting community-based projects. Teachers on the arts integration pathway dialogue about the ways in which centering instruction around inquiry inspired students and supported more rigorous instruction in and through the arts. An overwhelming majority of participants reported improved comfort in taking creative risks, using mindfulness, and gearing instruction toward 21st century skills and knowledge. “I’ve learned more about myself and my students from MATI and can’t wait to come back,” offered one participant.

A big thank you to all who completed this new model for professional development. We are excited to expand the opportunities for art teachers, classroom teachers, and administrators as the new Maryland Centers for Creative Classrooms (MC3) is rolled out this Summer. We hope to see you there!
**Students Make Impact at State Council**

On January 5th, the Junior Class Acting Ensemble performed at the SCCAN Meeting (State Council of Child Abuse and Neglect) in Annapolis as a result of Governor Hogan’s 2017 Maryland Initiative and Task Force. The Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program is a part of Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ Office of Advanced Studies and Programs. The performance piece embodied the use of a central metaphor, using shadows as the weight that lingers on a victim suffering from child abuse and the confrontation and ultimately, acceptance, of the shadow to move forward with hope for a better future. The piece will tour throughout Maryland in the spring focusing on young adults in GED and College Programs to encourage a better generation of parents and provide light for those engulfed by a shadow of their own.

Throughout the creative process, students came to a roadblock as questions began to arise regarding the system for handling child abuse cases. “We can’t guide victims and families towards the answer if we don’t believe in it ourselves,” commented student Kelsey Diggs. Eventually, the class turned to Claudia Remington, Executive Director of SCAAN, to help navigate our questions. After the students digested the information she shared, it seemed that there was another audience that needed to receive the piece—lawmakers throughout the state and national levels. “There aren’t enough resources for those in need,” stated student Autumn McCree. “We have to reach these people and open their eyes to this massive problem in our state.” In retrospect, many of the students didn’t realize that child abuse was, in fact, a major hindrance of family wellness in the state of Maryland. Autumn continued, “We realize now that this piece has the power to impact audiences. Our debut performance at the State Council really opened my eyes to that possibility.”

Students and Instructor, Dana Peragallo, will continue to tour the 15-minute performance with accompanying talk back throughout the spring. To schedule a performance at your location, please contact Dana at dperagallo@aacps.org.

---

**Students Aim to Reconnect our Divided Nation**

When it comes to the results of the 2016 Presidential Election, the entire country is split. Whether you voted or didn’t, or whether you were completely behind one candidate or the other, one thing is certain; we just can’t seem to get along. Students in the Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) program at Annapolis High School seek to reach an arm out across the canyon with a single word; love.

“The piece echoes the sentiments of Lin Manuel-Miranda’s Tony acceptance speech, “Love is love is love is love is love is love ...”” says Dana Peragallo, the director of the piece. “Our first class followed the election results and the main discussion surrounded the shock of values from one end of the spectrum to the other,” she said, “The students felt disconnected from one another and from the country. Taking the initiative to “live in love,” we knew it was time to create a piece to spread light.”

**THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO MAGIC** is a provocative collection of monologues, devised pieces, scenes and musical numbers created by a group of students. “I’m a creator,” says Sean Penson, a senior, Creative Writer and one of the contributing students, “We kind of all contributed to it, and that’s what I really liked. We all had a say.” Dana Peragallo agreed, stating, “I love guiding students who are passionate about a concept. This group of extraordinary young men and women are exactly that.”
A big part of what PVA hopes to accomplish is outreach in the community and addressing current issues. From last year’s performance of URINETOWN: The Musical which aimed to raise money during the Flint Water Crisis to the 12th grade’s Heroin Project, which toured around middle schools and other organizations to heighten awareness about the heroin epidemic in Maryland, it’s obvious they have this in the bag.

THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO MAGIC is a free performance taking place Thursday, January 12th at 7pm at Studio 39. For more information please call the Studio 39 Office at (410) 280-1501 or email info@studio39.org.

Students aim to reconnect our divided nation

PVA Students to Perform OUR WORLD at the Chesapeake Arts Center on Friday, February 10, 2017

The students in the Performing and Visual Arts (PVA) program at Annapolis School perform OUR WORLD at the Chesapeake Arts Center on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 8:00pm in the Studio 194 theatre located at 194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park, Maryland 21225. Tickets are available for $5.00 at www.chesapeakearts.org or by calling the main office at 410-636-6597.

OUR WORLD is an engaging spoken word piece addressing the need to end the plague of hate, stereotypes, and other prejudices by coming together as a community and as a human race. By addressing societal trends and accountability, the performance calls attention to the danger of our own thoughts and actions and encourages a collaboration of individuals which will, in turn, inspire a new world of hope.

Maryland Teacher of the Year Becomes One of Four National Finalists

A Maryland teacher has been tapped as one of four finalists for the 2017 National Teacher of the Year Award.

Athanasia Kyriakakos, who teaches in Baltimore city and previously won top teaching honors in Maryland, was described by her principal as “an internationally award-winning artist who has sacrificed her personal ambitions to share her passion of art with students.”

In a letter of recommendation, Craig Rivers, principal at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, where Kyriakakos has taught since 2014, said her credentials and work were so impressive she could have worked anywhere she wished.

“She chose the students of Baltimore city and I believe she is here for a purpose,” he wrote.

“We congratulate Ms. Kyriakakos on this terrific honor for her and for the State of Maryland,” Gov. Larry Hogan (R) said in a statement. “Great teachers and great schools make an enormous difference in the lives of our children and in the future of our state.”

For more information, go to https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/maryland-teacher-of-the-year-becomes-one-of-four-national-finalists/2017/01/10/ff5b35b2-d6a8-11e6-b8b2-cb5164beba6b_story.html?utm_term=.28e204d5d222
Take a Leap Baltimore

Month-long event features Philadanco, Baltimore Dance Project and Fifth Grade Ballroom Dancers

Take a Leap, a month-long-plus Baltimore County Dance Celebration, takes to the stage February 2 - March 18, 2017. The celebration, now in its fourth year, highlights the range of dance styles offered on Baltimore County stages, from ballet to ballroom to contemporary.

Do you have students in your local school system who display extraordinary natural abilities in music, dance, theater arts, or the recording arts and sciences? If so, once again The Scarborough Foundation may be a resource that can cultivate their love for the arts. The Scarborough Foundation awards scholarships and grants to Maryland public school students in elementary, middle, and high school to assist in the advancement and pursuit of their potential through the arts.

The foundation’s mission, as a 501 (c) (3) public charity, is to provide scholarships and grants to financially assist extraordinarily gifted public school students in the educational advancement of music, dance, theatre and the recording arts and sciences.

The Scarborough Foundation has resources available to support aspiring students to ignite their inner passion and help cultivate their love for the arts. To discover if The Scarborough Foundation is a resource that can assist you, visit our website at thescarboroughfoundation.org.

ANTIGONE at Coppin State University

Do you have students in your local school system who display extraordinary natural abilities in music, dance, theater arts, or the recording arts and sciences? If so, once again The Scarborough Foundation may be a resource that can cultivate their love for the arts. The Scarborough Foundation awards scholarships and grants to Maryland public school students in elementary, middle, and high school to assist in the advancement and pursuit of their potential through the arts.

The foundation’s mission, as a 501 (c) (3) public charity, is to provide scholarships and grants to financially assist extraordinarily gifted public school students in the educational advancement of music, dance, theatre and the recording arts and sciences.

The Scarborough Foundation has resources available to support aspiring students to ignite their inner passion and help cultivate their love for the arts. To discover if The Scarborough Foundation is a resource that can assist you, visit our website at thescarboroughfoundation.org.

MAEA/Baltimore Print Studios Connect & Collaborate Artist/Teacher Professional Learning Series

Join the MAEA for the next professional learning session about Collaboration & Shared Spaces with Baltimore Print Studios on February 18th from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Explore new possibilities of creatively sharing the classroom and work space with your colleagues and students in a workshop requiring all hands in the letter press printing process.

Attendees will also create a hand printed art education advocacy poster that you can bring back to your studio, office, or classroom.

South River High School Dance Director Mattie Fenton Includes All Students in Her Classes

Fenton is the dance director at South River High School in Edgewater. She teaches a variety of classes, including one for athletes. And in each class, you'll find special needs students included in the mix. They also participate in the school's dance recitals.

"Our students with special needs, they're up on stage, they're performing next to their peers and the audience is supporting them," said Fenton. "It's a big thing at this school."

Fenton has been at South River High School for five years and has overseen then growth of the inclusion program within the dance department. She says it gives all of her students a boost in confidence when they walk into her dance studio.

She has students who compete in local and state-wide competitions and go on to take dance in college. Fenton has danced all her life and feels strongly that the arts are a need, not a want, in schools.

She says the skills her students learn in her class, like creativity and collaboration, are ones they can take with them anywhere.

To read more and see the video of the class: http://www.abc2news.com/news/region/anne-arundel-county/south-river-high-school-dance-director-mattie-fenton-includes-all-students-in-her-classes
Students Send Artistic Message at Columbia Art Center

When the Howard County Public School System organizes an annual exhibit of student artwork at the Columbia Art Center, it's always fun to see what the kids create. This year's themed exhibit, "Postcards Home: Wish You Were Here," has an especially neat premise.

The students at schools throughout the county were asked to produce postcard-format artwork that consists of three parts: the drawn, painted or otherwise student-generated image that would appear on the front of a postcard; the written message that would appear on the back of a postcard; and a brief explanatory text in which the student artists discuss their motivation and their methods.


Tickets and full event calendar are available at www.GordonCenter.com/dance.
Upcoming Events at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum

Black Memorabilia Fine Art & Craft Show
Saturday, February 11, 10 am to 5 pm

Spend the day acquiring black memorabilia, fine art and crafts from artisans and collectors including slavery artifacts, books, stamps, dolls, coins, Civil War, political and civil rights memorabilia, jewelry, sports memorabilia and more. Obtain verbal appraisals of memorabilia for $5/object. Educational exhibits on view include the Buffalo Soldiers, Dorothy Dandridge and Malcolm X. Negro League baseball players and a Tuskegee Airman will be signing autographs. Hear a panel talk entitled "Harriet Tubman, A Woman of Courage and Vision: Inspired by Faith, Family and Community" co-presented by the National Park Service as well as a talk on Malcolm X by journalist A. Peter Bailey who was one of the last few persons to speak with him on the day of his assassination.

http://www.lewismuseum.org/main-calendar

Film Screening and Post Discussion: Olympic Pride, American Prejudice
Sunday, February 19, 2:00 pm

(90 minutes) Follow the 18 African American athletes who defied Adolf Hitler and Jim Crow to win hearts and medals at the 1936 Olympics. Though the world remembers Jesse Owens, this film shines a light on the other 15 men and two women - Tidye Pickett and Louise Stokes - who collectively changed the world of sports forever and created a seminal moment in the fight for equality and civil rights. Narrated by Blair Underwood. A post-discussion with filmmaker Deborah Riley Draper follows. This screening is a part of the Baltimore Jewish Film Festival, organized by the JCC of Greater Baltimore.

http://www.lewismuseum.org/event/2016/olympic-pride-american-prejudice

![Film Poster](image-url)