

Hartford County Tattoo unveils new gallery Friday night

By GRACE GAGNON
CORRESPONDENT

The Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci is on display at the Musee du Louvre in Paris. Michelangelo's artwork is painted upon the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Oil paintings by Claude Monet line the walls of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

But great art isn't just found in chapels and European museums. Great art can be found right here in Bristol, envisioned and created by local artists.

Chad Lockhart, the owner of Hartford County Tattoo, provides local artists a sanctuary for their own art within the tattoo shop. This Friday (Feb.24), Hartford County Tattoo will feature a

debut night for its new art gallery.

Lockhart and his wife, Tricia Lockhart, decided to display local artists' artwork on the walls of Hartford County Tattoo after finding a common issue while traveling over the past few years.

"In our travels over the years, we have met people from all walks of life, expressing themselves in every form of art available. One common problem we noticed was that so many of these hidden gems were right in our own community and were going largely unnoticed," Lockhart said in an interview via email.

For artists like Andrea Wadowski, a graphic designer for the State of

Connecticut, Hartford County Tattoo's art gallery is the first time her art is being publicly displayed.

"I have always been reluctant to call myself an artist. I have my own criteria for being able to say 'yes, I'm an artist and being able to sell a piece made me feel like an artist,'" Wadowski said.

Wadowski said she is more into drawing than painting and works mostly with color pencil. The two pieces she drew for the gallery include a black bird and a still life of bananas.

Every inch of every wall is covered in different forms of art, including landscapes, pictures of animals, paintings, and hand-carved wooden bowls.

Lockhart said he intentionally chose a nonconventional gallery format that allows for each piece to be viewed in detail individually, or as one compelling piece of art linked together when you look at the walls as a whole.

"If each piece of art could talk, their stories would be as different as the artists who created them," Lockhart said.

Artist Mary Dombrowski, the owner of Marydees Alley, tells her story through color.

Dombrowski, who has five pieces on display at Hartford County Tattoo, said she started working with alcohol inks three years ago and fell in love with them. She said a lot of

her pieces are about interaction with color, and many of them are abstract gardens.

To achieve the vivid colors shown in her pieces, Dombrowski said she experiments with different inks and concentration of alcohol to change colors.

"Color in our world is what I focus on. They're not representational or photo-realistic," Dombrowski said, Wadowski and Dombrowski are both local artists, but Lockhart said the gallery also features pieces from national and international artists.

So far the community has reacted positively to Bristol's latest nonconventional art gallery.

"We are consistently

selling pieces, so it is exciting for everyone involved. It is amazing to see how people respond emotionally to different pieces," Lockhart said.

Hartford County Tattoo's art gallery debut night runs on Friday, (Feb. 24) from 8 to 11p.m. Admission is \$5 at the door. The evening includes a live model art demonstration by Tainted Inc. of Hartford. Kinsmen Brewing of Southington will provide an artisan beer tasting as well as cupcakes from NoRA Cupcake Company, West Hartford. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Autism Speaks.

Our Reviews

Looking for laughs? Open up your seat at 'The Book of Mormon'

By MIKE CHAIKEN
EDITIONS EDITOR

If you're looking for a night of laughter, you absolutely can't go wrong if you buy yourself a ticket for the current road tour of "The Book of Mormon."

The comic musical created by the masterminds of the animated series, "South Park," is pointed, scatological, devilishly insightful, and sacrilegious—all of the earmarks of a great comedy.

The show follows a tradition of such iconic comic musicals unafraid to take potshots at sacred cows... such as Mel Brooks' "The Producers" or the Marx Brothers' "Duck Soup."

The show follows a group of Mormon missionaries who set out to convert the residents of a village in the African war-torn nation of Uganda.

The creative team of Trey Parker, Robert Lopez,

and Matt Stone clearly understand the conventions of great comedy and the stage musical art form. And the accolades for the show through the years are well-deserved.

This road tour upholds with great aplomb the reputation of the show. The cast—from the leads to the ensemble—are well-matched with the show.

Key to the success of the road production that rolled into Hartford Feb. 14 were the leads, Gabe Gibbs as the darling son of the Mormon church, Elder Price; and Conner Peirson, the born follower and pathological liar, Elder Cunningham.

The pairing between Gibbs and Peirson followed the classic buddy humor archetype. The pairing had echoes of Abbott and Costello, pairing an inept man-child (Peirson) with a dapper, confident, but flawed straight man (Gibbs).

The comic chemistry between Gibbs and Peirson



'The Book of Mormon' was performed at The Bushnell in Hartford last week.

was undeniable. The actors also were able to effectively portray the affection for one another beneath the surface of the antagonism written into the cast.

Leanne Robinson as Nabulungi, the ingénue of the show and chaste love

interest of Cunningham, also was delightful. The character could easily have devolved into a clueless bimbo girl-child. But Robinson is able to convey that her absence of perspective was more a result of her location off the grid

of Western culture and not due to the lack of IQ.

The show's laughs also are derived from physical humor on stage. Whether it was the blocking or the choreography, there was a method to the madness—go for the guffaw. The per-

formances were over the top, but the direction was clearly controlled. The cast was like a well-oiled machine where all the parts smoothly crafted the final product.

The cast also is full of amazing singers. Peirson and Gibbs, in particular, show great facility at working the vocals in a way that never breaks character.

By all means, "The Book of Mormon" is miles away from good clean family fun. If you're looking for a pleasant story about the wonders of Jesus and the Mormon way, this isn't it. But if you're interested in laughing at an original story that lovingly mines the traditions of comedy and musicals, "The Book of Mormon," especially this road production, is the way to go.

I give "The Book of Mormon" four out of four stars.

Sugar Factory arrives at Foxwoods casino

Sugar Factory American Brasserie, an eatery and confectionary shop, expands with its new location at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket this month. Located in the main concourse of the Grand Pequot Tower, the 8,000-square-foot location consists of a full service café and confectionary shop, retail shop, indoor dining room and full service bar.

"We are thrilled about the growth of our restaurant concept with the newest location inside Foxwoods Resort Casino," said Sugar Factory founder, Charissa Davidovici in a press release

from Foxwoods. "Casinos are the perfect places for our lively atmosphere and playful menu. This location will provide a sweet oasis for resort guests of all ages."

Sugar Factory's floor-to-ceiling candy wall features more than 500 types of candy. Completing the confectionary, the café offers coffees, hot chocolate, frozen hot chocolate, homemade specialty rainbow doughnuts and pastries in addition to homemade gelato and ice cream.

The dining room replete with red tufted banquettes crystal chandeliers and antique brass accents

seats 212 guests among three designated areas. Sugar Factory's menu features items such as crepes, salads, burgers, milkshakes and specialty pizzas. The desserts will top the menu with the famous King Kong Sundae, serving up to 12 people with 24 scoops of ice cream and toppings. The white marble bar seats 17 guests and provides full menu service complete with Sugar Factory's signature 64 oz. alcohol-infused smoking candy goblets like the Lollipop Passion, garnished with lollipops and candy necklaces.

World-renowned

celebrities such as Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Drake, Jennifer Lopez, Kim Kardashian, Flo Rida, Hailee Steinfeld, Katy Perry, Scott Disick, Jason Derulo, Britney Spears, Jerry Seinfeld, Selma Hayek and Mel B are all fans of Sugar Factory.

Sugar Factory Foxwoods will be located at the Foxwoods Resort Casino, 350 Trolley Line Boulevard, Mashantucket, CT 06338. Reservations and large-group bookings are available by calling (860)312-SUGR.

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