



Friday, Feb 4, 2011

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February is time to get entertained BY LARRY FENNELLY

There are no words -- at least not in my vocabulary -- to describe the wonders that await midstate audiences in February.

Whether your tastes run to theater, film or music, this month is going to be beyond belief -- and when we add in First Friday, the Friends of the Library Old Book Sale, the Middle Georgia Art Association's Winter Arts Festival, the Death by Chocolate benefit for the Tubman African American Museum, "Invisible Hands" at the Hay House and other events too numerous to mention, the total package makes my head swim.

Theater galore

Thanks to the holiday break, most theater groups now have shows opening, beginning Friday with Macon Little Theatre's production of the Tennessee Williams classic "A Streetcar Named Desire." Note: Director Chuck NeSmith played Stanley Kowalski back in 1970.

As an aside, let me also point out that Macon native Sid Shier will be doing "Confessions of a Nightingale" at Atlanta's 14th Street Playhouse in March.

Also this weekend is the HD broadcast of "King Lear" from Britain's National Theatre on Sunday. We can be proud: The Douglass Theatre is the only facility in Georgia to host these broadcasts.

The Grand Opera House also has some hot shows booked. "All Shook Up" (about you-know-who) runs Wednesday and Thursday, followed on Feb. 22 and 23 by "Charlotte's Web." Theatre Macon will be opening "Steel Magnolias" on Feb. 18, while "Death and Taxes" will be opening at the Rose Theater in Forsyth next Friday. That same night, Warner Robins Little Theatre will open "Butterflies Are Free," with Mercer University shortly joining in with Luigi Pirandello's celebrated "Six Characters in Search of an Author."

Blockbuster events

The two huge events this month are the sixth annual Macon Film Festival and the huge Friends of the Library Old Book Sale, annually drawing more than 3,000 visitors. Full details on the film festival (Feb. 17-20) are available at MaconFilmFestival.com.

Music, too

Bobbie McDuffie will be in town later in the month, but there's a whole bunch on the calendar before then. The Macon Symphony Orchestra's third conducting candidate will be on the podium Saturday night, and Sunday will see the American Guild of Organists' annual Hymn Festival at Riverside United Methodist Church at 4 p.m. Contact Larry Fennelly at LarryFennelly@AvantGuild.com.