



# arts • gram

A DAILY PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

SUNDAY OCT. 27, 2002

## FESTIVAL: OVERWHELMING & INSPIRING

Jewelry designer, glassworker, artist, storyteller, writer – whatever the descriptor, **Caryn Walsh**, 35, of Apache Junction, Colo., defies labeling. “I didn’t know what to expect (as a first-time participant),” Walsh admits. “The staff in Apache Junction said I’d have fun, but wow! This is a hoot!”

Walsh arrived in the Twin Cities loaded with jewelry – all her own special creations. A few days prior to the Festival, she spent time visiting a jewelry artist friend in the area and learned some new techniques for her art. Walsh makes all the beads she uses in her creations, and her glasswork combines both torch and fusing skills. She is open to new learning opportunities, and takes risks to gain new skills.

Walsh frequently wears her own jewelry – distinctive beads of glass, colored and decorated for use as necklaces, pendants and earrings. She also makes glass “goddesses,” which she sells as fundraisers for cancer research.

Sensitive to women’s issues, world issues, and personal pain and tragedy, Walsh responds with art. After 9-11, she was the first to offer her work on e-Bay to raise money for the Red Cross. “Lots of money was raised for the victims at the Trade Center, as many other artists followed the lead.”

Walsh’s award winning necklace, called “Government Issue,” is muted, dark, heavy “camouflage” colors. “I worked and worked on that piece,” Walsh says. “I push my own envelope.



*Caryn Walsh of Apache Junction, Colorado is open to new learning opportunities, and takes risks to gain new skills. She proudly displays her gold medal glasswork entry, “Under the Ocean.”*

If it’s comfy and easy, it’s not worth doing. When I wear that necklace, the weight of it feels like an embrace.” Walsh also won a second first-place award (in the glasswork category) for her piece called “Under the Ocean.” It was made from leftover pieces from a previous glasswork project that evolved into a beautiful seascape.

“Overwhelmed” is how Walsh describes her reaction to the Festival and all of the other participants. Due to specific personal traumas, she often felt “invisible.” This week, though, “I’ve been overwhelmed by kindness. I feel that people see me, that I am not invisible, that they care.”

Walsh’s charismatic personality is apparent to all who meet her, and her talent, skill and sensitivity is apparent

in her art. We’ve enjoyed meeting you, Caryn, and hope you’ll come back again! (And please bring more jewelry!)

Another participant enjoying the Festival is **James Serrett-Bryant**. As a young adult, Serrett-Bryant, 60, of Van Nuys, Calif., started to sing, “just to see if I could.” He joined the church choir and later sang in the serviceman’s club while in the Air Force. Serrett-Bryant chuckled as he remembered an airman entering him in a contest without him knowing – and his singing career evolved from there.

As a Broadway hopeful in 1982, Serrett-Bryant auditioned for the Artistic and Principle Director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

*Continued on page 2*

# FESTIVAL: OVERWHELMING & INSPIRING

Continued from front page.

He went back home to California following the audition.

Then came an accident that changed his life. Sustaining serious injuries following the 1983 accident, he became an incomplete quadriplegic. "I didn't think I would ever be able to sing again; I thought I had lost my gift. But I was allowed to live, and now I realize the talents God gave me."

Sterrett-Bryant had lost the flexibility and strength of the left side of his larynx due to his paralysis, but through the use of vocal exercises, elasticity to that side was restored. "Music is my therapy. My diaphragm movement isn't normal yet, but it has really improved," he said. Sterrett-Bryant also had to retrain his voice. "I started out as a lyric tenor, but due to the effects of the accident, I could no longer sing in that range. A friend suggested I consider the baritone repertoire."

Encouraged by a blind actor, Sterrett-Bryant was inspired to write a play about his life experiences, which is currently in progress.

In today's stage production, Sterrett-Bryant will sing "Bring Him Home," from the Broadway musical "Les Miserables." Singing the song



*"Music is my therapy," says gold medalist James Sterrett-Bryan of Van Nuys, California.*

reminds him of his of duty in Thailand, where the correspondence he received usually included the words, "I pray for your safe return home." Sterrett-Bryant says, "That is my prayer for every one of our men and women actively serving in the 'War on Terrorism.'" We join him in that prayer.

## IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME AGAIN

We hate to think of leaving, but we need to remind all participants to check their departing transportation schedules in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Event Operations Center (EOC), located in the President's Room on the second floor. You'll need to know when your plane, train or bus is leaving prior to checking the shuttle schedule. Please have all luggage packed and ready to go well in advance of the bus or shuttle departure time. Participants who need help with their luggage should call the front desk and request

assistance. You must be in the front lobby at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled shuttle departure time. Any questions? Check with your team leader! Safe travels to everyone!

## OOPS...

We goofed. In yesterday's issue of the ArtsGram, in "Scenes from a Festival" article, we forgot to mention where the photos came from!

A great big thanks to William Aiken of St. Louis, Mo. for supplying us with those photos!

Thanks again, Bill!



### Brunch

Orange Juice & Cranberry Juice  
Fresh Seasonal Fruit Tray  
Scrambled Eggs, Chives & Cheese  
Chicken a La King & Honey Biscuits  
Bacon, Sausage and Ham  
Fire Roasted Vegetables & Fettuccini  
Home Fried Potatoes  
Caramel Streusel Coffee Cake  
Bagels & Cream Cheese  
Butter, Jellies & Marmalades

### Closing Banquet

Field Greens, Cheddar and Tomatoes  
Caramelized Shallot Vinaigrette

#### Choice of:

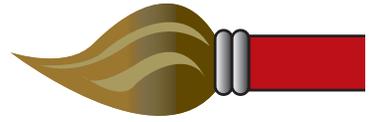
Baked Pork Chop  
Sage Stuffing & Gravy  
or  
Pecan Dusted Walleye Pike  
Roasted Garlic Lemon Cream Sauce  
or  
Eggplant Parmesan wrapped in Pastry  
Garlic Butter & Red Sauce  
Parsley Buttered New Potatoes  
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables  
Chiabatta Bread & Butter  
Chocolate Raspberry Torte  
Coffee, Herbal Teas, Milk

## WEATHER

Mostly Cloudy

41°





## Try Acrylic, The No-Fear Paint

There are as many ways to use acrylics as there are artists. This amazing medium can be used like watercolor on paper. The main advantage being that overwashes of color do not pick up underlying pigments. Each layer remains distinct and brilliant.

Some artists mix acrylic colors with matte medium and create a smooth as glass rendering on illustration board or Masonite. This sort of work requires careful advance planning as brush strokes are difficult to eliminate.

Acrylics can be a very forgiving medium. Titanium White can cover over just about any mistake you make. Think of it as White-Out for artists!

If you've never tried acrylics as an artistic medium, give them a try. The paints are relatively inexpensive, provide sharp, vibrant colors, and allow for a very fast paced way of painting.

If you're up to giving them a shot, here are a few specific ideas and cautions to make your own experiences with acrylics more successful.

1. Always keep your brushes in water and wash them frequently. Rinse the brush until the water runs clear, then hold a bar of soap in your palm. Twist the brush on it right down to the ferrule. Leave some soap in the brush at the end of your session and wash it out just before you resume the next day.
2. Use firm synthetic brushes. The golden or white ones work well. Bristle brushes lose hairs in your painting, which can be disheartening. The synthetic ones are resilient and sympathetic to the paint.
3. Keep your water as fresh as possible and use as little as possible when you are painting; it compromises the bond. If you want to do glazes, and acrylic is great for glazes, use gloss medium. Matte medium dulls your colors. This might be an effect you want, but you should be aware of it.
4. Buy your paint in jars and keep the old

jars. Mix your own colors as you empty them. When you have an assortment of custom mixes, you can do repairs or changes easily.

5. Keep the lids on your colors as much as possible. Pour or squeeze a little paint into a food storage container (the flat kind with a lid), then mix and apply, or apply directly to the painting and mix on the surface of the canvas. Do not have too much paint out at one time. It

does dry fast and you don't want that to happen in your jars or tubes.

6. Varnish your finished painting after it is completely dry. This time varies with the climate and the thickness of your application. Varnishing evens out the surface gloss and helps control static.

7. Keep an open mind and have fun! You may discover a whole different painting style inside your own mind, unlocked by a new medium.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



### OH MY GOSH! THIS IS IT!

Today's the day we've been looking forward to – our Festival performance. We've worked hard, and I know it will be grand! Here are a few last minute hints:

1. Got everything? Before you get on the bus for the theater, be sure you have EVERYTHING you need. Make a pile of what you want to take and add items as you think of them.
2. Last minute rehearsal: Run through your act in your room or rehearsal area, just to sharpen all of the details.
3. Review the ensemble songs. Take the time to run through any part of the chorus music that you don't know absolutely solid. Avoid having the camera be on YOU right when you're searching for words.
4. Be quiet and relax. Use the morning to rest so you can "explode with energy" when you hit the stage.
5. Don't wear yourself out at the theater. When you are backstage, don't talk loudly and run around a lot. Stay cool and calm; save your strength for the audience on stage.
6. Take slow deep breaths just before your solo act. Get ready as you wait for your entrance by focusing your mind on how you will "take" stage and the first part of your performance.
7. Smile all the time you are on stage.
8. Find that extra ounce of pizzazz you've been saving up. Use it now!
9. Smile and look pleased as the audience applauds after your number. Acknowledge the applause with style.
10. Thank and support everyone! Show your appreciation to all those who are helping with the show and praise your fellow performers when they do well.

There is a tremendous amount of dedication and talent in our show. Our success is guaranteed. Still, as they say, "Break A Leg!"

-- Paul Dieke

# TODAY'S SCHEDULE

## ARTISTS

## PERFORMERS

7am

7:30

8

8:30

9

9:30

10

10:30

11

11:30

Noon

12:30

1

1:30

2

2:30

3

3:30

4

4:30

5

5:30

6

6:30

7

7:30

8

8:30

9

9:30

10

10:30

11

Brunch at Hotel  
University Ballroom  
8:30-11:30 am

Interfaith Service  
VA Medical Center  
Chapel  
8:30-10 am

Team Leaders meet  
with Artists  
University Ballroom A  
11:30 am

Depart Hotel for Ted Mann Concert Hall 12 pm

Artists at Exhibit  
Ted Mann Concert Hall 1-1:45 pm

Art Exhibit and Stage Show Performance  
Ted Mann Concert Hall  
2-4:45 pm

Reception  
Ted Mann Concert Hall  
4:45-5:45 pm

Celebration Dinner  
University Ballroom  
7-9:30 pm

Social Time: Dancing & Karaoke Finale  
University Ballroom  
9:30 pm

Interfaith Service  
VA Medical Center  
Chapel  
8:30-10 am

Team Leaders meet  
with Performers  
H.H. Humphry Room  
11:30am

Depart Hotel for Ted Mann Concert Hall 12 pm

Art Exhibit and Stage Show Performance  
Ted Mann Concert Hall  
2-4:45 pm

Reception  
Ted Mann Concert Hall  
4:45-5:45 pm

Celebration Dinner  
University Ballroom  
7-9:30 pm

Social Time: Dancing & Karaoke Finale  
University Ballroom  
9:30 pm

A sincere **Thank You** to all of our **Rehearsal Assistants, Meal Volunteers, Photographers, Videographers** and **Workshop Instructors!**