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# Presenter Series 'King Michael' tickets on sale Monday

**BY DEAN POLING**  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — With individual tickets scheduled to go on sale Monday, the "King Michael" show keeps offering more for the audience.

The season-opening production of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series, "King Michael" tickets are already being offered at a discounted price of \$30, \$15 less than individual tickets for other visiting productions.

This Michael Jackson show was originally scheduled to visit Valdosta with two performers presenting the adult King of Pop. Now, the Valdosta show will also include a young performer singing Michael's songs from the Jackson Five era,

said Nancy Warren, Presenter Series co-chair.

Ivan Kelley plays young Michael.

Kelley is the performer who also played the young child in the Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah movie "Joyful Noise."

The Presenter Series "King Michael" synopsis: "From early moments with his brothers to his stratospheric rise to become the greatest entertainer of all time, this multi-media spectacular includes Michael Jackson's greatest hits: 'Billie Jean,' 'Beat It,' 'Thriller,' 'Man in the Mirror,' and more! Featuring artists who sing live while mastering the intense dancing that King Michael was famous for ... including a world-class dance company."

With Kelley joining the

older Jackson performers, Jeffrey Perez and Montray Cherry, the show will now include Jackson Five hits, like "ABC," "I'll Be There," etc.

The Presenter Series brings professional, national touring shows to Valdosta. Other shows in this year's season include "Nunset Boulevard," "Hooray for Hollywood," and "A Chorus Line." Season tickets are still available.

"King Michael" is scheduled to play 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. Ticket: \$30.

Reservations, more information: Visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); call (229) 247-2787; or visit the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

# The fabric art of Donna Leigh Jenkins

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Artist Donna Leigh Jenkins takes a different approach to the patchwork of quilts.

Her “Diet Crazy” presents quilt-work table settings, cloth broccoli and pearled green peas, swatches of bacon, etc. Placed across a table, the work becomes a setting for a fabric-food dinner, complete with fabric plates, napkins, and flat flatware. Add a few real glasses to the setting and the work becomes a surreal set-up of trying to determine what is three-dimensional and what has been sewn into place.

That’s the excitement and fun of Jenkins’ art, which suits her.

“I make art for the sheer joy of it, using color, texture, design and imagination to depict ideas that excite me,” Jenkins says in an artistic statement. “Humor always seems to find its way into the art, be it visual or verbal. After trying for years to become a ‘serious’ artist, I was finally successful in suppressing that unnatural urge and gave in to what happens naturally. Why not? Thus quilts/poems with a feel of fun and irony.”

In some of her works, Jenkins adds poetry. “Martha Stewart,” for example, depicts the famed television homemaker as the Statue of Liberty with Jenkins creating Stewart asides to Madame Liberty’s famed lines: Give Me Your Tired,

with Jenkins’ Stewart aside: I Have 21 Guest Rooms.

Her work is currently on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. It is an exhibit to be seen to fully appreciate. It is truly fun and something different.

“I make art because I cannot NOT make art,” Jenkins notes. “If my quilts don’t put a smile in your life then YOU have not read them the way that I wrote them.”

## GALLERY

**Artist Donna Leigh Jenkins** appears in Josette’s Gallery; along with artist Dominick Gheesling, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Vincent Keesee’s paintings, Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery; South Georgia Regional Library Summer Art Program, Roberta George Children’s Gallery; and the East African Collection, Tillman Gallery; Fine European Porcelain, Howard Gallery.

**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

**Run dates:** The shows run through Sept. 19.

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed. Sundays and Mondays (with exception of opening reception dates).

**Admission:** Free.

**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)



‘Martha Stewart,’ artist Donna Leigh Jenkins.



'Diet Crazy,' artist Donna Leigh Jenkins.

# Tapestry of Souls

## Presenter Series

2012-2013

Valdosta, Ga

**KING  
MICHAEL**

September 27, 2012

*Disco Goggles &*

**NUNSET BOULEVARD**

October 23, 2012

**HOORAY  
FOR  
HOLLYWOOD**

February 14, 2013

**A  
CHORUS  
LINE**

March 11, 2013

Contact the  
Turner Center for the Arts  
for season packages  
and ticket sales.

527 N. Patterson St.  
229-247-ARTS(2787)  
www.turnercenter.org

valdostadailytimes.com

# Opinion

Monday, August 27, 2012

## WHAT WE THINK

# Presenter Series: Home entertainment

**T**he Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hopes Valdostans remember there's no place like home for the best in professional entertainment.

Earlier this month, the arts center announced the 2012-13 Presenter Series season that brings professional musicals, concerts and performers to Valdosta.

In the coming months, Valdostans can see national tours of Broadway and Vegas-style shows such as "King Michael," a tribute to Michael Jackson, Sept. 27; "Nunset Boulevard," a comical musical starring Cindy Williams of "Laverne & Shirley" fame, Oct. 23; "Hooray for Hollywood," a live revue of songs from popular movies, Feb. 14, 2013; "A Chorus Line," the Broadway classic, March 11, 2013.

Our community will have the magic of Broadway and Vegas as close as Mathis City Auditorium.

For many years, the arts center has scheduled the

Presenter Series shows. These shows have become long-standing traditions with some families having kept the same seats year after year through their season tickets. Others discover a full season they would like to see each year. Some may love to see one or two shows while having no interest in the other productions.

Season tickets are on sale now; individual tickets for "King Michael" are expected to go on sale in the coming days.

We commend the arts center board and staff for its continued efforts in bringing the Presenter Series to life each season. The Valdosta Daily Times remains a proud sponsor of the Presenter Series.

**More information:** Visit the arts center at 527 N. Patterson St.; or the website, [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.

# A TALL DRINK OF WATER

Photographer's show finds something new in the old world

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Photographer Dominick Gheesling's camera seeks the "foreign world" that is The World.

"The landscape that was the birthplace of civilizations is now a foreign world to the majority of its progeny," Gheesling says in an artistic statement. "Fewer and fewer of us spend any considerable time outside of our climate-controlled environments. The only evidence I find of fellow humans when working in the field are the Red Wiggler tubs left by people subsistence fishing and the detritus left by adolescents looking for a place to do things that they will be ashamed of on Sunday morning."

Gheesling captures the forgotten lands that surround us. He slows down the world blurring past the windows of our speeding automobiles. He finds the alien landscape that is the native soil.

Hanging from the gallery walls of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Gheesling's photos serve as gray-toned portals into our lost-and-found world.

"The work is always about the place: It is visual evidence of a place that exists and a place that is affected by choices and actions of people who, for the most part, will never have known that it existed," Gheesling says. "I am from a region of the world where freshwater has been incredibly abundant and I've been thinking a great deal about water lately. Even in our little corner of the world, freshwater is becoming less abundant."

Living in Barney, Gheesling is a Valdosta State University assistant art professor. In addition to the Turner Center solo exhibit, Gheesling's work is on current display as part of the VSU Art Faculty Exhibition in the VSU Fine Arts



'Little River,' artist Dominick Gheesling.

Gallery. He has exhibited in numerous shows and spent earlier years working and studying in North Florida.

His Turner Center show creates a stunning impression, discovering a new landscape in the old world, weaving together textures, balancing contrasts in black and white both visually and philosophically.

"I like to believe that we are rapidly moving towards a new level of understanding as if we have been walking blind for a few centuries and the blinders will come off," Gheesling says. "So much of what has been held, even revered, as important will be revealed as the smoke and mirrors used for control.

"In the end, what will matter is what you will do for a tall drink of water."

## GALLERY

Artist Dominick Gheesling  
**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

**Run dates:** Through Sept. 19.  
**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed, Sundays and Mondays (with exception of opening reception dates).

**Admission:** Free.

6C Sunday, August 26, 2012

LIFE



'Gums Little River,' artist Dominick Gheesling.

## WHAT WE THINK

# The ripple effect of Dorothy Pearlman

**T**eacher, arts advocate, cancer center benefactor. These are just a few of the words to describe Dorothy C. Pearlman's long life. A few of the ways which she influenced, inspired and changed Valdosta for the better.

Dorothy Pearlman died last week at the age of 94. Though she spent her last days living with her son in Knoxville, Tenn., her impact will continue to be felt in South Georgia for years to come.

With her husband, Sidney Pearlman, who died several years ago, Dorothy Pearlman was instrumental in establishing the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, which eventually became the umbrella organization of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

It is this couple's name that greets patients and families as they enter the Pearlman Comprehensive Cancer Center at South Georgia Medical Center.

Dorothy Pearlman was able to make some of these things possible thanks to she and her husband's generosity in putting their money where their beliefs were.

But the example of Dorothy Pearlman's life runs deeper than monetary donations.

An advocate of the arts, the legend claims Dorothy Pearlman ran an arts center from the back of her car before LVAC found its pre-Turner Center home in a former office building near Valdosta State.

As a teacher, she inspired numerous students in the arts and academics. She influenced a new generation of area teachers, artists and leaders.

You see, Dorothy Pearlman didn't just believe in ideas and causes. She believed in people, too. Her life continues to influence and inspire through those whose lives have been changed by the people whose lives she changed.

# South Georgia's advocate passes

## Pearlman essential to region's arts, health

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — With Dorothy Carter Pearlman, it was always difficult to tell where one aspect of her life ended and another started.

She was a teacher who was more than a teacher, one who became a surrogate mother to many of her students.

She was a singer and actress, a performer and artist, who helped found the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts

Commission which is the umbrella organization for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

She was married to Roy Carter; a few years after he passed away, she married Sidney Pearlman. She was comfortable in the Christian church of her upbringing as well as in the Jewish temple of her marriage into the Pearlman family.

Along with Sidney's brother and sister-in-law, William and Margot, the Pearlmans helped establish the Pearlman Comprehensive Cancer Center at South Georgia Medical Center, and Dorothy Pearlman was the center's first patient.

Along with numerous clubs, honors, plays and charitable causes, Dorothy Hanahan Carter Pearlman was able to not only juggle all of these many activities but she managed to weave them into the fabric of her life and personality.

On Thursday, Pearlman died at her son's Knoxville, Tenn., home. She was 94 years old.

"She was larger than life," said Gale Thomas Eger, one of Pearlman's former students who considered her a surrogate mother. Eger even followed in Pearlman's footsteps, as the director of Lowndes High School's theatre for many years.

Eger noted in a Facebook posting regarding Pearlman: "Dorothy was 5-foot-nothing in spike heels and harlequin glasses who didn't hesitate to push anybody around if she thought that they might be standing in the way of advancing a cause that she embraced. Usually that cause involved the mental and physical feeding of young people. She fought for scholarships for those who needed them to achieve their potential ... She demanded perfection but would give you a bear hug worthy of a six-foot-six behemoth if she knew that you tried your best."

Of Irish stock, Dorothy Hanahan came of age in Chicago, according to friends. There, she worked professionally as a performer before turning her attention to teaching the

arts and arriving south in Lowndes County.

She reportedly arrived in Valdosta with a pony tail that bounced as she walked through the halls of Valdosta High School.

"She was unlike anything they had ever seen before when she moved down here," Eger says.

Married to Leroy Carter, Mrs. Carter became a teacher known for fighting for her students while accepting nothing less than their best.

**Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, 2012 in Sunset Hill Cemetery with Rabbi Moshe Elbaz officiating. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. Sunday at Carson McLane Funeral Home.**

Even years after retirement, she still over-articulated everything she said from years of emphasizing to students they shouldn't speak "mush." She stressed that students should not lose their Southern accents but should speak to be understood.

She often traveled with her knowledge of singing, skits and more to various schools throughout the city school system. She had a home studio where she taught area youngsters.

From Valdosta High School, she moved to Lowndes High School, teaching performing arts, leading the chorus, working with theatre, assisting band director Billy Martin choreograph half-time shows.

She was active throughout the entire community. Earlier this year, for the 25th anniversary of the Spring Into Art exhibit, artist and retired banker Eddie Norris attributed the start of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission to the efforts of Dorothy Pearlman.

He recalls the near sum total of Valdosta's artistic culture just a few decades ago being invested in one moving force of nature. "Dorothy Pearlman operated the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission out of her car," Norris says.

Through Norris' connections with First State Bank in the 1980s, the financial institution helped Pearlman and the arts commission acquire the former Langdale Turpentine building on North Patterson Street near Valdosta State as LVAC's

home. The building would serve as the arts center until the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opened in 2003.

"Ms. Pearlman's contribution to the arts in our community is unparalleled," said Cheryl Oliver, the Turner Center's executive director. "Before LVAC was incorporated in 1978, she led the charge to establish an arts commission in Valdosta. She was a tireless advocate for the arts."

Long-time friend Lena Bosch said, through the arts center, "Without Dorothy Carter Pearlman, arts in our community would still be struggling. She wouldn't take no for an answer and nothing deterred her determination to promote the arts."

Oliver said Pearlman "was a force to be reckoned with. We are profoundly grateful for her love of the arts, her gift for sharing that love, her tenacity, her support of the Turner Center (our gift shop bears her name), and for the legacy she left to our community. She enriched our lives and we will miss her."

While she enriched many lives through art, her participation in the Pearlman family's donation for a cancer center in the early 1990s has saved numerous lives.

Elizabeth Vickers, SGMC Foundation director, said the Pearlmans, brothers Sidney and William, and their respective wives, Dorothy and Margot, gave \$250,000 for the establishment of a cancer center in Valdosta.

At the time, it was the largest donation ever given to SGMC.

They wanted to help establish a center in Valdosta because cancer patients once had to travel to other cities and even faraway states for treatment.

An inability to travel to another state could often mean a death sentence.

While the Pearlmans gave the donation as a way to give back to the community, Dorothy Pearlman became one of the Pearlman Comprehensive Cancer Center's first patients and its leading early advocate.

Diagnosed with breast cancer, the center treated her. She understood immediately the benefit of being treated then having a short drive home as opposed to being treated in another town staying in a hospital or making a two-hour drive home.

Stressing the benefits of the cancer center that saved her life fit into the community spirit that was central to her personality.

"She was one of our finest ambassadors," Vickers said of Pearlman's advocacy for the cancer center.

She was one of Valdosta and Lowndes County's finest ambassadors as well.



Pearlman



# ARTS

FROM PAGE ONE

Show runs April 8-June 5.

## **ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRE- SENER SERIES**

Where: Shows play at Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St.

Reservations, more information: Visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org); call (229) 247-2787; or visit the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

NOTE: These shows are professional, touring productions.

### **SHOWS**

**KING MICHAEL:** 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27. This tribute to the King of Pop focuses on Michael Jackson as a young man up until his passing. A show which has been called "a music phenomenon," "King Michael" features two performers playing Jackson during the evening.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD:** 7:30 p.m., Oct. 23. This Presenter Series show stars Cindy Williams, famous for playing Shirley Feeney on the 1970s TV show "Laverne & Shirley." Williams reprises her role as Mother Superior from the original "Nunsense."

**HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD:** 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14. This musical extravaganza celebrates the expected movie musicals, such as a full-costume splashfest with "Singin' in the Rain," but it does something different. It doesn't just take selections from movie "musicals," it includes songs from other movies: Jake and Elwood shaking their tail feathers from "The Blues Brothers," for example.

**A CHORUS LINE:** 7:30 p.m., March 11. "A Chorus Line" opened in 1975 on Broadway with a book by James Kirkwood Jr. and Nicholas Dante, lyrics by Edward Kleban, and music by Marvin Hamlisch. Nominated for a dozen Tony Awards, the show won nine, including best musical, and it also scored a Pulitzer Prize for drama.

# Much to do in 2012-13

**BY DEAN POLING**

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**VALDOSTA** – With tonight's opening of four new exhibits at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and this week's premiere of Theatre Guild Valdosta's musical, "Into the Woods," the region's 2012-13 arts season returns.

Plays, musicals, concerts, art exhibits, recitals and more are all part of the coming year's entertainment. Community members, students and touring professionals will present these shows. We heard from several arts organizations and school arts groups. The following list is comprehensive but local folks will discover even more shows in the weeks and months to come.



CONTRIBUTED ART

**'Hooray for Hollywood' is one of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' Presenter Series shows scheduled for 2013.**

## **ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

Where: 527 N. Patterson St.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through

Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays. Most opening receptions, however, are 5-7 p.m. Mondays on designated dates.

Admission: Free.  
More information: Call

(229) 247-2787; or visit  
[www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

## **EXHIBITS**

- Artists Dominick Gheesling, Vincent Keese, Donna Leigh Jackins, South Georgia Regional Library youth. Shows run Aug. 6-Sept. 19.

- Artists Scott Fox; Smith, Pearl, McClain; GAEA Members; Southern Artists League. Shows run Sept. 24-Nov. 1.

- Artists Jeffrey Baisden; Volkmann, Moskovitz, Hofreita; Leslie Peebles. Shows run Nov. 5-Jan. 9, 2013.

- Hispanic-American Visual Artists Project, Draw-project 2013. Shows run Jan. 14-Feb. 20, 2013.

- High School Competition, Youth Art Exhibit, Art Contest Display Shows run Feb. 24-March 25, 2013.

- Spring Into Art 2013.

# Valdosta Daily Times

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Monday, August 6, 2012

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## An art for all seasons



FILE PHOTO: THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Dance Arts' The Nutcracker returns this year, again with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. This photo reflects last year's collaboration. Valdosta Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Conductor Howard Hsu, middle standing, with the Snow Queen, left, (Kathleen Ewing) and the Dewdrop (Larren Woodward) along with other cast members from left kneeling, Katherine Wakeley as a member of the Spanish Duet, Elyssa Velez as the lead Candy Cane, Caroline Scruggs as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Alana Gallegos as a member of the Spanish Duet.

**The Presenter Series Synopsis:** This "uproarious sequel to 'Nunsense' takes the Little Sisters of Hoboken from New York to Hollywood. Instead of a gig at the Hollywood Bowl, they wind up at the Hollywood Bowl-a-Rama. But when they hear that a big-time producer is auditioning people for a new movie musical, their spirits soar! Could this be the big break? ... Featuring all-new songs, audience participation and heavenly humor, it would be a sin to miss this zany new musical comedy ..."

**HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD:** 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. This valentine to songs from a diverse selection of movies is appropriately scheduled for Valentine's Day. This musical extravaganza celebrates the expected movie musicals, such as a full-costume splashfest with "Singin' in the Rain," but it does something different. It doesn't just take selections from movie "musicals," it includes songs from other movies: Jake and Elwood shaking their tail feathers from "The Blues Brothers," for example.

**The Presenter Series Synopsis:** "Take a nostalgic



**NUNSET BOULEVARD** stars Cindy Williams, plays Oct. 23.

journey through the most popular musicals of the last 50 years, featuring a cast of 14 wonderful

singers and dancers, a six-piece band and over 300 costume changes! Enjoy film clips of your favorite

movies from 'Singin' in the Rain' and 'The Glenn Miller Story' to 'Dirty Dancing' and 'Titanic' to Disney favorites 'Beauty and the Beast,' 'Aladdin,' and 'The Jungle Book.' 'Hooray for Hollywood' sings and dances its way through over 30 songs including 'Staying Alive,' 'All That Jazz,' 'Dancing Queen,' 'Jailhouse Rock,' and many more!"

**A CHORUS LINE:** 7:30 p.m., March 11, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. The season closes with one of the most famous Broadway musicals. "A Chorus Line" opened in 1975 on Broadway with a book by James Kirkwood Jr. and Nicholas Dante, lyrics by Edward Kleban, and music by Marvin Hamlisch. Nominated for a dozen Tony Awards, the show won nine, including best musical, and it also scored a Pulitzer Prize for drama. It was the longest running Broadway show until "Cats" passed it.

**The Presenter Series Synopsis:** "In an empty theatre on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For 15 dancers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's the one opportunity to do what they've always

dreamed ... to have the chance to dance!"

This year's season tickets offer a complete season package of all four shows for \$150; or a final three-show season package, minus "King Michael," for \$125.

Season tickets also ensure holders can expect the same seats for each show and can even ensure acquiring some of the best seats in the house, Warren says.

**PRESENTER SERIES SPONSORS:** The Valdosta Daily Times; First State Bank & Trust; Georgia Power; IPG Architects and Planners; Langdale Vallotton, LLP; Dr. James Sinnott & Dr. Edward Fricker families; Stifel Nicolaus; WALB NBC 10 Valdosta. Hospitality Partner: Holiday Inn & Conference Center. Technical Partner: Wild Adventures. Other Community Partners: Fairway Outdoor Advertising; Cowart Electric; Industrial Contractors.

**Reservations, more information:** Visit [www.turner-center.org](http://www.turner-center.org); call (229) 247-2787; or visit the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

**NUNSET BOULEVARD:** 7:30 p.m., Oct. 23, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 Williams St. This Presenter Series show stars Cindy Williams, famous for playing Shirley Feeney on the 1970s TV show "Laverne & Shirley." Williams reprises her role as Mother Superior from the original "Nunsense."

# Presenter Series presents a season of musical sensations

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — From a “Thriller” to more “nun-sense” to Hollywood hits to “one singular sensation,” the 2012-13 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Presenter Series is posed to be a memorably musical season.

Starting this week, season tickets will be available, say Nancy Warren, Presenter Series chairperson, and Joanna Nijem, co-chair. A discounted season ticket is also available. Individual tickets for the first show will be available after Labor Day in early September.

The Presenter Series season starts earlier than in recent years, breaking with the routine of one show later in the fall and three come the new year. This season features two fall shows and two more shows in early 2013.

“The Turner Center is proud to be South Georgia’s presenter of professionally produced Broadway and performing arts nationally touring shows,” Warren says.

This year’s Presenter Series shows are:

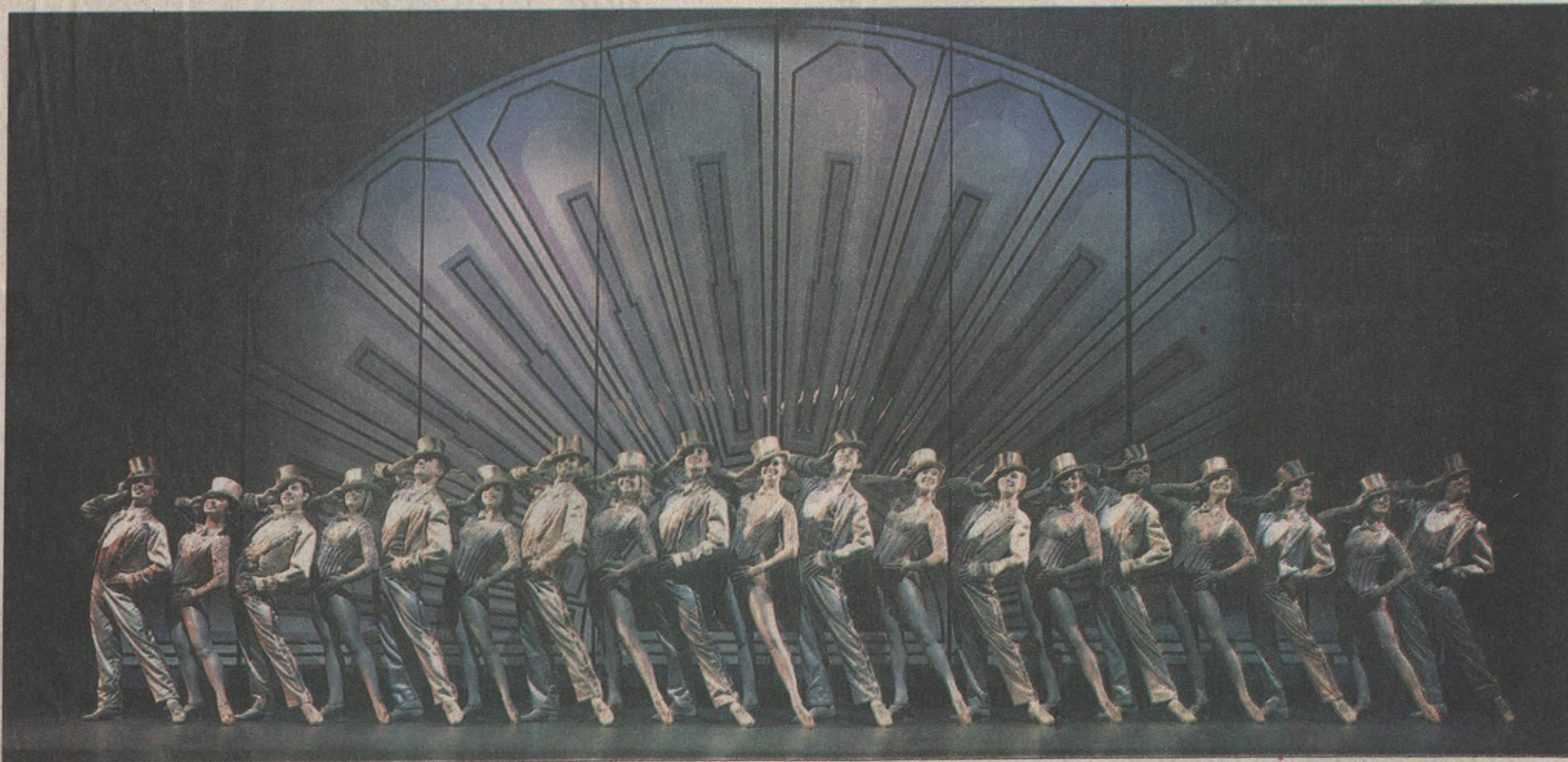
**KING MICHAEL:** 7:30 p.m., Sept. 27, Mathis City Auditorium, 2300 N. Ashley St. This tribute to the King of Pop focuses on Michael Jackson as a young man up until his passing. A show which Warren calls “a music phenomenon,” “King Michael” features two performers playing Jackson during the evening.

**The Presenter Series Synopsis:** “From early moments with his brothers to his stratospheric rise to become the greatest entertainer of all time, this multi-media spectacular includes Michael Jackson’s greatest hits: ‘Billie Jean,’ ‘Beat It,’ ‘Thriller,’ ‘Man in the Mirror,’ and more! Featuring artists who sing live while mastering the intense dancing that King Michael was famous for ... including a world-class dance company.”

This Presenter Series kick-off show also has a reduced individual ticket price of \$30 compared to \$45 for the season’s other individual show tickets.



**KING MICHAEL:** Sept. 27.



A CHORUS LINE: March 11.

# A Thriller of a Season

# Signature of Style

### Keesee's paintings return to arts center

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Vincent Keesee doesn't need to paint a signature on his canvases. At least he doesn't if you've seen his name on a few of his paintings regionally through the years.

Keesee's style is signature enough. That style has been apparent on paintings which Keesee has exhibited in shows such as Spring Into Art through the years and now in his second one-man show opening Monday evening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Within his swirling paint strokes, Keesee populates his canvases with people eating barbecue, dancing to music, working farms. His are tableaux of Southern life portrayed in the South's towns and in its fields.

His people and his scenes have something of the cartoon to them, but it is a distinguishable style of painted cartoon that makes his people and the scenes so recognizable. There is an indelible style to his portrayals of people, as if Van Gogh developed colorful comic strips.

Even further, underneath the rhythm and humor, there is something of the sublime, a certain spiritual cadence, a way of life



'Casting Out Demons,' artist Vincent Keesee.

captured in a world set apart, a world that is distinctly its own, but a world that is tangible and familiar. There is a religiosity to Keesee's work and not just in the apparent adaptations, such as his "The Prodigal Son," which takes the biblical story and updates it to a battered young man's homecoming to a Southern farm. He adds a

Southern spin to the biblical tale of the Samaritan woman at the well.

There is reaffirmation in his paintings, in the familiarity of their going through the paces of their painted lives, lives which reflect the swirling rhythms of our own lives.

Keesee is a Tifton-based artist, who received a doctorate in art history in 1972

from the University of Georgia. He studied painting with Lamar Dodd, Howard Thomas and Joseph Swartz. He describes his favorite artistic themes as gospel music, country church services, and contemporary rock music scenes.

"Often they are depictions of several generations done with humor and

insight into the Southern family mystique." Keesee's bio noted a few years ago. "He has also painted canoeing and rafting on Georgia rivers, rabbit hunting in Southern fields and fox hunting in Virginia."

It's Vincent Keesee's world, but it's our world, too. He just gives us all a new way to look at it.

### GALLERY

Artist Vincent Keesee's paintings are on exhibit in the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery, along with other new shows by artist Dominick Gheesling, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; artist Donna Leigh Jenkins, Josette's Gallery; South Georgia Regional Library Summer Art Program, Roberta George Children's Gallery; and the East African Collection, Tillman Gallery; Fine European Porcelain, Howard Gallery.

Where: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Reception: The shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6.

Run dates: The shows run Aug. 6 through Sept. 19.

Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed, Sundays and Mondays (with exception of opening reception dates).

Admission: Free.

More information: Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)



**CORRECTION**

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

The wrong last name was initially given to The Times for an honorable mention in the Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest. Lauren Burgess re-

ceived an honorable mention (age 14 and under) in the Lights, Camera, Action (People Expressing Art) category for her photo "Path of Creativity."

**BEST OF SHOW (Age 14 and under):** 'The Perfect Spot,' Megan Ford.



**OVER THE RAINBOW FIRST PLACE:** 'Sunset on Lakeshore,' Sally Querin.



**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS FIRST PLACE:** 'Second Thoughts,' Carolyn McMillian.



**IT TAKES A VILLAGE FIRST PLACE:** 'Life of a 2-Year-Old,' Theresa Alonso.





BEST OF SHOW: 'Upside Downtown,' Lin McMichen.

# People's Choice Photo Contest

The Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest announced its winners Friday evening at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. The contest received 106 entries in five categories. For the first time, the contest featured a category for youngsters 14 years and under. Here is a list of the winners.

**Best of Show:** "Upside Downtown," Lin McMichen.  
**Best of Show (14 years of age and under):** "The Perfect Spot," Megan Ford.

**Lights, Camera, Action (People Expressing Art)**

- First Place: Lin McMichen, "Backstage Sass"
- Honorable Mention: Becky Martin, "Dancer"
- Honorable Mention: (Age 14 and Under): McKenzie Ford, "Click!"
- Honorable Mention: (Age 14 and Under): Lauren Bass, "Path of Creativity"

**Over the Rainbow (This Beautiful City)**

- First Place: Sally Querin, "Sunset on Lakeshore"
- Honorable Mention: Greg Fricker, "Downtown Lights"

**Animal House (Furred and Feathered Friends)**

- First Place: Theresa Alonso, "Adoption"
- Honorable Mention: Rose Prince, "Adoptee"
- Honorable Mention (Age 14 and Under): Morgan Parish, "Lizzy"

**It Takes a Village (People Living Life)**

- First Place: Theresa Alonso, "Life for a 2-Year Old"
- Honorable Mention: Carolyn McMillian, "I Believe ..."

**Taking Care of Business (A City at Work)**

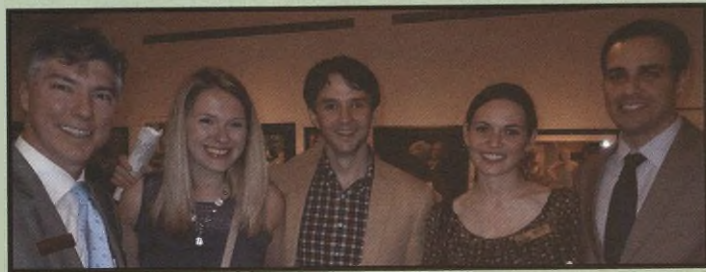
- First Place: Carolyn McMillian, "Second Thoughts"
- Honorable Mention: Tiffany Christie, "Take Care of Business"



LIGHT, CAMERA, ACTION FIRST PLACE: 'Backstage Sass,' Lin McMichen.

## Spring Into Art

The 25th Annual Spring into Art Exhibition at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts featured 441 entries by 233 artists. Spring into Art is the largest and most inclusive art exhibition held in this region.



L-R: Bob Goddard, Marriott and John Miller, Joanna and Bill Nijem



L-R: Turner Center Staff: Front: Tracey Timmons, Linda Facile, Nancy Smith, & Martha Douglas. Back: Roy Fricks, Cheryl Oliver, & Bill Shenton



Mary & Ed Crane



In front of the portrait of Annette Howell Turner, for whom the art center is named. L-R: Susanna Martin (Event Co-chair), Jeani Synard (Event Chair), Archie Waldron (Incoming Board Chair), and Gloria Boyette (Outgoing Chair)



Eddie & Ann Norris and Ingrid & Loyce Turner

# Opinion

Tuesday, July 24 2012

## WHAT WE THINK

# Photo exhibit: Unique glimpses of home

If you don't think there's plenty of talent in Valdosta and Lowndes County, take a look at the photo page in today's paper.

There, you will find some of the winning entries in the Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest. And to see more winners and even more entries, make a trip to the Tillman Gallery in the Annette Howell Turner Center for Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

Two things become obvious looking at these various images: Valdosta is an interesting and beautiful place; and South Georgia is blessed with many talented people.

Sponsored by the City of Valdosta, the contest asks area folks to take photos within the city limits. Participants don't have to live in Valdosta, but their images must reflect life within the city.

Photographers could enter images in five categories: Lights, Camera, Action (People Expressing Art); Over the Rainbow (This Beautiful City); Animal House (Furred and Feathered Friends); It Takes a Village (People Living Life); Taking Care of Busi-

ness (A City at Work). Also, for the first time, youngsters, ages 14 and under, could enter their works.

Exhibited for the past several weeks in the arts center, visitors were asked to cast votes for their favorite images. So, the people chose the winning works featured on our photo page.

Three years ago, the city received 39 entries in the first contest. This year, the fourth contest received 106 entries.

If you don't get a chance to see more of these photos at the arts center, they will soon be appearing in areas throughout the region. A traveling exhibit will feature the photos at Valdosta City Hall, The Valdosta Daily Times, Valdosta Mall, James H. Rainwater Conference Center, South Georgia Regional Library, Smith Northview Hospital, City of Valdosta Customer Service Center, Valdosta Regional Airport.

Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest is a fine look at the place where we live and work.

It provides unique glimpses into the familiar place many of us call home.

# People's Choice Photo Contest names winners

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — A photo capturing the unique perspective of the Lowndes County Courthouse through a wine glass took the top prize Friday evening during the reception of the Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest.

Lin McMichen's "Upside Downtown" won the Best of Show award. She captured the reflected image of the courthouse through a wine glass from her perspective atop Downtown Valdosta's Steel Magnolias restaurant.

McMichen's photo received the largest amount of people's votes, said Semantha Mathews, City of Valdosta public information officer.

That's how the People's Choice Contest works. Since the 106 entries were opened to public view in early June, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts visitors have had the opportunity to vote on their favorite photos in the contest.

"The talent we have here in Valdosta is amazing," said Valdosta Mayor John Gayle.



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Lin McMichen won the Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest's Best of Show award Friday evening for her photo 'Upside Downtown.'

In 2009, the City of Valdosta created the contest to present an opportunity for anyone to take a photo with the rule that the picture must be taken within the Valdosta city limits. The idea: Capture photos that demonstrate the beauty of Valdosta, scenes that can be found as close as our back yards, Mathews said.

The city received 39 entries that first year.

Participants could enter photographs in five categories. This is also the first year which the contest offered a 14 and under category. Megan Ford's "A Perfect Spot" won the Best of Show for 14 and under.

Other winners include:

## Light, Camera, Action (People Expressing Art)

**First Place:** Lin McMichen, "Backstage Sass"

**Honorable Mention:** Becky Martin, "Dancer"

**Honorable Mention (Age 14 and Under):** McKenzie Ford, "Click!"

**Honorable Mention (Age 14 and Under):** Lauren Bass, "Path of Creativity"

## Over the Rainbow (This Beautiful City)

**First Place:** Sally Querin, "Sunset on Lakeshore"

**Honorable Mention:** Greg Fricker, "Downtown Lights"

## Animal House (Furred and Feathered Friends)

**First Place:** Theresa

Alonso, "Adoption"  
**Honorable Mention:** Rose Prince, "Adoptee"  
**Honorable Mention (Age 14 and Under):** Morgan Parrish, "Lizzy"

## It Takes a Village (People Living Life)

**First Place:** Theresa Alonso, "Life for a 2-Year-Old"

**Honorable Mention:** Carolyn McMillian, "I Believe"

## Taking Care of Business (A City at Work)

**First Place:** Carolyn McMillian, "Second Thoughts"

**Honorable Mention:** Tiffany Christie, "Take Care of Business"

The photos remain on exhibit for the next week and a half at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.



DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Valdosta Mayor John Gayle poses with a few of the winners named Friday evening in the Fourth Annual Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.**