
First "Iron Chef - Elm City" Debuts

Gateway Community College, the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau, New Haven Office of Cultural Affairs and Market New Haven are presenting the first "Iron Chef - Elm City" as a precursor to the International Culinary Tourism Association Symposium on Sunday, April 27 from 3-5 p.m. at 60 Sargent Drive.

The format will be based on the hugely popular Food Network *Iron Chef* program and will feature local chefs as participants and prominent culinary experts as the judges. The chefs will be provided with a list of five possible "secret" ingredients prior to the event. At the event, the chefs will be notified of the selected ingredient and will be required to create an appetizer, entrée and dessert. The celebrity judges will then evaluate the dishes and a winner will be crowned.

Chefs slated to compete are Denise Appel of Zinc, Arturo Franco-Camacho of

Bespoke and Jean Pierre Vuillemeret of Union League Café. Judges will include Erik Wolf, president & CEO of the International Culinary Tourism Association; Jacqueline Miconi, an East Haven native and author of *Celebrate . . . Italian Style* and *Recipes from the Italian Village, With Wine Guide*; and Jason Hawkins, host of the television show *Eating CT*, who has written and produced a number of series for national networks such as the Food Network, HGTV and Discovery Channel.

Matt Scott of WTNH will emcee the event and Todd Lyon, a freelance food writer, will serve as commentator.

Wolf is recognized internationally as the founder of the culinary tourism industry. He has more than 20 years of experience in travel marketing and has worked with a variety of travel industry companies.

In addition to her cooking and writing skills, Miconi has been an educator for

close to 10 years. She has held discussions and signings at area retail outlets and has appeared on a regional television program.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased through the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau at 203-777-8550. Call early as registration is limited. ♦

A Busy Month at Long Wharf

Among the programs being offered this month at Long Wharf Theatre are an adaptation of a Toni Morrison novel and a play from a program that allows young professionals to learn their craft.

The Bluest Eye is running through April 20 on the Mainstage. The play is a co-production with Hartford Stage and is an adaptation by Lydia Diamond of Toni Morrison's acclaimed novel.

The Bluest Eye tells the haunting and tragic story of Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl coming of age in the racially turbulent 1940s. Her feelings ignored or scorned by the people around her, love always just out of reach, Pecola dreams of having blue eyes, the kind beloved by society.

This inventive production captures the lyricism and poetry of Morrison's work and delves into the meaning of beauty and how much impact community plays on the development of the human spirit.

Curtain times are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m.

In addition to this play, Long Wharf will be presenting *Phenomenon of Decline* from April 25-27 on the Stage II. This new play by Joe Tracz is part of Long Wharf's Next Stage program, an early career training program for young theatre artists.

Curtain times are Friday, April 25 at 8 p.m., Saturday, April 26 at 3 and 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

For more information on these and other events at Long Wharf, call 203-787-4282 or go to longwharf.org. ♦

Not Your Typical Bus Ride in the City

The Arts Council of Greater New Haven, in partnership with CT Transit, is presenting *Exact Change*, an afternoon of live entertainment on four New Haven city buses.

All performances will take place on Sunday, April 13 and will include poetry, theater, music and more.

Performances and participating bus routes include:

At 1:25 p.m., bus GF will depart from the Amity Shopping Center near 112 Amity Road in New Haven. Riders will journey down Whalley Avenue and enjoy a host of improv games performed by Meter Theater of the New Haven Theater Company, with each game using ideas and suggestions provided by the riders. Offered games will include "The Forgetful Tour Guide," "Is This Seat Taken?," "The Bell Tour Guide" and "The Musical."

At 1:30 p.m., bus D5 will depart from Walmart near 315 Foxon Boulevard in New Haven. Riders on this bus will take a trip down Grand Avenue while listening to a bilingual fusion of musical sounds and poetry by the Carlos Hortas

Collective. Poets and musicians will enter the bus at various stops along the way to enhance the riding experience.

At 1:33 p.m., bus D4 will depart from Hamden Plaza near 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden. Riders on this bus will enjoy Latin American folklore using music, movement, masks and puppetry by Teatro Del Sol y de la Luna of the New Haven Theater Company. Characters in the stories will enter and exit the bus at various stops along the way.

At 1:35 p.m., bus PMF will depart Putnam Place near 1245 Dixwell Avenue. Riders will travel down Winchester Avenue and relish in spoken word poetry with members of the Universal Art Movement.

All four buses will arrive at the New Haven Green at 2 p.m., where the artists will participate in a final performance.

For information about *Exact Change*, please call the Arts Council at 203-772-2788. Additional support for the program was provided the Connecticut Commission for Culture and Tourism and the Odonnell Company. ♦