

The High Desert

PALETTE

Dec. 2021, Vol. 2, No.4

EXCLUSIVE

Fear No Art, Pg. 16



DID YOU KNOW?

Wrapping Paper Gift Bag, Pg. 12

SAHNAS BROTHERS

Having Fun, Pg. 6

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WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette*! In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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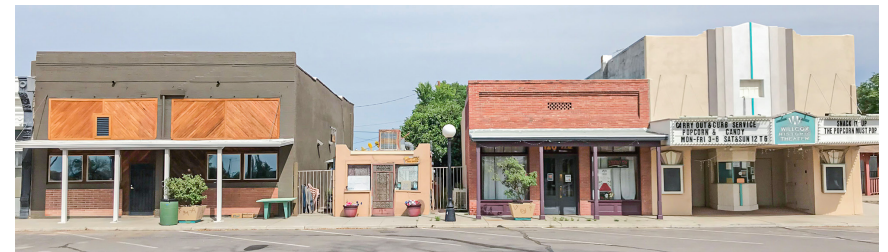


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SAHNAS BROTHERS

Having Fun
By Peter Spitzer

If you look up videos or go to the shows of Thano and Demetri Sahnas playing together, you might notice one specific but subtle aspect. They never stop smiling.

Throughout their performance you'll see them interacting with, and bringing out the joy in, their crowd, their music, and themselves. This boils down to one of their core values. As Thano put it, "Thirty years ago, before we really had our own thing going, we had

built a very small recording studio in a casita behind our parent's house. We got to work with a lot of musicians. We saw how they interacted with each other and what makes bands break up. We saw how people's agendas got in the way and made the music not fun for everyone. We learned to love music for the fun of it and to not take it too seriously."

Mischief-Makers to Musicians

So, how did this fun-loving brother duo get started? "Well, we grew up as two boys thirteen months apart. The Sahnas Brothers probably got started when we were just getting into trouble together; playing with firecrackers and trying to jump garbage cans with our BMX

bikes. That's when our team... our teamwork really began as eight, nine, ten-year-olds."

The roots for their musical talent came early, as there was always music in the home. "Music was a big part of the family, so my Mom of course took us to piano lessons. Demetri and I did not like those piano lessons. As a kid I didn't want to learn how to read music. So I would sing these songs we were learning in my head on the way home from the lesson, sit on the piano and work it out from memory until I could play it really good. So, for two years I faked it and didn't read the music, but ended up teaching myself how to play by ear. One day my Mom was playing a song on the Spanish guitar and I bet her \$5

that she could show me those four chords she was playing and I could come back in thirty minutes and play that song for her. I did."

A Unique Career

Before they knew it, the Sahnas Brothers were done taking piano lessons and moved on to guitar lessons. This new teacher happened to be in a "cool" band with a "very cool" bass player.

"One day my Mom was playing a song on the Spanish guitar and I bet her \$5 that she could show me those four chords she was playing and I could come back in thirty minutes and play that song for her. I did."

Demetri took a bass lesson one day which sent him down his own path of expertise while Thano kept on with guitar. By the time they were teenagers they had started a band. "We actually started doing traditional Greek folk music even though our



guitar lessons were all based on the prolific work of Led Zeppelin, Van Halen, and Ozzy Osbourne”, Thanos added with a laugh.

selling homemade cassettes, playing at school events, starting a rock band, and making a name for themselves before many musicians even get started.

Not enjoying that type of music, their Dad stumbled upon a Greek bouzouki (a kind of large mandolin) in a pawn shop and placed it in the corner of the house. The brothers naturally picked it up, started messing around with it, and eventually learned a few traditional Greek songs on it.

This continued with them playing at the local Greek Orthodox Church. Soon their young career launched into

“ I’ll make the story short by saying it took ten years to get good enough to sell our music, ten years to wreck our credit trying to make a name for ourselves, and now it’s just managing requests.”

Sounding like a spectacular start, Thanos made sure to ground these experiences as a musician. “Eventually we both got jobs in our twenties and eventually left those jobs to pursue music no matter how little it paid. I’ll make the story short by saying it took ten years to get good enough to sell our music, ten years to wreck our credit trying to make a name for ourselves, and now it’s just managing requests.”



Thanos’s advice for aspiring artists is consistent with his life lessons. “Just do it because you love it. If you enjoy it yourself, people will be attracted to it like a magnet. Because it’s genuine. Count the dollars later because nobody makes enough money in music to consider it a secure job. One day you’ll be on top of the world and able to pay your bills and the next day you’ll be stranded. I’ve had it happen several times, but I just go back at it because I love it and the waves seem to clear.”

their career. “We used to do the arts and crafts festival circuit. We would have these three-day events multiple times a year where we would perform on the street every twenty minutes. We would talk with and meet the most fun and interesting people. That carries to today where in between sets at performances we like to go out and talk to the crowd and thank them for coming. It’s more fun for us and

“ Just do it because you love it. If you enjoy it yourself, people will be attracted to it like a magnet. Because it’s genuine.”

it helps the experience feel more complete. We truly believe it’s a blessing that someone would come home from work, put on a clean shirt, and bring a date to see us. That’s a real honor that someone would be that excited to come hear our music. We respect that and it keeps us humble.”

Staying Accessible

From these varied experiences the Sahnas Brothers have discovered their spirit, and what has carried

See Sahnas Brothers perform live at The Palace of Art and Theater!



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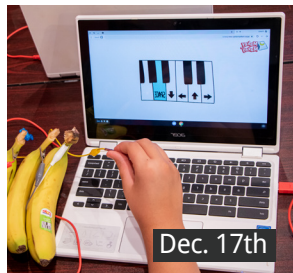
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Dec. 17th



Sahnas Brothers

Enjoy the beautifully blended sounds of Greek culture and classical Spanish guitar that is Sahnas Brothers!

Dec. 17th

Paint Night

Paint along with a talented instructor as she walks you through a step by step tutorial on how to paint.



Dec. 18th

Jam Session

Join a group for adult musicians to meet and "jam" together for the purpose of entertainment and proficiency.



Dec. 21st

Kids Art Club

Have a creative kid? Maybe a kid that would be interested in artistic activities? Well this free art club is for them!



Jan. 7th

ACE of Arts

Be a part of this creative endeavour led by Monica Cronberg. Bring your own lunch for a mid-day social break!



Jan. 12th

DID YOU KNOW?

How to Make a Gift Bag out of wrapping Paper

By Joshua Allred

Spread holiday cheer with this unique and personalized way to wrap Christmas gifts!



2. Once you have a gift selected, measure out and cut a piece of wrapping paper large enough to comfortably encircle your item. Lay the wrapping paper down flat with the patternless side facing up.



1. For this project you will need at least wrapping paper, scissors, and tape. If you would like to embellish your gift bag in any way you may choose to incorporate ribbon, twine, bows, or other such decorations.



3. Fold the left and right sides of your wrapping paper in until they meet in the middle. Apply tape up and down the entirety of the seam.

4. Fold up the bottom of your bag. Fold the left and right sides of the bag in to create a diamond shape. Finally, fold in the top and bottom of the diamond shape to meet in the middle and tape the seam. These folds create the bottom of your bag.



5. Open up your bag and insert your selected gift. Fold the top of your bag over and seal it with tape. Embellish the top with decorations of your choice. We used a hole punch to make a space to tie a bow from simple twine.

Get in the holiday spirit with Gary Clement on pg. 22

2021-2022 SEASON OF LIVE EVENTS.

The 2021-2022 Season of Live Events is here! Prepare for classic country, fantastic guitar, finger-pickin', and fiddling-and so much more!



Cindy Rae

Enjoy the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar

Sep. 17th



Igor the Jazz Cowboy

Enjoy the "Jazz Cowboy" and his story songs that cover the U.S. borderlands from the Deep South to the Wild West.

Oct. 15th



The Manhattan Dolls

Tap your feet to a swing-style female vocal trio with the sound of The Andrews Sisters!

Nov. 19th



Sahnas Brothers

Enjoy the beautifully blended sounds of Greek culture and classical Spanish guitar that is the Sahnas Brothers!

Dec. 17th

'HEDY! The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'

See the one woman wonder, Heather Massie, perform 'HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'!



Jan 29th

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker

Appreciate music inspired by the string bands of old Appalachia and the early stars of country music!



Feb. 18th

J Scott Howard

Enjoy riveting renditions of tunes ranging from Motown hits to Texas Troubadour classics.



Mar. 18th

Sticks and Tones

Embark on a voyage of heart and mind with this duo's performances of classical, flamenco, jazz, ragtime, and world music



Apr. 30th

Learn more about our performers and their performances on our website at willcoxtheater.com and facebook page @willcoxtheaterandarts! Tickets are available for purchase on our website! Get yours today!



LYNSEY JOHNSON

Fear no Art By Joshua Allred

Art is neither easily defined nor contained by media, method, or motive, but seems to have one transcendent prerequisite. Art makes us feel. A notion well observed by Lynsey Johnson, who uses literature, ideas, and symbolism as an inspiring basis for her artwork. "I like the ability to express myself freely and without judgment. I like being able to provoke feelings in other people."

Her unique style and subject material, which incorporates mediums ranging from acrylic paint to gold leafing and drywall mud, has been empowered by the sentiment "fear no art". A quote that had impressed her since she was a child, but has taken years

to really understand. "I had it engraved into my iPod when I was really young, but I don't think I really understood it."

Today she believes fearing art is doubting personal ability, time commitment, and failure in artistic endeavor. Lynsey's bold approach to her artwork enables her expressive paintings and allows unreserved dedication to a craft. "You only have a certain amount of time to do anything, and when fear builds up it's like that almost manifests itself even more."

Spontaneous Work

"College isn't for everyone" is a sentiment that rings true



regardless of circumstance or personal preference, but seems especially the case with art. While Lynsey attended ArtCenter College of Design, she personally felt as if school was more a stone in her road to artistic expression than an enabler of success. "I don't feel like I learned that much from that school to be honest. I felt like it stifled my creativity and flow."

Lynsey explained that college felt too rigid and cold to promote real

personal artistic articulation. "A cold environment doesn't lead to a spontaneous work."

" I feel like its a spiritual quest. I feel like if anyone were to spend time doing art they'd experience self development and reflection."

Her passion for expression, symbolism, and fluidity in her artwork prodded personal experimentation. She allowed art to be a form of growth for herself rather than a rulebook for

regimented success. "I feel like it's a spiritual quest. I feel like if anyone were to spend time doing art they'd experience self development and reflection."



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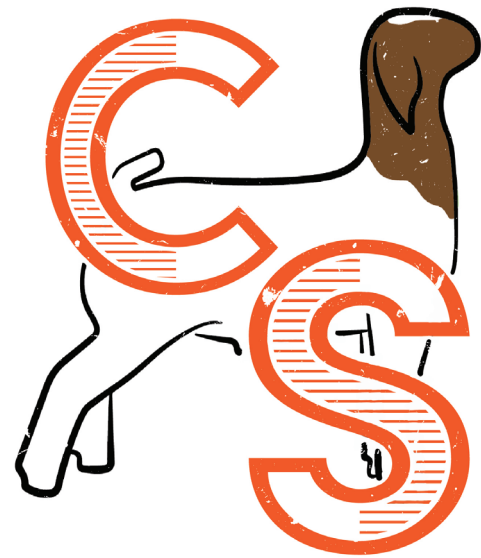
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GARY'S TOP 5 CHRISTMAS MOVIES

By Taylor Belden

Watching Christmas movies with family is a tradition that started as early as the 1930s! About 60% of U.S. residents say they maintain this practice today. We all have our own "must see" Christmas movies. We asked our very own favorite movie guy, and Director of Operations for Willcox Theater and Arts, Gary Clement, what his top five Christmas movies are. His list does not disappoint, and we have to ask; have you seen any of these movies?

In discussing Christmas movies Gary identified a couple things that he feels are important in any well done festive film. "I think every good Christmas movie has to correlate with the Christmas setting and has to have that overall inspirational message that things work out in the end."

1. Number one on his list is A Christmas Carol: The Musical (2004), starring Kelsey Grammer. Everyone



knows and loves the timeless tale of the old miser, Ebenezer Scrooge; his story of self reflection, and eventual redemptive revelation. Gary says, "I think the music and the acting were beyond reproach and it makes it one of the better movies ever. It's a very good family movie. Because it is a Kelsey Grammer movie, it makes you retrospect and think about things. "

2. Second is, White Christmas (1954), starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. "Growing up I wanted to be an actor. The person that I aspired to the most would

have been Danny Kaye. I think anything Kaye does is amazing because he's so versatile."

Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye play ex G.I.'s who form a successful song-and-dance partnership. When their old general (Dean Jagger), finds himself with financial difficulties the boys team up with the charming sister act (Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen), to save the gennerals failing Vermont Inn. "To watch Kaye be so versatile, going from the sidekick oddball, to doing a song where he has to be serious, back to being silly and being the second to Bing Crosby, is just amazing. It's a good Christmas movie because it has a good feeling to it, a good message," Gary Concluded.

3. Holiday Inn (1942) comes in at a very close third. In this Irving Berlin musical, Jim (Bing Crosby) and Lila (Virginia Dale) are members of a performing trio who plan to quit and run a country hotel. When Lila says she has fallen in love with the dancer in act, Ted (Fred Astaire), Jim leaves town with a broken heart. After turning the inn into a holidays-only live entertainment venue, Jim winds up booking – and falling for – Linda (Marjorie Reynolds). But when Ted shows up at the place after being dumped by Lila, he too sets his sites on beautiful Linda.

4. Sitting at number four is A Nightmare Before Christmas (1993). This film follows Jack Skellington,



Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king. Jack starts to become bored of the same routine of frightening people in the "real world" when he accidentally stumbles on Christmastown and falls in love with the bright colors and warm spirits.

He plots to kidnap Santa Claus and take over his roll of Christmastown, but soon discovers that even the best laid plans can go awry. "I love the story and music. Overall, it's a fantasy type movie and combines several different holidays into one. The overall theme is family, friends, and that everything can turn out right in the end. Even if things go wrong."

"It's a really good, down to earth Christmas movie, about family and knowing that you need to find what you want in life."

5. Holiday In Handcuffs (2007) starring Melissa Joan Hart and Mario Lopez, is number five. Gertrude Chandler (Melissa Joan Hart) finds herself in a pinch when her boyfriend dumps her right before Christmas. Amidst the pressure to please her parents she ends up kidnapping the "perfect"

boyfriend (even if it's a federal offense) to bring home for the holidays.

This movie reminds us of a Hallmark movie, which many love! "There are some Christmas Hallmark movies that I think are

wonderfully made. I like this movie because it's a really good, down to earth Christmas movie, about family and knowing that you need to find what you want in life."



Learn how to give a personal touch to gift wrapping this holiday season on pg. 12

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The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

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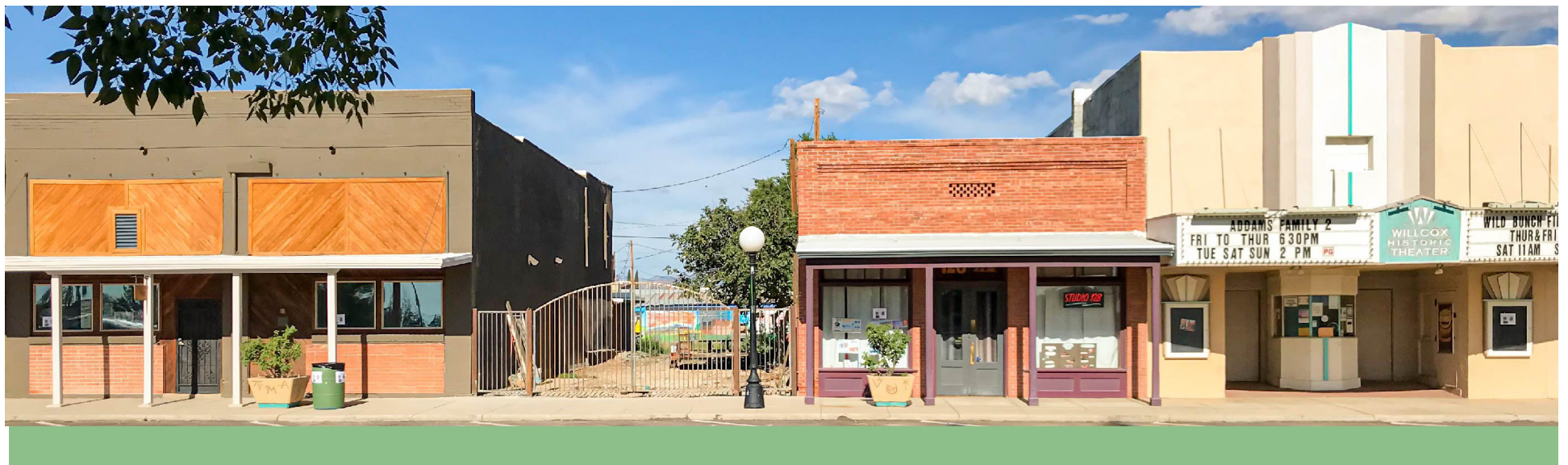
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