

## Jean Brenner: Review Langhorne Players' "Mr. Hart and Mr. Brown" worth watching

Mr. Hart and Mr. Brown are not the real names of the leading characters in the fascinating Langhorne drama currently on the stage at Langhorne Players.

"Al Brown" is the name of a notorious criminal has dubbed himself while looking for his brother known as "Richard Hart" in the new life he created for himself as a respected sheriff on an Indian reservation.

"Ambrose Healey" (his real name) is the local reporter who stumbles on a situation so big he nearly gets killed while being true to his profession to "get the story."

Years later, a local historian ... a sort of librarian of the incident ... tells the story from his desk at the side of the stage, tying together the pieces as only he remembers them.

Four fine actors bring this spellbinding story to life. There are frequent close-call gunshots. There is a nasty beating. There is suspense. Most of all, there is really fine acting and excellent directing.

The capable director is Jonathan Edmondson, a student at the College of New Jersey with plans to pursue a career in theater, who has directed several previous shows, including the demanding "Rent."

Edmondson demonstrates the importance of using the stage wisely to keep the play interesting. He understands timing and pausing. He has cast and directed this play very, very well, making the story compelling.

Without talented actors, the play could be melodramatic, but these four men are outstanding. Damian Muziani portrays a jittery Mr. Brown, always looking over his shoulder to see who might confront him. He constantly dabs perspiration from his face and forehead. He loves opera and wine, but he has little regard for human life other than his own family. He is an enigma, and Muziani plays that character believably.

Also believable is Mr. Hart, who has brought some order to the reservation and helps to protect the people about whom he has come to care. While he



James K. Perri as Richard Hart and Damian Muziani as Al Brown star in "Mr. Hart and Mr. Brown."

is not above taking a life, he justifies his actions because of the other people he saves.

James K. Perri becomes Richard Hart on stage. He is strong and totally believable. For the most part, he is the good guy ... the one with the white hat. It was a pleasure to watch him act.

Another College of New Jersey student about to graduate with a degree in English, is Steve Munoz energetically playing the role of Ambrose Healey, a young, principled, starry-eyed reporter who grows up very quickly when he tries to stand up to Al Brown. It nearly costs him his life.

Munoz, the unexpected third point of the triangle, never broke character even as he became a bit tipsy, and even as he nearly died.

Finally, the story teller ... the Historian ... John Pinto. His historic tale is delivered in a series of monologues interrupted by the scenes of the story he is telling. Always excellent, Pinto is controlled and good humored and does not telegraph the play's twist at its conclusion.

Tami Amici designed an outdoor set appropriate to the story. Jack Bachtke designed

lights that resembled sunlight filtering through tree leaves. Vianna Fagel kept order as stage manager, and she handled the light and sound. Kelly Lake produced the play.

People who like to see drama well-acted and well-directed ... people like to see unusual theater ... will enjoy this new, unpublished play by Bruce Graham.

I predict more and more theater companies will want to present this two-hour drama. I hope when they accomplish that, they will have actors and a director as fine as the ones at Langhorne Players.

Shows are produced in the air conditioned or heated intimate theater with only 73 seats inside the Spring Garden Mill Tyler Park building on Route 332 between Newtown and Richboro, next to the Neshaminy Creek.

Additional performances of "Mr. Hart & Mr. Brown" are April 28, 29 and 30, and May 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. Weekday shows are at 7:30 p.m.; the Sunday matinee is at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or at 215-860-0818. The website is langhorneplayers.org.



Jeffrey Johnson stars in "Edie Beale Live at Reno Sweeney," at The RRazz Room at The Raven in New Hope April 29.

## "Little Edie's" 1978 cabaret act brought back to life

The RRazz Room at The Raven, in New Hope, presents Jeffrey Johnson in "Edie Beale Live at Reno Sweeney," at 7:30 p.m. April 29.

"Little Edie" Beale, of "Grey Gardens" fame, performed a cabaret act at Reno Sweeney Nightclub in New York City over the New Year's week of 1978 ; this is that act.

Gerald Duval, Edie's producer during the time of her appearance at Reno Sweeney has re-created the essence of those "seven magical nights" into one 75-minute show, using dialogue, songs and text from the historic shows resulting in a "not-to-be-missed, intimate evening" of the theater.

Enjoy, experience and witness what happened when Edie Beale

was "Live at Reno Sweeney."

The production also includes James Finley as Gerald and Zack Ford as David, the pianist.

The RRazz Room at The Raven, New Hope is located at 385 W. Bridge St., New Hope. Tickets are \$25 on the RRazz Room website or 888-596-1027.

Johnson was the artistic director of the LGBT Theatre Company, Ganymede Arts, in Washington, D.C. While he was there he conceived and starred in an all-male version of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," staged a punk rock version of "The Rocky Horror Show" at D.C.'s hottest nightclub and the East Coast premiere of "Lilies," as well as began the Ganymede Arts Fall Arts Festival.

## Kenyon portrays Julia Child in one-woman show at church

St. Philip's Episcopal Church welcomes Linda Kenyon, as Julia Child, performing her one-woman show, "Julia Says, 'Bon Appetit!'" by Clay Teunis, at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 23.

There will be a free-will offering.

Julia Child was an American cook, author and television personality who introduced French cuisine and cooking techniques to America. She was in the vanguard of "foodies," who by changing America's taste, helped create modern American culture.

While her public face and voice became familiar to all, the play focuses on her private side — especially the relationship with her husband, Paul Child. The play is a love story.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church is located at 10 Chapel Road,



Linda Kenyon as Julia Child.

New Hope. Visit [stphilip-newhope.org](http://stphilip-newhope.org) or call 215-862-5782 for information.

# Mark Your Calendar...

days, Doylestown. 215-340-7604. **Singles Connection**, non-denominational 45-and-older group, 7 p.m. Thursdays, Silverdale Brethren in Christ Church, 165 W. Main St. (Rt. 113), Silverdale. 215-593-9995.

**Special events**  
Women on Target Instructional Shooting Clinics, 8 a.m. & noon, Sat., Apr. 30, Easton Fish & Game Assoc., 2595 Redington Road East, Lower Saucon Twp. Register: 908-240-3645.

**Ribbon Cutting** for Quakertown's Park at 4th, 2 p.m., Sun., May 1, 4th & Mill Streets, Quakertown.  
**Short films** being accepted for Nassau Film Festival, deadline Apr. 30 for festival May 15. Submit online: [nassaufilmfestival.org](http://nassaufilmfestival.org)

**Spirituality**  
Swami Nirmalananda Saraswati free meditation, 6:30-8 p.m., Fri., Apr. 22, Solebury Club, 4612 High-

esian Drive, Buckingham. 215-794-3494.

**"We are the Shift: Changing Consciousness, Changing the Planet"** by Bette Hanson, 7:30 p.m., Wed., Apr. 27, New Hope Metaphysical Society, Pebble Hill Church, 320 Edison-Furlong Road, Doylestown. 215-242-0185.

**Listening At Locals** spirituality & life discussions, noon, Wednesdays, Local's Pizzeria, 1914 Hilltown Pike, Perkasie.

**Prayers for World Peace Class**, 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Sundays, meditation classes 7-8:45 p.m. & 9:15-10:45 Tues. & 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thur., Menlita Kadampa Buddhist Center, 54 Coryell St., Lambertville, N.J.

**Mirrors of Truth** religion/science conversation, 7 p.m., third, Tues. of month, St. Mark's Orthodox Church, 452 Durham Road (Rt. 413), Wrightstown. 215-345-4742.

**Buddhist teachings**, 7:15 p.m. Tuesdays & 8:45 a.m. Sats., Cross River Meditation & Mindfulness Center, 110 Harrison St., Frenchtown, N.J. 908-391-9079.

**Theater & performance**

**Improv Night**, 7 p.m., Fri., Apr. 22. **Oscar Hammerstein Festival**, Apr. 29-May 1, Bucks County Playhouse, S. Main St. New Hope. Show schedule: [buckscountyplayhouse.org](http://buckscountyplayhouse.org). Tickets: 215-862-2121.

**"Oliver"** by Academy of the New Church Secondary Schools, Apr. 22-24 & 29-30, Mitchell Performing Arts Center, 800 Tomlinson Road, Bryn Athyn. 267-502-4810.

**"Julia Says, 'Bon Appetit!'"** A one-woman show by Linda Kenyon, 2 p.m. Sat., Apr. 23, Warmister Library, 1076 Emma Lane, Warmister.

**The Other Side Comedy Show** with Sean Preston, Wed, Apr. 27 & May 11, Chambers 19, 19 N. Main St., Doylestown.

**"The Godmother"**, Apr. 29-30 & May 5-7, Phillips Mill Theater, 2619 River Road, New Hope. Tickets: 215-348-3312.

**Jeffrey Johnson** in "Edie Beale LIVE at Reno Sweeney," 7:30 p.m., Fri., Apr.

29, the RRazz Room at the Raven, 385 W. Bridge St., New Hope. Tickets: 888-596-1027.

**"The Days"**, Apr. 29-May 29, McCarter Theatre, 91 University Place, Princeton, N.J. Tickets: 609-258-2787, [mccarter.org](http://mccarter.org).

**"Altar Boyz"**, through May 15, The Pines Dinner Theater, 48 N. 17th St., Allentown. 610-433-2333.

**Trips & tours**  
**Longwood Gardens with High Tea**, Thu., Sept. 29. Deadline Aug. 26. 215-781-8591, 215-788-4138, Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation.

**River Lady Cruise** Jul. 12; reserve by Jun. 12. **Finger Lakes 5 days**, Sep. 25, reserve by Jul. 25. Neshaminy Activity Center, 1842 Brownsville Road, Treviso. 215-355-6967.

**Pittsburgh Express** bus trip, May 18-20, includes Fallington, Ft. 93 Memorial & Gateway Clipper cruise. Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation, 215-788-9408.

**Ireland Adventure**, June 22-30; **Eastern Caribbean Queen Mary Cruise**, Nov. 26-Dec. 8, by St. Mark School's Advisory Committee, Bristol. 215-788-9408.

**Vendors sought**

**Vendors sought** for St. John the Baptist Parish Carnival Jun. 8-11, 4050 Durham Road, Ottsville. 215-534-1970.

**Vendors Needed** for Indoor Flea Market, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat., May 7, Tylersport Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary, 125 Ridge Road, Tylersport. Reserve table: 215-257-5900 ext. 7.

**Volunteers sought**

**Newtown Creek clean-up volunteers** needed, 9 a.m.-noon, Sat., Apr. 23, Centre Avenue & Sycamore Street, Newtown. [newtowncreek-coalition.org](http://newtowncreek-coalition.org)

**Volunteers needed** to pick up litter for Nockamixon Township Clean-Up Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sat., Apr. 23. 610-847-5058.

**Volunteers needed** for training to administer doses of ADAPT Narcan Nasal Spray. Training 7 p.m., Thu., May 5, Upper Perkiomen Valley Ambulance Bldg., 2199 E. Buck Road, Pennsburg. Register: email [Clemens@newshoecure.org](mailto:Clemens@newshoecure.org)

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