

Longboat Key Life

January 12, 2007

Art, Real Estate and Community Life

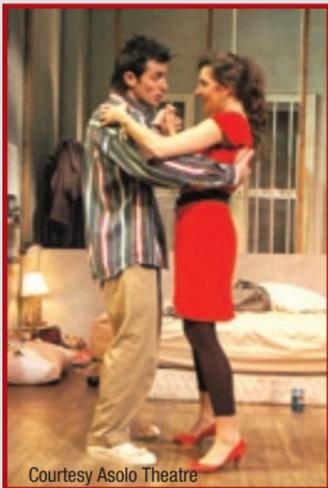
Section B

Asolo Conservatory's

THIS IS OUR YOUTH

Glenn and Carole Swope
Contributing Writers

We have become accustomed to some very good, but fairly tame, work from the Asolo. "This Is Our Youth" takes a hard-edged look at a phenomenon of today's youth culture - the rich offspring of successful parents who have trouble getting a handle on life. Barbara Redmond has directed a very tight little show and gotten stellar performances from these young actors.



Courtesy Asolo Theatre

Matt Brown as Dennis spends his time living what seems to him to be a full life, as he makes deals and tries to be an entrepreneur in everything from gadgets to drugs. He sees himself as the center of the universe, and others come around to soak up his wisdom.

Warren, on the other hand, has a way of offending everyone, including his father who has thrown him out of the house. His last resort is Dennis, who doesn't really want him, but whose ego is big enough to enjoy being his savior. Warren is played by Juan Javier Cardenas, as a real loser.

As youth will have it, trying to find some entertainment, Jessica comes into their lives. She is a friend of Dennis' girl. Warren finds her extremely attractive. She, too, is an Upper West Side misfit who is content to have some fun with Warren. Jessica, played by Jessi Blue Gormezano, is also trying to find where life is going to take her. She spends a night with Warren and then, as often happens, has second thoughts even though Warren tries to be tender and concerned.

Money is not really an issue for any of them. Dennis' parents pay his rent so they don't have to see him. Warren is in trouble with his father because, after being thrown out for doing nothing but smoking pot all day, he steals a huge amount of money from him. He wants to give it back, but in the meantime some of it gets spent, and Warren and Dennis hatch a plot to buy drugs, sell enough at inflated prices to pay Warren's bills, and have enough drugs left over to have some fun.

The drug buy doesn't go well, especially when one of their dealers is found horribly dead from an overdose. They are forced to confront their own mortality, and face the greatest horror of the future: - taking care of themselves.

This is an important play. If some harsh language and pot smoking offends

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Commissioners Talk Art

16th Annual Town Art Exhibit Roaring Success

Lia Martin
Associate Editor

It is rare to see Town of Longboat Key commissioners en masse outside of Town Hall meetings.

Once a year they break that tradition by opening the Town-sponsored art exhibit reception at the Longboat Center for the Arts.

They only looked slightly overdressed last Friday night surrounded by other patrons of the arts, who were mostly locals.

Longboat Key residents dress in their best, even for art openings.

Instead of tie-dyed T-shirts and bell bottoms, residents turned up in silks and suits with perfect manners.

All in all, a class event took place that night at Durante Gallery with an excellent food buffet provided by the Town, and the Scott Blum jazz band playing softly in the background.

The Town offered cash prizes for the Best of Show category, as well as First, Second, Third Place awards, plus a Special Awards category.

Each of the commissioners presented a prize, or two.

Mayor Joan Webster gave a \$1,000 check to Linda Lucas for the Best of Show award for her watercolor "Fiesta."

Vice-Mayor Lee Rothenberg presented the First Place award of \$600 to artist Diane Schmidt for her watercolor "Chameleon."

The Second Place award of \$400 was presented by Commissioner Jeremy Whatmough to Julie Trigg for her oil "Slash Pines of Fruitville Road."

Commissioner George Spoll presented the \$300 Third Place award to Karen Case for "Enro," a mixed pottery design.

Commissioner Randy Clair presented the Best Longboat Key Scene \$200 award to Mary Lou Johnson, a photograph titled "Morning Ritual."

Four Honorable Mention awards were presented by Commissioners Bob Siekman and Peter O'Connor, Mayor Webster and Vice-Mayor Rothenberg.

Honorable Mention

As part of his final judging comments, he posed a question to the viewers.

"No longer do we mentally ask ourselves merely 'How does it look?' but also 'How does it feel?'"

An artist himself, visitor Dennis Maggio, chose a personal favorite for himself.

He chose an acrylic painting by Marge Canfield called "The Gift, No. 2."

"It was honest and unpretentious," Maggio said about the painting. "It is full of life, reminding me of Chagall. Yes, it has a lightness of spirit."

I also had a personal favorite.

It was an abstract painting by Fernando Madridejos.

The painting is called "Voices of Confusion," and is a mixed media piece reminding me of the finest of Sydney Pollack's work.

Madridejos will be opening at the Art Center on Feb. 4.

Watch for my up-close-and-personal interview with the artist.

Awards should be presented to the supporting cast

at the Longboat Center for the Arts.

Christine Furguele was the chairperson, and Rosalind Jackson was judging chairperson, while Andy Anderson, Maxine Black, Barney and Betsy Bauerschmidt, Connie and Jim Cameron, Mary Dailey, Roger Driben, Susan Fink, Wilf Hewitt, Grace Hirsch, Jinny Johnson, Nancy Kane, George and Louise Kelegher, Carl and Ruth Meyers, Marvin Morse, Sally Mott, Shirley Noyes, Helene Peretz, Betty Rahm, Peter Richman, Marty Rosensweet, Mimi Siekman, Jerry Soble, Art and Joyce Tankersley, and Paula Wrightson worked on the exhibits, design, installation, and reception work.

The chairperson for design and installation was Paula Rosensweet.

The food came from Longboat Key "The Market."



From left, Dr. Robert "Bob" Kromer discuss jazz, as Linda Lucas poses in front of her painting, which won Best of Show.. Below, George Spoll, Randy Clair, Peter O'Connor, Bob Siekman, Jeremy Whatmough and Mayor Joan Webster prepare for award giving.

"No longer do we mentally ask ourselves merely 'How does it look?' but also 'How does it feel?'"

awards went to Dick Inman for "Cracker Kitty;" "Cliff View" by Joanne Smith, "Chava" by Fred Nagel; "Family Jars" by Susan Beecher; and "Citrus" by Raymond Rosen.

The art event was judged by Joel Seiden, who earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree from New York University, as well as studying at the Art Student's League, the School of Visual Arts, and the New School, all in New York City.

Seiden is a sculptor and oil painter.

