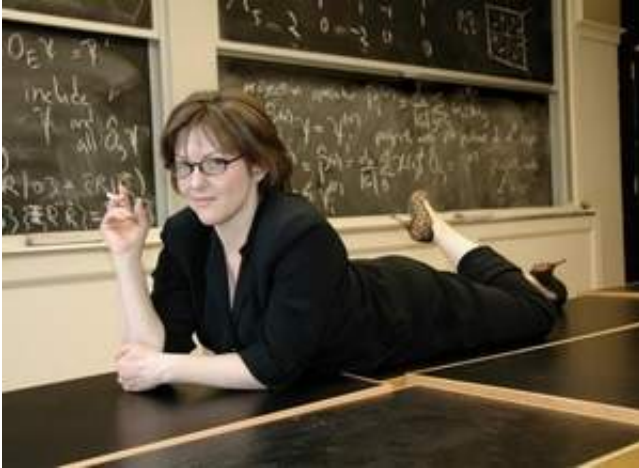


Art and science unite in Redfern Arts Center's 2012 lineup



MATH MADNESS: Actress and playwright Gioia de Cari brings her graduate school story to the stage in her humorous one-woman show "Truth Values: One Girl's Romp Through MIT's Male Math Maze." In her show, set for Feb. 2 at the Redfern Arts Center in Keene, the "recovering mathematician" explores gender roles in the male-dominated MIT math department. COURTESY

In its 30th anniversary season the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College continues its decades-long tradition of eclectic and groundbreaking performances with a one-woman show by a self-professed "recovering mathematician," a multimedia approach to an endurance-testing expedition in Antarctic, and an innovative dance performance blending movement and neuroscience.

By MEGHAN PIERCE

Union Leader Correspondent

Art and science collide in the Redfern Arts Center 2012 winter/spring season.

In its 30th anniversary season the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College continues its decades-long tradition of eclectic and groundbreaking performances with a one-woman show by a self-professed "recovering mathematician," a multimedia approach to an endurance-testing expedition in Antarctic, and an innovative dance performance blending movement and neuroscience.

"All of these pieces are about art and science colliding together and about how art inspires science and about how science can create some beautiful art," said Shannon Mayers, director of the Redfern Arts Center. "This really is an arts and science collision, a beautiful collision."

On Feb. 2, actress and playwright Gioia de Cari brings her graduate school story to the stage in her humorous one-woman show "Truth Values: One Girl's Romp Through MIT's Male Math Maze." In her show the "recovering mathematician" explores gender roles in the male-dominated MIT math department.

"It's not only about women in math and the stereotypes that they experience, but it's also about taking something you love and ... channeling it through grad school," Mayers said. "Her focus was logic and when she actually comes to the part where she quotes her own thesis, it's beautiful. You don't need to be a math student to understand this."

The show is to be followed by a panel discussion with de Cari with Keene State College's math and gender studies department chairs.

Although MIT has changed since de Cari was a grad student there and has shifted to celebrate women in math and science, stereotypes for women in the sciences still exist, Mayer said.

"Why is that still happening?," she said. "When women have passions in the math and sciences, are they nurtured or are they discouraged?"

On Feb. 15, the Phantom Limb Company presents its "historical extravaganza" titled "69° South: The Shackleton Project."

The puppetry company takes a multimedia approach incorporating their realistic puppets, which are operated by actors on stilts, with visual art and film. The show is an exploration of endurance, survival and the human

spirit in moments of crisis, Mayer said.

The Phantom Limb Company first approached the subject of Ernest Shackleton's famed expedition in the race to the South Pole because they had wanted to work with a visual theater style that uses a white set, Mayer said.

After a trip to Antarctica, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, the puppeteers discovered they would not merely be telling the tale of the expedition, but the crisis of climate change in Antarctica today and how human beings react to and overcome crises.

“It completely just changed their perspective, the impact the show was going to have, and their notion of the moment of crisis,” Mayer said.

The show also includes a score by the award-winning Kronos Quartet, inspired by the haunting recordings of ice breaking and shifting in Antarctica, which the Phantom Limb Company recorded on their trip.

Then on March 28 the Redfern stages “Brain Storm,” presented by the Everett Dance Theatre.

The innovative show is a result of years of research by the dance company, which studied the connection between movement and thought.

“They wanted to gain insight into their own thought process,” Mayer said.

In the neuroscience study the dance company worked with residents of Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield who had suffered neurological damage to learn how movements are relearned and how gestures originate in the mind.

The dance performance also explores how memories and emotions effect movement, Mayers said. “They take the exploration and put it through movement and multimedia to show the journey.”

All shows are set to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from the box office at 358-2168 or online at keene.edu/racbp.