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Behind it All – the Mad Drummer

Jan 9, 2022

Continuing with the Rogue Swan posts from the Christmas show at the Vandiver – holidays did leave me a bit behind on these. I'm opening with three images of JimmyO on drums. Almost impossible to get him during the actual show – after all, he's behind it all. And last show I missed rehearsal so he got missed completely. These are from the rehearsal the night before, with a few noted adjustments.

While my favorite was the opening image, it had a boom mic prominently running through his head and out the other side. Sort of put a damper on the effect. So I eliminated it – lots of fun. Other wise it's pretty straight – well, there is the double-raw conversion process I use on iso 12,800 exposures. The particularly harsh lighting, what there was of it, helps more than hurts.

The following two in the set screamed for a little vignetting, as well as the bow in the final shot absolutely demanding to be removed – as it adorned JimmyO's head as if he were wearing it. Cute, but...



Finally a shot of Katie and Nate rehearsing their duet. I posted the show version already, but like this one a lot more. It had it's own issues in that it had to be cropped down to one third of the exposure. And on top of the iso 12,800 exposure, it present something of a challenge, and can certainly never be printed large.



Speaking of printing – after 7 months of waiting, I finally have my new printer. Yay. I'll be about a week getting it set up and running – first thing is to get a couple of strong guys to get it upstairs for me (we did manage to get it in the side door into Nan's studio, where it sits).



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The Guys from the Christmas Show

Jan 11, 2022

Continuing with images from the Rogue Christmas show at the Vandiver. This round is, in order, the guys: Brian, Jess, Joseph, and Alex. Yes, more iso 12,800 efforts, though a tad easier as singles to keep in focus shooting wide open. The opening singing-portrait is of Brian – where does one find a sports jacket like that? I'm definitely jealous. The first shot below is also of Brian, a little less animated.









The big issue with these was selecting one exposure from many. For that I had Nan to help – if she agreed, I could go ahead, if not, I'd take a second look. Four crooners for the Christmas show, covering a wide range of music. Rogue Swan is one of the best things to happen to Havre de Grace. The big surprise for me was Alex – who knew his voice could go low enough to sing the Grinch song like that, possibly the coolest moment of the show. *Next posting – the ladies...*



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Rogue's Katie Gordon

Jan 14, 2022

Well, what with it being back to a semi-lockdown situation, it's a good thing I have more than enough images backed up to work on. Plus I'm just beginning set-up on the new printer. More on that soon. So just Katie this time, from the Christmas show. Then still a few fun shots to work on. Gotta love the Whoville hair!

The intro and subsequent image are the two that I narrowed it down to – so difficult that it took taking a couple of others through the first half dozen steps in order to be able to finally choose. This second one shows Katie belting one out, like only she can do.



The last two images show Katie having a little fun with the performance. Like with the more serious shots, there were more – these stood out to me. Rogue has the color jpegs (and yes, if asked, I can work up one or more shots in color from the raw).



Printer note: I finished converting my old Epson 7800 floor stand for mounting the P5000 just in time. Two strong friends showed up to carry the 114 lb, 30x34x16(tall) beast upstairs. Awkward. It's on wheels now! Then I spent the next couple of hours getting it set up and running. Soon, very soon, I'll begin running tests. New printer, new ink system, new papers and my decision to move to a printer-driver dominated rather than Photoshop-profile controlled system. Should be like trading in an automatic transmission for a straight shift and clutch – ultimately more control, if a little jumpy at first.



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The Ladies of the Christmas Show 2 – Moxie

Jan 16, 2022

One of the things I tried to do with the Christmas show was come out with something of a singing-portrait of some of the troop. Although events like the Halloween performance can provide some fun opportunities, Christmas is more likely to be the time for this. Here is Moxie, Marion Jackson, singing “Santa Baby”. I began with a couple of dozen good exposures (admittedly all at iso 12,800 again) and only had it narrowed down to six when I threw up my hands and called Nan in to help. The two here were taken very close together. Nan insisted that the singing shot selected go first – and then my own favorite below. I have this attachment for the more serious, eyes on the camera look for portraits, and this one, while not as striking at first, makes you look twice.



Below, more for fun, is a shot showing Moxie cutting it up for the song, along with Alex, on guitar in the background reacting. Alex, like a lot of the background musicians, can be difficult to photograph – they can do entire sets without changing position or expression. Alex is particularly good at that, ever with the same serious, concentrating look. Except here – I grabbed this shot, very much of a divergence for Alex, as Marion was working her charms on the audience with her “Santa Baby”.



I had to do some real fix-its on the shot of Alex, so it can't be blown up much, but it tells a story.



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Yay, Finishing up with Rogue's Christmas Show Images – lots here...

Jan 19, 2022

I'm using this posting to finish with the last of the images from Rogue Swan's Christmas show at the Vandiver. As always, it was quite a show, sold out and providing of some nice shots. At the same time it was the last of four shows that presented a consistent challenge – photographing live action at iso 12,800. I ended up with a totally different work-flow from what I began with. While I'll leave the images from the first couple of performances as they are here, any further work on them will elicit use of my new process. It has been quite an experience, with a lot of trial-and-error, etc. One takeaway is that I no longer break into a sweat if facing an extremely high iso situation.

This is a huge posting, eleven images in all. It consists of a number of exposures of dancing at the show. Most are of cast members taking to the floor with one another or special guests. It's a more personal collection of images – opening, above, with Katie and Joseph. Next, the main body of the images, James showed up with his whole family. So I tried to make sure everything was covered:





Joseph also danced with both his mother and grandmother – now that's cool:



Then Caleb, another cast member, dancing with his mother (hey, it's Christmas) and Scott, on keyboard for this show, dancing with his wife – one can only guess what they were talking about that generated this look:



Finally, I have no idea who these two kids are, but they were very cute dancing on the far side of the floor:



In conclusion I should add that the four Rogue Swan shows at the Vandiver forced me into new territory – shooting everything at iso 12,800. Combining this with slowing my shutter speed down to 1/200 instead of the 1/250 I prefer with the lens I use for performance images, things got a little tricky. I'm still putting the finishing touches on my work-flow for these images.



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FOLIO RESETS and Double RAW work-flow on extreme iso for b&w

Jan 30, 2022

My web-site creating software underwent a major update – pretty much breaking the third-party “widget” that I use to make my folio pages, eliminating borders and jamming thumbnails together, and more. I’m having to recreate folios using the *Image Gallery* widget built into the program. That wouldn’t be so bad, but the update also created a (I assume) temporary issue where in the large image view the arrows, download symbol, close symbol, etc. are replaced by the generic little square that indicates that the font used doesn’t have them. I am going ahead anyway, swearing off third party widgets so that this doesn’t happen again. I just keep telling myself that this is for the better. And they will **have** to shortly fix the arrows, etc. in what is a built-in widget.

All that’s left to convert are the four earlier *Rogue Swan* folios – I’ve just finished updating and expanding the Wind-Up-Toy folio. Very happy with that. As progress slows down, unavoidable, I’ve begun work on the Vaudeville Cabaret folio – with a couple of updates and new additions. All using my newly worked out double-raw work-flow, explanation below...

DOUBLE-RAW Work-Flow for extreme iso in b&w

Not sure what else to call it. Here I'm going to outline a work-flow that I have evolved for working up my b&w image from exposures at iso 3200, 6400, 12800 and above. Doing work with a local vaudeville troop, I found myself standardizing on iso 6400. I didn't appreciate the noise much, simply accepting the results, expressing it as grain. The noise also limited any minor sharpening, tone fixes, etc. Recently Rogue did a series of performances where I was forced to move to iso 12,800 and above. So I bit the bullet and began running some experiments. The results surprised me – this work-flow helps some 3200, noticeably improves iso 6400, completely salvages 12,800, making even 25,600 usable.

Exposure – forced to use shutter speeds of 1/200 to 1/250 in low light, I'm forced to work with iso set to auto, otherwise setting aperture wide open. Results usually range from 3200 to 6400. But the last set of performances everything was consistently 12,800 and above.

RAW 1 – I open the RAW file in DxO Photolab 5. I've tried Iridient Transformer (grainy), the much heralded Capture One (only fair), and a half dozen other apps for this, to no avail. And of course Photoshop raw conversion of Fuji files really sucks. Within DxO I apply what they call *Extreme Prime* noise reduction – nothing else other than a tad of exposure correction if needed. One can continue work on the file there, with some improvements but the results are, for some reason, not quite what they are if I export the file to .dng raw format before making any real progress on the file.

RAW 2 – Opening this in Photoshop RAW, I find it best to simply hit the auto color button, then the b&w, and then make as many of the adjustments as I can right there. These are low-light, uneven exposures, with all the negative effects that come with that. The big surprise here was that there seems to be a **noticeable further improvement in noise, without any further noise control effort.**

Photoshop – Next I generally convert to RGB and proceed as if it were a normal range iso exposure.

Above image, the double-raw work-flow version of the first image now in the [Rogue Swan Vaudeville Cabaret folio](#). Check it out, I will be periodically expanding the folio for a while.

Below, the same exposure without using that process. Note the noise/grain – what I thought until now was not so bad for b&w from an iso 6400 exposure. Hardly close to the new process however. Any further improvements in tone/contrast simply aggravated the noise issue – this being pretty much the best compromise at the time. In fact, it couldn't be sharpened at all before because the effect was horrendous. Note, usually with this type of comparisons one posts close-ups to really show the difference – but if it is obvious at regular viewing proportions, I figure it's more than enough.





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Two Triptychs from Rogue Swan Vaudeville Cabaret 2018 – as I review and expand folios...

Jan 31, 2022

My last blog posting announced an update to the folio galleries on the site – along with some ongoing updates on those with extreme iso. These came out of the first Rogue Swan performance at the Opera House, in 2018. It was a backlit, dressing behind a screen skit. I didn't know what to do with them until I noticed that they fell into two sequences of three.



Not many redone and or added yet to the Vaudeville Cabaret gallery, but these are there, [HERE...](#)

Most of the update work simply cleaned up the folio galleries – albeit still with the software flaw with missing arrows (replaced by squares) for the expanded views. But the 2017 *Wind-Up-Toy Gallery* did get expanded quite a bit – [HERE...](#) with images using my improved work-flow for extreme iso exposures:

Havre de Grace Street **WIND UP TOY**

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Wind Up Toy, an Alice Cooper tribute performance at the Opera House in 2017





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They Had it Coming...

Feb 7, 2022

Another posting as I play catch-up with exposures from Rogue's Vaudeville show at the Opera house in 2018. Again, this was something of a first as far as photographing a full stage performance for me. I pretty much knew what I was doing – at the same time I was coming off decades of field shooting, looking for that one shot of the day that said enough to print – people, I'd pretty much avoided including them. With a couple of years of this under my belt – I'm out how to approach what I have. Not to mention going back and applying my new double-raw extreme iso work-flow to these exposures now.

This sequence of images is from "Cell Block Tango", also known as *He Had it Coming*, a number from the musical *Chicago*. This is where the girls charged with murder are explaining, in very humorous song, why they should be acquitted. Spectacular. I thought this version was better than the movie, where it was way overdone with music video style overkill.

Rogue will be performing again at the Opera House in April – trust me, it will be a gotta-go.

The opening shot here shows the girls lined up to tell their stories. Below I tried to catch each as she gave her version of *He Had it Coming*.





The final image is of April, Katie and Jess during the number:





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Roller-Skate Skit – more Vaudeville Cabaret

Feb 8, 2022

These postings are primarily quickies to get the images reimagined and into the folio gallery where they belong. Trying to do them in related groupings. Marion Jackson took to roller-skates on stage for one of the skits. I tried to select one shot, but couldn't bring myself to eliminate any of these three. Above – Marion paying at losing her balance. Below – she gets some assistance. And finally a song and dance, still on skates of all things.





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Caleb for the Lifting, April and Katie with Joanna

Feb 10, 2022

Making progress on reimagining the Vaudeville Cabaret folio gallery. Starting here with three of Caleb being the one to do most of the lifting. And Jesse isn't light. Below the lift-tosses with Marion Jackson and Jess Langley:



Here's one of Katie and Joanna in their side-stage duet:



Finally this time, our local belly-dancer April Monique with her husband, JimmyO on drums:





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Rogue – in the Beginning...

Feb 14, 2022

Before I begin – Rogue will be performing at the Opera House again, finally, April 8 and 9 (three performances). Tickets are available on line (link at the bottom). These are strange times, and we're as hesitant about braving crowds as anyone. Since the last COVID booster asked for five months to have elapsed, by my calculations there just could be another released by the end of March. We'll see about that, and where the pandemic is at that point. I'm planning to be at my post in the back with my cameras, with Nan seated in front of me – never a fear of a tall head in the way with her.

With the Rogue Swan folio updates I've worked somewhat backwards. This posting finishes up with the early free-to-the-public performances at the Artists Emporium Gallery in town. As well as applying some improved work flow to the images that were already part of the folio, I have added a few that I now appreciate. This group of images represents the beginning to what is becoming the story of Rogue Swan.

The opening image is most of the troop in the finale number. The rest below:



April Monique • Marion Jackson (Moxie)



L.H. James • Katie Gordon



Jesse Hutchinson • Caleb Gordon



Tara Vin



Tara • Katie being Katie



• "Suddenly Seymour"





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Back working on the final Easter Island book – the ladies throw the spear

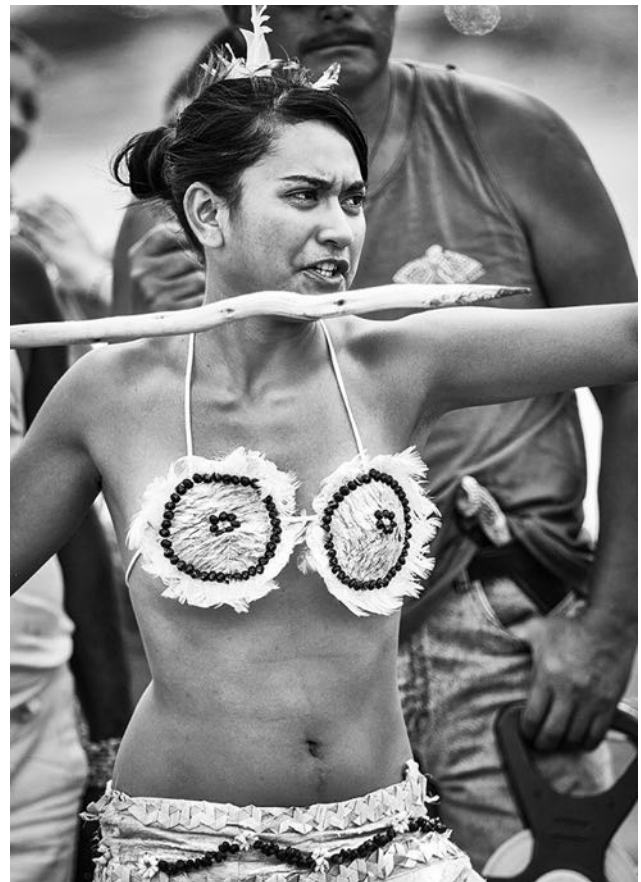
Feb 18, 2022

I would like to say that I am almost there, since the book file is formatted and most of the images are placed. I can use last minute images to head updates here. But three very difficult chores remain. Fine-tuning is tricky. This involves placement of every image and block of text, sizing, arrangement of pages, order, the icon index in the back, etc. then there's the daunting chore of composing text, at the same time getting all the names and info that I can. And then there is editing, correcting and all that that involves. I've set myself a deadline of being able to create the pdf version and order a couple of print versions by the end of March at the latest.

Yesterday I was working on the Tapati section and realized my two spear throwing images needed something complimentary on the facing page. A perfect opportunity to include the three images gracing this posting. A tad on the small size, a couple of them won't tolerate much enlargement, I they capture the spirit of the event. Note the grimaces of determination on the faces of the Tapati Queen contestants.

The funnest part, possibly because they were provided with spears without points attached, was that after a few tries, and no-one coming close to hitting the banana stalk target, they moved the throwing line a couple of feet closer. A little while later, they moved it even closer. Finally, with everyone sharing in the humor of the situation, the throwing line was moved to about the half-way point. Someone, I don't remember who, nicked the stalk with their spear and a winner was declared. A good time was had by all.

The opening shot is of . These were all wider horizontals, but I cropped them to focus in on the expressions. The next two are Lucy and Viviana Tuki.



Added to the Easter Island folio [HERE](#) and the Tapati Rapanui folio [HERE](#)...

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Honu Surfacing, Hanga Roa O Tai

Feb 22, 2022

I do like doing b&w nature shots, the ones everyone else would do in color. Perhaps it's that they remind me of one of my favorite art mediums, charcoal sketches (or charcoal and pencil). This is one from Rapa Nui (Easter Island). Filling in gaps in the final book volume file, I ran across an exposure of one of the giant ocean turtles – honu – that can be found swimming in Hanga Roa O Tai among the moored boats. The harsh sun on the water creates an eerie effect. I caught this fellow as he surfaced for a gulp of air, just as he swam out of a shadow, as a jpeg unfortunately, and finally decided to see what I could do with it.

It could never be printed huge, but maybe medium size. it's in the Island folio [HERE...](#)

Note: the first **Rogue Swan** rehearsal for the upcoming April show is this evening – (have mask will travel) I'll show up with the camera and figure out what kind of coverage I can come up with.

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How did I miss putting this in the Island folio...

Feb 25, 2022

How did I miss putting this in the Island folio? Nan took this exposure of me while I was patiently waiting for the sun to drop a bit more for the image posted a little earlier here – shown below (and on page 4 of the third Island folio):



Nan made a number of exposures of me at work. She carried her point-and-shoot everywhere, looking for painting ideas. Sometimes these involve a little more work, like with this one, and less control, because she does not like bothering to shoot raw. But hey, it's a good shot – and although I do the “work” involved in milking a b&w image out of it, if it's her exposure, she “supervises”, making the decisions and choices.

It has been used before, on the back of the jacket that comes on the original *The Moon has been Eaten*. And because of that I did think to add it to the pdf version. Then somehow I completely neglected to include it in the folio section. Now



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First Rehearsals are Tough...

Mar 1, 2022

First rehearsals are tough, but fun to watch. I've worked up a couple of shots from the first two rehearsals for Rogue Swan's April performances of *The Next Chapter Unfolds* at the Opera House – [get your tickets!](#) I'll try to keep up with these, all that is going on this spring in town and finish up with the final Easter Island book – all at the same time. Good thing I have Nan to sit in and help with all the sorting and selecting of exposures.

Just some early group rehearsal shots for the first of many Rogue postings. Watching a song-and-dance routine come together from first instructions to some semblance of coordination is interesting – makes me grateful I'm on my side of the camera. I've already putting together more postings concentrating on individuals in the troupe. The opening image is just Katie explaining some choreography.

Next, I'm not sure what was going on – I just like the justapositioning:



Rehearsing synced dance steps:



Finally, rehearsing a somber moment in the show, Katie told everyone, for the first time, to put on their most serious face – my favorite group shot of the day:



These begin a new set of Rogue Swan Images [HERE](#) full size, downloadable, etc. I'll try to cover as many of the rehearsals as I can – then two of the performances. Havre de Grace rocks with its own Vaudeville troupe. This promises to be another great show...



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It's fine. I'm fine. Everything is fine.

Mar 2, 2022

Focusing on *Bre(onna) Joi Lewis* and *April Monique Burrell*, with some images from the first two rehearsals for *The Next Chapter Unfolds*. These two never disappoint – I had to call Nan in and beg her to please help trim down the selections for this posting from eighteen to ten. This folio could expand horrendously if this keeps up. I'm opening here with April and Bre balanced on chairs – part of a skit where I was sure somebody was going to get seriously hurt. Looking forward to photographing this skit on stage. Rehearsals help me in that familiarity with what to expect next at any point in the actual performance is a huge help, especially when shooting from the back with a long lens. And yes, the arms can get tired, the lens is a tad on the heavy side.

It's fine. I'm fine. Everything is fine.



It's fine. I'm fine. Everything is fine.

Here's Bre seeing the humor in having to throw her rather tall form across the chair at one point:



The next two are Bre getting down off the chair after going through the paces, looking a little relieved, and a close-up taking a short break:



It's fine. I'm fine. Everything is fine.

The title of the posting comes from Bre's shirt: "It's fine. I'm fine. Everything's fine." It seemed to match her playful expression combined with the cup of coffee I accidentally caught in the foreground.



Finally, here's another view of the two of them in that cross-the-chair position, behind Katie demonstrating:





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Havre de Grace Mardi Gras – a few shots in the dark

Mar 4, 2022

Havre de Grace Mardi Gras parade attendances have been pretty lame in the past – I shot the parade one year when crowds of tens liked a three to four block area. But this year, with a little help from the weather, the crowd in our little town was surprisingly large. It was still dark though, very. I moved back behind the crowd onto a small step, facing an intersection, and held the camera (with a long lens) above my head. With the screen tilted down, I was able to at least frame the exposure, relying on autofocus a little more than usual. The intro shot – these kids were getting into it more than most – was exposed at an extreme iso of 25,600. Some of the others I managed to squeeze it all the way down to 12,800. In other words, while between the lights and surrounding darkness the contrast was there, the whole scene was somewhat darker than this to the eye when viewed from my distance.

Admittedly I didn't pay enough attention to the announcements as to who was who as far as floats and groupings, assuming that it would be obvious from the images. And, I've never really expected much out of night-time parade shots. But it's all part of the story. With an occasional note:

I recognize the Mayor here:



The local Organization of Italian Business men float. These guys are always up for a parade, usually smoking, or at least holding, cigars and wearing long black overcoats. This is the first time I've seen that semi-mafioso look toned down a little. They're cool.



Abby Burger:







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Two Sides of Jess and Moxie on her Chair

Mar 5, 2022

Looking at two more of the girls rehearsing for Rogue Swan's upcoming "*The Next Chapter Unfolds*" at the **Opera House** in April. The opening shot is **Moxie** (Marion Jackson) perched atop what will be a center-stage chair, singing and dancing a number – surrounded by a number of other dancers putting chairs through things I'm sure they (the chairs) never imagined. First, below, three images showing the soft, and not so soft, sides of **Jess Langley** rehearsing for her role:



Here's three more of *Moxie* on her chair – at one point she does a nifty little flip thing with the hatm but this rehearsal was in a pretty small space, and I'm still not adjusted to the show's timing, so I keep missing it:





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Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater – opening a fun evening

Mar 9, 2022

Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater – that's a mouthful for a title. I'll try and post the acts in order – I took a high perch in the back, my preferred way to work. That way I'm never in anyone's way. I'm getting used to low-to-no light photography, especially for Hafla (bellydance shows), so wasn't as worried as I should have been. Wow, the stage backlighting at the State Theater had me and my camera going round and round for a while, trying to establish who was boss. By the time I came out on top, the whole first group on the stage had provided only one shot – not a good idea with the shifting lighting and under circumstances that render maybe one out of every five or six even worth keeping. Heck, I have April as solid green, blue, red and purple, take your choice. The seemingly drifting white spotlight was fun too.

This post covers the off-stage segment of the introductory number – our own April Monique and two of her students, *Michele* (Brotman) and *Mya Jee* down between the stage and the seats, waaaay on the other side catty-corner from me. Holding the camera with a long lens over my head and firing away I got the intro shot here. Then I managed to get one of April alone, below:



In a second shot I caught April and Mya – a super-cropped, soft focus, but still something about it I like image. It pretty much needs to stay small though:



Then I shifted to Mya, the youngest dancer there – and a very young lady. I tried to get it down to one example, but liked all four of the images below. You go Mya:







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It's Just a Chair – First of a run of Rogue Rehearsal Catch-up Images

Mar 14, 2022

Rogue Swan will be performing at the Opera House – [The Next Chapter Unfolds](#) – April 8 & 9. This should be great. This is the first of a string of postings where I catch up on rehearsal images that I had to let pile up. Today, more of what can be done on, under, around and with a simple wooden chair. A number of these include Katie Gordon, *leader of the pack*. She doesn't ask the troupe to do anything she can't do... In the intro shot she, to everyone's delight, is assisting Bre into position.

Below two of Katie setting up poses – most of which are very transient, showing how much work can go into split-second choreographed moments. Fascinating to watch...



Katie and April...



Jess Langley – this was her first run at this move...



I'm amazed at how much smoother things begin to run as rehearsals progress. These have been added to the Rogue Swan folio page for *Next Chapter Rehearsals* [HERE](#) full size, downloadable, etc. Since the coverage for this show is progressing more like it did for *Strange Case*, I'll likely have to do the same thing here – in the end trim down the folio to my favorites and provide a link to a full pdf book version.



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An Interesting Dance Skit – Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater 2

Mar 14, 2022

Page 1 of 4

Looks like the April's Haflas have found a home. While the stage high backlighting can play havoc with my metering, in the end it's a good venue for the dancers, and I can come up with some nice exposures (albeit painfully). And if anyone is wondering why they would want to attend one of these Haflasm bellydance and related performances, these two girls are a good example of what they are missing. In fact I've never had such a hard time eliminating exposures to use – every few days I'll post the next performer.

This is Lindsey McCormick and Jessica Welch – or Queen Bastet, performing a little dance skit. The images are arranged in order of occurrence.









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Emily and Martina – Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater 3

Emily Gonzaga and Martina Desiree are two more of the dance performers at the “*Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition*” at the State Theater. The black background came in quite handy for b&w. Lots of different styles, types of dance – including of course bellydance. Admittedly, the girls are primarily interested in the color exposures (which I give them full access to), but I always like to see what I can do with the b&w. Unlike some of the performers, both these girls had to be photographed in solid red light – it changes from blue to red, green, purple, etc. Hey, you work with what you have – but I do wish I could convince them next time to have the colors change at a faster rate. Better yet, **never** have less than two light colors illuminating the stage at any one time. First *Emily*...



Desiree...





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Moxie and Alex – and, of course, MORE CHAIR

Mar 15, 2022

I'm trying to post these in some semblance of order. It's looking more and more like I'll be able to, like with "Strange Case," record the process from beginning to end. The opening image shows *Alex* practicing carrying *Moxie*, midst a throng of other state activity. Then below are more chair images – reminds me of "more cowbell", there's always "more". I'm not privy to the details of the program, so I'm not sure what the butt-slapping is all about, but it does look like fun. The first two images are, of course, *Katie* and *April*...



Below, there's one of *Bre* taking one of her many chair positions – including a little clowning around with unchoreographed facial expressions....



Finally, *Moxie* in something of a striking, but precarious pose on her chair...





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Krystal and Oona – Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater
4

Mar 16, 2022

The next two to perform were *Krystal Nicole* and *Oona*. Luck was with me with Krystal, she had a combination of strong red and blue lights on her – while she and her outfit both look quite purple in color, I was able to pretty much balance for b&w tones. Again, the black background made that part easy. Oona came out into a strong pink light complimented by a little of green (pink is the worst, washing out flesh tones). It was something of a struggle, but the bit of green helped.

While I brushed out the partial State Theater Havre de Grace sign above the performers in the rest of the images, the intro shot showed a tad more so I left it on this one. *The Street Theater is a very old cinema being gradually converted to live performance.*

Krystal Nicole...



Oona...





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Havre de Grace's own April Monique – Moonshine Hafra Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater (5)

Well April posted a spread of the color jpegs from her performance, so I figure I ought to get to my b&w selection next. She lucked into some decent lighting on stage, though a couple of these were shot as she prepared to descend the stairs over on the dark corner. The problem is that I already have a number of great shots of April in the folio – so and new inclusions have to complement them. I love the intro shot, it's how she launched her performance. Quite effective. And April, more than anyone I've seen lately, matches body movement to the beat of the music in a way that makes you feel as well as see the performance – she holds your attention.

The next shot was part of her intital performance:



The next two shots were shot, almost blind, as she stood in the darkest corner of the stage, light barely on her, as she worked her way to come down the stairs to the front section. Two of my favorite Hafla shots:



Added to the Hafla folio [HERE...](#) all full size. (*dancers welcome to download and use at will*).



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Nate Gordon and April Burril do Rehearsal

Mar 17, 2022

From the latest batch of rehearsal images come three featuring bits of a sequence with Nate Gordon and April Burril. *Nate*, scheduled to play Frankenstein in an upcoming production of *Young Frankenstein* the musical with the *Street Lamp Players* in May, is led away by *April* in the intro image here. *Sorry Nate – I couldn't resist this, and Lilli cleared it for posting – blame her.*

And I love the expression on April's face as she's lowered to the floor...



They both look a little more comfortable in this escorted stroll across the stage...



Added to the Rogue Swan folio page for *Next Chapter Rehearsals* [HERE](#) full size, downloadable, etc.



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Kalayla, Lorelei and Jo Wall (Bam Bam)– Moonshine Hafila Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater (6)

Mar 18, 2022

Three more from the recent *Moonshine Hafra Mardi Gras Edition* at the State Theater. Performance photography can be an exercise in handling the limitations of shifting, colored lighting. I'm grouping these three together because of how I needed to treat the lighting – pink. Predominately pink lighting washes out flesh tones, making it impossible to bring out any nuance other than shadow and light. So I concentrated on everything else, taking what advantage I could of the alabaster or porcelain effect on the skin this creates. Here are, in order, *Kalayla*, *Lorelei* and *Jo Wall (Bam Bam)*.

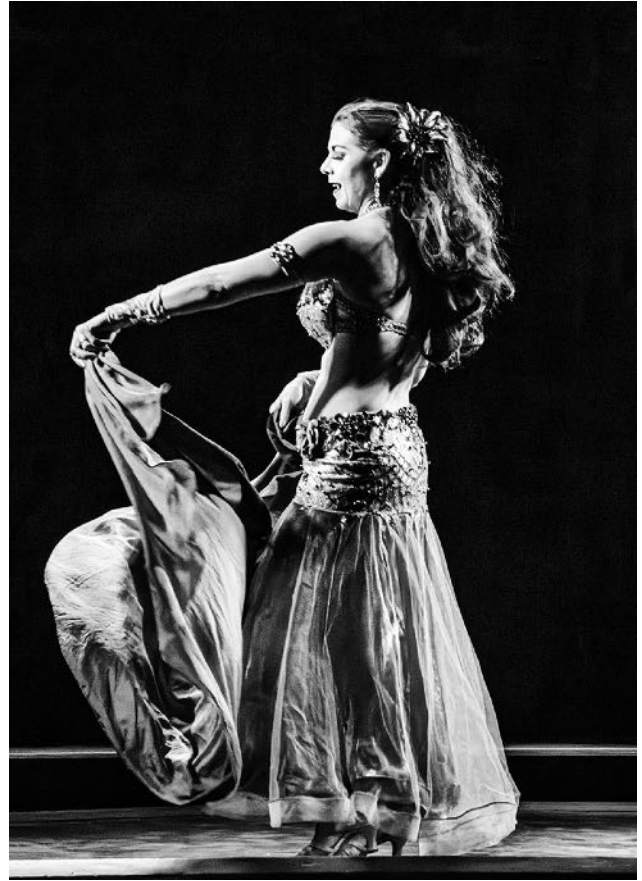
I managed to get four out of the exposures of *Kalayla* to add to previous images in the Hafra folio, counting the intro shot...



This final Kalayla image is a little different in that I caught her looking more serious, eyes off to the side. But I really like her face in this one:



Two poses of Lorelei...



And one of *Bam Bam*, who had almost a spellbinding way of moving – yet the camera kept catching similar poses. Without the hair or skirt, etc. to accentuate movement, I might have slowed the shutter some to get a little motion blur that way...



I mention poses, yet all of these exposures involved pretty fast movement on the part of the performer – the hair is the tell. Added to the Hafra folio [HERE](#)... all full size. (dancers welcome to download and use at will).



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Naimah and Finale Gathering – Moonshine Hafla Mardi Gras Edition at the State Theater (7)

Mar 19, 2022

Naimah wound up in hard blue lighting. This tends to lay harsh line shadows, seeming randomly but probably according to the light edges, across the subject. But at least there are pretty good flesh tones when converting to b&w. Lots of shadow edge fixing though. I came away with four images that I like:





At the finale, the intro image, they all came out in front of the stage and danced around. All I could do, from my perch way in the back, was hold camera and heavy lens up over my head, aim and shoot a bunch. After much debate, this is the one Nan and I selected – none, of course, had everyone facing the camera, eyes open, great facial expressions, etc. But it's still kind of cool:



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Katie Being Boss – and – Walk This Way

Mar 20, 2022

Another rehearsal today, so I thought I'd better get some shots from the last one into the mix. The intro shot is, finally with the ordered hats, demonstrating a move. Below Katie leading a couple of more moves. The coordination is coming together – in spite of the fact that rehearsals are mostly after-hours at Concord Point Coffee in town. Not exactly spacious. I especially like seeing them all airborne in the first one...



The last shot catches a moment when different pairs were practicing their separate moves. Bre is always so expressive...





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Rogue Ladies #1

Mar 23, 2022

It was time to take a series of quick head shots for the little monochrome cast circles in the program for the upcoming Rogue Swan show at the Opera House *The Next Chapter Unfolds*. This time they dressed up some, set up a nice backdrop, and the lighting was fair – so I stepped back a little and took a series of exposures more akin to portraits. Rogue has the color, and I'm sure will use them closer to the show. I'm doing up full b&w versions, of course. Three are down, Katie Jess Langley and Bre. At the same time I caught a few, in the dark of the garage studio, band shots. Working on them also. The intro shot is *Katie Gordon*, singer, dancer, choreographer, etc.

Next, *Jess Langley* – I told her that lipstick would be visible in the last row. She said "good". I still haven't figured out why she sometimes shows up with sword and up to three knives in her outfit. These outfits definitely scream vaudeville...



Bre – *Breonna Joi Lewis* is so expressive. At one point inside I held the shutter down for each of the girls singing, for maybe 20 or more exposures. the norm happened for everyone else, destroy 95% for awkwardness and keep the couple left. With *Bre*, as usual, it was the other way around. Makes for some very difficult choices though. I love the outfit here...



I won't put this the way JimmyO phrased it so eloquently on FaceBook, but get your darn tickets, Rogue performances are always great. I photograph them and see the show full through twice – and Nan get a ticket to both of those so she can too. She enjoys the second performance as much as, if not more than, the first. <https://hdgoperahouse.org/event/rogue-swan-presents-the-next-chapter-unfolds/>



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Rogue Ladies #2

Mar 24, 2022

Continuing with less candid photos of the cast of Rogue Swan's upcoming "The Next Chapter Unfolds" at the Opera House in April. The intor image is Moxie (Marion Jackson). She will be dressed similar to sing "Mein Herr", very demonstrably. It's gonna be a memorable moment in the show.

Next, April Monique (Burril). We're used to seeing April dressed like this from some of her bellydance performances. Here she's downroght elegant...



Finally today, Lilli Burril. You won't see her on stage quite as much as some, but her hands are also on every single performance. Behind the scenes she seems to manage everything, along with assisting with choreography, recording rehearsals, keeping everyone up to date on schedules and more etceteras than I can count. As she sat down for her picture, she folded her arms and gave me the look – it's so Lilli...



Again – I won't put this the way JimmyO phrased it so eloquently on FaceBook, but get your darn tickets, Rogue performances are always great. I photograph them and see the show full through twice – and Nan gets a ticket to both of those so she can too. She enjoys the second performance as much as, if not more than, the first.



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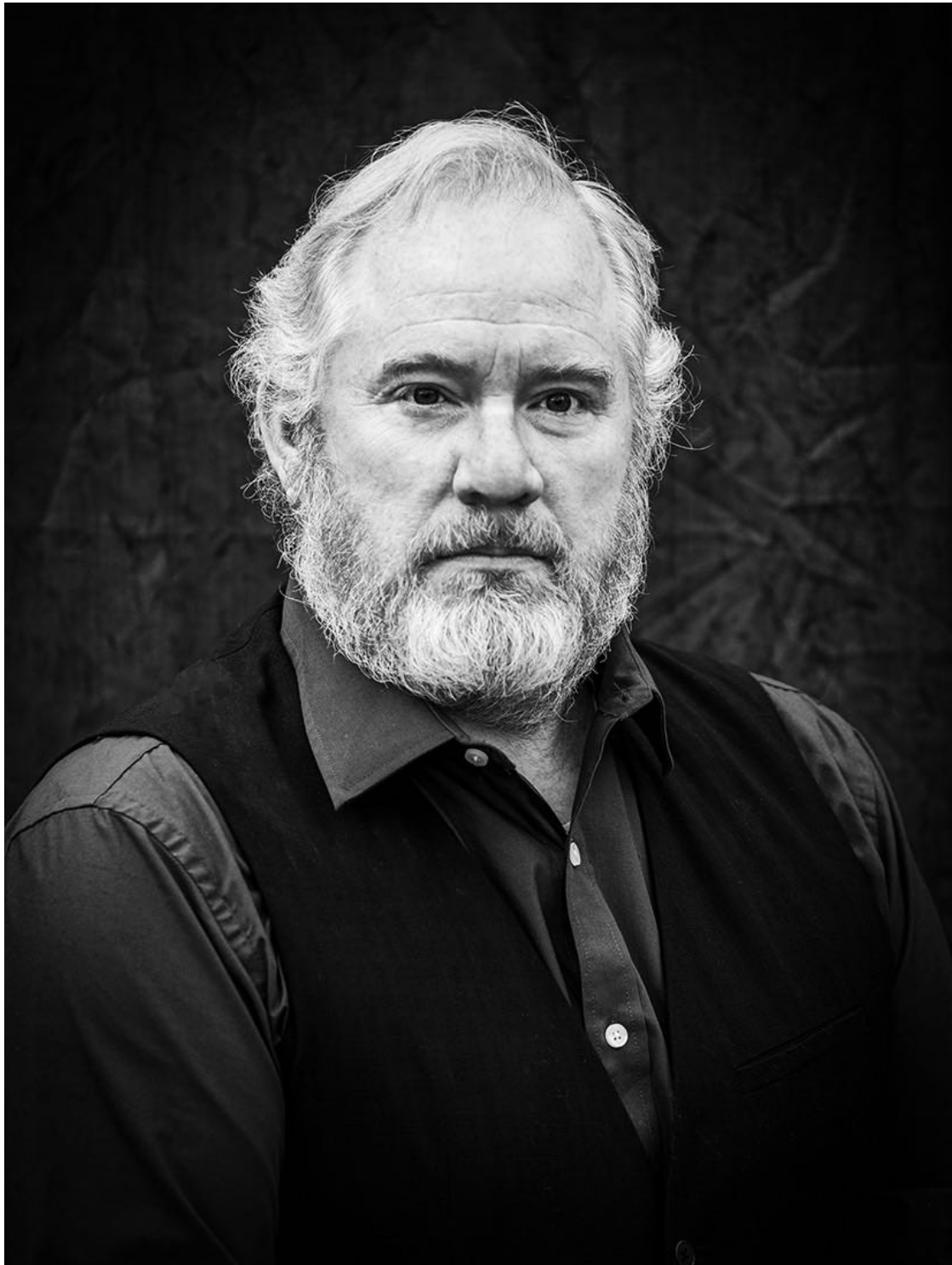
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Rogue Gentlemen #1

Mar 25, 2022

I'm not quite done presenting the ladies. There are a couple who's pictures haven't been taken yet and one (along with a couple of the guys) that I'm holding back for a "band" grouping. The intro shot here is of Scott Kukuck (Mya's dad). Like most of the gentlemen, he's is singer, performer and member of the band – depending on the skit. Here he looks like he's almost ready to play *King Lear*.

Caleb Gordon, another performer, singer, musician member of the cast...



JimmyO Burrell, drums and sings. Lilli, his daughter, sat down to pose (last posting here) and simply crossed her arms and stared at the camera. A couple of hours later here's daddy. I couldn't resist letting it stand. The two images say a lot...



Rogue performances are always great. I photograph them, seeing the show full through twice – and Nan gets a ticket to both of those so she can too. She enjoys the second performance as much as, if not more than, the first.



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Rogue Gentlemen #2

Mar 26, 2022

Leading off the second batch of *Rogue Gentlemen* is *Nate Gordon*, who always has interesting roles to play – along with being in the band. Nate will also be playing *Frankenstein's* monster in an upcoming musical version of *Young Frankenstein* in May. We cannot wait to see Nate doing "Puttin' on the Ritz". But first we want to see what he adds to the Rogue performance in April.

Alex Fintak, another cast member who seems to do it all. Loved him in the Christmas show, the only one with a voice low enough to do the Grinch song justice...



Jeremy Hicks-Kachik, a guitar regular. For this show I did catch him, accompanied instrumentally by Alex and Natasha, working on a rousing performance of the Beatles' "Get Back". It sounded, and looked, great.



I'm trying to do a complete series of these slightly less candid cast shots, it is proving difficult. Lacking matching portraits of some cast members, I'm culling candid shots to see where I can make do.

Rogue performances are always great. I photograph them, seeing the show full through twice – and Nan gets a ticket to both of those so she can too. She enjoys the second performance as much as, if not more than, the first.



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Time to Expose the Band

Mar 27, 2022

Starting this off with something of the impossible shot. In his rehearsal garage, *JimmyO* isolated himself way in the back of that far too dark room behind a glass barrier. It wasn't easy, but I steadied the camera on the glass, estimated the focus (auto was useless) and waited – with that heavy lens I thought my arm was going to fall off before I got something. Ta da, turned out he had to hit the chimes with his drumstick. Cool.

The second shot is of *Natasha Herlinger* – she plays a variety of wind instruments (below with Jeremy and Alex). So it's next to impossible to get a good shot while she is playing. Fortunately Rogue had her sit for one of the more formal shots.



Josh Hutchinson on Guitar – It was tough to decide on his, opting for the more serious look. And *Will Conway* on violin. He also posed for a formal thing, but for the b&w this rehearsal image works much better.



Finally, *Natasha*, *Jeremy* and *Alex* rehearsing *Get Back* by the Beatles – *Jeremy* on vocals and guitar. They were on the far side of an incredibly dark garage (it seemed to be lit by nothing but strings of Christmas lights). A lot of movement on *Jeremy's* part; thus a fast shutter speed, shallow depth of field and an untold number of exposures. More extreme ISO work, precious.



Rogue performances are always great. I photograph them, seeing the show full through twice – and *Nan* gets a ticket to both of those so she can too. She enjoys the second performance as much as, if not more than, the first.



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More Rogue Band and Barbershop Quartet

Mar 28, 2022

I'm just discovering more of who is who this season. *Josh Hutchinson*, from the last post, is also a member of *The Major Men*, or Barber Shop Quartet part of Rogue Swan. The three other members, also band members, are *Ron Furrow* (above), *Ed Gordon* and *Matt Casarino* (below). I'm guessing that the hats and vests are part of the "look".



All of these five were among those who sat for a head shot. Below is *Jason Bock*, a Rogue staple on keyboard and, posing with his violin, young *Tom Brosh* ...





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Final two Cast Head Shots and a pair of Alternate Views

Mar 30, 2022

Introducing Brian Ruff – in character for the show. He's been assigned the job of playing the bad guy. I'm not sure his family would want this as a portrait on the mantel. Below is Jessy Gordon-Bortell – always with a beautiful smile. If you look close you can see her holding it back...



Below are Lilli Burril and Nate Gordon (again). This series of images has more than one purpose – small, oval head shots for the program, color cast portraits and my b&w's. Katie added in a request for these two versions to be added to the list. Me, I still like Lilli with her arms folded, glaring at the camera and Nate raising his eyebrow.





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Moxie and Bre, Brian and Bre – More Black Box

Apr 1, 2022

Two images of Moxie and Bre from the Rogue rehearsal, in the Balck Box at the Opera House, that I could not choose between. So I worked up both of them – above and the first below. Next to the second one, Brian and Bre, followed by a second of Brian and Bre – yes, the same problem deciding there. Very, very happy that there won't be more Balck Box. Maybe I'll figure out where these are in the show, and what is actually happening, in a few days when final and dress rehearsals begin. If nothing else, the Black Box gives something of a small stage atmosphere to practice scenes...





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The Black Box Effect – More Rogue Rehearsal Images

Apr 2, 2022

Shooting in bad, uncontrollable lighting leads to doubling or tripling one's exposures combined with a huge reduction in usable images. So while I actually have more images from this Black Box rehearsal that I am using, I had to expose and trash far more than usual. But combine the fact that rehearsals are making so much progress with diligent efforts to take advantage of (accidental) lighting effects, some of the results are quite striking. I targeted six for today, but only managed to finish three – simply far too much work to do on them. The intro image shows the guys assuming their starting position for one of the skits: Alex, Nate and Caleb – with Will and Jeremy in the background...

Next image is a barely lit shot of Brian and Bre, with some of what is to be going on around them with Katie, Caleb and Jess showing...



Finally another scene from "Mein Herr"...





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Odds and Ends from the Black Box

Apr 3, 2022

I wasn't sure how to title this posting. While the Black Box had possibly the worst lighting I've had to tackle yet, and in response I made more exposures in a three hour period than ever, I did come up with some interesting shots (albeit with some tormenting brush work). The opening shot here is a quick wide-angle view of the band group arranged tight against the wall so as to keep out of the way in the small room. Then I zoomed in real quick on the two youngest: *Tom Brosh* on Violin and *Natasha Herlinger* on Sax. On the edge of the room there the lighting wasn't all that bad.



Bre and Jess with Alex carrying Moxie in the background...



And finally, singing in the darkest corner of the room, Moxie, April and Katie...





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Show Time – Brian and Bre!

Apr 8, 2022

Just this one image from dress rehearsal. I'm so busy processing so many exposures, from two dress rehearsals and beginning tonight two performances, that I only had time to do up one image for a posting today. OF COURSE it is from *Brian and Bre* singing and acting "*Money, Money, Money*". There are a few numbers in this show that are, alone, worth the trip to the Opera House – and this is one of them. Brian and Bre are simply wonderful together.

Tickets are available at the Opera House site: <https://hdgoperahouse.org/event/rogue-swan-presents-the-next-chapter-unfolds/> or at the door.

Rogue will be posting the spread of color exposures of the show a couple of days after the final performance (tomorrow night). And, of course, I will be able to do my b&w's.



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Whew – Now to Look at Show Images

Apr 15, 2022

After a rough week of dress rehearsal, two shows and far too many exposures – including setting Nan up with a remote to a second camera on the tripod for full-stage views, I've caught up with all the sorting and posting of color jpegs for Rogue and can begin. Lighting was interesting, sometimes flashing colors on and off like a fire engine. After the brights vs shadows were too far apart even for RAW exposure (that's about five stops). So "recovered" is appropriate here.

The intro shot, above: the cast divided themselves between the two wings of the stage to wave their good-byes to the villain of the show as he stomped off through the audience here the right side of the stage. I opened with one of the performance shots because I needed one from which to make the thumbnail for the Rogue index page.

Below, the cast photo – along with the band portrait. Not fine art stuff, or even the photographer catching a moment, but necessary. I did get the house to raise the lights a little, then simply dealt with what I got.



I used these to set up a second folio for this show – just for the Performance(s) – on one or two occasions to fill in with exposures from dress rehearsal where I could get the angle. Link to [Performance Folio](#)... where I will try to present a good cross-section of show moments. By the way, it was a phenomenal show.

Note: After working so long on traditional b&w photography, creating works of art, I'm enjoying taking up the medium to record, in b&w, what most people these days do in color. The exercise looks on color as sort of a noise, something to be judiciously eliminated in order to show the truths underneath. While individual images, as interesting as they can be because of the individuals photographed, are just one part of a whole. The art emerges as the images come together to tell the story.



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Rogue's Candyman

Apr 17, 2022

Rogue likes to include what I believe is called “boogie woogie” numbers in many of their shows. This time it was *Bre*, *April* and *Katie* singing “*Candyman*”. Interestingly they had Nate chiming in a couple of times and Scott on trombone off to the side (along with the regular band). The image I chose to work up shows both Nate and Scott – with the ladies really shaking it up. I love this one.

I only had time to complete one this holiday weekend. I'm going to try and group these according to numbers in the show – with varying numbers of images. I've begun work on two from “*Bistro Fada*”, *April Monique's* dance number, pulling an image out of almost solid red lighting. A little challenging.

I've added this one to the Rogue folio [HERE](#)... Instead of placing new entries into the folio in front, or at the end, I'm trying to keep them in something of the same order they came in the show.



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Bistro Fada – April Dance Number

Apr 18, 2022

I'm assuming "Bistro Fada" is the number *April Monique* was dancing to, one of the numbers in Rogue's "The Next Chapter Unfolds". The entire routine was performed in red light, actually pretty effective live, if a little challenging as far as eking a b&w image, sometimes kicking and screaming in protest, out of my exposures. I selected the first one above. Then Nan really liked the second image – although it was in a horizontal and had to be cropped considerably to get the vertical out of it. She was right though, nice image.





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Brian and Bre – Money, Money Money

Apr 22, 2022

Saturday was the Bunny Run 5K – finally a Bunny Run shirt I can actually wear. Monday we got our second covid booster shots, giving me a sore arm and brain fog that lasted days. I looked at a couple of these images, and decided to just get some much needed rest – along with doing my research and notes for my upcoming great computer switcheroo (I'm finally getting out from under the fusion-drive in my present set-up. All my exposures, images, files – it could take two or three days). Friday though, looks like I'm baaaaack...

In Rogue's "The Next Chapter Unfolds" at the Opera HOuse, *Brian Ruff* and *Bre Lewis* killed it in "Money, Money, Money...", so much so that it was torture to reduce my selection of shots to work-up down to six (including the one from a little over a week ago). I opened with their finale pose. Here are the rest – also added to the show folio [HERE...](#), where they join the earlier posting and continue my review of the show.





In this final image, just look at the faces, the pair contemplate poverty...





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Crazy Little Thing Called Love – and some fun with one of the Money images...

Apr 24, 2022

Rogue's Barbershop Quartet performed "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" – the intro shot... I finished that one and then played around with one of the "Money, Money, Money" images from last posting, and came up with this, I kinda like it:





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"Get Back" – from an awkwardly lit exposure from Rogue's "Next Chapter" at the Opera House

Apr 25, 2022

This is the exposure I liked the most from Jeremy, backed up by Josh and Alex (along with some keyboard from Scott and sax from Natasha), singing the Beatles' "Get Back". The whole top half was lit with orange light, the bottom half enough of a mixture of light to not have all that much in the way of difficulty here. The lighter section leaking through on the right was thanks to the small music lights. The color exposure looked like it might have been made in a rainbow.

This took a little work. the primary difficulty was what to do about the orange light – reduce it and the curtains, along with aspects of the faces, would turn white and textureless. Increase it and the background went black. Leave it and those three slightly lit spots on the curtains took on an ugly solarized look. When I finally worked it out to this point, there was still one problem – Jeremy's blond wood guitar turned black in the process. I had to produce a second file with the orange light blocked, align it under the primary file and erase over the guitar.

Included in the folio file – sticking to performance order – [HERE...](#)



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Ballroom Blitz – good to be back working up Rogue images...

May 5, 2022

Ballroom Blitz. Moxie, April and Katie were joined by Scott in this one – I did catch him in the second of the three images here. As much as Rogue performers move around on stage, there is a little hit and miss with exposures. I used one of Nan's full stage exposures, cropped, for this second image (she enjoys the show while holding a remote, clicking away on full stage shots from my tripod mounted second camera). I'm including the third simply because I like the unity of expressions.



The delay in returning to these followed the arrival (finally) of my new Mac Studio – and the time consuming, and not so pleasant, complications that arose from the transfer. Apple switched to their own processors, making for some precious snafus. As I write this I just got off the phone after a couple of hours working with Carbonite (my cloud backup) due to the fact that the version I was using was suddenly in conflict with my on-site Time-Machine backup. *The fun never ends.*

Anyway, with the Rogue performance images, I'm trying to do them according to the show numbers. Act I is coming along – with some of the more formal number images out of the way. I can have a little more fun with the next couple of groupings.



Welcome to Mystery – some opening shots

May 6, 2022

I realize that I ought to be working up the great stuff from the second act by now, but I'll get there. The iMac is all but gone – all I have to do now is clear it, box it and sell it. Everything is on a fully functioning, with a couple of work-arounds, on a new Mac Studio.

The intro number for the show was “Welcome to Mystery”, sung by the troupe while the audience viewed a cacaphony of activity on stage. These are a few of the shots I took from that. I snapped the first shot, above, of whatever was going on over in the far corner of the stage. Through the camera I couldn't see much of the detail here at all – it were dark. A few more grabs below, at the end showing Moxie, roller skates and all, Caleb and Katie come forward to bring the number to an end:







It is fascinating to watch scenes like this gradually take shape in rehearsal.



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Give Me Back my Skates Will – a brief interruption in the plot...

May 7, 2022

The image above is the third and final segment of this short drama. In the first, below, Moxie has removed the skates she wore in the first number, and Will Conway, Rogue's mischievous violinist, is checking them out. In the second image, Moxie is struggleint to get them back – they Will runs with his prize. Just one of those moments that makes the Rogue Swan shows worth watching a second time.





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Suits are Picking up the Bill

May 9, 2022

This is the segment immediately after the “Money” number, opening with Scott sweeping up the bills, and Jess of the sword and throwing knives. Brian is schmoozing the cast. After this there are two more numbers in Act I – then on to the very lively Act II. Nan and I are selecting images to work up from both my favorites and those necessary to tell represent the performance. I have word out to Lilli to be sure and let me know if I skip over anything they feel needs to be included.





Caleb and Jessy, brother and sister act, dancing...





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"I'll Rust with You" and Nate on Base

May 10, 2022

A couple of images from the "I'll Rust with You" number. Caleb and Moxie are helping Alex with his image... One more posting for Act I, I've begun working them up. Even though these will keep my busy for a while, I want to take some time to get back to some of my b&w scenics. So far this year I've produced nothing new in that arena other than my Frank's Pond sunning turtles shot in RiverView Gallery right now (its sold two so maybe it is as good as I thought) and another town snow scene (like anyone wants to look at that right now).



I did manage to catch some good lighting on Caleb:

I try to keep an eye open for a veiw of band members in the background, zooming in to catch a moment. Nate doing his thing:





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"Come Alive" Act I finale...

May 12, 2022

The finale to Act I was a rousing "Come Alive". Opening with some interesting walk throughs, including Jess Langley throwing knives. Soon most of the cast gets into it. Rogue believes in sending the cast out to intermission with numbers second only in exuberance to the show finale. they definitely believe in putting on a show...







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"Razzle Dazzle"

May 14, 2022

Yup, jist "razzle dazzle 'em" and they'll beg for more. This was definitely a number to open Act II with. Brian is almost giddy contemplating his success, while Bre is nursing doubts. I love the expression on Brian's face in the last of these images – as the marks sign on the dotted line.









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"Smooth Criminal" – the torturous five...

May 17, 2022

Nan's got to be getting tired of my moaning through the torture of eking something approaching full tonal range images out of the low light, red lit images that always seem to come up. That was these five (ok, the first one below was a splotchy combo of red and green, precious). "Smooth Criminal" – a Michael Jackson number – was an important part of the show, and scenically rich. The shifting color lighting, something the eye doesn't pay that much attention to, might actually contribute something to the show. But the camera can only see *what it sees* in that 1/250th of a second interval. I had to select a full 24 for to start working up – it's almost impossible to see enough in the red jpegs to make rational decisions. After the initial conversion to b&w, I got that down to 8. These are the five I feel come closest to working – if Rogue wants to select a couple of others to try, I'll be happy to oblige.



The final two were came from full-stage shots grabbed by Nan with a remote connected to my second camera on a tripod...





"I Didn't Plan It" – Bre's intense number

May 19, 2022

I got lucky with this sequence of images of Bre's "I Didn't Plan It". Enough wave lengths of light were represented in the original exposures to make a full range of tones available. A needed break. At the same time, Bre is so expressive that the problem isn't finding usable images, it's having the will power to trim the count down – I had to call Nan in to edit my selection down to these five.







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"Goodbye Yellowbrick Road" – Katie

May 21, 2022

Goodbye Yellowbrick Road was a Katie Gordon solo. A little tricky to catch with much of it on the far side of the stage, in very weak light (befitting the number). Between two performances I managed to get these four images. This number seemed to flow into the next – *Skyfall*. Those are done, but I'll post them tomorrow.



The sign to Katie's right – *Nobody puts baby in a corner* – was posted by JimmyO after they had to put a plexiglass barrier around his drums to mute the effect of the close drums on the rest of the cast.





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"Skyfall" – Bre and Katie

May 22, 2022

Katie Gordon and Bre Lewis, following the more sedate *Goodbye Yellowbrick Road*, team up (in the plot) for a rousing rendition of *Skyfall*. The opening image is the pair of them at the opening of the number – then one of each as they traded off parts of the song.





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"Could've Been Me" – rockin' it...

May 23, 2022

Wow, that was a rockin' number. "Could've Been Me" sung by Moxie (Marion Jackson) featuring some fancy guitar work from Jeremy Hicks-Kachik. Josh and Alex are shown in the shots here, but pretty much the whole band participated in this number. I wanted to get a telling shot of the two of them playing off one another – and wound up with three that I simply couldn't decide from. Each was in a different color light – blue, pink and orange. That made life a little more interesting.



I don't know about anyone else, but with some of the numbers that Rogue uses in their shows, songs from seemingly anywhere and any time, I have to Google them and listen to/watch a popular version. Numbers like this one, I've never heard before. And this way I get a better understanding of how they fit into the plot.



The final image, a solo of Moxie belting it out, was a little more of a challenge. Moxie had a tad of non-red light on her, but everything else was in pure, strong red light. So any normal treatment of Moxie, left her surrounded by the closest thing to a mud background one could imagine. I had to separate them and treat them very differently – only to bring them back together.





Will Strikes Again, and Again...

May 24, 2022

Not that there aren't very humorous moments in a Rogue production anyway, but they like to add in what could be called split-second-comic-relief. Earlier I posted a short sequence showing *Will Conway*, who *disguised as a mild mannered violin player*, swiped Moxie's skates and made off with them [HERE](#). Later – the intro shot is second in the sequence, Will comes on stage as Scott is trying to announce April Monique in a veil dance, having swiped her veil, and manages to look not all that sexy. First and third images below – Scott then has to usher him off stage.



Personally, I would have let him dance more...

Later, having pilfered Jess Langley's sword, Will runs brandishing it across the stage. I managed to catch two exposures, but failed to grab one with Jess in chase. Fortunately, Nan sitting there with a remote clicking off full-stage views, just caught the two of them.





Glance at the person you are sitting with, or focus on another part of the stage, and you can miss these things.



Red Right Hand, Scott as MC and Strings w/Keyboard

May 28, 2022

“Red Right Hand” – another number I had to Google (after my time) is performed by Katie and April, along with Lilli, much of it on the far, rather dark wing. I like how you can just make out JimmyO’s face back there on drums. On the opposite wing of the stage I caught Caeb on keyboard with Tom and Will on strings. It’s cool when you can grab decent exposures of segments of the band. Scott is usually the one on keyboard, but the final shot is Scott acting as MC – evidently he’s recovered from his confrontation with veil-dancing Will.



Six numbers from the show to go, then I can organize them into something similar to the last Halloween show booklet.



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"The Hell of It"

May 28, 2022

"The Hell of It" was Brian's villainous solo, the villain of the story strutting his stuff. And Brian really knows how to get into a part. When he played *Igor* in a production of *Young Frankenstein*, I absolutely could not tell it was him – even though we went in there knowing it. The first two images here are similar, back to back exposures of the little shuggle he does. The last is a somewhat more aggressive moment.



There might be a couple of days break here – next up is “Mein Herr”, a major number that was performed in pure red light. I have some real work to do on these – Nan will be able to testify to the whining.



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Mein Herr Closeup – used for GIF

May 29, 2022

OK, my blog won't allow the gif to be posted within a posting, so I put it on the home page and am just showing the two included images here. I was busy shooting all the action and changes in position during "Mein Herr" and had little time for zoom shots. I did manage to get these, a measly 1/5 of a second apart, by holding the shutter down. Next posting will include the bulk of my coverage of this number.



When putting these into the folio (that will be page four of this [HERE](#)... I've yet to figure out what to do with the GIF after that.



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"Mein Herr" – Sept d'un coup...

May 31, 2022

The rest of the "Mein Herr – one man at a time" shots are very wide. There was a lot going on across the stage. Sometimes this makes it difficult to depict much detail, but the overall effect was what was important. The fact that all was bathed in heavy red light, something hardly noticeable to the eye, made for some "precious" workflow issues. The series of images show how the background troop altered their positions to go with Moxie's very spirited rendition. Instead of picking one for the intro, I'm simply putting them in order they appeared in the number – except for the last one.







The final shot here was taken by Nan via the camera I set up on a tripod, prefocused for full-stage, where she had a release to press whenever she thought a full view would help. In this one Scott is at the keyboard on one side of the stage, and you can even see JimmyO's face behind his drums on the other.





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Uninvited

Jun 3, 2022

“Uninvited” is the group scene where the “Smooth Operator” is confronted. I’m sure the lighting was meant to be moody, ok it was. But whew, I felt like I needed a nap after these two were done. In the first the contract they were triked into signing is being shared around, in the second, Katie is tearing it up. these are the closest you will ever come to seeing all these guys looking this serious.





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"You'll be Back" – No, he won't...

Jun 4, 2022

The plot comes to something of an end with the Smooth Criminal's farewell solo – followed by his exit (through the audience) to the taunts of the troupe. By now we all know what's to come at this point – a couple of rousing finale numbers. That leaves a couple of parting shots for maybe two more postings to finish this up. These show Brian Ruff, very much in character, responding to his ouster. My favorite from this number from each of the two night time performances. I find the subtle differences between performance fascinating.



The taunts as he left – the second one was already posted at the beginning of this, I'm including it here for continuity. Brian leaves the stage and suddenly everyone leans in from the two wings to join in the fun.







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This is First Friday in Havre de Grace

Jun 5, 2022

I only have time for one quick image today, so I thought I'd throw up a quick grab of the street this First Friday with my iPhone. Fortunately someone decided to photobomb my attempt. We don't know who it is, but we have seen him around town before – and would like to have a name to go along with the face.

This was also Blues Festival weekend, so the music (many great bands spread across town to count) were fantastic. This was taken just before I started shooting me some *Freezer Burn*. I have a need image of the lead singer, when I can get to it. AND the Drum Circle was back – that will make for a couple of postings this time around.

This image will open a new sub-section to the already expansive First Friday folio – [HERE...](#)

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"Don't Stop Me Now" – finishing up with Rogue's "Next Chapter" performance...

Jun 8, 2022

This posting makes for something close to a comprehensive look at Rogue Swan's "Next Chapter Unfolds" performance at the Opera House in April. Rogue has access to the original exposures – and there is an open invitation to designate any image not so far included that they would like me to work up in b&w to include in the upcoming PDF ebook of the performance. It will be available for free download here (sometime this summer).



This makes for about 97 images (with a possibility of a couple more), with more than 75 rehearsal shots to draw on. Not all will be used, especially from rehearsal images – this will take some editing effort. I'm finishing up with the audience on their feet at the finish of the final number:





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Lilli and Caleb got Married – iPhone shot from the seats

Jun 9, 2022

I didn't want to intrude on the wedding by taking a large camera, and Nan and I were there to enjoy seeing friends get married. But at this point I couldn't resist taking out my iPhone and shooting a quickie, in RAW, that I might-*could* turn into a reasonable b&w. This is it. Sure, it's not going to be printed all that large, but it pretty much captures the moment.

And even though they held the ceremony out of town, I'm adding it to the Havre de Grace miscellaneous [Around Town](#) section since they are both townies. We both really love the "Until the Very End" bit.....

Now I can get to the First Friday images...



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First Friday Drum Circle – Some Regulars

Jun 10, 2022

Between COVID, some rainouts late in the year prior to COVID and May's downpours, First Fridays are feeling a little scarce. But it and the Drum Circle are back. No matter how many, or few, images I get out of a First Friday, there's always something fun from the Drum Circle, led by *Cliff Giles* – the second image here. What I really like about the intro image here is that the drums reflected in the sunglasses become more of a thing the larger the image is blown up.



The drum circle is alive and always changing as the evening progresses. I've occasionally been tempted to take a seat along, plunk it down and focus on nothing but. I'm calling this posting some "Regulars" – the next some "Irregulars", as the kids, as always, become a big part of the scene.

This lady is the backbone of the event, making sure chairs, drums, miscellaneous percussion instruments, etc. are there and ready. I promise to get a name next month – I've been lax in that for far too long. The Drum Circle is possibly the most iconic, regular aspect of Havre de Grace's First Fridays, making up a major part of the First Fridays folio.



The pair below are almost always participants, and both almost always sporting expressions of concentration as they help provide the sometimes complex beat. Again, names are too much of an afterthought with me. Sorry:





First Friday Drum Circle – some irregulars

Jun 11, 2022

Darned if I'm not going to have to make it three postings just on the Drum Circle. Here are three shots I wanted to add to the collection – the intro image being a little different. This young lady took an empty chair and proceeded to sketch one of the more interesting participants. I just made sure to use a little shallow depth of field so his face would be out of focus. I'd really like to see the sketch – which, who knows, might be possible if I get a name, and she has a web site or Facebook page she posts on.

The second shot looks like a father and son trip to the Drum Circle – boys' day out on the town (grabbed with the iPhone):



The last shot today – mom and two girls. I have individual shots of the two girls to add next time, the little one getting up to dance to the beat a little. I just didn't have time to do them up for this posting:





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Drum Circle – yes, it's open to the little ones

Jun 12, 2022

The First Friday Drum Circle is a true Havre de Gracian experience – everyone is welcome. The little ones are not only encouraged, but helped along with a box full of instruments they can choose from. I have no names here, so I'll have to be light on commentary, other than to point out that the second and third shots, the pair right below, can be seen along with their mother in one of the exposures in the last posting:





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A Couple of Fine Ladies – plus the Street Chess Saga Continues

Jun 14, 2022

Nan drew my attention to this young lady, live-painting in her booth. First I shot her making sure to include her very striking boots as Nan suggested, but then she looked up and I snapped this. In the end, Nan agreed that this might be better. The card we picked up says *Vasia Rowson*.

I've photographed the second young lady here before. The Bridal Salon always adds to First Friday by having one to three "brides" out front – which just has to be a rough job. This time it was only one, my favorite. I always try shoot while they are (seh is) posing for someone else, catching the angle I want – sometimes winding up with unposed portraits that look almost formal.



Then there are two more additions to the **Street Chess** saga. The first, which I will not caption, seems to beg for just that. Nan and I had fun speculating as to exactly what was going on. The second Street Chess image below just confused me. These two young ladies were playing chess from the sides of the board. They seemed, at least for the short time I watched, to know what they were doing. But hey, how can anyone do that. I'm a long-time chess player, and tried it, and could not orient myself.





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String Joy – with the rest of the First Friday in June Images

Jun 15, 2022

Bands, bands, bands, on every block. I call the intro image *String Joy* after both the shirt and expression this guy is wearing. Tired and dragging our feet, on our way out, we noticed First Friday seemed to have expanded another block, so we took that route out. Music, food, booths, everything. Didn't get the name of the band, but they were definitely rocking it. The guy in the second shot, on the sax, was standing right next to *String Joy*. I will try to add a name to the band – I just need to get this posting up and finish up on this First Friday's images.



The big tent on Pennington was featuring, at least when we were there, *Joe Keys and the Late Bloomer Band*. I posted a shot of the group a couple of First Fridays ago, ok quite a while timewise, so I'm focusing on Joe Keys here He cuts quite a figure.



;Below is the lead singer, and evidently keyboard player combo, for *Freezer Burn*. They had the prime spot opposite *Josephs*. It's not unusual at all to see couples getting up to dance in the street here – see the couple below below. Hey, it's Havre de Grace, just do your own thing





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Some Rogue candids – and progress report

Jul 1, 2022

I am considerably increase the body of Rogue Swan rehearsal images for *The Next Chapter Unfolds*. Anything related to the number *Smooth Criminal* was omitted from pre-performance postings – Rogue wanted this to be a surprise. At the same time I'm mining exposures for interesting candids to add to the pdf ebook of the project – that is approaching completion. The intro shot here shows KT Gordon and Jess Langley as they line up for program portraits. Below, Bre joins Scott immediately after he had his portrait taken.



Here's a shot of Lilli helping to lace up Bre's costume at the next rehearsal:



While this was happening Nate and Brian were taking something of a relaxing break:



As I finish these up they are being added to the *Next Chapter* folios [HERE](#) – the rehearsal images are also accessed upper right from the performance page.

I know there have been delays on this – couple of reasons. While all this was happening, I was changing computers / hard drives / on-line backup / etc. A folder of these images wound up misplaced, giving me the impression that they were done. The good news for me is that I finally got out from under that fifty fusion drive and have the fastest, smoothest running machine I've ever had. Then recently I ran into a resurgence of an old health issue that kept me from sitting at the computer for a number of days. I'm working to catch up now.

Site note: oops, when I restructured my *Havre de Grace* folios index page, I left off the link to the *Saturday Market* folio. Not a large collection of images, but totally missing for a couple of months. Fixed it.



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The Hushdown, First Friday – beginning here with Josh

Jul 3, 2022

Smack in the middle of the Rogue Swan Marathon I took the picture below for the band *The Hushdown*. They were to be performing this past First Friday at the State Theater in town. The shot made it to Facebook, but somehow the completed post never got uploaded here on the blog – so I'm rewriting it. At the performance I concentrated on individual shots (actually quite a lot – looking for one great image of each member). It's something of a crap shoot during a performance.

The intro image above is of Josh Hutchinson, who joins the band on guitar. I'm showing him first simply because his mother (KT from Rogue) was in the audience, and I assume she is anxious to see it.



Left to right: JimmyO and April Burril, Kali Hinkel, Jeremy Hicks-Kasik and Josh Hutchinson

Things may slow down more than I want right now – both of us are fighting some frustrating health issues. I'm adding Josh to the First Friday folio, to be followed by the rest of the crew. Then I gotta work out where else to put the Hushdown collection.



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The Hushdown, First Friday – Kali and Jeremy

Jul 6, 2022

Below, *Jeremy* (Jeremy Hicks-Kasik), lead guitar and sometimes vocals – I read on line he writes some of the music. I wanted to get this shot with his hat still on – he often removes it later in a show, resulting in long hair flying everywhere. I have those shots elsewhere.



I'm suddenly limited somewhat as to computer time for a bit, so these are coming out a little slower than usual. Here are two more from the **Hushdown** shoot on *First Friday*. The intro shot is *Kali* (Kali Hinkel), lead singer. It helped to be shooting her at an angle, getting me a ready dark background to the light on her hair and limiting mic blockage. Interesting phenomenon that the majority of singers seem to shift the mic off to the left rather than the right – making it a total wipe-out to shoot from their left (mostly).

Since this was a free First Friday performance, I'm adding the images to the First Friday folio [HERE....](#) as well as initiating something of their own folio. I'll finish these up with JimmyO and April next.



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The Hushdown, First Friday – April and JimmyO

Jul 7, 2022

This finishes my First Friday performance portraits of The Hushdown. April goes first here, duh - she's definitely the pretty one of the pair. Hers was the trickiest. She was in red and blue light for this one, creating a lot of brush work. Nan's fault, she insisted on this particular exposure. I agree though, it was a good choice.

JummyO, her husband, is on drums in the back. Sometimes it can be a frustration getting a clear shot. This time I was able to zoom in under Jeremy whenever he stepped back - which was often because, fortunately, he moves around a lot.



Two things left to do here: finish up on the rest of First Friday and open a separate Hushdown folio.



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First Friday – State Theater Free Concerts

Jul 8, 2022

It's just two images. First, I managed to get back and take a couple of exposures of the whole **Hushdown** band on stage. This never seems to work out super, but this is at least tolerable.

Below is a near-the-end shot of the band that came on before – **Adult Rejects**. I might have appreciated them more if the sound level hadn't been painfully high – from the back row.





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Drum Circle – First Friday

Jul 10, 2022

Even when I can't spend much time cruising First Friday, I make a point of at least one stop at the Drum Circle. I keep playing with the idea of trying spending maybe two straight hours there – it's so productive when just stopping by. I grabbed a couple of shots of the gentleman in the intro image before he spotted me and gave me this stare for having the audacity – I love it.

Then the young lady here caught me too:



Finally, this young lady was concentrating much too hard on following the drum leaders to pick up on anything else:



A Batch of Random Rogue Rehearsal Shots – as I put finishing touches to the pdf ebook

Jul 12, 2022

Finally able to get back to finishing up the pdf ebook for Rogue's *The Next Chapter Unfolds*. I immediately found 10 rehearsal images not previously used that I think would be fun to add – so here they are. While all at one drop here, I'll have to make it two posting the same day on Facebook – these "kids" are local. In the intro shot the musicians take to the stage to get things set up for the first time. Lilli is setting up her rehearsal evaluation table, and heaven only knows what the heck Brian is up to over there.

Below Directors *KT Gordon* and *Lilli Burril* are joined by Musical Director *Scott Kukuck* and Sound Director *Alex Paul* as they start bringing things together:



Two perspectives on Keyboard man *Jason Bock*...



Scott blowing his horn and *Caleb* rehearsing I know not what being *KT* and *Lilli* comparing notes:



Bre – such an expressive face when she sings, always something different:



JimmyO on drums before he grew his beard back and *Marion* (Moxie) practicing her rollerskate moves:



Last but hardly least is Havre de Grace's own, unstoppable *April Monique* (*Burriel*) taking a quick rest break. No idea that anyone is looking, let alone snapping a picture:





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Rogue Swan

at the Opera House in Havre de Grace April 8/9 2022

“The Next Chapter Unfolds”



by

JAMES CRAIG

from blog entries

Jamescraigphotography.com

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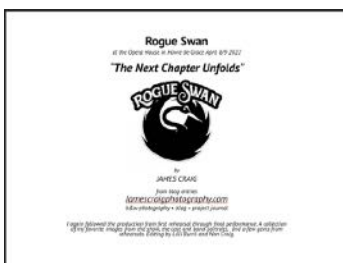
I again followed the production from first rehearsal through final performance. A collection of my favorite images from the show, the cast and band portraits, and a few gems from rehearsals. Editing by Lilli Burril and Nan Craig.

Rogue Swan's "The Next Chapter Unfolds" free pdf eBook

Jul 18, 2022

This PDF is “optimized” for readers. Still a bit large at 164mb, but there are a lot of images in there – all from the folios here on the site. Along with information, performance notes, etc. If loaded into a reader or iPad books app, the pdf will read like a book. On a computer it will act more like a regular pdf.

Thanks to Nan and Lilli Burril for catching hopefully all of my errors and faux-pas, and helping with my presentation. Thanks again to *Rogue Swan* for giving me an opportunity to simply do what I do – my b&w photography.





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Seeking Feedback, Names, Information – Easter Island Project Volume III

Jul 27, 2022

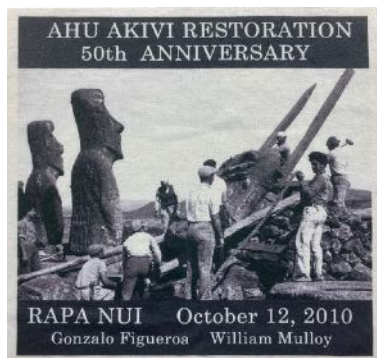
Herein is a link to a (very) rough draft of the upcoming (free) pdf eBook / final collection of our Easter Island images from 2006 through 2016. I am seeking names, information, feedback, etc. **The most needed identifications, etc. are circled in red on the pdf file.** This is low resolution, converted from the potential book file – the book is limited to 120 pages. So the file pdf eBook will be able to be expanded to allow more images to be displayed larger.

If you would like to help, simply click below and download the draft pdf. Any information needed is noted on the file.

[GET DRAFT PDF](#)

At the same time I am adding the newer images to the Island folios here on the web site. There will be more following the addition of the more than a dozen shown here. [Easter Island Folios index page](#)... I opened with an addition to the Roberto Pakomio collection – recovered from an accidentally tilted exposure that I wound up liking only half corrected. I call it Roberto's "Huaaa Moment".

Three more from the Akivi 50th anniversary celebration:



A Tapati 2007 parade shot & Katalina in 2008 at Terry's place dancing:

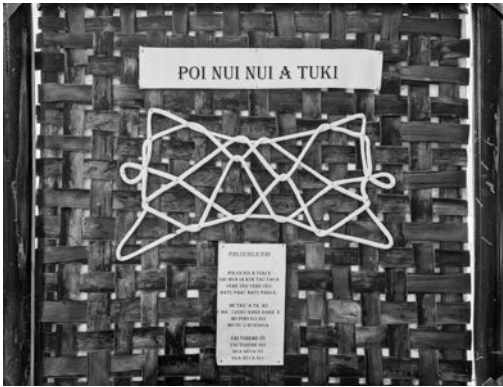


These three are from a Poike ride in 2009 to the "Map of the Stars"



And a slew more from the four School Day Celebrations we were priveleged to be on Island to attend:





I am adding these to the tail end of the folio for now, but will later rearrange the folio to reflect the arrangement in the pdf.

The final version of the pdf will be posted here for download as soon as it is finished.



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Really Big Chair – a First Friday thing?

Aug 8, 2022

I love it when something comes to First Friday here in Havre de Grace that I look for every time we go back. An art booth showing work by a young artist named *Vasia Rowson* sports a really big folding chair for her to sit in. She's rather tall, so it isn't much of a problem for her, but when Nan was offered an opportunity to climb in, she used a step-ladder – and then she had to stretch her arms to the max to get them on the arm rests. Image below:



The intro image is of another young artist sharing the booth, so I asked her to sit in the chair for a shot – she has such great eyes. Both images were a little wider, but the chair dwarfed them too much not to crop in – especially Nan.

First Friday in September, that chair will be on the list of things I'm looking to check out – along with the Drum Circle, Street Chess, etc. Just maybe there will be another opportunity for a shot – something where I can back up and get the whole thing in...

Both added to the First Fridays folio [here](#).

p.s. I'm adding the shot of Paul Wilkinson playing at the *Saturday Market* to the collection in the folios on the blog [here](#)





Expanding my Street Chess Collection – First Friday

Aug 9, 2022

First Fridays have a lot going on. So having a number of ongoing collections, the happenings scattered throughout the festival, is something of a challenge. MOre here and miss that, move there and miss this. Gotta keep moving and one's eyes open. Fortunately Street Chess and the Drum Circle are close. Todays images add to the Street Chess collection. Three images of youngsters, their parents standing by and enjoying something of a break while the kids are preoccupied familiarizing themselves with chess pieces.



There are often serious games going on, although as a chess player myself I can't see how they can concentrate. The final image shows, cigar in hand, this fellow has just pushed his pawn to f6, blocking and threatening the bishop that had just moved to g5, threatening his queen.



These have been added to the First Friday collection [here](#)... I shot a few more shots, enough for one more posting. I was hoping for some dusk shooting, but the rain it did come, rather quickly.



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Two more from First Friday in August

Aug 15, 2022

Got distracted with the complexities involved in bring the final Easter Island pdf together and forgot to post these from First Friday in August. This is Saxl Rose, on Franklin Street outside Creole de Gras. Definitely a worthy draw to get people to leave Washington Street. There was food and dancing in the street. I took a shot of him while leaving last First Friday, but this time worked a little longer trying to capture his concentration.

Below, I again caught Duke Thompson in the Drum Circle. The sun is still on him, as the shat approaches from the back. This time I waited for him to spot me – then clicked. I was trying out my Fuji 16-80mm lens, a 26 to 120 equivalent zoom that I definitely should not have shied away from. This is now my First Friday lens.





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First Friday in September – Kids of All Sizes Love the Drum Circle

Sep 3, 2022

The Drum Circle was pretty much where it was at this time around. There was, as always, a lot going on, but the Drum Circle kept drawing me back. In fact, it will take three postings of multiple images to cover just it. The Circle changes, evolves, morphs as the evening progresses. I try and get mm shots before the light goes, so if it happens late, I probably missed it. The opening shot shows probably the biggest kid I've seen there yet – but he was having just as much fun.

Below are some more kids from this First Friday – lots to add to the front end of the collection in the Folios, [HERE...](#)







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Silver Scream – First Peek

Sep 4, 2022

Thought I'd follow the progress of another upcoming performance from our local vaudeville troupe Rogue Swan. Just one shot to start things off. The show is called "Silver Scream" and will be performed this time at the Milburn stone Theater in Northeast in October – no one does Halloween events like Rogue Swan. This is L.H. James (I wonder why he always seems to play a bad guy) and April Monique (who disguised as a local belly-dancer) at the first rehearsal. Obviously the experienced players begin taking on their roles right from the start.

Early rehearsals generally don't show much, but I'm sure I'll find some interesting shots, and there are some new faces to introduce. I'm looking forward to all the hard work ahead.

Looks like I'll be starting a new Rogue folio soon...



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April and JimmyO do the Drum Circle

Sep 6, 2022

April Monique JimmyO Burril brought some variety to the Drum Circle. I'm using the image of April "instructing" a very cute, if active young lady for the intro. She even took her shoes off at one point just because April was barefoot. The three images below are something of a sequence – zooming in some for each shot.







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More from First Friday

Sep 7, 2022

No theme for this post, just four images I particularly like. Difficult to choose an intro shot – but I opted for this grab shot where the subjects spotted what I was doing. First try the child hand't caught on yet, but by the time I took this one she was up for it. What with the harsh sun and shadows I expected some hard work ahead – then found practically nothing to do.

The next shot is from the Drum Circle – the whole family. I identified with this bunch, we had three girls close together like that. Just wait until they have three teenage girls, in different stages, all at once. Precious!



I'm always looking for Street Chess shots. This one includes the fellow who seems to be the one responsible for setting up the sets on First Fridays.



Finally, Nan wanted me to make another try to capture this young lady and her :shoes". I wasn't sure about the shot, but found something I like about the composition, patters, etc. Same lady as in a shot from July First Friday (in the Folio also).





Rogue Swan – Some Some Silver Scream First Run-thru Shots

Sep 11, 2022

I've attended two rehearsals for Rogue Swan's upcoming Halloween show **Silver Scream** now. What I thought I'd do is start off with a few more fun shots. If anyone considers getting tickets to the Milburn Stone Theater for this not all that tempting, perhaps some of these images will give some idea of how much you just might be missing. Halloween is special for the Rogue family – many of them celebrate Halloween from Labor day through Christmas. This is their specialty. The intro shot shows Katie reading the script as a group, some old hats and a few newbies, taking their first crack at a scene that, at least seems to me, to be one of organized chaos.

The next four images show close-up pairings of expressions. I had a lot of fun trying to get these. There's something very cool about watching the first time something is tried, then the second, etc.



Above Caleb puts on the charm, but Melissa isn't having it – while Scott, who looks like he will need makeup to look either scary or scared is behind Stephanie. Below, Sasha and Jess look like they see a ghost – and Alex joins Scott looking at this point like they're enjoying themselves



For next time I'm putting together something of a cast-so-far set of portraits – though not the looks they might select for themselves, he he. With these I'm setting up a Folio for the Silver Screen rehearsal images [HERE...](#)



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Introducing the Ladies of the Silver Screen – so far

Sep 11, 2022

I showed up at the first two of the rehearsals, and noticing that there were some new faces this year, decided to do up a series of formalized grab-shot portraits to introduce the cast. They certainly aren't what they would have expected, but hey, it is for the Halloween show. The intro shot is of Katie, of course. She's the heart and soul of the troupe. I may not remain among the living for long when she sees this one, but I like it.

Emily (no last name yet) and Marion (Moxie) Jackson – she caught me and smiled, darn her.



Then Jess Langley is back, here along with another newbie Stephanie Millward





A couple more newbies, the very expressive Melissa Fazzino and Sasha Reddy
And the inimitable, Havre de Grace's own Belly Dance queen, April Moniquen Burrell:





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James And April – a Sequence

Sep 14, 2022

I'd almost forgotten how much fun the run-up to a Rogue Halloween performance can be. At the same time I'm working with a new (used) lens that is proving perfect for tight rehearsal spaces. No more taking both a wide angle and telephoto – the Fuji 16-80 (24 to 120 equivalent) is proving to be the one lens solution.

The opening shot shows Katie's script coming in from the right – where she is overseeing a run-through of the scene. L.H. James and April Burril are pros, already ready to take on the role completely. So I decided to include four more from the sequence:



That's Lilli taking a video in the background, every move is reviewed...





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Rogue Gentlemen of Silver Scream

Sep 21, 2022

There are eleven of these here. I use the one of JimmyO for the intro – after all he’s pretty much front and center in the show, and is already looking the part. Here are the rest – assuming there will be an addition or two:

Stephen – Ron



Dane – L.S. James



Caleb – Nate



Josh – Jeremy



Jason – Matt



Adding these to the beginning of the rehearsal shots - makes ID easier. Folio [HERE...__](#)

Finished with the Easter Island pdf eBook file just in time for devoting more energy to the Rogue images. The Island file will be uploaded this week – gotta convert, optimize, etc. yet.



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Lilli, one of the driving forces behind the scenes in Rogue Swan

Introducing More Silver Screen Cast

Sep 24, 2022

Six more ladies and one gentleman. And I happen to know there will be more. This production has more cast than most – possibly because so many of them become un-dead during the course of the story. Tough to select an intro shot this time – I picked a new face, **Megan Fannin**, because she seems to be enjoying her “**witchiness**” so much.

The next two aren't new faces, but not as often seen on stage. The first is **Jazz**, daughter of JimmyO and April – the second **Lilli**, one of the driving forces behind the scenes in *Rogue Swan*:



New face in *Rogue Swan* **Sam Marshall** – and **Natasha Herlinger**, a regular in the band.



And another Rogue gentleman: Jess Hutchinson – notice I don't worry as much at being “kind” to the guys.



Added to the fore of the Folio [HERE](#) – working to get grab shots of the cast on the first page – *now to get to the good stuff...*

Site Note:

With two major Rogue Swan shows this year, not to mention everything else, the Blog has accumulated a huge number of posts. At some point I'll have to think about starting the 2022 pdf archive of postings with maybe the first half of the year – just to unclog things a bit.



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The Moon has been Eaten

*Volume III – expanding on themes and people
Easter Island project 2006-2016*

[james craig](#)

with Easter Island Paintings by [nan craig](#)

The Moon has been Eaten Volume III pdf

Sep 25, 2022

This volume is designed to fill in the gaps, putting into a third book and pdf volume what are now some of our favorite Island images. Finally, the finishing touches to a project that involved a total of three years on Easter Island and tens of thousand exposures. The Easter Island folios here will have to suffice as the one place where the complete collection can be viewed. The pdf version includes, in addition to those in the print version, a few images that didn't make the book, any future updates and a catalog of Nan's Island paintings. This volume is considerable larger and more personal.

It is also, as always, free to download and optimized as much as possible without compromising the images (*about 100mb*):



Katie Gordon Leads the Way

Sep 25, 2022

Katie Gordon is something to watch at rehearsals – it's all in, as much as if it's the actual show. At the same time, she's choreographing – demonstrating and watching. In the shot above, Megan and Moxie are working on their moves, while Katie is already there. They are, of course, three cackling witches. Kinda eerie. Below Katie is sneaking up on the innocent April. In the final image, Katie is being supported by Nate. Other than some observations, I am pretty uninformed as to what goes on in *Silver Scream*. I can't wait for rehearsals to hit the stage.





Another New Face, a Replacement Cast Intro and Three go Aaaaaah

Sep 27, 2022

The band rehearsal garage gets tight. For all three of these I had to get right in their faces, with a wide angle (not the most flattering way to shoot people) at extreme iso. The opening image I took last week, the matching expressions come from some kind of held chant. At least they weren't moving much. The second shot, below, is a new face in Rogue Swan that I'm addidg from this week – you can't have haunting music without at least one violin. This young lady is *Hannah Potts*.



Rogue band veteran *Matt Cassarino* showed up with the coolest old sax I've ever seen. So I decided to replace his cast- intro shot, getting low, right in his face with the wide angle.



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Facial Expressions Have to Reach the Last Row

Sep 28, 2022

I used the image of JimmyO and Megan as the intro because it begs the question: "Do I really need makeup for this role?" Gotta love that look. The next two shots are Jesse with Caleb and Jesse with Stephanie. We're always impatient for Rogue shows, but bu the Halloween shows are ready, we're really ready. It is definitely their specialty. I don't believe JimmyP and April sleep in coffins, but.....





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Will is Back and Even script-held rehearsals are great

Oct 2, 2022

Will Conway who, disguised as a band violinist, has a habit of morphing into something between Caliban and a mischievous puppy on stage. In the last show “seemed to” interrupt the show by stealing Moxie’s skates, Jes’s Sword and April’s veil (his dance was not a success). I can’t wait to see what trouble he gets into this time.

Then here’s some of my favorite shots from the mid-September script-in-hand rehearsal – I have a lot to go through from the final rehearsal of the month:

Looks like everyone wants the favor of the head honcho, or undead...



The next three were shot almost in sequence – even reading script while performing, this scene is great...



Added to the Silver Scream rehearsal folio [HERE...](#)

The final September rehearsal left me with a lot to look at. Lilli helped out a little by selecting 15 to work up – I have a list almost as long. Here's hoping I can trim that down a tad.



A Chorus Line? and other Moments

Oct 3, 2022

This is a chorus line that is entertaining enough without costuming. Though the *Rockettes* they are not. The second shot, below, follows closely. Seems like they are all adding a proud “Ta da” to their performance. Shooting rehearsals, the troupe calling for numbers, or sometimes parts of numbers, sometimes leaves me with no idea whatsoever what I’m shooting. It’s a lot of fun though – and there’s always the challenge of working with horrendous precious lighting.



Here *Dane* looks like he's trying to protect *Katie* – somebody should tell him that that isn't going to work out all that well.



In this number Dane is the only one on the floor at this point – I haven't a clue as to what that is all about.



Finally, sometimes it's fun to zoom in on stage background activity – carefully coordinated but can be missed if not watching for it. Here Emily and Jess Langley practice their pose at one point.





Jump – and do Will, Alex and Nate seem to be enjoying themselves just a little too much?

Oct 3, 2022

This was the best rehearsal yet – with enough shots for a number of postins. The opening shot – I knew it was coming and simply held the shutter down at five frames a second – maybe eight next time. And the whole floor shook when they came down.

I'll try to add details in the folio later – too much work to do to have time for that here. As far as all the vignetting – gotta add a little darkness mood to even the rehearsals for a Halloween performance.



Added to the Silver Screen rehearsal folio [HERE...](#)



Nailing the Lift and Alex & Stephanie

Oct 5, 2022

Above the first in a series of shots showing early rehearsal of an important, and tricky, lift sequence. Below are the next two. It can be a little daunting that, with the overhead lighting, faces tend to be heavily shadowed, almost all needing isolated, special treatment to bring them out. Stage lighting it is not. One thing helping this year, for rehearsals anyway, is the 16-80mm lens (26-120 equivalent). Wide angle to telephoto lenses, especially those that can hold the same maximum aperture throughout the zoom can be extremely handy under these conditions – in spite of some trade-offs. It has also become my go-to *First Friday* lens.



Two shots from a scene with Alex and Stephanie. Alex getting a feel for his special hand extensions – not the easiest things in the world to get on and off.





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Will knows that the Lady in the back row wants to see the emotion...

Oct 12, 2022

I got way behind over the last week – and on top of that had to add in another First Friday, the Hofla at the Opera House and even a few minutes at the Pride Festival to the backlog. Lots o' hours at the computer coming up. Lilli with Rogue Swan is helping out by making some selections – one of the more time consuming tasks, comparing and choosing exposures to work up. I started with these three of Will she tagged – which had Nan and myself having fun writing captions like... “Come on Will, put some emotion into it.” etc.





Will is definitely stepping out some from his roll as mild mannered violin in the band. Silver Scream promises to be the one event this Fall worth seeing. Halloween is a Rogue Swan specialty – and their Halloween event is always phenomenal. This one is at the Milburn Stone Theater – tickets available on line now.

Added to the Silver Scream rehearsal folio [HERE...](#)

Gonna try and do up some of the Hafla images mixed in with the work on these – the last First Friday of the year will be a little slow coming.



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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Kalayla

Oct 12, 2022

Kalayla, who we've been fortunate enough to see a few times, was the first dancer to take the stage. She's a very active performer, so I try to catch her at points where at least something is still enough to be sharp. In both of these you can see the hair flying. While a faster shutter freezes action, a somewhat not-quite-fast-enough shutter conveys something of the effect. I've gotten away with as slow as 1/30 second with shots that have worked. These were at 1/250 and still show the action.



Kalayla is fun to watch because, besides being good, can be seen to really be enjoying herself – she's been known to introduce a little humor into her performances. I uploaded a number of color exposures for her use – these are the two that I saw in b&w. The background was, to be kind, something of a disappointment, so I did my best to overcome that obstacle – a dark stage works so much better with bellydance – or a dark curtain.



Silver Scream Rehearsal – Hyde as Ladies Man

Oct 15, 2022

From the latest batch of exposures I bring you Hyde as a ladies man. In the intro shot the Rogue Swan troupe is becoming zombified (if that's a word) as they are somehow drawn into old black and white horror moviedom. L.H James as Hyde seems to be the worst of the lot. It's all in fun though – and the musical numbers are a riot. The challenge for me is that this is the first show where so much moves so fast so continuously – definitely keeping me on my toes. My poor overworked camera – no posing whatsoever, so: point, burst and hope for the best, all while being careful not to get trampled.







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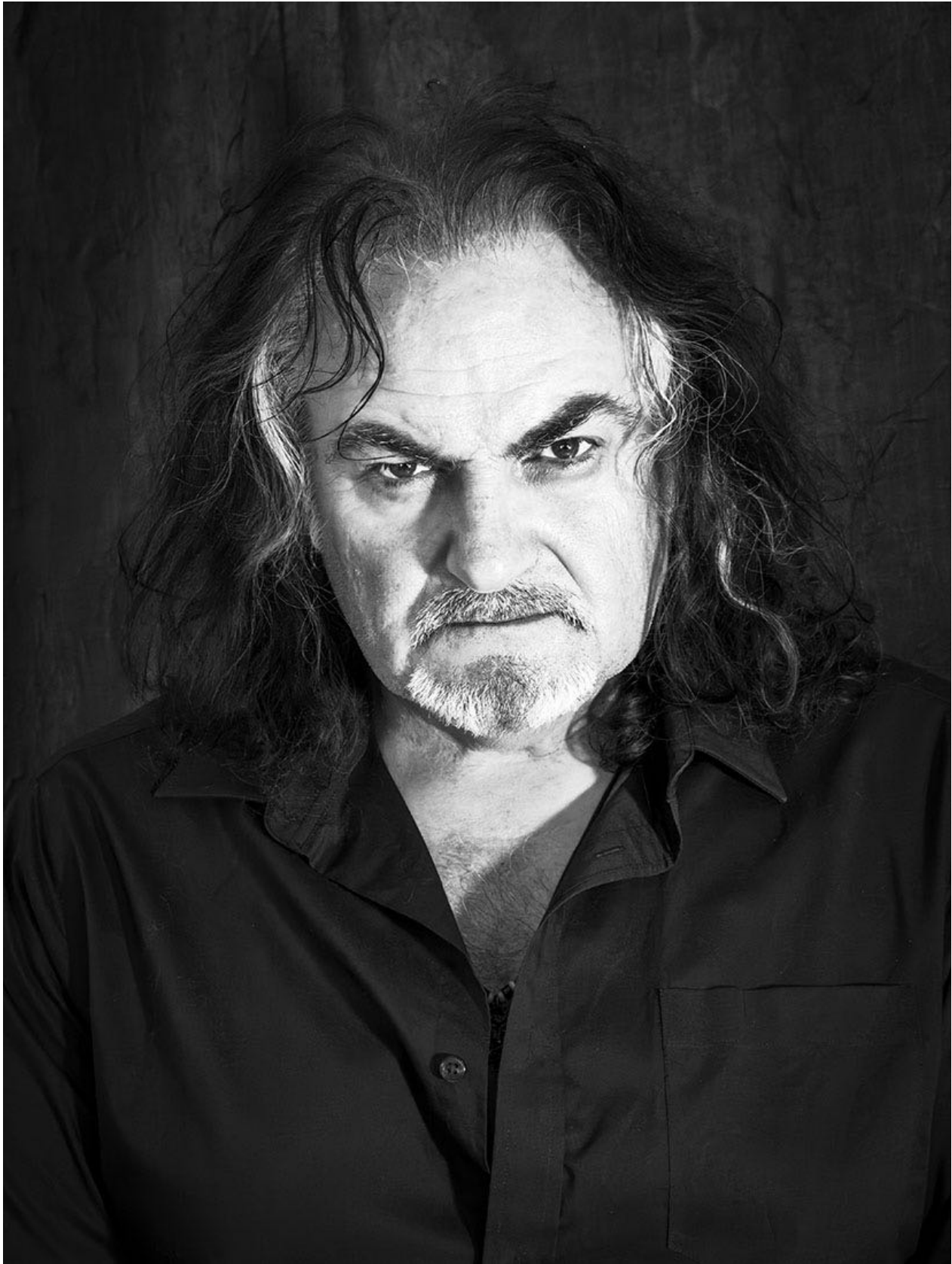


The Count, with JimmyO, April and Moxie portraits

Oct 19, 2022

One more rehearsal at Concord Point Coffee (after hours) and on to the theater. The intro shot shows the Count with some of his entourage. Will down there is playing something like the Count's version of Igor. Below are the first of a series of more formal cast portraits. Rogue needs those for those little cast photo ovals in the program – I take the opportunity to make more presentable versions. It's such a relief to work with exposures that weren't taken while trying to keep up with the action, catch moments and keep from getting trampled all at the same time.

JimmyO (the Count)...



April...



Moxie...





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Scary Ladies of the Silver Scream

Oct 20, 2022

Lots of Rogue Swan newbies in Silver Screen. Thankfully a number of the regulars opted to use past program portraits this time around again, giving me a little bit of a break. Today we have five who decided to let their inner scary shine while retaining their charm – making it even scarier. The intro shot is a pair of sisters, Áine and Máire Watkins. I'll have to print this one up for their parents – just perfect for a mantle.

Here's Amy Tucker with her wilting look and Hannah Potts with her violin looking like she could make you eat it



And my favorite from this series: Megan managing to turn so cute into downright intimidating...





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Silver Scream – The Rest of the New-Portrait Ladies

Oct 21, 2022

As things are hectic at this stage, and a few of the troupe opted to just use program portraits from the last show, I got a crack at mostly newbies along with a few regulars. I kept all the ones that managed to look spooky or threatening in the last posting – not all of us can manage to look demonic at will. The opening shot is Jess Langley – a regular with the troupe. Lots of great images of Jess in the folio.

Below, four of the newbies, I believe some of them are regulars in productions at the Mulburn Stone Theater in Cecil County.

Stephanie • Melissa



Emily • Sasha





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Silver Scream Program Portraits – the rest of the gentlemen

Oct 22, 2022

Rushing to get these out is something of a formal format – even though they will be used primarily for small, cropped ovals in the program for the show. Interesting how the single, low, from the front right light has a different effect depending on the subject. Always a little “off” – sometimes scary. Seemed appropriate for this performance though. A big plus is the opportunity to shoot without worrying about a moving subject, or getting trampled.

Dane • Jess



Alex • Scott



Matt • Jeremy



Ron • Josh





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Silver Scream – I have to do what?

Oct 23, 2022

What with the hectic rehearsal schedule, and timing demands on providing cast portraits for the program, seven members of the cast were unavailable to sit on the designated day. So I was asked to “spookify” their portraits from the Spring show. After a herculean effort I went to bed in disgust to sleep on it – diving back into it this morning. The six below take the at least not unflattering shots from the Spring and play around with the lighting a bit – with varying degrees of success in the apookiness department. At least they fit in now. Slightly spookified. The intro shot is different – Will’s shot proved more difficult so I zoomed in on a rehearsal shot, interpolated the crap out of it, and worked this up. It’s definitely a tad creepy, right in line with the character he plays in the production.







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Silver Scream – Rehearsal hits the Theater...

Oct 24, 2022

Rushing these five through. Yesterday was more sound check, band coordination, etc. along with a little rehearsal. Tonight is a major full rehearsal. Lilli selected a bunch, of which I managed these few before we have to get ready to get back to the theater. This year's Halloween show is a little more demanding on everyone. The Intro shot is Alex – "I Am Pure Evil"– and Stephanie.

Jazz Burril on the big drum with daddy JimmyO...



From behind the band while the cast, backlit, goes through vocal exercises...



Lilli and Jason Bock go over one of the arrangements...



I managed to throw in one full stage shot – difficult to get at this point...





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Lilli Picks Three More Band Pictures – and a missed (oops) cast portrait

Oct 25, 2022

The intro shot is of Jason Bock. Always difficult to get a good “action” shot of the maestro of the keyboard – even if he does have the cool shaved head. The hands are always moving, but not much else. This is the first time I’ve like what I got – in an extremely dark part of the room with nothing but his keyboard light. It’s also nice that he’s wearing a Rogue Swan shirt (I’ve got that one)...

Lilli helps out by sending me a list of her favorites, these came in along with those in the last posting – good choices. Next is the new violinist Hannah concentrating on her music – fortunately there was a tiny bit of light coming in over the stage backdrop for this one.



Will, who can clown around with the best of them on stage, originally brought his real talent to the troupe, violin. No front lighting whatsoever for this one. At first I was disappointed when I realized that I managed to focus on the violin, leaving his face slightly out. But then I decided I liked it and to simply declare that I did it that way on purpose.



And the missed portrait – here's Stephen, the new Drummer. They may be hidden way in the back, but they make the most noise... At least he managed, what with the glasses magnifying his eyes, to look quite a bit spooky for this one.





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Silver Scream – these were fun to work up

Oct 26, 2022

These from a rehearsal spent working on the munitae, both on stage and my working out the details of just how to shoot the final dress rehearsal coming up. This is a much faster moving show than any before it. The intro shot shows the Watson sisters, Áine and Máire, seeming to float across the stage. It's a short but quite effective scene – actually they're sort of skipping. I just managed to catch them in the air – even spookier. These young ladies are getting a taste for the stage early.

The shot below is something of an extreme effort. It is a major crop from the drastically underexposed background – stage lights weren't hitting them at this point. The only recourse was to convert "noise" into old fashioned Tri-X at 800 type grain for effect. That's JimmyO rehearsing his role as *The Count*, with Stephanie as his "favorite" among his "wives" as (I assume) an *Elvira* character.



Added to the growing Silver Scream Rehearsals folio [HERE](#)...

p.s. There will be only four performances – this Friday and Saturday and next Friday and Saturday at the Milburn Stone Theater, Cecil College. This is the one must-see event this Halloween season.



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Silver Scream – Ballet Moment

Oct 28, 2022

Just like the best tragedies have their comic relief, the Silver Scream farce has this wonderful scene where Stephanie dances while Alex sings, a vampire ballet moment. I pulled these eight exposures out and asked Nan to pick four – she proceeded to bruise me about the head and mandate that I work up all eight for today. Arrrgh. Long night, and I haven't been able to get to those exposures at all yet. But I did manage to finish these – punishment from Nan averted. They are arranged pretty much in sequence – after which things pretty much deteriorate into planned chaos and fun.











April in the Soup – Nate as wolfman and Chain Saw Guy

Oct 31, 2022

One of the coolest skit in Silver Screen is when three witches are enjoying themselves cooking themselves up a pot of April. I got lots of exposures – doing up these three. I should mention, lighting was not going to be ready for prime time until show night. I quietly suffered the indignity of exposures ranging from ISO 12,800 to (about a third of them) an insane 51,200. I would estimate that the work-load doubles right along with the ISO for every stop above 6400. Since this isn't the Opera House, there is no opportunity to shoot the actual show, dress rehearsal images will just have to suffice.

The skit begins with the witches singing, dancing and screeching. Then when April's hand comes up, followed by her head, many in the audience are surprised.



The next shot is of Nate playing the Wolf-Man, leaving a stage full of dead/undead to rise again in his wake:



At the last second here I finished one of Nate as Chain Saw guy and his "Girlfriend" (Katie Gordon):





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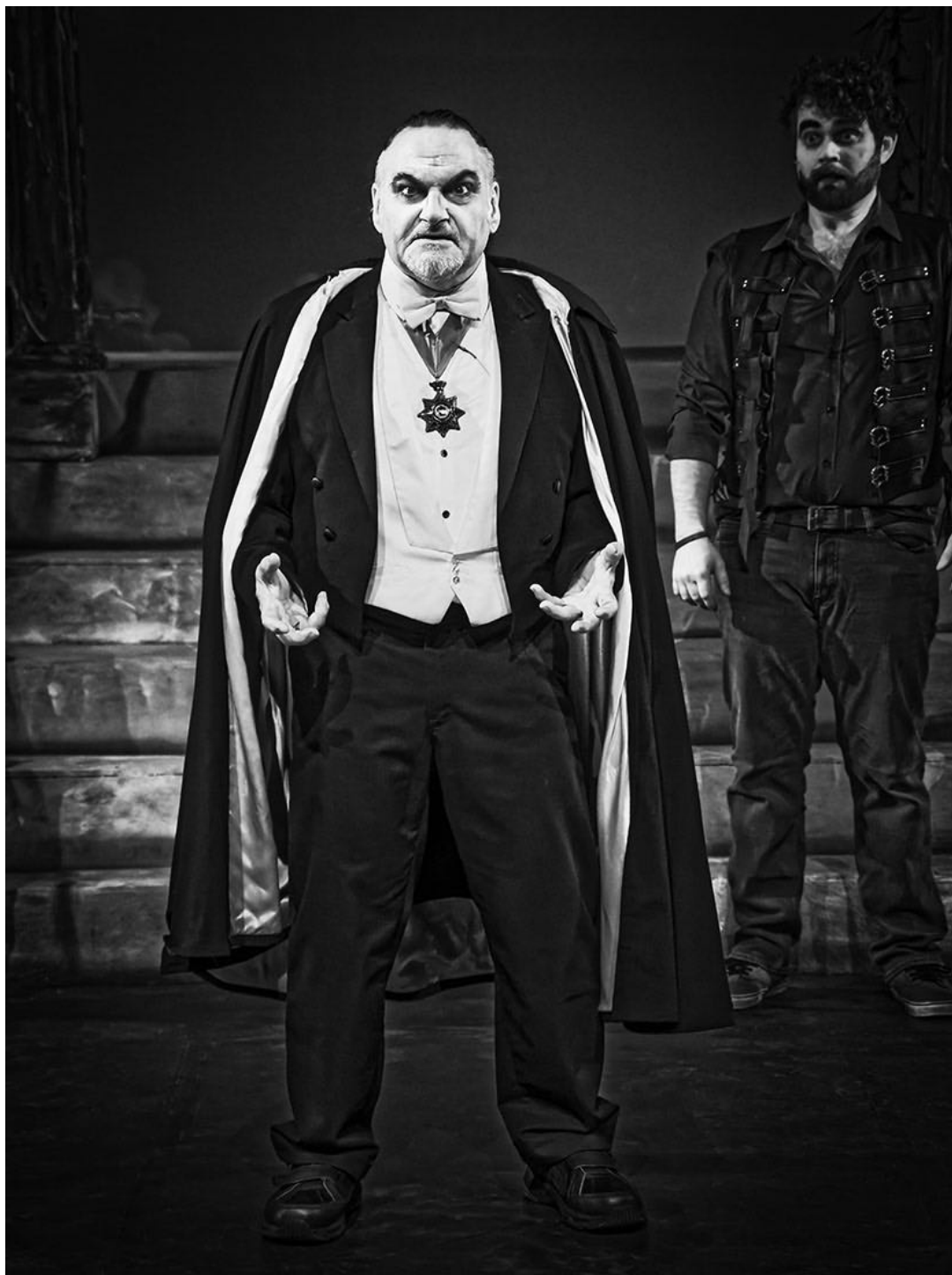
Silver Screen – Testing the Limits of Exposure

Nov 1, 2022

The three images in this posting were all shot two full stops underexposed at iso 12,800. That's an effective exposure of iso 51,200 – kind of insane. But this was a dress rehearsal and the lighting was not yet ready for prime-time (an understatement). Camera generated jpegs were so bad that I had to explain to Lilli to not to pay any attention to their appearance of lack of potential – a little hard work and voila.

This happened with about a full third of the exposures. However, with these three the results were weird, even more haunting than they would have otherwise been. Smoothing out noise/grain, limiting detail, can sometimes have odd effects. The intro shot, *Time to Hyde*, looks almost three dimensional – and if you look close, L.H. James' eyes are creepily unnatural.

Next JimmyO Burl is *The Count*. Again, his expression thakes on a demented nature after the considerable noise of extreme iso is subdued. My next camera will at least process the raw files to 51,200, making for some improvement.



Finally the exposure that really creeps me out – Moxie has been absorbed by the Silver Screen and Caleb is trying to rescue her. Even her proportions look unreal. A good family mantle shot if I ever saw one...



Attempting to add the images from the final dress rehearsals to the Silver Scream folio in order of song/action [HERE... Ps.](#) If anyone is interested in my system for processing high iso exposures, just ask. I have no problem with sharing what little I do know. Be warned – color images results are complicated by the fact that color noise is a second complication that b&w is not susceptible to.



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Zombies can Dance, Vampire Brides and another Vampire Ballet Shot

Nov 2, 2022

I have a lot to do up from the Silver Screen rehearsal exposures, so before the final weekend of performances I'm rushing to get to as many of Lilli's (the director) selected images as possible. Here's four more. The intro shot is another exposure from the very classy "I am Pure Evil" number – I call it the Vampire Ballet. I have to shoot video Saturday – I can't wait to see what I can do with that.

The two below show some interaction with The Count's three vampire wives – not a concept I would voluntarily embrace:



Then there's a zombie dance number – amazing coordinated for lurching, spastic undead:





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Continuing with Silver Screen Images

Nov 3, 2022

Opening here is the final moment of a number celebrating the vintage b&w horror film monsters. Note, innocents Caleb and Jesse are playing along so they can blend in. One of the rare moments in rehearsal where the lighting was spot on.

Early on, Moxie runs into her first vampire – turning out to be someone she used to know:



The Kong sequence – with a celebration of tying up captive Moxie:



Near the finale Jesse, Moxie and Caleb trick The Count into helping to undo the curse –note L.H. James in the foreground on the floor:





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"I am Kong" and other Precious Moments

Nov 4, 2022

With tonight being the next to last performance, I'm rushing to get more of these out. There's a lot, and after tomorrow night I will be doing a couple a day for a while, catching up on other stuff like the last First Friday, etc. It's not so bad being overworked if it's doing something you love to do. The title image is L.H. James as Kong. Last posting I posted an image catching his "tribe" mid jump.

Daughters of Kong – not really. James two daughters here make for a fleeting moment in the show. With a stage a melee of characters and monsters chasing and being chased, the two creepy sisters calmly, obviously, dance across the stage and off the other end – without getting trampled:



The Swamp Monster emerge to frighten Dane, among others:



Bates Motel, with he/she believes is Moxie behind the curtain:



And Jesse and Caleb rescuing April from the soup:



- I'm wondering how much of a compliment it would be to tell the two of them that they are really good at playing a couple of dufuses...
- And it's interesting to see the original author, who plays *The Count* here, react to the b&w images of a performance depicting being trapped in a b&w horror flick by wondering how to manage to perform it live that way.

Added th to the folio [HERE...](#)

Equipment Update: *looks like I'm gong to be updating my long overworked Fuji X-t3 cameras with the new X-t5 for Christmas. I passed on the X-t4 when it came out – it simply evolved in the wrong direction for me so I decided to cross my fingers and wait. No idiotic flip-out screen for me – love my flip-up screen. Glad I waited. While I prefer to use lenses with built in stabilization, the new in-body IBIS will let me take my long neglected, decades old, Canon 500mm mirror lens out and give it a try on a stabilized camera body – at close to 750mm equivalent focal length, combined with the camera having auto-bird, etc. focus, this could be a lot of fun. Not to mention all of the other improvements and updates. Nan will wrap it and set the tree up as soon as it comes – and make me watch it lying there for up to a month.*



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Silver Scream – Final pre-final Performance Images

Nov 5, 2022

There will be more images from this mini-project to include in the folio. Entries will at least be noted in the Blog, even if not posted. Tonight I'm doing the video from the balcony – no actual performance images this time around. Heck, the balcony looks down on the stage – hardly conducive. As I complete the folio, I'll work on arranging, and noting, dress rehearsal images according to song list on the program. As well, I'll work on identifying subjects.

We believe that the intro image is from "Even a Man". Not having a program in my hands and shooting the actual performance has left me a tad in the dark. I will confirm when I get a chance. These these too are posted without much in note:





Included in the folio [HERE](#)... out of order and without sound notes at this point.

—

—



Silver Scream – Cast Portrait and last minute change of plan

Nov 9, 2022

I was called to show up at the final performance to shoot video – good thing I showed up with a backup. It seems they had solved the video issue and wanted me to now shoot the cast photo and show stills from the back (I almost did not bring my trusty Fuji 40-150 f2.8). Vantage point was a little awkward – I had to swing back and forth between two cameras, with different lenses mounted in order to manage. I felt like an acrobat. Plus looking that far down on the stage is a little awkward – it is what it is.

From first dress rehearsals through the first and then last performance lighting was questionable at best. I've shot a rehearsal at Milburn Stone once before, and lighting was excellent – so obviously the problem wasn't capability. They threw a light on for the cast photo that was harsh and overly bright, as if there was no more control. So much for wanting to begin low key. Later during the performance, the spotlight (about half the time misplaced) was so bright that the best that I could do was shoot in-between, hoping the raw files could bring in the extremes. But the range was often far too much for even my raw files. Incompetence, lack of effort, attitude – who knows. Fortunately the show was so good that the audience could, and did, overlook lighting issues – and the eye is a lot more forgiving than the camera.

The cast photo is a little different this time in that it includes the band – great idea. One thing that is the same is that, per Katie, there are three versions: a straight serious shot, a somewhat normal smiling shot and the traditional Rogue Swan goofy version. This is that one – for this performance I can't see much need for anything else. This is one fine group of people. Nan and I see ourselves as fortunate to be able to contribute to their efforts.

With this image I'm beginning a Performance folio for this show – though it might take a while to fill it – [HERE...](#) *The rehearsals folio can be accessed from there also.*



Into the Scream – and notes

Nov 12, 2022

While I'm finally going to have an opportunity to catch up on First Fridays and other postings, I'm also faced with eighteen to twenty postings from the Silver Scream performance that I didn't expect to have. These will consist of a handful of my favorite (and probably Lilli's favorite) exposures. This production was not the usual Rogue Swan event – a more vaudeville thing. Covering this was much more demanding, and requires more images. Granted the lighting "technician" helped cut down the number of usable exposures with his dufus antics, but I'm managing to salvage more than I expected (more work – just what I need).

The show's intro number was Into the Scream – with our heroes drawn chaotically into a conglomerate b&w horror flick, where each character references one of the vintage monsters/films. The intro shot here fits last in the sequence – but since rehearsals began, it has been one of my favorite moments. The Count's vampire wives and Renfield.

Below, beginning with our three protagonists arriving at the theater, are a few of the moments leading up to the intro shot:



Two exposures showing Caleb and then Moxie chaotically surrounded by the undead. Nice touch in the first one is the “prom queen” in the background.



Here Moxie wields her flashlight while Renfield (Will) fiddles his way across the stage...



Caleb and Jesse are confronted by the three vampire wives of *The Count*...



As the Count enters he tries to control Caleb and Jesse – here they pretend to go along with it, at first...



Added to the Performance folio [HERE...](#)

A cautionary note: when shooting with two camera-lens combinations it is wise to make sure the cameras are time/date synced so that the exposures can later be mixed, retaining order of exposure. And yes, after a few months, they do, inexplicably, get off. This time by over a minute and a half – and dummy me forgot to sync them. Not a disaster, but certainly slowed sorting down. How? Simply open both menus, correct the time, and hit the set buttons simultaneously. I also, since they are the same model camera, alter one letter in the file lettering on one of the cameras so I can keep them straight.



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JimmyO and April – The Count and Vampire Wife

Nov 13, 2022

The next number to cover is "Children of the Night". April asked me to make sure and get a shot of them dancing at this point. Here's three. This comes somewhere in the middle, but I wanted to pull them out for posting first. There was a lot more happening on the stage, so I zoomed in on them and held the shutter down. In the two and a half second second time frame, the three exposures emerged with nothing blocking the view, from 13 exposures.

Next posting will offer up more images from the song list – something of a way to organize the images.





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Children of the Night

Nov 14, 2022

I love the look in Jesse's eyes in this one. He and Caleb, not yet effected by the curse, have to play along as if they are. These are the rest of my choices from the "Children of the Night" segment (divided by song). It's from the middle of the sequence – those below are in order, missing the intro shot here and the shots of The Count and Vampiria April from last posting. In the folio I can restore order.





This is where The Count is asking vampira Stephanie to track down Moxie – and is assuring her that she has always been his “favorite”.





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"I am Pure Evil"

Nov 15, 2022

A note that has to be included about performance images from this show – included with a link at the top of the folio: *due to a combination of vantage and lighting issues, for additional "performance" images, please see dress rehearsal images at the end of the Rehearsals folio.*

In the opening shot Moxie and Stephanie scene at the end of "I am Pure Evil". A Half dozen more images from the number are included below, with an effort to put them in order. Who knew Alex had a voice like that?







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"I am Kong" and Catching-up...

Nov 21, 2022

I'm about a dozen numbers (songs) behind with show images from Silver Scream, as well as having barely gotten started with October's Hafla images. Not to mention October First Friday. Plus it's that season of the year where one can barely catch their breath before something else demands time. I'm working on it.

These are some actual show images from the "Kong" number. Much closer perspectives were gotten in dress rehearsal – it's still up in the air as to whether I'll leave the separation between the two folios, combine dress and show in one, or just mark in rehearsals where dress begins. Work to do first. For the show I had to be in the last row – not bad at the Opera house where the last row is almost level with the state. But at Milburn stone one is looking way down on the stage, leaving a sea of heads to navigate. Plus the lighting for this show – don't get me started on that nightmare. In spite of which, this was one fabulous show, well worth seeing. Trust Rogue Swan to bring you rare, wonderful experiences – especially for Halloween.







In the folio [HERE...](#), keeping them in close to order of appearance.

- I'm back to working on the **Hafla** (bellydance) images from October – where I've only posted one of the dancers so far. The first posting of those will be next. I'll try to alternate those and Silver Scream for a while,
- My new **Fuji X-T5** is here, yay. Some of its extra capabilities in low light will be a huge help with both Rogue Swan and Hafla work. I'm looking forward to checking it out at the Christmas parade. The increase in resolution (26-40) will be a gain where cropping is needed.



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Continuing Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala

Nov 23, 2022

Images from the October Hafla are considerably belated – sorry about the wait for anyone looking for them. The girls got their color versions in a timely fashion though, and they are free to use any they want. The B&Ws are different. For me to add an exposure to this collection, it has to say something to me. Fortunately I've gotten a lot out of the Hafla series. Between the challenge of catching the action and "precious" lighting, sometimes I'm lucky to pull one image from a performance, occasionally none, and surprisingly at times an entire sequence. Fortunately I sometimes get another crack at a dancer who I failed to capture to my liking the first time, and nail it. It's also happened the other way around. Then of course there are the few forever great dancers.

I've decided to try and finish these up before returning to my *Silver Scream* work – more tomorrow. The intro shot, along with the first below, is from a trio called **Amare**. It was a very interesting interpretive dance.



Much of this Gala was themed to coincide with Halloween. This next performer, **She'Vei** danced as some sort of rag-doll. Not exactly the sensuous belly dance, but I really liked it:



Nan really liked watching Martina, who really seemed to be enjoying herself, dance and swirl around her very bountiful skirt.

Hafla images are added to the front page of the folio as they are posted (there in order of appearance) [HERE...](#)

We had “better lighting” for this performance. I’m sure it was much more video friendly, but I’ll admit that I prefer the horrible lighting of previous Haflas – a lot of work but the results are much more dramatic. I’m looking forward to working up the exposures of couple of the later dancers.....



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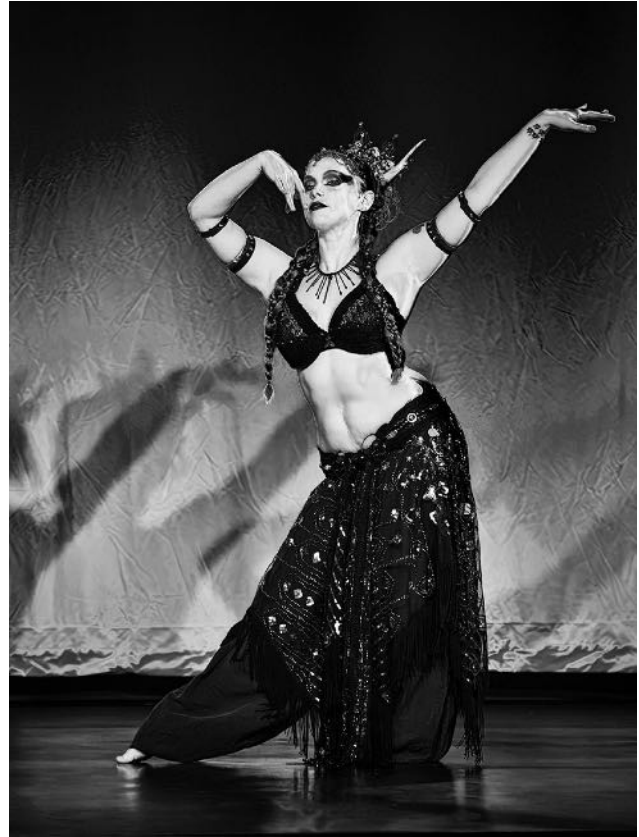
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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – three more

Nov 23, 2022

Only one more after this from the Halloween Hafla. The intro shot here is by far my favorite from the shoot. When you're challenged with multiple separate color lights illuminating the stage, you almost always get a surprise when you begin the conversion to b&w. And when the red is strong – the contrast can make for some real opportunities for drama. This is **Taschen** – the shadows on the curtain were barely visible in color. Here are my two runner-up shots of her – they will show up full size in the folio [HERE...](#)



My pick for **Lorelei** – always a great performer, is first here. Then again at the end where she manages to look quite spooky peering over her spider-web shawl.





Below, *Ariadne* strikes a pose in her black, reflective outfit.





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Final Few from Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala

Nov 27, 2022

Bellydance is interesting to shoot. As I got used to shooting in extremely low light – I like to call it no light – I gained a little appreciation for the challenge. Especially the potential for some great, if very low key, exposures for b&w. Not so much for color. Thei performance had brighter lighting, if sometimes a sum of overlapping color lights. I'm sure this made for a much better video – and the color jpegs were perhaps a little better. But for b&w it was on the whole worse. The lead-in shot here is **April Monique (Burril)**. It came out pretty nice – with a couple of hard hours work. Then lighting shifted to overlapping color, leaving dramatic lines of separation across her person when converted to b&w. I could dial the four main hues, moving among extremes. I love the look captured below – and something of the effect, one of dozens to choose from dialing the color sliders.

Actually this could be seen as more in line with the Halloween theme:



Naimah fell into a little more even lighting – though I prefer earlier shots of her emerging dramatically from almost no light, with the black wall background of the Black Box at the Opera House.



Megan & Brittany do an interactive dance:



These have been added to the front of the local Hafla folio [HERE...](#) even as the next Hafla is being scheduled for this winter – at the State Theater. The last one there was a fantastic show. And there I can be guaranteed the full challenge of low, bad lighting – what is becoming my favorite and specialty. And this time I have an updated weapon at my disposal, expanding my comfortable exposure range to iso 51,200 when needed.



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Black Lagoon and Even a Man

Nov 28, 2022

Back to work on. the “Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Screen” performance. As good as dress rehearsal is for getting up=close and timely shots, the actual performance can create its opportunities too. I have five shots from the Black Lagoon number and three from Even a Man to add to the folio [HERE](#).... I’m doing my best to finish with these by the end of the year.

Even a Man, which actually comes after Black Lagoon, features L.H. James. Both of these came just prior to the intro image:



Black Lagoon spoofs beach parties where a monster emerges to disrupt the dancing. At the end Caleb and Jesse temporarily free him from his "mask".







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Wolfman, Bates Motel and Tonight We Live

Nov 30, 2022

I'm adding a few more shots from the Silver Screen performance to the folio. The intro image here is from the first act finale, "Tonight We Live". The undead lurchingly celebrate. More from that number below. But first a pair from the *Wolfman* tongue-in-cheek bloodbath (in this performance, for each number check the dress rehearsal images for closer, better angle images):



These two are from the *Bates Motel* number:



Tonight We Live:







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I know, Halloween is over, but...

Dec 8, 2022

Between the season being upon us and my getting far behind because of a rough summer in some ways, I'm playing catch-up on the Rogue Swan *Silver Scream* folio of images. It doesn't help that these are some of the toughest conversions to b&w I've ever faced. This is a rather large posting – ha half dozed from each, the **Groove 9** number and **All Them Witches**. Beginning with *All them Witches* – all are full size in the folio [HERE](#):











Again, all are full size in the folio [HERE](#)...

There was no rushing these – after working up just a couple, I feel like I've been beaten about the head for an hour. I hope to finish these up in batches of two numbers – this show deserves the record these will provide.



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Identify our Local Brunettes – Silver Scream Blood Feast

Dec 10, 2022

Four from the Blood Feast number, *Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Scream*. Doing my darnedest to finish these by Christmas. Far too good a show to not have this record. That's April Monique second from the left – looking very different as a blonde.





Added to the performance folio [HERE](#)...



Time to Hyde Images – check out the look on Jesse's face...

Dec 11, 2022

Time to Hyde, L.H James singing the number and playing a character trapped in the Silver Scream as various monsters. The intro shot is the opening, with Jesse not exactly holding out much hope for the experiment. What really helped bring the show together was the performances of Jesse and Caleb as the innocent, pure and incredibly dufus duo. Here's a half dozen of my and Nan's picks from *Time to Hyde*:







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"Pieces" – as I feel sorry for those who missed this performance...

Dec 12, 2022

Nan and I did something for this performance we rarely do, and loved it. We attended a second time to just enjoy the show – up close without constantly having to worry about getting the next shot. And of course what could be better than rendering in b&w images from a show that wishes it could perform it live in b&w – as they are trapped in an old b&w movie.







All full size in folio [HERE](#)...



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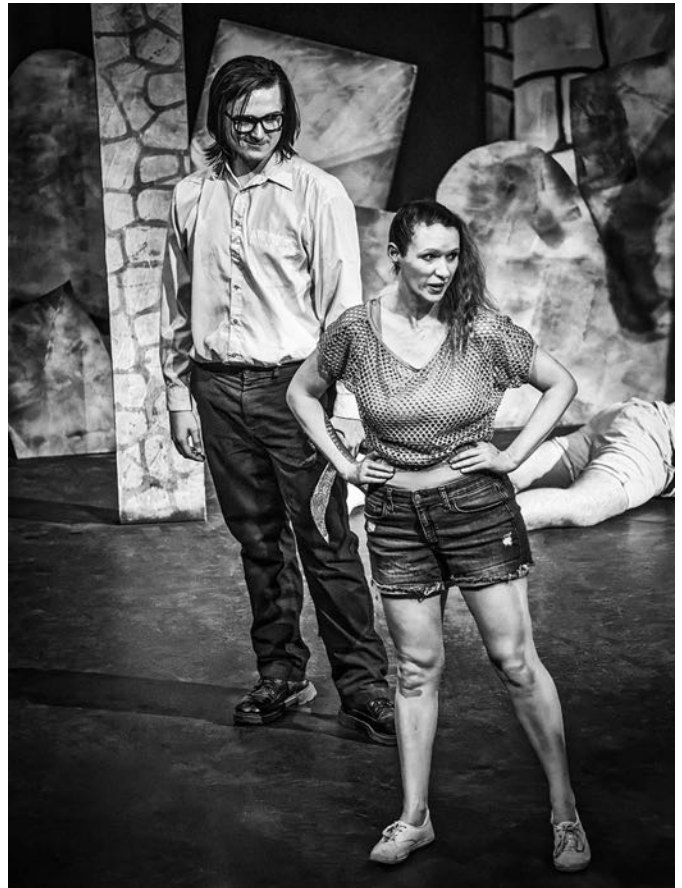


"Babysitter Blues" – Choreographed Chaos

Dec 13, 2022

Images are entered here below in order of performance – the intro shot comes second to last, which is where it is in the folio. This set actually begins with the “Chainsaw” number, which then morphs into “Babysitter Blues” – the rousing, weird, funny climactic number. So much going on, what I call choreographed chaos. One or two smaller postings and this year’s Halloween show, Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Scream folio will be finished – yay, before Christmas.







Going for full-stage exposures with so much going on makes for a lot of fast motion – especially in this show. With the dark stages that Rogue uses, I find 1/250 of a second to hang right on the edge between being enough speed and not enough. But since I'm shooting wide open at f2.8 on one lens and f4 on the other, that leaves iso ranging from a low of 6400 and a high of 51,200 for their performances. This show most were 12,800, but the full range was realized. The f2.8 for the most part worked because I was shooting from the last row back – with my (costing more than the camera and weighing in at far too much for all that swinging around) favorite Fuji lens, the 50-140 (75 to 205 equivalent). I've replaced one of my X-t3 bodies with the new X-t5 – which will be nice when the software I use manages to update for opening the new RAW file format. Arrrrgh. I'm looking forward to seeing what I can do with the 40 megapixels.







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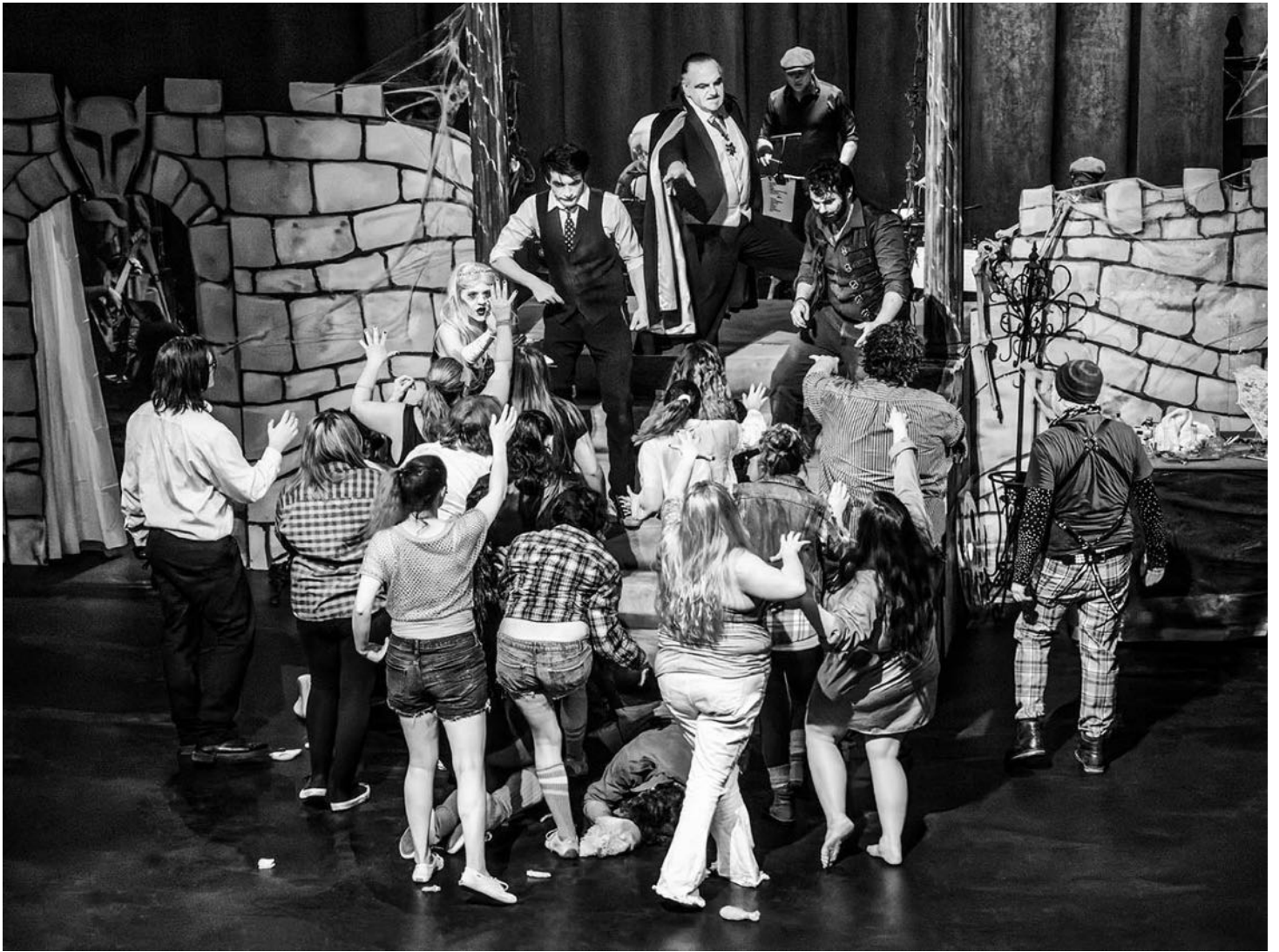
Finale, Children of the Night and Bows – Exit the Silver Scream

Dec 17, 2022

Halloween is over, Christmas is almost upon us. Catching up on these was an effort – large posting today. The intro shot is JimmyO Burrell, one of the authors of the original work, as “The Count”. Below, in something of order, are full stage images from the finale – then two more from JimmyO’s rendering of “Children of the Night” – and then presentation of the band & final bows. Altogether it was one memorable performance. Fortunately any lighting issues that made my last few weeks a living Hades working these up play more havoc with the camera than the human eye.

Finale:





Children of the Night:



Introducing the Band & Bows:





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Finally adding October to First Friday folio – 1 of 2

Dec 28, 2022

It's been a busy end of the year. This is the first of two postings of images from First Friday in October. Just a few street shots I found interesting to take. The smiling young lady in the intro cast a glow even standing in the sun. The outfit reminded us of some of the summer streetwear in Hanga Roa. The next two subjects – well, I just don't know and didn't ask. Cool though.



I grabbed this shot as the young girl with the icecream cone spotted me pointing a camera at her...



One of the busy food trucks lined up – I'm still trying to figure out what "CRABBY CHICKEN" is...



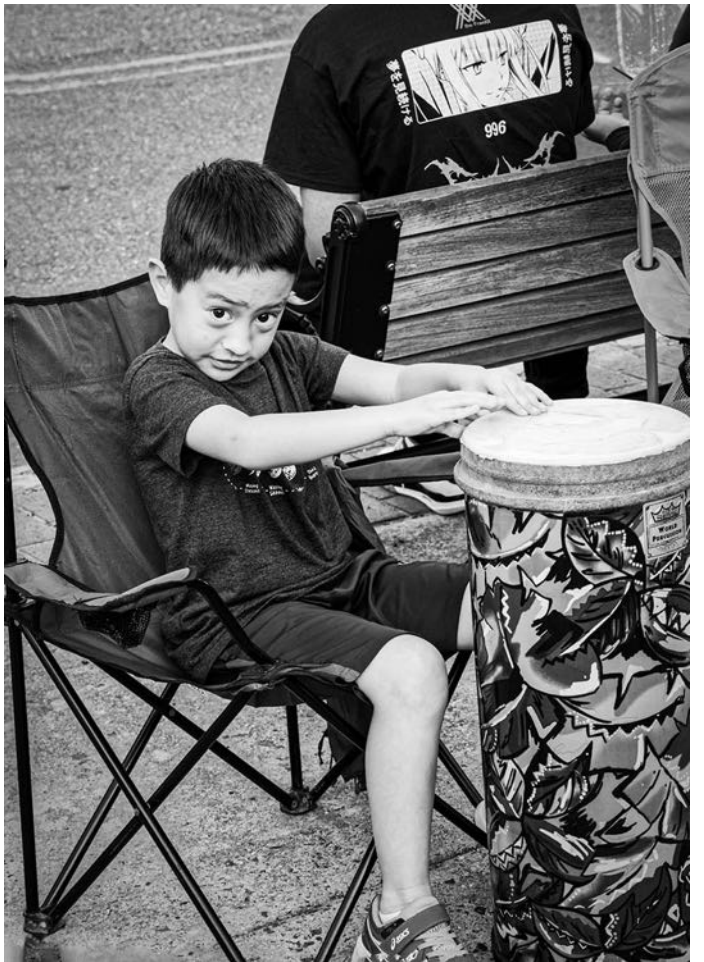


Street Chess and the Drum Circle

Dec 29, 2022

Two of my regular stops – street-chess sponsored by Concord Point Coffee and the Drum-Circle. Eyes always open for something there. The intro-shot is another addition to my street-chess series. Then, below, are a number of drum-circle images from October 7 First Friday. There's pianist Duke Thompson as Abtaham Lincoln followed by a cool young lady catching me pointing my camera at her – and some very enthusiastic young drummers.





All are inserted full size at the front of the First Fridays folio [HERE](#)...



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Silver Scream passed-up and overlooked gems from rehearsal...

Jan 6, 2023

A collection of passed up and overlooked gems from Rogue Swan *Silver Scream* rehearsals. Most are from September, a few from October and two from dress-rehearsal. Now I can begin putting together (in my so-called spare time) the pdf *Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Scream* eBook. The intro shot is from an October rehearsal at *Concord Point Coffee* in town. How the heck did I miss this one?







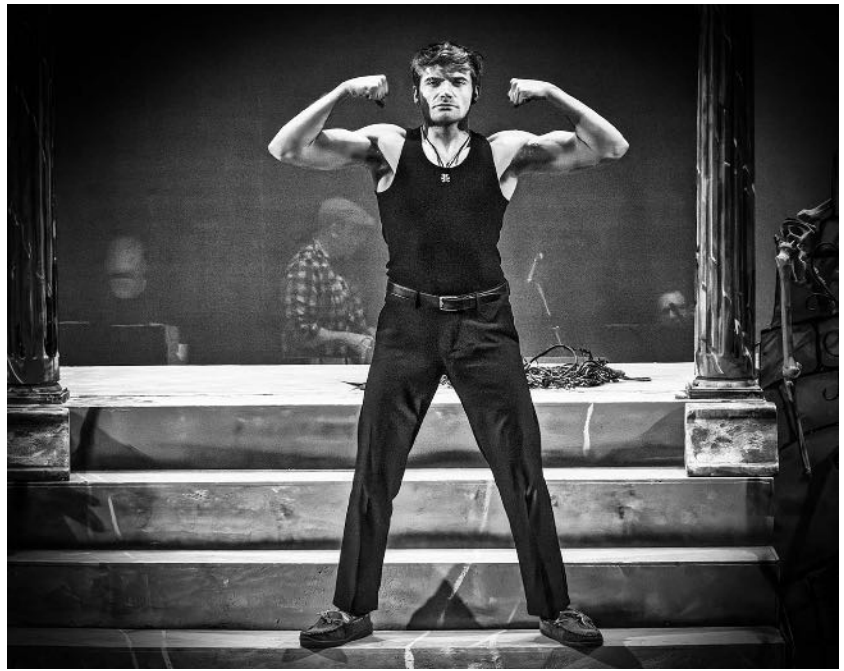


October





Dress Rehearsal



All added to the rehearsal section of Silver Scream images [HERE...](#) *full size*

Site Note: *January adjustments*

- 1– assembled all 2022 blog posts into one PDF and included it on the Archives page.
 - 2– reduced blog pages archived to now begin in September (with Silver Scream postings).
 - 3– updated Rogue Swan index page.
-



Our Christmas Parade at ISO 25,600 – Breaking in the Fuji X-t5

Jan 11, 2023

The camera was brand new so I decided to break it in shooting a series of exposures at ISO 25,600 at the Christmas Parade. Of course I almost immediately discovered that the software I use to squeeze water out of a rock (decent exposures from extreme ISO) couldn't yet open the RAW files. Oops. It would be ten days into January before the update showed up. Locally I often find myself shooting in extremely low light, hence high ISO. The difference between my X-t3 and the X-t5 is a somewhat improved sensor and a resolution jump from 26 to 40 megapixels. I am finally able to see what this puppy can do.

The crowd was horrendous – with lots of kids. I took most of these shots by holding the camera over my head – I have a thing about getting in front of people just because I have a camera. So sometimes what I get is something of a surprise. The opening image catches the always charming *Rebecca Jessop*, Director of the Havre de Grace Arts Collective, seasonally dressed.

A few more images below – all of them added full size to the front of the Christmas Parade folio [HERE...](#)

Santa and Mrs. Claus:



Early on, waiting for the Parade to begin:



The always present family train ride:



I'm not sure, but he looks cool:



I guess JimmyO is now our official Grinch – though it seems like a downgrade to go from last-year’s scooter to dragging his drum:



Princess from Frozen and I assume a local Hockey team:



Just enjoying the ride:



This upcoming weekend was supposed to be an opportunity to put the camera through its paces – with Rogue Swan and Hushdown performances. But COVID had raised its ugly head again.



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Additions to the Pride Day Folio – yep, still playing catch-up

Jan 14, 2023

Waaaaaay behind on these. We were only able to be on site for a short time, so I grabbed a couple more shots of the ladies of Pride Day, filling in with one showing a little of the activity in front of the stage. They're added to the Pride Day folio [HERE...](#) where they are full size and downloadable.





Hopefully this year we can spend the day at the festival – there’s certainly enough entertainment, food and distracting booths.

Adding in an overlooked shot of *Feather and Flask* providing music for an October Saturday Market. This finishes up the body of 2022 images so that I can add these postings to the 2022 PDF by extending to today’s date. Also added to the Saturday Market folio [HERE...](#)

