



Blog Postings 2023



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?







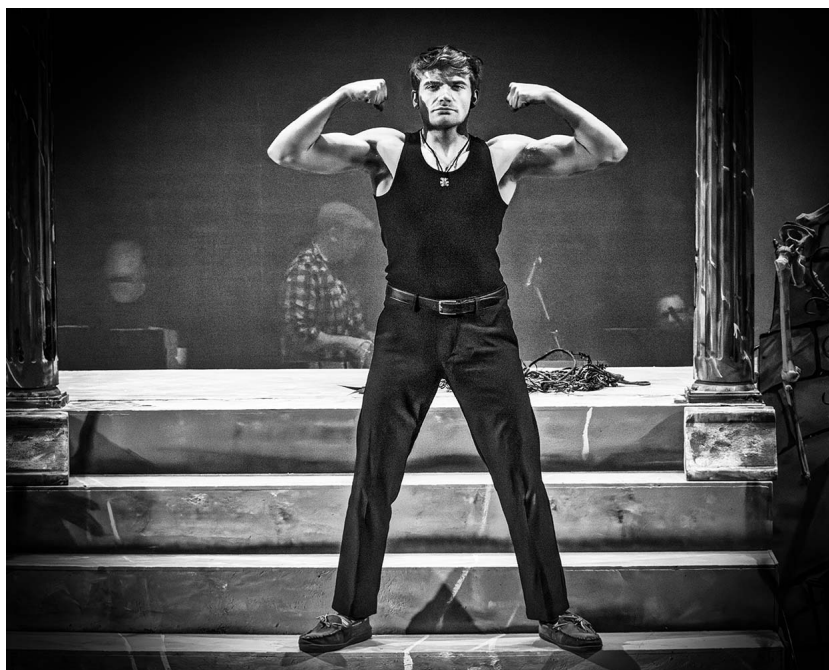


October





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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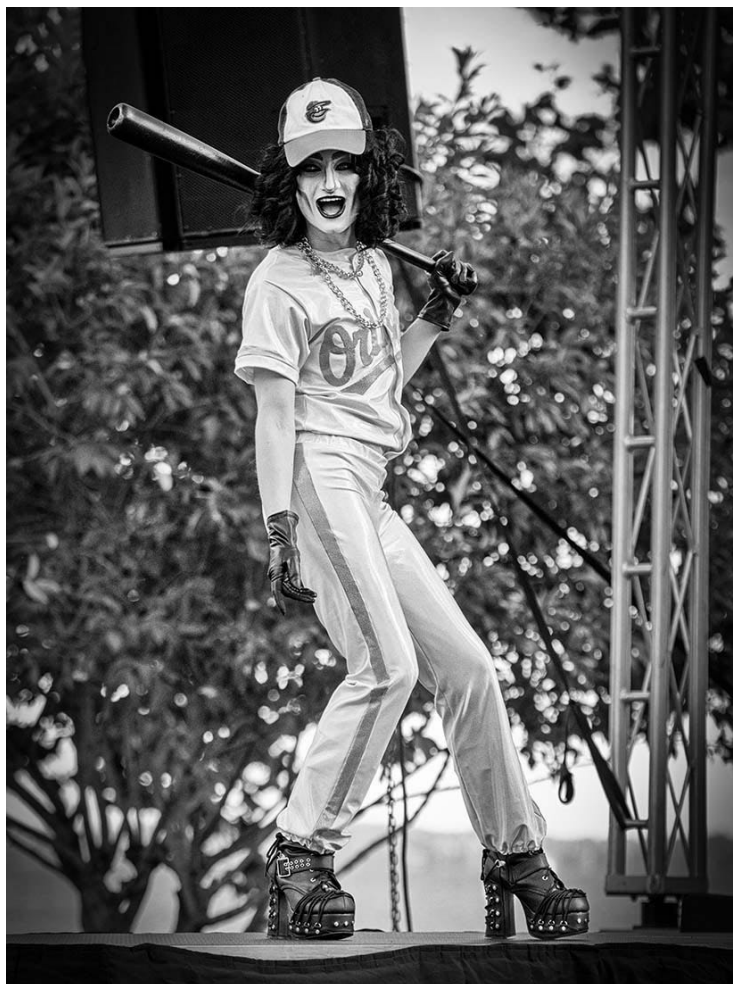
[Pushin' the Rock](#)



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...](#)





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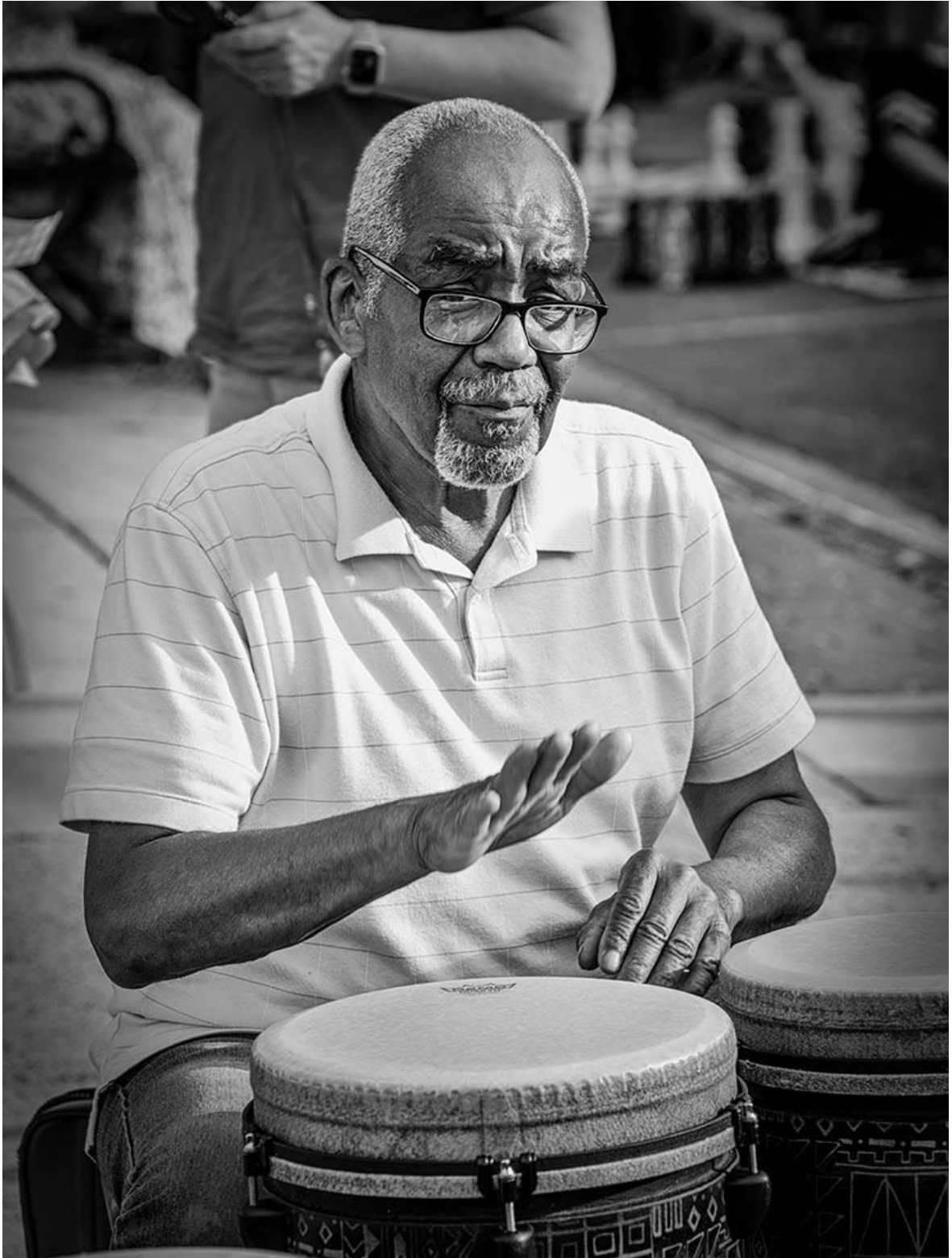
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My Tribute to Cliff Giles – some people leave behind a gaping hole...

Jan 16, 2023

Cliff Giles leaves behind a number of legacies, one of which is the Havre de Grace First Fridays' Drum Circle. When First Fridays began he would bring a couple of drums to set outside his wife's shop, offering to let kids drum along with him. This gradually expanded to the huge affair it is today, a drum circle occupying a prime venue at the center of every First Friday event. I've been taking images from Cliff's drum circle over the years – catching enthusiastic participants from kids & the Governor to belly dancers and people just dancing through, scattering dust from their funnel-cake. Often drum-circle images dominate my coverage of a First Friday. Images are gathered, in revers order of year, [HERE...](#)

The intro image is from June of 2022 – somehow Cliff managed to look more and more distinguished as he grew older.

Some more with Cliff in them below:

2021

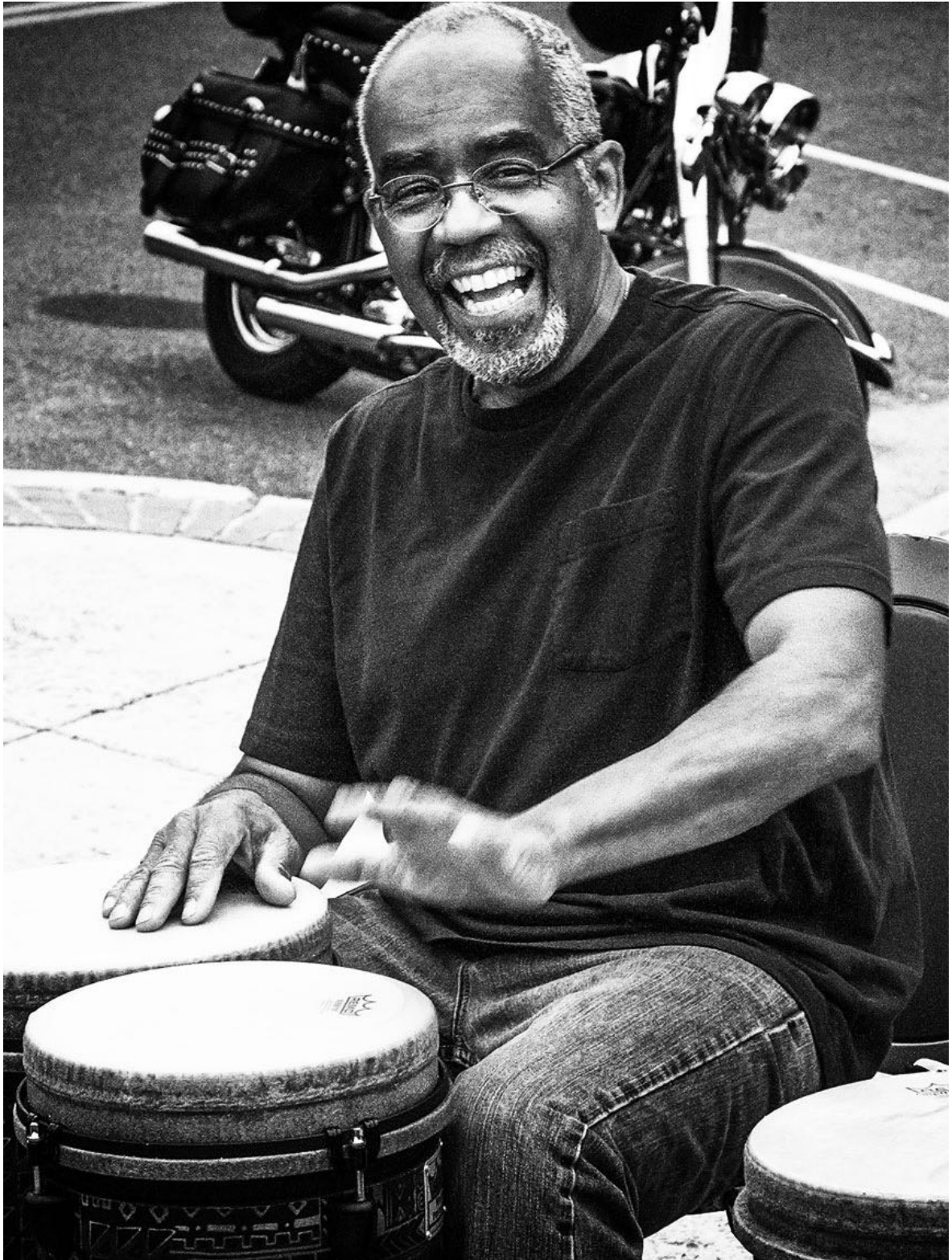


2019



2018





We've known Cliff for decades – and were always excited to see him come into town to help celebrate First Friday. I'm certain that the Circle helpers and regulars will not let it die – but it will never be the same.



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Bob Greene, gentle soul – a loss that alters the landscape of our town like a favored tree suddenly gone...

Jan 17, 2023

Just a quick couple of shots. The intro image is Bob making a rare appearance in the Drum Circle in 2019, looking up just as I was shooting a burst. He was a major player and inspiration on the town's clean-up squad – making Havre de Grace one of the cleanest towns around. We got to know Bob as he was a regular visitor to RiverView Gallery in town. I do wish I had more:



The Drum Circle shot can be found in the 2019 section of the First Friday folio [HERE...](#) and the second shot in the Around Town folio [HERE...](#)



Other People's Art – Gretchen Walsh

Jan 19, 2023

A great Christmas present given to both of us – this magnificent “pot” by area artist **Gretchen Walsh**. That’s impressions of leaves and stems etc. on the surface. It stands about eight inches tall, and is signed (I hate it when they’re not). A fantastic addition to our collection of pieces by local artists. Gretchen now has work in RiverView Gallery here in Havre de Grace. Her Gallery web page is here: <http://www.riverviewgallerymd.net/gretchen-walsh.html>

Nan and I will be gallery-sitting this Saturday – always difficult to walk out without laying something away...

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This Saturday, Easter Island Presentation at Fallston Library – w/books

Feb 9, 2023

This Saturday, 2 to 3:30 Nan and I will be giving a slide/video/talk presentation on the Easter Island project at the Fallston Library. Fortunately I am still able to **give** copies of the coffee table book *The Moon has been Eaten* to anyone willing to endure the experience. I will try to make it interesting and, if, as has happened, I don't have enough books with me, I'll ask for volunteers to wait and pick them up the next day.

I call the image shown here the name of the leader represented by the center Moai – *Lightening Strike for Scoundrels*. They are among the long string of Moai atop the Ahu at Tongariki on the Island. To put it into perspective, a person would be a good deal shorter than the pukau, or topknot, on old lightening's head.

Just this month I'm able to consider the project, which consisted of three years on Island between 2006 and 2016, completed. Volume three of *The Moon has been Eaten* is at the printers this week – unfortunately expensive print-to-order books. The digital version is on my site for free download. It is formatted and optimized for iPad – working like a book. On a computer it reads more like a pdf.



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Two from upcoming Silver Scream eBook...

Feb 13, 2023

Lots of images not yet posted in blog entries. It's almost finished – just waiting on last minute feedback from *Rogue*, and subsequent adjustments. These two images were tricky little devils to process, underexposed even at the iso 51,200 setting. I wouldn't want to have to blow them up any larger than they are here. Both are from dress-rehearsal, where I could grab some better angles. The intro shot is of three cuties emerging from their graves to join in in singing "Tonight We Live". Leave it to *Rogue Swan* to make their walking dead so attractive to look at.

The image below, Katie and Nate in "Chainsaw", could just be the kind of picture every married couple needs in their family album. My money is on a request for a copy.



The eBook, as with previous shows, features the performance, rehearsals, cast portraits, etc. *Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Scream* also features, at the end, more difficult to shoot angles from the dress-rehearsal performance.

Easter Island project book volume III is at the printer – hopefully we will be shipping out to Terry, Maruka and the Island Museo (via Terry) very soon...



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at the Milburn Stone Theater October 2022

A collection of images from the show – followed by cast and band portraits, rehearsal images and some gems from stage and dress rehearsal. Editing by Nan Craig and Lilli Burril Gordon. Graphics and text from the program by April Monique. *Photography by James Craig.*

*You can follow Rogue Swan on FaceBook, YouTube and Instagram @ rogueswantheater
web site: rogueswantheater.com*

jamescraigphotography.com

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Rogue Swan Enters the Silver Scream PDF eBook

Feb 15, 2023

Kinda big, but optimized for iPad. It's in three parts – the first being exposures taken during the performance, in order of songs. The middle section takes you through rehearsals, from the beginning. Finally I include some really cool images from dress rehearsal, where I was able to get perspectives impossible with an audience present (wherein, on more that one occasion, I had to judiciously remove the head of a tall dude in the front row). Also included, the cast photo, individual cast portraits, info from the program, notes and more.

Anyone associated with the production who wants prints of any of these, just let me know. I'll be happy to provide them.

This shoot was an exercise in low to low light photography. Extracting usable images from some of the exposures, at up to 51,200 ISO, was an instructive challenge. Below, the final image – JimmyO as "The Count" ending his reprise of *Children of the Night* with"

“What sweet music we make...”



[LINK TO eBook](#) also available on eBooks page.

Many of the images herein have never been posted as blog entries – thus they are not among folio images, as a few of those in the folio did not make the cut here. As far as a print version – it would take a great deal of reworking to accommodate the format, and be pretty expensive.



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Mardi Gras and How close to old Tri-X at 800 can you get...

Feb 23, 2023

Back in the film days (it's amazing how many people have no idea what the heck I'm talking about) when shooting in low light one pushed Trim to iso 800 and overdeveloped it to bring out the shadows. The result was grainy, to say the least. That's exactly what my results from the Mardi Gras parade look like – right down to the resolution and grain size. The first two of these images were exposed at two stops underexposed at iso 51,200 – try and calculate the effective iso there. 800 and maybe a little under from there, was pushing it for Tri-X. These were certainly pushing it for digital RAW. In none of these could I see who I was shooting – I relied heavily on a combination of lit signs and loudspeaker announcements – and pointed. Fortunately my auto-focus works pretty good in the dark.

All were shot at 1/250 of a second, wide open at f4.0 – my 24 to 120mm equivalent lens. I credit the new 40 megapixels with reducing the size of the “grain” on these super low-light exposures to approximate that of the Tri-X/800 stuff.

What do I think of them myself? Good question – I do love the effect on the intro shot, **a drum march tribute to Cliff Giles**. A naturally attained retro look.

For the shot below, I made five exposures – on four of them April (hey, I couldn't pick out anyone) showed bending over to pick up more necklaces. At least here she's tossing in the opposite direction. This is Hushdown providing entertainment on the Star Center float:



The Mayor's float – a tad closer to properly exposed at iso 51,200. Just wondering if he means to hang on to the necklace in his hands:



There are a few more, hopefully fun shots, to add to the collection. It's a little bit of a multistep process even before converting to b&w – and then making an image. Added to the Mardi Gras folio [HERE...](#)



More HdeG Mardi Gras Parade Shots...

Feb 24, 2023

I've been at this for a long time and have figured out a few constants. One is that if you get one shot from any outing that you really, really like, be happy. And I am with this set of images. My intro shot last posting is that image for me. Which brings up the second observation, how much more important it is to have a good, effective, if imperfect image that says something than a perfectly executed image that says nothing. "Drum march in tribute to Cliff Giles" was shot with practically no light, underexposed even at iso 51,200, slightly blurry, grainy, etc. But I look at it and can't think of anything I would change. I'm happy.

Today's set of Havre de Grace Mardi Gras images were also exposed at iso 51,200 – only closer to registering as properly exposed. Out town of Havre de Grace do love themselves some night parades! Perhaps in the future we'll see some more imaginative float lighting.

The intro shot – I have no idea who it is, is my favorite from this set. Below, it looks like a young Lacross team?



Warriors basketball – I took a couple of exposures, focusing on the young lady looking right at the camera while dripping the ball...



Havre de Grace Warrior Pride Band – at the forefront, catching some of the last light before things went dark...



OK, they look familiar, but we can't place them. It was dark enough where we could see no faces whatsoever live...



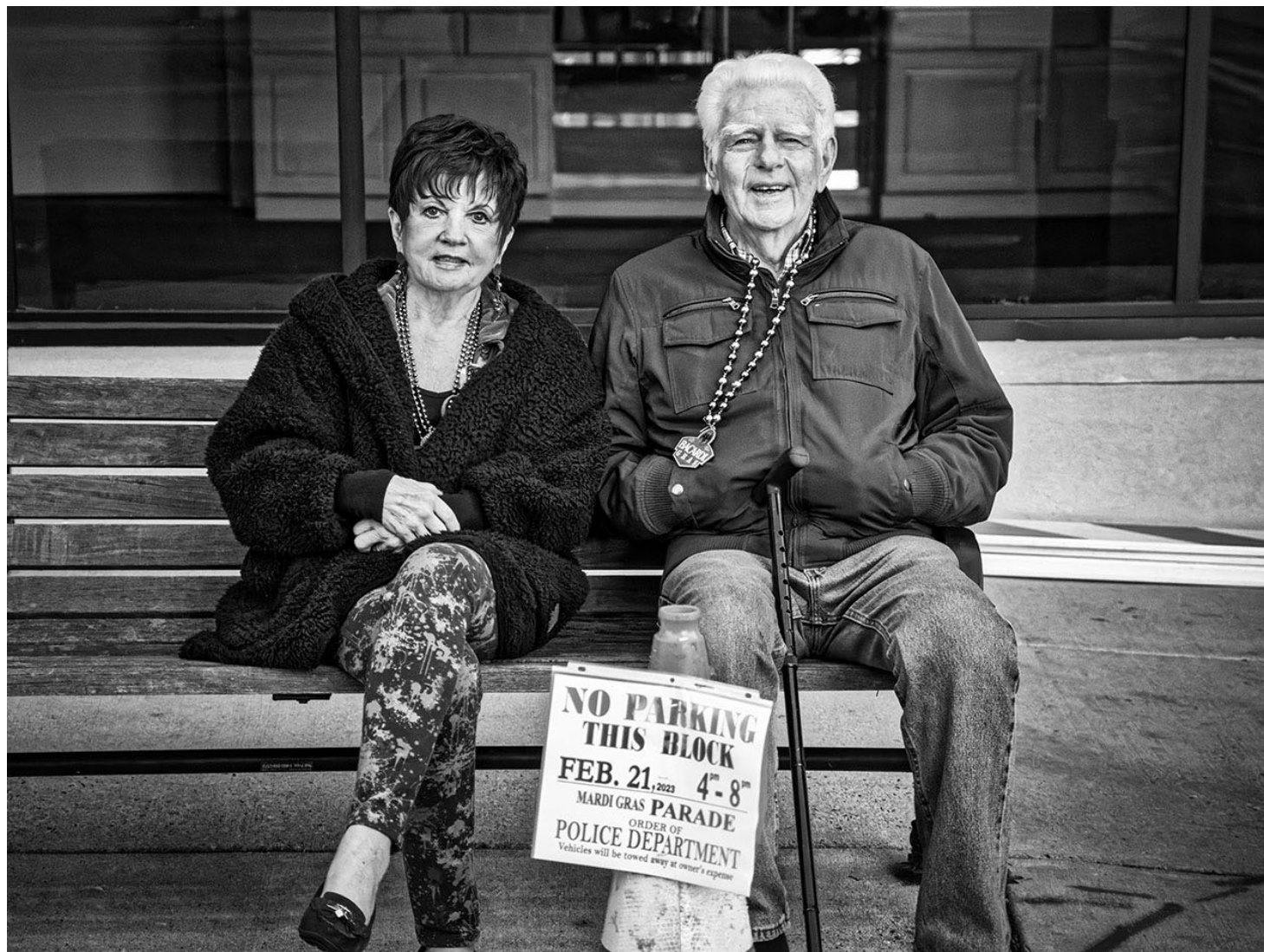
The Opera House float...



The Havre de Grace Arts Collective float...



Of course, these have been added to the Mardi Gras folio – [HERE](#)... I make everything downloadable. One more posting of Mardi Gras images – with some interesting waiting-for-the-parade shots (with a little more light).



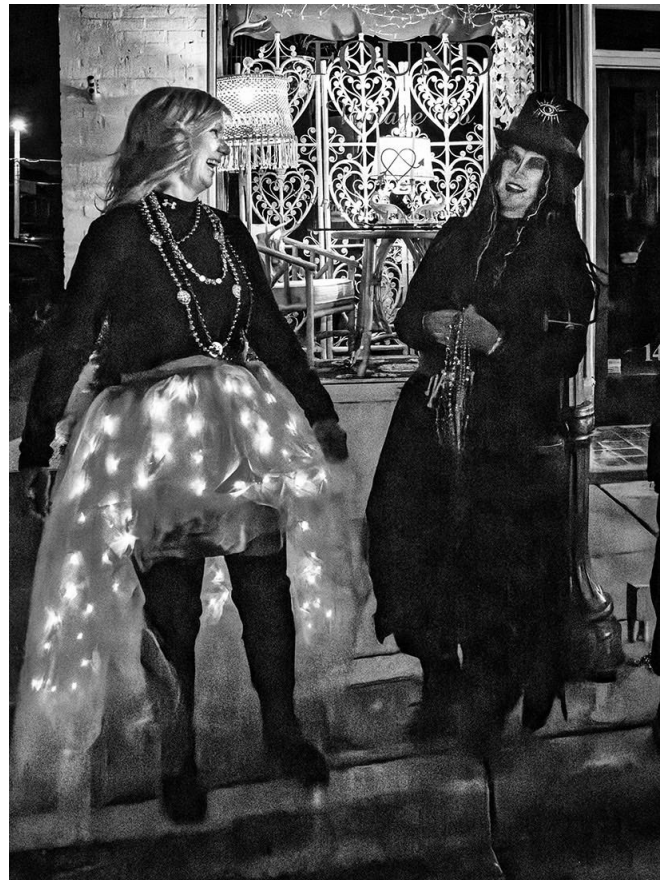
How do YOU wait for the parade?

Feb 25, 2023

Finishing up with B&Ws from our own Havre de Grace Mardi Gras parade. The first three images here catch three examples of waiting for it all to begin. It's still a little light – well, one can't have that, can we. Gotta wait for lights-out. The opening shot – Pat and Alan Fair stake an early claim on a ringside bench. Below, what appears to be mother and daughter taking advantage of the street music and a young gentleman with a large, impressive mask.



Adding two more from after the parade began, and well after dark (which because of heavy clouds was pretty complete). Here a couple of the spectators look like they should be part of the action...



Local Girl Scout Troop 2178...



Posted to the Mardi Gras folio where they are all full size [HERE](#)... The parade has had some pretty slim years – it is finally showing signs of taking shape and coming into its own. *This makes double the number of images of any previous year.*



Mardi Gras Hafla – #1

Mar 1, 2023

I'll admit that b&w images of bellydance can seem as counterintuitive as a b&w rainbow scene (hey, I've gone there too). But I've accumulated quite a collection of images from our local bellydance Haflas over the past couple of years. The Mardi Gras edition held at the State Theater last week opened with April Monique bringing her beginner class on stage. In the first thirty seconds or so the lights lit up, barely, in blue, green, red, and purple before giving me a tinge of white light where I could get this exposure (12,800 iso). It was an impressive way to open a really fine, well attended show.

A little slow getting to these because the color images, that I've now uploaded for the ladies to use and/or post as they want, took way too long to work up. I used my new X-t5 camera body and it seems that both one of my more critical pieces of software and the Mac system itself have failed (after 4 months) to update to be able to open its RAW format. So much for getting those out the next day for them, ha. This happens all the time – my bad for not waiting.

I try to grab at least one good b&w of each performer for the collection – knowing that sometimes the medium will just not cooperate, and at other times one set creates an abundance of good results. I do love b&w.

With this posting I'm creating section at the beginning of the Hafla folio [HERE](#). It's interesting to check out some of the performers and how the different venues effect the results. A couple of new ladies this time around, and some favorites. I'll dive into the exposures now...



Moonshine Hafla, Mardi Gras Edition – Denisse Bailla & Kalayla

Mar 3, 2023

Kalayla was back and I'm all to add more images of her to the folio. **Denisse Bailla** was part of this wonderful tradition for the first time. The intro shot is of Kalayla – quite a different performance from what we've seen before. She's always a favorite of mine to shoot – instead of working myself to death finding the exposure that makes her look best, it's a traumatic search for anything I can justify eliminating. This time, with Nan's help, I managed to weed it down to three (we have different favorites).

Another thing about Kalayla is that her enjoyment of her performance is contagious – she's a pleasure to watch:



Denisse Bailla was something of a surprise, she had some nice moves. At the same time she comes across as so charming – reminding us very much of performances on Easter Island, where everyone could dance, and did.



Added to the Hafla folio [HERE...](#) *stopping action for stills in bellydance can seem a lot like taking posed images, until one looks closer and sees slight signs of movement. I use a shutter speed that hangs right on the edge of being not enough and too much. Next time around I think I'm going to slow that down one notch.*



Moonshine Hafla, Mardi Gras Edition – Farah Fusion, Mystic Caravan and Anam Cara

Mar 4, 2023

The trickiest exposures at Haflas are of groups of two or more. There's a lot of luck involved – one of the subjects falling outside the depth of field or moving too fast are the first concerns. Then there's double the issue of facial expressions. But my real nemesis seems to be too much distance between performers to work in a single shot – aargh. On three out of five of today's images I had to drastically reduce the distance between dancers – not the easiest of things (Nan simply said “fix it”). I won't identify the culprits, but the dancers can always check out their color jpegs.

The intro shot is of a group called **Farah Fusion** – I came up with three I liked for b&w. Two more below:



Mystic Caravan:



Anam Cara:



I'll confess that it's a lot more fun shooting individual dancers than ensembles. I've tried concentrating on one at a time in these and it doesn't seem to work out – and I wouldn't have individual names anyway. These have all been added to the Hafila folio [HERE...](#)



Moonshine Hafla, Mardi Gras Edition – Sha'Vei, Katie Jacobsen and Lotus Sol

Mar 5, 2023

I repeat that it's up to the ladies whether and if they post any of the color images I provide. Then again, it can be a awful lot of blue, green, orange, red and/or purple images. The girls do like their flashing color lighting. I can "usually" do something with everything except pink or pale blue. The intro shot is **Sha'Vei**. Here's another below – she performed only down on the floor in front of the stage – I believe I'm the only one who complains about that.



Katie Jacobsen... there always seems to be a sword dancer. At least they generally move a tad slower and more carefully, making it easier to get a shot. At least she was on stage, where I could get a full view. If I could I would donate a huge black curtain backdrop for the Hafas.



Lotus Sol... another group performing only in front of the stage, great for the priveleged few in front and supposedly for the performersn who want the personal touch but, awkward...



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

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Moonshine Hafla, Mardi Gras Edition – Emily Gonzaga and Jaelynn

Mar 6, 2023

Emily Gonzaga, in the first shot here was solid green to begin with, with the veil illuminated somehow separately in rainbow coloring. The entire exposure of the second image was blue, with just a tinge of purple showing up in the veil. Needless to say they were a little bit of a challenge (to get a good color image one would have to take the b&w and use an on-line AI service to restore it to color).

I call Emily the "Spinning Demon" because she spins faster, longer and more often than any of the other dancers. She's great fun to watch and photograph:



Jaelynn... I liked the original exposure of the first shot here in spite of the fact that it was in solid red light – that was fun. Then when she danced down the stairs at the end of the stage to finish up below. I grabbed this second shot on the way, in what looked like at the time complete darkness. The rest of her show proved even more difficult to capture – solid green light and a plethora of heads in the way. Live shows, hours of shooting with a heavy zoom can be exhausting. Me thinks an elbow brace to be in order.





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Moonshine Hafla, Mardi Gras Edition – Sophianna Apergis and Naimah

Mar 6, 2023

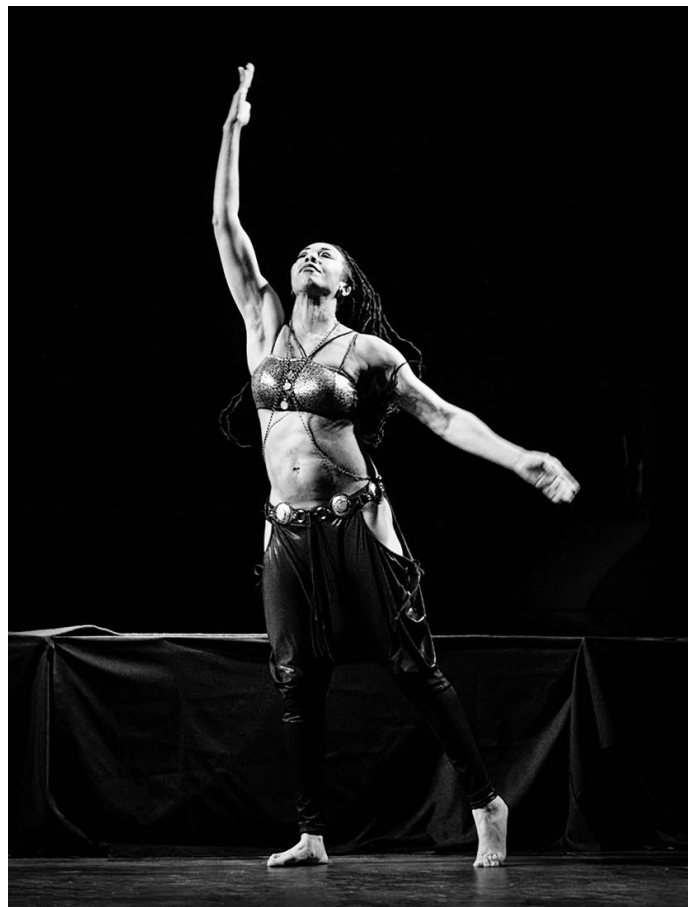
Sophianna Apergis... wow, even her name is cool. Sophianna is new to our local hafla. I never know what to expect as far as lighting – or if performers request certain lights vs just what the lighting man thinks appropriate at the moment. But here, even with the color effects, there was consistently some white light on the subject – flesh tones, yay. This made for more than the average number of nice exposures.



I decided to add the following two for fun, reflecting the enjoyment Sophianna was evidently having with the performance:



Naimah... appears a number of times in the Hafla folio. Here I was working in full-on red and green light exposures. Looking back at exposures of Naimah, I see a somewhat statuesque nature to her. I have an old exposure of her at the Opera House, reaching up with her finger tips actually going above the background curtain – no one else come close. Now that's some reach. I love the face and hair on the first one here – Nan prefers the second.





Moonshine Hafala, Mardi Gras Edition – April Monique

Mar 8, 2023

Havre de Grace's own **April Monique**... performed down in front of the stage also, but caught something of a lucky break. She's just enough shorter than most of the others who did that the stage edge and floor that provided part of the background could, and had to be, eliminated. Left, it would be behind head only – not something she would like. Disappeared, the image becomes more akin to what can be done up there on the stage.







Rogue Rehearsal at the Vandiver

Mar 21, 2023

I shot these mostly for fun – I can't always be there to shoot Rogue's Vandiver dinner-theater performances, so I tried the rehearsal for March's **St. Patrick's Day Concert**. It gave me an opportunity to grab a much shorter lens and stand wherever the heck I wanted. Big difference from using a longer lens behind heads, etc. Of course this makes it a little awkward as to what to actually do with the images, assuming there was anything worth working up – which there was. In fact, it will come to three postings.

For the opening exposure, I was able to zoom in on Katie (check out the personalized "KT" on her mic cove) while catching L.H. James out of focus. The shot below, from a few moments later, catches Katie's side glance at James singing his part. Notice that the heat wasn't turned up, ergo the coats stayed on.



After that I figured I needed better closeups of Katie and James:



Side note: I found out that the L.H. stands for Long Hair, from a need to differentiate him from a number of others named James at the time. I can identify: at one point the old ArtQuest committee consisted of seven men (along with a few women). All of us were named James or Jim.

Two more of my favorite ladies to shoot – Moxie and Bre:



Added at the front of the Vandiver folio in the Rogue section [HERE...](#) where they all appear full size.

All exposures from this rehearsal were made at iso 12,800 with my Fuji 16-80 f4.0 zoom, wide open at 1/250.



More of the same – with some process notes...

Mar 22, 2023

I shot the Vandiver rehearsal without much in the way of expectations. It was just a rough rehearsal with jackets on to keep out the cold. But it was a good opportunity to both work a little closer in with my 16-80 f4.0 lens and try out some new processing ideas. The processing of high iso exposures has experienced a number of improvements over the last four or so years – one measurable leap occurring in the past couple of weeks. A decade ago iso 1600 was pretty much of a push – I would do it and have to work myself to death to eke a usable image from the result. A year ago I found myself working between iso 12,800 and 51,200 – with similar results, as well as effort. It looks like 12,800 is the new 1600, with 25,600 and 51,200 being the new 6,400 to 12,800. Interesting, if a little heavy on the effort required.

Enough progress has now been made that I wish I had the time to go back and work so many hundreds of exposures all over again from scratch. Admittedly it's still a lot of work – but the range of what is recoverable seems to keep expanding. I'm really looking forward to my next couple of shoots...

In the meantime, more from the rehearsal session, beginning with two of Nate that I couldn't choose from:



Then little brother Caleb and daddy Ed Gordon:



Added at the front of the Vandiver folio in the Rogue section [HERE...](#) where they all appear full size.



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Finishing up... with the Rogue rehearsal

Mar 23, 2023

So I'm finishing up this Rogue rehearsal shoot with some fun images. Opening is a wide-angle view (showing all but three or four). Then, below, I caught Scott giving Caleb a "look" during their number. Alongside that is what I thought was a cool moment of Amy taking her violin down and strumming it like a guitar.



Finally three from group sings:





Added at the front of the Vandiver folio in the Rogue section [HERE](#)... where they all appear full size.



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Carolyn Blazeck – an Other Peoples Art Posting

Mar 26, 2023

At Friday's opening of *Gallery 220* in town we spotted a ceramic and pine needle piece with a familiar look to it. Checking the exhibit catalog we confirmed that it was by *Carolyn Blazeck*, the same artist who made what still is Nan's favorite Valentine's Day present from me – four or five years ago now. But we were shocked to find that we missed entering it into our art collection database – ergo a picture wasn't on my phone when I whipped it out. Arrrrgh. So I'm correcting that, and posting it here.

This piece – “*White Leaf Pot*” – is larger than it looks here, **a little over 16 inches across and 11 inches tall**. It took me from November to Valentine's Day to pay for it on lay-away. I'm glad I did, as the artist's prices have, justifiably, gone way, way higher (*the same size piece in the exhibit is listed at \$2,700*). No longer in RiverView Gallery, her work is now sold through a web site called *Cottage Curator*, link: <https://cottagecurator.myshopify.com/collections/carolyn-blazeck>

Also on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/carolynblazeck>

Nan and I have another work layed away at RiverView right now – I hope to have it paid off by my birthday in late May. I'm not quite content with the “framing”, but that is an easy and, in this case, inexpensive fix. Can't wait to post that one...



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Rock of Ages at the State Theater – My Favorite Shot

Mar 27, 2023

I'm busy working up the couple of images from the Gallery 220 opening, but took a break to do my favorite shot from **Rock of Ages** at the State Theater in town. It's a lot of fun and laid back – just don't dally in the aisles. I almost got run over at one point. Late in the show I grabbed this image – fronted by Bre Lewis. My camera and Bre always seem to hit it off – I always know ahead of time I'll come up with something great. In this one the other two cast members are perfectly positioned. As an bonus, JimmyO on drums seems to be photobombing the show pic.

Of course I realize how that happened. I was shooting from the back of the theater with the zoom set at about 170mm, compressing the view. This hasn't been added to a folio yet. Some time later this busy week.

Ps. the color version has its own punch, but that's up to Moxie, the show director whether to use it – all those went to her.



Rogue at Gallery 220 Opening

Mar 28, 2023

Four members of Rogue Swan provided some background for the opening of Gallery 220 in Havre de Grace Friday. Naturally I had to include the first image here, with their sign front and center– Katie, Qpril and Nate performing. Then I took a series of fun shots – using reflections in the piano top to make things a little more interesting. A couple more next time, but here are two of *Katie Gordon* singing – the first is Lilli and Nan's choice, the second MINE.



For now the full size versions of these have been added to the Havre de Grace Miscellaneous Events folio [HERE...](#) Who knows, with Gallery 220 planning regular small entertainment events, it might could need its own folio.

Ps: well, that's interesting. The blog will hit 3,000 "unique visitors" this month. The only real effect that has is to just make me feel guilty about being slow to get to the next posting (from what I can tell, it seems like "unique visitors is actually calculated daily, omitting only repeats for that day).



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Rock of Ages at the State Theater...

Mar 28, 2023

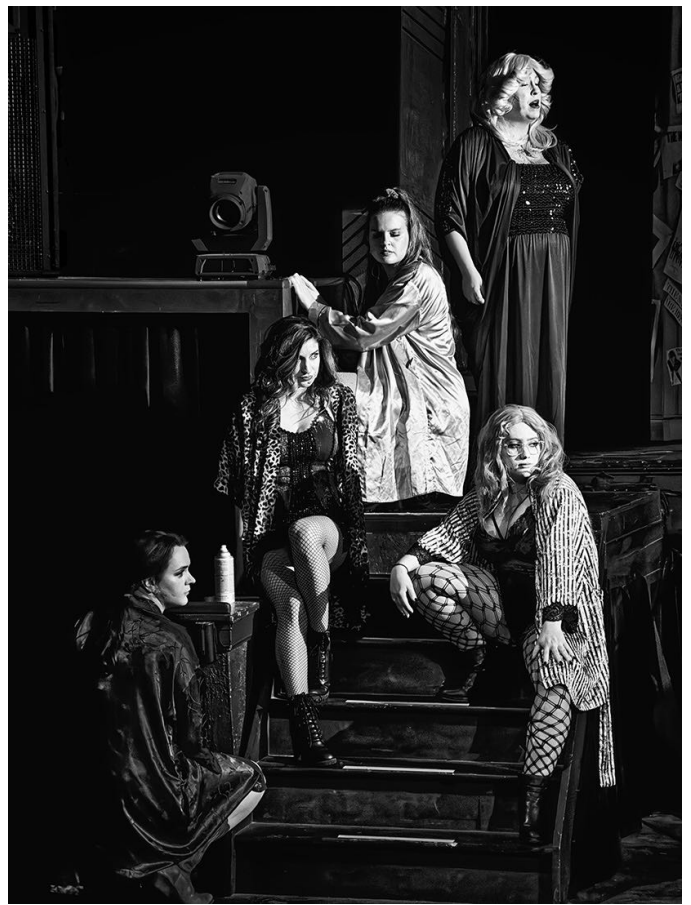
I'll admit that as much fun as it was to shoot **Rock of Ages** at the State Theater, I pretty much thought I would emerge with a small set of final images (other than the color jpegs I gave them). The show is pure fast moving havoc and I didn't have the advantage of working off a pervious run-through, and knowing what the heck was coming. But it looks like I managed to catch a litte more than I thought.

Here is the first of what promises to be at least three heavy postings. Damn, stage lighting is tricky. Since the troupe has three more performances this coming weekend, I'm rushing a tad here and takeing them as they come, without names (except for a couple that I already know) and/or what is actually happening. I'll try to get Marion to get me a list of names as I go, and put them in the folio, the one that I realize now that I'm going to have to set up:









These are all full size, etc. in the *State Theater – Rock of Ages* folio [HERE...](#)



The End is Near, Repent – or go see Rock of Ages at the State

Mar 29, 2023

My second batch from Rock of Ages at the State Theater – three shows remaining this upcoming weekend. I couldn't resist using this as the intro shot. I'm torn between lamenting the shots I missed and being amazed I got what I did, with going in blind – with no idea what was coming next in this fast moving, chaotic presentation. We really enjoyed it though.







These are all full size, etc. in the State Theater – Rock of Ages folio [HERE](#)... one more posting to go to finish up with these.



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Finishing up Rock of Ages...

Mar 30, 2023

It was impossible to say no to most of these images. Some I really like on their own, others are needed to help tell the story of the shoot. Anyway, here's the rest – at least they all fit on one page in the folio [HERE](#)... where they all appear full size, and are always downloadable.







Last are two of the cast making their bows – with the lens I was using I had to back up our of the theater into the approaching hallway to include it all for the second shot here:





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Three More Rogue Piano Reflection Shots from the Gallery 220 Opening

Mar 31, 2023

I came up with three more of the fun shots with reflections in the piano or Rogue Swan at the Gallery 220 opening in town. I had to do something to spice things up a little – it's not often I have to deal with Rogue images where everyone is actually standing, or sitting relatively still. Here's Katie and April singing, with brothers Gordon – Nate and Caleb, on guitars:



For now the full size versions of these have been added to the Havre de Grace Miscellaneous Events folio [HERE](#)



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iPhone faster shutter/high ISO – Part II of el gran experimento...

Apr 19, 2023

This posting took a while – even after a week of stomach virus. My first reaction, on seeing the exposures, was to give up on this part of the *el gran experimento*. Crap were they grainy and noisy – just what one would expect from high ISO iPhone work. But after a week I took another try. Believe me, I would never go into this again knowingly. Talk about labor intensive. Anyway, I came up with five images – ranging from ISO 1250 to 2000. I face much worse than that with my camera regularly, but for a sensor the size of an iPhone, this is pure insanity.

So here they are – shutter speeds were 1/200 to 1/250 of a second – decent for stopping some of the action. All are posted full size in the *Belly Dance and Moonshine Hafla* folio [HERE...](#)



In conclusion I believe, if stuck shooting action with the iPhone again, I prefer leaving it on a slow shutter and simply leaning heavily on burst and a save percentage of less than 1%. The percentage doesn't increase all that much with fast shutter and high ISO, but the work load more than doubles.



An Other Peoples Art Posting – Bill Buck

Apr 20, 2023

“Cliff Dwellers” by Bil Buck from *RiverView Gallery* in town. It got a lot of attention, before we laid it away a few months ago. It’s a three dimensional multi-media wall piece – 16X25 inches and about 2.5 inches deep in places. It looks more delicate than it is. When we got it home and looked at the back, we noticed that the actual art was created to hang free of the board that it was later mounted on. We like it even better removed from the backing board (like a painting that looks better unframed).

Nice addition to our collection – the only problem being that we are fast running out of places to hang new work. I’d give a link to his site, but it seems to be no longer working. Check out his work at *RiverView*...



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Rogue Invades the U.K – Ladies in the Garage

Apr 26, 2023

Attended my first rehearsal for "Rogue Swan Invades the U.K." coming up in June at the State Theater. It was in the "Garage". Strange, it's sort of an anti-Tardis, much smaller on the inside than it looks on the outside. Shooting in a crowded, noisy, dark room with wires and stands everywhere is something of a challenge. But I always seem to come up with at least a couple of interesting views – good thing these are show people and can ignore someone with a camera halfway up their left nostril.

Below: Bre, Moxie and April. Once again, here's hoping they like them.....



Finishing up with, do I call her Jasper, in the back behind the transparent barrier on the big drum, with, if you look very closely, her dad JimmyO peeking our between light reflections on the right.



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The Rogue Band Garage – Smaller on the Inside, and a little Scary

Apr 28, 2023

Just a couple more images from the first, but not the last, Rogue band rehearsal at “the Garage”. The Opening shot is just the entry door, it sort of sets the tone. The first shot below is very wide-angle – making it look like one can almost move in there. Navigation with a camera is a little tricky – fortunately they’ve gotten so used to me that it’s like I’m invisible, until I trip over or bump into something.



Katie distributes music, words and notes to everyone's phones...



This is from the doorway, the first three are lined up, filling the left half of the small entry room – the other half is Lilli on music control equipment.





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Rogue – Fun with New Dance First Run-throughs 1

Apr 30, 2023

Some of the most fun, and trauma, the cast has in rehearsals is early on getting used to new dance steps. In this sequence Jess and new cast member, *Arianna Constantini*, work out some new moves – they were a lot smoother by the end...



Will and Alex getting accustomed to the new steps...





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Rogue – Fun with New Dance First Run-throughs 2

May 2, 2023

Like Will and Arianna last posting, April and Caleb walk through the turn and dip that comes in the middle of a longer dance number. Bu the second Coffee Shop rehearsal, these couples will be smooth at this. Some group shots next time – then another rehearsal Wednesday. Then, wow, a *First Friday* this week...



Jessy, as always, poised in her effort and Lilli, who works so har corordinating behind the scenes, focusing on her steps...



And *Moxie* super concentrating on getting the feet right...





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If the Audience Has as Much Fun as the Cast...

May 5, 2023

This rehearsal was a lot of fun. Light sabres, toy space guns, etc. It will take a couple of postings to get to everyone. Lilli suggested a few, so she takes the blame/credit for selecting this first bunch to work up. This should definitely be a fun time for everyone.

Arianna Constantini spots the camera aiming at her and shoots back. Jessy Gordon Burtell is so admiring Flash Gordon...



Caleb Gordon, is he Flash (I'm not sure yet) and Ron Furrow defending the universe...





April and April & Ron taking on all invaders...





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Finishing May 3 Rehearsal – the Expressions Have It

May 7, 2023

I almost overlooked the intro shot here. The positions, as confusing as they are, are interesting, but Will's disconnected head makes it for me. He just missed getting his neck into the frame. OK, I could fake a neck line, but what would be the fun in that.

Next two very different approaches to what I assume is battling aliens from *Jess Langley*. She was really getting into this...



As was *Jessy Gordon Bortell*... Followed by *Will Conway* and *April Burril* getting serious...





The Dreaded Garage Again...

May 9, 2023

Once more into the breach. Garage rehearsals last hours, but I can only take about an hour and a half before I feel like I probably have anything I'm gonna get, and need to escape. Instead of working from the outside of the action looking in, I'm sort of stuck right in the middle trying not to get in the way. The intro shot is the mural on the outside of the garage – it sets the tone.

Other than *Playing Mantis*, most of the images in this posting were selected by Lilli. Then there's the one of her – I had swung the camera around and take a quick shot of her through an inside window. She immediately stuck out her tongue for the second shot. She later said I could use the tongue-out shot if I wanted, no – I'm using the first one.

JimmyO on Drums...



L.H. James • Alex and Jeremy on guitars...



Jason on Keyboard w/ Nate on Accordion • Josh on Guitar



Lilli who here does NOT have her tongue stuck out. If she wants that one posted, she's free to do that – I'm not going to risk life and limb that way...





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This is what we're gonna do...

May 10, 2023

First and second post are of *Katie* and *L.H. James*. In the intro shot, Katie is busy choreographing. Me, I'm stuck in the middle of everything with a wide-angle lens. Not the in the comfort zone of shooting from out of the fray with a good zoom telephoto.



Nate and L.H. James...



Jazz playing the shaker-eggs • Nate...



Jeremy on guitar...



Jazz on shaker-eggs and Dad on drums...





Addams Family Portrait – at the Opera House

May 14, 2023

I interrupt the present progress of *Rogue Swan*'s latest for this. I have a number of exposures from the dress-rehearsal for *The Addams Family* musical at the *Opera House* this week – wow, definitely a must-see. And laugh-out-loud funny. *Katy Gordon* from *Rogue* choreographed the show and wanted me to do this one up for her.

I did provide *Tidewater Players* with the color jpegs, but it's up to them whether to use them, they're theirs. On one hand, there is a lot of potential for b&w, but that tends to work best in context, following the plot for the complete set. So unless there are specific requests, I'm not certain as to any further postings.

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Fine Lines – even in rough rehearsals

May 15, 2023

Lilli made some selections from the set of images from the last Rogue rehearsal at Concord Point (after hours). There were some fun group shots (next time), but she included all five of these. Who could pass them up? I love the face in the intro shot (even with closed eyes) and can't wait to get a crack at the actual performance that Arianna and Alex are rehearsing in the first three images.



Then here are Jess Langley and Bre Lewis – now there's two faces that one just wants to point a camera at...





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Rehearsal Getting Serious...

May 16, 2023

It's kinda cool to watch everyone working variations of their expressions at the same time they're working on getting their steps into muscle memory and coordinating their movements and poses. Then it all comes together around dress rehearsal – minus a couple of last second alterations – those are neat to watch because you can see everyone scramble to adjust.

What I enjoy most about this process is that the cast is playing to an imaginary audience at this point. Leaving me free, almost as if I'm invisible, to work without interacting.







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A Couple of Stragglers from Last Week...

May 17, 2023

Finishing up with a couple of stragglers from last week, going into tonight's rehearsal at Concord Point. The intro shot is possibly my favorite from the shoot – competing with the intro shot from the last posting. Then there's the second shot here – cut and move the three of them out onto a street side and it would look like a funny movie sequence of hitching a ride.



The next two are, again, of the two dancing couples practicing their moves...





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Fake It Til You Make It...

May 21, 2023

Tis was something of a shorter session – more instruction than practice. But I did get a couple of shots in. The title is the quote off Bre's shirt. She finishes up her nursing degree this month and is definitely making it. I love her expression in the intro shot. Lilli couldn't decide which of the next two, so asked for both – plus it shows how much difference there can be between consecutive shots even when bursting at five frames a second,



There were two good versions of this – shot within about one fifth of a second, *both full size in folio*...



Same with these two – all full size in the *Rogue Invades the U.K folio* [HERE](#)...



Program portraits are today – that'll be a little work...



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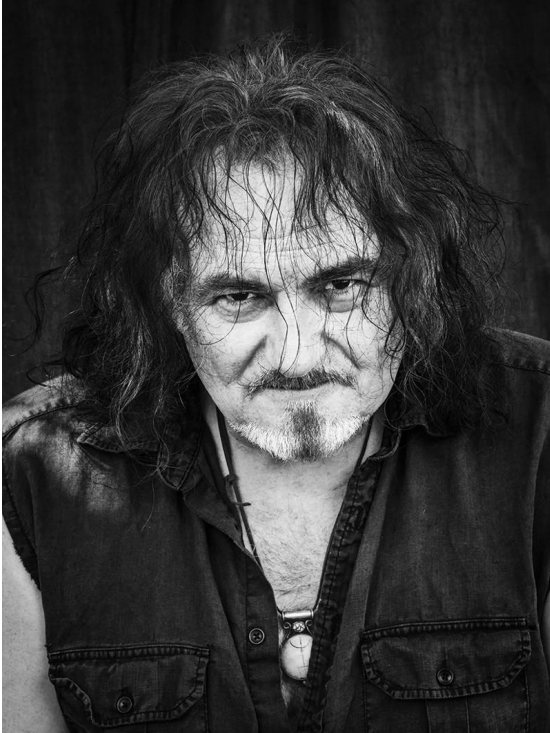
Time to Start the Cast Portraits...

May 24, 2023

At first glance, time to take the cast portraits for the program doesn't seem like that big a deal. Heck, they're going to be a small inch by an inch and a half ovals, on regular paper. But I like to take the opportunity to overdo it a little. They pick a spot in the shade outside the rehearsal garage, hang a purple backdrop and take turns sitting for a couple of quick shots. It's all fun. I got 15 of them so far – there will have to be a second sitting when *Katie* and *Nate* get back from Scotland.

I'm going to post these in the order I do them up – in the order the RAW files exported to my work folder. That will make for three postings of five each – of course I have to pick a favorite for the intro shot each time. For this posting it was a no-brainer. *Arianna* is new to the cast, so this is her first crack at this. Plus, she has dark, penetrating eyes and a great *Mona Lisa* smile.

The next pair are married, *JimmyO* and *April*, cast regulars (*JimmyO* is also the drummer). *April* puts together the program, so I always cross my fingers that she like her portrait. When *JimmyO* sat down, I told him that I thought he said he was getting a haircut – he responded that he did (no, I didn't ask which-one).



Here's *Jessy* and *Amy*, leaving *JimmyO* to look even rougher as he's surrounded by four beautiful faces...





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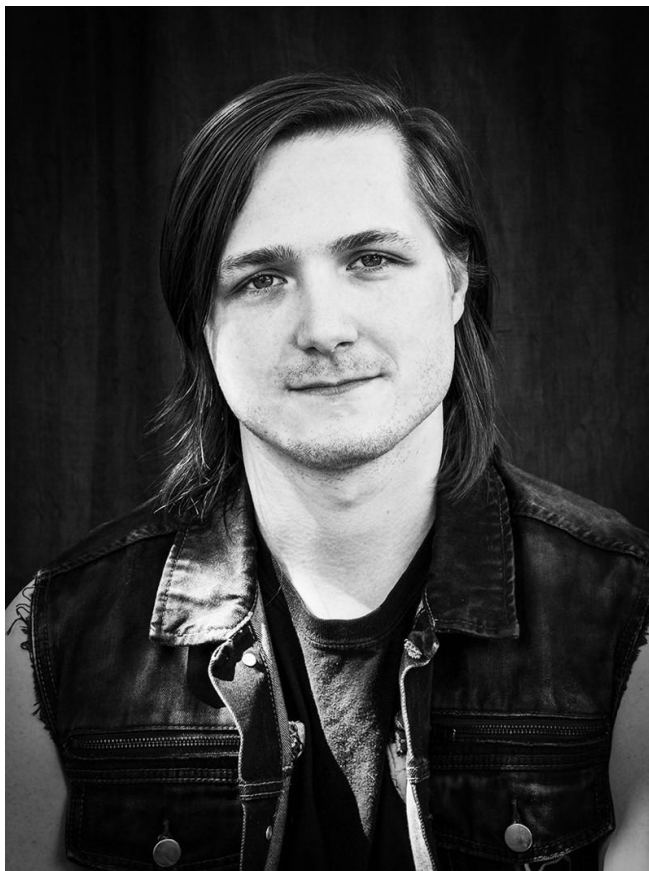


Cast Portraits - 2

May 25, 2023

The next five. Nan picked *Jess Langley* for the intro shot – the one lady in this group and another with *Mona Lisa*-ish smile. As the man with the camera, I don't take any credit for the posint. These are show people and, for the most part, know what they're doing in front of a camera – the ladies anyway. Have to make this one quick, there was a big rehearsal last evening and there are still five more of these.

Below, Jesse Hutchinson, Alex Fintak, Caleb Gordon and Ed Gordon.....





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Cast Portraits - 3

May 27, 2023

There will be another cast portrait sitting soon – these finish up the fifteen so far. The intro shot is of *Marion “Moxie” Jackson*. Subjects were sitting in the shade of a tree that wasn’t quite as dense as I thought. I didn’t notice it, but it shows up in the exposures. Slight variations in shade level added something of a three dimensional look to skin tones. Usually, with b&w, especially when make-up is a factor, one has to work to bring this out, but in this case it created the opposite issue, the need to hold it back a little. The end result is that the ladies almost look like they’re not wearing as much make-up.

Jeremy Hicks-Kachik and Bre Lewis...



Will Conway and Jason Bock...





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From Lilli's Request List...

May 31, 2023

Lilli Burril Gordon is the force to deal with when working with Rogue Swan – she handles the management end of things. I'm sitting on a list of about fifteen rehearsal images remaining from her b&w request list – color jpegs are given to Rogue. Her help there speeds things up a little. She usually appears in the show, but does not like to see a camera aimed in her direction. Well, I'll fix that next posting. This is the first six from her last list (the cast portraits sort of took precedence).

From this posting, one can get a sense of how hectic it is catching fast movement in the tight rehearsal space. The lens covers from 28mm to 120mm, making for constant aiming, zooming in and out, etc. Sometimes I feel like I'm going to be lucky to end up with anything. The opening shot here catches the fun that this performance will be for all. I had to do some cropping, but it kinda works as a square.

This is a well coordinated lean moment...



April on flute (garage rehearsal) and Moxie moment...



Arianna and Arianna with Alex practicing their ballet number...





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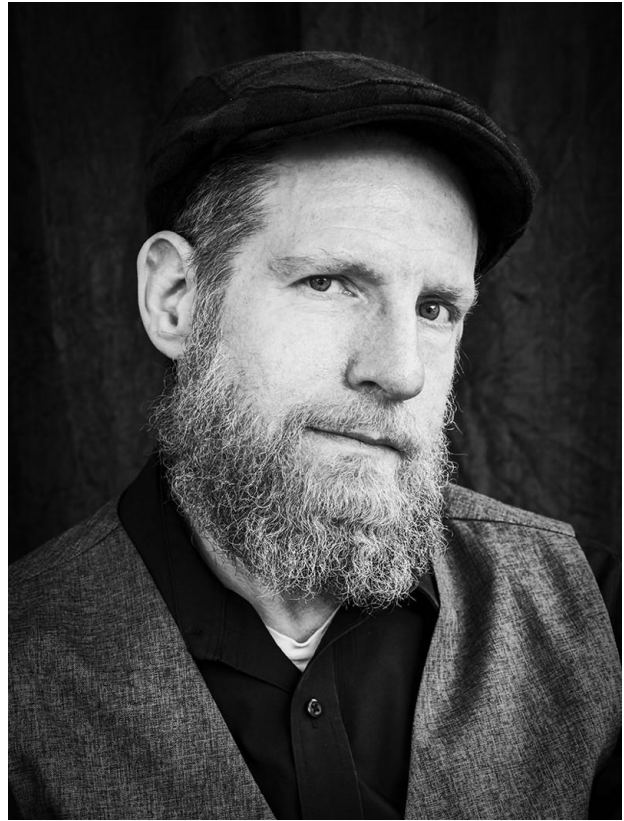


Rogue Swan Invades the U.K.Cast Portraits- 4

May 30, 2023

This time around cast portraits are proving a little more difficult to schedule – in spite of the fact that there’s probably about two minutes involved in each – on my part anyway. The intro shot is *L.H. James*. I finally learned that he adopted the “L.H.” at a time when there were too many James’s involved. It stands for “Long Hair”. Cool.

Next *Matt Cassarino* and *Ron Furrow*...



There are still a couple/few cast members to catch up with, but finally for now is another young new face in the program, *Jazz Burriel*. I like it when I catch becoming expressions on the ladies.





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Not from Lilli's List...

Jun 2, 2023

Today is more for fun – *First Friday* this evening and the cast will give an “impromptu” flash-mob performance in the street outside the *State Theater* just after 6 pm. A great way to launch your First Friday experience. So I decided to work up four images that did not make *Lilli’s* list – a couple of which catch cast members’ enjoying their rehearsals a little extra. I’ll try to finish up on her list Sunday.

The opening shot catches *Bre* and *Jesse*, aiming their imaginary (in rehearsal only) space lasers at imaginary invaders. I could hang this one on my wall.

Will and *Caleb* convincingly duel with their imaginary light sabres...



The one I could get into trouple for posting – *Moxie* and *Alex* being a cute couple...



Finally, because it's the only usable exposure from outside a garage rehearsal where they tried posting some of the chorus outside around a mic. This is shot with a wide-angle lens, held over my head and far too close in for comfort. Some distortion, and awkward shadows on faces due to winded shade trees, but there's something about it I like, and it helps tell the story...





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Rogue Swan Invades the U.K – the rest of Lilli's Rehearsal Selections

Jun 4, 2023

Before I start work on, hopefully, some First Friday images, here are the rest of the selection list Lilli sent from the Concord Point rehearsals. The intro shot shows one of the dance numbers – with Bre leaping in the front. I'm being a little short on text so that I can get these out quickly for their use...

Alex and Arianna have a great ballet number • the girl can jump...



Caleb and Alex as what once was seen as cool...



Alex and April • Bre just graduated from nursing school...



Sometimes in tight quarters the wide-angle just can't get it all...





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First Friday – Street Rogues

Jun 5, 2023

Street made narrower by booths, split lighting, people standing around – did the best I could shooting with the camera well over my head. At least these two shots show something of the exuberance Rogue dancers put into the show. This took place in front of the State Theater where the performances will be held June 16 and 17. Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rogue-swan-invades-the-uk-tickets-613384568757>

I do have a couple more First Friday shots to add to that folio – next time.





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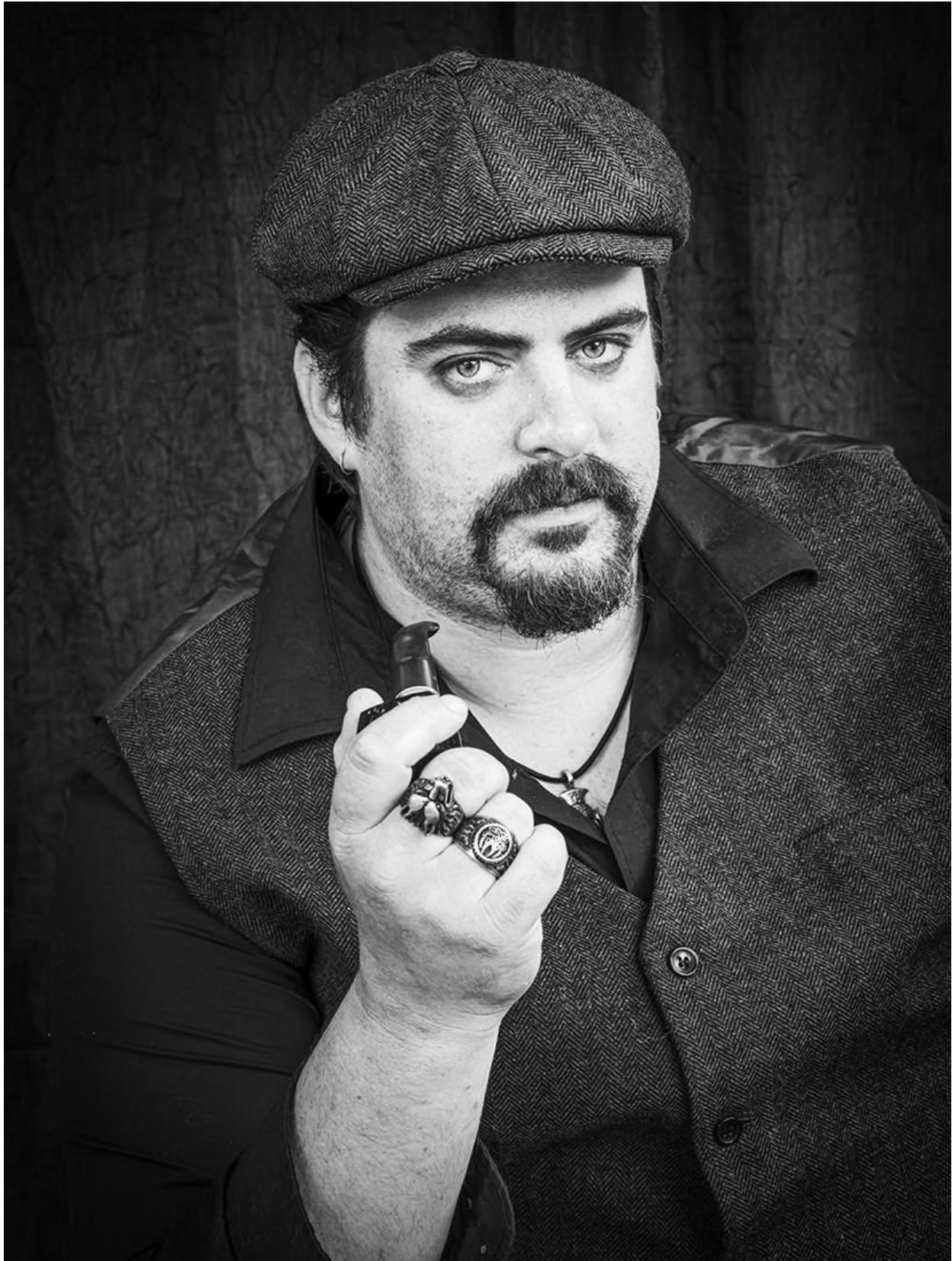
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Final Cast Portraits for Rogue Swan Invades the U.K.

Jun 6, 2023

Had to wait for Katie and Nate to get home from Scotland. That's it, except for Lilli (who claims she's too fond of the head shot from the last show and a couple of other scary-cats, that completes the cast portraits. in the program April will use small ovals, but the full images are [HERE](#) for all to see. Finally we have Kstie Gordon, the driving, and sometimes irresistible, force behind Rogue Swan and her husband Nate, who claims to be awkward in front of a camera – we should all be that awkward...





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Rogue vs the State Theater Stage

Jun 9, 2023

One of the more fascinating parts of preparing for a performance is the labor that goes into adapting the venue for the particular show. I included an early shot of the evening, showing both some of the raw construction going on in front – expanding the stage and cast members working out when-and-where positions for one of the numbers. The detail that Katie and Lilli keep in their heads is daunting.



Lilli submitted a request list again, that helps. She had both the images below on the list – Since it IS the U.K. I assume this somehow relates to the “Ministry of Silly Walks. So I worked both up (there are more in the series). Short on time today (among other tantalizing chores, it’s dentist and teeth-cleaning day for both of us), so I simply grabbed these four images...



I came out of this combination tech night / rehearsal worried that I just wouldn’t get much. Well, possibly not much that is really good, but some telling shots. Besides, it helps me to be prepared for what’s coming in dress rehearsal – the show itself is a crap-shoot sometimes. Oh, the intro shot is one I really want to catch on a show night, in full costume.



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More from Rogue testing out the Stage

Jun 10, 2023

Lilli picked about 16 that Rogue liked for B&W work-up. Here's the second batch of 4. Stage not finished no costumes (except maybe James at times). Lighting is atrocious at this point, making for a bit of work on my part – but they're worth it. The intro shot catches a moment in a portion of the show somehow related to Flash Gordon – songwise anyway. The next image shows three of the ladies, and Will...



Three of the ladies striking poses on the side stairs – for this show they will be using both side stairs, both platforms beyond those, and a full stage extension in front. It's gonna be interesting. Next to that, Jesse sings from the platform on the other side...





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Stage Lighting can be a Challenge...

Jun 11, 2023

Wow, the stage lighting combined with the house lights being up makes for some challenges. That plus I have to get used to the show's timing so I can be prepared for noteworthy moments when they occur in the actual show. Images today finish up with Lilli's selections from the last rehearsal. Any I add will have to wait to be included after tonight's efforts.









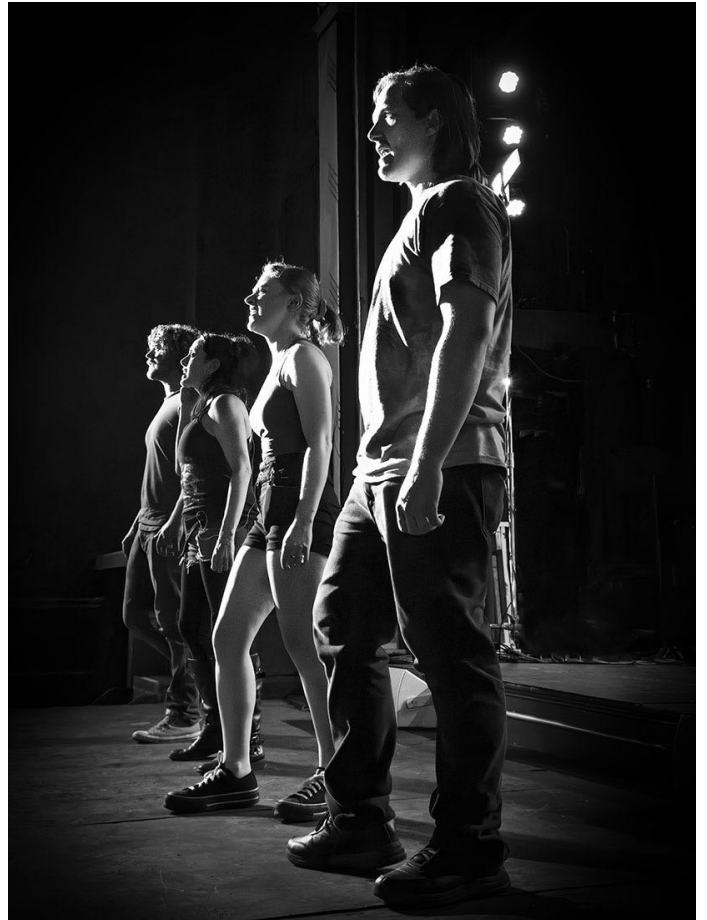


I'm Exhausted – the Cast must br ready to Drop...

Jun 14, 2023

Hours on end swinging a heavy camera and lens around truing to keep up with the goings on on stage, then an equivalent number of hours getting the jpegs out to Lilli and working up the needed B&Ws. I'm exhausted, but then realize that there's no way I could keep up with what the cast does getting ready for this show. Anyway – Rehearsal Monday night left us getting home at 11:30. And now dress rehearsal this evening, wow. I had time today for the four in this posting – my favorite four from Lilli's picks from Sunday's session (she just now got me picks from last night).

A couple more to come from Sunday and Monday – then Tonight (along with a couple from Monday) Will be bundled with Show night for performance shots. My access at the show will be limited to the long lens from the back.





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Last Before Performance...

Jun 16, 2023

Backed up on rehearsal images, but with first performance tonight, I'm posting the first four from dress rehearsal. For this show, dress and performance shots will be joined in their own folio (for performance I will be restricted to the rear with my big lens – with heads in between because the theater, unlike the Opera House, slants down to the stage).

I'll have to add here that this promises to be the absolute most fun performance in Havre de Grace this year, bar none – and fast moving, making it quite a challenge to photograph. What with no a.c. for the rehearsals, combined with overworking the camera, I actually got warnings and slow-downs from it overheating. Wow.







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Three Quickies Between Performances...

Jun 17, 2023

Shot the performance last night from the back – not the easiest thing to do where the audience slants down to the stage. Tonight we return to simply sit and enjoy the great show (after taking the cast photo).





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Rogue Swan Invades the UK - Cast Photo

Jun 20, 2023

So many exposures and so little time. I got pretty far behind on these – but now I can work on catching up. As far as rehearsal images go, those not done yet will probably not appear here – but will be included at the end in the **PDF eBook** of the show. Dress rehearsal images were shot from down right in front of the stage, at different angles, with my Fuji 15-80 (24-120 equivalency). As I put together coverage of individual numbers, I hope to be able to combine a few of those with the long-shot images from the actual performance for the *Performance Folio*. The *State Theater* venue is a little limiting on the long-shots, but makes up for that in making the short shots more convenient to execute in dress rehearsal.

In the past I always did the numbers in order, as I built the pdf – but this time, since I managed to post my “three quickies” between performance, I’ll begin by expounding those three numbers. This will take a while. There’s also a couple of side-shots that I really like that can be ordered between numbers.

This posting is for the cast photo, taken just prior to the final performance. Then, sitting at one of the tables up front, we sat and enjoyed the show. Wow, it looked so much better when not looking through a camera. Nan, who very much serves as assistant and editor, and I both feel privileged to have a role to play – off stage. AND I get to do what I do – my B&W.



While My Guitar Gently Weeps...1

Jun 20, 2023

"While My Guitar Gently Weeps" – Lilli high above the stage on a Lyra Hoop while Arianna and Alex perform a ballet, accompanied by KT and LH James singing. It was a lot to take in. These show the number at different stages. Next posting will be a series of closeups of Lilli's part of the performance. I wanted to narrow this down to one image, but that would take more effort than I can manage – and none caught everyone at their best. So here are four more...







While My Guitar Gently Weeps...2 – Pure Class

Jun 21, 2023

The one image among these that Lilli thought she was going to get away with selecting just doesn't do her performance justice. There's something classy about the intro shot along with the fact that it is the first in the sequence – Lilli positioned in the Lyra Hoop being hoisted into the air as KT and LH James sing, with the phenomenal Rogue guitarists providing the music. The rest follow in order as I shot them – ending with the graceful lowering.







Along with the images from the previous posting, these capture something of the performance. Added to the Rogue Swan Invades the UK Folio [HERE](#) where I **arranged them properly in sequence**. Now I'm hoping to tackle something a bit easier tomorrow...



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"Son of a Preacher Man"

Jun 22, 2023

Arianna singing "Son of a Preacher Man" with Bre on chorus. After getting my shot, I first zoomed in on the left where Natasha (who chimes in with a number of wind instruments) was on sax and Alex on guitar.



Then I swung the lens to the right to catch *Ron* on trumpet and *Matt* on a bigger sax – he would bring an even bigger sax into it later. And somehow, from the back behind a barrier on drums, *JimmyO* always winds up photobombing at least one of the final images.



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"Beck's Bolero"

Jun 23, 2023

Jeremy Hicks-Kachik and the Rogue band play "Beck's Bolero". Lighting was shifting and insanely harsh – effective to the eye, but.... And lots of action on Jeremy's part – I managed to get two shots off that I like.





Sympathy for the Devil

Jun 24, 2023

Sometimes one image says it all. This was one different and impressive belly-dance. The mere force, spins, matching movements to such an intense piece. And here the stance and expression more than hint at what is to follow.

Working these up one number at a time – three dozen of them – hopefully I can double up some.

Added a little larger to its own section, in order of performance, to the Performance Folio [HERE](#)...



Wannabe

Jun 26, 2023

Rogue Swan Invades the UK sported about twice as many numbers as most shows – a lot of the music was pop in origin, and therefore shorter in length. That makes for somewhere around thirty five separate performances to deal with. No way am I going to try and do them in order. Another complication I mentioned previously – dress rehearsal allowed for a short zoom while the actual performance only a long zoom from the back (heads galore). So I'm having to mine exposures from two separate performance for each number. Try to keep those exposure numbers in some kind of order. "Wannabe" features Moxie, Bre and April. Here's two more I like...



This final is from dress rehearsal...





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You Really Got Me

Jun 27, 2023

Yes, Rogue did the Kinks. Caleb backed up by L.H.James and April made "You Really Got Me" sound and look good. The first two images here are from the performance with a long lens from the back, note Caleb's arms. Loved the sound of this one...



The next two are from dress rehearsal – where I could shoot from below instead of above, and at something of an angle...





Often shooting action in low-ish light with high ISO, then heavy shadows can be a snake pit of noise to take on. A little work makes for images best viewed rather small, like here on the blog. Added a little larger to their own section, in order of performance, to the Performance Folio [HERE...](#)



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Body Talks and Be My Number 2 – Spotlight on Bre

Jun 28, 2023

It was a difficult decision, but both of these are from dress rehearsal – I just like them so much better than those taken performance night. Lens, angle and all that... Bre not only has one heck of a voice, she can command a stage. The intro shot is from "Body Talks", billed as Bre with Jeremy on guitar. But he played from the wing on this one. The shot below is Bre's keyboard solo, down below the stage in a dark corner lit by one light. Nan picked this one before I had a chance to angst over it...





Pinball Wizard

Jun 30, 2023

Rogue's latest show is proving a little different to process images from. Sure the venue was a little tricky, but been-there before. The big difference is the sheer number of segments to the show – three to four times as many numbers. Many can be covered with a couple of images, but not all. The solution, at this point, seems to be to (with minimal exceptions) try to hold to that pattern even for more complex numbers with pretty much the entire cast involved, and await putting out the PDF of the show for including more. There the overall plot becomes more important. Today's posting of "*Pinball Wizard*" falls into that category – and again I am drawing from both the performance and dress rehearsal. There are as many images being held back for inclusion in the PDF as there are here. They will help tell the story:

Pinball Wizard was a feast for the eyes and ears. Constant, complicated, choreographed action. The opening image catches one of the dance moments. The next shot helps show what is happening, catching Arianna (the actual spinning ball) making her way in, around and through the cast as they mimic control levers and a pinball game in progress...



I did catch Jesse's leap into the audience area in the performance, but this is three of the final jump sequence from dress rehearsal – from a much better angle...







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"Because" and "The Chain"

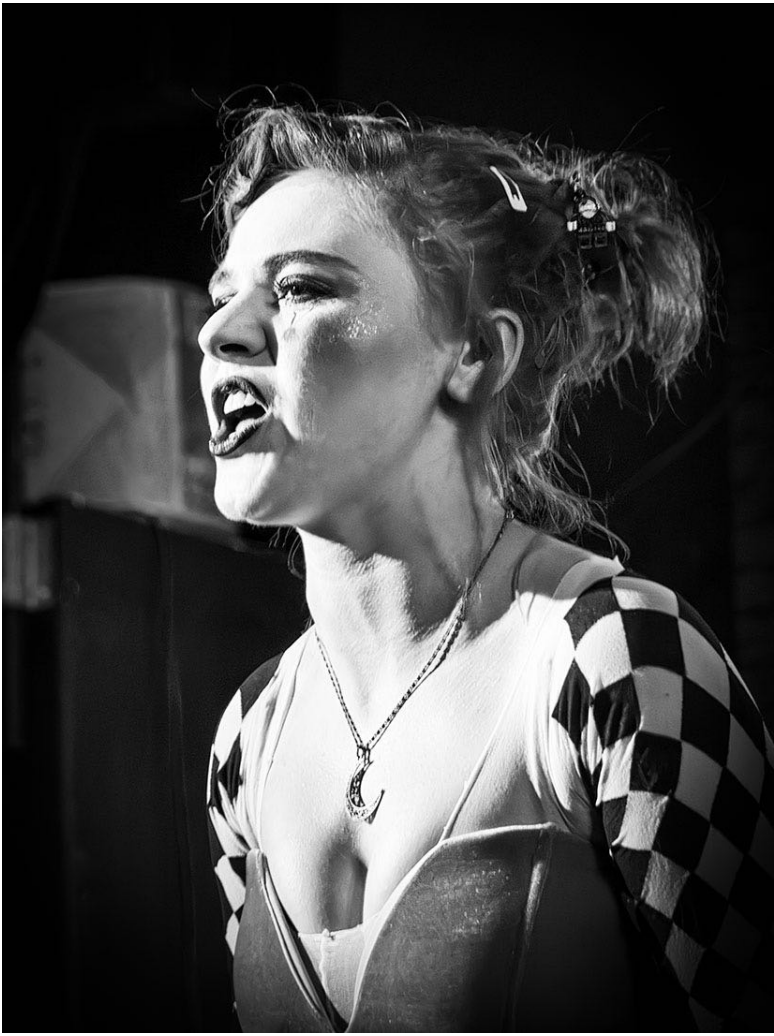
Jul 2, 2023

Will still be tackling *Rogue Swan Invades the UK* for a while. As I mentioned some of these were shorter numbers with less going on than others. First here – the Beatles’s “Because” sung by the Barbershop trio, *The Three Quarters* (Ron, Ed and Matt). They don’t move around much, especially singing this number. I did swing the lens off to the sideline to catch Will and Jessy stepping back to watch the stage....



“The Chain” was sung by Moxie, April, Alex and Caleb. Harsh lighting made for a full stage image a little lacking, but I managed to zoom in for closeups of the two ladies – I especially like the intensity they put into the song...







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"Heart of Stone"

Jul 3, 2023

The intro shot, made while KT, April and Moxie performed "Heart of Stone" catches a moment in the plot that Rogue used to join the various numbers into a show unit. Really a neat effect. In some ways the lighting was easier to wrestle with than that on stage. Here's the stage at that moment...



And a couple of Closeups of KT belting it out...



Then I thought it would be cool, and so easy, to “catch” Josh in his signature playing stance...





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From "I'm Into Something Good" to Shakespeare

Jul 4, 2023

Jesse, backed up by Ron and Caleb joyfully struts and sings "I'm Into Something Good". Then, leading into the next number, he leaves the stage and teams up with Arianna to add some comic relief by attempting a scene from *Romeo and Juliet* – soon thwarted. First a second shot from the number and then "Wherefore art thou....."





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"Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood"

Jul 5, 2023

L.H James not only made this sound great, he made it look good. I liked these four shots the best – yet there were others I could have used. I tried to select one or two, really I did. In some ways the last shot here is a favorite, but it is a drastic crop from a full-stage exposure and has a lot less detail, and took some extra work.





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"FLASH"

Jul 6, 2023

"Flash", the Queen Flash Gordon theme song. I thought the visuals, and the song were actually better done here than in the movie. It seemed like freaking everyone was on stage – which didn't help with taking shots. It was choreographed for fast action with occasional freeze moments – thank heaven. I had a rough time narrowing it down to these nine images but I wanted to show a feel for the number. The intro shot – from just below the stage during dress rehearsal, is my favorite. Then some close-ups of one of the early moments:





The rest catch more of the stage – unavoidably with some audience – ending with a wide stage shot making sure to get everyone in...







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"Layla" and "Tattoos" – Nate and Caleb

Jul 7, 2023

If nothing else, this posting demonstrates beautifully some of the differences between shooting performance vs dress rehearsal. Performance lighting is harsh, leaving deep shadows in unexpected and awkward places, not to mention bleached out highlights. Lots of work to do there. Some house lights are left on during dress rehearsal – it acts as fill light, evening things out. At the same time, one can mount a shorter zoom on the camera and get one's choice of angles for the shots at rehearsal, not so during an actual performance. Not that the performance doesn't offer some great opportunities – I do prefer to work both.

The intro shot is Nate singing "Layla", an Eric Clapton song with something of a story behind it. It was shot during dress rehearsal – the next image was pretty much the best angle (and lighting) I could get during the performance two nights later...



Caleb sings "Tattoos" with Nate – the first shot was taken at an angle during rehearsal, making the two look much closer. The performance shot, taken from the back with a long lens, accents the separation that to the eye seemed natural. Plus, the harsh lighting...





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"Moonage Daydream" – Alex

Jul 7, 2023

Alex's tribute to David Bowie – very low-light performance of "Moonage Daydream". The intro shot was taken from the side in dress rehearsal. It's a pretty good look for Alex. The second shot, during the performance, is a drastic cropping of a full-stage shot...



Added a little larger to their own section, in order of performance, to the *Rogue Swan Invades the UK Folio* [HERE...](#)

This is the second post today – because I need to leave some extra time (hours, days) to work on the next... KT and the troupe's big number closing off Act I, "Bring on the Men". Between Lilli's picks and my own there are over thirty to convert and work far enough to begin eliminations – a looming time consuming process. Right now I need to step away from the computer and spend some time with my sweetie...



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"Bring on the Men"

Jul 10, 2023

It took watching a documentary about music and performance photography (mostly from the film days) to put my performance work with *Rogue Swan* and the *Hafas* into perspective. I'm never quite satisfied with most of my results – well, duh. I have no control over the subject whatsoever, and no say in the lighting. It's almost as if I'm trying to extricate a fine-art b&w image from a low quality video – my having the one advantage of trying to catch that moment with a little more control over timing and equipment. Seeing celebrated images that suffer from many of the same issues I find I must be content with, helps. This is not the controlled photography of my tripod work.

Oddly though, with those few, occasional times everything seems to fall in place and I end up with an image that I deem problem free – I can't get it out of my head that it looks too much like I set it up and posed it in controlled lighting – then Nan just wants to hit me. *That would be the intro shot here, if it weren't for the fan on the stage.* Complete control doesn't happen even with the portraits of these performers, let alone on stage. This posting of "Bring on the Men" from *Rogue Swan Invades the UK* brought a lot of this home to me. So many exposures/shots that I love and want to work up – so darn many of the issues that plague the process.

It helps to take lots of exposures, taking advantage of the players being so used to me being there that I'm invisible (making sure at all times that you don't get tripped over). Then the torturous narrowing down image choices followed by an insane level of fix-its. Example: I selected an image where one of the gentlemen was, inexplicably, without the very much needed hat – I spend a half hour Saturday moving it from another image, putting it back on his head, rotating it slightly and correcting any damage I did in the process. Only then could I begin work on the rest of it. And this image was no more difficult or time-consuming than the average.

I wound up with more images from "Bring on the Men" – KT and the troupe's big number ending the first act – than I planned. This posting fractures those from dress-rehearsal, where I could work with a shorter lens at angles I chose. There were some difficult choices here, as well as humongous lighting issues from lack of good illumination on Katie in the front – an issue to be, unfortunately, repeated during the performance (those four images will be in the next posting).

Many of those for today are shown a little smaller here, but are full size in the *Rogue Swan Invades the UK Folio* [HERE...](#)









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"Bring on the Men" – and the Red Menace

Jul 12, 2023

Finally, out from under the bane of every Rogue Swan show, what I see as the *red menace*. "Bring on the Men" was performed (very effectively) with red stage lighting – effectively that is for the number itself and the audience. Not so much for the camera. The nightmare of red light alone when it comes to achieving gray tones. Dress rehearsal had the advantage of providing some house lighting to help offset that – just one of the reasons dress rehearsal is so important to shoot. I did manage to get these four that offer some degree of usability – after much work and angst. But they are needed. Hey, It is what it is...







Battle of the Saxes and "Goodbye Blue Sky"

Jul 13, 2023

Figuring out a title for the opening image was a hoot. I considered *Size Matters*, *My Sax is Bigger than Yours* and a few others. This little bit with Amy and Matt opened Act II. Off the stage, they were moving and not well lit – but I thought it kind of a cool shot – not to mention Matt's prize possession, his antique baritone saxophone. And Amy's is almost as big as she is.

The second shot here catches Katie singing Goodbye Good Sky, a number I'll admit I'm not familiar with. Billed as KT, Josh Jimmy and Matt – I did manage to get Katie, JimmyO just coming in on drums, Matt and then Jeremy in the shot. Josh was on base guitar waaaaay on the other side of the stage...





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"Immigrant Song" 1 – Moxie

Jul 14, 2023

I tried to trim this down to one closeup of Moxie (Marion Jackson) and one of the group singing the "Immigrant Song". But, being as I simply could not bring myself to eliminate any of these, let alone two, I decided on a separate posting – Moxie's mother should enjoy seeing these. The intro shot is how the number opens, on a note that seems to be something of her trademark. Then below, the in-between shot that would probably be the extreme for most singers, paired with proof that this young lady can soften the song when she wants.





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"Immigrant Song" 2

Jul 15, 2023

Again, this segment should probably have one image, or even two. But since I would need all four for the pdf anyway, here they are. The final image is a wider view, showing one member of the audience saluting the singers.







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"Gimmie Gimmie" (a man after midnight)...

Jul 16, 2023

Starts off slow with Arianna, Jessy and Jess in the spotlight off to the side of the stage – then it becomes as rousome as it can get. The second shot shows the three ladies exiting on the right as the song continues. “Gimmie Jimmie (a man after midnight)” – a really fun number. It’s kind of amazing how troupe members switch gears back and forth from featured singer to very animated backup performers. Not to mention the ones the move between center-stage and playing in the band.





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"Paint it Black" – James and Nate

Jul 17, 2023

"Paint it Black" – another number I had no familiarity with. For some reason, it does help a little if I do. The final shot proved impossible to get during the performance – they were down among the tables. But I did get it in a horizontal in dress rehearsal, and then cut the tables out by making it a vertical.





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"Life on Mars" – Katie and Arianna

Jul 18, 2023

"Life on Mars" – I repeat, photographing for Rogue is something of an education when it comes to music. I keep getting introduced to stuff I didn't know existed. It seems there IS *life on Mars*. And once again it was impossible, after combining Lilli's and my hit list, to trim it down any further than what I have here. They're almost evenly divided dress-rehearsal and performance (performance lighting leaned a little mutely to the red). The opening shot shows Caleb winding up Arianna. Then three rehearsals from close to the stage...





Then three performance, finishing with the ending...







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"The Song that Goes Like this..." – Amy and Jesse

Jul 19, 2023

With the number of really great performances in this show, it would be impossible to pick a favorite. But on the list would be "The Song That Goes.....", with Amy and Jesse. They played it up to the hilt. And once again, I couldn't bring myself to eliminate as many as I should have. The opening image was shot in dress-rehearsal – the rest, below, in performance from the back.







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"Shes not There" - "Shadows in the Rain" Intense

Jul 20, 2023

Intense – Caleb sang an old favorite “She’s not There” with Alex and April. then “Shadows in the Rain” solo. I’m making progress here – actually beginning to set up the PDF and move images in. If Rogue ever contemplates this many numbers in a performance again, I may run for the hills. Opening shot shows Caleb “She’s not There”. Here’s all three...



“Shadows in the Rain”...





Finally – laying out the pdf ebook of *Rogue Swan Invades the UK*

Jul 24, 2023

Admittedly, I'm nowhere finished with doing-up the images from this show – so many numbers!. But enough is covered to take a break and spend the last two days laying out the **interactive pdf ebook of *Rogue Swan Invades the UK*** – and get most of the titles, names and cast portraits in – yay. The image here – as the cast enters, sets up the stage and sings “Magical Mystery Tour” by the Beatles – (sort of) introduces the main body of the book (there are two smaller verticals joining it for the first number).

I'm not sure how long this will take – instead of continuing with images from the last few musical numbers, I'm shifting gears and working my way through the pdf. That way I can fill out the numbers already covered and, at the same time work in images that actually come between numbers. Any missed songs can be added at their own time and place.

It will feel good to get working on this. Besides, there are a few other things to shoot and cover coming up – as well as a couple of things I've neglected for far too long.

Added a little larger to their own section, in order of performance, to the *Rogue Swan Invades the UK* Folio [HERE](#)... where more will appear than will be posted here and/or Facebook.



Oops – back to First Friday in June

Jul 24, 2023

Well, I will beat the onset of First Friday in August with these. A couple more to come – these two celebrate a pair of openings. The first heralds the opening of a new “Paranormal and Oddities” shop in town. OK, it was bright and contrasty – but it seems to me (and did at the time) that it’s not all that easily determined which figure is real and which not.

The second shot was taken at the opening celebration of the new **Gallery 220** in town – a new gallery that rotates exhibits and occasionally sponsors entertainment. they are “*Feather and Flask*” – they bring back images of the sixties, almost expecting to here *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* vocalized. But no, their music is a little more timely than that.





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DRUM CIRCLE – first Friday in June

Jul 26, 2023

I was worried when there was no Drum-Circle the First Friday in May. It appeared in June, but sadly Cliff Jiles was obviously sorely missed. I remember taking his picture the first time he sat with his one drum outside his wife's little shop on First Friday years ago – he and his drumproved a magnet for Kids. And just look what he created. Hopefully the Drum- Circle will live on.

This time I came out with three images of young people – they show just a little of the joy the Circle brings to the community.





**THE
MOON
HAS BEEN
EATEN**

**EASTER ISLAND
PHOTOS AND
ADVENTURES**

Explore the unique culture and landscape of Easter Island. Jim and Nan Craig will share photos and stories gathered during their years spent on this remote island.

**Saturday, August 5
2:00-3:00 pm
Jarrettsville Library**

Adults

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Library Talk – Saturday August 5

Jul 28, 2023

Wow, they did a nice poster up for this. 2:00 pm Saturday August 5 I will give a color slide show (with Rapanui music) and talk about our 2006 to 2016 Easter Island project. Three years total on the Island. At the end, anyone who endures the drive to Jarrettsville, and my program, will receive a signed copy of "The Moon has been Eaten". It was a grand adventure and we have a lot of stories.



INVADES THE UK!

at the State Theater in Havre de Grace June 2023

PDF eBook – *free download*

A collection of images from final dress and performances –
followed by highlights from rehearsals.

New PDF eBook – Rogue Swan Invades the UK

Aug 8, 2023

[Free download](#) – this one took a little longer – so many numbers and so little time. It's an iPad and Reader optimized PDF eBook – joining a growing number on the site. Many of the images were posted, many not. For anyone involved in Rogue Swan's production of Rogue Swan Invades the UK and anyone interested in seeing my record of the performance.

Easily installed on iPad via AirDrop or via eMail. Simply designate Books as destination. All other readers also allow loading of PDF format files. There they will page similar to an ePub – and images can be enlarged simply by touch. This version is optimized for best rendering of images on readers. The "small" version, only 16 megabytes, can be available if there is an interest.



First Friday in August – Drum Circle & Street Chess

Aug 11, 2023

Cliffs Giles' legacy – the **First Friday Drum Circle**, continues to be a big attraction for kids – and the kid in the rest of us... And, as usual, August's proved a big attraction to the kids (and the kid in us)...



AND this month provided me with another shot from the series of giant chess boards set up along the street outside Concord Point Coffee. I'm getting quite a collection. Wonderful to see the young learning chess... I'm thinking "Take the Knight with that Bishop, it's free..."





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First Fridy August – Remains of Radio, wow...

Aug 13, 2023

I confess, we don't always get to all the side streets on First Fridays. This time we exited up the other end than usual. **Creole de Gras** was hosting a band we weren't familiar with – **Remains of Radio**. I couldn't find a name for the singer, but wow. That's her in the intro shot, then below another view and one of the back-up guitarists. Next time we check and find they will be there, we'll have to park ourselves there for a snack, beer and some pictures.



I just had to grab this shot in the street in front – I won't call it "cute" because I've grown to resent that when others use it. But it is quite chairman.





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A collection of images from Rogue Swan's first two major productions. Subsequent to these my record of Rogue shows is more comprehensive, each with its own pdf eBook. I'm putting this one together as a flash-back to the beginning.

VAUDEVILLE CABARET!!

• SINGING • DANCING • COMEDY ACTS •

at the Opera House in Havre de Grace April 2018

THE LAST CALL

VAUDEVILLE SHOW

at the Opera House in Havre de Grace May 2019

*You can follow Rogue Swan on FaceBook, YouTube and Instagram @ rogueswantheater
web site: rogueswantheater.com*

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PDF eBook of Rogue Swans First Two Vaudeville Performances

Aug 24, 2023

Here is the PDF eBook of "Vaudeville Cabaret" and "The Last Call" – Rogue Swan's first two Vaudeville performances at the Opera House here in town. These performances were back in 2018 and 2019 – I'm finally caught up creating eBooks of all of Rogue's major productions. Many, many "new" images are included, new in that they do not exist in the folios and have never been seen before.

At the same time I have streamlined the site a bit by eliminating the Folios where I have created PDF eBooks – those links now simply opening the PDFs. Folios still serve the function of making images available until the eBook is finished.

Link to reader optimized PDF eBook [Vaudeville Cabaret and The Last Call](#)



Maria Annegarn – My Happy Place No.2

Aug 26, 2023

An Other People's Art posting. We can't help it – we just acquired another work from a local artist. This work is by Maria Annegarn, who shows in RiverView Gallery in town (where we both show). She just recently brought in a few major pieces to go along with the myriad of smaller gems. We already have some of her "people" figures – a favorite being a neat lady on a bench, with a large handbag.

This one is called "My Happy Place No. 2" The movable figure perches on a large rock, among an arrangeable grouping of smaller stones. She holds heart-shaped stone in her lap (which can be changed). The base is 6X9 inches, with a height, including the plume, of 12. It was a toss-up between this and one other (tha some lucky cus will end up with) – it took Nan foreeeeeever to decide. The one issue with this one being that the fact we have a cat means some limitations on where we can display it.

We really enjoy adding to our collection...



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Rogue's "That 80s Show" – upcoming

Aug 29, 2023

I managed to get a couple of shots in while Rogue Swa was setting up for last Friday's show – we won't actually be there until Thursday's performance this week. Last time I checked, there were only a half dozen or so tickets left. I just hope we recognize a few of the numbers – 80s is a tad after our "time".

In the opening shot, April Monique and L.H. James have a cool duet – the one shot I knew I "had" the second I clicked it off. Then, below, Katie in, of course, an intense solo, followed by a shot of April Caleb Gordon and Alex Fintak.



The actual show happens a little later in the evening, so I expect the background lighting to be a little dimmer – a good thing. I'll get to setting up a Folio after the show...



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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Naimah

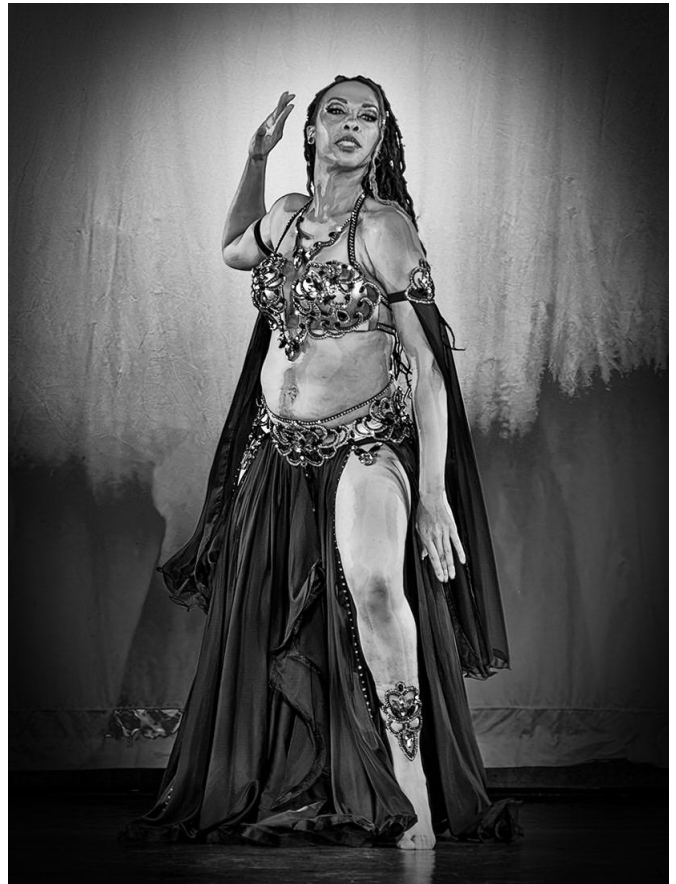
Sep 6, 2023

Bellydance Hafila results are something of a coin toss – the ladies are moving fast while lighting is changing color seemingly at whim. Naimah is a regular – tall enough that I've mentioned to her that she's the only dancer who I've spotted extending a hand above the top of the background curtain. This time around I got so many shots of her that I like, that I'm posting a number here, and will post the rest when I can finish them. Lighting was solid blue and purple through much of her performance – very pleasing to the eye.

Nan selected the opening shot here. My favorite is the next, below. Not technically the best, but I really like the effect...



Four more, below – and then there will be a few more of Naimah before I get to everyone else...





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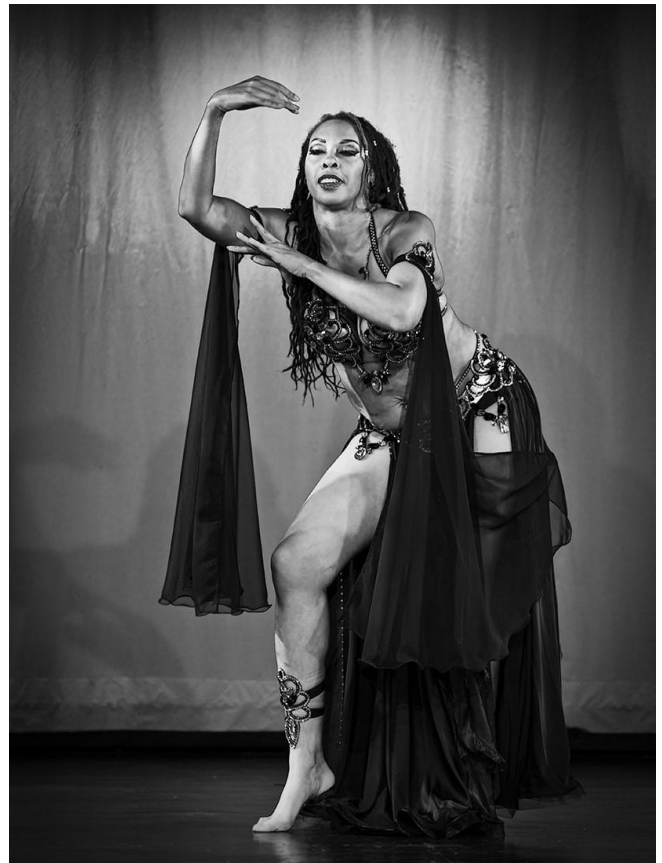
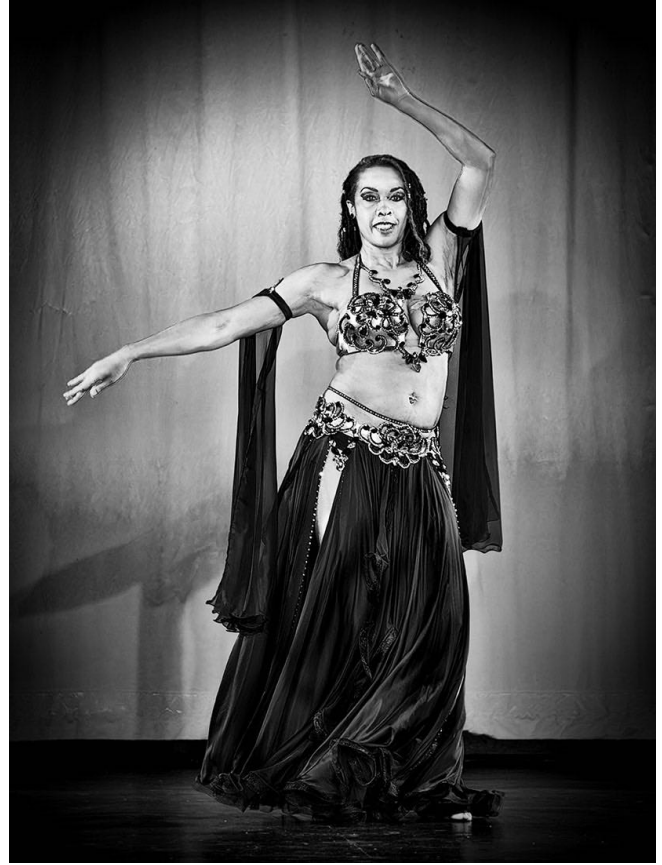
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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Naimah 2

Sep 7, 2023

It's one thing to have complete control over lighting, etc. – it's quite another to work with action, in extremely low, color lights. It is so satisfying to emerge with a few images, however flawed, that manage to say something. In the end, it's my favorite way to work – in spite of the exhausting labor bringing out what is deeply hidden in a travesty of an exposure. Here are five more of *Naimah* from the *Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala* at the Opera House. A quick confession... I have no idea as to the importance of, or preference for different dance positions, so if there are a couple of similar shots, I'll include both.





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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Taschen

Sep 8, 2023

Taschen provided me with a nice horizontal – which I'll almost always use as the intro image. It fits better on the blog. She was pretty much in all blue light, but that seems to work well with her. She, as well as Naimah, teaches bellydance. One of the things I've noticed about the experienced performers is that, no matter how much and fast they might be dancing, they are very adept at momentary freezes – sure makes things easier on me. Here are four more... *the reasons for posting such a variety of poses, beyond what I might consider THE exposure, is for the benefit of the subject.*





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Tick Tick.....Boom

Sep 8, 2023

I hate to do two postings in one day, but this one is time sensitive. I got in to see the final rehearsal-run of *Tick Tick... Boom* at the State Theater here in town – today (Friday), Saturday and Sunday. I converted a few of the shots into b&w – the show is a little more conducive to monochrome than most. *Tick Tick... Boom* is something of a switch from most local stage productions – it's a 90 minute, three-performer musical. Surprisingly interesting, one of those every-line-is-important works. Plus – the three actors can actually sing (ok, especially **Bre Lewis** who I've often photographed with Rogue Swan). I'm moving quick here, so I'll have to add the other two names here a little later.

Names, left to right below, **Mikey Floyd** and **Dan Michel**.

For the intro shot I used the closer view of the three cast members. Below are a few more...









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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Jo Wall

Sep 9, 2023

From a mixture of blue and purple light – with two colors I do have something to work with. Jo Wall also acted as host through most of the show – evidently she's something of a card. I selected two shots that "worked". If I get one that I'm happy with, I consider it a win – if I was considering only myself, there would be one of each dancer(s). That one here is the intro shot. The most limiting factor is how the weird, shifting hafla lighting strikes the subject at the moment the shutter clicks.





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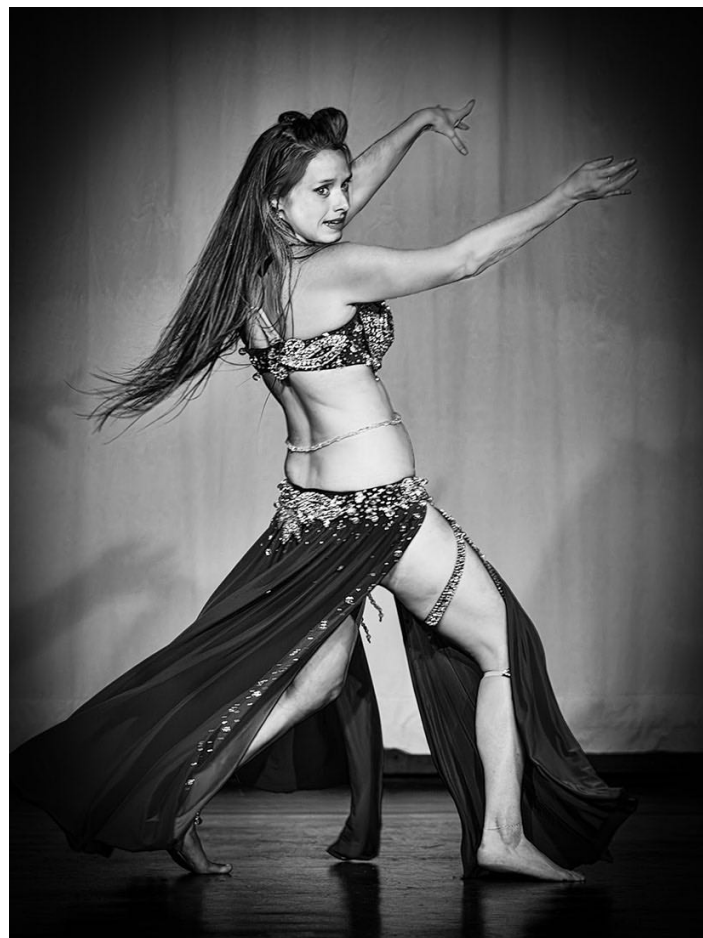
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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Kalayla

Sep 10, 2023

Slings and arrows of outrageous lighting – and all that jazz. These are coming along slower than usual, but, with a lot of help from Nan, the pit bull is on it. Kalayla is always a treat to watch – always different, and often with a surprise moment.





Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – Lorelei

Sep 11, 2023

Lorelei, and for some reason I can never spell that one right, is another somewhat familiar face in these. There are always new faces, as well as some regulars. This young lady can really get into spins, hair going everywhere. Her lighting was mostly blue, with (thank heavens) seem to have a touch of white light mixed in – really helped. Using the horizontal as an intro shot...



I saved one of my two favorite shots from the whole shoot (*along with the somber one of Naimah*) for the last one here...





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Moonshine Autumn Bellydance Gala – april Monique

Sep 13, 2023

Finally I've worked this shoot to our own local April Monique. Since she also manages these Haflas, I figured she would want me to concentrate on others among the ladies first. Very difficult to choose an intro shot from these – I like all four. The first two were shot in what I like to call no-light, just a very weak spotlight. At least it wasn't, like the second two, solid red (which fortunately did have a little orange mixed in for me to work with).



While there were a few other performers in the show, I'm gonna have to get caught up on some more recent stuff before I get back to them – besides, I'm facing some very tricky lighting issues on most of those.





Doing it in the Street – First Friday in September

Sep 15, 2023

Yeah, I'm still playing catch-up. Nothing gets me behind like the twice a year Haflas. First Friday was on the 1st, but at least I'm ahead of the next First Friday. This first of two postings features All but the five images to be added next time of kids getting into the beat. In the intro image, April Monique, who was featured from the Hafla in the last posting, graces the drum-circle with some moves. Another one below, paired up with a juggler, also doing it in the street...



And another street chess picture to add to that collection – Concord Point Coffee keeps these set up out front every First Friday. This young lady solved the problem of arms not long enough to reach...



Street painter, working on the shaded side of the street, watched closely by a young lady...





September First Friday – Drum Circle

Sep 16, 2023

I've been covering goings on at the Drum Circle on First Friday since before it was actually a drum circle, just Cliff Giles and a drum or two. My collection of images depicting kids of all ages is getting pretty large – and the circle pictures constitute a largest segment of First Friday images. This posting adds five more...





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Rogue's 80s Show at the Vandiver

Sep 17, 2023

It had to be postponed, so it was pretty close to this week's upcoming "Rosie Jack and the Bangtails Speakeasy". This is the one we have been waiting for – though it should feature a somewhat different set of Rogue performers. As far as the 80s music fest, Lilli (Rogue manager) was kind enough to go through the exposures and pick a few favorites – saving me a little time. I'll try and do up a couple to a few at a time until Thursday when I get to shoot all over again. I did these pretty much at random, except for the last one – for which I moved back to show how much the audience was getting into it (as much as 80's music is pretty much AFTER our time).







More from Rogue's 80s Music Show at Vandiver

Sep 19, 2023

I enjoy performance shooting – it's a challenge. One restricting factor is that most of the final pieces are more important for the subjects than they are to myself, as a photographer. And sometimes, the shots that I wind up liking aren't anywhere near their wish list. Lilli gave me her list of suggestions for this – it does always give me a head start. The intro shot here – one I already had eyes on – was no where near it. As usual in cases like this, I'm not sure Rogue will appreciate it. It's not unheard of that a shot that I've included here is requested to be deleted from the Facebook posting. Oh well, here goes... The first of the pair below shows the same couple joining the audience in dancing, the second is KT belting one out...



Then a couple more...





Ending with a mixed shot of KT singing while a mixture of cast and audience dance...



It's a fun night for everyone. We expect this Thursday to be even better. If for no other reason, music isn't limited to the, to be honest pretty awful, 80's. I finally added these to the Vandiver shows folio [HERE...](#)



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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails – the Songbird and the Crooners

Sep 25, 2023

We saw the first performance of Rosie Jack and the Bangtails – all also members of the Vaudeville troupe Rogue Swan – at the *Vandiver*. They will be the main attraction *New Years Eve* at the *Vandiver* – we are already checking the site almost daily because, if this performance is any indication, that will sell out within a day or two of posting. Ouch. This was a Speakeasy performance – I haven't asked yet the "tone" of New Years.

I'm doing this in sections – first two shots each of the Songbird and the two Crooners (my terms). Jesse comes first only because of the one shot showing the arms of a couple dancing. I like that one a lot – his shiny reflective suit, not so much fun for me to work with.



The next pair is Rosie Jack (or KT)...



L.H. James... *the songs were appropriate across the board, wonderfully danceable, but James's late in the show version of Purple Rain was absolutely phenomenal...*





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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails – the Band

Sep 27, 2023

I tried to get a good individual shot, through the pulled back curtains, of each of the band members. But first I shot got of Matt and Nate (Sax and Base) playing together – and then couldn't decide between two exposures, maybe they can...



Caleb on drums and Jason on Keyboard...



Matt on Sax and Nate on Base...



A second one of Nate on Base with Scott doing a guest keyboard spot for this performance...





Rosie Jack and the Bangtails – Duets

Sep 28, 2023

Finishing up with the *Rosie Jack and the Bangtails* performance with a few shots of duets, both in the stage area and on the dance floor. The intro shot shows *KT* (Rosie Jack) and *L.H. James*. Then below *KT* and *Jesse* followed by *James* and *Jesse*...



The dance floor was not lit – making for some hit-and-miss efforts to catch individual dancers. Sometimes they moved into a hint of light only to be blocked by other dancers. Anyway, I work as a fly on the wall – available light only. Here are *James* taking a break to dance with his wife and *Jesse* dancing with his girl friend...



Finally, I managed to get something of a shot from the back, holding the camera up a little...



Added – all full size – to the new *Rosie Jack and the Bangtails* folio [HERE](#)...

I'm really enjoying using any b&w skills I have for practical, functional purposes, covering some of our favorite aspects of life in Havre de Grace. And, again, New Years with Rosie Jacks and the Bangtails at the Vandiver promises to be the place to be in town...



Other People's Art – Pottery by Carrie

Oct 1, 2023

Whenever we grab up a work by another artist, small or large, I like to post it here. Roaming through the Havre de Grace Art Show I saw this bowl and just thought it would look cool in Nan's studio. I took a phone shot of it sitting on her easel, in front of something she's in the middle of – an Easter Island seascape (from one of her own pictures. No telling where she will put the bowl). The potter is Carrie Tipperreiter – www.potterybycarrie.com.

Turns out this our second piece by her. Cool.



Waterfront Festival

Oct 6, 2023

We had an opportunity for only a quick walk through the Waterfront Festival early in September – and then I managed to misplace the couple of shots I fired off. Found them at the front of a card used later. I did think this view of a sidewalk painter doing her thing, with the actual view in the background, picked up on the atmosphere of the event (which included a mermaid reading stories to kids while posing for pictures with them). Just something to add to the Miscellaneous Events [HERE...](#)

Crossing our fingers for the weather this evening for First Friday.



Halloween in Havre de Grace – it's coming...

Oct 9, 2023

This was taken on First Friday in October in Havre de Grace. The newest of JimmyO Burrell's painted street decorations sits behind the bench on the central corner downtown (ok, the walkway there does have a little slant to it). As usual, the steets were full, and I looked around for someone dressed to fit the moment. People were actually standing in line at one point with their phones to take pictures of one another sitting in front of the cast of horror characters (in color, I'm sure).

I asked the young lady here – never even got a name but I did learn where to find her – to sit there for a shot and she graciously consented, with the vampire's hand hovering right over her head. Nan had already spotted her, and fell in love with her hat. I'm sure I owe *Jo Retro* a plug here, in that I she works there and was evidently going to be late returning from her break due to me, oops. *Jo Retro*, the name says it all, manages to double as a major tourist attraction here (they also get two blocks closed off twice a year for Pyrex Festivals – cool).

I have a couple of other fun shots from October's First Friday, but I wanted this one to stand alone... This one, full size, will be added to the First Friday folio with the next posting...



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A couple of shots from the First Friday Drum Circle

Oct 10, 2023

Thankfully, Cliff Giles' *First Friday Drum Circle* is surviving without him – not quite back to full force yet, but still providing some interesting shots. I was waling away from taking the second shot here – she's a very dedicated regular – when I caught the intro scene out of the corner of my eye and quickly swung the camera around. Duke Thompson, minding his drumming is being sued as a drum himself by a couple of his friends (I assume).



I'll have a couple more images, but not so much from the Drum Circle this time around – the wind and threat of rain made for a late set-up. These are now in the *First Friday* folio [HERE...](#)



Dancing in the Street & Street Chess – First Friday Style

Oct 10, 2023

Even though things got a late start – I came out with a couple of additions to my First Friday collection. The intro shot another dancing-in-the-street scene and, below, an addition to the growing body of Street Chess images. My first exposure, this one, of the chess found the camera focusing on the third board – sure I corrected that for the next one, and didn't like it as much. Go figure...





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Just a few shots from the Pride Festival Drag Show

Oct 12, 2023

Just a couple of shots from the Pride Festival Drag Show. The intro shot, and first below, shows *Sarabesque* – I think it was about four years back that I got a great shot of her in the first local Pride Festival. The second shot shows an attendee of the show who perked up and posed when she saw me pointing a camera at her...



Dustyn Dawn and Venus Fastrada...





The Hushdown at the Harmer's Town Art Center Opening

Oct 26, 2023

After all the hoopla and ceremonies opening the new Farmer's Town Art Center, there were a few crafts and a series of bands providing music. The final group, as the sun, up and bright, gradually went over opposing buildings and a chill wind set in. I took shots until Nan couldn't take the wind any longer. I did send the band a link to where they could download the color versions – many more than I worked up here in b&w. Their music is good, and they can be fun to watch – but always, outdoor performances are at the mercy of the weather.

Anyway – not the drama of my low-to-no light indoor work without flash, but I still prefer them to the color – the wide intro shot here is meant to be viewed quite large...









Halloween in Havre de Grace – this shot stands alone...

Nov 13, 2023

We did get out for a few shots of Halloween in Havre de Grace, where part of Washington Street is shut to traffic and the whole town stays open to kids of all ages. I took a few shots – more should come later. I found these two charming young ladies behind the counter at Joseph's Department Store downtown. Definitely an addition to my next book project...

I know it took far too long to get to these, but things do get busy at times. And I'm in the early stages of planning a book of my Havre de Grace b&w images – lots to do but working out the logistics is the the more daunting and time consuming stage for me. In a world where no book printer is "set up" for color, there's no such thing as an optimal b&w photo book printing. Essentially, they print it in CMYK and hope for the best. It's all compromises. Finding an in-country printer that exercises any kind of quality control (VERY important with b&w) is a nightmare.

I have half a dozen requests out, to printers who advertize that they do b&w photo-book printing, asking to purchase, if necessary, a sample sheet – or, if not that, directions to where I can purchase a monochrome book they have printed. To date – not one has responded. A printer in London is honest about it, having a YouTube video explaining the pitfalls of printing b&w photo books, assuring potential customers that they will exercise the needed quality control. This is a \$5,000 order – I can only assume that most printers want only such orders from those who aren't going to be so picky as to want a sample. Offset, the route I went for my 2012 Easter Island book, is off the table – there's a minimum now of a thousand copies for that. I'll try and get to a couple more Halloween images to follow this one soon...



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Halloween in havre de Grace 2

Nov 15, 2023

I came out from Halloween thinking I hadn't gotten much. After waiting a week, I find I'm a little surprised. I really like some of these. The intro shot struck me as a Halloween version of the Burger King – and I don't have a name. Then, below, a couple of shots of the hundreds of young folk roaming downtown.



Finally, peeking in the door of one of the antique shop owners was waiting with her little bat-dog with a large bowl of candies – and a grab-shot of a chicken being helped to cross the road.





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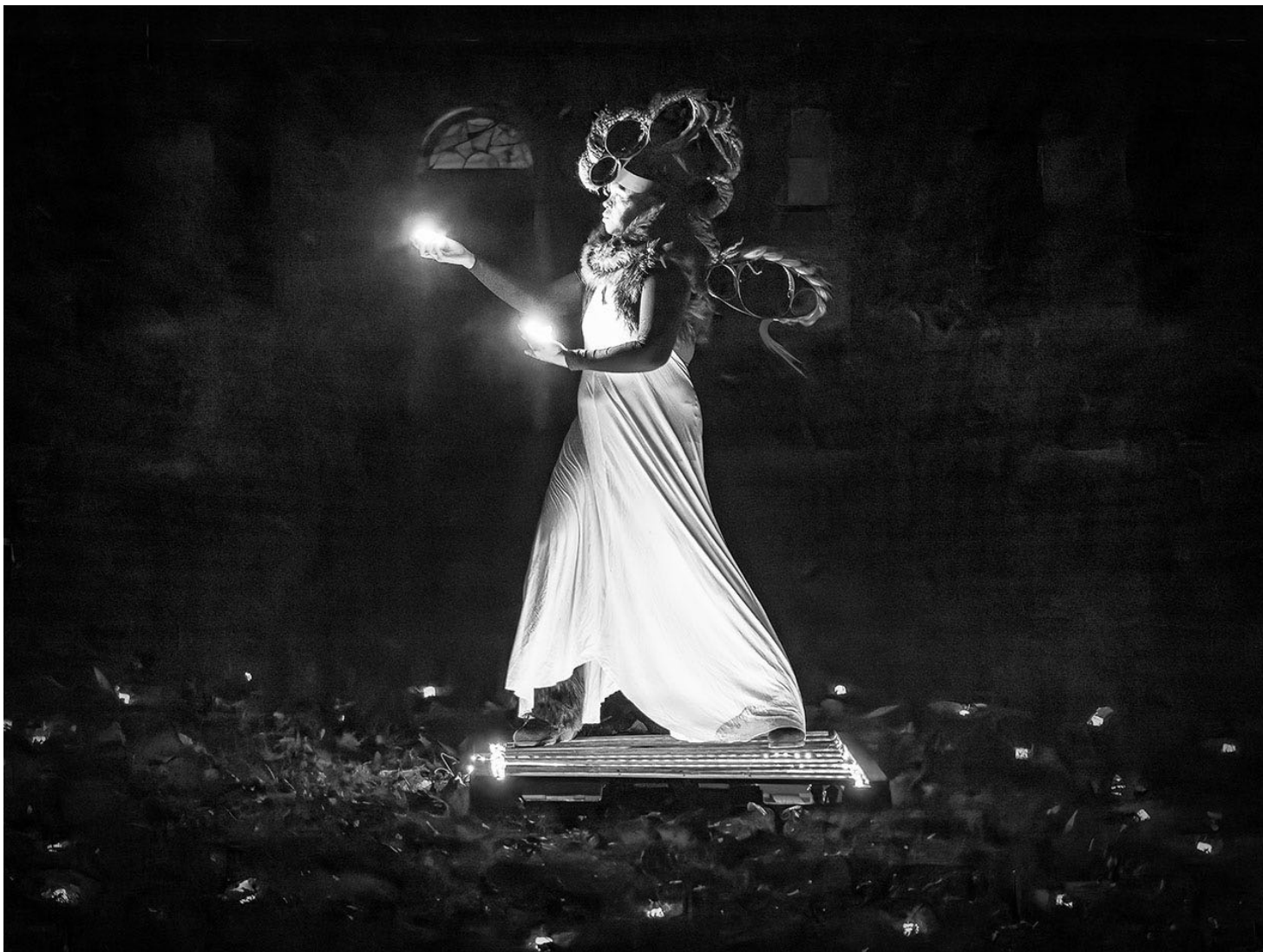
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Very Cold but Worth it...

Nov 30, 2023

I took my camera out at night, at 27 degrees and windy, to take a few shots of [Liz Miller](#)'s dance and recital at the Hays House on the HCC campus. The performance very effectively brought to the fore the holding and mistreatment of slaves at the site. While I felt privileged to be one of the couple of dozen brave souls attending, and was appropriately bundled, my hands almost froze off my body – just try and operate a camera with gloves on. Guess who was first to make it back indoors to the Gallery exhibit (in the Student Center) afterwards.

It was dark. the only lights were from the platform, the two in her hands and a couple of phones being held by co-conspirators. Needless to say, it was something of a challenge. This is some of the most extreme iso shooting I've done. Click on Ms. Miller's name above to go to her web site. I really like these enlarged to about 15x18 – pretty much a maximum for them.





For now I've added these full size to the front of the Misc Events folio [HERE](#)... I generally stick to defining my "local" shooting as relating to Havre de Grace – but HCC is something of an extension of all Harford County communities.



"I'm the Grinch – and I Have Legs"

Dec 4, 2023

Again with one of Havre de Grace's night parades – I'm getting used to it. Here *JimmyO Burril* is the Grinch while *April Burril* drives the town cart alongside. The second image shows off the legs...



I have a couple of more shots that I will get to soon. Added larger, downloadable, to the Christmas Parade folio [HERE...](#)



Santa and His "Rain Gear"

Dec 6, 2023

The Christmas parade in Havre de Grace being another of their night phenomena, means few shots that really work, while making for a couple of really nice ones. This posting finishes my images for this time around – all evoking commentary. The intro shot is, of course Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving at the end of the parade to take his place in the little cottage up the road. Here I could not resist the very bad pun – Santa and his rain gear.

The next shot left the subject (and myself) completely in the dark until I began work on it. I had no idea where all the bubbles were coming from – I saw a couple of figures walking in the dark, pointed and shot. Only later did I realize that I had answered my question. That was a pleasant surprise...



Every year I wind up with an image of an adult carrying a young-un on their shoulders – sometimes actually in the parade. This time I spotted this group watching from in front of RiverView Gallery. The first of the two below...

The second is another I didn't figure out in the dark. Later I realized that this is just the young lady wearing an inflatable complexity where the legs that look like hers are part of the outfit. She can walk down the street looking like she is being carried very suggestively, and happily...



Finally, I have to include the Mayor and his wife making their appearance...





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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – the Crooners

Jan 8, 2024

I know this a bit late – a lot of issues holding thins up right now. This is the first posting of images from *Rosie Jack and the Bangtails* New Years celebration at the Vandiver – great entertainment, good food, good time. Crooners *Jesse Hutchinson* and *L.H. James* were definitely in good form. The first two show Jesse.



James finished up his numbers with *Purple Rain* – a Nan favorite for which she gave him a big hug.





Coming up: the songbirds, the band, duets, group sings, etc. I'm adding these to the Rosie Jack folio [HERE...](#)



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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – Rosie

Jan 9, 2024

Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver –Rosie, aka Katie Gordon. This was our first ever New Years Eve night out – we pretty much like to just stay home. Not only was the show great – it was our kind of New Years, over at 10:45 and ony one mile to home!!





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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – Nate on Base

Jan 16, 2024

These are running quite a ways behind – after a couple of rough weeks, and a stay in the hospital,, my mojo is compromised for a while. I'm being "conditioned" for an operation February 7 to fix the electrical system in my heart, again. In the meantime, I will be working on finishing these up, beginning a new book project, catching up on stuff all this has left undone, etc. March should see me pretty much back to abnormal.

Here's three more involving In the first he and Matt get down, literally, on a number...



Nate and Rosie (Katie Gordon)...







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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – at the Mic

Jan 18, 2024

Oops, I'm adding text later. Still a little off since getting out of the hospital. The intro image shows the guys lined up around Rosie (Katie Gordon). After that a couple shots of duets and trio numbers. Not thinking clear enough for anything else right now. Anyway, more to come.....







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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – Bangtails on the Dance Floor

Jan 19, 2024

The opening image is Rosie (Katie) and Nate. The floor was quite dark, so I just gave it a dark, grainy effect. Below is Jesse dancing with Arianna and L.H. James dancing with his wife. Again, a lot gets lost in the dark, but it's real. Both of these appear full size in the folio.



Finally, we were given a phone shot of ourselves dancing – we enjoyed ourselves too. I converted it into a b&w – not too bad, Nan likes it...





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Rosie Jack and the Bangtails New Years Eve at the Vandiver – On the Dance Floor

Jan 20, 2024

OK, the dance floor is not lit at all. Lights would make dancing to a Speakeasy band something other than a private affair. So these were taken with a hope and a prayer – thinking Maybe shooting at iso 12,800, and underexposing by two stops at that, might be able to be fixed. The image screen on all of these was black. They may not gracefully handle being blown up all that much, but they do convey the mood. Not know who any of these people are, these are my favorite:





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Gentlemen Prefer Sax

Jan 21, 2024

As I finished up with the New Years Eve images from the Vandiver, I realized I missed two – so I thought I'd post them alone, finishing up 2023 – I can trim the site archives down some, putting the year's postings into a pdf. The intro shot is Matt Casarino and Jason Bock The second shot, below is Caleb Gordon on drums. I'll have to talk to drums and keyboard about hamming it up a little.



On a personal note...

I thought I'd take this opportunity to clarify what the heck is going on with my heart. Fortunately I have a strong heart, otherwise it wouldn't tolerate the stress that my shit electrical system is putting on it. I had a double lasso pulmonary vein ablation 17 years ago – that's where they put cameras and tools up through your legs into the heart and burn for over 6 hours (at the time). Well, it all finally went kaput – looks like it short circuited around the scar tissue.

The new version of the operation, still putting all that crap into the heart through the legs, quickly freezes rather than the slow burning. Much faster and far less recovery time. I will have that done February 7. In the meantime, it's like running a 6 cylinder engine alternating between four and five of them. Last week it took three days in the hospital to render me unstable in a tolerable enough form to send me home – *roughest nights of my life*. Good news is that I can work at the computer – but exertion in any form is rather off the table. Rough on my running. My apologies for missing events I wouldn't pass up for anything if I could avoid it.

Everyone has been wonderful offering to help. The girls, all out of state, have been showing up to do the driving back and forth to the hospital – and one stayed during the roughest days. Nan and Tamara from Riverview shoveled the driveway. We would have caught this situation sooner if my very strong adverse response to the May covid shot (lasting months) hadn't masked the signs.

Today I will lend my favorite camera of all time (the Fuji X-t5) out so someone who can hold a camera still, etc. can get the exposures for me.

Doc says I should have my mojo back by March...