



Calendar of Events

October - November 2003

The following cultural events and lectures are open to the public and, unless otherwise noted, free of charge. Updates: 240-895-4380. Cancellations: 240-895-2095.

Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 - Exhibition

Exhibition of works from the '60s and '70s (College's permanent collection) includes Andy Warhol, Miriam Schapiro, and Ad Reinhardt. Reception, open to all, on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 5:00-6:00.

Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Lecture

Mathematician Michael Gray (American Univ.) lectures on "The Physics of the Tennis Racquet." Schaefer 106, 4:40.

Friday, Sept. 26 - Concert

Brian Ganz plays in St. Mary's Hall at 12 noon: Schumann's "Waldszenen" (Opus 82) and Chopin's "Fantasie on Polish Airs" (Opus 13).

Tuesday, Sept. 30 - Lecture

Tom Stevens (professor emeritus, SMCM) talks on "From Colonialism to Nationhood" in Schaefer 109, 6:00 p.m. (CSD).

Wednesday, Oct. 1 - Lecture

Physicist Bob Adair (Yale) lectures on "The Physics of Baseball." Schaefer 106, 4:40.

Friday, Oct. 3 - Lecture

Classics scholar Josiah Ober (Princeton) delivers the annual Nitze Fellow lecture at 8:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. Topic: "The Trial of Citizen Socrates, 399 B.C." Dr. Ober will include the issue of patriotic dissent.

Monday, Oct. 6 -- Talks

"World War II: Three Stories" with General Andrew J. Goodpaster (ret.), Sgt. Clancy Lyall, and Pvt. J. Frank Raley. Daugherty-Palmer Commons, 4:30 (CSD).

Saturday, Oct. 11 - Film

"All the President's Men" and follow-up panel. Time TBA

Monday, Oct. 13 - Concert

Brian Ganz and Beverly Babcock perform two Beethoven concertos in St. Mary's Hall at 8:00 p.m.: Concerto #3 in C minor, and Concerto #5 in E flat Major.

Mid-Oct. - Mid-Nov. - Exhibition

"Pivot Points" focuses on generational relationships among Kord, Lazzaro,

Gower, Bowring, Weisgerber, Bogdan. Boyden Gallery, Montgomery Hall.

Friday, Oct. 17 - Lecture

Bob Woodward (The Washington Post) delivers the second annual Bradlee Journalism Lecture in St. Mary's Hall at 8:00 p.m. Topic: "The Constitutional Implications of Watergate."

Saturday, Oct. 18 - Re-enactment

St. Maries Militia gathers at Historic St. Mary's City, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., for annual 17th-century re-enactment. Cost included with admission.

Tuesday, Oct. 21 -- Lecture

"Maryland and the Civil War, Slavery, and Jim Crow" with historian Charles Holden (SMCM) and Julie King (Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum) in Schaefer 109, 6:00. (CSD)

Wednesday, Oct. 22 - Lecture

Mathematician John Adam (Old Dominion) lectures on "Patterns, Principles, and Poetry in Nature: Some Observations." Schaefer 106, 4:40.

Thursday, Oct. 23 - Lecture

Psychologist Geoff Munro (Towson) on "The Ballet of a Social Psychologist" at 6:00 in Blackistone Room, Anne Arundel Hall.

Wednesday, Oct. 29 - Lecture

"Perspectives on the Big Bang and Genesis" with Charles Adler (Physics) and Katharina von Kellenbach (Religious Studies). Schaefer 106, 4:40.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 - Lecture

Physicist Mark Harvey (Old Dominion), talks on "Coherent Backscattering" in Schaefer 106 at 4:40.

Tuesday, Nov. 11 - Lecture

"Baltimore and Film: John Waters and Barry Levinson" with Robin Bates (SMCM), Jill Bershon, and Jill Morris at 6:00 in Schaefer 109 (CSD).

Wednesday, Nov. 12 - Lecture

Chemist Ron Siefert (Chesapeake Bay Laboratory) speaks in Schaefer 106 at 4:40.

Friday, Nov. 14 - Poetry

Visiting poets Heather Fuller, Carol Mirakove, and Kristin Prevallet discuss

poetry at 1:30 in the Blackistone Room, then read from their work in Daugherty-Palmer Commons at 8:15 pm.

Monday, Nov. 17 - Lecture

Mathematician Konrad Polthier (Technische Universität, Berlin) talks on "Multimedia Tools for Communication Mathematics" in Schaefer 106 at 4:40.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 - Lecture

Chemist Majid Masso (U. Md.-College Park) talks on "Protein Mutational Analysis Using Statistical Geometry Methods" in Schaefer 106, 4:40.

Friday, Nov. 21 - Concert

Beverly Babcock and Don Stapleson

(both SMCM) present a recital for piano and flute in St. Mary's Hall at 8:00. The program includes works by Bach, Milhaud, and Martinu.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 - Lecture

"The Effects of Globalization and the Growth of Maryland's Ethnic Communities," with Ho Nguyen (SMCM, Economics Dept.) and Jorge Rogachevsky (SMCM, Spanish Dept.). Schaefer 109, 6:00 (CSD).

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 28-29 - HSMC

Demonstration and hands-on activities related to colonists' skills in preparing for winter. Cost included with museum admission. Hours: 10:00 - 5:00.

Slapstick Blends with Satire in Moliere's *The Miser*

by Mark Rhoda, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Dramatic Arts

Molière's 17th-century Scrooge is an obsessive, bourgeois miser who steals oats from his horses, is convinced his children are out to rob him, would rather trade his daughter off in marriage than pay her dowry, and competes with his own son, Cléante, for the hand of a young woman, Mariane. He even buries 10,000 crowns in his garden for safekeeping!

"It's vintage Molière," director Michael Ellis-Tolaydo says, "a comic, domestic scene that pits a curmudgeonly, authoritative father against his children in games of love and money. His children, however, are undaunted; they have their own plans not only for love, but also for their father's comeuppance."

"It's a bit of slapstick, a bit of the Italian commedia dell'arte, and a great romp."

It's also one of Molière's best comedies.

Molière, 17th-century France's great comic genius whose comedic influence is wide reaching even in this century, was born Jean-Baptiste Poquelin in 1622 to well-to-do parents. His father was the official furniture upholsterer to the king.

Uninspired by the family business, in which he dabbled at a young age, Molière soon turned his attention to the teeming life on the streets, especially to the street performers who hawked medicines to crowds. There and elsewhere in the theatres of his day, he found his calling. In 1643, at the age of 21, he decided to dedicate his life to the theatre.

"Molière has written some of the greatest comedies ever," says Ellis-Tolaydo. "His genius lies in his ability to blend an incisive comic talent with a sharp critique of the human condition."

"We might be tempted to call the miserly Harpagon a fool," Ellis-Tolaydo continues, "because he's outsmarted by his own devices. But Molière humanizes the fool. While he punches up his foibles and follies, exposes his hypocrisies and affectations to great comic effect, he draws sympathy from us for his fool's plight. Might we not see, after all, a little bit of Harpagon in ourselves?"

"Ah, but don't let Molière turn you into a fool," the director adds. "He will not let his Harpagon, or us, off the hook so easily."

The Miser by Molière—Bruce Davis Theater.

Ticket prices: \$3.50 for SMCM faculty, students, staff, senior citizens, and Arts Alliance members; \$5.00 general admission.

October 16-18 & 23-25 at 8:00 p.m.

October 19 & 26 at 2:00 p.m.

For reservations, contact the Theater Box Office at 240-895-4243 or boxoffice@smcm.edu.