

Twas the Right Before Christmas Festival of the Arts at The Plaza Arts Center where all will be playing their parts. I know; it's barely October and I'm bringing up Christmas. Nobody rails against retailers decorating for the holidays way before the goblins are gone more than I, but this is our first Christmas at The Plaza and I don't want you to miss out on any of the really good things that will be happening.

The art center calendar filled up for early November so instead of all the events competing, we chose to create our first 'Twas the Right Before Christmas Festival of the Arts' from November 6 – November 16. Please mark your calendars for the following shows:

Our festival will open with performances on November 6 and 7 by the Reynolds Chorus, which has expanded its' horizons to develop a full-blown show around the theme of a barn dance. Music will include country-western songs, favorite rural tunes, and popular folk music along with some dancing and characterizations. It will be a fun toe-tapping time.

Sunday afternoon, the 9th, OPAS presents the Washington, D.C. Ballet. I don't know about you but even if ballet wasn't my favorite thing (I tried it as a kid with little success), the opportunity to see first-rate dancers in our little corner of the world seems pretty exciting. I won't miss it and I hope you don't either. The ballet will also perform for local students on Monday the 10th.

Veteran's Day is on Tuesday the 11th, so to honor our veterans (and have a little fun) we invite you to come to the reception hall at the center for popcorn and drinks while we show some of Bob Hope's most memorable moments during his USO Christmas tours on our large video screen. Promising you will laugh would be an understatement.

Every Thursday evening there is an informal group of guitar-players and banjo-pickers that gather in the gallery at The Plaza to share their music and fellowship, along with a few 'drinks' and some pizza. The Redwing Old Time Music Show is going to polish up their act and give a lively performance on stage Thursday, November 13. Be forewarned: you might like them so much you will find yourself spending your Thursday evenings at The Plaza.

"Bully: The Life and Times of Teddy Roosevelt" will be performed by Eatonton Messenger editor John Carson on Friday the 14th as a fund-raiser to support a YMCA for our area. The play chronicles the life and times of one of our country's most publicly popular presidents and was originally brought to the stage by James Whitmore. Today, John is one of only three actors performing the show and he will give performances earlier in the day for our school children.

The grand finale will be the ninth visit by the Macon Symphony Orchestra and will include internationally acclaimed pianist David Gross. The symphony will play at 6:00 pm on Sunday the 16th and will be followed by a cocktail reception for those who purchase tickets. This year's performance is being generously sponsored by Stewart Aaron and Associates.

To add to the ambience, local businesses and individuals who would like to decorate a Christmas tree to place in the center should contact my office for more information (706-923-1655 or tpacdirector@bellsouth.net). Our goal is an informal 'festival of trees' on display throughout the building.

Tickets to all of the events (except the ballet which are available through Ticketmaster) will be on sale at The Plaza ticket desk from 3:00 – 6:00 pm Monday - Friday or by calling 706-923-2686. Now that you're all excited, come to The Plaza this Saturday evening when we'll go 'Strokin'' with Clarence Carter. The Joey Stuckey Band will play at 7:00 and Clarence will begin at 8:00. Tickets are on sale now and at the door.

See you at The Plaza!