



## Real, Laugh-Out-Loud Comedy!

**S***SOCIAL SECURITY* is comedy at its best, bringing non-stop laughs to the Canyon Theatre Guild's Old Town Newhall playhouse. The play focuses on a trendy Manhattan art gallery couple whose life is upended when the wife's sister from Long Island deposits their eccentric mother on the couple's doorstep while she and her husband head to Buffalo to "rescue" their daughter from her newly adopted wild college lifestyle. The art dealers introduce the mother to a suave, spry ninety-something year-old artist and then the fun really begins! Set in the 1980s, *SOCIAL SECURITY* is a hilarious take on the "golden years."

Directed by Ingrid Boydston, one of the favorite comedy directors of the CTG, the cast features seasoned stage veterans from the Santa Clarity Valley and beyond, including **Lori D'Itri**, **Michael Collins**, **Nancy Lantis**, **Jymn Magon**, **Marla Khayat**, and **Darel Roberts**. *SOCIAL SECURITY* is adult comedy and is not recommended for young audiences.

*SOCIAL SECURITY* has performances on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm on April 2, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23. There is a Sunday matinee at 2PM on April 10. Tickets are \$10-\$12 for Juniors (under 18) and Seniors (62 and over) and \$12-\$15 for Adults. Call the box office for reservations: 661.799.2702. The Canyon Theatre Guild is located at 24242 Main Street in Newhall.



## A Great American Novel Comes to Life

**T**he story of *LITTLE WOMEN*, Louisa M. Alcott's famous novel, is so well known and so well loved that it will never grow old. The current dramatization on stage at the Canyon Theatre Guild faithfully covers the essence of the novel, interweaving the lives of the March girls, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, and Laurie, the boy next door, as they grow up happily together. What some people may not know is that Ms. Alcott actually wrote two books, the first being *Little Women* and the second, *Good Wives*. It is from the first book that this script has been adapted.



The time is during the Civil War, and the place is New England. Marmee (**Gin Treadwell-Eng**), Meg (**Charissa Wilson**), Jo (**Sandra Kate Burck**), Beth (**Tyler Joy Bannerman**) and Amy (**Justine Kelly**) struggle during difficult times, while Mr. March (**John Morris**) has gone to serve as a chaplain in the Union

(See *Little Women*, page 2)



**Tim Ben Boydston**  
Executive Director of the CTG,  
Artistic Director

## Artistic Impressions

It is springtime here in Old Town Newhall. As we dry out from the rains we look forward to not only the flowers blooming, but the Arts as well.

Many thanks to our Arts commission for voting to advise the City to extend the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) agreement between the City and COC for the use of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center. This important agreement insures that the SCRT as well as the other community based arts organizations will be able to have dates to perform at the PAC. A big Thank You to all of the people who came out for the Arts Commission meeting from the CTG, **The Escape Children's Theatre**, **The Santa Clarita Ballet Company**, and the

(...*Little Women*, from page 1)

Army. The family is poor, but happy in their love for each other, and they are cared for by their long-time maid, Hannah (**Jane Arnett**) who has become like one of the family and vexed from time to time by visits Crusty old Aunt March (**Patti Finley**). The girls unofficially "adopt" neighbor Laurie (**Gregory Rosenberg**) as the brother they never had, and develop a warm friendship with his grandfather, Mr. Laurence (**Greg Finley**), and Laurie's tutor, John Brooke (**John Tanksley**).

**Santa Clarita Master Chorale.** Together we made a big difference for the arts in the SCV.

Thanks also to the leadership shown by Commissioners **John Dow**, **Paul Strickland**, and Chair **Michael Millar** who voted to move forward with the MOU and to expedite its completion. It is so important to the future of the arts in Santa Clarita that we have the PAC to perform in for our community.

Thank you to all of you who have signed form letters to the City asking it to re-open the parking lot at 6th and Main Streets across from the Theatre. Also special thanks to those who have penned their own letters to the City Council and the **Signal Newspaper**. About 800 letters have been signed, and if you have not sent one, please join us in doing so. The lot not only benefits the Theatre, but also the other businesses in our block and special events.

Speaking of special events, have you checked out "**First Thursdays**" here in Old Town? It has been a (See *Artistic Impressions*, page 6)

Under the direction of **Randy Aronson**, **LITTLE WOMEN** is both touching and delightful, so make your reservations now and spend a couple of hours with the March girls. There are Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2PM on March 26, April 2, 3, 9, 16, 17, and 23 and Sunday evening performances at 6:30PM on March 27 and April 10. Tickets are \$10-\$12 for Juniors/Seniors, and \$12-\$15 for adults. The box office number is 661.799.2702. The CTG is located in Old Town Newhall at 24242 Main Street.



**Patti Finley**  
Assistant Director of the CTG,  
Artistic Director of the Family Season

## Youth Workshop Updates

It's hard to believe that it's already time to plan for the summer! We are excited about our plans for the **2011 Summer Youth Workshops**. We have fabulous instructors and a program that is not only fun for the kids, but highly praised by their parents!

**CTG KIDS** – This musical theatre workshop for kids ages 6–10 years meets Monday through Friday from 9AM–Noon for two weeks. There are three sessions to choose from:

**KIDS A:** June 13 – June 24

**KIDS B:** June 27 – July 8

**KIDS C:** July 11 – July 22

This summer's production will be **Munchkin Mediation** featuring all the famous character from **The Wizard of Oz** who are having trouble readjusting upon their return to OZ. They've come to the Munchkins, experts on conflict resolution, to learn how to solve their problems. Campers will have a great time learning the songs and dances and portraying characters like the **Tin Man**, the **Cowardly Lion**, **Dorothy**, **Toto**, and even the **Good Witch** and the **Bad Witch**. Each session will close with a free performance for family and friends! Tuition is \$299 plus a \$25 registration fee.

(See *Workshop Updates*, page 3)

(... *Workshop Updates*, from page 2)

**CTG JUNIORS** – These kids from ages 10–13 years will discover whether *Ever After* is really as happy as everyone expects it to be. This hysterical fractured fairy tale visits **Cinderella** and her middle-aged “beauty-impaired” stepsisters after they have been apart for 20 years! Can they get along? It will be a fun-filled experience as our campers put on *The Ever After* – **A Musical** filled with toe-tapping music! There are two, three-week sessions to choose from:

**JUNIORS #1:** June 13 – July 1

**JUNIORS #2:** July 5 – July 22

This class meets Monday through Friday from 12:30–4:30PM and there is a free performance on the last day of each class. Tuition is \$399, plus a \$25 registration fee.

**CTG STARS** – This five-week session for teens between 13 and 17 meets Monday through Friday from 9:30AM–4:30PM, and closes with four public performances - 2PM & 7PM July 15 and July 17. The musical adventure this summer is Disney’s *Mulan Junior*. Campers will travel back to the legendary, story-telling days of ancient China in this action-packed stage adaptation of the movie. The fee for this workshop is \$499 plus a \$25 registration fee.

We offer a **20% discount** for siblings enrolling this summer, and payment plans may be arranged by calling **Patti Finley**. There are a limited number of scholarships available for each workshop through the **Boys and Girls Club**. For more information, or to reserve a spot for your child, call the box office now. Class sizes are limited, so call now. 661.799.2702.



**Jeff Johnson**  
President, CTG Board of Directors

## President’s Message

If there is one message I have tried to consistently convey to you since I became President last July it is that this is your theatre. I think it’s important for people to understand that The Canyon Theatre Guild is a non-profit organization and not a private business.

The reason why I want to make that clear is so everyone understands both the power and the responsibility that comes from that, if you’ll pardon my Spiderman reference. The power is that you can actually shape the future of the organization in many ways, your input matters. The responsibility is that we need you to help out; this theatre doesn’t function without the efforts of our volunteers. There is another responsibility that you have as well and that is the responsibility to be sure that this organization is well governed. There are a couple of options for doing your part in this area.

**RUNNING FOR THE BOARD:** If you believe you personally have a skill set that would contribute to the needs of the theatre then please consider taking the time to throw your hat in the ring. The terms are 3 years long and you can run for and be elected to up to 2 consecutive terms. It takes a well-rounded Board of Directors, with expertise in a wide variety of fields, for the theatre to truly be all that it can be. You don’t have to be a Board Member to help and serve on committees though, in fact

I would recommend that you seek out the opportunity to serve on a committee first to get a feel for how our Board works.

**VOTING:** In our last Board of directors elections a total of 63 ballots were cast. **63 votes.** We have around 1,000 members but the leadership of the theatre was decided by about 6 percent of the membership. I truly hope that this is the year we start to alter that number. I hope that you’ll help by voting if you haven’t or encouraging someone else to vote. Let’s see if we can just start by getting that number over 100 votes this year and go from there. Small steps. At least one of our Board positions was decided by a single vote last year so your vote does make a difference. Please take the time to come out to our general meeting on May 9th where the candidates will speak, then read their statements in our newsletter, and then cast your ballot at either one of our absentee days (Wednesday June 1st from 6-8pm or Saturday June 4th from 10am to noon) or at our general meeting on June 13th.

Thank you in advance for being an active participant in the direction your theatre is heading!

Sincerely,  
**Jeff Johnson**

### Save these Dates!

March 26	<i>Little Women and SOCIAL SECURITY</i>	2PM Open 8PM
March 29	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	7PM
April 9-10	<i>Jr Cabaret</i> Auditions	12-4PM
April 11	CTG Board Meeting	7PM
April 23	<i>Little Women and SOCIAL SECURITY</i>	2PM Close 8PM
Apr 30- May 1	<i>The Music Man</i> Auditions	

## Election Time!

The Canyon Theatre Guild is looking for a few good men/women to serve on our Board of Directors for the next three years.

With the CTG celebrating its 40th year of providing live theatre in the Santa Clarita Valley, the Board of Directors has taken time to reflect on the development of our organization.

If YOU are interested in the Canyon Theatre Guild, and are willing to devote your time and talents, please consider running for the Board of Directors.

Desirable qualities in a candidate include the following: experience with business operations; involvement with other non-profit or community organizations; leadership background chairing committees; a passion for the performing arts and an understanding of the CTG's mission.

Eligibility requirements to run for the Board: must be at least 18 years old; must be a current member of the CTG for at least a year prior to application; cannot be related to a current Board Member or a Staff Member.

*The dates for the Election process are as follows:*

**April 12:** Candidate Information available at the CTG Box Office. This will include a brief description of Board expectations and a rough outline for the required Candidate Statement.

**April 30:** Candidates statements are DUE including a photo, in time for publication in the newsletter. Turn in at the Box Office addressed to Marla Khayat in a sealed envelope.

## In My Life - A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles

The award winning, smash hit musical biography of the **Beatles**, *In My Life* will be on stage at the CTG for one night only on Saturday, May 6. This musical theatre tribute, as seen through the eyes of their manager **Brian Epstein**, features the live music of renowned tribute band Abbey Road. This family friendly musical tale is widely considered by industry insiders to be the most unique Beatles show in decades. This show won a **Roar of the Crowd Award** in April 2008 and continues to draw crowds on its tours.



More than just a Beatles tribute concert, *In My Life* gives the audience a chance to "be there" at pivotal moments in the extraordinary career of the Beatles - from Liverpool's legendary **Cavern Club**, to the **Ed Sullivan Show**, **Shea Stadium's** 50,000 + screaming fans and their final live performance on the rooftop of their Apple Corp offices. With manager **Brian Epstein** serving as Narrator, *In My Life* allows the audience to get a glimpse inside the world of the Beatles from their point of view, as well as hear some of the greatest songs ever written.

*In My Life* takes the audience back to February 1964, when Americans saw the Beatles for the first time on the **Ed Sullivan Show**, playing I Want to Hold Your Hand. Progressing through their various musical stages, the audience re-experiences the psychedelic era of **Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band**, the creation of the haunting **Yesterday** and the raucous rock and roll of **Revolution**. "The show delivers!" said the **L.A. Times**. "If you see one tribute show, see this one - smart and loads of fun," said the **O.C. Register**. See [www.inmylifetheplay.com](http://www.inmylifetheplay.com).

Don't miss this one night only, first time in Santa Clarita musical experience! Call the CTG box office for reservations at 661.799.2702.

**May 9:** General Meeting. Candidates will be allowed three minutes to speak. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Newly nominated candidates will also be allowed three minutes to speak.

**June 6:** General Meeting - Elections!

**ABSENTEE VOTING** will be available on June 1 (Wed.) from 6 to 8PM., and on June 4 (Sat.) from 10 to 12. Both will be set up in the CTG Lobby. We hope this schedule will be convenient for all. Voting is important!

The 2011 CTG election committee is comprised of general members Cybele Perry and Kathi Lund; Frank Rock, Andrew Fried and Marla Khayat representing the current Board of Directors; and Patti Finley representing staff. If you have questions, please contact any of these people.

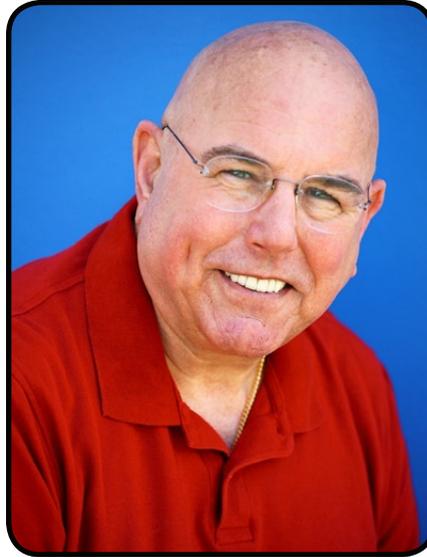
This is YOUR THEATRE! Consider being a candidate. Be sure to vote!

## Spotlight on Greg Finley

If you have ever auditioned for **Greg Finley**, then you know it can be an enthralling (if not somewhat) an intimidating experience. Mr. Finley is a big man – tall enough to play the dynamic **Daddy Warbucks**, not once but twice. And he's strong enough to have played semi-pro football in the 1970s, and tough enough to have served four years in Vietnam as a member of the elite Green Beret. He is also loud enough to fill the entire Canyon Theatre Guild with his deep, melodious voice (without or without a mic!).

If you have watched a show at the CTG in the last 15 years, you have probably seen him on stage, perhaps as the smooth-talking, think-system marketing conman Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, or as the romantically brooding Frenchman **Emil de Becque** in *South Pacific*, or more recently as the patriarchal flower shop owner **Mr. Mushnik** in the hilariously macabre *Little Shop of Horrors*. But even if you haven't seen him singing and acting on the stage, there's a good chance you have watched one of his Christmas shows; during the last nine years he has directed various productions of holiday classics: *A Christmas Story*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *A Christmas Carol*.

He and his wife **Patti Finley** have put in countless hours – the theater would not be what it is today without their creative endeavors and dedication. And if you have ever worked at rehearsals when both Greg and Patti are together,



then you know how calm they are, how tranquilly they collaborate with one another, as if they were silently reading each other's thoughts. Okay, that previous sentence was just a joke – these two can get very vocal with each other, whether acting or directing. They are two passionate artists not afraid to speak their minds (and sometimes yell their minds), but what is wonderful about working on a show with Patti and Greg is that on the rare occasion that they do disagree, it is always for the sake of the show, it is all in pursuit of theatrical excellence.

In addition to his directing talents and his memorable performances, Greg is also an invaluable vocal director. This is Greg Finley is at the top of his game, always offering insightful and encouraging advice. My first supporting role in a musical was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. I was incredibly nervous when I auditioned, and not very confident with my limited musical ability. Greg gave me vocal instruction that helped cure my "singing shyness." He's great at working with actors one-on-one, and just as skillful with working with a large chorus.

Greg's voice isn't just heard in CTG musicals. His vocal talents supply the recording that welcomes theatergoers, reminding them to turn off cell phones and drink only bottled water. The recording is lovingly referred to as the "Voice of God," but in actuality, Greg is quite humble about his career as a voice over artist. Since the mid-1970s, Greg has done voice over work in hundreds of movies, cartoons, and television shows. As you might guess, the competition is mind-boggling steep in the voice over industry. I asked Greg what advice he would give to anyone seeking a career in Hollywood; here's what he had to say:

"It's all about persistence. You just have to believe that someday you'll make it. If you don't have that burning desire to hear no and no and no. And if you can do that and you want to do it badly enough and work hard enough at it and learn the craft eventually you'll make it."

I also asked Greg what made the Canyon Theatre Guild such a special place for him. He replied, "It's so familial. Everyone has an input in some way. There's no clique casting going on, never has been. It's just a rock solid place to spend your time. Creating characters and living other lives vicariously on the stage or in a film is a lot of fun. And it gives you a great personal satisfaction. I love acting. And if you love something it's not work."

Thanks for doing what you love, Greg!



# Zony Gordon Art on Display

An award-winning Impressionist artist in Watercolor and Mixed Media Our artist resides in the picturesque Valley of Santa Clarita where there's always a great abundance of beautiful scenery and wildlife in the area thereby providing inspiration and a strong desire for our artist to paint! She continues to explore a wide array of avenues as she showcases art in different forms, from landscapes and seascapes to still Life and whimsical abstracts.

As a Mass Communications graduate, she moved to Los Angeles years ago and pursued art related classes, as well as continuing a career in Advertising, working with Creative Directors for Ad layouts and campaigns in L.A. and San Francisco. She later pursued Project Management Certification at UC Irvine and became a Project anager at Sprint.

From there, she continued to take classes in Art, and "dabbled" for several years. She represented a number of artists in showcasing their art and promoted some performing artists as well. Eventually, she quit her telecom career and focused on Water color and Oil with a more serious focus.

An active volunteer in the Community, Zony is a guest Judge in various school competitions including the PTA Reflections program, and teaches Art classes for children in the SCV Community Center as well as Summer Art classes K-12 of the City at the SCV Sports Complex.



Her art is also available at [www.zonygordon.com](http://www.zonygordon.com) or she can be reached via eMail at [zonygordon@att.net](mailto:zonygordon@att.net), or cell phone at 661.312.3422.

**The Arts in Santa Clarita**  
If you would like more information on what's going on in the world of the Arts in Santa Clarita, put your name on the City's eNotify list. Just go to [www.santa-clarita.com/enotify](http://www.santa-clarita.com/enotify) and click on Arts & Events

**2010-2011 CTG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
President..... Jeff Johnson  
1st Vice President .....Leslie Berra  
2nd Vice President ..... Frank Rock  
Secretary.....Wade Bradford  
Treasurer.....John Morris  
Members-At-Large: .....Tim Christianson  
..... Claudia Alexopoulos  
..... Marla Khayat  
..... Michael Keane  
..... Andy Fried

**OTHER PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
Executive Director & Artistic Director of the Playhouse Season....TimBen Boydston  
Assistant Director & Artistic Director of the Family Season.....Patti Finley  
Newsletter Editor.....David Barsky

(...Artistic Impressions, from page 2) great event the last two months and you don't want to miss the next one on April 7TH from 4 to 8PM. Come on down for a few hours and eat at the gourmet food trucks, check out all of the visual art shows, listen to the street performers, do some wine tasting and pick up some great fruit at the farmers market. It is a blast!

Kudos to Director **Leslie Berra** and Choreographer **Nancy Alterman** for their creation of an incredible musical experience with our SCRT production of **CHICAGO**. The critics and audiences alike hailed this production as one of our finest, and for those fans of musical dance it showed that the SCV is loaded with talent.

A sad note on the passing of **Marilyn O'Hare**, who was a long time, enthusiastic supporter of the CTG and the beloved mother of long-time CTG members **Leslie Berra** and **Mo Davis**. We will all miss her and it's easy to see where the O'Hare girls got their talent.

Do not miss **Social Security** and **Little Women**, these shows will entertain and touch you as well. We will see you at the Theatre!

## **CHICAGO: Concession Volunteers - also Amazing!**

Special thanks go to the wonderful Concession Volunteers who arrived 1 hour and 15 minutes before curtain, dressed professionally in black and white, and worked hard during almost sold-out conditions.

Volunteers included: **Christine Sexton, Teri & Joey Prata, Shannon & Renee Whelan, Raya Desaulniers, Heather Edwards, Marlowe & Lisa Weisman** (and daughters **Calliope & Denim**), **Karen McCallon, Jean Paletz, Cambria Jenkins, Lydia Saxton, Rosemary & Mike Moffat, Sandie Allaway, Keri & Spencer Pierson, Shirley Laurino, Janice Wald, and Angela Avaliano.**

Greatly appreciated were **Marian Urdank, Susan Hart, and Kate Nelson** who filled in for several shows when others dropped out unexpectedly.

Grateful thanks to **Tim Ben Boydston** for purchasing the merchandise, and to **Claudia and John Alexopolous** (and family) for helping to move-out the Concessions two times!

Many hands make light work, as they say. Because of all these people, we were able to present a friendly and efficient front to our clients. The membership should feel proud...

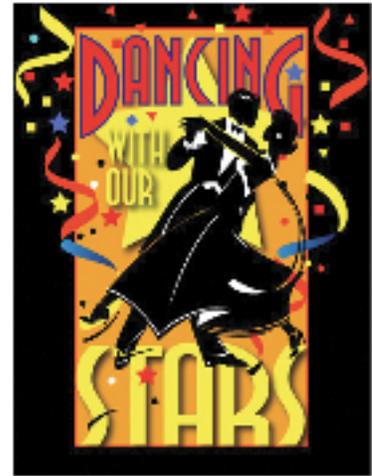
## **CTG Scholarship Committee Seeking Motivated HS Seniors**

If you or anyone you know is currently a high school senior, then you should know about the Canyon Theatre Guild's Scholarship opportunity. We are pleased, once again, to be able to offer a **\$500 scholarship** to one of our graduating seniors.

Applications are available in the box office and are **due by no later than May 15, 2011**. You will be asked to write an essay and supply two letters of recommendation, as well as a resume of any CTG experience you have had, and/or of honors and recognition you may have received. Please return all of these materials, with a photo and your completed application. Members of the Scholarship Committee will meet to review all applications.

Applicants do not need to be pursuing a career in the performing arts, although we strongly encourage kids with CTG experience to apply. You can't win if you don't apply, so visit the box office today to get your application.

## **Dancing With Our Stars**



Get out your dancin' shoes because the **Dancing With Our Stars** event is back and the CTG is hoping you'll "vote" for our "Dancing Stars" **Roxie Ramey** (affiliated with Prudential California Realty) and our very own **Shannon Michael Gallagher**. **Dance Studio 84** is the choreographer, and this dance is sure to bring Disco back!

Saturday, April 2, is the big day! YOU can help raise money for the Canyon Theatre Guild by voting for our team. Votes are just \$25 each, and the duo who raises the most will be the winner! Any money raised by voting for our dancers will go directly to the CTG so call the box office now and vote! You can charge your vote on MasterCard or Visa, or mail it in with a check, or come on it and vote in person. Vote early and vote often...AND VOTE FOR ROXIE! Every \$25 vote will help! Call now: 661.799.2702.

## JUNIOR CABARET AUDITIONS

Looking for performers ages 4 to 17  
A musical time travel adventure!

# BACK TO THE SUMMER

Auditions: April 16<sup>TH</sup> and 17<sup>TH</sup> (2PM – 5PM)  
Canyon Theatre Guild – “Rehearsal Building”  
24242 Main Street in Newhall, CA

Help us create this unique theatrical fund-raising event filled with music, dance, and imagination. Singers: Come with a song / audition CD prepared (Any Time Period is welcome.)

Performance: June 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2011.  
For more information: [profwade@hotmail.com](mailto:profwade@hotmail.com)

## SANTA CLARITA REGIONAL THEATRE AUDITIONS FOR *THE MUSIC MAN*

Directors Patti Finley and TimBen Boydston are holding auditions for this large cast musical to be presented at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons. Please come prepared to sing approximately 16 bars of a Broadway show tune. Bring your own accompaniment CD (karaoke) - no accompanist provided. No acapella auditions will be permitted. Please be prepared for a dance audition. Rehearsals will begin May 10. The show runs weekends only July 23 through August 14. There is no pay. Cold reading from the script at callbacks only. All ages are needed, from children to teens to older adults. The cast has many featured roles including 4 men who can sing Barbershop harmonies.

SAT, APRIL 30: 10AM - 12:30PM CHILDREN ONLY (UNDER 18)



SAT, APRIL 30: 1:30PM - 4PM ADULTS (OVER 18)

SUN, MAY 1: 11:00 AM - NOON CHILDREN

SUN, MAY 1: 1PM-4PM ADULTS