

Theater, Art & Music



The Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival colorful dancers receiving ovations from a happy audience. Courtesy photo to the Gold Country Times

Ovations Performances this Winter

Five performances plus a Prelude holiday Nutcracker dance performance will be featured this winter in the 'Ovations' Performing Arts Series of the Calaveras County Arts Council. For 29 years the non-profit arts agency has been presenting a variety of high quality concerts to the rural residents of the Gold Country.

All of the performances will be in Angels Camp at the Bret Harte Theatre, also known as the Dr. Elliott Smart Performing Arts Center, at 323 Highway 49. Season Tickets for all six concerts are available now at \$120; Arts Council members are \$105. The Nutcracker costs \$15 per adult; youth to 18 cost \$7. All other Ovations tickets are \$25 per adult; \$10 for youth to 18. Buy them online at www.highsierratickets.com.

The Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival, starring Nikolai

Massenkoff and his ensemble of folk dancers and musicians, Sunday, January 10, 3:00 pm. His voice is deep and magnificent and will be backed by balalaika Slavic folk instruments and joined by Russian folk dancers incorporating songs, stories, native costumes. This spectacular company explodes across the stage in color and beauty. They've performed all over the world including Carnegie Hall and before 90,000 people at the Olympics. For more information about Ovations, and the 2010 schedule, call the Calaveras County Arts Council, 754-1774 or visit www.calaverasarts.org.

grandmother was telling her little grandchild what kind of childhood she had. "We used to skate outside on a pond; I had a swing made from a tire; We rode our pony; we picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was bug-eyed and said "Wow, I wish I'd gotten to know you sooner."

2012 – The Apocalypse, Hollywood style

Rated: PG-13 Time: 2:38
Stars: Danny Glover, Thandie Newton, George John Cusack, Amanda Peet, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Oliver Platt, Woody Harrelson and others. Final Grade: A-

I like going to a movie that does a good job of entertaining me, keeping me belted to my seat and making me think. *2012* is a winner in all categories. Directed by Roland Emmerich, of *The Patriot* and *Independence Day*, *2012* is loaded with special effects and action that keeps your mind moving.

The story starts out with geologist Adrian Helmsley (Ejiofor) being summoned to verify the findings of an associate that the earth is in for some serious problems. Rushing back to Washington, Helmsley and his report eventually get to President Wilson (Glover) and the clock to save humanity starts ticking. One thing that bothers me here is the analogy that the earth's core is heating up "like in a microwave oven". The center of the food I've put in mine for the last 30 years has always been the LAST thing to get warm. Go figure.

Ticking forward to days before doomsday and grade B writer and part time chauffeur Curtis Jackson (Cusack) is late to pick up his kids for their weekend at Yellowstone. While hiking an old path and the kids jump a fence with the standard "US Government – Do Not Enter" sign on it and are soon surrounded by a bunch of army types. Watching all this transpire is catastrophe nutcase turned prophet Charlie Frost (Harrelson) who is broadcasting the events live.

In the morning, the action gets heavy with life back home starting to fall apart, not to mention the roads, buildings and everything else. The whole big picture of earthquakes and disasters finally gels in Jackson's head as he races to get his kids, ex and her boyfriend out of their house and into an airplane.

The special effects on their ride to the airport are cool. But the one thing that hits you is why are they surviving when everyone else isn't? Well, just forget reality and enjoy the movie. A short field takeoff and a harrowing ride through the falling city and they're off to find Frost and the secret location that the government's been building special survival vehicles.

Watching the city split open like a tangerine and seeing portions just sliding into the ocean is a rather sobering sight in light of recent tsunami's. Also fascinating is watching Yellowstone erupt into a huge volcano. Of course, by now their final destination is now somewhere in

China and not only need another plane but we need some more action scenes. So off to Las Vegas in search of a bigger plane. In Vegas they find a huge Antonov. Once again, the ground is opening up like doomsday yet they make it in the air just before Sin City becomes another Grand Canyon. The detail that is given to these disaster sequence special effects is incredible!

As you would expect, the Antonov falls out of the sky somewhere in China. But, alas, it's within driving distance of their target. Ya gotta LOVE Hollywood scripts sometimes! The story's far from over but I'm not going to kill it for you. The action keeps running and Danny Glover has the magnum persona needed as the President. I've always pictured Woody Harrelson as being a few cards short in his deck and he didn't disappoint.

The special effects are superb. The plotline while very plausible and action filled, has a few holes but also gives one more than enough food for thought about what would happen during a real major disaster of this size.

It's interesting that reference is also made to the Mayan calendar ending on this date and that point of logic tends to be one of the driving points of the disaster. Wouldn't it make sense for it to end SOMETIME? I don't know of a calendar yet that goes on forever. That's what keeps calendar companies in business, right?

I'm Don Rima, and that's the way I saw it, *From Where I Stand*.

The Trash

Continued from page 6

...heart for the people they are working with. *The Music DTS* is in the process of moving these guys out of the trash. They are finding them a home, and are seeking avenues in which they can begin the process of sustainability and financial independence.

The Music DTS spent a night with them in the trash eating what they ate and sleeping where they slept and because of that they trust us. Before that they were pretty sure we were just another group who wanted to take photos of them and then walk away but they have seen otherwise and are ready to have a different life.

We want to see these kids bathed, clothed, safe, warm, fed, and educated. Please help us do that in any way you can. Tell others about it, join us on Facebook, pray, donate, or share knowledge with us you may have about garbage dumps.

"Funny the way it is, if you think about it, somebody's going hungry and someone else is eating out...Funny the way it is, if you think about it, one kid

Singer Copes

Continued from page 6

...a sounding board for the other. They recorded in hotel rooms, dressing rooms, the side of a stage, wherever they could set up a laptop and a couple of microphones. They would also squeeze in recording time in the hours between sound checks and the show, trying to find quiet moments to get things on the computer, he said.

It was genuine that way, Chapman said. "It just felt like that's honest. This is life going on," Chapman said of the unorthodox recording method. "It's the day-to-day pain, just walking the journey." Reviews have been positive and respectful. *The New York Times* called it "stirring." Billboard said, "Never has a writer's pain sounded more achingly raw. The new set examines unfathomable grief, but also celebrates an extraordinary young life."

Milligan said that he believes the music's meaning transcends the tragedy that inspired it. "In recording these songs, he knew they were going to bring hope to a lot of people," Milligan said. "And that is so much what he is about. These songs are timeless, people will always be hurting and these songs will always speak to them." When asked what song he thought would be Maria's favorite, Chapman said, "Beauty Will Rise". She likes loud, she liked it fast", the smile returning to his voice. "She likes the one with all the energy and the one she could bounce in the car to." Music, his blogs, and his community at www.stevencurtischapman.com

walks ten miles to school while another's dropping out..." - Dave Matthew

You can learn how to donate or what to pray for by emailing myself or Josiah. Pick a Pocket's Website: <http://pickapocket.showitsite.com/> Leader of the music dts's email: Josiah Teft-jjteft@yahoo.com kris.schwan@gmail.com

Disney's Beauty and the Beast

Imagination Theater presents the heartwarming story, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, which runs through Sun, Dec 27. Belle, dissatisfied with life in her small provincial town, constantly tries to fend off the misplaced "affections" of the conceited Gaston. The Beast is a prince who was placed under a spell because he could not love. Tickets: \$17 Adult, \$14 Senior, \$10 Child, Group 10+ \$13, Group 20+ \$12. Thursday shows, all seats \$10.

Imagination Theater is located at 100 Placerville Drive, on the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. (530) 642-0404. www.itplacerville.blogspot.com

IRONSTONE

The Sierras are blessed with the most exquisite beauty on earth...

all we do is bottle it.

www.ironstonevineyards.com



Complimentary wine tasting
Goldrush Heritage Museum

Jewelry Shoppe
Weddings/Special Events

1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys
209-728-1251