

BASS PERFORMANCE HALL

december 2009 shows and dates

The Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall serves as a permanent home to major performing arts organizations of Fort Worth. It is also a premiere venue for promulgating arts education and contributing to the cultural life of Fort Worth and the Tarrant County area.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A resident company at the Bass Performance Hall, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association (FWSOA) provides symphonic performances at the highest level of artistic excellence.

Handel's Messiah
Dec. 7 7:30 p.m.

**A Country Christmas with
Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers**
Dec. 16 7:30 p.m.

OTHER PRODUCTIONS

In addition to the Fort Worth Opera and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Bass Performance Hall hosts other attractions as to enhance the range, quality and accessibility of cultural fare available to the public.

Riverdance Farewell Performances

Dec. 1 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 3 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 4 8 p.m.

Dec. 5 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dec. 6 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Nutcracker

Dec. 11 8 p.m.

Dec. 12 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dec. 13 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 8 p.m.

Dec. 18 8 p.m.

Dec. 19 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dec. 20 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Michael Martin Murphy's Cowboy Christmas

Dec. 14 7 p.m.

Wynonna, A Classic Christmas

Dec. 15 7:30 p.m.

For Art's Sake

by Kimmy Daycock

Former Dallas gallerist, Christina Rees, will be taking over TCU's Fort Worth Contemporary Arts. Rees has been involved in art for the past 10 years. Rees' first show at the gallery titled "Death of a Propane Salesman: Anxiety and the Texas Artist" will display works from 13 artists, including Vernon Fisher and Terri Thornton, curator of education for the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. The show will run through Dec. 13 and is free to the public. TCU's Fort Worth Contemporary Arts is located on Berry Street, within walking distance from the campus. Other Fort Worth art galleries deserving a mention include:

TCC's East Fork Gallery – East Fork Building at TCC Trinity River Campus. Free admission. The gallery opened in November, featuring paintings by Ron A. Cheek, who founded the Texas Academy for Figurative Art. Gallery Curator David Blair said there will be a larger grand opening in either December or January. The goal of the gallery is to feature student work and works from artists of all levels.

Fort Worth Community Art Center – 1300 Gendy St. Free admission. The FWCAC has three visual arts exhibitions running through December. "Focus Gallery One: passAge" features travel-influenced paintings by Aqsa Shakil. "Focus Gallery Two: Plasticity" features plastic flowers and artificial environments by Joyce Martin. The TAC Featured Art Exhibit features flower photography from Sandra Freeman.

Gallery 414 – 414 Templeton. Free admission. The gallery's next exhibition titled "Showdown" features artists including Nate Gilesple, Tim Harding, Lorrie McClanahan and others. The show will run from Dec. 5 to Jan. 10, 2010.



The Worth Of Jewels

Clancy Martin offers a teardown of the jewelry industry and how one man's American dream became a nightmare in *How to Sell*.

by Eric Butterman



Clancy Martin could be found at the Fort Worth Gold and Silver Exchange, behind the sparkling beckoning counter, helping customers realize that maybe they really did want that 24-karat diamond necklace or solid gold watch after all. If he wasn't a steely Leonardo DiCaprio straight out of *Catch Me If You Can*, he wasn't far removed.

How To Sell opens with the protagonist, Bobby, foregoing high school for not just the jewelry counter, but drugs and unscrupulous sales techniques. "I didn't really partake in the drugs or that wild lifestyle too much," Martin says. "But I definitely saw other people go for it—it was the 80s—and I absolutely went over the line in how I sold at times." But before you assume Martin was a fast-talking salesman who mercilessly sucked you in, he was even smoother than that; he hardly said a word. "I found listening to be the most important skill in coming away with the deal," he assesses. "You should forget about yourself and concentrate on them. Their interests, why they want the piece, they practically will talk themselves into it if you guide them." For Bobby, it's others who guide him, particularly his opulent lifestyle-loving brother Jim, to the point where he barely can remember who he was or who he set out to be. We can feel Bobby spinning out of control and not so subtly questioning Jim's motives. Martin says this is where it becomes most autobiographical.

"I was good at what I did, but I hated what it made me into," he recalls. "I just wanted to get out of it and do something I could be proud of." Today, Martin is associate professor of philosophy at the University of Missouri, far removed from his wheeler-dealer days, which culminated a \$700,000 deal when he was just 17. Martin is quick to insist you won't see him ever return to the business, even though he will admit to previously being taken off the road to his Ph.D. by his older brother convincing him to open up their own jewelry shop—one which went bankrupt several years later. "A salesman, I am, a businessman, I am not," he offers, as if reminding himself of an oath not to go back on.

And it's fairly easy to be sold on the latest of his wares. *How To Sell* reads fast and well overall, yet if there's one weakness in the book, it may be that it lingers at the occasional expense of moving the story forward. Still, for a real look at the harrowing realities of the jewelry store counter and characters who straddle the line like an unworthy jump rope, you'll find this reflection a worthy one. **fw**