

Australia

Rain Forest, Reef & Wildlife Encounter

FREE TRAVEL SHOWS
Wed., May 22

10:00 AM,
2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Marriott
at the
Convention
Center

801 Truxtun Ave.
BAKERSFIELD

Holiday Vacations™

Call for a FREE Brochure!

1-800-826-2266

Oct. 13-25
with Former
TV Newsmen
**DON
CLARK**

23 abc
KERO-BAKERSFIELD



- Airfare & 14 meals
 - Exceptional accommodations
 - Sydney Opera House
 - Great Barrier Reef
 - Crocodile Hunter's Australia Zoo
 - Kuranda Scenic Train
- TOUR DEPARTS
BAKERSFIELD**

RECEIVE A
\$100
HOLIDAY
COUPON
AT SHOWS

holidayvacations.net
Keyword: bakersfield

Dana's housekeeping
PERSONNEL SERVICE

4 Hrs. Special
\$88

Not valid for move in/move outs

**California's
Most Requested
Referral Agency**

**You make the list -
We send the help**

danashousekeeping.net
661-717-3095

Major credit cards accepted
Serving California since 1976

Your Kitchen by Design!
"Women know what Women want."

2013 BEST CABINETRY

Call the gals from
Blue River Cabinetry
to design your new kitchen
or bath from start to finish.

Blue River CABINETRY & Design

Annette Mercado
General Contractor, C.K.D.
License # 845925
STARMARK

Michele Waugh

588-8481 • BRCKitchenBath.com

Showroom inside Artistic Surfaces 120 Union Avenue

Camille Gavin CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Be lured by 'The Nerd,' a zany, quirky comedy

Library features art show that is hands-on

Quirky characters are a key element in a successful comedy and that seems to be central to Kevin Ganger's motivation for directing "The Nerd."

Ganger describes the play that opens Friday at The Empty Space as "a straight-up laugh-out-loud comedy."

"I love an interesting character, and 'The Nerd' is chock full of extreme characters with unusual personalities and habits," he said. "Even just reading the script makes you laugh, so it's been fun and hilarious translating that to the stage."

This is the first time Ganger has directed a full-length play, although he assisted with The Empty Space's production of "Faust" in 2011. He also has directed several one-act festivals, including the Third-Eye at UC Davis.

Set in 1979, "The Nerd" concerns an easygoing young architect named Willum (Josh Evans) who has always idolized a man named Rick (Chris Burzlaff), the man who saved his life in Vietnam.

Written by Larry Shue, the plot revolves around what happens when the two men meet for the first time. Apparently, Willum was unconscious when Rick dragged him to safety during combat.

When Rick turns up unexpectedly it isn't long before Willum realizes his so-called hero is actually a rude, insensitive nerd. Unfortunately, Willum has already invited him to be his houseguest and is trying to figure out how to get rid of him.

Others in the cast are Cody Ganger as Tansy, who is leaving to take a job as a meteorologist with a Washington, D.C., television station; Jessica Burzlaff as her friend; and Tim Fromm, portraying a wealthy businessman whom Willum is trying to snag as a client. Performances continue week-ends through June 1.

Touchable art

A traveling exhibit of tactile art that includes sculptures as well as paintings is now being shown at



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN GANGER

From left: Chris Burzlaff, Josh Evans, Tim Fromm, Tim Anthony, Cody Ganger and Jessica Burzlaff appear in The Empty Space production of "The Nerd."

Beale Memorial Library.

Maria Rutledge, supervising librarian, said the exhibit is being presented by the Arts Council of Kern and is displayed in the lobby area near the entrance to the Beale auditorium.

All of the artwork has a texture or form that invites touching. The exhibit, which was first shown last October at the Younger Gallery, was developed as a means of giving people who are blind or visually impaired an opportunity to enjoy art by touching it with the palms of their hands or their fingers.

It also can be appreciated by individuals who do have sight.

"For the complete 'touch without seeing' experience, eye masks can be borrowed from the library's Information Desk," Rutledge said in an email. "To obtain a mask, patrons must leave a photo ID which will be returned when they are through looking at the exhibit."

Artists whose work is being shown include Eileen Ettinger, Iva Fendrick, Enemerio Galvan, Justin Jennings, David Leitch, Marcy Holbrook, Bill Malis, Brian Stanton, Dan Slayton, Marlene Tatsuno and Hank Washington. Anyone interested in purchasing one or more pieces may contact the Arts Council at 324-9000.

BCT awards ceremony

If enthusiasm and a positive attitude can ignite interest in the Bakers-

field Community Theatre, then artistic director Kenneth Whitchard should have it made.

"I want everyone to know that rumors of BCT closing down are not true; we're here and we're not moving anywhere," said Whitchard. "We're stepping up the game and I want the community to come back and be involved in our 86th season."

For starters, he'd like to see a good turnout at BCT's 2012-13 awards ceremony on Saturday evening. For the first 30 minutes, finger foods and beverages will be served in the patio that fronts the theater. The party will then move inside for the awards presentation and light entertainment. In a recent phone conversation, he also mentioned some of the improvements that are being made to the South Chester Avenue facility, particularly the separate structure that serves as a lobby for the playhouse.

"We're redoing the box office lounge and updating the restrooms," he said. "And we're going to have a plaque engraved with the names of all our donors — we need to do it in a big way."

In past years, BCT has ended its season in early June with the Festival of One Acts. Whitchard has shifted the festival to August, however, and it will open the 2013-14 season.

Pat Kerley is directing "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," a youth theater production that opens June 7.

Whitchard, who teaches vocal music at McKinley Elementary School, will play the part of Willy Wonka.

Camille Gavin's "Arts Alive" column appears on Thursday. Write to her via e-mail at gavinarts@aol.com