

# THIS & THAT



ENTERTAINMENT PICKS WITH JEREMY D. BONFIGLIO

## The 'Closer' you get ...

The Beckwith Theatre Company presents Patrick Marber's drama "Closer" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday as well as May 27-28, and 2 p.m. Sunday and May 29 at The Beckwith Theatre, 100 New York Ave., Dowagiac.

Marber's play, which takes place in 1990s England, centers on four lives that intertwine over the course of four and a half years in this densely-plotted, stinging look at modern love and betrayal. The characters of Dan (Jeff Starkey), Alice (April Sellers), Anna (Sophia Korson) and Larry (David Prouty) meet, interact and fall in and out of love (and bed) with each other as they struggle to find the intimacy they all crave. Andi Creasbaum directs.

Tickets are \$10. Since this production contains adult language and explicit content, viewer discretion is advised.

For more information, call 782-7653 or visit [www.beckwiththeatre.com](http://www.beckwiththeatre.com).

## Fired Up! for exhibit

The Fired Up! program is having an opening reception for its latest "Fired Up! Teen Glass Art Program Exhibit" from 6-8 p.m. Saturday at Water Street Glassworks, 140 Water St., Benton Harbor.

The reception is an opportunity to meet young glass artists and see them in action in the studios. The program, founded by Kathy and Jerry Catania, has earned numerous honors for its skill development and creativity. Fired Up! graduates have earned more than \$350,000 in college scholarships since its inception.

Students and families interested in learning how to become involved in the free program can pick up an application and talk with the program coordinator about upcoming opportunities. The program will soon be entering its 11th year.

Admission to the exhibit is free. If you can't make the reception, the work will be on display through June 11 during regular hours.

For more information, call 925-5555 or visit [www.waterstreetglassworks.org](http://www.waterstreetglassworks.org).

## Mad about mallets

Vibraphonist Jim Cooper and his Mallet Madness quartet perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph.

Cooper (vibes, marimba and bells) will

be joined by Ivan Akanssima (piano and guitar), Tim King (bass) and Chuck Hartzell (drums and percussion) – with Lake Michigan College music director John Owens (drums) serving as a special guest artist – as they present a tribute to great jazz vibraphonists such as Cal Tjader, Milt Jackson and Lionel Hampton.

Cooper, who was born and raised in Chicago, played in the Billy Band, led by the late Billy Brimfield and Billy Perry, and later teamed up with pianist/composer Bob Dogan to form The Jim Cooper/Bob Dogan Quintet – a mainstay in the Chicago jazz scene in the 1980s and early '90s. He has also taught at Lake Michigan College and Northwestern University.

Admission is \$10, and free for children 12 and younger.

For more information, call 983-3688 or visit [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org).

## Acoustic double bill

Foundry Hall presents an acoustic double bill featuring Ruth and Max Bloomquist of Muskegon and Chicago's "official troubadour" Mark Dvorak at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, 903 S. Bailey Ave., South Haven.

This year marks the Bloomquists' 40th anniversary of making music together as a husband-and-wife folk duo. They are perhaps best known for the song "Michigan Girl," which can be found on YouTube, but Ruth Bloomquist also won Merlefest's Chris Austin Songwriting Competition in 2003 with her gospel number "By The River." The couple's 2010 album, "Turn Back a Page," reached No. 5 on the Folk DJ Airplay Chart with four songs in the Top 100 for that year. A new release is in the works for 2016.

Dvorak, meanwhile, has released 17 albums to date, including 2011's "Time Ain't Got Nothin' On Me" and his latest, "Back Home." He also keeps busy as a teacher at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music and as the writer of "Bowling for Christmas & Other Tales From The Road," a collection of 21 essays and three poems. He continues to record in his home studio in Riverside, Ill.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

For more information, call 220-0444, 800-838-3006, or visit [www.foundryhall.org](http://www.foundryhall.org).