Chapman Cultural Center activities

Art, theater, sciences explored through workshops

Helen Nowatka

Editorial Consultant

**S**ince the 1950s, the epicenter of Spartanburg’s art scene has been the Arts Center, which became Chapman Cultural Center. Its website rightly describes it as “Spartanburg’s premiere venue for experiencing the performing and visual arts, science, and history.”

Known specifically for producing engaging art exhibits and performances, the Cultural Center also offers a variety of classes, summer camps, and workshops for every age group.

The science portion of the facilities, recently renamed the John F. Green Spartanburg Science Center, specializes in classes and summer camps for elementary aged children. Offering over 20 exhibits and a plethora of snakes to hold, visitors also learn more about their individual environmental impacts.

Senior Alyssa Dowling describes the time she spent during summer breaks going to the science camps offered.

“Mr. Green would always teach them and as a kid I never had any interest in biology or historical science, but Mr. Green’s camp was so much fun. I have only good memories of those times,” Dowling said.

The Chapman Center also has a foot in the arts, offering a top-notch ballet program as well as other dance classes, but their youth theatre takes center stage. The Youth Theatre is open for young actors grades 3-12 to audition in one of their many musicals and plays. Auditioning workshops are offered to students in order to build confidence in their skills.

Senior Molly Cribb has had experience with Spartanburg’s Youth Theatre.

“My younger sister is very involved in theatre and has been in several of the Cultural Center’s productions. I love seeing her perform and the productions are always very high quality. I am excited for the upcoming production of ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’,” Cribb said.

For those wanting to stay out of the limelight, art classes are also offered. Everything from elementary student day camps, to pottery classes, to water color lessons. Practicing artists volunteer as instructors, and with the Cultural Center’s state of the art facilities are able to provide an exceptional education. Current classes include painting and drawing lessons as well as wheel throwing— using a potter’s wheel to better manipulate clay.

Junior Edie Dominick reflects on the art camps she attended in the past.

“I went to a few art classes and really learned a lot, even though their duration was short. I consider myself a better artist,” Dominick said.

The month of March promises many interesting things to do. A children’s opera rendition of the classic tale Little Red Riding Hood will be showing early in the month. Mid-March, veteran comedian James Gregory will be giving a few nights the laugh of a lifetime.

Throughout the month a variety of exhibitions will be showing including (but not limited to): contemporary art exhibitions, documentary photography showcases, and Black Mountain College artists.

**Chapman Events**

March 2018

**March 2**

Little Red Riding Hood

7:30 to 8:30

**March 4**

*SAM - Unnatural History - art exhibition focused of industrial technologies*

**March 10**

Comedian James Gregory, General Admission - $25

**March 11**

*Annual Youth Art Month Exhibit begins*

**March 18**

Sundays Unplugged - Singer-Songwriter Series

2:00 to 4:00

**March 21**

*SPO Presents: Music Sandwiched In- series of musical performances*

**March 29**

So You Think You Can Dance, Spartanburg!

7:30 to 9:00

**March 30**

Gus Powell: Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Project