GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY
CULTURAL DISTRICT
CULTURE CONNECTION

Welcome to Culture Connection

Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter, featuring the events, stories, and people of our community

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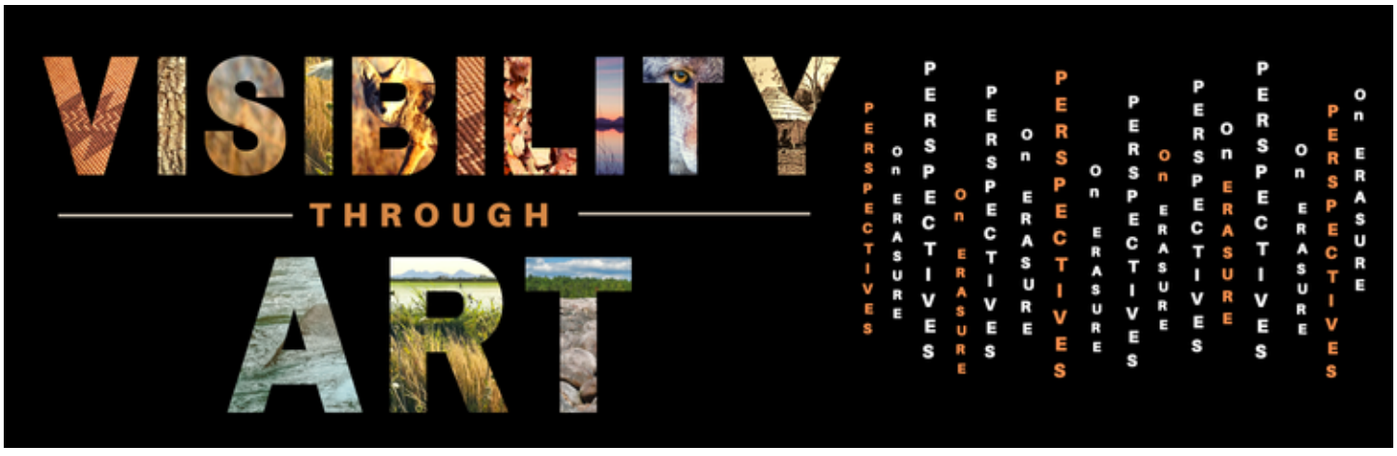
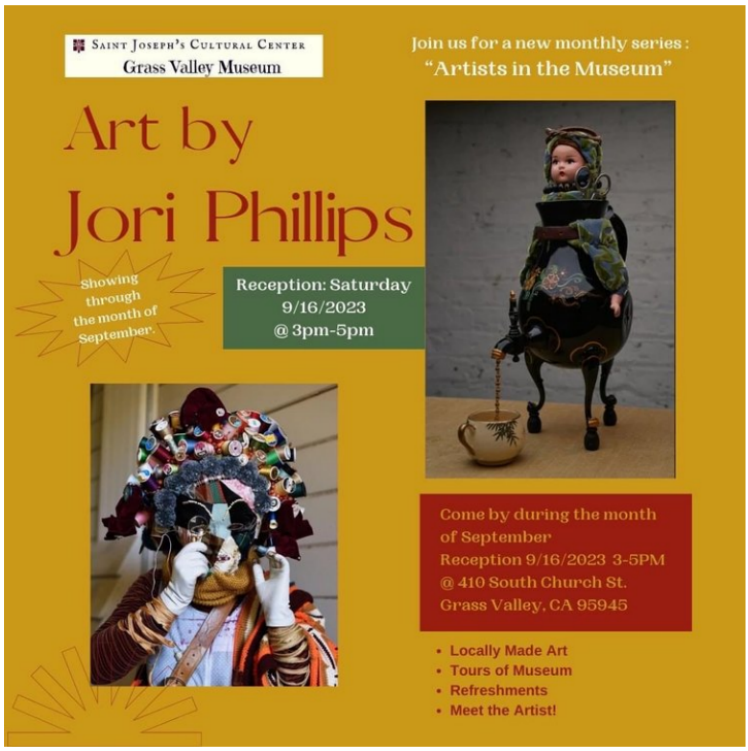


In early October, join us for the opening reception of the *Visibility Through Art* project at the Eric Rood Center. A collaboration between local artists and the Nisenan, *Visibility Through Art* has been running since 2017, and explores different aspects of Nisenan culture and history. This year, artists have been asked to create work on themes of erasure of Nisenan heritage. This will also be the soft launch of Nevada County Arts Council's new program in collaboration with Nevada County, *Art in Public Spaces.* Learn more here and here, and we'll reach out with more details in the comming week.

Art by Jori Phillips - Opening Reception



Saturday, September 16,
3:00 - 5:00pm

St Joseph's Cultural Center
Grass Valley Museum
410 South Church St, Grass Valley

Jori Phillips, well known in Nevada County and beyond as a visual artist and comedienne, brings a new collection of art to the Grass Valley Museum. Jori Phillips is a multi-faceted artist. She's not only known for her visual creations but also for her comedic talents. Following a 50-state comedy tour, Phillips emerged as a humorist who used her unique perspective on life's oddities to entertain and provoke thought. Her humor often dances on the fringe of the bizarre, mirroring the peculiarity of her artwork.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the world to adapt, and Phillips channeled her creative energies into making doll-centric art during the lockdowns. Unable to perform in person, she immersed herself in the world of her characters, each meticulously crafted with her sewing skills honed from her artistic upbringing in British Columbia, Canada. These dolls became the embodiment of her artistic expression, each carrying a piece of her imaginative world. “Each piece holds a tangible and significant part of me. I’ve spent hundreds if not thousands of hours on the collection. They’re real characters in each doll, taking on a life of their own. I’m often told by viewers that they do in fact seem to be ‘alive’, which can be a little unsettling for some. I enjoy bringing them to life,” says Phillips.

Not a recent transplant, but just before her arrival to the area 9 years ago Phillips left an indelible mark on the art world with one of her most iconic works, the “Thesaurus Dress”. This unique masterpiece was a testament to her exceptional talent and creativity. Crafted entirely from pages of various thesauruses, it represented a fusion of language and fashion that blurred the lines between art and literature. Intriguingly, the “Thesaurus Dress” found its new home in *Ripley’s Believe It or Not*, a fitting tribute to the eccentricity of Phillips’ artistry. Her ability to transform the written word into wearable art showed the world her unconventional approach to textiles.

Her multi-disciplinary art journey expresses versatility and her ability to transform ordinary materials into extraordinary creations. From the “Thesaurus Dress” to her doll-centric artworks, as well as recently designing the costumes for Sierra Stages’ “The Moors” not to mention other productions in film she’s involved with, Jori Phillips weaves stories and magic through her textile work. Her return from the comedy tour marked a new chapter in her artistic career, one where her odd yet endearing perspective on life continues to enchant and intrigue audiences locally and beyond. Jori Phillips is more than an artist; she is a storyteller, a humorist, and a creative force to be reckoned with.

Come see her collection throughout the month of September at the Grass Valley Museum at 410 S. Church St. Wednesday through Saturday 12PM-3PM.

Vibeyard Trio

Sunday, September 17,
6:30pm

Wild Eye Pub
Grass Valley

A grease-tastic mix of funk, soul, reggae, jazz and improvised eclectica is about to go down at the Wild Eye Pub. Nevada County's groovingest new collective, Vibeyard Trio, is the hottest thing to hit Gold Country since the Pelton wheel.

Bassist Pancho Tomaselli and Guitarist/Vocalist JB Eckl are relative newcomers to the area, but they are no strangers to the top tier of the music world, having come up together through the funk, rock and Latin scenes of So. Cal. Their touring and producing credits include War, Santana, Tower of Power, George Lynch, Angelo Moore, Ozomatli, Buena Vista Social Club and many many more. Solidified with the addition of renowned drum ace, Tim Bulkley, this trio is oozing with breathtaking musicianship.

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events@

Nevada County Artist Lecture Series - Featuring Terry Baxter

Monday, September 18
1:30 - 3:30pm

Sierra College, Nevada County Campus
N12 Multi-Purpose Room
250 Sierra College Dr.

Grass Valley

Students and community members are invited to attend the Nevada County Artist Lecture Series featuring Terry Baxter, an artist and educator.

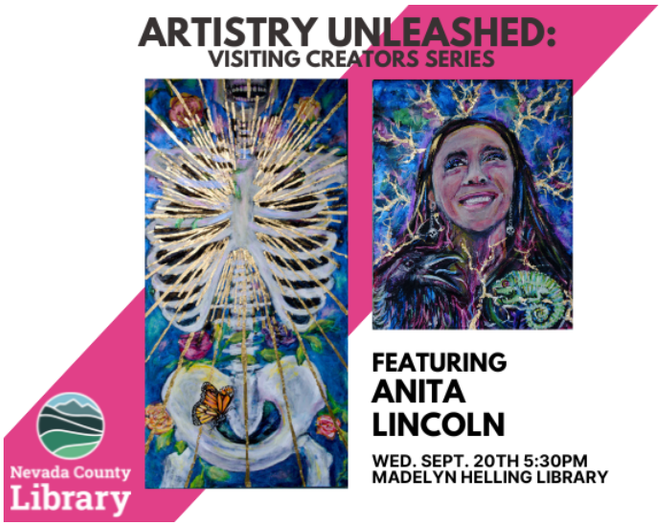
About Terry Baxter and His Process: In His Own Words

In my professional career I have had the privilege of being a classroom teacher (drawing/painting) in high schools and community colleges throughout California, and the bulk of that time happily at Nevada Union High School.

My work is usually a drawing or painting in pastels, charcoal, oil paint. Thematically, the work is normally an investigation of actual places through remembered emotions. The locations are real geographic places but the making of the work is a process of trying to understand my experience of that location, and not a portrait of that place. The place is a jumping off point, not the end.

Artistry Unleashed with Anita Lincoln

Wednesday, September 20, 5:30pm



Madelyn Helling Library 980 Helling Way, Nevada City

Nevada County Library will host an interactive, hands-on workshop led by local artist and teacher Anita Lincoln at the Madelyn Helling Library. Attendees of this free workshop for adults will create their own artwork which they can take home. This will be the first installment of an ongoing series of Library programs called “Artistry Unleashed: Visiting Creators Series.” These quarterly workshops will feature artists and creators teaching skills across a wide range of subjects and mediums.

For the first installment of Artistry Unleashed, Anita Lincoln will walk adult artists of all skill levels through her creative process. She will facilitate a playful art session using acrylic and metallic paints, gold leaf and adhesives, and other mediums. Born and raised in Nevada County, Anita Lincoln has worked for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, The Sacramento Children’s Museum, and has been a working artist and art teacher for over 25 years.

“I love innovative play, especially with adults who have a tendency to be more stagnant in their expectation of what art should be,” says Lincoln about her creative process and her plans for the workshop. “Bold, expressive art fun would be my goal. Creative play. Adults need this more than anyone.”

The event will be held outside in the Library’s amphitheater, weather permitting, and is designed for adults ages 18 and up. For a complete list of programs and services at the Nevada County Library visit the library's website at nevadacountyca.gov/library or call 530-265-7050.

KVMR Celtic Festival & Marketplace

Saturday, September 30 - October 1
10:00am - 10:00pm

The Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley

The Youth Arts Program will take place on the afternoon of September 29th.

First founded in 1996, the KVMR Celtic Festival includes eleven performance areas including five musical and six demonstration stages and a weekend-long youth arts instruction that has included Celtic music, magic, dance and songwriting.

Headliners this year include *The Elders*, *Talisk*, and *Alasdair Fraser with Natalie Haas & Friends.* For the full weekend schedule, information on the Youth Arts program, how to volunteer, and more. Check out their website.

Courtyard Celtic Session

Thursday, September 28th
5:00 - 9:00pm

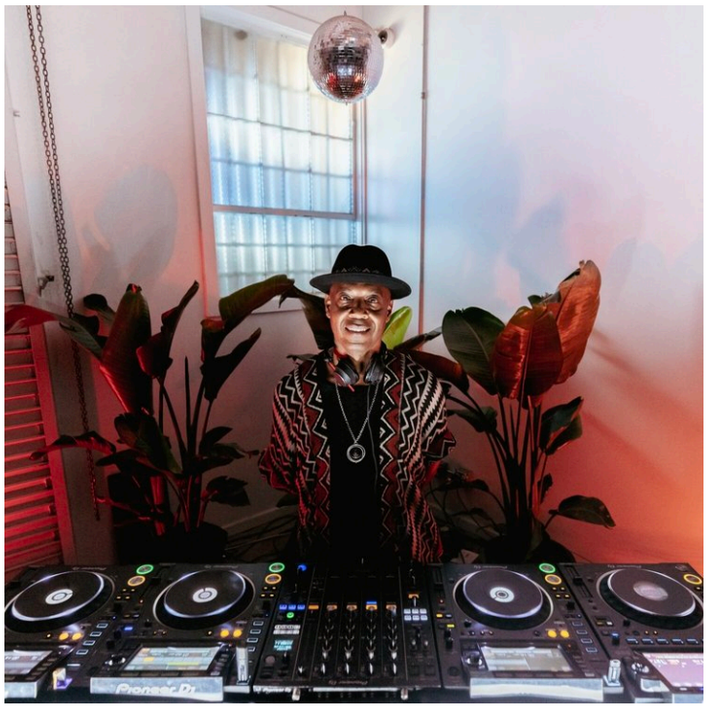
The National Exchange Hotel, Nevada City

Come for the music, stay for the magic!

Interactive celebration of Celtic music featuring locals and traveling musicians at the National's courtyard. A percentage of proceeds go to support KVMR and Celtic players.

The Stone House Presents:

Marques Wyatt & Maria Tambien



Saturday, September 23,
9:30pm - 2:00am

**107 Sacramento Street,
Nevada City**

MARQUES WYATT:
In the annals of dance music, DJ Marques Wyatt has earned his rightful spot in the upper echelons alongside the genre's brightest lights. Through his tireless efforts, both on the turntables and as the figurehead and promoter of some of the West coast's most stellar parties, including the seminal Deep LA, Marques has been instrumental in putting Los Angeles on the dance music map. He has given LA's dance scene the coveted credibility in the electronic music industry to rival the likes of New York and Miami.

He is one of the few DJ's that have managed to cross pollinate audiences and merge at least two generations of music fans on his dance floors. Thus, he is in demand at clubs, as well as on the festival circuit alike, stateside and abroad. Marques' unerring, knowledgeable selections are sure to stir up some emotions, he is known to turn huge dance floors into intimate ritual spaces.

MARIA TAMBIEN:
A veteran of dance floors near and afar, Maria Tambien fell in love with selecting and mixing during a remote rafting trip down the middle fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. Since then, she has been

focused on polishing her skills and drawing from her diverse cultural background to curate musical experiences that are steeped in traditional and folklore sounds - from her native South America, to her parents lands of Spain, Italy and the Middle East. Her interpretation of house and electronic dance music retains an edge and flavor that is her own while paying homage to the talented producers she showcases during her sets.

Doors 9:30pm
Restaurant Open: 5:00 - 10:00pm

Presales: $20 - $23
Door Price: $25

See you on the dancefloor!

Artists Spotlight: The Poetry Crashers

We sat down with recent *Upstate California Creative Corps* grantees - *The Poetry Crashers*, to talk about process, medium, collaboration, and the gifts of being human. Comprised of local poets, playwritghts, and performers The Poetry Crashers consists of members Alex Henderson, Julie Valin, Shellee Sepko, Chris Olander, Michael Clarity, Rhi Jenerate, and Shawn Odyssey. When not crashing together these poets are painters, musicians, philosophers, and most importantly - friends.

”As a group, our medium is language and sound. The written and spoken word are front and center in all of our projects but if you drill deeper into the gestalt of *The Poetry Crashers* you'll find an array of artistic expression that informs our writing and vice versa.”

Painting, photography, music, dance and sculptural art are all alive in the Crasher's work. For instance, Alex Henderson's "Sic Gloria Transit Mundi" an ice based mobile painting that pretended to be from a comet. It melted. C'est la vie.

The Poetry Crashers began in 2015 in one iteration and through the years shifted and evolved into their current crew of seven. When asked what inspires she short, quirky and quick witted reply is rose colored glasses and caffeine. But if you have the time to dig into what really makes the Crashers tick, you'll discover that their creative process is steeped in curiosity and the exciting opportunity to create some "thing" where there was once nothing.

For some, it's tough to get inspired all alone, and so they feed off of and become inspired by their collaborative and shared experiences. As a group, it is a true creative crash-collaboration, where they all come together with their own poetic and performing flair. Because they are equally invested in the outcome of what is being created, they pick up and play off of what is thrown into the hat and never neglect a single idea. The ultimate in improv esthetic, the Crashers never shy away from a “yes and…”

“Each of our ideas only grows and expands until it makes the group buzz with what we're creating, which only pushes us further.”

We asked The Poetry Crashers what they’re most proud of and of course their answer comes as no surprise, yet evocative as ever. “We are most proud of our Honorary Earthling Status (probationary, of course). Beyond intergalactic matters, we are proud to be made up of members that have been involved, deeply and enthusiastically, with our poetry and literary community for over 30 years. And we are truly proud to receive one of the Upstate California Creative Corps grants, and even more pleased that so many artists are getting compensated for the work of tickling humanity's third eye, as artmakers have been doing since the beginning of our time."

When asked what's up next, they were excited to share about the first installment of their Upstate Califoria Creative Corps project - Postcards from Earth, "a community-wide arts project that gives voice to our collective thoughts and hopes for our planet and the human experience. We seek to engage all corners of our community through postcard 'portals' stationed around our county, interactive workshops, open mics, and live Poetry Crashers performances."

The series kicks off with the Tilt Sessions, an open mic devoted to the changing seasons and the shifting relationship between Earth and humanity. Tilt Sessions will take place **September 22nd at the Wild Eye Pub** in Grass Valley where they will also unveil the very first postcard portal!

"At this event humans will have the opportunity to share their planetary prose not only on the microphone but with the intergalactic friends who inspired the creation of this project."

We can't wait to see you there!

CONSTITUTION DAYS 2023

Saturday, September 16

10:00am-5:00pm

Sunday, September 17
10:00am-12:00pm

Downtown Nevada City

The 56th Annual Constitution Day Parade will be held in the heart of historic Nevada City. A tradition since 1967, it is reported to be the oldest and largest Constitution observance in the western United States.The parade makes its way through downtown and includes marching bands, floats, antique autos, equestrians, politicians and the perennial favorite–the Famous Marching Presidents of Nevada City, a humorous but reverent depiction of each U.S. president.

The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution will offer living history demonstrations of Revolutionary War soldiers drilling and firing, drilling of kids with mock muskets, music by the California Consolidated Drum Band, and colonial life living history.

The reenactments take place at Pioneer Park in Nevada City from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am to 12:00pm on Sunday.

Schedule of Events:

Saturday
4:30-6:30pm
Open-Air Free Outdoor Concert by the Nevada County Concert Band on Pine Street, Downtown Nevada City

Bring Your Own Chair – a limited number of chairs are provided, but it's highly encouraged to bring your own, so you don't miss out.

Sunday
Reenactment of the Signing of the U.S. Constitution, Broad and Pine streets, 1:30pm

56th Annual Constitution Day Parade – Broad Street, Historic Downtown Nevada City, 2:00pm

31st Annual 49er Rotary Club Gold Country Duck Race, On Deer Creek, 101 Boulder Street.
12:00 - 3:30pm

Since our founding, civil rights advocates have relied on the Constitution in their campaign for equality. Perhaps the most influential advocate for equality, Martin Luther King, Jr., repeatedly referenced the document in his addresses. In his "Mountaintop speech," King said that when people were "sitting in" at lunch counters to protest segregation, "they were really standing up for the best in the American dream and taking the whole nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution." These words remind us that our constitutional tradition is one of fighting for freedom from oppressive and unjust laws. They affirm that the document is, as he later said, a "promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The Constitution is more than a document laying out the structure of our government. The Constitution is a guiding light for America's founding principles of liberty and individual rights. Constitution Day isn't about a 200-plus-year-old piece of parchment; it's about the principles and ideals enshrined in that document.

"Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence and deem them […] too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment. I know that age well; I belonged to it and labored with it. It deserved well of its country. It was like the present, but without the experience of the present. […] I am certainly not an

advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions…But I know also that laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind…We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him as a boy, as civilized society to remain under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

-Thomas Jefferson, 1816

A Night of Grief and Mystery

Thursday, September 21
7:30pm - 9:30pm

The Miners Foundry, Nevada City

A Night of Grief & Mystery combines stories and observations by author/culture activist Stephen Jenkinson, drawn from his decades of work in palliative care, with original songs/sonics by recording artist Gregory Hoskins.

These two Canadian artists have been exploring the intersection of their work for 8 years, across 3 continents, in 3 recordings and 2 short films. They come to the road now in 2023 as they did in the beginning: the two of them, a singer and a storyteller, out into the mystery days.

We are looking for local volunteers to join the welcoming committee: to help with outreach and checking guests in the night of. Interested, please contact nathalie@orphanwisdom.com.

Concerts for Turbulent Times they surely are. Not poets, maybe, but the evenings are poetic. The Nights are musical and grave and raucous and stilling, which probably means they are theatrical. Love letters to life are written and read aloud. There's some boldness in them. They have that tone. These nights have the mark of our time upon them, and they're timely, urgent, alert, steeped in mortal mystery. They're quixotic. They have swagger. What would you call such a thing? They called it Nights of Grief & Mystery.

Tickets: $30 – $45

Sierra Stages Presents:

The Drowning Girls

September 21 - October 14

St Joseph's Cultural Center
410 South Church Street, Grass Valley

Mayhem and misogyny lead to murder in this fierce play based on a true-life English crime story. Three women play all of the characters including the eponymous drowning girls—all married to the same man, all meeting the same fate. This haunting ghost story is a fascinating exploration of marriage and manipulation in Victorian England.

The Drowning Girls premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects on March 6, 2008, as part of the Enbridge play Rites Festival of New Canadian Plays.

Starring: Trish Adair, Kate Haight, and Alexis Zendejas

Written by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson & Daniela Vlaskalic

Directed by Sharon Winegar

For tickets and more information visit their website.

The Drowning Girls - Based on a True Crime

"The Brides in the Bath Murders"

On August 13, 1915, George Joseph Smith was hanged for the murders of Bessie Williams, Alice Smith and Margaret Lloyd. Smith had used assumed various names to court the women, marry them, and drown them in bathtubs, while giving the appearance that they had died accidentally and that he was a grieving husband.

The case became known as “The Brides in the Bath Murders” and the investigation and trial of Smith set a precedent in the English justice system. A significant issue in the prosecution’s case concerned the method that Smith used to drown the women because there were no signs or sounds of struggle. No one was quite sure how he had done it, and speculation even went to the possibility of hypnosis as a method, and that Smith was a real life Svengali.

The story of Smith and the women he murdered has been written about and dramatized several times since it came to the public’s attention. The play by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson, and Daniela Vlaskalic was written and first performed in 1999, re-written for a production at Alberta Theatre Projects in 2008.

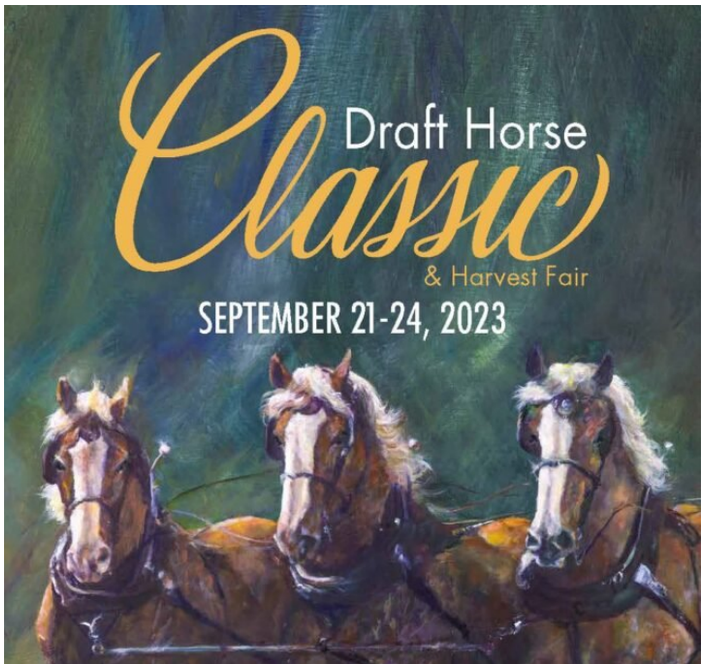
- writing credit to Vertigo Theatre in Alberta, Canada.

Draft Horse Classic

Gates Open:
Thursday 21 & Friday 22 – 3:00 pm

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 – 9:00 am

Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley



Specialty Acts
The show never stops at the Classic! In between classes an array of specialty acts will entertain Draft Horse Classic fans while the next group of Gentle Giants is getting ready for their class. This year's entertainment lineup includes Felix Santana riding Romano; the Andalusian Stallion, California Cowgirls Drill Team, Olympius Dream Team (Vaulters), Bobby Kerr Mustangs and more.

Harvest Fair
In between the Draft Horse

performances, the Harvest Fair is bustling with activity. The Harvest Fair is an experience that can be enjoyed by kids and adults – and admission is free. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the barns and meet the horses, enjoy delicious food and beverages, shop from the many vendors selling wares, check out the art show and exhibits, or sit and enjoy musical entertainment. Activities are ongoing at the Fairgrounds during the Classic.

Western Trade Show

During the Classic, throughout the Fairgrounds, a multitude of vendors display their goods at the Western Trade Show. It is here that you can find handmade jewelry, Draft Horse memorabilia, western wear, handmade wooden toys, handmade soaps, English toffee, handmade rustic wooden frames from reclaimed wood, leather purses, belts, wallets, art, lawn ornaments, and western home decor. A selection that would take time and travel to find elsewhere is all displayed in one area for your shopping convenience.

A Day of Stories

Sunday, September 30,
9:00am - 1:00pm

**Commercial Street,
Nevada City**

Join Nevada County Community Action Team for a family-friendly event where local artists will share stories of their personal journeys though difficulties as they demonstrate their creative processes.

Everyone has a story–many of which are trauma-based. It's often through art that folks find a path to self-acceptance and joy, as well as a better understanding of themselves and others.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the social ties that accompany a sense of belonging are a protective factor helping manage stress. When we feel we have support and are not alone, we are more resilient, often coping more effectively with difficult times in our lives.

We invite kids to join us in fun children's activities where they can create their own art with non-toxic playdough and paints!

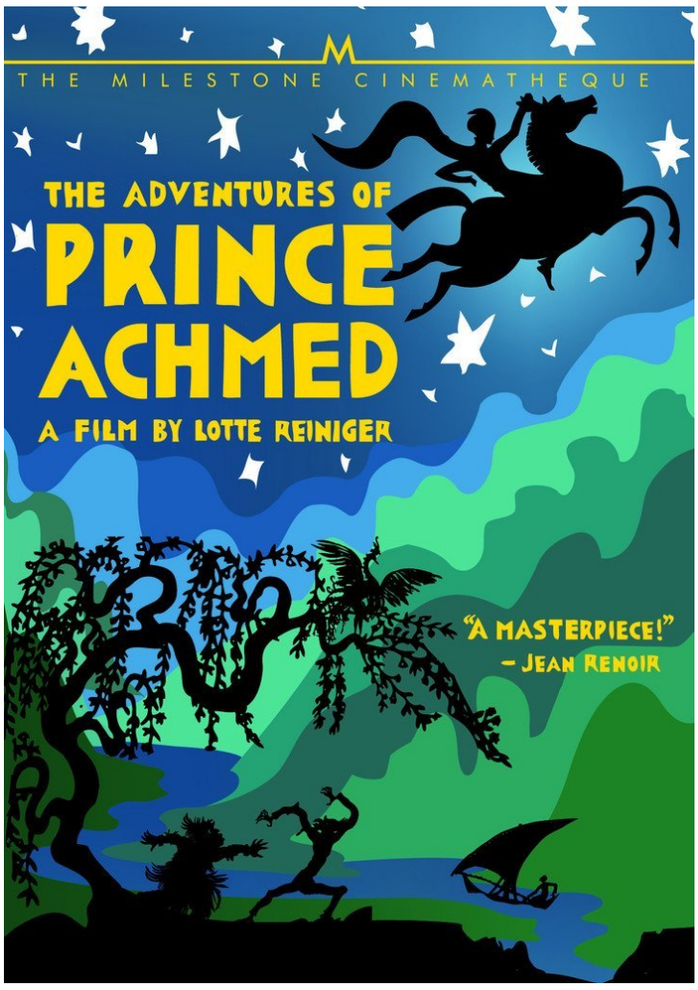
If you are interested in presenting or having a table at this community event they are still looking for visual, performing, craft, photography, and written word artists. Come show your work and promote yourself.

Send an email to nccat530@gmail.com or call 530-955-0074.

The Nevada City Film Festival presents:

The Adventures of Prince Achmed

Friday, October 6, 7:00pm



Nevada Theatre
401 Broad Street,
Nevada City

This is the world premiere of composer and multi-instrumentalist Gyan Riley's original live score to one of the most iconic and visually enchanting films of all time.

The Adventures of Prince Achmed premiered to German audiences in 1926, where it was hailed as the first full-length animated film. Taken from the tales known as the Arabian Nights, the film tells the story of a young prince tricked by a wicked sorcerer into mounting a magical, flying horse for a direct course to his own demise. Soaring headlong into a series of wondrous adventures, and joining forces with the likes of Aladdin and a fabled witch, the prince evades his fate by saving a beautiful princess and doing battle with the sorcerer's army of monsters.

Created by German filmmaker Lotte Reiniger, who pioneered the technique of silhouette animation – intricate cut-out shadow puppets shot frame-by-frame against thin sheets of lead – a method she used to create over 40 fairy-tale films. This cinematic treasure has been beautifully restored with color tinting.

Riley, who grew up in Nevada County, has been called by the New York Times "a one-man American-music machine, amicably ranging across the fields of jazz, world music, and post-minimalism." He has toured internationally both as a soloist and with artists such as Julian Lage, Bill Frisell, his father Terry Riley, and Grammy-winning singer Arooj Aftab. Riley has released six albums and dozens of collaborative recordings. He has performed with Lou Reed, the San Francisco Symphony, John Zorn, Kronos Quartet, and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, to name a few. Recently he was featured as a performer and composer for two acclaimed PBS documentary series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick: *Hemingway,* and *The U.S. and the Holocaust*. He is currently engaged as the 2023 composer in residence at the Lou Harrison House in Joshua Tree.

"I am excited about this event, especially having it at the historic Nevada Theater. And I'm not sure I've ever played there...what an honor!"

Thrilling, sensuous and dazzling, Prince Achmed will amaze and enthrall audiences of all ages.

ART MOVES MOUNTAINS
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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