

## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### Young pianist happy to be home again

It's not that Sanjay Mody doesn't love Paris. Who wouldn't enjoy going to the Louvre or attending concerts whenever you feel like it? Culture is everywhere but after nearly a year away from his Birmingham home, the young pianist longs to spend time with his friends. Mody is eager to tell them all about his adventures. He has plenty of stories about preparing for the entrance exam to the Paris National Superior Conservatory of Music after studying since June with graduate-level piano professor Marie-Francoise Bucquet. In March, Mody passed with flying colors, placing first among 200 applicants.

The 16-year-old returned to Birmingham at the beginning of April for a four-week stay. He's wasting no time reacquainting himself with students at the Rooper School in Birmingham and Schoolcraft College in Livonia where he studied piano from the age of 9 with Donald Morelock. Before leaving, Mody will perform a Chopin concerto with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, April 27.

"I'm sad about returning," said Mody. "I really miss everyone. You can get over a lot of things but that's really hard. I don't really speak French well. All my classes will be in French starting in September but I'm not worried. Music is an international language and my piano instructors speak English very well."

"I just wish I had all my friends here over there. They've asked me if I regretted moving. I said, 'no because I'm going to get to visit more.'"



**In concert:** Sanjay Mody will perform Frederic Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E minor for piano and orchestra.

Traveling has become a way of life for Mody who for the past six summers has studied in Russia though a piano institute organized by Schoolcraft College. In fact, Mody won first place in the International Shostakovich Competition, an educational element of the institute, in St. Petersburg in 2001.

"Paris, musically speaking, is very different from Russia," said Mody. "There are so many different

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### Festival serves up films for reflection

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
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What would have happened if Hitler had won the war? David Magidson throws out the premise of *It Happened Here*, an underground classic in the fourth annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival presented by the Jewish Community Center April 28 to May 8.

It's half past nine on a Tuesday morning and Magidson, between bites of breakfast, wonders as film director Kevin Brownlow did, what the fate of Jews would have been in England where the movie takes place. He pauses to reflect.

As festival director, Magidson and a committee, spent hundreds of hours reviewing more than 100 films for the thought-provoking content found in Brownlow's film that took six years to

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David Magidson  
Festival director

make in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Brownlow allows British fascists to share their views of the Jews, sounding warning bells nearly two decades after World War II.

Of the 25 films showing at theaters in Birmingham, Commerce Township and Ann Arbor, the majority deal with historical events and the struggles of Jewish people in Europe and the U.S.

Magidson begins to list the highlights of the festival — *One of the Hollywood Ten* stars Jeff Goldblum as Herbert Biberman in a fictionalized feature about the period in American artistic/political history when writers were blacklisted.

"These are well-made movies about important issues. I don't think there's a bad movie in the bunch," said Magidson, a Bloomfield Township resident. "It's difficult to find 25 movies for general entertainment let alone to find 25 good Jewish movies."

#### Jewish Film Festival

- **When:** Sunday, April 28 to Wednesday, May 8
- **Where:** United Artists Theatres, 14 Mile Road at Haggerty, Commerce Township; Birmingham 8 Theatre on Old Woodward Avenue south of Maple, Birmingham, and the Michigan Theatre 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
- **Tickets:** \$8, \$7 seniors, festival pass for all movies \$89, \$79 seniors, call (248) 788-2900



Now playing: "One of the Hollywood Ten" (above), "The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton" (below), and "Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg" (film strip left to right), "The Times of Harvey Milk," "Hester Street," and "To Be or Not to Be" are highlights of the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival.

#### Guest speakers

Not content to send audiences home thinking about what they've seen, the film festival committee has invited guest speakers such as U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) who brings contemporary issues such as homosexuality to the forefront. Frank will answer questions after showings of *Let's Get Frank*, a film currently in production and featuring him as one of the openly gay politicians who are Jewish, and *The Times of Harvey Milk*, an Oscar winning documentary. The film chronicles the life and murder of Milk, a San Francisco supervisor who was gay and Jewish, and Mayor George Moscone of San Francisco. Filmmaker Bart Ewly will lend the discussion along with Frank.

Producer/director Monique Schwarz is traveling from Australia to talk about *Mamadrama* a documentary

that challenges the way Jewish mothers are portrayed in film. The film dispenses negative stereotypes of Jewish mothers as controlling, manipulative and guilt inducing.

Magidson expects movies like these to draw even larger crowds than last year. In anticipation of the demand to see *In Search of Peace Part One: 1948-1967* and other films in the festival, the committee expanded the number of venues from one to three. *In Search of Peace* brings the history of the founding and defending of Israel to life. Narrated by Michael Douglas, the film is a timely documentary in light of the current conflict in the Middle East.

*The Power of Good: Nicholas Winton* is sure to attract hundreds of viewers as well. The documentary about an Englishman, who saved 679

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## EXHIBIT

### Farmington Festival of the Arts

**What:** Art exhibit and performances, demonstrations and music  
**When:** Sunday, April 28, through Sunday, May 5  
**Where:** William B. Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile, in Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Starry Night Gala opening on Saturday, April 27; Mighty Mighty Swing Kings in concert May 4. For information,

BY JONI HUBBARD  
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Connie Lucas projected her dreams of a far-off land onto canvases, then found herself in a dream-come-true, winning the Farmington Artists Club's Spring 2002 juried exhibition.

Held April 10 in conjunction with the Farmington Artists Council at the William B. Costick Center in Farmington Hills, the event drew 259 entries from artists from all over the metropolitan area. Veteran artist Jim Pujowski spent 90 minutes and used

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Jim Pujowski  
Judge

a life-time of experience to judge the show.

He named Lucas' *I dream of Africa* Best of Show. Other awards went to Regina Dunno-2nd place (*Western Dreamer*/pastel), Julia McGrath-3rd

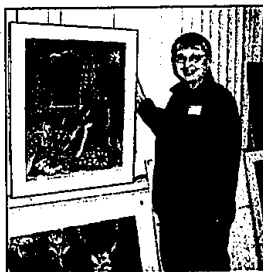
place (*Glory Bel*/watercolor), Martha Barnes-4th place (*Wildflowers*/acrylic) and Jim Patterson-Grumbacher Award for best use of color (*Cathedral Shadows*/watercolor).

"You look for honesty first of all," Pujowski said after awarding the top prizes, "somebody true to their craft, whatever their medium."

Lucas, a Canton resident, used watercolor to combine elements of reality and fantasy in a bright array.

"The technical achievement is just outstanding. I like the idea, I like the

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Artist's dream: In juried competition, Connie Lucas earned first place for her watercolor "I Dream of Africa."