

Sunday, June 16, 2002

Fog, mist allow for better photographs in the forest

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTA NAGLER

I have always loved photographing in the forest. No better place exists to get truly lost in your photography than among the splendor of trees and woods.

Forests have personalities all their own that can change quickly and dramatically. Fog and mist will produce a mood in your pictures quite different than that of a bright, sunny day.

The same stand of trees will obviously convey different feelings when etched by a blanket of snow or enveloped in a rainbow of fallen leaves.

Trees and forests are ever changing and you and your camera have tremendous opportunities to record these magic moments on film.

Here are some tips to help you make better photographs in the forest.

For good composition, concentrate in one of two areas — patterns or a dominate point. I have found that patterns of trees work well in a picture such as an even row of aspens contrasted against the dark interior of the forest. A dominate point of interest can be an unusually shaped tree, a predominant tree trunk in the foreground framing trees behind, or a cluster of foliage on an individ-

al branch. Remember to keep things simple and try to add impact to your shots.

As always, pay close attention to depth-of-field. Most likely, you'll want everything sharp from front to back, so be sure to use a small aperture and your depth-of-field scale on the lens barrel. And because it's usually darker in the woods, using a small aperture (necessitating a longer shutter speed for correct exposure) will likely require a tripod.

Forests provide many other photo opportunities. Look closely for that pattern of moss on a fallen log, a bouquet of intimate wildflowers or a patch of fallen leaves. Or how about that delicate stream winding through the forest, tumbling over rocks making miniature waterfalls?

Try looking straight up at a grouping of towering trees through a wide angle lens. The trees will appear to converge, producing a truly striking picture.

You've heard the expression, "You can't see the forest for the trees." In your photography, you'll easily see the forest through the trees...and capture it all on film, too.

Monta Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



Composed: Excellent photographer, Bo Dimitroff, used careful composition and exposure to produce this mossy tree picture in Charleston, S.C.

Swedish event



Midsummer celebration: The Swedish Club's Midsummer Festival on Saturday, June 22 features Swedish pancakes with lingonberries and sausage for breakfast, maypole raising, folk dancing and singing by the Scandia (pictured) and Arpi choruses and children's games. Breakfast will be served 9:30-11 a.m. followed by maypole raising, folk dancing and choral performances at noon with a buffet dinner served 1 p.m. at the club, 22398 Ruth St. at Freedom Road in Farmington Hills. Call (734) 421-6297 for more information.

By KEELY KALESKI

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Imagination, fantasy, oohs and ahhs — Cirque du Soleil opening Thursday, June 20 at the Palace of Auburn Hills has all of this and more.

"It's a unique experience," said Benoit Jutras, composer, and musical director. "It has the sensibility of ballet or of a classical music concert, and the excitement and thrills of seeing people doing dangerous stuff."

Titled *Quidam* ("key-dam"), a Latin word for an anonymous passer-by, a solitary figure lingering on a street corner, a person rushing past, living lost amidst the crowd, this Cirque du Soleil presentation is more somber than others, but just as exciting.

"We're not a circus, opera or a ballet, we're a little bit of all those things and more," said Jamine Khalil, a show spokeswoman. "We offer two hours of entertainment will touch you in some way. I've seen people laughing and crying."

Founded in 1984 in Quebec, Cirque du Soleil features a mix of circus arts, street entertainment, outrageous costumes, magical lighting and original music. A lot

Cirque du Soleil — *Quidam*
When: Opens 8 p.m. Thursday, June 20.

Where: Under the Grand Chapiteau at (in the parking lot) of the Palace of Auburn Hills The Palace of Auburn Hills

Performances: 8 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. No performances on Monday for a minimum of three weeks.

Tickets: \$45-\$65 adults, \$3.150-\$45.50 children, Students 13-17 and senior citizens age 65 and older \$40.50-\$58.50, call (800) 678-5440

of people saw Cirque du Soleil for the first time during the Academy Awards.

"We've been around for 18 years and seen by 33 million people, but in three minutes we were seen by a billion people," said Khalil. "If you think what you saw on TV was great, you should come see the show. You'll get what you saw times 100. It should blow you away."

Writing music to set the mood for the cast of performers includ-

ing trapeze artists, juggling, acrobats, and clowns is a challenging task.

"All of the creators meet two years before the premier," said Jutras. "We adapt the music to fit the choreography and acrobatics. The music has to make sense — there are no preconceived ideas. I can go where I want to go with the music."

In *Quidam*, Jutras expresses the coldness and hardness of the big city with metallic sounds, juxtaposed against the fragility of a young girl's voice and strength of a man's voice. The music has to complement what people are seeing on stage.

"There's a human feeling in the show that has to be present," said Jutras. "You're limited to pieces that are 6-10 minutes. You have to write sections, and be ready to improvise if the juggler drops a ball, you have to follow the show, and make the audience think that it's the way the music supposed to be. That's challenge."

Jutras' music is worldly combining a variety of musical styles, rhythms and influences including French, German and Spanish. "It came naturally," he said. "There are a lot of strings,

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