

Moving pictures for moving pictures

By CHARLES BEACHAM

On any given day of the year, visitors to Meyer Gallery in Park City can expect to be welcomed by Jackson the "Art Dog," a friendly yellow labrador who frequents the gallery with his owner, Tom Cushman.

Jackson is amicable enough, following patrons around as they peruse the contemporary paintings and sculptures displayed in the gallery, pausing with them as a particular work catches their eye and looking up at them with an inquisitive gaze as if to say, "Do you like this one? It's a very nice piece."

On any given day, visitors of Meyer Gallery might expect to meet Jackson, unless of course that visit falls during the 10 days of the Sundance Film Festival.

Meyer is one of many art galleries in Park City that completely closes shop during Sundance. Though the gallery ceases to be home to works of fine art, the business continues to make a great deal of money from the festival, as sponsors from all over the world rent facilities from local store owners and create temporary bases of operation.

Tom Cushman, director of Meyer Gallery and Jackson's owner, said though the gallery will be the temporary home of Nintendo for the second year in a row, they haven't always been in the business of renting out their space.

"We were one of the last galleries to hold out and not move out, but sales have continued to decrease during the festival and the sponsors really make it worth our while," Cushman said.

He said it is nearly impossible for the gallery to sell enough art to cover the revenue that is gained from renting out the space for the 10 days.

Built in the 1890s, the building was originally home to the First National Bank of Utah and is complete with vintage vaults. Though the second floor is not original to the space, the extra-wide staircase adds an almost regal quality to the entryway.

Cushman said sponsors pay generously for the space and cover the cost of moving all the art and furniture in and out of the gallery before and after the festival.

For Cushman, the 10 days of the Film Festival are an exciting time. Not only does he get a mini post-new year vacation,



Photo by Kaye Nelson

Some art galleries in Park City decide to rent their space to sponsors, while some stay open to meet new people and build a bigger clientele.

Celebrity watch

The Sundance Film Festival is taking place through Saturday at various venues in Park City, Salt Lake City and the Sundance ski resort. Celebrities come to Utah to see films, but more importantly, to be seen. If you go to the festival and are lucky enough to get a photo of you with a celeb, send it to us - you might end up in the Friday 411, thus giving you and your celeb friend even more notoriety. Photos need to be at least 1 MB have a caption explaining who is in the photo and include the photographer's name. Also include your name, major, hometown and state. Send photos to Friday411@gmail.com by Wednesday at 4 p.m.

but he gets to go see brand new films and immediately receives feedback from directors and actors.

In addition to Meyer Gallery, other galleries including Old Towne Gallery and Montgomery Lee Fine Art will also rent out their spaces.

According to Colby Larsen, owner of Old Towne Gallery, some 70 business along historical Main Street follow suit each year.

Not every business on Main Street shuts down for the festival. Some owners, like Timm Hilty, actually throw the doors open and put on a show. Hilty's gallery, Silver Queen Fine Art, is home to some of the high desert's most progressive and edgy works of art and his artists draw in clientele from all over the world, making it a hot

spot during Sundance.

While many galleries close down, Hilty views Sundance as a networking opportunity and a chance to make new friends. Every January, the Silver Queen team hosts the unofficial opening social for the festival's most prestigious guests. These yearly theme shows are so widely popular that guest lists are usually closed weeks in advance of the film festival. Hilty's train of thought is that this experience is well worth passing up a paycheck.

"On a bad year we could rent this place for 50-grand, on a good year \$75,000 to \$100,000, but who wants to do that when you could have a party?" Hilty said.

For Hilty, owning an art gallery in Park City isn't just about making money, he truly

loves the experience of meeting new people and playing host to the festival's patrons. Through his themed shows, Hilty has made friends with reporters from many media outlets and now his space has become a popular interview spot. Though he doesn't make a habit of star watching, Hilty is proud of the list of celebrity guests who have visited his gallery, which includes hip-hop musician 50 Cent and actor Ryan Reynolds.

"We have success all year round, but it seems like in those 10 days we meet a clientele that supports us all year round," Hilty said. "We kind of sell things that fit in that crowd, that niche that's kind of urban. We find that the people we meet during Sundance may not come through the door and spend \$20,000 at one of our shows, but they shop with us all year round."

Opera students take 1st in national competition

By CHARLES BEACHAM

Every fall for the last four years, universities from all over the nation bid for the opportunity to compete in the National Opera Association's Collegiate Opera Scenes competition. This year BYU was not only chosen to compete, but took first place in both divisions of the competition.

Lawrence Vincent, professor of vocal performance at BYU, shared a little about the process of being invited to the competition. Preparation began in the fall long before the NOA held its convention in Memphis, Tenn., on Jan. 5. College opera departments submitted DVDs to be reviewed, Vincent said, and BYU was one of five colleges invited to compete in both divisions.

According to this year's competition guidelines, schools wishing to compete had to prepare an 8 to 10-minute operatic scene and submit a video recording. Of the many schools that submitted applications, only 10 were chosen to perform their scene live at the convention. Schools are allowed to apply to either or both of two divisions; Division I for performers between the ages of 18 and 23, made up of primarily undergraduate students; Division II for graduate students 23 and older.

Under Vincent's direction, BYU undergraduates George Hnatiuk and Keri Costello and graduates Sarah Maxwell, Ross Coughanour, Joseph Olson, Brandtley Henderson and Emily Workman prepared scenes for their respective divisions. Hnatiuk and Costello competed with a scene from Mozart's "Le nozze di Figaro," and the graduate students performed Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte."

Vincent said the students

were excited to be invited and they had worked very hard for the opportunity to compete. The final decisions and invitations to the convention weren't issued until the second week of December, so they had to sacrifice a few days of their winter break to return to Provo for rehearsals.

The students' hard work paid off — both groups won first in their respective divisions and were awarded a workshop with well-known opera directors Richard Crittendon and Elizabeth Vrenios.

One of the performers, Joseph Olson, said that the experience was extremely rewarding.

"I enjoyed spending time with the group; we've got a great group," Olson said.

Apart from the time he spent with his fellow BYU performers, Olson also enjoyed listening to the other singers, he said. He was also able to attend a presentation by one of his favorite living composers.

A second-year master student of vocal performance who hails from Valley Stream, N.Y., Olson said that he's always loved singing.

When asked about the group's preparation entering the competition, Olson attributed a good deal of the group's success to its director. Olson talked about Vincent's experience as an opera singer in Vienna, Austria and Germany stating many of his friends who have gone on to graduate still attribute their success to Vincent's talent and passion.

"I do think we have a great program," Olson said. "Our director, Dr. Vincent, is world class."

The competition isn't something that Olson and will soon forget. This is the first time in the history of the convention that one school has swept both divisions.

"It's an honor," Olson said.

New book details David O. McKay's missionary journey

By EMMA JOHNSON

President David O. McKay died in 1970, when Reid Neilson was just a boy. But Neilson said he feels like President McKay is his friend.

In Neilson's new book, "To the Peripheries of Mormondom: The Apostolic Around-the-World Journey of David O. McKay," he writes of President McKay's year-long mission from 1920-1921.

"It's a combination of my two favorite things: travel and the Church," Neilson said.

The LDS Church today has become an international presence, largely because of missionary work and humanitarian work in other countries. However, this hasn't always been so. "The Peripheries of Mormondom" is about the early decades of the Church, when members were few and missionaries struggled to find converts abroad.

The book is an annotation of Hugh J. Cannon's personal journals and accounts of his mission alongside President McKay.

"Keeping a journal is so important, even today," Neilson said. "The scriptures haven't always been scriptures; they started out as personal record. Our journals we keep could become the record of our dispensation."

Neilson said he is especially thankful for Hugh J. Cannon's record keeping, which not only tells the story of their apostolic mission around the world, but helps members today know the deceased prophet.

"I look forward to meeting David O. McKay someday," Neilson said. "I have a long list of questions I am going to ask him."

As The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has become more popular in the media this past year, "To the Peripheries of Mormondom" is sure to attract readers who are interested in how the LDS Church came to be.

Linda Manning, the market-

ing manager of the University of Utah press, wrote in an email about the nation's attention on Mormon culture.

"I think as more attention is brought to Mormon culture and more Americans are curious and want to learn more about it, there will definitely be more interest in books that deal with Mormon culture," Manning said.

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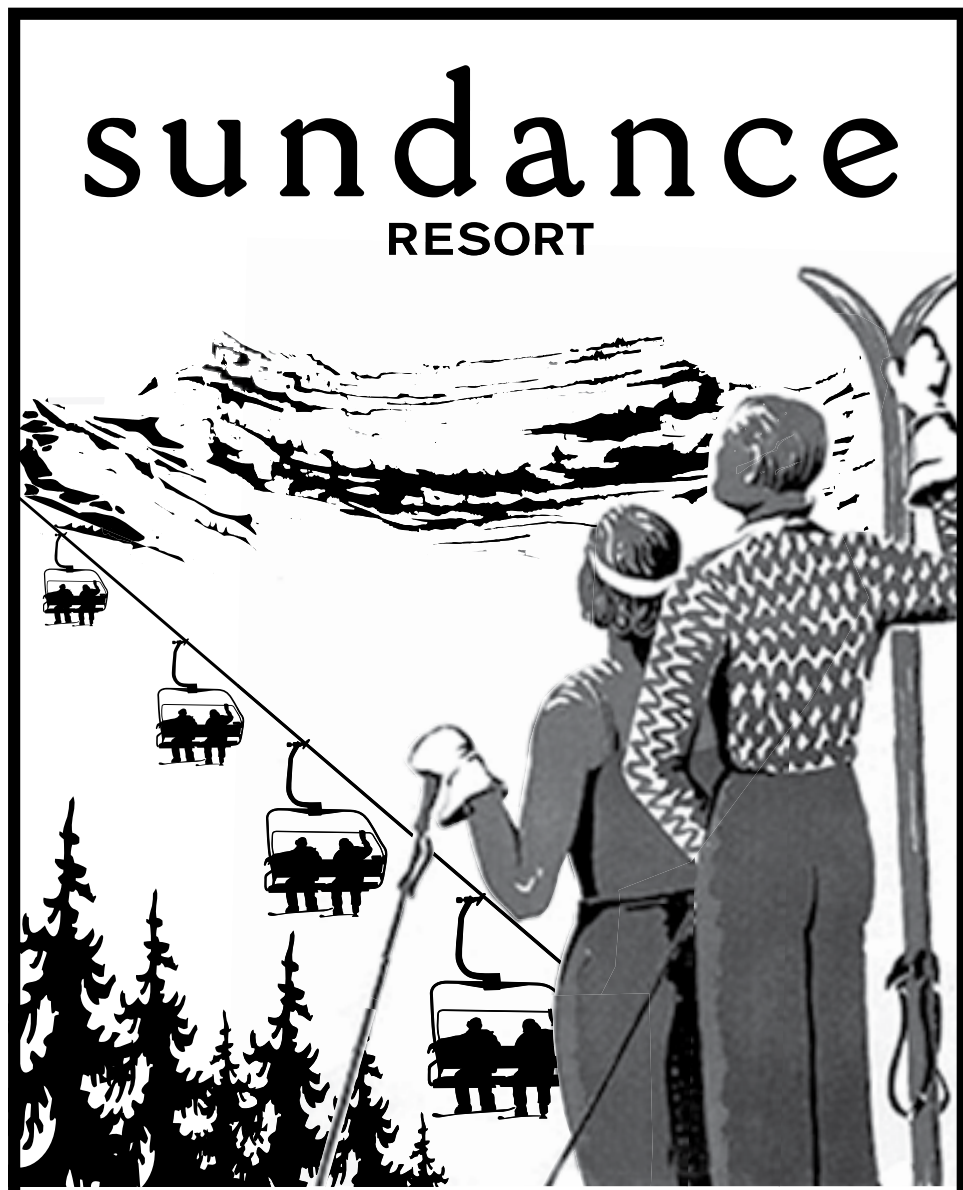
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