

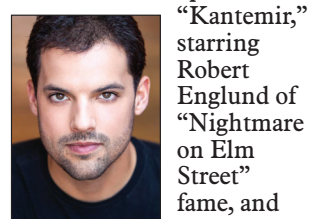
Andy Vineberg
Not that you asked

Undead headed for Bucks

Area filmmaker Ben Samuels, who recently worked with Robert Englund, is holding auditions this week for his next film, a Bucks County-set zombie thriller.

The odds are long — only slightly better, perhaps, than surviving a real-life zombie attack — but aspiring area actors have the chance this week to audition for a zombie thriller directed by a man who has worked with one of the most iconic performers in the history of horror films.

Doylestown native Ben Samuels' most recent movie was the supernatural



Ben Samuels starring Robert Englund of "Nightmare on Elm Street" fame, and now the promising young filmmaker is holding local auditions for his next project: a Bucks County-set chiller that takes place at the start of a zombie apocalypse.

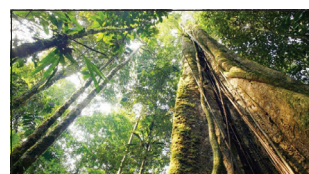
Shooting for "6:15" will begin in this area in August. Only the lead (an up-and-comer Samuels predicts will be a star) has been cast; the other three primary characters, 5 supporting roles and 11 smaller parts will be chosen from auditions taking place Wednesday in New York City and Thursday at the InterAct Theatre Company in Philadelphia (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and at Bobby Simone's restaurant in Doylestown (3 to 5 p.m.).

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FYI

On Origins

The first Earth Day was celebrated in America on April 22, 1970, with 20 million people taking to the streets to protest the industrial revolution.



By the Numbers

Tropical rainforests only cover about 6 percent of the Earth's surface but are home to more than half the world's total plant and animal species.

Quotable

"People from a planet without flowers would think we must be mad with joy the whole time to have such things about us."

— **Iris Murdoch**, British author and philosopher (1919–1999)



Prime Coverage

The Pacific Ocean, the world's largest water body, occupies a third of the Earth's surface.

Fresh works fill the New Hope Arts Center for "Sculpture New Hope 2014."

Life
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TUESDAY
APRIL 22, 2014



"Augie Knocker," bronze, by Derek Bernstein



"Less is More," ceramic, by Winifred Weiss



"Size 25 Slipper," spalted maple, by Kevin Goodspeed



An untitled work from 1997 by Tom Galbraith, in box elder, bondo and paint

Forms with a lot of substance

By **GWEN SHRIFT**
STAFF WRITER

The New Hope Arts Center continues to lure artists never previously exhibited there, this time for its annual sculpture show on view through May 17.

It also pays tribute to a familiar name in a posthumous exhibit of two works by Tom Galbraith from 1997.

Almost half of the exhibit is populated by artists new to the setting, whose works were chosen by two Philadelphia sculptors, Darla Jackson and Scot Kaylor. Between newcomers and old favorites, the resulting show is by turns fanciful, grim, virtuosic, eerie, nostalgic, beguiling or simply camp.

Among the most alluring works is Mark Pettegrew's "Chrysalis," which persuades many who behold it, including this writer, into believing it is a giant seashell or a cleverly wrought piece of pale-brown alabaster.

Instead, Pettegrew devised an upward-springing, delicate, ridged form from steel, plaster and encaustic, which is wax-based. The effect is of a living creature, or at least a recent living presence.

In a medium that inherently suggests neither, Jonathan Hertzell nevertheless conveys turmoil and release in two bronze-and-glass pieces: "Gathering Water" and "Piper." The contrast between craggy metal and sparkling glass is enticing, and slightly dangerous.

Like Hertzell, John Mathews combines glass and metal, but in a smooth and shiny style. "Tonal Embrace," a flame-like glass spiral entwined in steel rods, is a ballet of elements that are hard, and also difficult.

Danger and conflict of a legendary kind enlivens Eric Schultz's energetic composition "St. Mike and Luc," a depiction of St. Michael defeating Lucifer.



"Vita," salvaged timbers, by Edward Murphy

See **FORMS**, Page D2

Don't meddle in office affair



Dear Abby: I manage a group of 15 employees. A few months ago, I hired the wife of an old friend. Until now, she has been a great employee, but recently, she and a male coworker have been taking lunches and breaks together in a way that leads me to believe they are flirting or have already crossed the line.

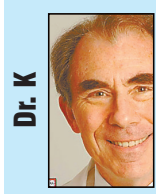
Because we have a small group, I worry about how this will affect my team, who know she's married. I also feel bad for the husband, who is a very caring and kind man.

As a manager, I don't think I can say anything unless their liaison interferes with their work performance. But I hate to watch this progress and see people end up hurt. What can I do?

— **Management Decision**

Dear Management: Unless the flirtation becomes a distraction for "the team," you should stay out of it. Much as you might like to intervene, your friend's wife and this coworker are adults and responsible for their own behavior.

Options to reduce risk of breast cancer



Dear Dr. K: My mother had breast cancer, so I believe I'm at higher risk than

are most women. Should I take medication to prevent breast cancer?

Dear Reader: Without more details, I can't give you a personal recommendation. But I can tell you about drugs that are available to prevent breast cancer and who, in general, should consider taking them.

There are different types of breast cancer. The most common type is "estrogen receptor-positive" (ER-positive). This type of breast cancer needs the hormone estrogen to grow. Well-designed studies have shown that two drugs — tamoxifen and raloxifene — reduce the risk of ER-positive breast cancer. (Tamoxifen appears to be more effective than raloxifene.) These drugs are known as selective estrogen receptor modulators.

SERMs can cause side effects, some serious. These include increased risk of blood clots and hot flashes. Tamoxifen also increases the risk of uterine cancer.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has recommended physicians should offer to prescribe tamoxifen or raloxifene to women who are at high risk for ER-positive breast cancer and low risk for side effects.

Your doctor can estimate your breast cancer risk by taking several factors into account. These include your age, history of breast or ovarian cancer in a first-degree relative, and the age at which you first gave birth. Factors that decrease your risk for side effects include being younger than 50 years, having no risk factors for blood clots or stroke, and not having a uterus.

Doctors generally advise against taking tamoxifen or raloxifene if you:

- (1) Have had blood clots requiring treatment.
- (2) Are taking blood-thinning medicines such as warfarin or heparin.
- (3) Have high blood pressure, obesity or diabetes.
- (4) Are a smoker.
- (5) Are younger than 35.
- (6) Are between 35 and 60, and not at increased risk for breast cancer.
- (7) Are taking hormone replacement therapy or an aromatase inhibitor.
- (8) Have had any type of uterine cancer.



"Milk Jug Margaret," plastic milk jugs, paint, by Simone Spicer

Forms

Continued from Page D1

His version casts Michael as a glittering gold champion with a fearsome expression, his foot planted on a black, snarling Lucifer. The figures are made of bits and pieces of metal and found objects wrought into an arresting double pose.

I noticed St. Michael's armor came partly by way of General Electric, which just goes to show Schultz's access not only to myth but some pretty expressive hardware.

The jurors had a rich field of ceramics from which to choose, notably Ruth Jourjine's cupped and folded flowers that spring from wood in "Rolling Bloom" and "Ivory Tower," and Winifred Weiss's oddly proportioned figures, "Less is More" and "Unaware." The latter two works are distinguished by the characters' fragile, haunting expressions.

Constance Bassett offers a monumental, satirical group entitled "Senators," a gallery of busts done in the Classical style, some with phony smiles, all with real deer antlers on their heads of Sheffield stoneware.

A number of small works in metal stand out for witty themes, such as Derek Bernstein's cat-and-mouse composition, "Augie Knocker," which drew amused and admiring comments, as does "The Big Idea," Dana Stewart's comical bronze creature.

Provocative textures emerge in the work of Chris Cusworth,

whose patinated bronze, "Shroud," is a story of mottled and darkened metal.

Andrea Santoro also explores surface treatments in "Hole," a blackened, greenish abstract composition; with Kevin Forest, Santoro offers an exceptional work, "Fiori," in hand-forged polychromed/patinated stainless steel. This is not the gleaming, self-assured metal of restaurant kitchens but the subtler, earthier bloom of native ores.

Bill Moore, on the other hand, polishes the savage element to a high sheen in several senses with "Monkey Wrench Warrior," a massive work in silicon bronze and aluminum, topped with some ferocious, toothy jaws.

The exhibit also includes some clever works in wood, the wittiest of which are Kevin Goodspeed's "Red Maple Slippers, Size 4" (theoretically for a person of petite stature) and "Size 25 Slipper," which I estimate would fit a person about 30 feet tall.

This gives only a slice of what's on view from creative minds such as Simone Spicer, who has made a noteworthy sculptural medium from deconstructed plastic jugs; Karl Howard, who similarly ennobles steel wire; and Edward Murphy, who invests salvaged timbers with lively motion, as well as many others.

The New Hope Arts Center is at 2 Stockton Ave. in New Hope. Information: 215-862-9606 or www.newhopearts.org.

Gwen Shrift is a feature writer at Calkins Media. Phone: 215-949-4204. Email: gshrift@calkins.com.

Vineberg

Continued from Page D1

Writer/director Samuels, 27, and his co-producer, younger brother Oliver, have already whittled down a list of 1,300 submissions to 300 people they hope to see over the two days; however, he says they will try to sneak in anybody who shows up for the open call. He recommends that people arrive around 2:20 p.m. for the Doylestown audition.

He can't reveal too many details about "6:15" at this point, but promises "it's going to be a good ride. It's about a small cast of people at the onset of a zombie apocalypse and the emotional baggage they face. If you can't go outside, who are the people you're trapped inside with?"

He's already inked the services of special effects wizard Steve Tolin, whose award-winning company Tolin FX worked on "Kantemir."

The events of the film won't take place specifically in Bucks County, but viewers will have no problem recognizing local landmarks.

"We're playing the geography loose — it can really be Anytown, USA, any beautiful place anywhere," says Samuels, a 2005 Central Bucks West graduate who is living with his wife, Kate, in Buckingham before the couple moves to Los Angeles after shooting on "6:15" wraps in August. "But Bucks County viewers will recognize a lot of places they know and love."

"6:15" will be the third-consecutive horror movie for Samuels — which was never part of his plan when he was running around his backyard as a kid making short films with a VHS camera, or even when he was a double major in



Filmmaker Ben Samuels (right) on the set of his 2012 movie "Kantemir" with star Robert Englund. The Bucks County-set "6:15" will be Samuels' third-consecutive horror film.

psychology and drama at Tufts University.

His first full-length feature, "A Year and a Day," was a World War II romance he shot while on winter break from Tufts in 2007-08. The film, which featured 300 local re-enactors, won multiple festival awards, including the Best in Fest prize from the Bucks Fever Film Fest, and screened to a standing-room audience at the County Theater in Doylestown.

Since then, it's been all horror. "The funniest thing is horror holds some of the least interest for me," he says, "but it's hardly a genre I dislike; the truth is, I love all film. And John Carpenter's 'The Thing' was a formative part of my cinematic growth. It's the only movie I had to pause because I was

so terrified, and it really brought out my love of practical effects.

"So much today is CGI. For me, the scariest movies are when a guy builds something. 'Alien,' 'Predator,' the first 'Terminator,' these are incredible creature designs that stuck with me."

Not that CGI was an option for Samuels' first horror film, "Asylum" (2011), which was shot in eight days for \$13,000.

"I couldn't make people laugh for \$13,000, I couldn't make them cry," he says, "but I knew I could scare them. That made the most sense."

Samuels took the film to LA, where it was picked up by the vice president of Clive Barker's Seraphim Films.

While in California, Samuels

was brought in to pitch a script rewrite for "Kantemir" (the title is a Slavic word that has nothing to do with the plot). A follow-up meeting didn't lead to an offer to rewrite the script, but something better: the director's job and, ultimately, his first opportunity to work with an established star in England.

The man known worldwide as Freddy Krueger doesn't play the villain in "Kantemir," which was shot in Pittsburgh, but rather an actor struggling to maintain his sanity amid a rash of mysterious deaths.

"The first day we met on set — we had only talked by phone a couple of times — I think he was testing me a little bit," Samuels says. "He's got over 170 production credits, and I was this young director. We spent hours talking about his character. But five minutes later, we were wrestling on the floor, acting out his confrontation with his nemesis in his last scene. I thought, 'this is going to work,' and from there on in, he respected my choices.

"Robert was fantastic, a consummate professional. He knew what we were setting up before we'd tell him. And for four weeks, he gave the rest of the cast a master class in acting for free."

Samuels' run of horror films will end after "6:15." He plans to shoot a quirky romantic comedy in Toronto this fall, the first script he wrote out of college.

But first, he's looking forward to bringing a zombie invasion to Bucks County this summer.

"This is about coming back," he says. "It's not like I haven't shot anything here, but it's great to bring this one home."

HOROSCOPE

Born today: Your knowledge and creative talent will make you an entertaining and attractive individual. Your sensitivity and intuition will be heightened and your enhanced ability to express yourself will help you develop dynamic partnerships. Confidence will pave the way to your success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — There is someone you can't stop thinking about. Get in touch with this person, share your feelings and plan something special to satisfy your romantic mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Be ready for a money-making or professional opportunity to come your way. Network with your peers to encounter career options. You must handle joint ventures cautiously.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You'll face opposition if you voice your opinion. There is someone in your circle who may be able to offer some helpful advice. Listen to it, but ultimately make choices based on your needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Social media or a

vocational seminar could offer valuable insight regarding future job prospects. Consider what interests you the most, do your research and make an informed decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Physical activity will be challenging but rewarding. You can improve your self-image and make new friends. Your confidence and popularity are on the rise. Enjoy close encounters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Give someone you are questioning the benefit of the doubt. An honest mistake is not worth the cost of a solid friendship. Don't let disappointment lead to bitterness or resentment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Make a point to learn something new. Whether you comb the Internet, join a discussion group or do some research at your local library, there are plenty of interesting topics to discover.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Although you may be inclined to spend some money on your own enjoyment, this is not a good time to lend cash or possessions to others. An interesting investment will

increase your income.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't give in to pressure. Make your decisions based on facts. Take your time and wait until you are absolutely sure you're making the best choice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You may be tempted

to get involved in an unusual or questionable activity. Intrigue and adventure must not entice you to participate in a shady endeavor. Focus on structured activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — The attention you offer a younger person will be appreciated. If you are patient and understanding,

your compassion and caring will help you form a closer bond and a new ally.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Don't let an emotional situation ruin your day or a relationship with someone special. Honesty and an emphasis on teamwork will help alleviate discord.