

# What's New Now



This Chinese-themed folly is one of several that will soon grace Winterthur's estate and gardens. COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND GARDENS

## Winterthur offers UD's Botanic Gardens a peek at new follies exhibit

Winterthur's BGOC (big gardener on campus) Chris Strand and garden curator Carol Long will give members of the University of Delaware's Botanic Gardens a look at the upcoming garden exhibit "Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden" Tuesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. The lecture in Townsend Hall Commons on UD's South Campus will talk about the one-of-a-kind outdoor show that opens April 1. Strand and Long will trace its path from research to installation. Admission is \$15 for nonmembers, \$10 for members. Call (302) 831-2531 or email BotanicGardens@udel.edu to register.

## Delaware Symphony collects for annual 'Orchestras Feeding America' campaign

The Delaware Symphony Orchestra is once participating in "Orchestras Feeding America," the annual food drive sponsored by the League of American Orchestras. The group will collect non-perishable packaged food items at its concert Friday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. at The Grand Opera House. The DSO collections will go to the Food Bank of Delaware. Donors are asked to leave items in a collection barrel in the lobby of the Community Service Parking Garage (Orange Street at West 11th Street) any time from Monday, March 19, to Friday, March 23.

## Share your news tips

If you have a news tip, event or human interest story, contact Community Content Queen Betsy Price at 302-324-2884 or beprice@delawareonline.com. Events for calendars may be entered into our calendar database by going to delawareonline.com and clicking on "things to do" in the vertical bar to the left of the page. When the calendar page opens, on the second line you will find "+add your event." Click there, and a form will open that enables the user to fill in the blocks. If you'd like to alert us that the event is coming in hopes of coverage, email information to events@delawareonline.com or beprice@delawareonline.com. If you cannot input the events, email event information to events@delawareonline.com or mail them to Newsroom calendar, 950 W. Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720.

## Celebrity birthdays

**Thursday:** Elvis Presley drummer **DJ Fontana** is 87. Actor **Judd Hirsch** is 83. Bassist **Phil Lesh** of the Grateful Dead is 78. Singer **Mike Love** of the Beach Boys is 77. Singer-keyboardist **Sly Stone** of Sly and the Family Stone is 75. Guitarist **Howard Scott** of War is 72. Rock guitarist **Ry Cooder** is 71. Singer **Dee Snider** of Twisted Sister is 63. Actress **Park Overall** is 61. Model **Fabio** is 57. Singer **Bret Michaels** of Poison is 55. Singer **Rockwell** is 54. Actor **Chris Bruno** is 52. Singer **Mark McGrath** of Sugar Ray is 50. Bassist **Mark Hoppus** of Blink 182 and of Plus-44 is 46. Singer-guitarist **Matt Thomas** of Parmalee is 44. Actress **Eva Longoria** is 43. Musician **will.i.am** of Black Eyed Peas is 43. DJ **Joseph Hahn** of Linkin Park is 41. Rapper **Young Buck** is 37. Bassist **Ethan Mentzer** of The Click Five is 35. Actor **Kellan Lutz** is 33.

**Friday:** Movie director **Bernardo Bertolucci** is 77. Game-show host **Chuck Woolery** is 77. Singer-songwriter **Jerry Jeff Walker** is 76. Actor **Victor Garber** ("Alias") is 69. Actor **Erik Estrada** is 69. Country singer **Ray Benson** of Asleep at the Wheel is 67. Guitarist-singer **Nancy Wilson** of Heart is 64. Actor **Clifton Powell** ("Ray," "Norbit") is 62. Rapper **Flavor Flav** of Public Enemy is 59. Actor **Jerome Flynn** ("Game of Thrones") is 55. Folk singer **Patty Griffin** is 54. Singer **Tracy Bonham** is 51. Actress **Lauren Graham** is 51. Actor **Judah Friedlander** ("30 Rock") is 49. Actor **Tim Kang** ("The Mentalist") is 45. Singer **Blu Cantrell** is 42. Actor **Brett Davern** ("Awkward") is 35. Singer **Jhene Aiko** is 30.



**Eva Longoria is 43 today.** INVISION/AP

## Two programs of note coming up at Mt. Cuba

Two programs happening in the next few days at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin offer a look at how to turn a suburban lot into a native paradise and noteworthy new native plants for 2018.

■ "From Suburban Lot to Native Paradise" will be Friday at 10 a.m. in the main house lecture room 1. \$30. Connie Schmotzer, Penn State Extension Specialist, will describe how she transformed her half-acre property into a landscape with over 200 species of native trees, shrubs, and perennials, small meadow gardens, and a cool woodland retreat.

■ New & Noteworthy Natives for 2018 will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in main house lecture room 1. \$20. Discover which locally adapted species tolerate varying soil and light conditions, provide multi-season interest, help solve deer problems, and bring vibrancy to your garden. Heidi Hesselein and her husband, Richard, both 4th generation nurserypeople, cofounded Pleasant Run Nursery in Allentown, New Jersey, in 1998. Their goal of growing rare, new and unusual plants has resulted in the production of over 1700 species, including many native plants.

For more information, go to [mtcubacenter.org](http://mtcubacenter.org).

# 'Cabaret' is a raw, thought-provoking show amid glitz

**Holly Quinn**  
Special to Delaware News Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

"Cabaret," set in the creative underground of 1930s Berlin, certainly doesn't need flashy production values to strike chord. The Broadway revival, now appearing at The Playhouse on Rodney Square, is a visual, two-level feast for the eyes — while capturing the rawness of its setting.

Under the Direction of B.T. McNicholl, this production is based on the 1993 Donmar Warehouse London production, making it raunchier than the original Broadway and film versions some are more familiar with.

Notably, the Emcee (Erik Schneider, in a stellar performance) who strikes the hardest notes as the Berlin begins to fall to the Nazis, is a bawdy contrast to his sexually neutral predecessor.

Clifford Bradshaw (Carl Pariso, a University of Delaware graduate), the American novelist who falls for the pre-Nazi Berlin, has become less a representation of "normalcy," a stand-in for an audience that presumably doesn't relate to sexually diverse cabaret culture, and instead is bisexual, adding a layer to his character.

As Sally Bowles, Bailey McCall



The national National tour of 'Cabaret' brings gritty realism to a sexed-up, poignant show. COURTESY OF PLAYHOUSE AT RODNEY SQUARE

Thomas has a slightly soft edge that adds even more vulnerability to her climactic, defiant rendition of "Cabaret."

This is a sensual production, utilizing as many of your senses as it can to take you to the underground cabaret. The

smokiness of the Kit Kat Klub is created by real cigars and cigarettes puffed on by the actors throughout the show, creating both a haze and a smoky smell. (It's so prominent that those who are particularly sensitive to smoke should

## IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** "Cabaret"

**WHEN:** Through Sunday, March 18

**WHERE:** The Playhouse on Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington.

**TICKETS:** \$45-\$120.

**FOR MORE INFO:** [duponttheatre.com](http://duponttheatre.com).

be warned).

Robert Brill's two-tier set features a costumed orchestra (The Kit Kat Band, conducted by Erik Flaten) on the top level, several of whom move from the raised pit to act in scenes, often with their instruments. This is one of the highlights of the production, along with the striking scene changes and Peggy Eisenhauer and Mike Baldassari's flawless lighting design.

The story remains one that will stay with you, as characters find themselves forced to make decisions, often under the mistaken belief that the Nazi regime is just another storm to weather.

"Cabaret" is, as it always has been, a dark, thought-provoking show under the glitz and humor.

*Holly Quinn is a Wilmington freelance writer.*

# Rapper Big Boi takes aim at more TV, film projects

**Jonathan Landrum Jr.**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Boi has never taken an acting class, but he's still finding ways to land roles thanks to his upbringing. "From uncles and aunties, hustlers, pimps and pushers, I've sucked up game since a tender age," he said in a recent interview. "I tried to mimic and absorb how they were. I re-enacted a lot. But it really didn't hit me until Ving Rhames told my mom, when I did 'Idlewild,' that I had acting chops and I should pursue it."

Big Boi has starred in several films including the OutKast movie "Idlewild," "ATL" and "Who's Your Caddy," and he's looking to focus on more television and film projects. The Atlanta-based rapper has already landed a recurring role on BET's "The Quad" and is in the process of filming his part for "Super Fly," a

make of the 1970s cult classic.

On "The Quad," which airs Tuesdays, Big Boi plays the highly opinionated father of a new top recruit. The rapper said he can relate to his character since his son, Cross Patton, is a heavily recruited high school football player who was offered a scholarship at the University of Southern California.

Big Boi said he's not as brash as his TV show character. "I'm going to games, being that athlete-father-parent," he said. "I just pulled from my everyday life. But I'm not obnoxious in real life. In this role, I had to actually bring out that obnoxiousness."

Big Boi is best known as half of the groundbreaking rap duo OutKast. Along with Andre 3000, the group won six Grammys and churned out six platinum-plus albums, including their "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," which

sold over 10 million copies.

As a solo artist, Big Boi has released three studio albums, including his critically acclaimed "Boomiverse," released last year. He also collaborated with Danger Mouse and Run the Jewels on "Chase Me," a Grammy-nominated song from the "Baby Driver" soundtrack.

For now, Big Boi said he's recorded enough music for him to pursue acting. He's kicking off his international rap tour this month, but he's also making time for his other projects: The rapper is also producing animated projects, "Hotlanta Waxx" and "Sherlock Homies."

Big Boi also runs a dog breeding business, Unbelievable Bulldogs, and has a company, Celebrity Trailers, which supplies luxury trailers to movie sets. Big Boi said he's been able to juggle everything because he is "having fun."

"That's the whole key," he said. "If it



**Big Boi, seen performing in SXSW in 2016, has already landed a recurring role on "The Quad" and is in the process of filming his part for "Super Fly," a remake of the 1970s cult classic.** JACK PLUNKETT/INVISION/AP

brings you joy, you're going to be addicted to it. After you've sold all the records, won all the awards, it's nothing to prove. It's all about having fun and being on some Jedi rap. ... You're a master, but always the student."