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March is full of various Downtown sights and sounds

Whether it's a Disney favorite, gospel, rhythm and blues, or something that is visually stunning, a variety of sights and musical sounds will emanate from the Averitt Center's downtown campuses in March.

Performances on the Jan Brown Anderson stage of the Emma Kelly Theater will be the **One: Robin Holmes-Lanier** (March 5) and **Disney's Newsies** (March 25-28). A new Main Gallery exhibition, **Beneath The Surface** by Cyndy Epps, will premiere March 11, the monthly Paint-n-Party is March 12 at the Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts and auditions for **Dearly Beloved** will be held March 13 at the Whitaker Black Box Theater. The fourth session of **art education classes** begins on March 22.

Tickets for performances and classes can be purchased in the Averitt Center Main Gallery (open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday) or by calling 912-212-2787.

The **ONE** series, developed by Averitt Legend of the Arts, Georgia Theater Hall of Fame member and former Georgia Southern University theater professor Mical, highlights the life and talents of gifted and well-established individuals in the community. The audience shares 90 minutes with the artist, first in a guest-host interview and then a performance.

The series, which is exclusively sponsored by Brinson, Williams and Groomes Insurance, has featured local talents Vivian Summers (November 2018), Shaunta Ellis (February 2019), Nora Franklin (May 2019), Brandi Harvey (November 2019), Eddie Frazier (February 2020), Dr. Michael Braz (September 2020) and Donald Chavers (November 2020).

Robin Holmes-Lanier, the founder and co-owner of Baby Grand Music, will be newest **ONE** on March 5.

Born and raised in Brooklet, Holmes-Lanier was educated in the Bulloch County School system and graduated high school from Southeast Bulloch High. Robin went on to attend Albany State University, majoring in Early Childhood Education. Robin is a musician, singer and songwriter and has served in these capacities well as she has always had a passion and love for music. She has played the piano/keyboard for church choirs and sang in churches, educational institutions and other venues all over the state of Georgia. She has been a guest soloist, as well as being a member of a few gospel groups that have toured the southeastern United States providing musical melodies and continues to do the same even today.

As a songwriter, Mrs. Holmes-Lanier has introduced arrangements to her students at Baby Grand Music. Baby Grand Music was born out of Robin's love for music and children. This love matched perfectly to her will to serve the community through music and the Baby Grand Music Studio.

Robin Holmes-Lanier is the wife of Jerry Lanier and they have four children: Raiven, Valencia, Robert, Ronell and nine grandchildren.

Cyndy Epps is an artist and educator, specializing in painting. She received a B.F.A. in Graphic Design from The Savannah College of Art and Design and an M.F.A. in Studio Art from Georgia Southern University. Her work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally and is part of private collections around the world. She has participated in public art projects including Augusta's Art on the Wall and Art the Box and led experiential learning projects where students create murals in public spaces. Epps currently teaches Drawing, Painting and Art Appreciation at Augusta University.

"We are so much more than what can be seen in a first glance," Epps said about her exhibit, "so much deeper and more hopeful. Using subjects that could easily be overlooked and considered dismissible, I endeavor

to bring light to the idea that beauty can be found anywhere, in anyone. A discarded pile of rubbish that has accumulated in a corner is a metaphor for a person who has been rejected by society. They are in fact much deeper - an accumulation of experiences, ideas and feelings - and are no less beautiful than those that walk past them. I often experiment with splicing together variations of images and altering colors to demonstrate how easily our perception of things can shift and change. In an instant a situation can go from hopeless to full of promise. Too often we focus on the moment we are in and can't see the hope that lies past that. I strive to persuade the viewer to look a little longer and notice the beauty that may be lying beneath the surface and the hope that is just ahead.”

The **Paint-N-Party** in the Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts (31 East Vine Street) on the 12th begins at 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity to have fun with friends and you can also enjoy your favorite adult beverage (21+). The workshop is \$35 per session and includes a 16x20 canvas and art supplies for you to use. Instructor **Lorie Ward** will guide you through the steps to paint your version of the painting-of-the-month. Paint-n-Party is exclusively sponsored by borotakeout.com and features different foods each month.

Dearly Beloved, a fast-paced, laugh-a-minute comedy that will be directed by the Averitt's own **Tony Phillips**, will be holding open auditions for its cast of four men (ages 20-65) and seven women (ages 20-65). Show highlights include an over-the-top wedding, three feuding sisters and a church full of small town eccentrics. Come and join community theater.

Speaking of community theater, the final weekend of the month sees the much-awaited performances of **Disney's Newsies**. Slated for March 25-28 and sponsored by Georgia Power, Josh D. Tucker, P.C. and Statesboro Cardiology, the musical has a cast of almost 30 local children, teenagers and adults in this singing and dancing extravaganza.

The Averitt Center offers a wide range of classes for children, teenagers and adults in Dance, Theater, Visual Arts and Music. The fourth session begins March 22 and some new and exciting adult classes are planned in Visual Arts such as **Painting with Watercolors**, **Advanced Wheel Throwing**, **Intro to Drawing** and **Art Your Way**.

All meet in the late afternoon or early evening (homeschool classes meeting in the late mornings or early afternoons) at one of the three Averitt campuses and meet once or more per week. Classes are grouped by age and ability level. Class tuition varies and members do receive discounts.