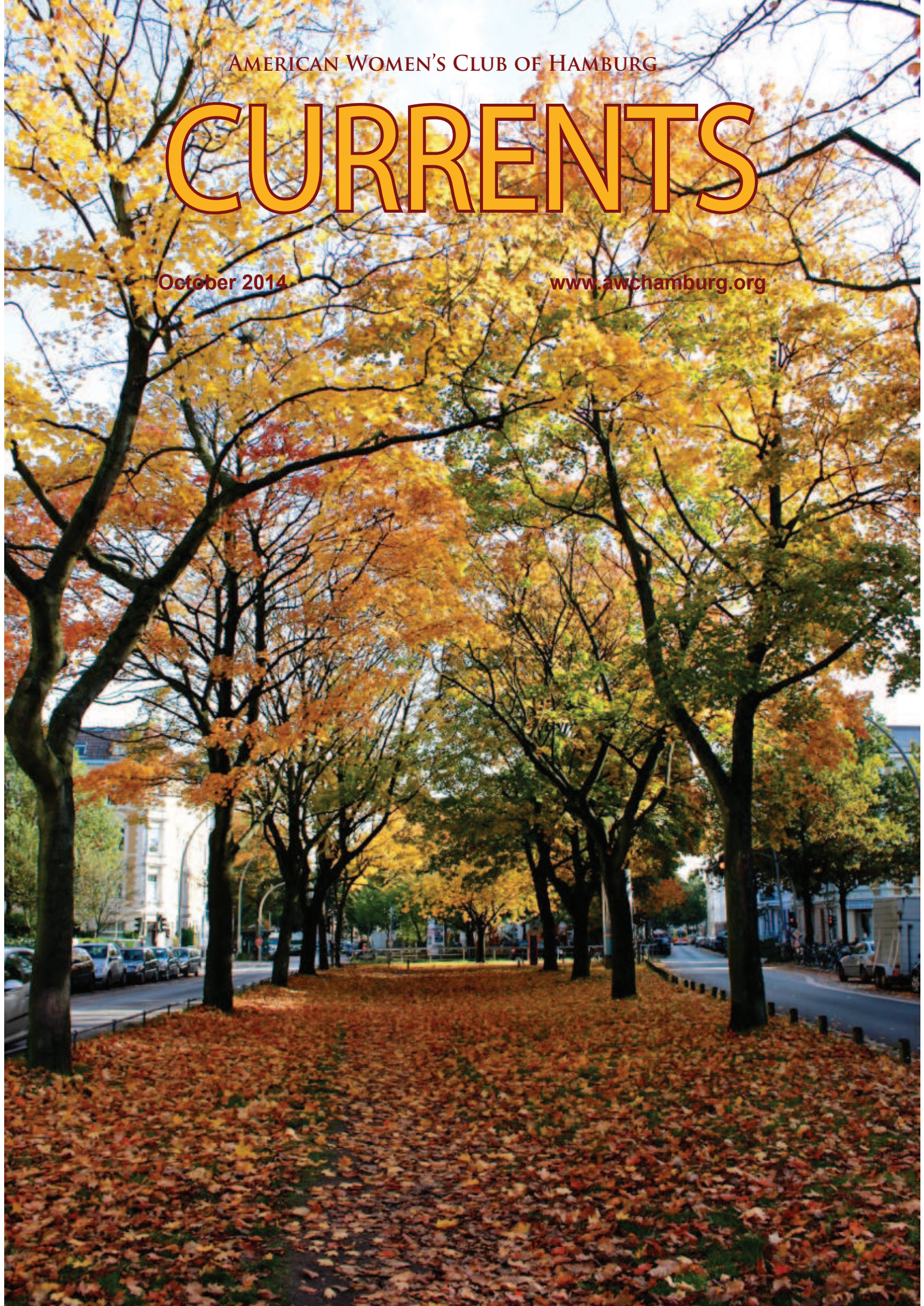


AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAMBURG

CURRENTS

October 2014

www.awchamburg.org



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The articles contained herein are written by members about their individual experiences and opinions. Material printed in *Currents* does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor, the *Currents* staff, or the AWC Hamburg. The editors and the Board have the right to edit and/or reject articles for publication that do not reflect the positive spirit and overall goals of our organization.

Please read with kindness and tolerance! Each columnist carefully proof-reads the articles submitted for her column. Errors are nevertheless sometimes overlooked. Please be aware that we are an international club, with American and British spelling differences, and many non-native English speakers. In addition, we are all volunteers and merely human!

Currents Magazine

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Dear Members,

It's October! Hooray, we love fall!

Fall is the time to get all snugly and comfy at home, the activities outside get fewer and we meet our friends at home rather than outside where it's getting colder and colder by the day. No wonder IKEA is always a lot fuller in fall when everyone is „nesting“.

I myself am getting snugly with my new netflix app catching up on all the TV shows I have never watched so far, to be able to better engage in the Stitch and Bitch conversations :-)

My knitting skills are being trained to perfection and many little babies can look forward to my tiny little projects for Christmas. Let me tell you, it's all about planning and you'd better start getting your Christmas projects in order now to avoid any hectic later on this year.

What is your secret to stay calm during the holidays? Most of us are trying to unite several cultural traditions from around the world, starting with the St. Martins Umzug in November, Thanksgiving right behind and trying to figure out whether the Nikolaus, Santa, or the Christkind is coming to town. Let us know about your experience, what you are planning or how your ideal holidays would look like. We are looking forward to reading all about it.

Have a fun October, yours

Karen, chief editor, and the entire Currents staff

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Karen,

Recently I have written to you privately to let you know what I think about the job you are doing as the only content and layout editor for *Currents*. I guess the time has come to let the entire membership know that I think you are doing a fantastic job keeping *Currents* alive! I understand that working a full time job, having a personal life and working for *Currents* is very time consuming. You have done an exemplary job producing a monthly magazine as well as writing two-three articles for each issue. I hope other members of the club recognize your efforts and begin to contribute and volunteer so that *Currents* can continue.

Cheers to you, Karen!

Sincerely,
Tracy Moede

Advertising Rates *Currents* Special Fall Offer

Dear AWC members!

Summer vacations are over and we are getting back to our daily routine. It is time to let the world know who you are and what you are doing. Whether you have your own business or just want to provide services sporadically, don't miss a special advertising offer for AWC members!

We place a small editorial with your picture and your story with description of your services for free. You pay 50% from a regular 3 months *Currents* rate:

Deadlines:

Deadline for October issue Saturday, September 20th

Ad request must be received by the first working day of the month preceding the month in which the editorial should be placed.

Payment:

Ad space is payable 2 weeks after the advertisement has been published.

Advertisement size	Price per 3 months
1/8 page	EUR 15.00
1/4 page	EUR 23.00
1/2 page	EUR 35.00
1 page	EUR 50.00

For further information please contact
Anna Sizorina
Advertising Manager,
AWCH
ads@awchamburg.org

We Want You!

by Brooke V.



It is that time of the year again – time to start thinking about how you can be involved in the AWC in 2015! Becky T., Regina D. and Brooke V. have been appointed by the Board to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with putting together a slate of members who will serve on the next year's board. The slate will be announced to the membership by mid-December.

That means – we are looking for volunteers to serve on the 2015 board! We ask that anyone interested in serving in one of the following positions please contact Becky (Rebecca.tan at t-online.de), Regina (hhelpers@awchamburg.org) or Brooke (membership@awchamburg.org) by Friday, Oct. 31st.

Requirements: Each position has a minimum one-year term (except for the FAWCO Representative, who has a 2-year term). Individuals who are interested must have a good working knowledge of computers and the internet, and must be willing to attend monthly board meetings. You are encouraged to talk to the women currently serving on the board to find out more about what these positions involved.

PRESIDENT (currently Shawn K.): Presides over board meetings, attends committee meetings & club events, serves as the chief administrative officer for the purpose of ensuring the efficient and orderly conduct of all club business, serves as the club's official representative in the community and attends community events on behalf of the AWC, maintains good relations with American- and German-affiliated organizations.

VICE PRESIDENT (currently Karen M.): Traditionally, the Vice President assists the President in many ways, such as attending community events that the President cannot, assisting with networking and correspondence and managing other club affairs. Additional duties can be matched to the member's interests and abilities. Possible (but not mandatory) roles include managing Currents as Editor-in-Chief, coordinating social activities and/or managing the club's social media. The member who fills the VP position can identify what tasks they are most interested in discussion with the board. The VP must be able to attend board meetings.

TREASURER (currently Chris L.): Basic knowledge of German is needed to communicate with the bank, manages club finances via online banking, keeps an Excel spreadsheet of the club's costs and profits, meets with two proofers at the end of the year to go over the banking records, communicates with the Advertising Chair regarding advertising income and invoicing advertisers, provides a brief financial report at each board meeting as well as a final report at the Annual General Meeting, develops the annual budget along with the Board.

SECRETARY: Records minutes of each board meeting and sends a summary to board members, sends out an electronic newsletter approximately once per week of AWC events/information based on correspondence from the board and all AWC members, updates activities on the calendar on the AWC website. It is ideal if the secretary is fluent in both German and English, but this is not required.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR (currently Brooke V.): Manages the online membership database and keeps track of current membership/dues payments, connects with new and potential members via email and phone, provides a brief membership report at board meetings.

FAWCO REPRESENTATIVE (currently Tracy M.): The FAWCO Representative's term is for two years, represents the AWCH among the FAWCO member clubs and serves as a liaison between the FAWCO Board and its committees and the AWCH Board, ensures that the AWCH members understand the FAWCO programs and what it represents. The FAWCO rep must refrain from expressing political views and positions publically. She must also attend regional and annual conferences (AWCH reimburses conference fees, but rep is responsible for travel fees).



by Tracy Moede

FAWCO News October 2014

Need Money??

Applications are now being accepted for the FAWCO Development Grants and Education Awards.

AWC Hamburg members and their children may apply. Please visit fawcofoundation.org or contact Tracy Moede, fawcorep@awchamburg.org for more information.

Development Grants (DG)

Club participation is vital to the Development Grant Program and process; DG proposals reflect the issues and concerns of particular importance to FAWCO member

clubs. The FAWCO Foundation encourages clubs to submit up to two DG proposals each year. It is necessary that the nominating club has supported the project for at least two years and must be from more than just one person in the club. The recipient in each grant category is determined by vote of FAWCO member clubs. The strength of this program lies in the access to projects known personally by FAWCO members, and many times supported directly by a Member

Club. The FAWCO Foundation Development Grant Fund program has awarded **\$362,000 to 108** charitable projects through 2014. Projects are located in **over 30 countries** worldwide and 38% of our projects are located in Africa! To learn all about our Development Grants Program, please see our Development Grants page. If you have a question about submitting nominations, please contact The Foundation Development Grant Administrator.

Photography Workshop by Ulrike Henn

According to your wishes **for a weekend photography workshop** I have come up with two different workshops, tailored to your photographic skills.

Camera Basics

Sunday, October 12, 14.00 - 17.00

Where: TBA

Cost: 25€ for club members

RSVP by Oct 6 via Evite or to workshop@ulrikecameronhenn.com

Space is limited to 6 participants.

During this comprehensive, hands-on instructional workshop I will explain to you how to use the most important features of your camera, what they are used for, and how to adjust them based on lighting and the particular subject you wish to photograph. I will also give you a solid understanding of composition showing you examples by the masters of the trade.

Whether you have a DSLR a SLR or a point-and-shoo, you will be surprised by how many wonderful features and possibilities are hidden in your camera.

What to bring: Camera, manual, memory card, batteries fully charged, tripod if available

Speicherstadt + Hafen City

Sunday, October 19, 14.00 - 18.00

Where: Hafen City, meeting point to be announced

Cost: 30€ for club members

RSVP by Oct 6 via Evite or to workshop@ulrikecameronhenn.com

Space is limited to 8 participants.

During a four-hour field trip you will capture the amazing flair of this exciting Hamburg neighborhood and we will sit down to discuss your shots.

What to bring: Camera, manual, memory card, batteries fully charged, USB flash drive, tripod if available

Questions? Please mail Ulrike at: workshop@ulrikecameronhenn.com



COCO-MAT joins the AWCH on the Heart Pillow

by Tracy M.

The American Women's Club of Hamburg has partnered with COCO-MAT, an all-natural sleep store in Blankenese, Hamburg, for a special promotion that supports the Heart Pillow Project. In late October, COCO-MAT will host a Make-Your-Own-Pillow event where you can create a custom pillow with all-natural materials for only €25. These pillows regularly cost €60, and for each custom pillow purchased (by any customer, not just the AWCH), COCO-MAT will make and donate a heart pillow to the AWC, which in turn will be donated to the Mammazentrum at the Jerusalem Krankenhaus in Eimsbüttel.

At the previous event in May 2012, AWCH members, their friends and the COCO-MAT staff made the event a success. Over 100 pillows were purchased in the store which translated to 100 heart pillows made and donated.

The AWC Hamburg has been working on the Heart Pillow Project for several years. To date we have donated 120 pillows we have made at three different Heart Pillow Sewing Bees. These pillows in the shape of a heart are placed under the arm that helps relieve pressure and pain in post-operative breast cancer patients. Materials and stuffing costs can run quite high, and thus far all materials have been purchased through proceeds from the Bagel Fundraiser Sales and donated by AWCH members. COCO-MAT's generosity will significantly increase the number of pillows the AWC Hamburg can donate this year.

COCO-MAT is again inviting the AWC Hamburg to a special evening in their lovely store in Blankenese where we can socialize, raise a glass and eat some yummy snacks, make pillows, and do some good all at the same time!

Save the date in your calendar for Thursday, October 30th at 18:00.

Established in 1989, COCO-MAT today is a recognized leader for natural sleep products, bed linen, towels and furniture for homes and hotels. All their products are made from natural materials from renewable sources, such as coco fiber, natural rubber, wool, cotton, sea grass, horsehair, silk, linen, wood and goose down. AWC Hamburg members can visit COCO-MAT Hamburg's facebook fan page and can "like". Members can also take part in their competition to win free nights at hotels and more pillows! You can find them at: www.facebook.com/cocomat.de

You might also be interested to know that there was a report on CNN about COCO-MAT. <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/17/business/greece-economy-coco-mat/index.html>

A special thanks goes to the store's owners Kostas and Katy Oreopoulos and Konny Dammann for their hospitality and generosity. We look forward to future cooperative work with them. Thanks also to Tracy Moede and Susan Stanley-Witt from the AWC Hamburg for helping with the event organization and communication with the Mammazentrum .



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NEW MEMBERS' EVENT



Courtney and our Membership Chair Brooke

by Courtney K.

This was my 3rd event attended with the AWC and I really enjoyed meeting new and friendly faces. I felt completely welcome and comfortable. The Konditorei served its wonderful cake and coffee and the staff was really nice and friendly. I look forward to attending more events with the AWC. Thanks ladies for the great evening.



Jessica M., one of our newest Members.



Susan S.W. and Jess M. catching up while getting to know new members.



Marilyn R., Gemma S., Linda T.

Meet New Member Laura



Laura Langford

"I'm a Nevada Girl in a German World." I was raised in Las Vegas, headed to New York City for graduate school at Columbia Business School and stayed until 2013, when I moved to Germany. I spent two years working in Düsseldorf and Hannover, working for Bankhaus Lampe in the Capital Markets department. In

August, I joined CEE Fund Advisory, a subsidiary of Bankhaus Lampe and relocated to Hamburg.

I am an avid supporter of the theater and hold a BFA in Drama from University of Southern California. I am also patron of several nonprofit theaters in New York. I can't wait to explore what Hamburg has to offer (and what a great way to expand my German language skills;-). I am also interested in venturing into the Hamburg film scene and enjoy skiing.

I have one daughter, Rowan, who attends Tulane University in New Orleans. Mom sends me taco sauce from Macayo Vegas, but a recommendation for a good enchilada would also be appreciated.

I must say that Hamburg *gefällt mir*.

Bis bald,
Laura

Congratulations October Birthday Girls!

Courtney K.	1
Ann G.-T.	1
Deborah O.	4
Eugenia S.	6
Carol K.	7
Nancy F.	9
Andrea G.	10
Sigrid M.	13
Anna S.	13
Romina M.	15
Katie D.	15
Vena V. I.	16
Sandra S.	17
Elizabeth R.	23
Sarah D.	26
Emilia J.	27
Beate M.	28
Marinell H.	29
Brooke V.	30
Sarah W.	31

Opera Club

by Elizabeth R.

“Carmen”: extravagant details or gritty depth?

“Carmen”: extravagant details or gritty depth?

What sort of opera performance do you prefer? Do you like your music and singing accompanied by lots of color, flash, and “eye candy”? Should the setting be traditional with lots of period outfits? Many people would answer these questions with a resounding ‘Yes’!!

But numerous opera fans do not want to be so distracted by fancy costumes, elaborate sets, or sentimental old-fashioned looks, preferring a focus on the characters and the music. Why not a grittier setting that reflects modern societal themes? No knockout visuals, please.

An opera like Georges Bizet’s “Carmen” lends itself beautifully to

all of these different performance styles. A sumptuous portrayal with lush Spanish backgrounds and plenty of gypsy details (and maybe even some lively horses) can deliver a marvelous few hours of entertainment. Big-budget opera houses or live summer spectacles offer this variety of “Carmen” on a regular basis.

Hamburg’s Staatsoper takes the darker route, however, with its current “Carmen” production. A very modern update with the original spoken dialogue restored, this “Carmen” focuses very much on the characters and their relationships, telling their story purely and directly without much in the way of



The Staatsoper’s Carmen won’t be a prisoner for long. Photo: Brinkhoff/Mögenburg

distracting folklore.

Featuring the striking Cristina Damian as the eponymous gypsy and internationally acclaimed guest tenor (and New Jersey native) James Valenti as Don José, the Staatsoper will be performing “Carmen” this October, and the Opera Club will be there! Don’t miss out! (October 9, 11, 18, and 25)

Laughter and Great Melodies at the Opera House: “La Belle Hélène”

Hamburg’s Staatsoper kicked off its new season with an elaborate production of Jacques Offenbach’s operetta “La Belle Hélène”, and four of us AWC members were there to enjoy it.

The colorful, satirical French work with its Trojan War prequel story makes for wickedly clever and at times quite bawdy entertainment. In typical Opera Club fashion, Lisa Sch. and I got to know the operetta ahead of time. Lisa comments, “Even just a couple hours of preparation made all the difference. We knew a lot of the music and had a good idea of what to expect, so we could just relax and enjoy the show.”

This production with its countless loving details and comedic elements is the result of much hard work by French/Canadian team Renaud Doucet & André Barbe supported by a lively cast and crew. Becky T. reports, “The visual impression is sensational; there is something to look at every minute, which is especially appreciated by people like me who can’t follow the music very well, but can remember sights seen and enjoy a fast pace.”

Two American mezzo-sopranos play significant roles in this “Hélène”. The internationally celebrated Jennifer Larmore sings the titular role with style and humor. “I love her flexibility and the fun she has with the role,” says Lisa Sch. Juilliard graduate Rebecca Jo Loeb, a member of the Hamburg ensemble since 2011, sings the trouser role of Oreste, featuring two humorous and

incredibly catchy songs that can’t fail to bring laughs. We opera fans love rather “deeper” material much of the time, of course, but this evening full of hilarious characters, great singing, and witty music was simply irresistible. “I rode home in the U-Bahn and other passengers who had also come from the opera were singing the songs!” laughs Becky T.

If you missed “La Belle Hélène” this time around, you will have another chance to see it in early summer (June 19, 23, and 25, 2015). I will most certainly be back for more.

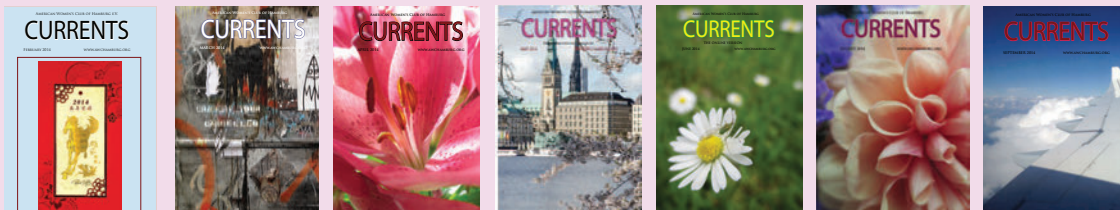


Photo by Klaus Lefebvre

CURRENTS COVER PHOTO CONTEST

As a super Christmas Special in December, Currents is organizing a big Cover Photo Contest. Whoever sends in the best Cover Photo, which could be anything like a drawing, a photograph, something crafted, ANYTHING you feel worthy enough to be on December's Christmas Cover. The winner will be picked at the Proofreading in November and will get a super awesome grande prize picked by the chief editor herself.

Please send your submissions to KAREN, currents-exec@awchamburg.org.



WHICH WILL BE THE NEXT?



“Max Beckmann. Die Stilleben”

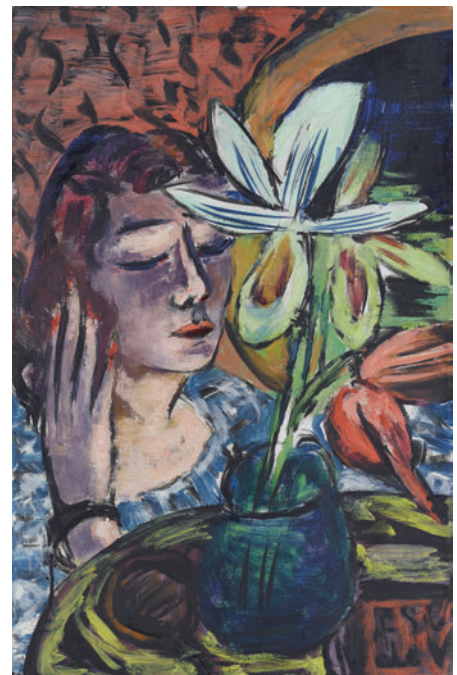
by Carola A.

Until January 18, 2015, Kunsthalle Hamburg presents a special treat: about 70 still-lives of exceptional quality by German expressionist Max Beckmann. Not only is this the first extensive exhibition ever devoted to this lesser known genre of his oeuvre, but on display are many rarely shown works on loan from private and public collections (many from the USA), that would be difficult to reassemble in this quality again.

Beckmann (1884 -1950) lived and worked in his native Germany until the nazis declared his art *entartete Kunst* (degenerate art) in 1937 and he was forced to live in exile in the Netherlands. In 1947 he immigrates to the U.S., Accepting a teaching position at the Washington University in Saint Louis. (To date the Saint Louis art museum has the largest collection of paintings by Beckmann in the world). From 1949 to his death in 1950 he was teaching at the Brooklyn Museum art school.

Though Beckmann is generally known for his mythological and figurative works, for his landscapes and self-portraits, still lifes have been a constant in his work. He breaks with the conventional idea of a still life, combines them with portraits, landscapes and architecture and extends the view in surprising ways—not only into the room but also beyond. There is a small section in this exhibition with some of the original objects that Beckmann repeatedly incorporated in his paintings, and detailed watercolors of interiors by his (second) wife, showing these objects in their apartment.

The exquisite exhibition design, based on a color system developed by Le Corbusier for the Bauhaus deserves a special mention as well. Overviews to the sections of the exhibition are provided in German and English. For the very first time Hamburger Kunsthalle offers an easy-to-use multimedia



Max Beckmann (1884-1950) *Frau mit Orchidee*, 1940 Öl auf Leinwand, 60,5 x 40 cm Courtesy Galerie Pels-Leusden AG, Zürich © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2014

guide with supplemental audio and visual information to select exhibits and the artist. Look on line for special guided tours, lectures and events and for an extensive program for children (hamburgerkunsthalle.de).

The Long Reach of the Whip

The Whipping Man by Matthew Lopez, Robert Rumpf directs

by Marinell H.

As the curtain opens, eerily provocative music plays against a sultry southern thunderstorm, lighting a landscape ravaged by the just ended war. This is what the young master, a seriously wounded Confederate army Captain, returns to after four years. His family's Virginian plantation is abandoned except for two slaves: resolute, stalwart Simon, and chameleon John, whose penchant is turning circumstances to his advantage. Richmond, decimated and dangerous, keeps the three close to the ruined mansion. Simon concentrates on helping Caleb DeLeon; no longer in control, Caleb's forced to accept certain inevitabilities, including John's salvaging that provides life-sustaining support. Slowly, they grasp there are things one inherits from parents and past generations but, at some point its up to each individual to make their own choices, and own them. "Just two peas in a pod" the emergent moral-compass scolds the others.

Lopez conveys, with an astute perceptiveness, the calamitous period that laid asunder social presumptions and ambiguities, morals, and prejudices during that period of American history. His juxtapositions introduce an element of the Civil War previously unexplored that delivers a powerful punch, without encroaching on contemporary convictions. Robert Rumpf's direction fine-tunes the characters nuanced, multifarious interconnectedness from the actors. The consummate London thespians' potent portrayals hold us spellbound: Rich Dolphin as Caleb—with nothing to master, Declan Wilson as Simon—waiting hopefully, and Jonathan Nyati as John—nowhere to go.



Jonathan Nyati (John), Declan Wilson (Simon), and Rich Dolphin (Caleb) in *The Whipping Man*. Credit: Hans-Jürgen Kock, ETH

Their depictions of disillusioned men grappling with predicaments imposed by their intertwined lives is spot-on; as their past whips around us, we relate to their dilemma and their feelings. Equally impressive is the desolate stage setting, and the music and sound effects.

The *New York Times* accurately described this must-see Hamburg production: "Haunting, striking and powerful." All the elements come together with such a masterful force it brought the premiere's audience to their feet with a standing ovation.

The Whipping Man premiered September 4th and runs until November 8th, 2014. Evening and matinee performances; tickets available at the theatre or online: www.englishtheatre.de. The English Theatre of Hamburg, Lerchenfeld 14, 22081 Hamburg, Tel: 040-227 70 89: U-Bahn Mundsburg. (Marinell Haegelin)

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

LAYOUT EDITOR LAYOUT EDITOR LAYOUT EDITOR

YOU ARE CREATIVE? OR WOULD LIKE TO BE? GOT EXPERIENCE IN DESIGN, PHOTOSHOP OR ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION PROGRAM? OR NOT AT ALL BUT WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO LEARN?

BE PART OF OUR CURRENTS STAFF!

Interested?! Contact Karen, either via email: currents-exec@awchamburg.org, or just talk to me at the next event. Not sure yet, but kinda feel interested? Come to a Currents meeting, it's very casual and we discuss magazine issues as a whole in a mixed group of active staff and other members casually interested in the subject!

No strings attached!

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

MOIN, MOIN, STILETTO

by Karen M.

Fall is here! I love fall. As soon as the temperatures drop, you have a totally new opportunity to dress up, style and create your outfits. The ways to combine and dress scarves, cardigans, boots, and jackets are, of course, more various than in the summer heat, when your only fashion aim is to find out how to wear as little fabric as possible without looking like a total skank. When it is hot enough, and believe me, this summer it has been, I have even been fine with looking only like half a skank and not a total skank. I am sure some

of you can agree with me. Who would consider me a skank? Everyone, men, most likely men, I thought. As a single woman, it is of course only natural to be conscious about what men think about my outfits. I wear high heels because I believe men think they are sexy and I wear a lot of black because I believe it makes me look skinny. I want to look my best. However, here's what I realized this summer after going out with some of the species from Mars:

Men don't like my outfits. They don't like black, because I look too serious, they don't like my high heels because they scare them and I am too tall. They don't like my flats, because I look ordinary, they don't like my beautiful vintage dresses because they think I am a hippie freak. It then came to be in an epiphany: We don't dress for men, we dress for other women. If we dressed for men, we'd be naked. Therefore: I will wear what I like this fall. Hallelujah.



- You are in an international partnership.
- Your family speaks several languages.
- You are raising bilingual children.

Individuals, couples, and families living in a multinational environment are strong, creative, and courageous. At the same time, the many challenges they face necessitate a special approach in counselling. For that reason I founded IIPB – the Institute for Intercultural Psychological Counselling.

You have questions? Please feel free to contact
Anna Sizorina at
www.home-in-the-world.com
Institut für Interkulturelle
Psychologische Beratung
Moorweidenstraße 7
20148 Hamburg
040 271 577 88

ACTIVITY CALENDAR October 2014

This isn't all! Sometimes special events come up after the *Currents* deadline. In this case we will use **Evites** and our e-newsletter to notify members. Check your email and our online calendar for the most up-to-date event information.

WALK AROUND THE ALSTER FALL BREAK!

Our weekly Walk around the Alster will take a tiny fall and winter break and will resume its quest around the beautiful Alster again in spring. Watch out for announcements early 2015!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

HH Helpers

This group helps new AWCH Club Members to live the good life in Hamburg! If you have recently joined our club and need some assistance, you are encouraged to contact Regina D.

She will not only give you details about the next New Members' Event but also refer you to the HH Helper in your area and to the groups and committees that might interest you. If you have already been a club member for some time and are interested in assisting new members in your area, please let us know. We are looking for more HH Helpers – especially in the western and southern parts of Hamburg. Contact Regina at hhhelpers@awchamburg.org

Opera Club

At the monthly meetings of the Opera Club, we are discovering opera. One masterwork at a time. We meet several times to get to know a selected opera and then attend a performance together. Beginners are particularly welcome! Meetings are held Friday mornings in Hamburg-Poppenbüttel. Contact Elizabeth R. at opera@awchamburg.org.

Film Reviewers' Group

The film group attends free press showings of films slated to open in Hamburg and writes reviews for *Currents* and other media. Communication is via email or fax. For more information, contact Becky T. at filmgroup@awchamburg.org or rebecca.tan@t-online.de

English Movie Night at the Savoy

New AWCH Event!

Starting in 2014 there will be a new monthly event at the Savoy Movie theater in St. Georg: English Movie Night at the Savoy.

Here is how it works:

Respond to the evite and tickets will be reserved for you at the theater. You arrive no later than 30 minutes before the movie begins to pick up and pay for your tickets at the ticket desk. Easy!

If you can't make the showing, your tickets will be deleted from the system at no charge to you.

If you are not there 30 minutes prior to the showing, your reservation is cancelled and seat reassigned, so don't be late!

Stitch'n'Bitch

Tuesday, October 14 and 28 any time after 7pm.

Otherwise known as Portable Hobby Night. Come join us for lots of laughs and snacks, a glass of wine, and some crafting.

Where: watch the newsletter for location information-

German Practice Circle "Kaffeeklatsch"

Our Member Sylvia T. organizes a regular meeting to chat and meet in German in downtown Hamburg. For all those working and practicing their new language. Feel welcome to join. Contact Sylvia for further information on upcoming dates and locations.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR October 2014

Please check with activity leaders to confirm meeting times and places. More details on all meetings can be found in the membership section and on our AWC website: <http://www.awchamburg.org>

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Wine and Cheese	10	11
12 Camera Basics Workshop	13	14 Stitch 'n' Bitch	15	16	17	18 10:00 Writers' Workshop
19 Photography Workshop	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 Writers' Workshop
26 Movie Night	27	28 Stitch 'n' Bitch	29	30 Coco Mat Pillow Event	31	1 BUNCO!

AWC Cancellation Policy:

All events for which participants must reserve in advance and pay at the door must be paid for whether or not the person attends the event. However, if the cancellation is called in before the sign-up deadline, there will be no charge. If a person cancels after the sign-up deadline, she need not pay if a confirmed substitute can be found.

COCO-MAT IS AGAIN INVITING THE AWC HAMBURG

The American Women's Club of Hamburg has partnered with COCO-MAT, an all-natural sleep store in Blankenese, Hamburg, for a special promotion that supports the Heart Pillow Project.

On October 30 at 18:00, COCO-MAT will host a Make-Your-Own-Pillow event where AWC members, their family and friends can create a custom pillow with all-natural materials for only €25. These pillows regularly cost €60, and for each custom pillow purchased (by any customer, not just the AWCH), COCO-MAT will make and donate a heart pillow to the AWC, which in turn will be donated to the Mammazentrum at the Jerusalem Krankenhaus in Eimsbüttel.

COCO-MAT is again inviting the AWC Hamburg to a special evening in their lovely store in Blankenese where we can socialize, raise a glass and eat some yummy snacks, make pillows, and do some good all at the same time!

A special thanks goes to the stores owners Kostas and Katy Oreopoulos and Konny Dammann for their hospitality and generosity. We look forward to a fun evening.

Contact Tracy Moede at mcmoede@arcor.de for more information.



compiled by Becky T.

MOVIE RATING SYSTEM

- ***** Excellent flick! Don't miss it!
- **** Good movie, worth going to
- *** Not a bad way to spend a few hours
- ** OK, but read the review to understand my reservations
- * Bad, but we've got to give them credit for making a movie!



Borgman ***

Netherlands/Belgium/Denmark 2013
 Starts October 2, 2014
 Directed by: Alex van Warmerdam
 Writing credits: Alex van Warmerdam
 Cast: Jan Bijvoet, Hadewych Minis, Jeroen Perceval
 Length: 113 minutes

Evil personified: that's Borgman (Jan Bijvoet) who, as the film begins, is in hiding in an underground den in the forest and then proceeds to rush through the forest with calm and composure while being followed by three armed men - one a priest. He wanders into a ritzy neighborhood and rings doorbells asking to be able to take a bath until finally housewife Marina (Hadewych Minis) lets him onto the premises without her husband's (Jeroen Perceval) consent or knowledge. Borgman pretends to be confused, sneaks around, reads weird fairy tales to the children, disorients Marina. Eventually he kills the gardener so he can take his place and infiltrate the family even more, slowly causing rifts within.

Borgman keeps in touch with his colleagues - two of whom had also been hiding in the forest and manage to get involved in the gardening project. He tips them, as well as two women, off by SMS as to which people should be disposed of. It is like a game but one of quiet and sinister brutality. Language: Dutch (with German subtitles). (Thelma Freedman)

Was bin ich wert? ****

Germany 2013
 Starts October 9, 2014
 Directed by Peter Scharf, Oliver Held
 Writing credits: based on the book *Was bin ich wert?* by Jörn Klare
 Cast: Documentary
 Length: 94 minutes

Have you ever thought about how much money you are worth? If you were to die, or lose a leg or sell your hair, how much capitol would you be worth? Would it matter how old you are? Would it make a difference where you live or what country you were born in? Journalist Peter Scharf decided to look into these questions. With his documentary *Was bin ich wert?* he travels to different countries, interviews different experts, victims, and survivors who all have some personal relationship with the question. He explores different methods of deciding the worth of a human life.

First he looks into how much money each part of his body would be worth. His donated blood and plasma could bring in up to 700 Euro a year, his donated semen up to 1800 euros a year. What if he were to lose an arm and couldn't work any more? How much money could he sue for? Would his arm be worth more than someone else's arm? What about his hair? In the Ukraine he talks to an expert in selling hair and finds out which race produces more expensive hair, e.g., Asian Slavic hair. In Romania he interviews three men who have illegally donated organs. Was it worth the money they received? How did it change their lives?

A large part of the documentary takes place in the USA. Peter Scharf talks to the American lawyer representing family members of victims from the sunken cruise ship *Costa Concordia*. He also talks to Ken Feinberg, the man whom the US government hired to decide how much family members of victims of 9/11 should be compensated. How can someone make this kind of decision? Feinberg explains what criteria had to be taken into account, and why, to come to a decision like this.

The documentary looks into a simple question with an almost impossible answer. Professors have come up with actual mathematical formulas to determine a single person's monetary worth. What cannot be taken into account are morals, dignity, and fate. Is it necessary to make decisions on the worth of a human life? To report about it? It is hard to write about the subject without posing question after question. The answers are wholly subjective and open to debate. (Alana Leichert)

Wish I Was Here ***

Germany 2014
Starts October 9, 2014
Directed by: Zach Braff
Writing credits: Adam J. Braff, Zach Braff
Cast: Zach Braff, Kate Hudson, Pierce Gagnon, Joey King, Josh Gad, Michael Weston, Mandy Patinkin
Length: 107 minutes

Family's expectations are explored in this comedy-drama from director/actor **Zach Braff** (Aiden). The gist of the film is Aiden still chases his dream, while his wife supports the family, and his father pays for the expensive Jewish school his grandchildren attend. Gramp's change in circumstances redirects his money to a different cause, so now home-schooling will be mandatory, besides saddling Aiden with his dog. Brilliant brother Noah is no help—left watching the kids, the couple returns to find Grace has shaved her head. But, they are family and, especially now, they need to stick together.

The film's weary theme is overall unremarkable, and milks Jewish clichés. Yet, it has its moments. These, together with the terrific performances carry the film. **Kate Hudson's** Sarah personifies a fledgling matriarch's temperament—funny, kind, patient, wise—while being softly supportive and brutally honest. Whereas **Braff's** Aiden and **Josh Gad's** Noah are each unique, and so affably honest and unorthodox, you cannot help liking them. Just as personality differences between



Pierce Gagnon's adolescent Tucker and **Joey King** as teenage sister Grace are nicely brought out – both are fantastic. **Mandy Patinkin** pulls off the grouchy, patronizing patriarch who overrides his egotism to extort his humanism. Production values are sound. To finance his second film, Braff (*Garden State* 2004) raised half the 6 million dollar budget through Internet crowdfunding—over 46,000 worldwide contributed. With its likeability, and truthful sincerity mixed with universal familial truths, the film makes us all want to end up a hero. (Marinell Haegelin)

The Cut ***1/2

Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Canada, Turkey 2014
Starts October 16, 2014
Directed by: Fatih Akin
Writing credits: Fatih Akin, Mardik Martin
Cast: Tahar Rahim, Simon Abkarian, Makram J. Khoury, Hindi Zahra, Bartu Kucukcaglayan
Moritz Bleibtreu, Shubham Saraf, Lara Heller, Kevork Malikyan
Length: 138 minutes

It is the year 1915, the Great Ottoman Empire is involved in World War I, and suddenly the Armenian community in southern Turkey is treated as enemy. Turkish military forces are banging on the door of the Armenian blacksmith Nazaret Manoogian (Tahar Rahim) in the middle of night. He is torn away from his loving wife (Hindi Zarah) and twin daughters. All able men from his village are forced to heavy labour, building a road through the desert. They are promised to be released



if willing to deny their Christian faith. The men who are not giving-in to this temptation are herded along a lonely path into the mountains near the Syrian border. There, they are savagely slaughtered like animals. Nazaret is saved by Mehmet (Bartu Kucukcaglayan) who pretends to have murdered him. The cut through Nazaret's neck is deep and has badly damaged his vocal cords. From now on he is mute! The concern for his family keeps him alive. Desperately he marches through the endless desert and over barren, majestic mountains searching for his wife and children. At Ras-al-Ayn, a death camp with starving women and children, he is told that his whole family is dead. (This should have brought tears to my eyes but instead I was disappointed with the unnaturally filmed scene which felt like set on a theater stage.) After Nazaret's sister-in-law dies in his arms, he leaves the camp behind. The kind soap-maker Omar Nasreddin (Makram J.Khoury) finds him totally exhausted and gives him shelter behind the safe gates of his home.

When the war ends, in November 1918, the Turks have been defeated by the English and are leaving Aleppo. The Armenians are free again. Nazaret learns that his twin daughters are still alive. Full of hope he goes on a frantic search for them only to find out that they have been married-off to husbands in faraway Cuba from where they, once again, had moved on. It follows an odyssey of wandering the globe in search of his twin daughters. Months turn into years. He never gives up, finally reaching the shores of the American continent. Here too he has to endure much hardship. His mean fellow workers brutally beat him up when he tries to save an Indian woman from being raped, calling him a Jew (!). He bravely trudges on and on through the wintry prairie plains eventually leading him to North Dakota. I wonder how Nazaret has not aged during all the years. In 1923, he still appears to be a youthful man with only a few strands of grey sprinkling his black mane.

With this epic drama filmmaker Fatih Akin completes his trilogy of „Love, Death and Devil“. After the two powerful films *Head-On*, 2004, and *The Edge of Heaven*, 2007, *The Cut* shows how close „evil“ and „good“ are, but one misses the intensity of the earlier films.

During the entire movie the rhythmic music arrangement of Alexander Hacke adds grandeur to the locations and the impressive images taken by Rainer Klausmann. Fatih Akin courageously handles a taboo which had

been hushed-up and denied for generations. He made an important statement with this ambitious historical family saga of suffering and injustice, of a people's emigration and immigration, of moving to the West to find a new life. (Birgit Schruppf)

The Maze Runner *1/2**

USA 2014
Starts October 16, 2014
Directed by: Wes Ball
Writing credits: Noah Oppenheim (screenplay), James Dashner (novel)
Cast: Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Length: 113 minutes
Thomas (O'Brien) is the latest arrival to the Glade, a green patch of land surrounded by a gigantic maze where people arrive through an elevator on a monthly basis. He is determined to lead the inhabitants through it, which brings up opponents inside and outside the Maze. A set of fresh actors and loads of action are great for a few hours of dystopian entertainment (Katia Trost)

Get on Up *****

USA 2014
Starts October 9, 2014
Directed by: Tate Taylor
Writing Credits: Steve Gaigelman, Jez Butterworth, John Butterworth, Tate Taylor
Cast: Chadwick Boseman, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Nelsan Ellis, Lennie James, Tika Sumpter, Jill Scott, Day Aykroyd
Length: 139 minutes



Director Tate Taylor has achieved the impossible: an all-encompassing, fantastic film about the life of the Godfather of Soul, singer James Brown. Chadwick Boseman plays Brown perfectly from age 16 to about 63. He never falls out of character and says, "I wanted my performance to be an interpretation, not an imitation."

James Brown was born in 1933 and grew up in a shack in Georgia, USA. His mother abandoned him when he was four years old. Three people influenced his road to success, something he knew he would achieve. His Aunt Honey (Octavia Spencer) took him into her home in Augusta, Georgia. He was well on the way to a life

AT THE MOVIES

of crime, when Bobby Byrd (Nelsan Ellis) got him out of jail, invited him into his family and introduced him to his first group of musicians, The Famous Flame, which led to their first hit “Please, Please, Please” in 1956. Ben Bart (Dan Aykroyd) was his hard-put manager for many years. Brown tells his own story in flash-back form over the years 1988, 1968, 1939, 1964, 1949, 1971 and so on up to 1993. We learn about his decision to produce his own album (after naysayers denied support) of a live concert at the Apollo Theater in New York City – a huge success. He refused to cancel his concert in Boston after the murder of Martin Luther King saying that it’s better to have black people united at his concert than creating havoc demonstrating on the streets. He performs for the troupes in Viet Nam and visits the White House. He reverts to violence, causes his band to quit, is a perfectionist and records his concerts in order to correct every mistake. Women are not equal; he says, “Women won’t stop a man from doing what he is supposed to do.” Even a song “This is a Man’s World” expresses this opinion. He has influenced more pop, jazz, reggae, and rap musicians than any other in his field, not only through music, but through his dancing, e.g., Michael Jackson.

The film shows all of this and much more. Simply the original songs from Brown (over 20 are in the film) are worth a ticket – what other chance do you have to experience a Brown concert? The costumes and wigs are perfect. Many actors in small parts add to the excellence such as Brandon Smith as singer Little Richard or Viola Davis as his irresponsible, selfish mother Susie. One of the producers is Mick Jagger of The Rollings Stones, a colleague throughout Brown’s life. It was filmed almost exclusively in Mississippi, USA. Definitely see this film, especially if you saw *B.B. King The Life of Riley* or *Jersey Boys* (same topic but totally different). You might, for once, be grateful

for subtitles. A genius in many ways, enunciation was not Brown’s strong point, so that subtitles might clear up some misunderstandings. (Becky Tan)

Khumba *

South Africa 2013

Starts: September 23, 2014

Director: Anthony Silverston

Writing Credits: Raffaella Delle Donne

Cast: Animation, English voices: Jake t. Austin, Steve Buscemi, Loretta Devine

Length: 83 minutes



The day that Khumba was born should have been a great day for Seko the leader of the zebra herd but for the fact that Khumba was born with a birth defect. His front half was with stripes and the back half was as white as snow. To the herd, he represents the reason they were to have a drought and they began to pick on him until he decides to go on a journey in order to change his fate. This South African animation clearly has taken ideas from *The Lion King* and *Madagascar* with a bit of *Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer* to come up with a storyline that is unfortunately not very imaginative. Khumba is being pursued by the evil predator leopard Phangi who has killed off his entire pride. One has to question the logic in this story; do we want to give the message to children that all predators die out? This film is entertaining for children but beware that the ecological messages connected to it are strange and disturbing. (Shelly Schoeneshoefer)

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Pride ****

United Kingdom 2014
 Starts October 30, 2014
 Directed by: Matthew Warchus
 Writing credits: Stephen Beresford
 Cast: Ben Schnetzer, George Mackay, Dominic West, Andrew Scott, Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton, Paddy Considine, Jessica Gunning, Faye Marsay
 Length: 120 minutes

This has already been well and thoroughly reviewed by Jenny Mather who has covered the plot and who also gave it four stars. So I will just tell you why I am so enthusiastic about this film. To begin with, I was very impressed by the excellent cast – among them George Mackay as Joe, Faye Marsay as Steph and Dominic West as Jonathan. Not to forget the always excellent Bill Nighy and Paddy Considine as Cliff and Hefina respectively. My particular joy in the film, though, was the fact that it was a true story with an extraordinary script, which converted the historic facts into an exciting and moving film. The dramatic revelations of the confrontations between the miners in Wales and Gays and Lesbians from London, of course, were expected, but the changes in attitudes and, especially, how they came about, were not. The influence of the women and the tolerance of the LGSM (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners) were also warmly portrayed. It is a great story, with terrific music from the ‘80s disco scene, by the way. I highly recommend it. (Adele Riepe)

Love, Rosie (Love, Rosie – Für immer vielleicht) ***

Germany | UK 2014
 Starts October 30, 2014
 Directed by: Christian Ditter
 Writing credits: Juliette Towhidi, Cecelia Ahern (novel)
 Cast: Lily Collins, Sam Claflin, Jaime Winstone
 Length: 102minutes



This romantic comedy is based on “Where Rainbows End”, a best-selling novel by Cecelia Ahern. Rosie (Lily Collins) and Alex (Sam Claflin) have been very best friends since they were children growing up in Ireland. As they become young adults it should dawn on them that

they are perfect for each other, but they keep missing opportunities to take their relationship to a romantic level. Misunderstandings, bad timing and bad luck abound, and years go by.

The story feels vaguely familiar—reminiscent of several British box-office successes of the same genre and *When Harry met Sally* (1989) comes to mind as well. In this film there are one too many ‘detours’ before the conclusion, though the director manages to ‘turn the corner’ just in time before boredom sets in. Nevertheless, *Love, Rosie* is endearing, with a charming cast – especially the lovely Lily Collins in the lead. (Carola A.).

Deux jours, une Nuit (2 Days, one Night) *1/2**

France/Belgium/Italy 2014
 Starts October 30, 2014
 Directed by: Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne
 Cast: Marion Cotillard, Fabrizio Rongione
 Length: 95 minutes

Sandra (Marion Cotillard) has been on sick leave from her factory work because of depression. When her leave is over, she discovers that she has been made redundant. The boss has offered her co-workers each a large bonus to distribute her work among them. Over the course of one weekend (hence the title), Sandra approaches her colleagues one by one to try to convince them to give up their bonus in order for her to regain her job. Her wonderfully supportive husband (Fabrizio Rongione) drives her from home to home.



The film is sometimes agonizingly slow and the Belgian landscape bleak but Marion Cotillard carries the film with her emotions and sensitivity and one never loses interest in her progress. (Thelma Fredman)

NOVEMBER ISSUE:

Topic will be:

**Getting ready for the holidays-
Santa and Insanity are coming to
town.**

Deadline: Saturday, October 24

**Proofreading: Wednesday, October 29 at
Abaton Bistro.**

As a super Christmas Special in December, *Currents* is organizing a big Cover Photo Competition. Whoever sends in the best Cover Photo, which could be anything like a drawing, a photograph, something crafted, ANYTHING you feel worthy enough to be on December's Christmas Cover. The winner will be picked at the Proofreading in November and will get a grande price.

GOOD LUCK!!

AWCH Contacts

Has your contact information changed? Not receiving email from the AWC loop? Or want to put something on the loop yourself?

Contact: secretary@awchamburg.org

Want to join the club?

Contact: membership@awchamburg.org

Want to locate your HH Helper? Contact: helpers@awchamburg.org

Lost your activity calendar?

Visit www.awchamburg.org/activitycalendar

Having trouble with the website?

Contact: webgineer@awchamburg.org

Want to write, edit, or proofread for *Currents*?

Contact: currents-exec@awchamburg.org

Want to find out more about FAWCO?

Contact: fawco@awchamburg.org

DANKE! DANKE! DANKE!

To Tracy, Cat and Jess for hosting Stitch and Bitch yet again.

To Regina for a wonderful New Members' Event.

To Jess for the great Cover Photos.

To Anna and Becky for the fun proofreading session.

WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

Did you move, have a baby or get a new job? If so, please let us know! This information is entered into our membership database and the membership directory. It is also important that we have up-to-date information to give to FAWCO (only overall numbers, no detailed information will be shared about specific members without your permission). Please contact the Membership Chair, Brooke V. (membership@awchamburg.org), with any updates. Thank you!



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