

# CULTURE

## WHERE ART THOU?



It's hard to believe how fast the summer has gone by. The weekends spent at the lake are sadly almost over, but now it's time to slow down a bit and enjoy the Charlotte art scene. This month I will be telling you about three venues to get a taste of Charlotte's art culture!

Club Blume of The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center  
[www.blumenthalcenter.org](http://www.blumenthalcenter.org)

As most of you know, Disney's THE LION KING, Broadway's award-winning musical, has been here in Charlotte at the Belk Theatre since the middle of July. Many people have been talking about how great this performance is and a large amount of them

wish to see it again! If you haven't gotten the chance to see it yet, you only have until August 19th. You definitely don't want to miss this awesome show!

Recently I was informed of Club Blume, an affinity of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. It's a social group for people in their 20's and 30's who are interested in the performing arts. Most social groups that you hear of have monthly fees in order to be able to attend events, but thanks to American Express, Club Blume is free, even the food and drinks!

Their July "Informance" was for The Lion King and featured an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the show with its current cast. I'm all about social groups, so I went to check out Club Blume and was impressed with how the event was run.

My favorite part was hearing from the actors who played the adult versions of Nala and Simba. I was struck by how laidback they were as they spoke about how they got to become actors in the show. There was a lot of laughter and members were becoming quite excited to see



*Photo by Joan Marcus*

them perform. It was obvious they were both very talented actors and made a great first impression.

#### THE RAT PACK IS BACK!

September 25 - October 21, 2007  
McGlohon Theatre

#### STOMP

February 26 - March 2, 2008  
Belk Theatre

#### WICKED

April 9-20, 2008  
Ovens Auditorium

## Bravo! - Opera Carolina's Young Professionals

Charlotte is a perfect city if you're a fan of opera because right here we have the premiere professional opera company of the Carolinas. Opera Carolina has many performances planned for this season including *The Nutcracker* this winter.

Opera Carolina also hosts an intriguing (and free) arts group for young professionals to get more involved with the opera called Bravo! Professionals aged 22 to 40 are invited to enjoy great benefits such as 15% off single tickets, Saturday night after-parties, members-only events throughout the year, and discounts to all other opera companies that also have a young professionals group (ex. San Francisco Opera.)



*Photo by Jim Schmid*

This year there are also a couple of local bars involved with Bravo! At George Herman's, Opera Carolina's resident stage director, Chad Calver, will be running an "Opera on Tap" program for the YP's prior to certain productions. After every Saturday night performance, Blue Restaurant & Bar will offer appetizer and drink specials. You can get more info on Bravo! and tickets for performances at [www.operacarolina.org](http://www.operacarolina.org).

## ROMEO & JULIET

October 18, 20, & 21, 2007

Belk Theatre

Bravo! @ Blue Restaurant & Bar

October 20, 2008 ~ 11pm

## AIDA

January 31 - February 1-3, 2008

Belk Theatre

Bravo! @ George Herman's January 24, 2008 ~ 6pm

Bravo! @ Blue Restaurant & Bar February 2, 2008 ~ 11pm

## North Carolina Dance Theatre

To watch talented artists who really can dance and entertain a crowd, you need to check out The North Carolina Dance Theatre. The NCDT has come a long way since it was first started in 1970 by Robert Lindgren, the Dean of Dance

at Winston-Salem's North Carolina School of the Arts. The troupe moved to Charlotte in 1990 and are now located in the NoDa area of town.

I'm sure most of you are interested in the TV reality show, *So You Think You Can Dance*, so it's your chance to experience Charlotte's dance culture. There are many great performances coming up during their 2007-2008 season. The season lasts until May and to view the scheduled performances and purchase tickets, visit [www.ncdance.org](http://www.ncdance.org).



*Photo by Jeff Cravotta*



*Photo by Jeff Cravotta*

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
September 22 & 23  
Belk Theatre

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
December 14-16 & 21-23  
Belk Theatre

**ROMEO & JULIET**  
May 15 - 17, 2008  
Belk Theatre

**THE LITTLE MERMAID**  
May 17 & 18, 2008  
Belk Theatre

**By: Laura Vossberg**  
[laura@ElevateCharlotte.com](mailto:laura@ElevateCharlotte.com)