

OUR PICKS

Exhibition | By Michael O'Sullivan
The American University Museum has seven — count 'em, seven — shows on view as part of its winter exhibition season, most of which could be said to center on the theme of labor-intensive craft. Not to be missed: painter Madeleine Keesing's cake-frosting-thick abstractions; sculptor Richard Cleaver's byzantine ceramic-and-mixed-media figures; and painter Stanley Lewis's densely layered landscapes. On Saturday, Lewis will be on hand for a gallery talk at 5, followed by a public reception for all seven shows from 6 to 9. Call 202-885-2787.

Film | By Desson Thomson
"Only Human," a Spanish farce, has absolutely no business being as laugh-out-loud funny as it often is. Seriously, what were the chances of a family comedy — built around a Jewish woman bringing her Palestinian beau home for the first time — being anything but absurd, goofy and very strained? When do we start giggling at jokes about intifadas and stone-throwing? The crazy thing is, we do. See review on Page 34.

Music | By Richard Harrington
Thankfully, both **Toshi Reagon** and **Lizz Wright** refuse to be categorized. For them, traditional genre boundaries are made to be straddled by slashes: folk/jazz/blues/funk/rock/gospel/country/R&B/whatever. You know, American music. Reagon and her band, Big Lovely, and Wright perform Saturday at the Music Center at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5100.



BY AUSTIN YOUNG

John Epperson as **Lypsinka** portrays **Joan Crawford** at **Studio Theatre**.

Theater | By Peter Marks
The fabulousness of Lypsinka has been established so definitively that it could be cited in case law. This alter ego of John Epperson is back at Studio Theatre with a new show and a divine pre-occupation with that star out of a female impersonator's dreams: Joan Crawford. But if you come to "The Passion of the Crawford" expecting a full helping of high camp, the hour-long production might leave you undernourished. Do come — but for something subtler. Through Feb. 25. Call 202-332-3300.



BY BENJAMIN C. TANKERSLEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Celebrate 4705, the Year of the Boar, Sunday from 2 to 5 at the **Chinese New Year Parade in Washington's tiny Chinatown**. Lion and dragon dancers, folk dance troupes, marching bands and other entertainers will travel a winding route from Fifth and I streets NW to the main stage at Sixth and H streets NW. 202-508-5438 or www.chinatowndance.com.

Happy Birthday, George!

» Mount Vernon, the first president's last home, celebrates George Washington's 275th birthday anniversary with special events all weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, samples of his favorite breakfast, "hoecakes swimming in butter and honey" cooked over an open fire, will be served from 9 to noon. "George" will be there to talk about life in the 18th century.

On Monday, President Bush is scheduled to attend a wreath-laying ceremony that begins at 10, followed by remarks at the Bowling Green at 10:15. The morning's events will be followed by music, drills and a battle demonstration by the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps of the Third U.S. Infantry and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard.

Parades begin at 1:30 all three days, with musicians, farm animals and visits by the general. Mount Vernon will open Saturday and Sunday at 9 and Monday at 8. Admission is free on the Monday holiday. On all other days, it is \$13, seniors \$12, ages 6 to 11 \$6, younger free.

MOUNT VERNON CELEBRATION Saturday through Monday at Mount Vernon, at the south end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway about eight miles south of Alexandria. 703-780-2000 or www.mountvernon.org.

» Alexandria hosts what it bills as the nation's largest George Washington's birthday parade Monday in Old Town, with marching bands, floats, military reenactors and other units. The reviewing stand is at Royal and Cameron streets.

ALEXANDRIA PARADE Monday from 1 to 3, starting at South St. Asaph and Wilkes streets and traveling north to Queen, east to Royal, south past Market Square to King, east to Fairfax and south to Gibbon. Free DASH shuttle buses will operate from the King Street and Eisenhower Avenue Metro stations. 703-991-4474, 703-838-4200 or www.washingtonbirthday.net.

Ship Ahoy!

Plan your next escape by sea at the 46th annual Washington Boat Show Friday through Monday at the Washington Convention Center. More than 500 watercraft of all sizes, from fishing boats to motor yachts, will share space with more than 200 booths by vendors of marine electronics, accessories and other goods and services. There will also be displays of speedboats, a tow sled and the "bath-o-sub" seen in James Bond films. Admission is \$10, ages 6 to 12 \$5, younger free.

WASHINGTON BOAT SHOW Friday from noon to 9, Saturday from 10 to 9 and Sunday and Monday from 11 to 6 at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Pl. NW (Metro: Mount Vernon Square). 703-823-7960. 202-249-3400 or www.washingtonboatshow.com.

Moving Pictures and Stills

"Moving Pictures: American Art and Early Film," the first exhibition to compare realist paintings of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with early experiments in film, opens Saturday at the Phillips Collection. More than 40 monitors will screen 60 short films by Thomas Edison, the Lumiere brothers and other pioneers that show Niagara Falls, Venetian canals, boxing bouts and other subjects with displays of paintings and illustrations of similar scenes by Thomas Eakins, John Singer Sargent and other artists. Tickets cost \$12, seniors and students \$10, ages 18 and younger free.

"MOVING PICTURES" From Saturday through May 20 at the Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW (Metro: Dupont Circle). 202-387-2151 or www.phillipscollection.org.

Joining the Circus

A naive orphan girl joins a traveling French circus and falls in love with a manipulative magician in a new revival of the Broadway musical classic "Carnival," opening Saturday at the Kennedy Center. The original production, adapted from the 1953 movie "Lili," won two 1962 Tony Awards. Tickets cost \$25 to \$90. See story on Page 20.

"CARNIVAL!" From Saturday through March 11 at the Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theater, 2700 F St. NW (Metro: Foggy Bottom-GWU, with free shuttles). 202-467-4600 (TDD: 202-416-8524) or www.kennedy-center.org.

Engineer for a Day

Build a scale-model railroad bridge, make slime with the help of chemical engineers, meet stars of the PBS "Cyberchase" and "Design Squad" shows, watch a competition among robots designed by high school students and talk to professional engineers about their work Saturday at the National Building Museum's "Discover Engineering Family Day." The hands-on activities and exhibits are aimed at ages 5 to 13 and their families. Admission is free; a donation of \$5 per person is encouraged.

"DISCOVER ENGINEERING FAMILY DAY" Saturday 10 to 4:30 at the National Building Museum, 401 F St. NW (Metro: Judiciary Square). 202-272-2448 or www.nbm.org.

The Old Becomes New

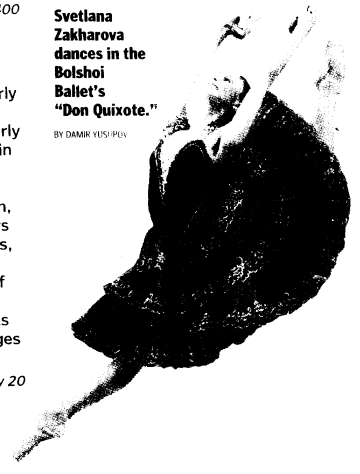
Visiting the Kennedy Center for the first time since 2002, Moscow's fabled Bolshoi Ballet stages evening-length productions of two classic story ballets starting Wednesday in the Opera House. "Cinderella" is the American premiere of a contemporary adaptation of the familiar fairy tale, set to Prokofiev's score. Marius Petipa's "Don Quixote" is a Mediterranean retelling of the story of the romantic hero. Tickets cost \$47 to \$125.

BOLSHOI BALLET "Cinderella," Wednesday through Feb. 23 at 7:30; "Don Quixote," Feb. 24-25 at 1:30 and 7:30 at the Kennedy Center Opera House, 2700 F St. NW (Metro: Foggy Bottom-GWU, with free shuttles). 202-467-4600 (TDD: 202-416-8524) or www.kennedy-center.org.

— Compiled by Barry Barriere

Svetlana Zakharova dances in the Bolshoi Ballet's "Don Quixote."

BY DAMIR YUSUPEV



THE WASHINGTON POST WEEKEND/FRIDAY, FEBRUARY