

# Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

Is funded in part by the MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL, EDWARD JONES and EXXONMOBIL.  
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## FAR AWAY FACES... BUT NEW ONES JOIN THE FUN



Rich

C

o-workers and long time employees, Rich St. John and Ampu [Anpalahan Shanmuganathan] have left. Those of you who come to the Arts Center during the day would have met Rich sometime over the last seventeen years and those who visit or work here during the evening would have met Ampu.

His time here lasted eleven years.

Rich retired last November. We wished him well at a luncheon honoring him and the work he accomplished noting just a few peculiarities, but mostly the great amount of appreciation we've had for him all of these years. He took it all in stride. And Ampu is moving to Canada to be with his family. We had a luncheon for him as well that was topped off with "root beer floats." Ampu says he will miss his Arts Center family immensely and Lucy's [Go-Diva Catering] food especially.

The first day for our two new employees, Patti Palmer and Ray Mendez was January 22nd. I'm hopeful that you will have the opportunity to meet them soon and let them get to know you. They've already taken cues from the senior member of our Facility Attendant staff, Benny. As many of you know, Benny is a valued employee and always greets those who come to this place with a smile and a helping hand. Be sure to stop in and say hello. Patti and Ray are anxious to meet everyone.



Ampu

Be sure to stop in and say hello.

# what i see

An exhibit by Billy Renfro | February 4-28

I spied a van parked in front of the Arts Center one day and a man got out. He came toward me and said, “I’ve worked a few stone pieces and want you to see them.” The comment threw me off a bit — wasn’t at all sure what he meant. He said his name was Billy and that he’s lived in Mesquite all of his life.

You see, that’s the absolute joy of being in this place.

More often than not, at least once or twice a month, someone shows up with something that we’ve never seen or heard about. Sure, to some, sculpture is sculpture, but just look at the few pieces pictured to the right. Hand cut stories told by rough hands that reveal a hard life working long hours at a hard job.

He smiled when we *liked* the “stone pieces.”

“Oh I’ve got thirteen or twenty-five of them,” he said — “not sure, truth be told.”

That was about a year and a half ago. Beginning February 4 the Arts Center will exhibit the sculptures of Billy Renfro in the Main Gallery. The sculpture immediately to the right is titled “Lady in a Rock” and the one next to her is “Indian” — some have titles some don’t. You can see from the images that Billy allows the stone to guide his imagination.

“What I See” runs through

February 28 and the gallery is open Monday from 8a until 9p and Tuesday through Friday from 8a until 5p. The Arts Center is also open to the public during performances.



For more information about events at the Arts Center go to [www.mesquiteartscenter.org](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org) or call 972-216-6444 during business hours.

## THEATRE IN FEBRUARY

**J**oin the Verdeen cousins Gaynelle, Jimmie Wyvette and Peaches of Sweetgum, Texas, as they teeter on the brink of disaster yet again. *Rex's Exes* brings back many of the beloved characters from the Mesquite Community Theatre production of *The Red Velvet Cake War* and introduces several new folks. Join the Verdeen family and the residents of Sweetgum for another wacky, fun-filled adventure!



Performances for *Rex's Exes* will be held in the Mesquite Arts Center Black Box Theatre located at 1527 N. Galloway, Mesquite, Texas. The show runs every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday beginning February 8<sup>th</sup> through February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. There will also be a special Thursday performance on February 20, 2013. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances begin at 8:00 p.m. Sundays are at 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 972-216-8126 or visit our website, [www.mesquitecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.mesquitecommunitytheatre.com). Tickets are \$12 to \$15 and call 972-216-8126 for reservations. Additional information can be found at [www.mctweb.org](http://www.mctweb.org).

## AND, DID YOU KNOW?

Twice a year the Arts Council provides two application deadlines for local arts organizations to apply for funding assistance. The Local Cultural Grants Program has been in existence since 1992 and has provided nearly \$700,000 in awards. Organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 annually in project or season support and the deadlines for support occurs each February 1 and August 1. The February deadline supports projects from March through August and the August deadline supports projects from September through February.

The applications are reviewed by a peer panel with recommendations submitted to the Arts Council board of directors. All awards must be matched by the organization on a dollar for dollar basis. For example, if the total project budget is \$5,000, the organization will apply for \$2,500 from the Arts Council and match that with another \$2,500.

Assistance from the Arts Council office is provided to anyone wishing to apply by making an appointment. For more information please call the office at 972-216-6444.

The MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL LOCAL CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM is supported in part by the CITY OF MESQUITE HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX FUND, the TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS and the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

**arts@1527**

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MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

1527 N. Galloway  
Mesquite, TX 75149

## “ U N D E R   T H E   W E S T E R N   S K Y ”

at the Mesquite Arts Center in March!



### Join the MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL

<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$25-\$49</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$250-\$499</b>
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>\$50-\$99</b>	<b>Investor</b>	<b>\$500-\$1,999</b>
<b>ArtsPartner</b>	<b>\$100-\$249</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>\$2,000 or more</b>

Mesquite Arts Council-1527 N. Galloway, Mesquite, TX 75149  
972-216-6444 or [www.mesquiteartscenter.org](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org)

## Courtyard COLORS

### FEBRUARY

4-28. "What I See" is an exhibit by Billy Renfro

8-23 MCT presents Rex's Exes. Call 972-216-8126 for info

11-13 MCT will hold auditions for Almost, Maine from 7-9p in the Black Box Theatre.

11 Mesquite Creative Arts Club demonstrations begin at 7p

### MARCH

2-31 "Under the Western Sky" is an exhibit by Derrick Birdsall

2 An artist reception for Derrick Birdsall begins at 4:30p

7 The Mesquite Arts Council Grants Review Committee meets at 11:30a

23 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra is in concert with Not Just for Kids, entitled "Introductions Please." The music of Britten and Prokofiev will be featured. Tickets are \$12 at the door.



Stay connected, be creative and enjoy the arts. While you're at it, stay the night in Mesquite and help support the arts.

Check in at [www.realtexasflavor.com](http://www.realtexasflavor.com)