

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Annenberg Foundation Awards The Music Center \$3 Million To Advance Its Arts Education Programs

The Music Center announced on Tuesday that it had received a \$3 million grant from the Annenberg Foundation to advance the performing arts center's work in arts education, which has been an important focus of the organization since its founding in 1964.

The three-year grant will be used to create a new initiative called The Annenberg Next Generation Arts Education Program, "that motivates students to think creatively and express themselves, encouraging them to be innovative thinkers who are prepared to work strategically in today's global economy," said Rachel Moore, The Music Center's president/CEO.

"The Music Center is an immense creative force, especially when it comes to bringing important education programs to the community," said Wallis Annenberg, Annenberg Foundation chairman/president/CEO. "I'm thrilled to share the power of the arts with children, enabling the next generation to express themselves creatively, take risks freely and advance their critical thinking skills in ways they may have never imagined."

"What an incredible vote of confidence for The Music Center to receive this important and prestigious grant, which recognizes our long-standing commitment to arts education and its impact," said Moore. "We know the arts can help build communities and trans-

form lives and are vital to fostering creativity and innovation, skills that are critical to the future leaders of tomorrow. This funding makes it possible for us to create a system of change by providing increased professional development for teachers and offering educators the creative tools to integrate the arts into the classroom; this work will help ensure the next generation has access to quality arts learning experiences that are integrated into core curriculum."

Funds from the Annenberg Foundation will help The Music Center expand or develop three specific programs, including its work in arts integration partnerships, in which the organization provides intensive professional development with a focus on classroom support; The Music Center's Institute for Educators, during which master teaching artists work with classroom teachers, immersing educators in multiple arts disciplines during a dedicated week-long intensive course; and Teaching Artist Training, where The Music Center provides extensive training for teaching artists on how to integrate lessons for their art form into curriculum and align with Common Core and the California Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. Monies will also be dedicated to support and expand many of The Music Center's

(see 'ANNENBERG,' page 15)

Terry Jastrow's Debut Novel Imagines War Crimes Trial Of George W. Bush

Emmy-winning director/producer Terry Jastrow hates war and is fascinated with the International Criminal Court (ICC), established by the United Nations in 2002.

Combining both his passions, Jastrow has written his debut novel, *The Trial Of Prisoner 043*, in which he imagines President George W. Bush being tried for war crimes leading up the Iraq War.

The political thriller has an Aug. 1 publication date and Jastrow will take part in a talk, Q&A and signing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 2 at Diesel, A Bookstore in the Brentwood Country Mart, 225 26th St., Suite #33, Santa Monica.

Jastrow, a long-time Brentwood resident, will be accompanied by his wife, actress Anne Archer. (The pair met in acting classes at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.)

Archer will discuss political and social activism by Hollywood celebrities and people in the arts. She founded Artists for Human Rights, bringing artists together to raise awareness of human rights around the world.

The pair will appear at another author event and discussion, Wednesday, Aug. 23 at Barnes & Noble at The Grove.

In Jastrow's scenario, the former president is abducted off Saint Andrews Links golf course and flown to The Hague to meet his accusers. Bush is the first head of a major superpower, let alone the reigning superpower, to be subjected



Terry Jastrow

to international law before the ICC. For a full year, the ICC has been amassing evidence to indict Bush as the ultimate decision maker responsible for an unjustifiable and perhaps illegal war.

Jastrow says he worked hard not to take sides and lets the attorneys take the different points of view as to whether Bush manipulated or lied about intelligence reports that led to the Iraq War. "In this book, that is often a courtroom drama," says Jastrow, "I wanted to provide all the information so readers can decide, like a jury would."

"I think too many wars are fought unnecessarily; and I want people to become more aware of the truth about wars and more interested in international criminal law," says Jastrow.

He spent three-and-a-half years researching the book reading biographies of people involved in the narrative including George H.W. and George W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and Richard A. Clarke.

In the "tons of material about the Iraq War," Jastrow studied blogs by both

(see 'JASTROW,' page 15)

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The Last Face—An Action-Paced Yawn; Menashe—An Ethnic Tale Set In Brooklyn

Directed by enigmatic Sean Penn, *The Last Face* is an action-packed feature starring Charlize Theron and Javier Bardem as relief aid doctors. It was roundly criticized at the Cannes Film Festival and I don't anticipate it getting a favorable reception here in the states.

The film is a bloody bore that suffers from a poor script, cutsie and erratic direction, and far too much savage killing and gut spilling. And, the love-affair between Theron and Bardem doesn't spark much interest. The chaotic story of the Liberian Civil War is impeded by hard to follow flashbacks, further complicating the uneven script.

One of my favorite actors, Jean Reno, is totally wasted with what amounts to be an elongated walk on. However, if you haven't had your fill of "action" flicks, *The Last Face* might quench your yearning – until you get home.

1 Bagel out of 4

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Menashe is a film entirely in Yiddish (with English subtitles) about the Chassidic Jews of Borough Park, Brooklyn starring a true Pious Jew and members of the community? "You gotta be kidding?" you say. "Well, I'm not."

Put together by director Joshua Z. Weinstein, producer Alex Lipschultz who co/wrote the script with Weinstein and Musa Syeed and starring Menashe Lustig as – guess who.

This is a simple story of a hardworking store clerk whose wife has passed away. The stern and no nonsense rabbi decrees that his young son, Rieven, be adopted by his married, strict brother-in-law as children must grow up in a home

where a mother is present.

As the memorial for Menashe's wife is coming up, the rabbi relents and tells him that Rieven can stay until the unveiling of the stone and then brought to his brother-in-law's home.

Using hidden cameras for fear of someone detecting one and shutting down production, all concerned are dedicated to their appointed roles with a mission in mind - bringing in an audience of people who have no idea of their culture and life-style. Perhaps, just perhaps they, Jew and non-Jew, will then better understand the mystiques and observances of the Chassidic Jew.



**Jerry Cutler
On Film**

Menashe Lustig and Ruben Niborski as his son, are wonderful together. The other 'actors' are very believable which is a credit to the director who has placed his faith and considerable talent in this off-beat production.

Menashe is by no means great but audiences will get a very true depiction of these people who do not possess televisions and never go to the movies. They are a very proud people who live for the glory of God by living a humble life through the study of Torah and the joy of prayer.

2-1/2 Bagels lots of schmear and lox out of 4

Jerry Cutler, the Courier's film critic, is rabbi at Creative Arts Temple



HEROES OF HOLLYWOOD—The Hollywood Museum was the site of the Heroes of Hollywood Awards. Among industry veterans on hand were (from left): actress Dee Wallace (*E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*); honoree Donelle Dadigan of Beverly Hills, founder/owner of the museum; actress "Tippi" Hedren (*The Birds*); honoree Nancy O'Dell (*Entertainment Tonight*); actress Kate Linder (*The Young And The Restless*); and Oscar-winner George Chakiris (*West Side Story*).
Photo by William A. Kidston

Paley Center Concludes 2017 PaleyLive LA Summer Season Celebrating Farewell Season Of Episodes

A premiere screening and panel celebrating the Showtime comedy series *Episodes* will conclude the Paley Center for Media's PaleyLive Summer Season at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 16 at the center, 465 N. Beverly Dr.

The program will feature a screening of the season five premiere, a panel conversation and audience Q&A with the cast and creative team.

"For five seasons *Episodes* has entertained audiences with its smart, witty humor," said Maureen J. Reidy, the Paley Center's president/CEO.

After four critically acclaimed seasons, *Episodes* begins its fifth season and farewell run at 10 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 20. At the start of the final season, several months have passed and the game show hosted by Matt is now a runaway hit.

Unfortunately for Matt, this means his years as an actor are completely forgotten. Sean (Stephen Mangan) and Beverly (Tamsin Greig) are equally miserable. Sean's loathsome ex-partner is now in charge of their new series, *The Opposite of Us*, and Sean and Beverly must now endure his utter lack of humor or talent as they watch him slowly destroy their show.

The Paley Center will welcome the cast and creative team including: Matt LeBlanc as himself, Kathleen Rose Perkins as Carol Rance, Mircea Monroe and Morning Randolph, plus David Crane and Jeffrey Klarik, creators and executive producers. BuzzFeed's Jarett Wieselman will moderate.

Visit paleycenter.org for more information, panel updates, and to purchase tickets.

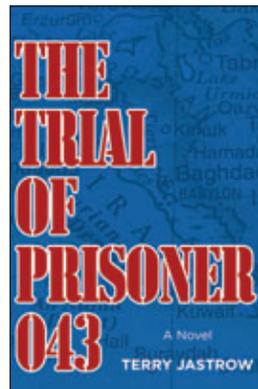
JASTROW

(Continued from page 14)

Iraqis and soldiers in the war.

In addition to interviewing international criminal law attorneys in both the U.S. and Europe, Jastrow made three trips to the court in the Netherlands conducting research. "So the book has been vetted on both sides of the Atlantic," Jastrow says.

There had to be enough reporting to "make the book legitimate," says Jastrow. "But I didn't want too much legalese to keep it from being a compelling read. It's a novel, not a text-



book."

Jastrow believes "the only way humanity can defend itself against waging unnecessary wars is the outcry of the people and the voice of an informed and engaged citizenry, keeping in check those who create wars."
—Steve Simmons

ANNENBERG

(Continued from page 14)

current arts education programs including "The Music Center On Tour," which are professional performances for school assemblies and community groups; student performances; and professional development programs for educators.

In addition, The Music Center will collaborate with the Annenberg Space for Photography since both organizations will present work focused on Cuba as part of the upcoming "Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative." The Photography Space will present a photo exhibition *Cuba Is*, while The Music Center will present a four-day celebration of Cuban performing artists with *Cuba Antes/Ahora; Cuba Then/Now*. This collaboration will involve opportunities for high school students to participate in an intensive residency involving visual art and dance.

The Music Center anticipates launching new initiatives in year two and three of the grant with the goal of expanding outreach to both teachers and students, including the exploration of local college and university partnerships and after-school programs.

This grant from the Annenberg Foundation follows the award of three additional grants to The Music Center, including monies from Bank of America to support the performing arts organization's acclaimed Spotlight scholarship and arts training program; support from the California Arts Council for "The Music Center On Tour," along with professional development and arts integration partnerships; and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for a newly launched initiative, "The Music Center On Location," which takes programming to venues outside The Music Center campus.

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