

Louis Armstrong Comes to Life on the Ansonia Stage January 26

In a release from the Arts Council: From New York City to Berkley, CA, from New Orleans to Edinburgh, Scotland, actor and playwright Danny Mullen has brought Louis Armstrong to life onstage. Now he's bringing his one-man show to the Ansonia Theatre.

In "A Tuff Shuffle - Backstage with Louis Armstrong," Mullen portrays Satchmo backstage after a show. "After each concert, Louis Armstrong would be backstage greeting fans from all walks of life, a motley crew, all there together in the dressing room," says Mullen. With his portrayal Mullen aims to make the audience feel as if they're sitting backstage with Armstrong himself.

Danny Mullen has been fascinated with Louis Armstrong ever since he saw the music great on the Ed Sullivan show as a child. In junior high, he read about Armstrong's recordings being sent into outer space with other earth artifacts onboard a satellite, and he remembers hearing Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World" in the movie "Good Morning, Vietnam" while he was in college.

In 1990 Mullen read a biography of Armstrong, and his connection with the music great strengthened. In 2000 he wrote his one-man show "A Tuff Shuffle." "Louis Armstrong is jazz," Mullen says, "and the history of jazz is the history of America." Born in New Orleans and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Mullen earned a master's degree in American Studies and taught public school in Buffalo, acting in his spare time. He now lives in Charlotte where he has taught middle school, then arts and history courses at Salisbury's Livingstone College. He is currently teaching history at Charlotte's University of Phoenix campus.

"A Tuff Shuffle - Backstage with Louis Armstrong" comes to the Ansonia on Saturday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Arts Council, Lacy's, and the Anson County Chamber of Commerce. They are available online at www.ansoniatheatre.com. Information at 704-694-4950.

Due to mature content, the show is not recommended for children.

Broadway producer Woodie King, Jr. has said that "Nobody can play Louis Armstrong like Danny Mullen." Don't miss your chance to see why.

College Financial Aid Help Available at More Than 300 Locations Across NC February 23

SPCC, SECU offices will be sites in Union, Anson Counties

College financial aid officers and specialists will be available across North Carolina on Feb. 23 to help high school seniors and families complete and submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms online. There will be free FAFSA Day programs in all 100 counties, with most sites open from 9 a.m. until noon.

In Union County, FAFSA Day will be held at South Piedmont Community College's Old Charlotte Highway Campus, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway in Monroe. It will be held in conjunction with the school's Free College Day. In Anson County, residents can go to the State Employees' Credit Union, 913 E. Caswell St., Wadesboro.

Completing the FAFSA form is a requirement to be considered for all federal and most state financial aid for college, including scholarships and grants. This year's statewide FAFSA Day is sponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and State Employees' Credit Union.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. More than 300 sites will be available, including campus sites and State Employees' Credit Union branches. The Credit Union can assist SECU members in any of its branch locations; however, in counties where there are no campus sites, the Credit Union can serve members and non-members. A list of all locations and registration is available at CFNC.org/FAFSADay or by calling 866-866-CFNC toll-free.

To be fully prepared to complete the FAFSA on Feb. 23, participants should either file their 2012 federal taxes in advance or bring the following items: both the student's and parents' federal 1040 tax forms for 2012 (or W-2 forms and other income and asset documents if completed tax forms are not available); the student's and one parent's Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) obtained in advance from the U.S. Department of Education website, www.pin.ed.gov; and a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet with as much information entered as possible. The online worksheet is available at www.fafsa.gov.

"It's important to complete the FAFSA early to take advantage of all of the financial aid opportunities available for North Carolinians," said Robbie Schultz, of the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority and CFNC coordinator of the FAFSA Day program. "Students and parents don't need to worry if they aren't sure how to answer all of the questions on the form. That's why we have arranged to have experienced financial aid specialists to help at each FAFSA Day site."

"Filing 2012 federal taxes early really simplifies FAFSA completion," Schultz added. "Those who file well in advance of FAFSA Day can use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA form to transfer their tax information directly onto their FAFSA."

He continued, "If a student or parent hasn't yet filed taxes, they can estimate income information on the FAFSA, and then use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to submit FAFSA corrections at a later date. See the video section on the Pay page at cfnc.org."

Another option for students and parents with a few questions on completing the FAFSA is the FAFSA Phone-In offered every Tuesday night in February. Financial aid specialists and experts will be available to answer specific FAFSA questions on the toll-free number, 866-866-CFNC (2362), between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Additional free college planning information is available at the College Foundation of North Carolina website, CFNC.org. Families can find financial aid videos, college cost estimators, listings of scholarship, grant and loan opportunities, information about North Carolina's 529 college savings plan, career information, virtual tours of more than 100 of the state's college campuses and online college admission and financial aid applications.

McKinney Lake Fish Hatchery Transferred to Wildlife Commission

The McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery in Hoffman, NC will officially become the property of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. President Obama on December 28 signed into law a bill that transferred ownership of the hatchery from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, as part of a larger bill, S.3687.

The Commission has operated the warm-water fish hatchery under a Memorandum of Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 1996 and annually produces more than 130,000 harvestable-sized (8-12 inches) channel catfish for stocking into public, inland waters.

"McKinney Lake is an important element of the Commission's statewide hatchery system. In addition, the forested land associated with the hatchery will be integrated with the Commission's wildlife management and forest stewardship activities," said Gordon Myers, executive director of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. "This conveyance to the State of North Carolina helps ensure the continuation of 75 years of fish and wildlife conservation at this facility."

The bill was introduced initially into Congress as H.R. 1160, McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act, by former Rep. Larry Kissell (D-NC). It passed the House Committee on Natural Resources as well as the full House of Representatives in 2011.

In the Senate, Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) led the effort to get the bill through the Environment and Public Works Committee and calendared for the full Senate. The bill was then rolled into a larger bill to ensure passage in the final days of the 112th Congress.

"We are extremely grateful to Rep. Kissell and Sens. Hagan and Burr for their support of this legislation," Myers said. "This no-cost property transfer will enable the Commission to continue to provide and sustain opportunities for North Carolinians in all parts of our state, most notably in urban areas, to participate in family-friendly fishing activities."

In addition to producing channel catfish, the fish hatchery hosts an annual children's fishing day every June.

For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, visit www.ncwildlife.org/fishing.

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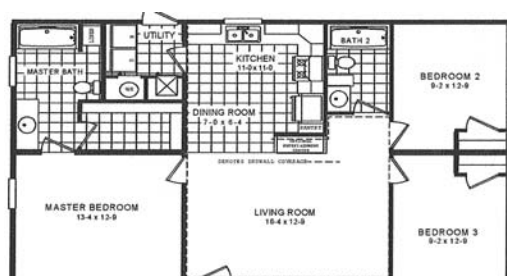
SPCC is seeking applications for a Human Resources Technician for the Human Resources, Payroll, and Organizational Development department. This is a full-time, 12-month position based on the OCH Campus with some travel between all SPCC locations.

Minimum Requirements: Associate's Degree; Previous Human Resources experience; Three years of customer service experience; Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access.

Position is open until filled. An application, job description and other requirements may be found at www.spcc.edu or contact us at:

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