
**Lounge Pianist Ray Jowziak**

isn’t your typical lounge pianist. Jowziak, a self-billed “gonzo pianist,” performs Wednesday nights at The Belvedere’s 13th Floor Lounge. More fractured jazz than tuxedo schmaltz, he conjures the spirits of Thelonious Monk and a host of stride pianists with a strong left hand and a quirky instrumental approach.

**Mix of Art and Music**

Talk about mixing pleasure with... pleasure. At *Jazz in the Sculpture Garden*, 10 Art Museum Dr., 410-396-6001, the tasty sandwiches and snacks from the outside bar are served during the concert! Last summer’s lineup was impressive and this year will be no different: Acclaimed vocalist Paula West and nationally known jazz singers Andy Bey and Ethelbert deWald perform this month.

**Musical**

The Lion King may have been the season’s most artful spectacle, but Center Stage’s adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Two Gentlemen of Verona* as the most audacious and, ultimately, enjoyable musical.

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**Hidden Treasure: Die-Oramas**

If you’ve ever visited the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner—a strange experience in itself, for the uninitiated—you may have noticed some peculiar dollhouses on display. They’re actually dioramas, and a closer look reveals a grisly crime scene in each tiny room. They show murders, suicides, and accidents of various types, all rendered in astounding detail on a 1:12 scale. The 18 dioramas (also featured in the book *The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death*) are so meticulously constructed that window shades move up and down, and spilled grains of sugar are visible on a kitchen floor. Built in the 1940s by Chicago heiress/amateur sleuth Frances Giesmer Lee, the scenes portrayed in the dioramas are based on real cases. Lee created them to help train detectives in assessing evidence. More fascinating than a season of *CSI: The Crime Scene Dioramas*, 111 Penn St., Baltimore, MD, 21201, may be viewed by written request only. —John Lewis