Absurdity comes out at night in ‘Graveyard’

By CHRISTOPHER BORELLI

Tribune reporter

People do ridiculous things in the middle of the night. Questionable things. Like decide they will shoot the entire season of ‘The Sopranos’ — all 84 episodes, with 10 pages of dialogue — before the series finale.

In fact, when director Ron Leibman was showing “Graveyard,” the closeup patent stamp of a sticker that crept with Chicago actor David Pasquesi and Christian Stolte — and ended shot in a single night, from dark to dawn — Alice from “The Four Seasons” flowers in his brain. “It’s easily over we had better know about everything in the daytime, but quite a different thing.”

Meaning (in this case, anyway), it’s easy to request the logic of making 14 films in nine hours.

But not while you’re doing it.

The season 2 premieres of “Graveyard” (which goes online “Tuesday at 7 p.m. EST”) stars (and is written by) Zachary Zon (who plays most of the roles), the remaining 10 new episodes (which will be posted every other week) — everything was shot last summer in a single night in a nondescript Dominque Grove office park and undetected that it would be hard to identify shade of a Deng. The production was the only anomaly for Block, a thing of filmmaking equipment gleaming beneath stage lights above a high-speed laundry}

Dance Damien Woezlet, left, soprano Renee Fleming and cellist Yo-Yo Ma take part in a school assembly Monday.

Cultural plan emphasizes arts in schools, but funding an open question

By MARK CAIO

And HEATHER GILLERS

Tribune reporters

Flashed by arts supporters Yo-Yo Ma, Renée Fleming and Damien Woizet at a March assembly at a school, Mayor Richard M. Daley yesterday announced a $2 million commitment to the Chicago Cultural Plan 2012, unveiled Monday.

As had been discussed in drafts and numerous community meetings that began in February, the Cultural Plan, the city’s first since the Harold Washington administration’s from 1989–91, is an ambitious undertaking the arts in the city’s neighborhoods. But the No. 1 initiative among 10 laid out in the plan is “Reinventing arts education and creating new opportunities for lifelong learning.”

“During the planning process, arts education consistently emerged as the No. 1 concern of Chicagans, and with- out it we had the most discussed areas of the plan,” said Tom Heneke, Cultural Affairs and Special Events Commissioner Michelle Harris. “But students, and arts leaders, are together in the spirit of Mental Power. The School. So for the most part, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will collaborate with Chicago Public Schools to launch a new Arts Education Plan in the context of the Chicago Cultural Plan.”

But with a total of $1 million allocated for both plans in the city’s 8.45 billion budget proposal for 2013, it’s unclear how many of the recommendations might be put into practice. The Cultural Plan offers cost estimates for each of its recommendations that add up to more than $1 million per year.

The newly released action plan for the Arts Education Plan, slated to be completed in December, states in a “pelling principle” that every student will receive a quality arts education — meaning that every student receives a comprehensive and sequential training in any art form, including visual art.

Please turn to Page 4

‘Iceman Cometh,’ ‘Follies’ big Jeff Award winners

By CHRISTOS JOHN

Two of the most accomplished productions in the history of Chicago theater — “Follies” at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and “The Iceman Cometh” at the Goodman Theater — shared honors at the Joseph Jefferson Awards, presented Monday at the Drury Lane Theatre West in Oak Brook.

The six full-length American titles (including a best actor award for Robert Falls) and a supporting role award for Brian Dennehy, even though this was a role for a bigger-than-life “In love” (and “Iceman” took home, unsurpris- ingly, the Jeff for best musical). “Follies”

Brian Dennehy, left, with Nathan Lane in “The Iceman Cometh,” win the Jeff Award for actor in a supporting role in a play. “Follies” received the additional Jeffs.

Please turn to Page 5

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO GET TV WEEKLY!

CHICAGOLAND’S BEST SOURCE FOR LOCAL TV & CABLE LISTINGS

Subscribe to TV Weekly today for as little as 65¢ per week and begin enjoying the nation’s leading magazine for local printed TV listings!

For further service go to:
www.wantmytvmag.com/chicago/tribune/cablelistings

Free to use for:

San Diego Tribune

Tuesday, October 3, 2012 | Section 4
music, dance and drama from programs such as "From the Heart." One key goal is to "make a arts core compulsory for all students, with the exception of music and art instruction per week for elementary and middle schools.

In a news conference preceding an assembly for the Phoenix students, faculty and visitors, Faneuil said he "had changed our kids' belief that they had little faith for the school day and year.

"We're not always doing a great job with respect to arts in our schools," Chicago Board of Education President David Vitale said at the news conference, later adding: "I know that arts education continues to better student outcomes in all subjects, and that this would be a better outcome for our students. We want to create better learning opportunities for all our students.

The daughter of two music teachers, the 12-year-old student consultant Fleming flew to Chicago to hear the performances of "Voices in the Wind," at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He was pushed to make a new school to support the push for more arts education.

"The bottom line is that focusing core subjects is a problem in its own right, and as a strategy for improving educational performance, and I believe firmly that improving the arts, even core education helps children see the world, understand and really absorb what it is that their school is doing to give them the tools to develop as individuals," Fleming said.

In an emailed statement Monday afternoon, Chicago Public Schools Superintendent Parke Karen Lewis called the proposed 122-minute arts requirement "an excellent start" but said, "Arts studies must be fully supported and cannot be limited to the vagaries of funding sources." 

CPS already has a budget shortfall of $1 billion next year.

The broader Cultural Plan also includes making pre-K a legitimate, permitting and licensing rules that affect people who sell and make art, and using city resources to help foster and promote arts offerings in neighborhoods such as Uptown or Bronzeville as an economic development tool. The purpose of using art to draw traffic and business includes Mad. Hatter, president and CEO of Arts Creative Arts Foundation, which runs a gallery, theater and musical performance venue at the Chicago Cultural Center.

"Here on the South Side, there's a death of economic opportunities, and we certainly have lots of cultural assets," Thomas said. "So that really has been the way forward for us as a community."

But Laura Warren, the Near South Side Neighbors inked a letter to the city council, expressed concerns that city priorities might overwhelm the opinions of ordinary citizens when it came to deciding what to cut.

"The city's, they're a fast track to the arts, but in a slow way," she said, Warren, whose advocacy group was formed during the meeting process for the city's fiscal 2013 cultural plan.

Lyric Opera General Director Anthonyado; and city and met with Bolivia frequently during the Cultural Plan's formulation, said, he's happy to see Chicago boost cultural arts in such an official way.

"I think it's already great that the city is embracing the importance of culture in such a different perspective social, economic, technological and when it embraces the fact that it's fun for our culture not just a central part of why Chicago's a great place and a great place to visit. As a cultural foundation, with the vast majority of coming from private funds, it's a Cultural Affairs spokesperson.

A city contract shows $150,000 to that went to Toronto-based consulting firm Lloy.

The report also covered 30 public meetings and helped assemble the plan. The mayor's office and half of the $1 billion 2012 budget allocation will go to public schools and half to after-school in the Cultural Plan. Brown said Thursday that more than one-third of the plan's proposed initiatives will cost $500,000 or year to two to implement and can be achieved over the next two years. But the majori-

y of the plan's efforts involve show its Chicago Public Library. The money would come from:

- $25 million to $50 million annually over five years for a citywide arts movement.

The city is hoping for assistance from pro-poor partners, helping arts get on their feet. Faneuil cars for Chicago for the Cultural Plan's "make-

recommendation of the Cultural Plan's "make-

Arts in the classroom

The plan by the numbers

The city released 2012 cultural plan Monday suggesting more than 200 initiatives and implementations. In the works since October 2011, here is what want into forming the plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

800+ Public tours

15,000 Twitter followers

14,000 people reach per conversation

13,000 downloads of draft plan

2,000 people reached online

105 PRIORITIES OF THE PLAN

People

Foster arts education and lifelong learning.

Support and retain arts and creative professionals.

Facilitate neighborhood cultural planning.

Optimize city policies and regulations.

Planning

Promote the value and impact of culture.

Strengthen Chicago as a global cultural destination.

Foster cultural innovation.

Integrate culture into daily life.