

Naples jazz, food, films, classical say one thing: Stay in May

[Harriet Howard Heithaus](#)



Violinist Misty Drake (*Photo: Submitted photo*)

Of all many things that recommend the Stay in May Festival — the diversity of arts, the food, the wellness events — one of its most sparkling attributes is how excited its presenters are about what they're doing.

Judy Copeland has been at the helm of its Short Films Fest, three nights of 15- to 25-minute films, and she is enthusiastic about every film that's on the schedule.

"This is a terrific film," she said of "Échappé," the opening night headliner about a young Soviet ballerina who becomes increasingly aware during a New York dance tour that her brother is planning to defect.

"It's a thriller, it's got ballet, it's won awards. It's got Russian — it's mostly English but there's a little Russian (with subtitles) in it," she said. The film dances to its tense

ending in a quick 13 minutes. It won "festival favorite" at the San Francisco IndieFest, best short film of the Sedona International Film Festival in Arizona and best short film at the Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City, New Jersey.

But she's similarly excited about "Coin Lunch," the tale of an American man trying to find his place in a Japanese culture without the money that makes friends. As it progresses, the main character must choose: Go out with the guys, or stick to the budget his wife has set.

"You can see him agonize over the choices. That's a wonderful film," she declared. "The cinematography is exquisite." It also won an award — audience choice, short film — at the Monmouth Festival in Red Bank, New Jersey.

In fact, just about all the films Copeland chooses have won awards somewhere.

"In regular festivals they can show 10 shorts in one block because they have more time. And inevitably one's a clunker. But they have room for that," she said. "We always have three films and discussion, so obviously I'm very careful about my choices."

Further, she said, the Stay in May Festival audience is "mature. They ask fabulous questions. I've had directors attend and tell me this audience asked the best questions they'd ever gotten."

Two of the directors will be here for the festival this year: Robert Haufrecht from New York, for "Subterranean Love: Ileana and Paul," on Sunday, April 28, and Jeffery T. Schultz from Chicago for "Easy Way Out" on Sunday, May 5.

Misty Drake is another Neapolitan involved in the festival, as a performer in the Henry Mancini Institute String Trio concert at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27. While the name of the institute may evoke the movie and TV themes for which the late composer of "Moon River" and "Peter Gunn" was famous, its mission is stretch its scholars' boundaries, according to Drake.

So the trio she's with is digging into some less traditional fare of Richard Strauss and Hubert Parry along with Beethoven's String Trio No. 9 in G Major. But what excites Drake, a masters student in violin at the Frost School of Music in Miami, is coming home to perform as an adult.

She has played in the Naples Youth Philharmonic and with the student-led Anderson String Quartet during her years growing up in Naples.

"I'd always wanted to come back and give concerts in the community that I grew up in and was so supportive of me — it was something I always hoped to do," she said. "I can't believe it's already happening."

The festival opened this week and continues through May 7, with everything from an evening of New Orleans jazz to an afternoon of cooking, pottery painting and food and a special Naples Art District open house. A list of events is in the accompanying schedule.

Stay in May Festival

Here are events from the continuing Stay in May Festival. Tickets are available at its website, stayinmay.com or through the ticket hotline: 888-613-8488

Zentangle: 10:30 a.m.-noon Friday, April 26. With Meg Scott and Celine Cracco, art that you can create anywhere to relieve stress; \$25; Shangri-La Springs, 27750 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs

Music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn: 6 p.m. Friday, April 26. Dan Miller, trumpet, and Lew Del Gatto, sax; \$25; South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway Naples

Mindfulness walk/meditation at the zoo: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27. With Angela Sanders of Mindful Mindz \$25. 1590 Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, Goodlette-Frank Road, Naples.

Henry Mancini Institute string trio: 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Including violinist

Misty Drake, of Naples, who is a Henry Mancini Institute fellow at the Frost School of Music in Miami. \$30. Bower Chapel, 130 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

Find your inner artist: 4-6 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Four different workshops will allow novices to learn techniques from realism to abstract and from painting to acrylic pour.

\$30. Naples Art District at Artisan's Plaza, 5760 Shirley Street, Suite 4, Naples

Alex Laurenzi and Lew Del Gatto: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27. Sax prodigy who has won Downbeat magazine's Student Soloist awards and who has played with Wynton Marsalis, David Sanborn and Wycliffe Gordon among others, joins the pro who played with Frank Sinatra, Buddy Rich and two famous TV shows, "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" and "Saturday Night Live." \$25. Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, 2620 Tiburon Drive, Naples.

Henry Mancini Piano Trio: 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28. Featuring flute, clarinet and piano. \$30. Bower Chapel, 130 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

Stay in May Short Film Fest: 7 p.m. April 28. The first of three different short-film festival programs curated by Naples director Judy Copeland, including discussion. "Échappé," "How Tommy Lemenchik Became a Grade 7 Legend" and "Subterranean Love: Ileana and Paul." \$15. Sheffield Theatre, 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

Monroe Crossing: 7 p.m. Monday, April 29. Bluegrass, folk and more from a quintet who each play and sing. \$30. Moorings Park Auditorium, 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

The Jett Thompson Home — Exploring Historic Naples with Books and Art: 4-6 p.m. Meet Robert and Carole Leher, authors of "Naples Beach Homes: Cottages, Castles, and the Families That Built Them," and visit with Naples artists Susan Shipman and Tara Funk \$10. 393 Broad Ave. S., Naples.

Art Alive — Special Art Walk: 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 1. Explore more than 60 art galleries and get a chance to win a prize basket from the artists. Free. Start at the

Naples Art District headquarters, 5850 Shirley St., Unit 14, Naples.

Stay in May Short Film Fest: 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1. The second of three different short-film festival programs curated by Naples director Judy Copeland, including discussion. "Coin Lunch," "How Do You Type a Broken Heart" and "Actors Anonymous." \$15. Sheffield Theatre, 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

Day of Dancing, Painting, Nutrition: 3 p.m. Thursday, May 2. Guided fun and food: Paint soup bowls in a rustic theme, taste soups and finish the day with some fun circle dances. Leave with the soup bowl, recipes and new exercises. \$5. Naples Senior Center, 5029 Castello Drive, Naples.

Chef's dinner — "The Flavors of Brazil": 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2. Enjoy a dinner of Brazilian cuisine while three artists from the Naples Art District — Maggie DeMarco, Paula Brody and Sandee Kozlow Mahler — create artwork with Brazilian influences. Brian Roland is chef. \$95. Venue Naples, 13240 U.S. 41 N., Unit 205, Naples.

Leroy Jones and the Lew Del Gatto Trio: 7 p.m. Friday, May 3. Jazz trumpet players Leroy Jones, a native of New Orleans, is a seminal figure in current New Orleans jazz as leader of the Fairview Brass Band, which is credited in restoring the brass band tradition of New Orleans. He's a regular regular at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and is in the New Orleans Jazz Hall of Fame. Del Gatto played with Frank Sinatra, Buddy Rich and on two famous TV shows, "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" and "Saturday Night Live." \$30. North Naples Church, 6000 Goodlette-Frank Road, Naples.

Intersection: 7 p.m. May 4. A high-energy violin trio who veer from classical to jazz to pop, perhaps even in the same song. \$30. Palmetto Room, Bentley Village, 850 Retreat Drive, Naples.

Organ and Brass: 4 pm. Sunday, May 5. James Cochran, music director for Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, on the church's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ, with an eight-piece brass band including Naples Philharmonic musicians and brass musicians

from around the state, as well as piano. \$30. Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd., Naples.

Stay in May Short Film Fest: 7 p.m. Sunday, May 5. The final of three different short-film festival programs curated by Naples director Judy Copeland, including discussion. "Figs for Italo," "Guest of Honor" and "Easy Way Out." \$15. Sheffield Theatre, 120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples.

Culinary Superstars in Training: 7 p.m. Monday May 6. Top area high school culinary students prepare foods from their favorite countries for a sampling dinner, under the guidance of chef Brian Roland. \$25. Venue Naples, 13240 U.S. 41 N., Unit 205, Naples.

Seraphic Fire — Music for Peace: 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7. Grammy-nominated vocal and instrumental group under Founder and Artistic Director Patrick Dupré Quigley perform. \$30. Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd., Naples.