



Look for the colorful Holoholo Bookmobile this Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Holoholo Bookmobile opening day at the Lahaina District Courthouse begins Tuesday

The Holoholo Bookmobile's opening day at the Lahaina District Courthouse will be on Tuesday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The courthouse is located at 1870 Honoapiilani Highway

When the Lahaina Library was destroyed in the August 8 wildfire the only public library option for the West Maui community has been the Holoholo Bookmobile. The Bookmobile ramped up in September and was given a temporary space at Whalers Village. That space is no longer available.

The bookmobile has found a new home at the Lahaina District Courthouse! Opening day will be Tuesday, March 5, and will be

celebrated with several activities:

1. The Bookmobile will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

2. Pre-school story time in the courthouse multipurpose room from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

3. Second Circuit Chief Judge Peter Cahill and Judge Christopher Dunn will be onsite for an informal talk story session with the public at 12:30 p.m. as part of National Judicial Outreach Week.

Onsite contacts:

Grace Ganio-Marzan, Lahaina District Court Supervisor

Jessica Gleason, West Maui Bookmobile Librarian

The Shady Side of Virtue – Japanese Transgressions in Early 20th Century Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii (AP) – Set in the tumultuous world of colonialism, technological revolution and intercultural entanglements in early 1900s, Deuxmers Publishing releases “Miki’s Mad” by George Tanabe (ISBN: 978-91944521219). A telling of love, family, pride, and delusions arising from the collisions between perception and misperception, sanity and madness, and virtue and vice.

Tanabe, who is a recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation and the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun awards, tells the tragicomic story of a Japanese immigrant: On a steamship from Japan to Hawaii, Shuzo Taga discovers Miki, a young woman who is slowly going mad – angry, insane and wildly funny – and yet she, sustained by the spirit of a devious cat, enables him to turn his fantasies into cash.

This picaresque tale plays on stereotypes that our protagonist hijacks as he out-whites the haoles, out-yellows the Japanese, out-browns the Hawaiians, and in the end, outsmarts himself.

While “Miki’s Mad” portrays a charming but conniv-



A book by George Tanabe

ing protagonist, it should be remembered that the honest and hardworking issei pioneers also had shadier sides to their lives involving adultery, moonshining, theft and prostitution. In 1901, for example, 93 percent of the known prostitutes in Honolulu were Japanese women under the control of a certain Masudo-san. “Miki’s Mad” taps into this underside and portrays the adventures of lovable characters freely deploying guts and ingenuity as they search for better lives.

Further information: <https://www.deuxmers.com/authors/george-tanabe/mikis-mad>



The show will highlight facets of Black dance culture. “Tap dance and body percussion and sand dance are Black American art forms that we bring into this space,” says company co-founder Ryan K. Johnson. The SOLE Defined Live dance company performs at the MACC’s Castle Theater on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$40, \$50, plus applicable fees, available at MauiArts.org.

SOLE Defined: Maryland’s dance company will take you on a rhythm roller coaster

By JON WOODHOUSE

For The Maui News

A unique performance will enliven the Maui Arts & Cultural Center on Thursday when Maryland’s dance company SOLE Defined will present “a 75 minute percussive dance experience that takes audiences on a rhythm roller coaster,” explained company co-founder Ryan K. Johnson.

Titled “SOLE Defined Live,” the show sounds like nothing we have ever seen before on Maui. “This work is my approach on creating synthesizing technology and live instrumentation, the body being a drum, to create sounds that the dancers perform to,” Johnson said. “You’ll see a piece called the Human Body, where we’re taking body percussion, tap dance, and vocalization, and putting it into a loop machine in real time. Then all these layers of sounds coming from the human body are turned into the orchestration of the work, and the dancers dance to that piece. It’s been exciting to create and something that I have not seen done before.”

The show will highlight facets of Black dance culture. “Tap dance and body percussion and sand dance are Black American art forms that we bring into this space,” he noted. “Sand dance is an art form that we are working to preserve where the dancers will actually dance in sand.

The rhythms will be produced from the sand, from the hard leather shoe with movement happening on top of the sand. Along with that, you’ll see the call and response in choreography, but also with the audience.”

Drawing the audience into the experience, “there’s a solo where we turn the audience into performers. They are actually creating the rhythm that they get to enjoy. The synergy and the energy of Black culture, of call and response, of the ring shout, and circular motion and movement, the improvisational element of jazz and tap dance and social dances and club dances come to life in this experience.”

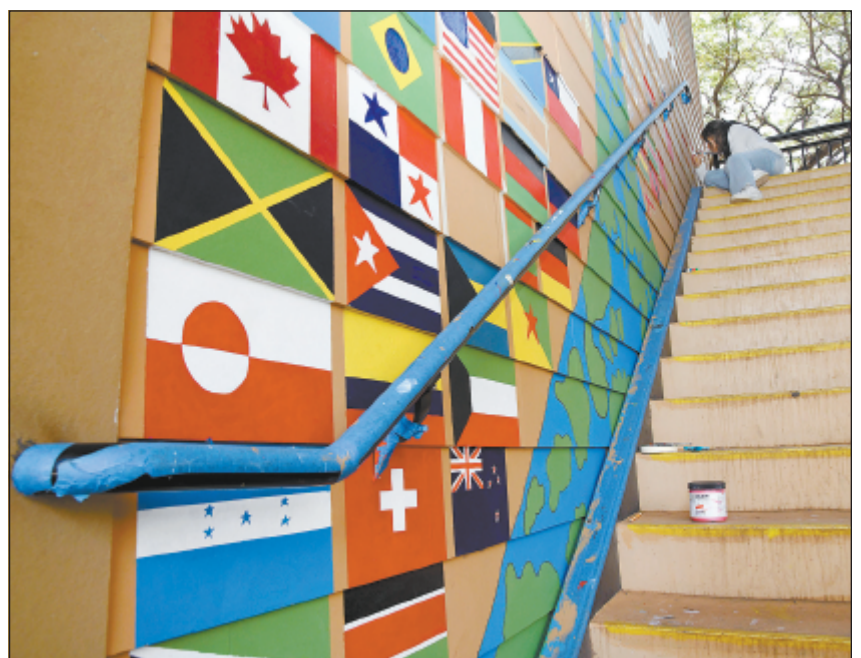
Emphasizing joy and free expression in his choreography, Johnson explained, “one of my missions as a curator of art is to also create work that pushes back against some of the norms of theater. What happens when we break the fourth wall? What happens when dancers can be human? And what does that do for the artists when then have that freedom to be human versus to be very robotic in approach? All of these things coming together really create a gumbo of flavor and passion and excitement and music and movement. And I think it’s dope.”

Johnson’s extensive resume includes performing with The Washington Ballet, in the award-winning “Stomp” and “Step Afrika!,” and

Cirque Du Soleil’s “The Beatles LOVE” show. “Being a part of Cirque du Soleil is a humbling experience,” he said. “Being on the show that’s so thoughtful and so well designed, it really helped me develop the work that we’re doing.”

When Johnson was a middle school student, he had an influential encounter with dance legend Gregory Hines, who starred in the movie “Tap.” “A woman named Mary Slater got me into tap dance and Mary always told me to keep my shoes with me,” he recalled. “We went to see Gregory Hines perform, and he asked if there were any tap dancers. My entire school yelled and pointed at me. He asked me if I could tap dance. I said, yeah. And he said, ‘no you can’t, go sit down.’ I just saw the movie ‘Tap.’ I already learned the street scene and I wind up going on stage and I do that phrase. He stops me and goes, ‘you stealing my steps?’ I said, I told you I could tap dance. Everyone in this company has a story that has connected them to generations of the work that has inspired them or that has poured into them.”

The SOLE Defined Live dance company performs at the MACC’s Castle Theater on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$40, \$50, plus applicable fees, available at MauiArts.org.



The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photos

PHOTO LEFT: Jia Garcia’s mural celebrating inclusion and diversity includes fresh handprints Thursday made by sixth grade students she has taught. PHOTO RIGHT: Garcia works on a flag at the top of the flight of stairs Thursday.

Senior project Continued from Page A1

weeks left to go before her senior project is due. She was busy Thursday morning, moving between several flags that required accents with the same tint of blue paint. With assistance from her parents, she has paid for all the supplies.

“My parents really encourage my art,” Garcia said. “They helped me fund the project.”

High School Director Ellen Federoff says Garcia has gone “above and beyond” with the artwork that could amount to more than half of her senior year grade. She has even kidded Garcia about why she needs to do so many flags, hinting that she does not need to do them all, but says the student is determined to complete every single one.

“It’s really a lot of extra time and effort that she is putting in,” Federoff said Friday. “It’s very de-

tailed. It’s a huge undertaking.”

Federoff said senior projects at the school involve a wide array of elements and deadlines.

“It’s more than half of their grade senior year,” Federoff said. “They have been working on this since August.”

Federoff said students start with reports and presentations and must complete many assignments along the way. Log entries are required every week. Students are encour-

aged to go to lower grades to tutor and teach lessons about the world. Garcia worked with sixth graders, teaching a course in cultural exploration. Her students were the first invited to put their handprints on the wall Thursday.

“It made my day yesterday because it was the first day she started putting handprints, and how many students wanted to put their handprints on the wall,” Federoff said. “It was nice, the kids really

noticed it, wanted to be part of it. She’s really trying to spotlight diversity and inclusion. There are so many different types of people in the world.”

As one of her finishing touches, Garcia said she plans to include a message she has coined near the center of the mural.

“Alike or different, we grow.”

■ Staff Writer Matthew Thayer can be reached at mthayer@maui-news.com.