

Carolina Living

ARTS & TRAVEL

HOT STUFF

tue A look inside the Ronald McDonald House in Charlotte. **Carolina Living**



fri Eddie Van Halen and David Lee Roth get ready to rock Time Warner Cable Arena. **CLT**



THINK!®

I ain't no psychiatrist
I ain't no doctor with degrees
But it don't take too much IQ
to see what you're doing to me

— Aretha Franklin, 1968

The Charlotte Observer

charlotteobserver.com/arts

COMMENTARY



MURRAY CLOSE KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Katniss is the modern version of role models whom reading girls have loved for years, as opposed to Bella of the "Twilight" series.

Is Katniss a new breed of heroine? Not really

BY MONICA HESSE
Washington Post

Those who have followed Suzanne Collins' "Hunger Games" trilogy know the heroine has been subjected to mass inspection and dissection. As an impoverished region's representative to a state-sanctioned death match, Katniss Everdeen is a literal and metaphorical straight-shooter who protects the weak, outsmarts the wicked, kills when she has to.

There's a love interest, but he's a delicate flower. Peeta bakes, paints, talks about feelings and languishes while Katniss storms off to find him life-saving medicine. She's not typically feminine, even under expanded definitions of what that useless word means.

All of these traits have led critics, thinkers, mothers, to declare Katniss a new breed of heroine and a new kind of role model.

Not really. She's exactly the kind of role model whom girls who read have loved for years.

More than 30 years before Katniss, a Yupik teen was fighting for her arctic survival in "Julie of the Wolves," conquering the tundra rather than submitting to a bad marriage. More than 40 years before Katniss, Karana alone defended the "Island of the Blue Dolphins," slaying packs of wild dogs.

"Here you have a strong, macho type," Jan Susina, who teaches young-adult lit at Illinois State University, said of Katniss. "It's quite the interesting gender reversal."

SEE KATNISS, 2E



ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

Playing for Others pairs local teens with youths with special needs. The group's current co-presidents, Daniel Morrice, left, and Kaitlin Wightman-Ausman, second from right, hang with their buddies, Tristan Kallander and Emma Corrigan.

Playing for Others builds new friendships

Nonprofit offers teens new perspectives learned from some special buddies

BY BRITTANY PENLAND
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Kaitlin Wightman-Ausman said her buddy Emma Corrigan is one of her best friends. Emma loves to sing and dance. She even choreographed her own rendition of "Footloose." Emma, 13, worked side by side at a crafts table with Kaitlin, 17, sponge-painting blue canvases. Emma sported pink sparkly shoes with a matching pink flower headband.

"Emma, you're so fashionable," Kaitlin told her.

"I know," Emma said, smiling.

"Do you like to wear dresses?" Kaitlin asked.

"Yes, I like wearing dresses," Emma said. Their conversation quickly turned to the subject of cartoons and movies. Emma's favorite movie is the "Princess and the Frog."

Emma and Kaitlin have been "buddies" for about four years, through Playing for Others. PFO is a nonprofit leadership program for teens passionate about the arts and community service. Teens (there are 70 this year) are paired with

SEE PLAYING, 3E



JEFF WILLHELM - jwillhelm@charlotteobserver.com

Buddies Kayla McCaella, left, 6-year-old Kyra Moss and Kelly McCaella take webcam photos of themselves at an October Playing for Others photography event at Lifespan Circle School in downtown Charlotte.



JOAN MARCUS

No end to Shatner's mission of reinvention

BY THÉODEN JANES
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William Shatner's career has been built on iconic roles. Captain James T. Kirk. T.J. Hooker. Denny Crane.

On Tuesday, the Canadian-born actor will take to the Belk Theater stage to depict perhaps his most iconic character of all: William Shatner. Charlotte is the

Now 81, William Shatner brings his one-man show to Belk Theater in Charlotte on April 17.

second-to-last stop on a 15-city U.S. tour for "Shatner's World: We Just Live In It," his one-man, 100-minute show that touches on nearly all phases of his long, unique career and life.

The show, which began with a limited run on Broadway before the tour was launched in March, has been called "undeniably fun" by Entertainment Weekly and "a witty journey through his acting career" by the Hollywood Reporter.

But how would the man himself ex-
SEE SHATNER, 6E

PREVIEW

'Shatner's World: We Just Live In It'

Enter to win a pair of tickets at www.charlotteobserver.com/contests.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.
WHERE: Belk Theater at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 130 N. Tryon St.
TICKETS: \$34.50-\$64.50, or \$300 for VIP tickets that include prime seating, a tour poster and a post-show meet-and-greet with Shatner.
DETAILS: 704-372-1000; www.ncbpc.org; www.shatnersworld.com.

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