


A spicy mix of weekend picks



LET THERE BE LIGHT

NEW
Winston-Salem
The Winston-
Salem Light
Project begins
Tuesday
Page 10

Back together

Page 3

**The Who members
reunite for concert**

007 better than ever

Page 8

**Bond movie 'Skyfall' one
of best in 50-year series**

Get Out!

Page 19

**Creatures inspire
naturalist to wax poetic**



Artists came up with several potential designs for the Winston-Salem Light Project.

Light reveals talents of UNCSA students

Winston-Salem Light Project will be interactive

BY PAUL GARBER
Special Correspondent

Students in Norman Coates' classes in the School of Design & Production at the UNC School of the Arts usually focus on how not to be noticed.

Sure, the lighting designs he teaches play an important role in establishing the setting and conveying the mood in a theater production, but it's not supposed to take center stage. If the audience walks away talking about the lighting and not the story, then something hasn't worked.

But every November for the last six years, Coates and his students have taken on projects that place their designs front and center. The Winston-Salem Light Project has brought dazzling conceptions that have illuminated a different corner of downtown each year, providing viewers a chance to see lighting in a new way.

This year's project, which will run from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday through Nov. 17, features brightly lit inflatables that will tower over Winston Square Park on Marshall Street. It's part of the 6 Days in November Festival, a series visual arts, music, dance, theater and other events that take place from Tuesday through Nov. 18.

"These pieces are standing out on their own," Coates said. "The work takes on its own importance, and it is the message."

This year's project will be interactive — allowing people to walk inside the pieces and become part of the project.

The project, which is free to the public, will feature three large illuminated designs. One shape will look like a brightly lit double doughnut, about 30 feet around and 10 feet tall. Another will be a towering funnel shape reaching almost 50 feet, and the third will be a somewhat heart-shaped piece that will adorn the park's spiral staircase. That piece will be about 9 feet tall and is the

If you go

What: Winston-Salem Light Project

When: 7 to 10:30 p.m. Tuesday through Nov. 17

Where: Winston Square Park, 310 N. Marshall St.

Cost: Free

Other: The Winston-Salem Light Project is part of 6 Days in November. For more information, see 6daysws.com.

only one that people won't be able to enter. Coates and his class are working with two University of Michigan architecture experts — Anca Trandafirescu and Glenn Wilcox — to design and execute the project.

Connor "Mack" Smith, a senior in Coates' class, said he was uncertain what to think when he heard about the idea of illuminated inflatables. The idea reminded him of bounce houses for young children.

But when the team started designing models for the project, he got excited. He's had a chance to walk through a 7-foot scale model, and it gave him a new perspective.

"Suddenly you're immersed in the light

that's projected on it, and you can't see outside at all," Smith said. "This is purely about light and how light can tell a story."

Smith, who hopes to get theater work in his native New York City after he graduates, said the project has taught him how lighting can be used in other media.

Although the lighting project is fairly new, the concept is not. Coates said he got the idea about 15 years ago, when he saw postcards of a lighting project in an Italian piazza. That project flashed light on the walls of a local trattoria. Coates believed something similar could be done here, to illuminate some of the unique parts of the city at night.

"Goethe said 'architecture is frozen music,'" Coates said. "But at night, you can't see the notes. ... Buildings tend to be poorly lit."

The first project was in 2006, when Coates and his students did a project at the Millennium Center. Other locations since then have included the Stevens Center and the storefront on Fourth Street where Camino Bakery is now located.

In those projects, the viewers were objec-

tive, standing apart from the lights. This year's project offers a more immersive experience, Coates said.

"Once inside, you're part of the image that people are watching," he said.

Coates said he's been pleased with the response to the project. When the Arts Council held its social media "power2give" campaign, Coates was able to raise just over \$4,000 needed for the project in only six days, with most of the contributions coming from former students who had worked on earlier projects. He's also gotten help from local vendors such as the Special Events Services company, which is providing additional projectors for the project.

Coates said he has enough ideas for the next 10 years of the project, but that doesn't mean he's completely satisfied.

"I suffer from the affliction of 'what more could be done and how could we do it differently,'" he said. "There's still a lot of great places to work on in Winston."

"These pieces are standing out on their own. The work takes on its own importance, and it is the message."

Norman Coates
School of Design & Production
at the UNC School of the Arts



LAUREN CARROLL/JOURNAL