

Bangor native follows her dream

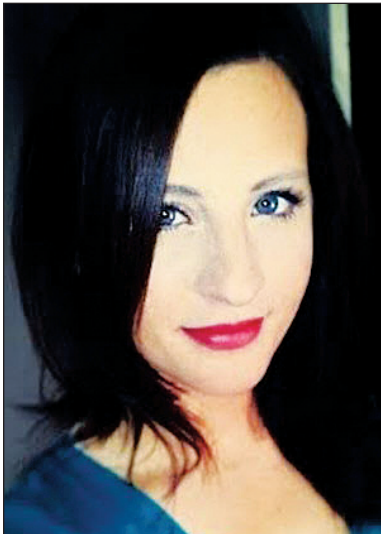
Woman to audition to appear on 'The Voice'

BY SHELBY HARTIN
BDN STAFF

Before the show airs and celebrity judges turn their chairs, potential candidates for "The Voice," a reality television singing competition, must go through a multistep audition process for the chance to wow the celebrity judges — and an audience.

Watch the video
bangordailynews.com

Isabelle Jonason, a 20-year-old Bangor resident, has made it past the initial video audition process and will go to New York City to sing in front of a panel who will decide whether she will move on for the chance to audition in front of judges Christina Aguilera, Blake Shelton, Pharrell Williams and Adam Levine on "The Voice."



COURTESY OF ISABELLE JONASON
Isabelle Jonason, a Bangor native, will travel to New York City to audition for the chance to appear on NBC's "The Voice."

If not for the nudging people have given her along the way, she may never have taken the chance to begin with.

"Music has always been a major part of my life," Jonason said. She has played the viola since she was 9 years old, and her mother worked as executive director of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra for many years.

But no one ever knew she could sing.

"It was a little secret that I kept for a long time," Jonason said.

She would use rooms during her high school study halls she was told were "soundproof," but one day, when she was belting out a Lady Gaga song, a janitor knocked on the door.

"He said, 'So what are you doing with that?'" Jonason recalled. He encouraged her to sing for others. "That was the first time anyone gave me any feedback about my voice."

She entered her high school talent show, ready to let her secret out.

"It was the first time my parents and friends had ever heard me sing," Jonason said.

She decided to pursue her passion and enrolled in online undergraduate courses through Sanford Brown University. She hoped to someday obtain a master's degree in fine arts. But when she became a mom at age 19, she had to put school on hold and picked up a full-time job to support her son.

It was there she met people who encouraged her to reach for the stars, including Sheila Wentworth, her manager at Planet Fitness, and Stephanie Dunn, one of her co-workers.

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A cistern full of fun

UMaine's production of musical 'Urinetown' showcases talented cast

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

In the dystopian future, a severe water shortage causes private bathrooms to be outlawed. Everyone in the University of Maine's production of "Urinetown" must line up at a government-run, privately owned facility and pay to pee.

THEATER
REVIEW

What can the downtrodden, bladder-bursting masses do about such an injustice? Why, burst into song, of course, and tell the tales of an uprising, a lovestruck couple of kids from opposite sides of the track and a lesson hard learned by a child, all in two acts and 11 show stopping but forgettable tunes.

"Urinetown," written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman in the late 1990s, can't seem to decide what it wants to make fun of —

politics, big business or Broadway. Unfortunately, director Tom Mikotowicz, a UMaine professor of theater, couldn't seem to decide either, so the production's intended satire of something and perhaps everything is toothless. Its spoofs of production numbers in classic musicals, including "Les Miserables," "Fiddler on the Roof" and even "West Side Story" are far more successful.

It doesn't really matter what the theme of the show was supposed to be because by the middle of Act One the talented ensemble cast makes the theatergoers forget there might be a point or three to the script and convinces them to have as much fun as they're obviously having on stage.

"Urinetown" is the story of Bobby Strong, a lowly employee of the Urine Good Co., (get it?) which owns all the city's bathroom facilities. He falls for Hope

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
The University of Maine will perform "Urinetown" on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Musicians headed to national competition

BY JOHANNA S. BILLINGS
BDN STAFF

CHERRYFIELD — Alexis Fletcher, 13, of Cherryfield is one of about 20 Mainers headed to an international country music competition in March.

She was among the winners in the Down East Country Music Association's annual statewide competition, held last summer.

Winners in the state competition qualify to compete March 7-13 at the Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The competition, sponsored by the North America Country Music Associations International, will feature competitors from 20 states and Canada.

Alexis said she gets nervous whenever she performs but "not nearly as much as my mom does."

"I always told her ... I keep all her nervousness in my stomach," her mother, Rebecca Fletcher, said.

"When you think about [performing], it's scary," Alexis Fletcher said. "Once you get on



JOHANNA BILLINGS | BDN
Alexis Fletcher, 13, will compete against musicians from 20 states and Canada in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in March.

stage, it's not as frightening."

DECMA President Jackie Harmon said competing in Tennessee is "a big deal."

Musicians who win their local

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New book explores classic vehicles throughout state

BY SARAH WALKER CARON
BDN STAFF

A TEXACO sign can be seen through branches bearing just a few browned leaves. Taken in fall 2012 in Fryeburg, Maine, the red, green, black and white logo adorns the first page in a new book that looks at classic vehicles and filling stations, too, all in Maine.

"Full Service: Notes from the Rearview Mirror" by David Hill recently was published by Islandport Press.

"I've always loved old cars. I mean, I got a model of a '55 Bel Air for my birthday when I was 7," said Hill, who also grew up watching reruns of "Happy Days."

But his interest in photographing vintage cars — in whatever state they were in — didn't begin until he spotted a vehicle beside the road, snapped a photo and shared it with friends. They encouraged him to shoot more.

"I ended up looking for other old cars to take photographs of," Hill said. Eventually, he began contemplating writing a book featuring his photos and inspiration.

"You need more than just photos for a book, so I drew on my own experiences growing up with cars."

Two vintage gas pumps in Kennebunkport sit on pages 14 and 15, in all their faded paint and spreading rust glory. A blue 1950-1952 International L110 or L120 in Newry, its paint faded to white in spots and spotted with rust, sits among firms and browned pine needles on page 46. Other photos explore the details of the vehicles, such as the still silvery but faintly dotted with rust V8 symbol of a 1956 Ford F-100 on page 96.

Hill likes to document those old vehicles in modern times as a way to look back on what he considers "a simpler time with cars," when neighbors would celebrate new car purchases together.

From Fryeburg to Saco, Lewiston to Wiscasset, Hill's book is a celebration of automobiles shown through his travels in the more southern parts of the state.

The Gorham native, who now lives in South Portland, has heard

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Colby College Museum of Art • Maine Film Center
Waterville Public Library • Common Street Arts
Waterville Opera House • Waterville Main Street

March 5, 10 AM – 2 PM / Colby College Museum of Art
Community Day: Robert Adams: Turning Back

March 11 – April 7 / Common Street Arts
Youth Art Exhibition (Reception March 11, 5 – 7 PM)

March 22, 7 PM / Railroad Square Cinema
A National Evening of Science on Screen; Film screening of Computer Chess with guest speaker Clare Bates Congdon

April 9, 7 PM / Hathaway Creative Center
PechaKucha Night Waterville – PK WTVL Vol. 20

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 7:30 PM; April 10, 17, 2 PM / Waterville Opera House
Mary Poppins (For tickets visit: www.operahouse.org)

March 22 – April 24
25th Annual Maine Open Juried Art Show



Waterville Public Library / Waterville Area Art Society
Reception March 24, 6 – 8 PM