

Zelz

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“There were always really fun tidbits that we were unearthing. ... Some [historical figures] were easier than others, depending on the source material of course,” Abigail Zelz explained about her research. “Cleopatra was difficult because there aren’t exactly a lot of easy primary sources that are specific to her. You can find things on Ancient Egypt. Whereas some of these other people there’s good material.”

Eric Zelz worked closely with his wife, developing sketches and tweaking parts of them. Many of the images are whimsical, like the one of George Washington and his many pairs of dentures, but they’re also careful of cultural connotations.

“We were having fun with it. But at the same time we were trying to retain a certain dignity or respect to the people and the cultures we were representing,” Eric Zelz said. “With Victoria, I was kind of was thinking of a big locomotive — just kind of moving along — so I would have this expanse of her dress. And the way she ate very much was fast, if you can’t keep up with me your meal’s going to be taken away and onto the next thing. It was fun from an art perspective when Abby’s research opened windows or helped create imagery for how to create this ... while sticking to the tale.”



Some of the bits of inspiration Eric Zelz used for his Neil Armstrong illustration for a children’s book he collaborated on with his wife, Abigail .

What’s next for the couple? This week, they’ll be unveiling their book at book signings at The Briar Patch on Central Street in Downtown Bangor, scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, during the downtown Bangor Art Walk, and at 11 a.m. Saturday.

They’re also already talking to their publisher about a potential second project. And in case you’re wondering, a pandowdy is a dessert, featuring a thick crust on top and an apple pie-like filling.

Editor’s Note: Eric Zelz formerly illustrated this author’s food column, Maine Course, for the Bangor Daily News.

MICKY BEDELL | BDN



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Scraps of paper used by Eric Zelz to dab his watercolors while creating illustrations.

Exhibit

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glimpse hardworking crew members, see their maps and legends, cramped quarters, even a rainbow on the horizon.

“The ocean is the 13th crew member,” said Levesque, who is creating a self-guided multimedia exhibit including interviews with crew members that the public can access via their smartphones while viewing their portraits. The show dovetails with the 2016 Arctic Council meetings hosted by the Maine North Atlantic Development Office, which will be held in Portland from Oct. 4 to 6. The inter-governmental meeting brings senior officials from Arctic regions such as Finland, Russia and Canada to discuss



COURTESY OF JUSTIN LEVESQUE

Maine’s significant role. This is not the first time a shipping container exhibit has popped up in Congress Square. The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies exhib-

ited student work in a similar vessel in the summer of 2013. “It feels current tapping into a conversation about transportation and shipping,” Levesque said. “While

my interest began with Maine, it pivoted to the industry of shipping itself.” “ICELANDx207: Container” will be up through Oct. 12.

Justin Levesque (left, front row) poses with the crew featured in “ICE-landx207: Container,” a shipping container pop-up show on view in Portland Sept. 27 to Oct. 12.

Review

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Brad LaBree are equally fine with LaBree holding his own in a sea of estrogen as the photographer who snaps the calendar photos.

Scenic designer Tricia Hobbs and properties designer Meredith Perry cleverly created pastries, fake flowers and piles of Christmas presents to strategically cover breasts and the women’s nether regions. Each new pose for the calendar is surprisingly delightful due to the work of these designers.

Kevin Koski’s costumes help give depth to each character and Scout Hough’s lighting design is kind and forgiving toward the mostly middle-aged and beyond cast. The sound design by Brandie Larkin helps move the many scene

changes along and lets the show maintain an upbeat feel.

For many theater goers, “Calendar Girls” is a welcome change from the past three years of country-music themed opening shows at the Opera House. Fans of last year’s Johnny Cash tribute will be able to get a dose of classic country Oct. 1 and 2 when Andrew Crowe performs “The Grand Tour — A Celebration of the Music of George Jones” at the Opera House.

“Calendar Girls” runs Wednesdays-Sundays through Sept. 25 at the Bangor Opera House. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 942-3333, visit the Opera House between noon and 5 p.m., or visit penobscottheatre.org.



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Starting October:

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