EVENTS

Finding the 'Joy' and happiness in Jennifer Lawrence

BY JILL SERJEANT
REUTERS

NEW YORK — Award-winning director David O. Russell's latest movie, "Joy," is about a woman finding happiness in life despite everyday obstacles.

But the word might also be used to sum up Russell's relationship with Jennifer Lawrence, the actress he calls his muse, who has starred in his last three movies.

Russell, who directed Lawrence in her 2012 Oscar-winning role as a young widow in "Silver Linings Playbook" and in 2014's "American Hustle," said that as an actress and a person, she inspires him to take risks with filmmaking.

"She wants to go to places that are scary for her and do things that haven't been seen. She is smart and challenging but she also inspires me to make something better. I am happy to explore things the way she wants to do them, and she also will trust what I want to do.

"It's a deal we make together that we're going to jump off this waterfall and give it everything we've got," Russell told Reuters.

"Joy," out in U.S. movie theaters on Dec. 25, is expected to bring Lawrence a fourth Oscar nomination in as many years. It's inspired by the true story of Joy Mangano, the New York inventor of the Miracle Mop who overcame an early divorce and life as a single mother to become a successful 1990s businesswoman.



20TH CENTURY FOX | TNS

Elisabeth Rohm, (from left) Jennifer Lawrence and Robert De Niro in "Joy."

The movie is the first time Lawrence, or any female character, is front and center of a Russell film, and the first time the 25-year-old star plays someone who is not crazy.

"It was a challenge for her to play somebody who had become so powerless for the first half of the movie, when you're caring for others but have lost yourself.

"This is a very inspiring story that we don't have in the world right now, of a woman that is ordinary, that carries dignity and power in this way. We thought that was cool and kind of bad-ass. So we said, 'Yeah, let's do that,'" Russell said.

The movie also reunites Russell with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro for a third time. Russell says all three actors are muses of sorts for him — but Lawrence has something extra special.

"I find her to be very real and unpretentious and alive and messy. Somebody who really, really loves life, is very passionate about it," he said.

"I will always want to think of some [project] for her, but you've got to let it happen when it's supposed to happen and be magical."

Things to Do

BANGOR — Homeless Vigil, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, Hammond Street Congregational Church, 28 High St. The public is invited to remember those who have died as a result of homelessness. Refreshments provided. To volunteer, Ann Giggey, Hope House manager, 217-6713.

BANGOR — Master of Native American flute Gareth holiday concert, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, The Green Gem Holistic Healing Oasis, 900 State St. Features music, hot cider and cookies. $6 at the door. Portion of proceeds benefits St. Jude Children's Hospital. 615-944-8082 or greengeminme@gmail.com.

BANGOR — Penobscot Theatre Company production of "It's a Wonderful Life," 7-9:30 p.m. through Dec. 27, Bangor Opera House, 131 Main St. 942-3333 or penobscottheatre.org.

BANGOR — Maine Photo Project exhibit, "Lumbermen and Rusticators: Maine's Nineteenth-century Transition from Wilderness to Vacationland," through Dec. 30, Bangor Public Library.

BELFAST — Our Town Belfast's holiday homecoming event with live music by The Mallett Brothers, 8-10:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, American Legion Post 43, 143 Church St. Tickets for $15 support Our Town Belfast's mission to grow and sustain historic downtown. Proceeds from the cash bar will support the Belfast American Legion. Ugly Christmas sweaters encouraged.

BLUE HILL — Brooksville artist Annie Poole art exhibit, "Advent Calendars and Winter Works," through Dec. 31, Blue Hill Public Library. 374-5515.

BREWER — Jams at the Grange, noon-5 p.m. first and third Sundays, through May, Old Town Riverside Grange, 1266 North Main St. in Brewer. Open to all levels of players and to listeners. Unplugged stringed instruments only. Wheelchair-accessible. Food concession. First Sunday is Bluegrass Music Association of Maine Eastern Jam, $3 association members, $5 others, Joan Richert, 989-5848. Third Sunday is The Grange Bluegrass Jam, $3, Sandra Moon, 827-3698.

BREWER — Blue Grass Jam, 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Between Friends Art Center-Next Generation Theatre, 39 Center St. Pick or listen. $3. 989-7100, nextgentheatreadvertising@gmail.com or nextgenerationtheatre.com.

CAMDEN — Former Maine poet laureate Martin Steingesser to read from his new book, "Yellow Horses," 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, Camden Public Library, 55 Main St. 236-3440.

CAMDEN — Spanish-language reading and conversation group, 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, Camden Public Library. Participants talk in Spanish about what they are reading. Lynne Taylor, leerycharlar@gmail.com.

CAMDEN — Viewing of "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, Camden Public Library, 55 Main St. 236-3440.

CAMDEN — Candlelight Christmas Eve service, Chestnut Street Baptist Church, 29 Chestnut St., 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24. Church office, 236-2195 or chestnutstreetbaptist.org.

FARMINGTON — Free Christmas dinner by Knowlton Corner Farm Bakery, noon-3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 25, at Chesterville Town Hall, Dutch Gap Road. Handicapped accessible. Free transportation. Ham dinner and all the fixings. Santa Claus. RSVP for headcount purposes to Knowlton Corner Farm at 778-6520.

ELLSWORTH — International Folk Dancing, 5:30-7:30 p.m. second and fourth Mondays, Moore Community Center, 125 State St. Beginners welcome; no partners needed. Dances taught first hour, followed by requests. $6. 460-3408 or esherwood1@roadrunner.com.

ELLSWORTH — Black House at Woodlawn Museum, 19 Black House Drive, Route 172, open for tours through Dec. 23. Public park open free year-round sunrise to sunset, with walking trails, picnic tables and bathroom. Anne Russenberger-Keefe, events@woodlawnmuseum.org, 667-8671 or woodlawnmuseum.org.

HAMPDEN — December Vacation Art Program by Windover Art Center for ages 6 and up, Dec. 28-Jan. 1, Hampden Congregational Church, 101 Main Road North. 234-4503 or windoverart@gmail.com.

ORONO — Children's Christmas Eve service, 4 p.m.; traditional Lessons and Carols Service "Come Home for Christmas," 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, Church of Universal Fellowship, 82 Main St.

PORTLAND — Ring in 2016 in pajamas and with a giant balloon drop, 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Dec. 31, Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine, 142 Free St.

UNITY — Unity Pharmacy and Unity Barn Raisers Walk-In Flu Shot Clinic, 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Unity Community Center, 32 School St. Information, Mary, 948-9005 or programs@unitybarnraisers.org.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www.bangordailynews.com.

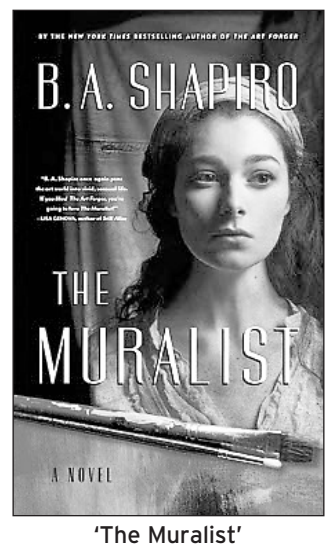
'The Muralist' a tale of art, history and heartbreak

BY MARY CORNATZER
THE NEWS & OBSERVER (RALEIGH

"The Muralist" by B.A. Shapiro; Algonquin (333 pages, $26.95)

BOOK REVIEW

B.A. Shapiro's latest novel, "The Muralist," alternates between the world of today and that of 1939 America as it follows the story of Danielle Abrams and that of her aunt Alizee Benoit.



'The Muralist'

When the story opens, Abrams, a young researcher for Christie's auction house in New York, has found four paintings taped to the back of some newly discovered abstract expressionist paintings. Their style matches the two Benoit paintings that Abrahms owns and she is convinced they are the works of her aunt, who disappeared while a muralist for the Works Progress Administration. She becomes determined to prove it and to find out what happened to Benoit.

The tale then moves to Benoit, who was friends with Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko during a harsh time for artists, especially female artists.

The novel weaves back and forth between the two stories and occasionally is told from the perspective of Benoit's friends, but Benoit is the story's heart, and her story is one that resonates today. As Hitler rises to power, her family's letters to her become more desperate as do her efforts to save them. She turns to Eleanor Roosevelt, who has befriended her (such unlikely things happen in this novel), hoping she can persuade the president to approve more visas for Jewish refugees trying to escape Hitler. But the first lady runs up against politics and fear.

Amid the fiction there is much historical accuracy about both the times and the artists —Mark Rothko did kill himself, and Eleanor Roosevelt once said it was her great regret that she could not persuade FDR to allow more Jewish refugees into the U.S. But Shapiro has written a mystery-thriller, not a textbook.

Not that the book is perfect: There are too many characters, and coincidences multiply. But those are quibbles in a book that offers a haunting tale.

Tuesday prime time

MOVIES

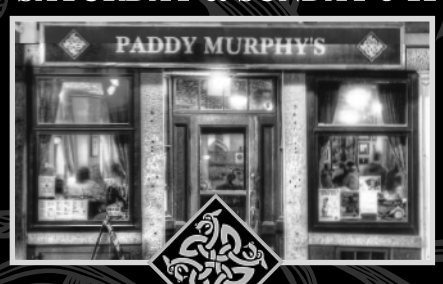
		7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
BROADCAST	2 NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Hollywood Game Night		Chicago Med (HD)		Chicago Fire (HD)		News
	4 CBC	★★★ Scrooge (1951, Fantasy) Alastair Sim. (NR)				The National (N)		CBC	Coronation	Rick Mercer
	5 CBS	Big Bang	Broke Girl	NCIS (HD)		NCIS: New Orleans		Limitless (HD)		News
	52 CW	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Flash (HD)		iZombie (HD)		News	Seinfeld	Cougar
	6 NBC	207	Inside Ed.	Hollywood Game Night		Chicago Med (HD)		Chicago Fire (HD)		News
	7 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Fresh-Boat	Muppets	The Year: 2015 Memorable moments from 2015. (N)				News
	WAGM FOX	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Simpsons	Ice Age	White Hot Holidays		News	Big Bang	Big Bang
	8 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy!	Fresh-Boat	Muppets	The Year: 2015 Memorable moments from 2015. (N)				News
	MPBN PBS	PBS NewsHour (N) (HD)		Prohibition Enforcing Prohibition creates problems.				Frontline (HD)		C. Rose
	9 IND	The Tree That Saved Christmas (2014, Drama) (NR)				CSI: Cyber (N) (HD)		News-Lisa	CTV News	Daily Show
	13 CBS	Ent. Tonight	The Insider	NCIS (HD)		NCIS: New Orleans		Limitless (HD)		News
	22 FOX	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Simpsons	Ice Age	White Hot Holidays		FOX 22 News at 10 (N)		Walk:Dead
	33 IND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Wonder Woman		Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero	C. Burnett
	38 IND	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		WBZ News (N) (HD)		Seinfeld
KIDS	NICK	Talia	Make It Pop	Ho Ho Holiday Special		Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends
	DISN	Austin	Bunk'd	Home Alone: The Holiday Heist (2012)			(:40) ★★ Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009) (PG)			
	FAM	(6:30) ★★★ The Santa Clause (1994)			(:45) ★ The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006) Tim Allen.					700 Club
LEARN	HIST	Digging Deeper		The Curse of Oak Island		The Curse of Oak Island		Hunting Hitler (N)		Hitler
	DISC	Moonshiners		Moonshiners: Outlaw Cuts		Moonshiners (N)		Moonshiners		Moonshine
	TLC	Kate Plus 8		Jill & Jessa: Countdown		Kate Plus 8 (N)		(:02) 7 Little Johnstons		Jill & Jessa
	A&E	Married at First Sight		Married at First Sight		Married at First Sight		(:01) Born This Way (N)		Born-Way
	ANPL	Monsters Inside Me		Monsters Inside Me		Monsters Inside Me (N)		Monsters Inside Me		Monsters
SPORTS	CSNE	Patriots	Quick	Patriots	Quick	Ski Journal	Quick	Sports	SportsNet	Sports
	ESPN	College Football Marmot Boca Raton Bowl -- Toledo vs. Temple. (N) (L)							SportsCenter (N) (L)	
	ESPN2	College Basketball Iowa State at Cincinnati. (N) (L)				College Basketball California at Virginia. (N) (L)				50 Stories
	NBCSP	NHL Live (N) (L)		NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Minnesota Wild. (N) (L)					NHL Hockey	
	NESN	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Boston Bruins. (N) (L)					Bruins	Sports	Instigators	Sports
NEWS	CNBC	The Profit		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank
	CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)		Anderson Cooper 360		Anthony Bourdain Parts		CNN Tonight (N)		Cooper 360
	FNC	Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		The Kelly File (N)		Hannity (N)		O'Reilly
	MSNBC	Hardball Chris Matthews		All In With Chris Hayes		Rachel Maddow Show		The Last Word		All In With
VARIETY	AMC	(6:00) The Muppet Movie		Muppets: Letters		★★★ The Muppet Movie (1979) Charles Durning. (G)				Muppets
	BRV	Real Housewives/Beverly		Real Housewives/Beverly		Real Housewives/Beverly		Girlfriends' Guide-Divorce		Housewives
	CMT	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	A Christmas Story 2 (2012, Comedy) Daniel Stern. (PG)				
	COM	Tosh.0	(:29) Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Tosh.0
	E!	E! News (N)		★ Coyote Ugly (2000) Piper Perabo. (PG-13)				Christina Milian		E! News
	FOOD	Chopped		Chopped Junior (N)		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped
	FX	(5:00) ★★★ Pacific Rim		★★★ Star Trek Into Darkness (2013, Science Fiction) Chris Pine. (PG-13)						Star Trek
	GAC	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin	Log Cabin
	HALL	(6:00) A Royal Christmas		Christmas Land (2015, Romance) (NR)				Crown for Christmas (2015) (NR)		
	HGTV	Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper (N)		Hunters	Hunters Int'l	Fixer Upper
	LIFE	(6:00) The Last Song (PG)		★★ 27 Dresses (2008) Katherine Heigl. (PG-13)				(:02) ★ I Don't Know How She Does It		
	MTV	Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish: The TV Show		Catfish
	OXY	(:10) ★★★ Ghost (1990, Fantasy) Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore. (PG-13)						(9:50) ★★ Sleeping With the Enemy (R)		
	SPIKE	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
	SYFY	★★ Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) Harrison Ford.						The Expanse (N)		Expanse
	TBN	Supernat.	Potters	Trinity	J. Meyer	Prince	S. Furtick	God Came...	The Perfect Gift	
	TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Conan
	TCM	(5:30) North by Northwest		★★★ Desk Set (1957) Spencer Tracy. (NR)				★★★ My Favorite Wife (1940) (NR)		
	TMC	(6:00) ★★ Rounders (R)		★★★ Scary Movie (2000) (ESP) (R)			Blood Out (2011, Action), Val Kilmer (R)			Pulp Fiction
	TNT	Castle		★★ Four Christmases (2008) Vince Vaughn.				★★ Four Christmases (2008) (PG-13)		
	TRAVEL	Bizarre Foods America		Bizarre Foods America		Bizarre Foods (N)		Booze Traveler (N)		Booze Tra.
	TRU	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins	Adam Ruins
	TVL	Facts-Life	Facts-Life	(:12) The Facts of Life		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King
	USA	(5:30) G.I. Joe: Retaliation		WWE SmackDown! (N) (L) 4				Chrisley	Chrisley	Mod Fam
	VH1	T.I. and Tiny	T.I. and Tiny	Black Ink Crew: Chicago		Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop		Love Don't
	WGN-A	Person of Interest		★★★★ E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982) Henry Thomas. (PG)					How I Met	How I Met
PREMIUM	ENC	(5:40) ★★ The Holiday (2006) Cameron Diaz.		★★★ The Wedding Singer (1998) (ESP) Adam Sandler. (PG-13)			(:40) ★★ Never Been Kissed (1999) (ESP) Drew Barrymore. A reporter poses as a high-school student.			
	HBO	(5:45) ★★ The Longest Ride (2015) (ESP) (PG-13)		★★ The Maze Runner (2014) Dylan O'Brien. Youths find themselves trapped inside a massive labyrinth.				REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (N) (ESP)		Bolshoi Babylon (2015)
	MAX	(6:00) ★★ Dark Blue (2002) Kurt Russell. (R)		★★ A Walk Among the Tombstones (2014, Crime Drama) (ESP) Liam Neeson, Dan Stevens. (R)				The Knick Thackery eschews Zinberg's advice.		Carnal Wishes (NR)
	SHOW	(6:50) ★★ Need for Speed (2014) Aaron Paul. A street-car racer wants revenge on a treacherous rival.				Inside the NFL (N)		Homeland Time is running out.		Inside the NFL
	STARZ	★ Strange Magic (PG)	(:20) ★ Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (2015, Comedy) (ESP) Kevin James. (PG)			Da Vinci's Demons Riario awaits judgment. (ESP)		★★ Behind Enemy Lines (2001, Action) (ESP) Owen Wilson. (PG-13)		

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