

ArtsFest

Local and international teens to display talent

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Jewish teens from Florida and elsewhere in the United States will be joined by teens from Venezuela and Israel at the second annual JCC Maccabi ArtsFest, scheduled next week at the Adolph & Rose Levis JCC in Boca Raton.

From Sunday through Aug. 3, teens will take part in intensive programs. Topics for the master classes include music, dance, theater and digital media. The concentrated courses will be taught by artists-in-residence, almost all of whom are from the South Florida.

Terri Berns and John Cutrone of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton are co-teaching "Bound to Be Different: Multimedia Visual Arts and the Book." Directing the "Rock 'n' Pop Band" course is 29-year old singer/songwriter Yoni Leviatan, a Plantation resident since age 2.

Cutrone, 43, lives in Lake Worth and has spent most of his life in South Florida, first moving with his family to Lighthouse Point in 1977. He is the programs coordinator for the Jaffe Center for Book Arts at FAU Libraries.

"I'm not Jewish," he said



Terri Berns and John Cutrone show some of the rare books they are preparing for the exhibit at the ArtsFest. The romboïd on the desk, on the right, is a poetry book. They are teaching "Bound to Be Different, Multimedia Visual Arts and the Book" at the ArtsFest.

STAFF PHOTO/MARTA MIKULAN MARTIN

with a laugh. "I come here as a sort of outsider. They call me the token non-Jew."

Catrone is, though, an important part of the Jaffe Center and is proud to be part of the field of ArtsFest artists-in-residence.

"It's a great core group of people that these kids will be working with. I've only met them through the meetings, and they're all

experts in what they do, and I'm quite impressed," he said.

One of those people is Berns, his teaching partner. Berns grew up in Miami Beach and was one of the original staff member when the Levis JCC opened in West Boca Raton in 1991.

"One of the best things about being in ArtsFest is it brings me back to my roots

at the JCC," said Berns, the founding director and curator of the Rosen Museum Gallery at the Levis JCC.

Berns said the biggest advantage ArtsFest offers students will be the mentors and instruction given to the teens.

"They get this opportunity to work with unique specialists in art that they wouldn't find in a general

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arts camp. Here they'll get a better idea how to work in a community setting, collaborating with other students and instructors, and doing that in such a short period of time that it tends to force a sense of community, which they really embrace," she said.

"They'll walk away with that knowledge of how to do that and it will open up their ideas of what art can be when they leave here, and what the process can be."

That is precisely what Leviatan plans to instill in the 25 teenagers he will instruct in his "Rock 'n' Pop" class. They will break up into three bands.

"They're going to choose a cover song as a band that they'll use to get the vibe of that song and use it as a springboard to write an original song," Leviatan said. "I'll also be teaching them a little about production and demonstrating something with recording and how it applies to what they do in the studio, and touch on things like how to be an independent artist in today's industry."

The 2007 JCC Maccabi ArtsFest's goal is to provide teens the "opportunity to discover and explore their artistic imagination and their Jewish heritage through a dynamic combination of workshops, exhibitions, performances, community service and social activities."

Toward that end, Leviatan intends to bring his

teens one step closer to being accomplished professionals.

"My ultimate goal is that when they kids leave here at the end of the week, they have the tools necessary to keep going, so they can keep rewriting songs and arranging it. If they form a band back home, and touching on the business side, how to get music out there," Leviatan said.

The week will culminate at FAU's Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on Aug. 2, with a 5:30 p.m. art exhibition followed by dance, music and theater at 7 p.m. Tickets \$18, free for children under 6.

To learn more about the Maccabi ArtsFest or the concluding event, call 561-558-2521 or visit www.artsfestboca.org.