



Volunteer Faith Vanzant visits the makeup department and Allyson Doherty, makeup director, begins her transformation during a dress rehearsal for this year's Pageant of the Masters. Courtesy photo

## Clever Little Mysteries

Local artists and volunteers bring Pageant of the Masters to life

BY DANIELLE JUNCAL, DANA POINT TIMES

On July 4, faces will be slathered in sunscreen and painted with bright reds, whites and blues celebrating the nation's independence. Less than one week later, for many locals, the high SPF and American hues will be traded for detailed shadowing and stage makeup.

For the hundreds of Pageant of the Masters volunteers, summer's beginning is marked by intricate costumes, long hours of performing and perfectly frozen poses on a brightly-lit stage.

Point resident and backstage volunteer Gail Perlmutter, whose husband Alan will be featured in the Leonardo da Vinci's iconic piece, "The Last Supper." "The experience, as a viewer, takes your breath away."

Preparation for the pageant begins in January. It includes hours of staging, the creation of intricate costumes and numerous walkthrough-practice sessions. Volunteers like San Juan Capistrano residents Nancy Gee and son Ryan Gee said the long hours and hard work for the cast is a great bonding experience.

"Returning to the pageant is like a kid looking forward to summer camp," Nancy Gee said about her seventh year on the cast, "You get to know the year-round crew and staff, and these familiar faces become your summer family."

Although the pageant is famous for its recreations of classical paintings, drawings and sculptures, the show features a diverse array of work from transported from the past to modern America.

While Ryan Gee will be featured in Ma-

## Showcasing Area Talent

Pageant of the Masters is just one element of the larger Festival of Arts that gives artists a chance to display their talents both on and off the stage.

For over 80 years, the Festival of Arts has displayed art collections and exhibitions for local craftsmen and artists. With everything from ceramics and photography to glasswork and paintings, the festival boasts a wide array of artistic mediums.

Here is a snapshot of artists sharing their work at this year's festival.

**Artist:** Casey Parlette

**Medium:** Sculptor

**City of Residence:** Dana Point

Parlette returns to the Festival of Arts with his marine-inspired sculptures. In his works, he draws on his experience as a free diver to capture the movement and feel of aquatic animals, like the giant lobster and the shark. Parlette mainly uses wood and steel to create his sculptures like, "Limited Resources," which features large steel sharks chasing after one small wooden fish. See more of his work at [www.caseyparlette.com](http://www.caseyparlette.com).

**Artist:** Hannah Harris

**Medium:** Oil Painting and Collage

**City of Residence:** San Juan Capistrano

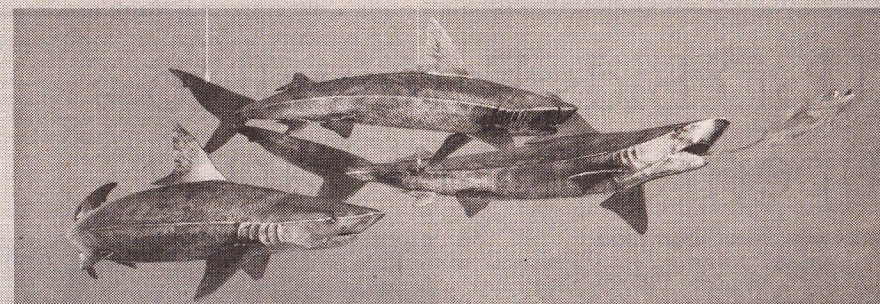
Harris incorporates collage elements



"Come Away" by Hannah Harris. Courtesy image

into her oil paintings by pasting inspirational verses onto portraits and landscapes. She also pulls different cultural influences from her travels into her work. An artist from a young age, Harris picked up the paintbrush during high school and is inspired by her faith to pursue a career in the arts. Visit [www.paintingprovisions.com](http://www.paintingprovisions.com) to see more.

The Festival of Arts runs through Sunday, August 31 at festival grounds, located at 650 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. The festival is open daily from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission, Monday through Friday, is \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. On weekends, rates rise to \$10 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. Children under 12, military members and Laguna Beach residents get in free. Go to [www.foapom.com](http://www.foapom.com) for more information.



"Limited Resources" by Casey Parlette. Courtesy image

film *The Monuments Men* by Robert Edsel and Bret Witter and the recent FBI conclusions about the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum theft, Challis Davy hopes this

San Clemente resident and year-round technical director Richard Hill works on the pageant's set, lighting and stage design. He adjusts the scale of the art on the