

ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 16 • STAR NEWSPAPERS • THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

AT A GLANCE

Philly Chamber Chorus Performs

The Philadelphia Chamber Chorus will perform Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* and Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes De Confessore* at Church of the Holy Trinity, 19th and Walnut streets, on Sun., April 19th, 4 p.m. The Chorus is a 50-voice ensemble and is under the direction of Raquel Garcia. The cost for tickets is \$24 at the door, \$20 for seniors, students and advanced purchase. For more information, call (610) 352-3565 or visit www.philchamberchorus.org.♦♦

Family Theatre Series at the Fish

The B. Someday Family Theatre Series continues with a performance at The Walking Fish Theatre, 2509 Frankford Ave., on Sat., March 7th, starting at 11 a.m. The Family Theatre Series is an interactive, literature-based performance program for children ages 2 to 7 and their caregivers. The cost is a sliding fee of \$1 to \$10. For more information, call (215) 427-9255, e-mail info@bsomeday.org or visit walkingfishtheatre.com.♦♦

Acoustic First Friday

Walking Fish Theatre, 2509 Frankford Ave., will celebrate First Friday with Acoustic Goodtimes on March 6th, 5 to 7 p.m. Vince Friel and Friends will be performing and cookies, coffee and other beverages will be served. For more information, call (215) 427-9255 or visit www.walkingfishtheatre.com.♦♦



MATT GODFREY / STAR PHOTO
(From left) Backseat Film Festival co-producers Zafer Ulkucu and Doug Sakmann deal out CD's casino-style to coincide with their 7th annual festival's theme.

Lucky number 7 for Backseat

By Matt Godfrey
Star Staff Writer

To say that the issue of casinos has been a bit of a flashpoint of contention in Philly neighborhoods of late would, perhaps, be a bit of an understatement.

So when the guys at Backseat Conceptions decided on a casino theme for their seventh annual Backseat Film Festival, which will take place from March 6 to March 15 at the 941 Theatre in Northern Liberties, they admittedly knew it was a risky move.

"It should not be overanalyzed," said co-festival organizer Zafer Ulkucu with a smile.

"The theme doesn't mean we're for or against casinos in the neighborhood," added Ulkucu's partner, Doug Sakmann.

Rather, the casino theme sprang from the

► **Film Festival celebrates their seventh year with a full casino theme and what may be their best slate of movies to date.**

fact that the festival is in its seventh incarnation, a number inherently linked with casinos.

Unlike the two slots parlors planned for Philly, however, the Backseat Film Festival, along with a few other ventures by Backseat, is moving forward at a nice clip.

The festival itself is taking on a new look, as Sakmann and Ulkucu have decided to split the event into two weekends instead of the normal six-day extravaganza.

"Over the years, we've just found that during

the week it's harder to come out to movies," explained Sakmann.

Added Ulkucu, "We don't want to give people any excuse to not come out to these great movies."

The format of the festival itself will stay very much intact, touting 14 Philadelphia premieres along with a slew of short films and music videos, totaling in over 50 hours of programming over the next two weekends.

Another thing that won't change is the feel-good approach Backseat has taken since its inception, namely the partying.

The organizers have renewed their partnership with Pabst Blue Ribbon and will offer free beers to drinking-age attendees, and are also able to accommodate a BYO approach (although they are hoping to keep their normally unruly crowd somewhat in tow).

Please see **BACKSEAT** | Page 18