



CHATHAM

An exclusive magazine serving
the residents of Chatham, New Jersey

LIVING

December 2017



Onstage and Backstage with the Green Family

 **Best Version Media®**

Cover Photo by Oijoy Photography
Photo taken at Chatham Playhouse

December 2017 | 1



MEET THE GREEN FAMILY

By Stacey McEvoy

Photos by Oijoy Photography

and courtesy of the Green family

The Green family is one of Chatham's "arts" families. Lucky for Chatham.

After moving from Manhattan more than 15 years ago, Jessica and Mike Green found the close-knit community of Chatham when Jessica, a casting director for Broadway and regional theater, took a job with Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. To Jessica's delight, she found that her new home community was deeply interested in theater and performing arts as well.

It's not surprising that Jessica and Mike's sons caught the acting bug. Ronan, 15, and Dashiell, 13, are regulars on the stages of Chatham Middle School and Chatham High School. Ronan's most recent appearance was in the high school's fall play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He was recently accepted into the prestigious Paper Mill Playhouse Broadway Show Choir. Dash, as he is known by friends, will perform in January in the middle school's musical, *Willy Wonka, Jr.* He is currently part of Paper Mill Playhouse's Children's Theatre on Tour and was in the musical "13" Off-Broadway last Spring.

Here's a treat! Before the family heads to Boston for Christmas to be with Jessica's family, you can see Ronan and Dash perform together in *Elf Jr. the Musical* at The Summit Playhouse in Summit.



RESIDENT FEATURE



Speaking about the holiday season, Jessica shares a funny story about how Santa always came to her kids on December 23 since the Green family leaves for Boston on Christmas Eve morning. "It got a little tricky when they started school because they would tell their friends that Santa was coming the day before Christmas Eve." Jessica laughs, reminiscing about the story. "Their friends' reactions were great. They would say, 'Lucky! Santa goes to you first!'"

Many people in town are probably familiar with Broadway Bootcamp, LLC. Lots of cars zip around town with the round blue and yellow BWAY BOOTCAMP magnet stuck to the backs of their cars. Almost seven years ago, Jessica started the highly successful summer camp for kids interested in theater. The camp registration and audition days, marked on calendars by families of "arts" kids, is becoming a Chatham tradition.

Broadway Bootcamp (www.bwaybootcamp.com) is for 10-15 year olds. Registration is in January and auditions are in March. Jessica also offers a mini Broadway Bootcamp for 7-9 year olds. She rents space from The Chatham Community Players and the Chatham United Methodist Church for rehearsals and productions.

And, Broadway Bootcamp is a family affair. Mike, who works in sports marketing at ESPN, handles all of the camp's marketing including brochures, programs, logos and videos of final productions. Ronan and Dash help out at the camp too.

The camp grew out of Jessica's teaching of theater classes in the enrichment programs at the district's three elementary schools and the Lafayette Avenue School. "Parents started asking if I would do something more for the kids who were interested in



theater," she says. "I started with about 20 kids for two weeks during the summer and it mushroomed from there. We now have 50 campers," says Jessica, who teaches the acting component. The kids also work with a choreographer and a music director who both work and teach in Manhattan.

Every fall, a theme is chosen for the final production. Eleven songs are selected and then a playwright writes a story around it all. "Our productions have run the gamut of 1970s Broadway shows and a 1950s theme in a diner to heroes and rock and roll," says Jessica. "What makes our program unique is that every child gets a character name, delivers lines and is included in multiple scenes. They are not just chorus--they have a role with a name!" she says, noting that many musicals have a few leads with all the other kids offstage most of the show.

Additionally, the campers get what equates to real-life experience



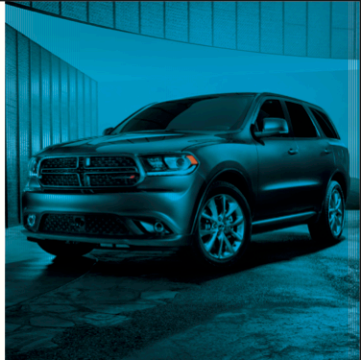


in a production. "It's fast-paced and mimics professional show schedules. For instance, in regional theater the rehearsal period can only be about two to three weeks. That's how we run the camp. It's a unique experience for the campers to be in a real theater with their own dressing rooms in addition to costumes, props, sets and lights," says Jessica, who notes that kids go on to perform in other places.

"I love to hear that campers are performing elsewhere during the year and using all the techniques and good habits that we have taught them during the summer!" says Jessica, adding that she's excited to watch some of her campers in this month's performance of Christmas Cards 2 at the Chatham Playhouse. It will all be a "wrap" before the Greens leave for Boston on December 24. On another funny note, Jessica adds that one of these years, they'll have to stay around for Christmas Eve to see the streets lined with luminaria—another Chatham tradition! ♦

We would like to thank Salerno Duane Inc. in Summit for bringing you this month's cover story.

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at smcevoy@bestversionmedia.com.



SALERNO ★ DUANE



908-227-6700 • 267 Broad St, Summit, NJ • SalernoDuane.com

Let our family treat YOU like family!

