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The Examiner



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MONDAY,
MARCH 18, 2013

SERVING SAN FRANCISCO, ALAMEDA, MARIN, SAN MATEO AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES

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Local activities

Guitar concert: David Burgess, a guitarist who combines Latin sensibilities with classical techniques, performs a concert featuring works by top Brazilian guitarists. [7:30 p.m., Congregation Emanu-El, 2 Lake St., S.F.]

Chamber music: Earplay, a chamber group specializing in contemporary and modern classical music, performs a concert containing new music and a rarely played Schoenberg work. [7:30 p.m., ODC Theater, 3153 17th St., S.F.]

Math films: A "Math Films Marathon," featuring math-related films by George Csicsery, screens today and Wednesday. Today's bill includes "Julia Robinson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem." [Roxie Theater, 3117 16th St., S.F.; www.roxie.com]

Tale spinning: The Porchlight storytelling series presents its March edition, a "Law and Order"-themed event. Featured storytellers include comedian Nato Green and judge Alex Kozinski. [8 p.m., Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa St., S.F.]

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NOW PLAYING

20 years of films about numbers? Do the math

George Csicsery never set out to become the go-to guy for math movies, but after his "N Is a Number" about noted brainiac Paul Erdos opened in 1993, the Oakland filmmaker suddenly became inundated with ideas for similarly themed documentaries. "People began to bombard me with ideas and requests," he says. "In making 'N Is a Number,' I felt Paul Erdos was an interesting person, but I never would have imagined going into this whole other world."

Csicsery celebrates that world Monday and Wednesday at the Roxie Theater with Math Films Mathathon. Entries include Monday's Bay Area premiere of "Taking the Long View: The Life of

Shiing-Shen Chern," which profiles the late co-founder of Berkeley's Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

The filmmaker does not have a background in mathematics. "I try to not put anything into a film unless I can understand it," he says. "Mathematicians have to exercise great patience with me. I might have 20 or 30 people on camera telling me the details of the same problem or proof. Then I look for ways to translate that onto film. If I can get it, you can get it."

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