

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Breathing Life into a Monster

Matthew Warner launches a new horror novel.

BY HANNAH BUNTING  
THE CONNECTION

When imagining the author of a horror novel, a dark and sinister man might come to mind. However, Northern Virginia novelist Matthew Warner is quite the opposite.

"He's friendly, easy-going, and easy to talk to", Warner's former high school journalism teacher Dr. Patrick McCarthy said. "He was such an enthusiastic student. Like a sponge, he just couldn't get enough knowledge. He always wanted to know more."

According to his mother, Pat Warner, her son was always interested in writing.

"I was amazed when he picked horror [as his preferred genre]. I wanted to know where he got his ideas from," Pat Warner said. "But he's so intense and creative, it's a good fit."

**MATTHEW WARNER** is a Lake Braddock alumnus and James Madison University graduate. He now lives with his wife and son in Staunton, Va., where they are expecting their second child.

Warner has worked with many forms of the written word, ranging from novels to screenplays. His published novels are "The Organ Donor," "Death Sentences," "Eyes Everywhere," and "Horror isn't a Four Letter Word." His most recent novel, "Blood Born" is a hot topic for horror genre readers.

"Blood Born" takes place in Northern Virginia, and tells the story of a monster that attacks and impregnates local teens. However, these aren't normal pregnancies. The monster babies gestate in a week and are born hungry, eating everything alive in their path. Soon the population of monsters grows, and they wreak havoc on the metropolitan area.

Warner described his novel as having an underlying representation of how society deals with crisis.

"[Society] overreacts. They aren't sure how to handle it right...and sometimes the cure is worse



Matthew Warner

than the disease" Warner said.

"[Blood Born] is the best he's written so far. I love the intensity and the drama of it. It was fast moving and easy to read. ... It was also easy to put yourself in the place of the characters", Pat Warner said.

Last year, Warner worked with Darkstone Entertainment to produce "The Lovecraft Chronicles," a series of short films involving monsters from famous literature.

Warner said he has already begun working on his next pieces: a stage comedy titled "Pirate Appreciation Day" and the novelization of the movie "Plan 9."

"Blood Born" is available for purchase on Amazon.com or at Warner's website: matthewwarner.com/.

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### CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 4

**The Bob Gibson Big Band.** 8 p.m. Old Country Buffet 9650 Main St., Fairfax. Vintage to modern jazz and big band music. 703-764-0708.

**Disney in Concert: Magical Music from the Movies.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The National Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Steven Reineke, present songs from The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Aladdin, Pirates of the Caribbean, Beauty and the Beast and more. Tickets \$20-\$52. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Science Rocks with Flumpa and Friends.** 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Music, science and movement with Wendy and Flumpa, the tree frog. All ages. Register at 703-293-6227.

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English

with other adults. 703-249-1520.  
**Lunchtime at the Movies.** 11:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring lunch and watch movies based on children's books. Call for titles. Age 1-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

**Forensic Mysteries.** 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Become a detective and analyze clues from skeletons, fingerprints and DNA. Presented by the Science Museum of Virginia. Age 12-18. 703-644-7333.

#### FRIDAY/AUG. 5

**Tom Paxton.** 7 p.m. Mason District Park Amphitheater, 6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Folk music. 703-324-SHOW.

**Deep River Summer Revival with Seth Glier.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Tan Dun: Martial Arts Trilogy.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. National Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Tan Dun, presents concertos based on the films Hero, The Banquet, and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Tickets \$20-

\$52. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).  
**The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Classical music concert. Free.  
**Trio Caliente.** 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Latin gypsy rumba. Free.

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 6

**Deep River Summer Revival with Larkin Poe.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Arlo Guthrie & Time for Three.** 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Arlo Guthrie, Time for Three and the National Symphony Orchestra present an evening of folk and classical music collaborations. \$20-\$52. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's Percussion Duo.** 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Musical duet. Free.

**Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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