Leslie Elias likes to say she is probably the only actress to portray an oil spill for 20 years. Well, maybe not likes to say. She doesn't like that there is such a thing as an oil spill in the first place, never mind the discomfort of self-promotion. Like the spill that figures prominently in her most recent play, an adaptation of a Haitian folktale, Elias is a force of nature. With mile-a-minute intensity, she flits in stream of consciousness from her aunt's inspiring flamingo dancing to her own efforts at working a marine biologist's whale recordings into a play. For three decades, Elias' children's theater troupe, the Grumbling Gryphons, has blended cultural and environmental messages in presentations around Connecticut and beyond.

At libraries and schools — and at New York's Museum of Natural History — and at New York's Museum of Natural History, Great Grumphons
Children's theater troupe celebrates its 30th birthday with swing through the state

Four former cast members from Broadway's smash musical, "Jersey Boys" will reunite once again to bring the sounds of the '60s to the Palace Theater stage in Waterbury Oct. 2.

The 8 p.m. performance features Tony Award-winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and J. Robert Spencer.

The popular Broadway stars are taking their unique sound and chemistry on the road in a special concert, performing hits from The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Jackson Five, The Monkees and The Four Seasons. This concert is intended to captivate audiences of all ages.

As original cast members of "Jersey Boys," Hoff, Longoria, Reichard and Spencer have entertained audiences for more than 1,000 performances during their time on the Broadway hit.

Before the curtain rises, a 6 p.m. pre-show dinner catered by Emily's Catering Group will be held in the Palace's Poli Club, located on the mezzanine level of the theater.

Dinner is $40 for members, $50 for non-members, which includes tax, gratuity, coffee and tea. A cash bar will also be available. Seating is limited and reservations can be made when purchasing tickets through the Palace box office.

Tickets can be purchased by phone at (203) 346-2000, online at www.palacetheaterct.org, or in person at the Palace Theater Box Office, 100 East Main St., Waterbury.

Groups of 20 or more qualify for discounted rates and should call the group sales hotline at (203) 346-2002.

Oh, what a night! 'Jersey Boys' to rock Palace Oct. 2

PHOTOS BY IRENA PASTORELLO

At left, Leslie Elias, founder and artistic director of the Grumbling Gryphons, a traveling children's theater, narrates during a performance of Anton Chekhov's A Candid Polkitek, at Cornwall Town Hall on Friday. The theater is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Below, Grumbling Gryphons, including from left, Lucy Pettitman, Jacob Johnson and Sarah Brice, take a bow during the performance.

PHOTOS BY IRENA PASTORELLO

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS
Tracey O'Shaughnessy writes about the New York City mosque.

THE SUNDAY REPUBLICAN  SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PREACHER, PRAYERS IS BETTER THAN HATE!
Continued from 1E
History and so far away as Ukraine — Elias has encoun-
tered ypogymnastics to make their creative powers through the
atural expression.

EMPOWERING
CHILDREN

Her plays encompass various cultures and mythos and fre-
quently involve nature. She in-

erprises a whirring brand of middle
aged dance, the...