

# Taneytown News



## THE CITY OF TANEYTOWN IS OFFICIALLY TWO DEGREES OF SEPARATION FROM KEVIN BACON!

Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon is a trivia game based on the concept of the small world phenomenon and rests on the assumption that anyone can be linked to actor Kevin Bacon within six steps. Based on the premise of this game, the city of Taneytown is now officially only two degrees of separation from the 51 year old mega movie star.

How is this possible? Local business owner and bandleader Rob Leonard and members of his 1940s style swing orchestra, Blue Moon Big Band ([www.bluemoonbigband.com](http://www.bluemoonbigband.com)), hit the silver screen on August 21 in the feature film *My One and Only* which stars Renee Zellweger and none other than Kevin Bacon. In the movie, Leonard and his real-life band perform the part of musicians under the direction of Dan Devereaux, played by Bacon. Following a successful and award-winning European run, the film made its U.S. debut in New York and Los Angeles in August. Since then, showings of the movie have

expanded to other cities around the country.

### WORKING WITH KEVIN BACON

"Working with Kevin Bacon was an incredible experience," notes Leonard, an 11-year resident of Taneytown. "We spent about 40 hours on various sets in Baltimore during the summer of 2008 working with him. At first meeting, we were admittedly a bit apprehensive to be in the presence of such a huge Hollywood star," he continued, "but we soon discovered that Kevin is a regular guy who just happens to be one of the most prolific actors of our generation." The band earned the spot in the movie after applying to a casting call for a legitimate swing orchestra. "The casting director was excited to learn that Blue Moon Big Band is an authentic swing orchestra and that, since we have been playing big band, jazz, and swing music all our lives, we would not be called on to "fake" playing our instruments," Leonard added. "In fact, we had the opportunity to rehearse the movie's title track and some other music on location as the crew set up for the first day of filming. It was really cool to see the actors, extras, and crew take the time to dance to our music!"

### INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE BAND

Blue Moon Big Band has garnered recognition of one of the most sought after legit 1940s style swing orchestras in the region. Appearing at venues such as Swing 46 Jazz & Supper Club in Manhattan and The Spanish Ballroom at Glen

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# Taneytown Life

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Echo, MD, the band has also appeared on several live and recorded television programs as well as a one-hour feature presentation on National Public Radio's "Swingin' Down the Lane." The band has recorded six CDs, boasting sales in all 50 U.S. states and 11 international territories, and its music has been played on over 60 radio stations across the U.S.

"This is music that we love and that we remember our parents playing when we were kids," notes Leonard. "It is absolutely timeless, and may very well be the only true American art form that exists today."

### NOT JUST YOUR GRANDPARENTS' MUSIC ANYMORE

Big band and swing isn't just your grandparents' music. Audiences of all ages still flock to listen and dance to the music of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, and the Dorsey Brothers. In fact, the music of the Great American Swing Era found a whole new generation of fans when the Gap commercials in the late 1990s played a major part in propelling swing music back into the American mainstream. "Frankly," adds Leonard, "when those commercials aired, teens and 20-somethings probably thought they had just discovered the most amazing music ever played. Well, "he concludes," they were at least half right!"

The original Gap commercial which aired in 1998 can still be found today on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=knWlhGwmEXQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knWlhGwmEXQ).

### WHERE TO SEE BLUE MOON BIG BAND PERFORM

In addition to seeing members of the band appearing in the feature film *My One and Only*, you can find see Blue Moon Big Band perform live on Sunday, September 20 at the MD Wine Festival at the Carroll County Farm Museum in Westminster. The band will perform music for all ages, even a few for the youngest audience members. Blue Moon Big Band can be found online at [www.bluemoonbigband.com](http://www.bluemoonbigband.com) and also on Facebook, and visitors to the band's website can sign-up for free monthly email newsletters or join the Blue Moon Club, in which members can receive a free CD and other great benefits from the band. The full 19-piece orchestra, as well as its smaller partner ensemble *Li'l Bit of Blue* and its Latin infused partner *Big Band Caliente*, is available for wedding receptions, corporate and private parties, dances, concerts, and other special events, and can provide anything from jump and jive for clubs or festivals to big band dance music for an elegant party or reception.

Presently, the band is seeking a corporate sponsor for a proposed New Year's Eve gala in Westminster. Companies interested in exchanging financial support for media, web, and other promotional exposure should contact Rob Leonard at 410.756.2473 or 301.639.0770 as soon as possible.