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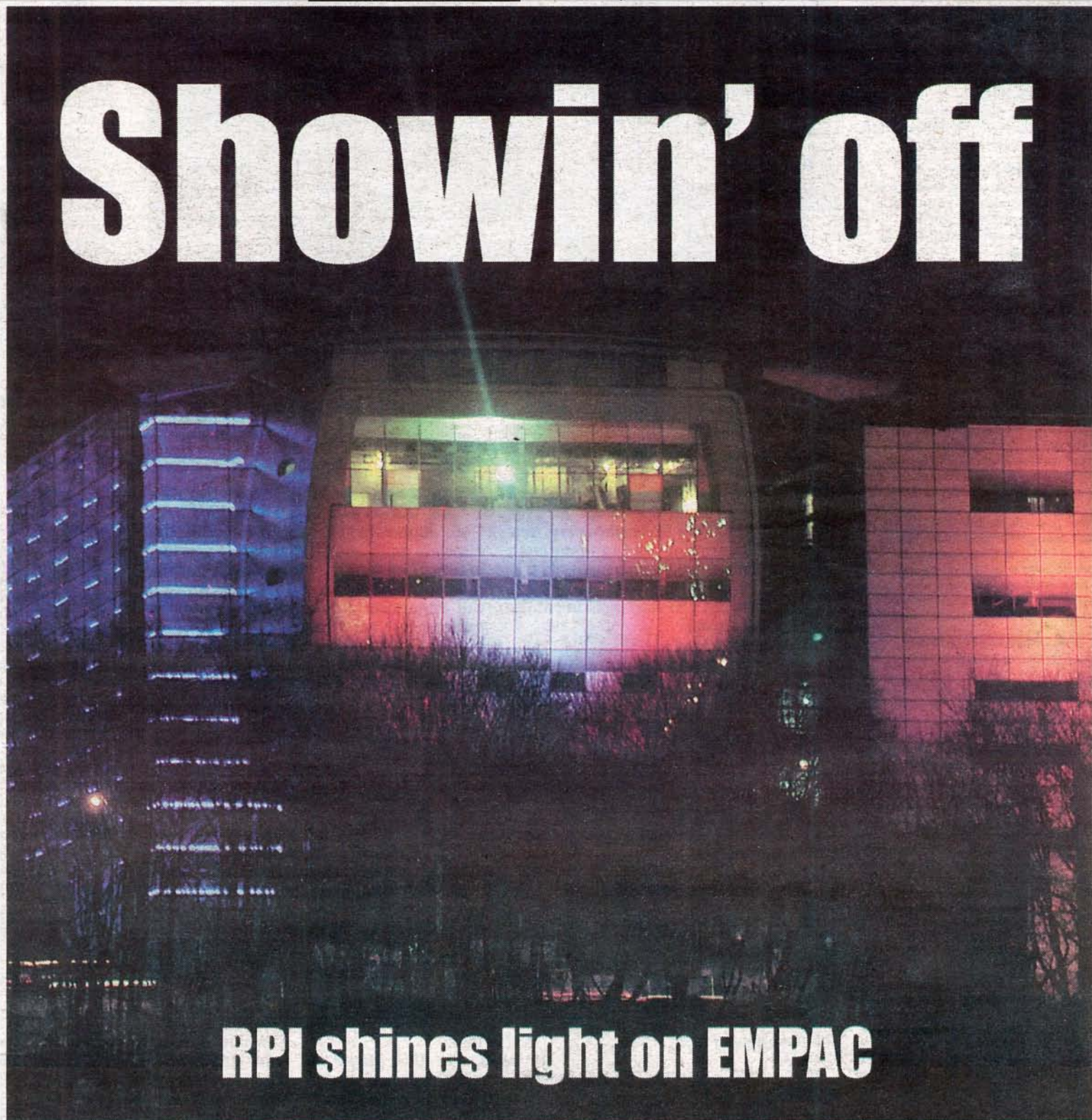
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SATURDAY



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Showin' off



RPI shines light on EMPAC

Cover Story

AT A GLANCE ...

■ **WHAT HAPPENED:** To introduce RPI's new arts center, a light show will be on display nightly through Feb. 3.

■ **WHAT'S NEXT:** The center will provide RPI a venue for more creative arts endeavors.

■ COVER CREDIT:

Tom Killips— *The Record*

Color is splashed from the hill above downtown Troy with the RPI EMPAC's light show. The display to continue nightly through Feb. 3.

'Lights Above the Hudson'

Danielle Sanzone
The Record

TROY — Similar to a grand casino on the Las Vegas strip, the larger-than-life EMPAC building at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was illuminated with hues of blue, green, and red during the opening reception of the ongoing light shows which will take place every night through Feb. 3.

"I've seen the lights the past couple nights now. This is really fantastic — it's a great way to draw attention to this building, and it's even more striking from downtown."

Barbara Nelson

Troy resident, commenting on the EMPAC light show on the RPI campus in Troy

Whether observed while walking through downtown's shops or rushing to a night class at RPI, locals have noticed the rehearsal shows throughout this past week.

"I've seen the lights the past couple nights now," said Barbara Nelson of Troy as she stood in front of the immense Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) Friday night. "This is really fantastic — it's a great way to draw attention to this building and it's even more striking from downtown."

The nightly show, running from dusk to 10 p.m. through Feb. 3, is made up of 15-minute



Jennifer Tipton, stage and lighting designer, stands in front of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. On Friday a light show projected on the building was kicked off. The show will continue nightly through Feb. 3.

Tom Killips — *The Record*

cycles of color and intense lights. The presentation, being called *Light Above the Hudson*, is meant to highlight the new building scheduled to officially open in October for classes, said John Rodat, senior communications specialist at EMPAC.

"We wanted this light show to work on two levels," he continued. "On the one hand, we wanted to draw attention to the building. Many residents have seen its construction over the

past months and not known what it is. And, on the other hand, we wanted to have a celebration of the building's architecture which is very impressive and a work of art itself. This light show is an invitation for the people to learn more about the building."

While the groundbreaking for the EMPAC building was in the fall of 2003, discussions about this show began this past summer when the college commis-

sioned New York City-based Jennifer Tipton, a lighting and theatre designer authority, to put together a public light show.

The equipment and technology for the light presentation was set up last Friday and Tipton has spent the past week putting together the final pieces of the illuminating performance along the three sides of the building facing downtown Troy. Some of the lighting being used

"This is a grand building and an amazing piece of architecture. Troy is very lucky to have it."

Jennifer Tipton

designer of the
"Light Above the Hudson" light show

is located within the building and there are also a few large lighting units across the street.

The northern face of the 202,000-square-foot structure has a static, blue-light design, and the southern and western sides have moving lights and colors.

With the show, Tipton wanted to underscore the unique architectural design of the building and its "fantastic, dynamic shape," she said.

"This is a grand building and an amazing piece of architecture," Tipton continued. "Troy is very lucky to have it."

Some recommended spots to watch the nightly show include Rensselaer's Winslow Building near the approach stairway, the corner of Sixth Avenue and Broadway, the corner of Third and State Streets, and on the Troy-Green Island Bridge, college officials said.

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John Rodat

senior communications specialist at EMPAC