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NEW YORK POST

"Driven by a **brilliant, ferocious performance by Michael Fassbender**, 'Shame' is a real walk on the wild side. **A cinematic jolt** that is bracing to experience, as jolting as a strong whiff of ammonia."

Hollywood
REPORTER

Michael Fassbender Carey Mulligan

S H A M E

A Steve M^cQueen Film



NC-17 NO ONE 17 AND UNDER
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TROJANSIDELINES

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

USC Bookstore and More

BY ELISA HERNANDEZ

ATTENTION USC TROJANS ... WE MADE IT! WE have survived the majority of the semester, enjoyed our much-earned Thanksgiving Break and after finals are done we can enjoy the holidays. In California, you know the holidays are here when it's Halloween, and there's already a Christmas section on display.

Now I know that finals can take up a lot of our time, and we may not be able to do Christmas shopping, but have no fear the USC Bookstore is here. A lot of you may think, "I don't know if my mom wants a \$75 Spanish book for Christmas," but the USC Bookstore has more to offer than that.

Lately in our normally bright Southern California it's been very cold and gloomy, so coats and scarves are a must. At the bookstore they're having their Holiday Sale that includes jackets, scarves, gloves and hats. We must be bundled up for the future games, so why not cheer our Trojans on to victory rocking USC gear?

While you're getting some goodies for yourself, make sure you pick up some stuff for the family too. They have USC ties for dad and even women's watches/bracelets for mom. Nothing says "I Love You" like a "FIGHT ON" watch.

They also have the new 2012 USC Football Calendars featuring our beloved Trojans. Nothing starts off a month better than seeing our men in Cardinal and Gold.

If those aren't to your liking, head down the escalator and you can find greeting cards to send out and cute tops to dress up in for the holidays coming up. If you have gamers in your family, you can swing into the tech lab and buy some cool stuff. They have everything from beats by Dr. Dre to the new "Modern Warfare." I know it might be the unlikeliest place you would think of going to buy gifts, but the bookstore has more to offer than books.

Other things to look for at the bookstore are "BEAT UCLA" shirts, jerseys and "Fight On" grills which are new. Tailgates are part of the USC experience here, and Trojans grill in style. If your family and friends are coming down for a game, make sure you direct them to the bookstore. You can even order stuff online.

There are even UCLA versus USC game-day shirts from the big game last weekend. These shirts are new and only cost \$22.99, they're cardinal gold featuring the USC and UCLA helmets going head to head. The shirt also states the date of the event and where it was held. These shirts will go lovely with a "BEAT UCLA" pin for only a dollar.

Straying away from the USC Bookstore in case that's a little too pricy for your wallets, homemade gifts are always a plus. From scrapbooking to making a USC color jewelry box, homemade gifts with a USC theme give a personal touch and are awesome gifts to give to loved ones this season.

Wondering where to get supplies? Well the University Village (UV) has plenty of options, but I recommend the dollar store. There you can buy frames, paint, construction paper, markers etc. Now I know this may seem childish, and even third grader-ish, but trust me they look nice, plus you

Campus Circle > Blogs > Trojan SideLines



know that to your parents you're still their baby regardless of age.

For example, my sister made me a jewelry box for my birthday and a picture frame with multiple pictures of us and stickers. The jewelry box was painted Cardinal and Gold, with USC glitter letters on the top of it and a picture of us wearing our USC gear. That was one of the best presents received on my birthday; for Christmas, that gift would be just as special.

Those are some quick tips for presents to give to family and friends if money is a little tight. Make sure you enjoy the holiday ... now go shop!

For more information, visit uscbookstore.com. Have an idea for a future Trojan SideLines? E-mail editor.chief@campuscircle.net.

SPIRITEDBRUIN

UCLA STORE DEALS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY TIEN THUY HO

HOLIDAY SHOPPING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED! EVEN though it is stressful finding the perfect gift for our family and friends, it is reassuring to know that that we have one option that is walking distance from us: the UCLA store! Here are some good deals the store is offering.

Electronics and computers: The MacBook Pro 2.4 GHz Intel Core i5 is on sale for \$1,049, which is the lowest price anywhere. The HP LaserJet P1102W printer is on sale for \$99. Also, you can purchase the iPad for \$499, and if you choose to do so, you might as well buy a new device called the iMainGo XP. This device is a portable speaker case for the iPad. The exterior is really durable while the interior lining is quite soft. In addition, it's comprised of four high-output stereo speakers with a proprietary digital amplifier that will surely enhance the listening experience of any iPad owner. There is so much color around the technology section of the store, such as the new tiny iPod Nanos. Of course, to complement the electronics, the accessories lie nearby for your convenience. Look specifically for the colorful earphones by Riot or Sony that are on sale for \$14.99 or \$19.99. A black laptop sleeve with the UCLA logo for a 13-inch laptop is \$29.95. There are

really cute Hello Kitty USB Speakers that are only \$24.95

For Her: Something I would really appreciate as a gift is the tote bag with the UCLA BRUINS logo hugely imprinted on the front. I think it is trendy while being understated. It is roomy enough to fit all your books in without you fearing that it will rip. Best part of all is that it is only \$12. Another option is a classy black leather rectangular tote with a simple tiny UCLA logo at the right bottom corner. It is just the right size to carry anywhere and only costs \$30. My favorite knitwear accessories are the polka dot pom beanie (\$30) in light blue and gold and the matching polka dot scarf (\$32) in light blue and gold. The background is light blue while the polka dots are white and gold varying in sizes creating a bubbly look.

Lastly, there is a new brand for clothing called League Collegiate that reminds me of Hollister and Abercrombie and Fitch brands. Their sweaters and jackets are so cozy and simple, which I love. A light grey jacket for \$59 has a simple circle with the UCLA logo embedded in it on the left side.

For Him: There is a light grey sweatshirt by Camp David, which is softer than other brands, with a UCLA 1919 BRUINS imprint and a football helmet in the center. It costs the reasonable price of \$39 and is a great gift for any guy out there who watches football. Another option is the sweatshirts with the zipper at the neck by Jansport. I like these because they are "comfort simplified" and show a cool balance between the UCLA logo on the right and the threading of "University of California Los Angeles" on the left.

For Kids: An adorable pink bib that says "UCLA sweetie" is perfect for a little toddler and only costs \$16. A Joe the Bruin Bear golden hat that has ears is so fuzzy and is great for boys and girls (\$17). A small, light brown UCLA Musical Bruin stuffed bear is \$19, and if you squeeze the left hand, music will play. Lastly, there are tons of T-shirts and sweatshirts for boys

Campus Circle > Blogs > Spirited Bruin



and girls too that range from \$20-\$35.

Other Fun Gifts: There is a beautiful dark blue UCLA blanket for \$19.95. There are Jansport backpacks with the UCLA logo. There is a very cute ceramic snowman ornament for \$14 among so much glittery ornaments and frames and a UCLA chocolates gift box for only \$12. A UCLA pet bowl is \$12, and a UCLA shot glass is \$6. There are other pet gifts such as a pet bandana. A baby blue santa hat is \$22. A UCLA BRUINS license plate frame is \$13.95 while the fancier license plates are around \$26. If you like to read or know someone who does, the book *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson is \$35 dollars plus an additional 20-percent off. Other fun books might be on sale as well such as *101 Ways to Cook Eggs*. There are plenty of stationary and journals too. My favorite section is the Hello Kitty stand. There are way too many Hello Kitty items such as pens, pencils, lunch boxes and notepads.

For more information, visit uclastore.com. Have an idea for a future Spirited Bruin? E-mail editor.chief@campuscircle.net.

L.A.MOVES



ACROSS CONNECTIONS

Pennington Dance Group and Yorke Dance Project join forces.

BY KELLY HARGRAVES

THEY MET ALMOST TWO DECADES AGO WHILE DANCING FOR EPIC choreographer Bella Lewitzky, and it was an artistic symbiosis that has kept them friends for decades. When the company folded, both went on to new careers: John Pennington, the artistic director of both the Pennington Dance Group (PDG) and ARC Pasadena, now serves on faculty at Pomona College and Cal State Long Beach, and is co-director of the Lewitzky Dance Gallery. Yolande Yorke-Edgell founded Yorke Dance Project (YDP) in Los Angeles in 1998 shortly after dancing with Rambert Dance Company in London, where she still lives and works.

Now Pennington and Yorke-Edgell are working together again, even though they live on two different continents. Reconnecting to work on the reconstruction of Lewitzky's legacy dances (YDP is the only European Company permitted to do them, and Pennington is one of three dancers certified to teach them.), they've kept in touch via Skype, e-mail, etc. Soon they decided it was time to take the virtual conversation onto the stage by collaborating on a piece that brings these companies from two continents together for works that they will perform in the L.A. area in December.

It's almost as if this is one big Internet date set up on DanceMatch.com. While working in their homeland, they pieced out a conceptual framework, created a shared movement and sent each other video clips of phrases. But it won't be until the upcoming weeks that their dancers will physically share creative space in person.

The collaborative piece entitled "Overlay" is based on the theme of sharing space, of interjecting people into a new territory and what that entails both physically and metaphorically. The affects and effects of something being overtaken by a new outside force.

Since both choreographers worked with Lewitzky, they share a strong aesthetic about clarity in movement and strong spatial design. Lewitzky worked with the architecture of a body in space, and her protégés Pennington and Yorke-Edgell carry that through with a large, lush movement style that sweeps through space, as dancers work in harmony and movements cascade in canon throughout the group.

But these two contemporary dance makers are also more interested in showing the human "theater of life," not only a body in space and thus incorporate emotional narrative into the work. Issues of how these unknowns will work together in movement become metaphors for how new people get to know one another, and whether they will get along.

Also on the program, the companies will each perform a work from their repertory, PDG will perform "Yield of Vision," and YDP will perform "City Limitless." "Yield of Vision" is a five-part work that uses LED lighting to highlight perception, voyeurism and exhibitionism. The stage is transformed by reflective material into a mirrored alternative reality, and through the use of non-traditional illumination, Pennington choreographs a work of ever-fluctuating light, shadow and movement. "City Limitless," choreographed by Yorke-Edgell, gives a glimpse into the beginnings of what was to become the beat generation. Performed to the original recordings of Kerouac and fellow writers Allen Ginsberg and Neal Cassady and a specially commissioned film that pans through the landscapes and places Kerouac visited.

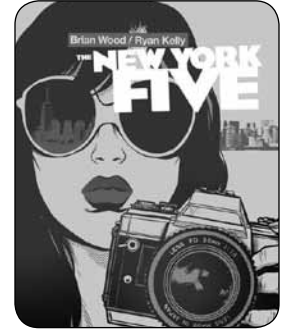
Tickets for the Saturday, Dec. 3rd performance are \$20 at the Martha B. Knoebel Theater at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, located at 6200 Atherton Street in Long Beach. Tickets for the Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11 performances are \$20 at ARC Pasadena, located at 1158 E. Colorado Boulevard.

For more information, visit penningtondancegroup.org.

GRAPHICNOVELS

GIFT IDEAS

BY MIKE SEBASTIAN



A Flight of Angels (Vertigo) – Illustrated by fantasy art legend Rebecca Guay, this *Canterbury Tales*-esque graphic novel brings together five fantasy writers, Holly Black, Bill Willingham, Alisa Kwitney, Louise Hawes and Todd Mitchell, each with a different take on the identity of a mysterious angel.

Joe the Barbarian (Vertigo) – Grant Morrison's latest follows Joe, a fatherless, bullied 11-year-old with diabetes. When his blood sugar drops, he starts hallucinating. Suddenly, his house is transformed into a perilous fantasy world.

Marzi: A Memoir (Vertigo) – A stunning graphic novel debut, *Marzi* is the story of creator Marzena Sowa's life growing up in Communist Poland in the 1980s, as she struggles to understand the frightening, crumbling world around her.

The New York Five (Vertigo) – Brian Wood crafts a fitting sequel to *The New York Four*, catching up with four girlfriends in their second semester of college as they contend with romances, secrets, coming of age in the Big Apple and the arrival of a homeless girl, Olive.

Return to Perdition (Vertigo Crime) – The sequel to *Road to Perdition* picks up in the '70s with the grandson of Michael O'Sullivan back in the United States after getting out of a Vietnamese prison camp. Unaware of his crime lineage, Michael Satariano joins up with the mob as a hitman and sets out on a bloody road of retribution.

The Unwritten: Vol. 4: Leviathan (Vertigo) – Mike Carey's modern day fantasy centers on Tom Taylor, the son of a world-famous writer who abruptly disappeared. Now, Tom – the inspiration for his father's boy wizard hero – discovers that his magic powers might be real as he flees a shadowy conspiracy. Tackling hefty themes while playfully sending up numerous literary icons, *The Unwritten* is a classic in the making.

CURTAINCALL

"The Night Watcher"

Now-Dec. 18 @ Kirk Douglas Theatre

"The Night Watcher" with its cast of one, is turning heads at Culver City's Kirk Douglas Theater. Written by lead actress Charlayne Woodard, "The Night Watcher" is the winding and often heart-wrenching story of her experiences in almost-motherhood. The eldest of five sisters, Woodard's role as an 'Auntie' is one that has allowed her to make an impact on a list of children that do not include her own. Loaded with anecdotal wisdom and thought-provoking conundrums, Woodard's tale is one that looks to defy the conventional definition of the term 'raising children.'



Charlayne Woodard

Delivered with the poise and precision of a seasoned professional, Woodard played to a packed house that couldn't help but hang on to each word as she unfolded intricate scenes of triumph and love. Her hold on this crowd was palpable as she stirred gasping reactions from an audience that found themselves both shocked and entranced by Woodard's inspiring, yet relatable vignettes.

Backed by an impressive production staff, "The Night Watcher" is a complete package with effective lighting, tasteful scenery and bone-chilling sound effects. It is the type of narrative that creates a backdrop within the mind, rather than on the stage. Perhaps one of the most effective elements of this show is that most of the story takes place within current day Los Angeles. Many of the locations described in Woodard's narrative are places that the audience has been to. They are familiar stores, parks and areas of town that serve to not only acquaint the audience, but offers a common ground on which Woodard adds comic relief.

Addressing issues of race, sexuality and the insecurity that is often accompanied with childhood, Woodard's account of supporting her nieces and nephews is inspiring. Delivered in the serendipitously gripping format of her one-woman show, Woodard has the ability to transform a lonely stage to a complex theater within the mind. The lessons and images she leaves you with are haunting, entertaining and nothing short of unforgettable.

—Patrick Meissner

Kirk Douglas Theatre is located at 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City. For more information, visit centertheatregroup.org.

FILMINTERVIEWS

Campus Circle > Film > Interviews



Writer/director Steve McQueen and actors Carey Mulligan and Michael Fassbender on the set of *Shame*

SHAME

Steve McQueen and Michael Fassbender are a duo to be reckoned with.

BY ARIEL PAREDES

WITH SO MANY TABOO TOPICS IN OUR SOCIETY that rarely get mentioned, it's promising to know that one is being brought to light and given serious screen time. Countless types of addictions are disregarded and disparaged, but that is not the case in director Steve McQueen's newest feature film, *Shame*.

Perhaps that's why this film is garnering all sorts of attention for both its content and its talent. It stars Michael Fassbender (*Inglourious Basterds*, *X-Men: First Class*) as Brandon, a man seemingly in control of his life, who gets an unwelcome pro-longed visit from his sister Sissy (*An Education* star Carey Mulligan). All of a sudden, secrets he had hidden start to become exposed, unraveling his very fragile existence.

I wondered what drew McQueen, who co-wrote the film with Abi Morgan, to tell this story.

"This is a huge phenomenon that no one is talking about. It's not just about sex addiction, but addictions in

general and being in a world where we don't necessarily have self-will. It's not always pretty to look at," explains McQueen, a native Londoner.

He goes on to continue, "No one in London wanted to talk about this and shied away from the spotlight. Ultimately I was introduced to people who suffer from this affliction in New York and naturally thought to shoot it there."

Fassbender adds, "Great set to be on, amazing crew. We were jumping around like kids too because we were filming in New York, which is always fun."

This isn't the first time the two have collaborated. McQueen directed Fassbender in 2008's *Hunger*, and they are teaming up for a third film (*Twelve Years a Slave*).

Chuckling aloud McQueen blurts, "We sort of pretend to like each other like Abbott and Costello."

Fassbender jumps in on a more serious note, "It's a hard thing to put your finger on, but it's a chemistry. I am very grateful and feel so blessed to come across it; [McQueen is] a true collaborator. *Hunger* was a big break for me, and together we were experiencing a lot. We formed a language very quickly."

McQueen states as well: "I'm very happy for it."

The director doesn't tell stories that are for the faint of heart. He knows that he struck gold with Fassbender as the right actor to play Brandon.

Effusing a bit, he says, "We don't often see an actor like him at all. There is an extraordinary openness and tenderness to him, which is such an appeal. To be able to be so vulnerable."

Turning to Fassbender, he laughs and asks, "Did I embarrass you?"

Graciously accepting the compliments, Fassbender

comments, "A very big part of my preparation is really reading the script, like 300 times to really know the character. You're gathering little pieces, and Steve is there to steer me in the right direction as well."

A buzzed about concern is the film's NC-17 rating due to the amount of nudity. Fassbender was shocked by people's reaction to that.

"I kept hearing people saying, 'Oh no, what's this going to do to your career? You're naked!' But I say, 'I'm not a politician, my job is to facilitate characters.' I'm a storyteller. That's it, end of story."

McQueen adds, "You're an actor. You can't show a bit of reality, but all of it. You have to be able to put yourself out there."

Knowing that there were some very intimate scenes to be filmed, the mood of the set had to be just right.

Joking, Fassbender chuckles, "We had a lot of fluffers around the set."

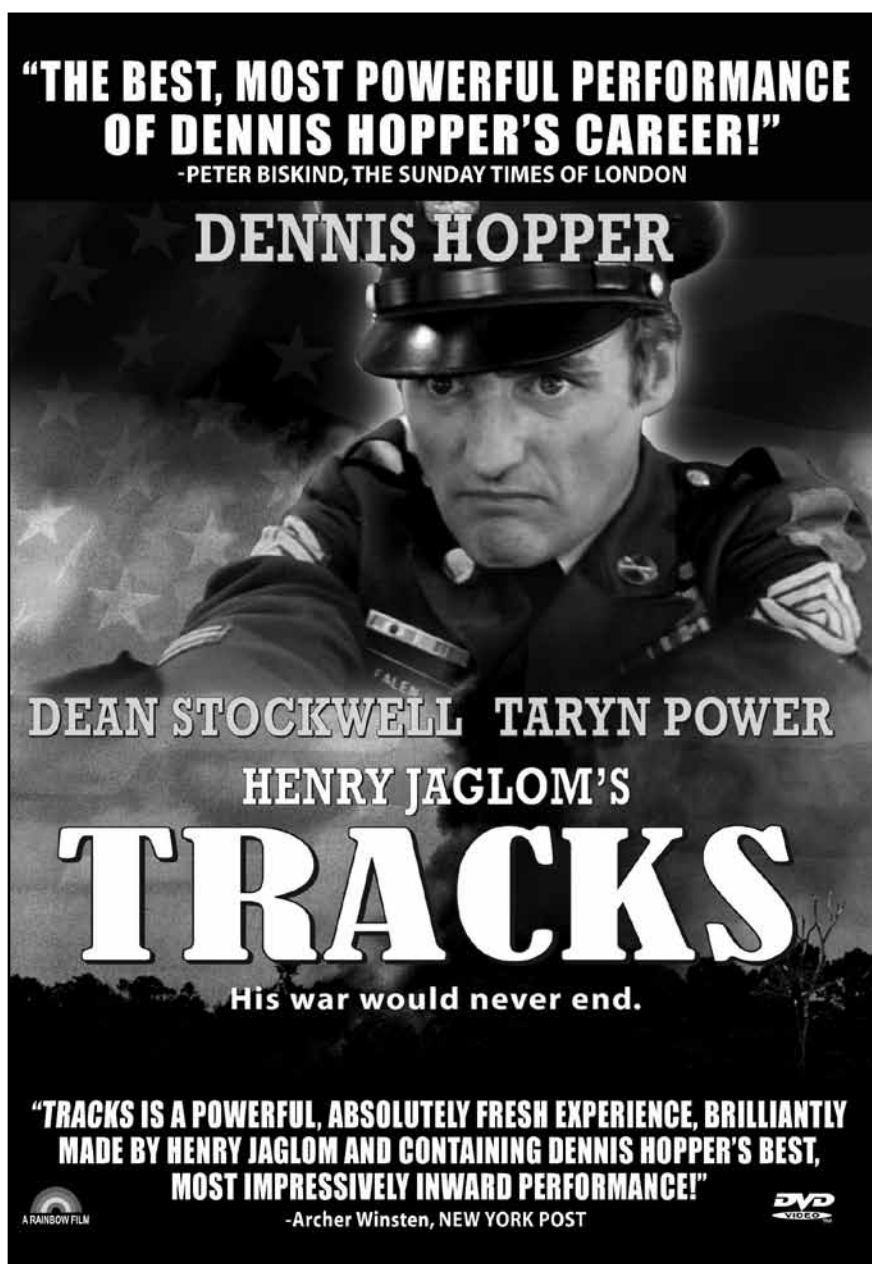
McQueen laughs and immediately retorts, "Why in the world would you say that?! From catering to makeup, to hair to sound grips and gaffers, we created an atmosphere where everyone knew each other. A safe environment so that people felt free to take risks."

Asked if Fassbender has seen the film, he replies, "I've only seen it once, and it was all a bit overwhelming and [it was] sort of with my eyes closed [grinning]. I need to watch it again back in London and hopefully with Steve and not with a thousand people."

Shame releases in select theaters Dec. 2.

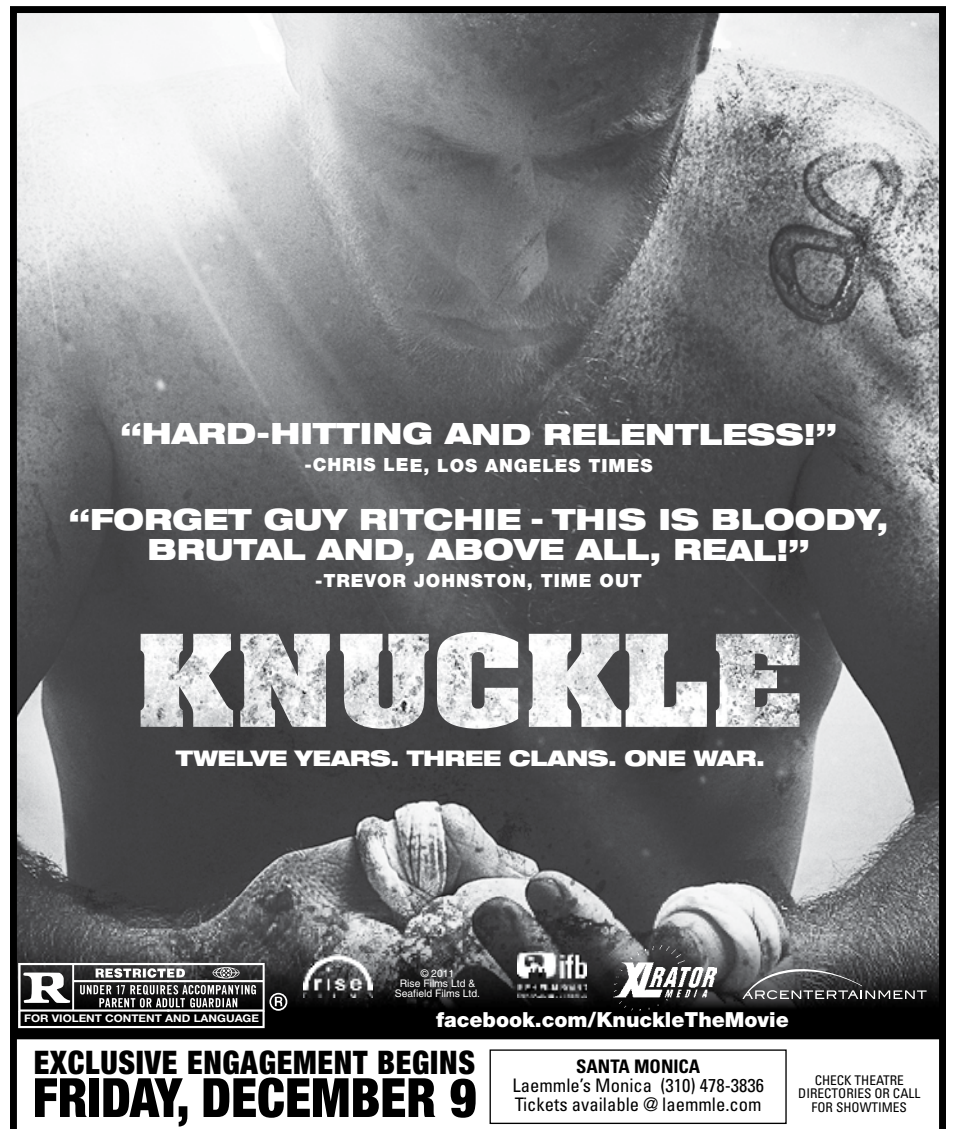
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THECHANNELSURFER

'TIS THE MID-SEASON

“The River” and “Smash” hope to woo winter audiences.

BY HIKO MITSUZUKA

ONCE THE NEW YEAR ROLLS AROUND NETWORK execs will be returning from their holidays with high hopes and new anxieties, filling the voids left by the unfortunate shows that were either D.O.A. or neglected – and promptly canceled (I’m looking at you, “Charlie’s Angels” and “Playboy Club”).

The chances of a new show debuting halfway through the television season – *and succeeding* – are slimmer than those of one that premieres in the fall. Few have been lucky. Earlier this year “Happy Endings” was granted a second chance to make us laugh after being released in the spring and quickly making a lasting impression (FYI, it’s currently inching up to “Modern Family” as my favorite comedy on TV). And let’s not forget that little medical drama that premiered at the top of 2005: eight seasons later, “Grey’s Anatomy” continues to maintain its grip on the zeitgeist.

Mid-season also means the return of old favorites. That said, “30 Rock” and “Cougar Town” cannot get here fast enough. But before we settle back in with a couple of our fictional friends, let’s direct our attention to a pair of new

dramas that have been on my radar for the past several months.

“The River” (ABC, premieres Feb. 7) – Wildlife expert Emmet Cole (Bruce Greenwood) goes missing in the Amazon, and it’s up to his family, friends and a documentary crew to find him. Among the group are Emmet’s wife Tess (Leslie Hope), his son Lincoln (Joe Anderson), the sexy and resourceful Lena (Eloise Mumford), loyal mechanic Emilio (Daniel Zacapa) and bone-crushing bodyguard Captain Kurt Brynildson (Thomas Kretschmann). Shot in Hawaii (how “Lost” of them), this serial thriller comes from the producer of *Paranormal Activity*, so expect some shaky-cam “found footage” blended with traditional narrative elements.

My thoughts: Great premise and awesome promos, but I pose the same question I’ve been asking every other suspense-driven drama this season (“Revenge,” “Ringer,” etc): How long can they keep up the mystery? I’m filing this highly anticipated show under High Concept/Low Longevity Potential. Sure, producers can tell us how much they’ve learned from the mistakes of the best mythologies from the past (“Lost,” “The X-Files”), but I guess I’ll have to commit to it to believe it. And yes, Steven Spielberg’s name has been slapped on to this thing, but a compelling series this does not always make. Case in point: J.J. Abrams and the ironically titled “Person of Interest.”

“Smash” (NBC, premieres Feb. 6) – Speaking of Spielberg, his name is also attached to this musical drama (a dramamusical?) that’s attempting to lure Gleeks and showtune lovers to its shiny spectacle. Chronicling the bumpy journey to the opening night of a Broadway musical, “Smash” reveals the behind-the-scenes trials and tribulations of everyone involved. There are the singing hopefuls (Katharine McPhee and Megan Hilty), the sleazy-yet-sexy director (Jack

Campus Circle > Film > The Channel Surfer



Katharine McPhee in “Smash”

Davenport), the veteran producer (Anjelica Huston) and the bickering composers (Debra Messing and Christian Borle).

My thoughts: In this “Voice”-“Idol”-“Glee” era we live in, who wouldn’t love a scripted drama about the goings-on behind the curtains? The pedigree of talent attached to this ambitious project is hella impressive (“from the producers of *Chicago* and *Hairspray!*”), and the return of Debra Messing is always a plus in my book. Where they’ll take this seemingly sensational story is anyone’s guess. After all, what happens after opening night? I’m already predicting a few Broadway cameos. Theater geeks, rejoice.

Coming soon: *My TV Top 10: An End-of-the-Year Review*. For more of pop cultural ramblings, visit thefirsttecho.com and hotterinhollywood.com.

MISEENSCENE

DOLLARS AND SENSE DON'T MIX AT THE BOX OFFICE

Why *Gone With the Wind* Is the True Box Office Champ Instead of *Avatar*

BY FREDERICK MINTCHELL

IT'S ECONOMICS 101 THAT WHEN A BUSINESS sells a product, it measures in actual units sold. For example, when you look at the weekly Billboard charts, it lists how many CDs were sold (or downloaded). Adele has sold the most albums in 2011 by moving over 4.4 million copies of *21* so far. Billboard doesn't say that Adele has sold over \$40 million worth of CDs in 2011. We know how many books were sold of a *The New York Times* bestseller. We know how many DVDs were sold of a certain movie. Pretty much every industry adheres to the business model of announcing units sold, except one: the movie industry.

Don't get me wrong, I love movies, but I never understood

why the movie industry announces its weekly box office champion by listing how much a movie has made instead of listing how many tickets were bought to see that movie. In 2011, the highest grossing movie so far is *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows – Part 2*. While we know that it has made over \$381 million in the United States, we have no idea how many tickets were sold. Due to inflation, recently released movies will always make more money than movies released back in the 1930s. It's common sense that if you pay 25 cents to see a movie, then it will make a lot less money than a movie that costs \$25 a ticket (which is not an exaggeration for a 3-D movie at IMAX in a large market like Los Angeles).

It seems like every month, or at least every year, some sort of box office record is being broken. Well, of course it is when ticket prices go up each year – not to mention that our population isn't exactly shrinking. This seems sort of disingenuous to me. Because of inflation, EVERYTHING makes more money than it used to. But just because *Twilight: Breaking Dawn – Part 1* just had the fifth highest opening weekend ever doesn't mean it's the fifth most popular movie ever. Let's look at it this way. According to boxofficemojo.com, the Top 11 highest grossing movies in the United States are:

- 1) *Avatar* (2009)
- 2) *Titanic* (1997)
- 3) *The Dark Knight* (2008)
- 4) *Star Wars* (1977)
- 5) *Shrek 2* (2004)
- 6) *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982)
- 7) *Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace* (1999)
- 8) *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* (2006)
- 9) *The Lion King* (1994)
- 10) *Toy Story 3* (2010)

Campus Circle > Film > Mise En Scene

- 115) *Gone With the Wind* (1939)

Sure some of them are really good, enduring classics. But some of them, hello *Phantom Menace*, will hardly be watched years from now. To illustrate my point, the average year of release of these films is 1999. Now let's look at another list. According to the-movie-times.com, the Top 10 highest grossing movies in the U.S. when adjusted for inflation are (or taking into account actual ticket sales):

- 1) *Gone With the Wind* (1939)
- 2) *Star Wars* (1977)
- 3) *The Sound of Music* (1965)
- 4) *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (1982)
- 5) *The Ten Commandments* (1956)
- 6) *Titanic* (1997)
- 7) *Jaws* (1975)
- 8) *Doctor Zhivago* (1965)
- 9) *The Jungle Book* (1967)
- 10) *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* (1937)
- 14) *Avatar* (2009)

The average year of release of this list of films is a much earlier 1966. As you noticed, I listed *Gone With the Wind* and *Avatar* on both lists to show you where the two champions end up on each list. *Avatar* was an event movie that everyone wanted to see, so even though it was recently released, it's not sitting too far out of the Top 10. On the flip side, in actual dollars grossed, *Gone With the Wind* sits at 115th place, in between *Superman Returns* (2006) and *Pearl Harbor*. Can you honestly tell yourself that *Superman Returns* and *Pearl Harbor* are as enduring as *Gone With the Wind*? Of course not. They just had the good luck of being released 70 years or so later.

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FILMINTERVIEWS

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THE LADY

Michelle Yeoh in a Touching Role

BY SEAN OLIVER

MEETING MICHELLE YEOH FOR THE FIRST TIME, I couldn't help but to see her as the actual heroine in a film. Yes, that's how amazing she is in *The Lady*, taking on the role of Aung San Suu Kyi, who is one of the most influential and inspirational women of all time.

It was a giant leap for one of the godmothers of the martial arts genre to make the transition into such an important period piece. Yeoh was definitely ready to embrace her new role and hopes for more options and new characters that will enable her to give back to society.

She lands directly on her feet in one of the strongest performances in a while. She is the heads-on favorite in my estimation for the Oscar for Best actress.

Looking at Yeoh you could feel her shining aura in the room. She was filled with so much excitement to talk about her new role. I couldn't help but to wonder what got her involved in such a controversial film.

She gleams from ear to ear proclaiming, "I simply felt it was a movie that needed to be done."

The surprising pairing of Luc Besson known for his action films (*The Professional*, *La Femme Nikita*) and Yeoh known for her martial arts films resulted in a beautiful film.

Yeoh comments, "Besson is truly a director capable of

directing [tales about] great women, whether it be a Joan of Arc or a La Femme Nikita. Besson truly knows how to bring the greatness out of his characters. Usually it's some sort of weapon; this time the weapon was peace."

Besson and Yeoh were a perfect pairing and along with Master of Disguise himself David Thewlis (*Anonymouse*, *Harry Potter*, *War Horse*), they truly created a beautiful classic.

Yeoh did a complete transition into becoming Aung San Suu Kyi. Already fluent in four languages, she took on the incredibly difficult Burmese language. In our interview, she broke into a full Burmese monologue that wowed the room.

When asked about her learning the difficult language, she talks about how it wasn't just learning phrases; she "wanted to learn the flow of the beautiful language." She learned to dictate the words and the emotions by learning phrases.

When asked why it was important for her to speak Burmese just as much as English in the film, Yeoh replies, "It was a must to learn speak the native tongue of the people of Burma and speak for the Burmese people."

She also adds that it was beneficial to have dialect coaches to help her speak Burmese along with the refugees of Burma. When asked who her coaches were, she answers that she couldn't talk about the people that helped in the film, as they were citizens of Burma.

The film's content is indeed controversial. Around the world tensions still rage as the progress for the people of Burma is hotly discussed. Republic of Burma refugees that have been exiled in Thailand had an important role in the film, playing several of the characters.

Yeoh mentions, "The presence of current Burmese refugees gave unheralded authenticity to *The Lady*, as many of the characters – both evil and good – had witnessed many family atrocities in Burma."



Michelle Yeoh stars in *The Lady*.

Thewlis couldn't help talking about the difficulties in shooting the movie, emphasizing that it's an unusual film because though events are still occurring in Burma, it is literally shut off from the rest of the world.

He shares, "The refugee camps and the people working there had a natural touch with their presence."

And it truly shows because though Thewlis, Yeoh and Besson are not Burmese, they developed a love for Burma and its people. They saw *The Lady* as a way to document and help people learn about the subject of Burma.

According to Yeoh, "It's a film that helps with the soul and our very sensitive emotions."

It is not a politically driven film but a beautiful love story in which Yeoh plays a very strong role and delivers a brilliant performance. *The Lady* is one of the best films I've seen in a long time.

The Lady releases in select theaters Dec. 2.

TVTIME

Campus Circle > Film > TV Time

BETH RIESGRAF

Balances the Realities of Being a Working Actor in Hollywood

BY SOLA FASEHUN

BETH RIESGRAF CALLS A COUPLE OF MINUTES later than we had planned, but that's understandable considering she has a young son to take care of and she's a co-star working long hours on the hit TNT show "Leverage." Her cheerful voice begins the conversation on a positive note, and after we exchange pleasantries I tell her it's not necessary to apologize. I can't imagine what it's like to balance family life and work-extended days on the set of a popular TV show.

Riesgraf plays a thief on "Leverage" along with Academy Award-winning actor Timothy Hutton. As the character of Parker on the show, Riesgraf shows no fear when she has to rappel off a roof or climb a wall. It's only fitting that in reality she shows no fear when it comes to her career and family.

When I ask her about "Leverage," she answers with awesome enthusiasm: "It's a massive part of my life. I love the people I work with. It's been life changing."

When I ask about her son her voice fills with warmth, "As hard as it can be to raise a kid and have a career, there's no doubt in my mind that it's worth it."

Riesgraf didn't grow up in Hollywood. She grew up with a

big family ... as the youngest of six girls.

She explains how hard work can provide amazing results in life: "It takes a village is true. I was around people who worked hard and took care of family."

Her parents also provided a nurturing and supportive atmosphere. Early on, Riesgraf's parents noticed her interest in movies.

Laughing she explains, "As a result I owned every single Disney movie you can imagine."

As an adult Riesgraf moved to Los Angeles where she signed with a modeling agency and then a commercial department. But those steppingstones led to even more opportunities such as a guest spot on "My Name is Earl" and a role in the *Alvin and the Chipmunks* feature film.

Riesgraf was in a six-year relationship with Jason Lee who also happens to be the star of "My Name is Earl" and *Alvin and the Chipmunks*. They also have a young son from their past relationship. Coincidence? Riesgraf's answer to my probing question reaffirms why I instantly took a liking to her. She calmly answers the question that even I cringed about.

"Jason Lee and I were never married ... we continue to be close friends. I was careful to never get anything because of Jason." She continues, "It can help if you know someone so that they can get you in for a meeting or to find out about projects but ... I had to audition ... I was told I got the role because I was funny and created a character."

Riesgraf is very clear that she got the role because she earned it. She emphasizes that it doesn't matter who you are, you need to be able to have talent to get many of the roles out there. Throughout her career Beth has had to deal with numerous rejections.

"I've gotten so close on so many projects to getting roles that would have been life-changing. The process is grueling. I



Timothy Hutton and Beth Riesgraf in "Leverage"

thought to myself, 'If this didn't break me, nothing will.'" She laughs after this last statement and mentions that rejection happens to many people in various careers. "You are allowed to have a bad day at the office. Just remember to keep priorities in line, and you'll be all right."

Riesgraf has a special message for *Campus Circle* readers: "Take care of yourself. Don't party before a midterm. Let's use common sense. Keep your stuff together, dude."

We both end the conversation laughing because we've both been there, survived, and we're in one piece. At the end of the day, if those are rules that this accomplished Hollywood actress lives by, there's nothing she can't successfully do.

"Leverage" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on TNT. For more information, visit bethriesgraf.com.

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The New York Times

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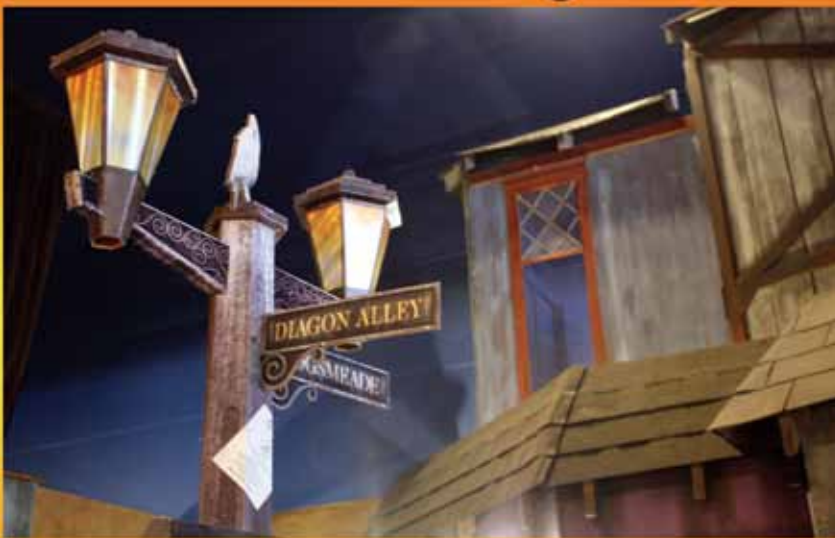
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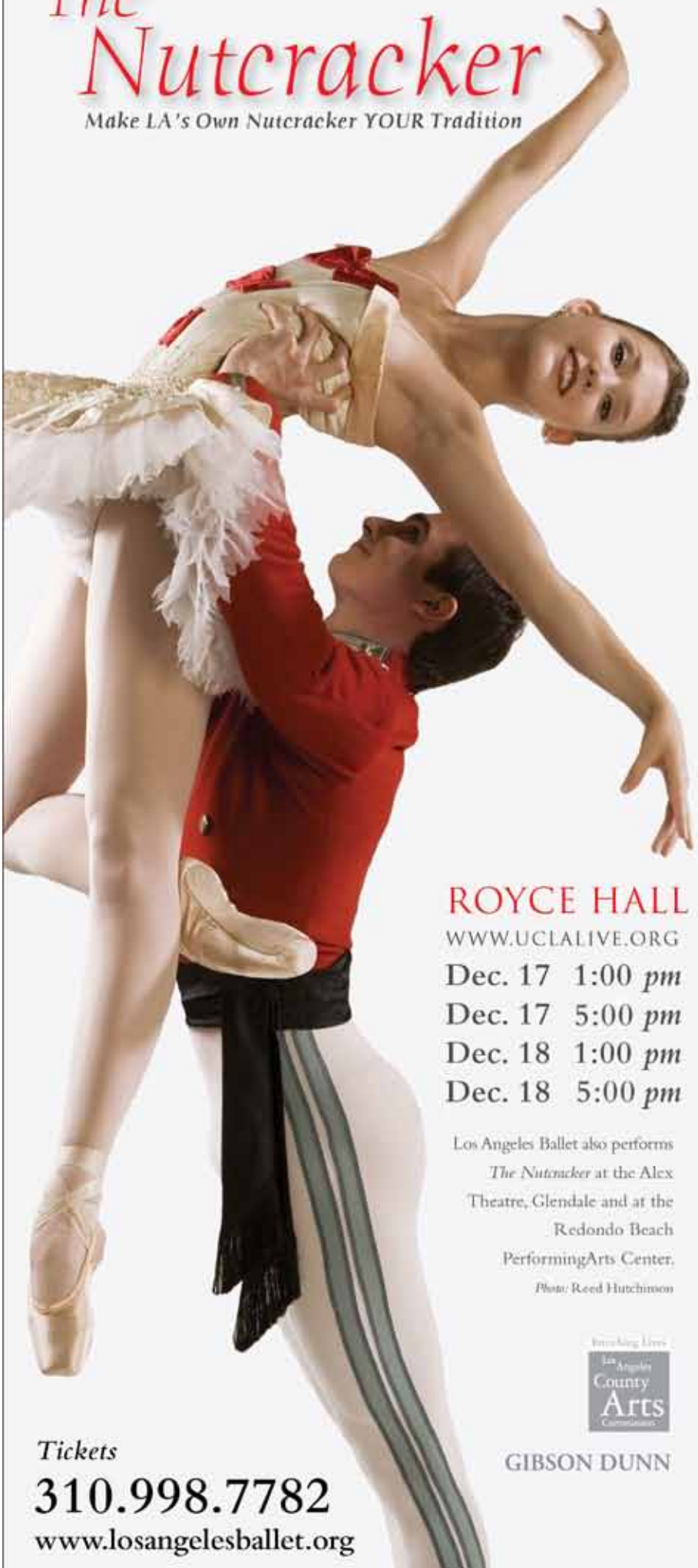
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MUSICNOTES



Residente of Calle 13

CALLE 13

Latin Grammy wins remind music world they're still going strong.

BY EVA RECINOS

WHEN YOU THINK OF POPULAR LATIN MUSIC THERE ARE USUALLY A few names that pop up automatically in your head: the ever-risque Pitbull, the sultry Shakira and the classic rock band Mana to name a few. But there are other important musicians out there who perhaps have not gotten as much radio time. Take Puerto Rican duo Calle 13 for example. Their name might not be as familiar, but they managed to take away an impressive nine wins at the Latin Grammys. Couple that with their past wins, and they have set a new record – one that takes the honor away from previous record-holder Juanes.

With a knack for slick rhymes and no fear towards politically charged messages, Calle 13, made up primarily of stepbrothers Residente (lead vocals) and Visitante (instrumentalist and producer), is about more than just making danceable, chart-topping songs. Before their debut album even premiered in 2005, the band had already gained notoriety for a track called “Querido F.B.I.” The track is a fierce criticism of government and an outcry against the negative state of Puerto Rico. Each line is loaded, and the track isn’t easy to listen to because it is so vivid – not to mention filled with expletives. The song is a reaction to the FBI’s killing of a Puerto Rican revolutionary movement leader and makes obvious references to both parties. It’s unlike virtually anything that is usually played on the radio.

Calle 13’s move was risky, but in this case, that risk paid off. The track gained popularity, probably mostly due to its subject matter, and helped get Calle 13’s name out into the music world. Most importantly, it showed that the duo was changing up the flavor of the genre they were being marketed in. Calle 13 didn’t exactly fit the reggaeton mold it was first thrown into because of the lyrics; hardly any reggaeton artists at the time created such polemical tracks. Already, the duo was challenging musical conventions, and they would continue to do so later on in their career as they blended genres in their complex songs.

In fact, the duo’s lyricism is very much a big part of what separates them from other groups. Each line is jam-packed with meaning, and the tracks maintain a musical fluidity that is hard to achieve. Residente delivers lines that are a mouthful as if it was second nature to him, showcasing his talent not only in politically charged songs but also in love songs such as “Tango del Pecado,” which translates to “Tango of Sin” and even “John el Esquizofrenico,” which translates to “John the Schizophrenic” a track about a man with some serious psychological problems.

The music itself changes as much as the lyrics, but always maintains a very hip-hop influenced Latin flavor that keeps you engrossed. Add into the mix intriguing vocal contributions from the duo’s sister and mother, and Calle 13’s sound just gets more fun and unique.

The duo has done well without even having a large number of mainstream hits. Residente notes that the Latin Grammy award for Best Latin Urban Album was given to Calle 13 without the album receiving any airtime on the radio. The duo even paired up with conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Orquesta Sinfonica Simon Bolivar for a performance, with Dudamel later handing the group one of its Grammys.

All of this only helps solidify the fact that Calle 13 has made quite an impact on Latin music, whether or not they first come to mind when you think of the genre. There is something engrossing about their characters; there is no shyness, there are no restrictions.

The duo is not so much about crafting a marketable identity but about sharing their culture and with it their problems with government, their views on marriage and love and even their interpretation of psychological problems. And that has helped them cement their place in Latin music from the beginning of their career to today.

Even if you’re not a fluent Spanish speaker, check out some of their tracks. After all, good music can transcend any language barriers.

MUSICREPORT

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN – TIME TO THINK ABOUT A HOLIDAY GIFT FOR your music-loving friend or family member. Here are a few ideas for you, and don’t forget while you’re making your selection to pick out something nice for yourself!

CD Sets

The Jeff Healey Band – *Full Circle: The Live Anthology* (Eagle Records, three-CD/one-DVD): Three impressive live shows from the late bluesman, including a 1989 show from Montreal when the guitarist was just 23 years old.

The Jimi Hendrix Experience – *Winterland* (Experience Hendrix/Legacy, four-CD): Lots of previously unreleased live material recorded in 1968, including takes on “Manic Depression,” “Little Wing” and Bob Dylan’s “Like a Rolling Stone.”

Wynton Marsalis – *Swinging Into the 21st* (Columbia/Sony/Legacy, 11-CD): Marsalis had an ambitious plan to release nine albums from 1999 into the new millennium – he did it, and they’re all here plus his 2002 two-CD effort, *All Rise*.

Rush – *Sectors* (UMe, five-CD/one-DVD): Three separate six-disc box sets cover the band’s entire Mercury-era output from debut album *Rush* through 1988’s *A Show of Hands*.

Frank Zappa & the Mothers of Invention – *Live at Carnegie Hall* (Vaulternative, four-CD): Two full-length never before released concerts from 1971 presented in mono, warts and all.

DVD/Blu-ray

God Bless Ozzy Osbourne (Eagle Vision): This documentary tells the story of Osbourne’s torturous and emotionally fraught journey to sobriety, as seen through the eyes of his son Jack Osbourne.

The Grateful Dead Movie (Shout Factory): Originally released in 1977, this deluxe 2-disc version includes the original film redone in HD plus 95-minutes of additional bonus footage.

Hesher (Lionsgate): Released in theaters earlier this year, this film starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt as the porn and heavy metal loving title character is headed for cult status, helped along by lots of music from Metallica and Motörhead.

The Love We Make (Eagle Vision): A documentary about how Paul McCartney put together the Concert for New York City in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Previously seen on Showtime, the film features cameos from Mick Jagger, President Bill Clinton, Jay Z, David Bowie, Leonardo DiCaprio and many others.

Placebo – *We Come in Pieces* (Eagle Vision): Twenty-song concert film shot at London’s Brixton Academy in 2010 during the band’s *Battle for the Sun* tour. Also includes the short film *Trigger Happy Hands*.

Usher – *Live from London* (Eagle Vision): Early hits (“You Make Me Wanna”), smooth ballads (“Nice & Slow”), sexy love songs (“There Goes My Baby”) and club rumpers (“Yeah”) fill out this 19-song set shot earlier this year at London’s O2 arena.

Books

The Beach Boys FAQ: All That’s Left to Know about America’s Band by Jon Stebbins (Backbeat): You probably never wondered how the Beach Boys affected global warming, but that and many other offbeat questions are answered in this fun and fast-paced read. Stebbins also includes a thorough discography that breaks down who sang and played what instrument on each Beach Boys song.

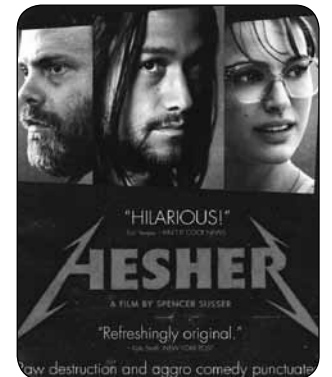
Drinking With Strangers: Music Lessons From a Teenage Bullet Belt by Butch Walker with Matt Diehl (William Morrow): At age 17, Walker left small-town Georgia for Los Angeles with his hair metal band in tow; *Drinking With Strangers* tells the story of how he became an in-demand producer working with Katy Perry, Weezer, Tommy Lee, Pink and many others.

Power & Beauty by Tip “T.I.” Harris with David Ritz (William Morrow): Grammy Award winning rapper T.I. tries his hand at writing a novel; this gritty debut chronicles the lives of Paul “Power” Clay and Tanya “Beauty” Long, two kids facing tough odds on the streets of Atlanta.

The Stooges: Head On by Brett Callwood (Wayne State University Press): Probably the best biography of the highly influential Stooges ever written; *Head On* covers the band’s entire career from their early days in Ann Arbor to the solo careers of Iggy Pop and the Asheton brothers through to the death of guitarist Ron Asheton in 2009.

For the Car

Rock-n-Ride bucket seat covers from Bell Automotive and Live Nation Merchandise come in a variety of designs replicating album covers and band logos; choose from Judas Priest’s *British Steel*, the Run-DMC logo, Kiss’ *Love Gun*, ZZ Top’s *Eliminator*, Ozzy Osbourne’s *Diary of a Madman* and several others. One size fits most bucket seats. bellautomotive.net.



GETUPGETOUT

Campus Circle > Culture > Special Features

OCEAN BLUE

Bids Farewell to Venice Beach After 20 Years

BY TRISHA BENNETT

OCEAN BLUE HAS BEEN A BUSTLING COMMUNITY store on the Venice Boardwalk for over 20 years. On Dec. 4, Ocean Blue will put on a farewell party for the community from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. The party will feature live music and poetry, art, refreshments and tasty treats. Performers featured will be: poet Ava Bird, singer/guitarist Greg Cruz with Petr Hromadko on upright bass, as well as singer-songwriters Geoffrey J and Kathy Leonardo.

On this special day, Ocean Blue will slash prices 50-percent on all merchandise. A unique shop located right on the boardwalk, Ocean Blue features an eclectic mix of merchandise such as colorful painted wood framed mirrors, incense, candles and beautiful sterling silver jewelry. The atmosphere has always been a relaxed vibe filled with unique gift items from Bali, wood sculptures and mermaids with wings dangling from the ceiling.

Larry Gutin, owner of Ocean Blue, has been part of the Venice scene prior to opening the shop for many years.

Gutin explains, "My dad started a T-shirt business on the beach back in 1978. Back in those days, Venice Beach had stalls that you could rent and sell your wares."

Since his parents were divorced, Gutin lived full time with his mother in New York but would spend the summers in Los Angeles with his dad. In 1982 Gutin's older brother, Jeff, took the shop over. Then in 1983 Larry moved to Los Angeles and worked while he went to college.

In 1990, Gutin traveled to Indonesia. He fell in love with Bali and the beautiful arts and crafts made there. Gutin shipped some merchandise back to Jeff to see if it would sell. It was indeed a huge hit in Venice, and Gutin continued to bring beautiful items from Bali to sell at Ocean Blue. Silver jewelry was added to the product line at Ocean Blue. Jeff decided to retire from the business, leaving Larry as the chief in command.

The economy definitely affected sales at Ocean Blue in the last four or five years, but Gutin managed to stick it out with the help of the Venice community's support. When asked if he is sad about closing, he shrugs and says, "It's time for a change." Gutin is starting a new business, but in the meantime has decided to go out with a bang with the farewell party.

When asked why he continued the business for so long, Gutin explains, "Everyday I would meet smiling tourists from all over the world. It was a great place to come to work everyday, not to mention that when I built the store I made sure the register had a direct view of the beach and its sunsets."

Gutin is a big supporter of the arts. Each month, Ocean Blue would participate in the Venice Art Crawl featuring local artists at their store. He also has consistently donated merchandise to charity events such as Jazz at the Palms Court and the Venice Music Festival, for their silent auction, which benefitted the Venice Community Housing Corporation.

So come on by on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.



Bid farewell to Ocean Blue at a community party in Venice Beach on Dec. 4.

Celebrate 20 years with Gutin and the Ocean Blue crew. Pick up some holiday gifts at exceptional prices. Drink, eat and be merry. Enjoy snacks refreshments and live music.

Life is all about change; it's time for the next chapter. Ocean Blue will remain open through Jan. 4.

Ocean Blue is located at 1313 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. For more information, visit shopoceanblue.com.

JETSETTER

Campus Circle > Travel > Travel

A TOAST TO TEMECULA

SoCal's Very Own Wine Country

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT A GETAWAY TO WINE country, it's only natural that you think about heading north. But all the fun of a trip to the vineyards can be had right here in Southern California in nearby Temecula. In fact, Temecula is so close that you can plan a visit as a day trip if you like.

It might surprise you that there are more than 30 wineries in the Temecula area. Many of the wineries offer tours where you can learn about the wine making process, see the cellars where the wine is kept in barrels while it ages and even see wine being bottled and labeled. Some of the wineries, like Thornton Winery (thorntonwine.com), are geared towards having you stay all day. After you've experienced the joys of Thornton's tasting room (don't miss the Thorny's Coat Red), you can pick out a bottle or two to enjoy as is or take with you to dinner at the venue's Café Champagne. Thornton's also hosts an ongoing series of smooth jazz concerts featuring big names like Chris Botti, Candy Dulfer and the Rippingtons, so if you visit on a show day you truly can make a day of it.

If you'd rather hop and bop from winery to winery just grab one of the maps that are widely available all over town and head out. If you do that it's a good idea to bring along a designated driver, or better yet let a local professional cart

you around. The drivers at A Vineyard Tour of Temecula will transport you safely through wine country, and they also know important things like which tasting rooms offer the best value for the money (avtotlimo.com).

No matter how you get around, alas, man does not live by wine alone. Fortunately Temecula also has lots to do when you're not busy pursuing the delicious nectar.

Old Town Temecula, located just minutes away from the vineyards, is small enough to be easily navigated on foot yet big enough to have a little something for everyone. Front Street is Old Town's main drag, and here you'll find two of the city's most fun shops; the Old Town Root Beer Company and the Old Town Sweet Shop.

If you have a favorite regional root beer that's not that easy to find, chances are you can find it at the Root Beer Company where they have over a hundred root beers and nostalgic sodas. The shop has a display of collectible pop bottles (not for sale), a full ice cream bar in case you want a float and a wall full of bottles of really offbeat brands. Have you ever tried Lurch Birch, Black Lemonade, Unknown Dred or Flathead Lake Gourmet Huckleberry Soda?

A couple of doors away at Old Town Sweet Shop grab a slice of chocolate covered bacon to munch while you peruse their huge selection of retro candy brands like Abba Zaba and Cherry Mash. Old Town is also home to the Temecula Valley Cheese Shop, an artisan cheese shop that carries hard to find varieties that you can sample and pair up with that wine you're taking home.

More than a dozen sites around Old Town are historic sites including the old Temecula Jail where if you peer inside you'll see a couple of fellows who never got out. The Palomar Hotel is not only a historic site but a good place to stay; rooms start at around \$50 during the week and \$80 on the weekend.



Kevin Wierzbicki

Whether you stay at the Palomar or not, stop in and ask to see "the video." They'll know what you mean; the hotel was featured in an episode of sci-fi television series *The Invaders* back in the '60s, and the clip shows how little the hotel has changed over the years while the city grew around it.

To really take your Temecula visit to new heights, take a hot air balloon ride over the vineyards with California Dreamin' (californiadreamin.com). You'll get a spectacular view of all the vineyards and on a clear day you can see the Pacific Ocean. And as is tradition, when you land, you'll enjoy a glass of champagne – a perfect opportunity to raise a glass and toast Temecula.

For more information, visit visitemecula.org.

FREQUENCY

BY BRIEN OVERLY

The Ataris

Nov. 30 @ Slide Bar

Dec. 1 @ The Wire

Dec. 3 @ The Airliner

I just have to say I love that this band continues to be one of the hardest working bands in rock, even if the more mainstream media outlets don't care to acknowledge it. These guys have been hustling forever, since long before pop-punk was a household genre and long beyond the radio singles that the less informed might reduce them to. Granted ... vocalist Kris Roe is the only member still around from those olden days, but credit where it's due for commitment.

Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings

Dec. 1 @ Gibson Amphitheatre

I guess this is a My Morning Jacket show or something? Whatever. I could suck it up and sit through one of their sets if I had to in order to see Sharon Jones perform. The Motown-revival songstress sings from the soul with every note she croons, with an emotionality that can speak to listeners across genre lines. I mean, if a pretentious post-rock suburbanite such as myself can max out his car stereo blasting Jones on the drive to work, everyone can find something they love in her work.

Winterfresh Festival

Dec. 3 @ Pico Rivera Sports Arena

If you're down with electronic dance music, this is the fest to be at this season. With over 20 artists and DJs culled from around the world, the fest promises to bring a fresh look into the up-and-comers of the genre.

The Postelles

Dec. 6 @ Bootleg Theater

Bringing classic retro-pop into well-suited indie modernity, the Postelles are one of those bands who were clearly raised on the wrong coast. Though they're native-bred New Yorkers, the foursome writes the bright and sunny minimalist sing-along jams that are the perfect sonic backdrop for afternoon drives down PCH and late night bar-hopping down Sunset. So, clearly, the band needs to relocate to Echo Park and play weekly residencies at our bars. And by bars, I mean my living room.

CDREVIEWS

Javier Colon *Come Through for You* (Universal Republic)

Javier Colon can sing anything well, and he does on *Come Through for You*. Whether it's pop ("As Long as We Got Love," his duet with Natasha Bedingfield) or dance (the catchy "1000 Lights") or rock (the anthem-like "Raise Your Hand"), Colon excels. However, it's the poignant ballad "OK, Here's the Truth," with its surprising twist ending, where he gets to best show off his skills as a singer and a storyteller.

Come Through for You is easily the best first album from a reality show winner since Kelly Clarkson's *Thankful*. Score another victory for "The Voice."

Grade: B+

—Glenn Gamboa, *Newsday* (MCT)

© 2011 *Newsday*. Distributed by MCT Information Services. *Come Through for You* is currently available.

Rihanna *Talk That Talk* (Def Jam)

Rihanna hasn't racked up 20 Top 10 hits faster than any other solo artist ever because of her voice. It's because of her ears. No one can currently match her for hearing a musical trend and making it her own. *Talk That Talk*, her impressive sixth studio album in seven years, confirms it.

This time out, Rihanna takes on the new fascination – mostly European, so far – of dubstep, the club sound that is as much about atmospherics and melody as thudding beat. Her No.1 smash "We Found Love" shows how the spare sound works best, but its impact is even more powerful when paired with the equally potent "Where Have You Been," which creates similar emotional peaks as "We Found Love" and should also easily top the charts. After all, Rihanna is major enough that when she acts on her interests, radio follows her.

She certainly has some new adventures planned – from the breezy, island-tinged sing-along "You Da One" to the playful "Watch 'n' Learn," which feels like her answer to Janet Jackson's "Doesn't Really Matter." She also offers a new powerful ballad, "Farewell," which could grow into one of her signature songs. With *Talk That Talk*, Rihanna makes her mixture of experiments and surefire hits look much too easy.

Grade: A

—Glenn Gamboa, *Newsday* (MCT)

© 2011 *Newsday*. Distributed by MCT Information Services. *Talk That Talk* is currently available.

DVDDISH



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

BY MIKE SEBASTIAN

The Idiotbox: *Smallville: The Complete Series* is a colossal 62-disc set for the superfan collecting all 218 episodes of young Clark Kent's adventures along with five hours of new bonus features, including an incredible 1961 unaired pilot for "Superboy." The series follows the teenage Kryptonian (Tom Welling) over 10 seasons as he comes to grips with his destiny as a superhero. This is a beautifully put together set that will please Superman diehards.

Cult favorite *Farscape: The Complete Series* comes to Blu-ray in a 20-disc set with 15 hours of bonus features including an all-new documentary. The series follows an Earth astronaut who is accidentally sent across the universe and finds himself aboard an alien spaceship on the run from a deadly enemy in a war-torn part of the cosmos. The show features spectacular CGI with some of the best creature effects to date.

HBO's original spin on the family drama *Big Love: The Complete Series* follows Bill Henrickson (Bill Paxton), a modern-day polygamist living in suburban Salt Lake City, and the three wives (Jeanne Tripplehorn, Chloë Sevigny and Ginnifer Goodwin) vying for his attention as they try to build their lives under mounting pressure. Over five seasons, Bill contends with the leader of a radical fundamentalist group (Harry Dean Stanton), his expanding chain of hardware stores and running for political office. A fantastic supporting cast includes Bruce Dern and Ellen Burstyn.

Showtime's terrific ensemble drama *The L-Word: Complete Series* follows a group of lesbian friends in Los Angeles as they contend with love, parenthood, careers and their supportive and not-so-supportive friends and family. Mia Kirshner stars as a young writer who moves to Los Angeles with her boyfriend and begins to question her own sexuality when she meets her lesbian neighbors. Jennifer Beals, Leisha Hailey and Pam Grier also star.

Inspired by Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief, It Takes a Thief: The Complete Series* was part of the '60s spy explosion and starred Robert Wagner as the world's greatest cat burglar who, after getting caught, cuts a deal to work as a spy for Uncle Sam. Premiering in 1968, the series ran for three seasons before becoming a cult classic. This set contains an extended feature-length version of the pilot as well as interviews with Wagner and super producer Glen A. Larson and more.

Culled from 3,000 hours of amazing color film from around the world, *World War II in HD: Collector's Edition* is an amazing document, presenting the war as you've never seen it before, a ground's eye view from the front lines. This new edition contains "The Battle for Iwo Jima" and "WWII in HD: The Air War," detailing the Air Force's mission to take out the Luftwaffe before D-Day.

One of the most beloved of the ever-changing Doctors, David Tennant's tenure commanding the TARDIS gets loving treatment with *Doctor Who: The David Tennant Years*, a gorgeous set containing all of Tennant's episodes and specials plus the star's video diary, commentaries and more.

Hey, Sports Fans! Relive the Cardinals' 11th championship with two Fall Classic releases: the *Official 2011 World Series Film*, narrated by St. Louis native Jon Hamm ("Mad Men") and, for the diehard fan, the eight-disc set *The St. Louis Cardinals 2011 World Series Collector's Edition* containing all seven games in their entirety and loads of extras, including recaps, highlights and celebrations. This was a historic comeback season for the club capped with the retirement of legendary manager Tony La Russa.

Special Edition: Housed within a globe, *Planet Earth: Limited Edition* brings the monumental, genre-redefining, globetrotting nature series to Blu-ray and DVD with all new bonus features and commentary tracks. Rediscover the world around you with this stunningly photographed series narrated by David Attenborough.

BEAUTYBEAT

Campus Circle > Culture > Beauty



Orange & Cedar Reed Diffuser Set offers up the subtle and evocative scent of Christmas cheer. Another great idea for a present is the company's Frasier Fir aromatic candle packaged in a red velvet box – no wrapping necessary!

Jetsetters

Traveling sucks the moisture right out of you, and Repechage products put it right back. The Sea Spa Body Care Travel Collection provides everything for a relaxing vacation, from your head to your toes. The Body Cream is bananas.

Kids

Even the dirtiest children will be unable to resist the allure of 100-percent Pure's Mint Chocolate Ice Cream 2 in 1 Body Wash & Shampoo. Organic and scrumptious this bubbling soap makes getting clean a treat.

A charming gift, Avon's Bath Time Body Paints will delight toddler and elementary age children. In delightful flavors like candy apple, coconut custard and bubble gum, these roll on dispensers disperse soap in a new and fun way.

Another way to make baths fun for kids is Color My Bath's fizzy tablets. The water turns color simply by dropping the candy-colored pieces directly into the tub and transforming the quotidian ritual into a unique event.

Luxury-O-Philes

Serums have become all the rage – from anti-oxidant to conditioning. Intelligent Nutrients certified organic's version for anti-aging uses Intellimmune Seed Oil Complex to deliver a fierce antioxidant shield.

If you've ever wanted to take a bath in golden maple syrup, Naturally Upper Canada provides the opportunity with their delicious bubble bath.

Salon shiny locks without the high cost becomes instantly attainable with Serge Normant's Meta Silk Shampoo and Meta Velour Conditioner. Perfect for colored, dry or straightened hair, these products are both gentle and miraculously effective.

Moms

Exotic doesn't begin to describe Ahava's Extreme Night Treatment, which includes Dead Sea Minerals from the Dead Sea and Raspberry Root Extract from the Himalayas. This wondrous and nourishing concentrate firms the dermis and evens out skin tone.

Simple Pleasures

A splendidly basic cleanser, Ronald L. Moy, MD's DNA EGF Renewal works easily with your daily routine. Without adding a new step, this sulfate-free product washes your face while restoring radiance at the same time.

Tata Harper's 100-percent natural skincare products do the job without chemicals or other harsh ingredients that can do more damage than help. Using the triple threat of Rejuvenating Serum, Reparative Moisturizer and Refreshing Cleanser calms skin down, clears it up and smoothes it out like nobody's business.

For those who prefer beauty sans frills, Thymes' Wild Ginger Bubble Bath thrills without frippery. The astringent scent and lime green packaging pamper without making you feel like one of Bravo's Real Housewives.

Younger Sister

A cool twist on the usual manicure, Blaze nail lacquer's color transforms in the sun. The variety of shades, like Canary Yellow to Red Robin, make great stocking stuffers.

Yummy, cute and even vegan, Hurraw! Lip Balms are perfect for girls with a conscience. In fun flavors like chai spice and black cherry, these work effortlessly to keep lips moist without being sticky.

Smart Girls Who Surf makes an ingenious line of products that combine a tomboy aesthetic with just a touch of feminine wile. The Grab-N-Go Kit, combining an array of their best products will appeal to any teen or tween heeding the call of the sea.

BEAUTY PRODUCTS GIFT GUIDE

BY ANGELA MATANO

Aunts

I can't think of anything more important than the 'Garden of Eatin'' cake by Zulu Bath Works. A classic and elegant simple cake with the other ingredients of the 'Garden of Eatin'' by Bonté. It's like a high-end sounds like Cradle of Filth's idea of a haunted house theme while the lurching "Poison" is a bit

Babies

Black Sabbath's "Iron Man," and the deeper you get into the album, the more classic rock it becomes. The bath toys of the color of the floating toy in the water with the perfect amount of fun. The semper with a blast of the back again. another great one for the baby. It's a great idea for the good things boys do with their little ones from paraben and fragrance

Best Friends

Graduated from the baby to the little ones of the products that you can't live without. It's felt closer to conception, some fresh material not as painstakingly considered or downright perfect. The 2007 debut or 2009's Actor (where select

Boyfriends

The Art of Shaving's Shaving Cream, in scents like sandalwood and lavender, harks back to a calmer, gentler world. With the velocity of time speeding up by the minute, young men will love this gentle reminder to slow down.

I confess to sometimes hating the smell and texture of men's hair products. Luckily Blow Mane Tame's soft pomade tackles both issues by offering a solid amount of hold without crunch or an unappetizing stench.

Cutting-Edge Divas

Famous for putting a little green alligator on a now iconic polo shirt, Lacoste uses its powers for good with their cologne. Their three scents, Blanc, Bleu and Vert, exude the classic masculinity of the brand.

For those at war with their hair, Andre Walker's line of products promises that you can Make Peace With Your Hair. Fortunately

for one and all, the shampoo and conditioner with keratin and whole leaf aloe vera tames even the most savage beast. The finishing touch, Q-Oil, Quench-Essential Oil allows for styling without frizz or breakage.

Perhaps the coolest lipstick around, Exude's Crystal Applicator dispenses the color with an easy turn of the vial. Represented by Rachel Zoe, the colors pop perfectly against the lightest and darkest of skins.

Dads

When I learned that men now take up nearly as much space in the bathroom as women, I was not surprised. With terrific products, like Jack Black's Double-Duty Face Moisturizer, how can they resist? This combo of facial cream and sunscreen does it all without fuss.

Another great small present is the Pedro Handy Ceramic Stone. For men who work with their hands, Zwilling J.A. Henckels Pour Homme Pedro Handy tackles calluses as well as embedded dirt for more touchable mitts.

Perfect for guys on the go, his Tweezerman Pedro Ceramic Pocket Nail File fits handily and handsomely on a key chain. A great stocking stuffer, this file lasts nearly forever.

Earth Mothers

Arcona's products help you start your day feeling like a million bucks. The Berry Fruit Bar Cleanse with its juicy grapefruit shade and rich antioxidants scrubs pores squeaky clean without any residual dryness. Heaven!

Both cool and flattering, Jemma Kidd's Cheek ID Colour Adapt Blush reacts to the PH in your skin to provide just the right amount of flush. Ideal for those who fear looking too clownish but still crave a little glow.

Glamour Queens

Frizz-free Kardashian hair just got more attainable with Free Your Mane's Restorative Hair Oil. This blend of Argan, Almond, Baobab Seed and Pomegranate Seed oils makes a remarkable styling aid.

Let your hair sparkle with France Luxe's Opera Silver bobby pins. These clips give instant holiday polish.

Catania, Salina and Amalfi are three of the exotic lip glosses brought to you by the luxury line Tocca. These "Aqua Baci" do double duty by hydrating your lips while making your mouth shiny and kissable.

Grandfathers

The packaging makes the New York Shaving Company's brand perfect for dads, father-in-laws, grandfathers or uncles. The lemon-scented Shaving Cream demonstrates old-school appeal while still appealing to anyone with classic good taste.

Grandmothers

A moisturizer for everyone but one your grandmothers will treasure, Baume 27 is a revelation. Created by a pharmacist this revelatory cream magically seems to turn back the clock.

Hostess Gifts

Thymes' terrific packaging and charming products make for perfect hostess gifts for holiday parties or visits. The Bitter

PAGES

Campus Circle > Culture > Books

HOLIDAY BOOK LIST

BY ANGELA MATANO

Animal Maniacs

A detailed and unusually entertaining writer of non-fiction for the New Yorker, Susan Orlean has triumphed again with *Rin Tin Tin*. The tale (tail) of the legendary dog that starred in 23 films for Warner Bros., saving the studio from bankruptcy in the process, resounds with courage and quirk.

Art Connoisseurs

Richard Polsky's *The Art Prophets* tells the fascinating story of how the definition of art exploded in the 1960s. Following visionaries through the second half of the 20th century, this book feels like a back stage pass to the cool school.

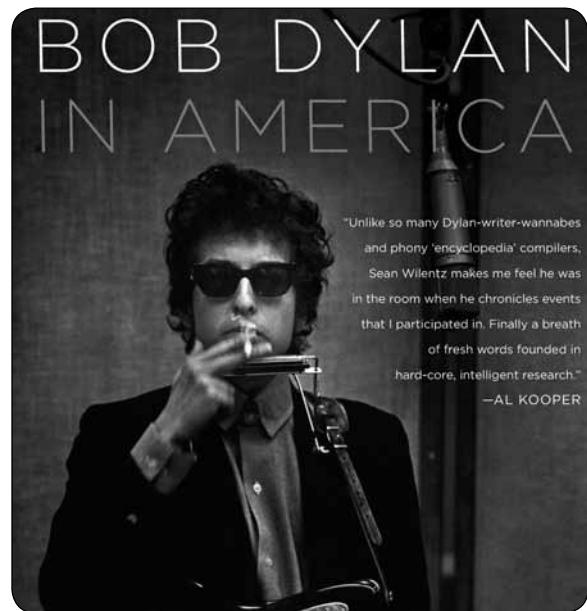
If you don't believe Los Angeles to be one of the premiere art towns in the world, pick up *Pacific Standard Time* and consider yourself convinced. This gorgeous tome features the City of Angels' best and brightest from 1945-1980 and is not to be missed. See the actual work at the Getty thru Feb. 5, 2012.

Boyfriend

If your boyfriend is anything like mine, he is obsessed with Bob Dylan. Sean Wilentz's *Bob Dylan in America* dissects the phenomenon with a fan's appreciation – but without going overboard.

Hunter S. Thompson transcends time and cool with his writing in a way that few can top. *Fear and Loathing at Rolling Stone*, edited by Jann S. Wenner compiles some of the author's best and most controversial work.

Fans of Patton Oswalt will delight in his collection of essays, *Zombie Spaceship Wasteland*. One part memoir + two parts hilarity = full on ice cream sundae.



Boys

The Hot Knives Vegetarian Cookbook: Salad Daze, by Alex Brown and Evan George celebrates healthy eating through a hip bachelor's lens. Incorporating suggested beer and musical accompaniments, these two chefs take the fusty out of granola with great recipes like psychedelic rice and pumpkin ale muffins.

Lushly illustrated and a treat for both young and old, *Star Wars Art: Comics* will delight long time fans and intrigue new ones by pulling together artwork from the history of the comics. With three decades under its belt, this unique franchise shows little sign of fatigue.

Cinephiles

An insider's look into the movie business, Edward Jay Epstein's *The Hollywood Economist*, pulls back the curtain on all of the creative financing that takes place behind the scenes. Full of fascinating tidbits about the star system, this book will entertain as well as inform.

A living legend, Martin Scorsese, like Quentin Tarantino, seems to breathe film. The thorough *Scorsese on Scorsese*, by Michael Henry Wilson, lets the director delve luxuriously into his work.

Comedy Lovers

I am willing to go head-to-head with anyone who doesn't think "Parks and Recreation" is the best sitcom on television. Finally, the official guide, *Pawnee: The Greatest Town in America*, can be yours with Leslie Knope offering an official tour through this fair village.

Cooking Enthusiasts

One cup Jamie Oliver + one-half a cup of Alice Water + two tablespoons of Mark Bittman will give you Kathleen Flinn's delightful tale of teaching average people to eat better. In *The Kitchen Counter Cooking School*, the author assembles nine cook-a-phobes and proceeds to give them simple and clear instruction in all things culinary.

One of L.A.'s best restaurants just got a lot more accessible with Nancy Silverton's *The Mozza Cookbook*. Try some of the chef's delicious recipes at home, like Potato, Egg and Bacon Pizza and Rosemary Olive Oil Cakes with Olive Oil Gelato.

While not essentially a food writer, Adam Gopnik has amassed quite a collection of essays that relate in some way to gastronomy. This *New Yorker* writer goes whole hog with the interesting and fun *The Table Comes First* - assorted insights, recipes and tales about all and sundry related to the edible.

Design Aficionados

As American houses reach unsustainable square footages, it's inevitable for the pendulum to swing the other way. Phyllis Richardson's ingenious *Nano House: Innovations for Small Dwellings* illuminates the way toward a more sane and ecologically sound future.

Fashionistas

Who can forget J. Lo's plunging green Oscar gown or Marilyn Monroe's white halter, transformed by a subway grate? Hal Rubenstein ruminates on these and other sartorial confections in the sumptuous *100 Unforgettable Dresses*.

Like a children's picture book for adults, *Celia Birtwell* transports you to a better, more colorful and more interesting world. A textile designer with a distinctive eye for color and print, Birtwell's creations will entrance you.

Gardener's Delight

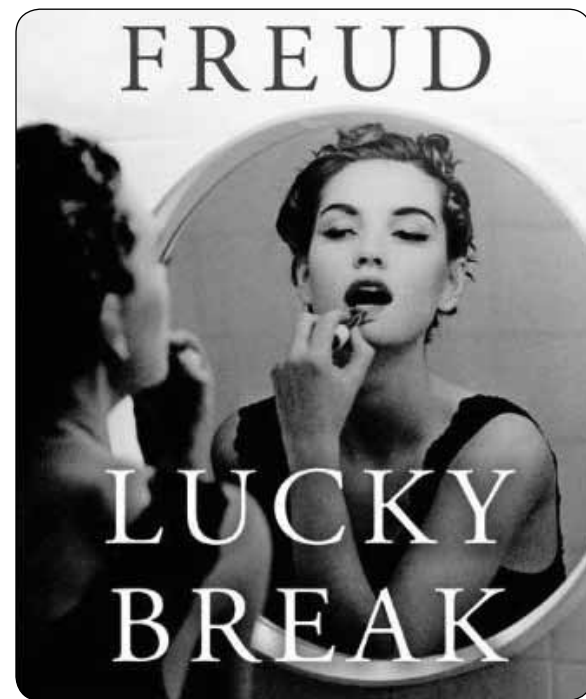
Written by the experts behind the Baker Creek Seed Company Catalogue, Jere and Emilee Gettle's *The Heirloom Life Gardener* will knock your clogs off. Chock full of insider tips on starting your own vegetable patch, this book both informs and inspires.

Kids

Perhaps the best children's author still working, Maurice Sendak has put his indelible mark on the genre with *Where the Wild Things Are*. His latest title, *Bumble-ardy* showcases Sendak's supreme touch for the macabre with a twist of sweet that kids will devour.

Phaidon's eye for quality extends to small fry with Tomi Ungerer's adorable *The Mellops Go Diving For Treasure*. Beautifully illustrated with wit and panache by the author, this story of adventurous pigs will entertain the whole family.

Stamped with the Caldecott Honor Book seal of approval, Barbara Lehman's adorable *The Red Book* speaks volumes without using any words. Really a love letter to reading, the author's illustrations take a small boy, on a wintery day, anywhere he wants to go, simply by turning a page.



Literature-O-Philes

Esther Freud, the great-granddaughter of Sigmund, writes with an eye for detail that one imagines her inheriting from the family tree. *Lucky Break*, a novel set among English actors over the course of a decade, bristles with electricity and passion.

Just when you think you can't read another 9/11 book, along comes one to knock your socks off. Amy Waldman's *The Submission*, dazzles with insight, rocks with compassion and disarms with intelligence.

Memoir-Aholics

Bon mots and humorous insights cannily make up Nora Ephron's *I Remember Nothing*. The writer of such successful films as *When Harry Met Sally* and *It's Complicated* delves seamlessly into her personal life with her terrific essays.

Nigel Slater writes the way most people wish they could: breezy, smart and funny. His memoir, *Toast*, dishes up an unsavory childhood with uncommon flair.

Moms, Grandmas and Aunts

Recently a touching and brutal film starring Kristin Scott Thomas, *Sarah's Key* recounts a mostly forgotten World War II story of French Jews. Following a heartbreaking story of a brother and sister, as well as a parallel tale of a journalist in the present, Tatiana de Rosnay's tale is riveting.

Perhaps the world's most regarded restaurant, Spain's elBulli closed its doors this year. Luckily for the food lovers among us, the chef, Ferran Adria has a mouthwatering cookbook with surprisingly achievable recipes, called *The Family Meal*.

Photo Hounds

For the novice and professional alike, Michael Freeman's *The Photographer's Vision* examines why a particular image works. Paired with often breathtaking photos, the author's work make an unforgettable impression.

Romantics

The most wistful of the Jane Austen novels, *Persuasion* projects a hard-earned maturity. A new annotated version, edited by Robert Morrison, provides oodles of facts for fans and newbies alike.

Tweens and Tweens at Heart

Maile Meloy's *The Apothecary* (one of my favorite evocative words), cloaked in mystery and magic, delivers at every turn. This tale of displacement, ancient books, elixirs and even Russian spies draws the reader in like a honeyed fly strip.

GAMEON

Campus Circle > Culture > Gaming



"Star Wars: The Old Republic" releases just in time for Christmas (Dec. 20).

GAMING GIFT GUIDE

BY ALEXANDRE JOHNSON

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, AND WITH SO much out there it is often hard to find the best electronics for your money. *Campus Circle* rounds up of some of the games and systems that have been released in time for the 2011 holiday season. There are a lot vying for your precious money, so we'll keep things short and try to give you just enough information so that you can decide which games you really want – whether it is for the PC gamer, PS3 lover or Xbox addict.

THE GAMES

"God of War: Origins Collection" (for PS3)

The "God of War" series came out on the PS2 as perhaps the greatest action games yet. Two of the games in the series, "Chains of Olympus" and "Ghost of Sparta" were released on the handheld PSP a few years ago. While handheld players marveled at the games, console players were left out of the loop. This year, Sony answered the prayers of these console players by making them available for the PS3. The games have been put onto on Blu-ray disc, have gained added controls for the second analog stick and made ready for the Kratos' brutal attacks to be seen on a large screen with new high-definition video.

"Star Wars: The Old Republic" (for Windows)

Some franchises seem to never end, always creating new titles. With "The Old Republic," one can see why. The combined

new storylines and ability for players to create their own stories makes this a must-have for *Star Wars* fans and gamers who are driven by story. Players are not restricted by the good or dark side that is prominent in *Star Wars* games. Each individual is instead able to achieve their own goals and with the companion system can achieve goals, with or without the help of other players. That ability in the system along with character growth that does not require certain classes will have MMORPG fans finding "Old Republic" easy to customize and thus to quickly enjoy. (available Dec. 20)

"Batman: Arkham City" (for PS3, Xbox 360, Wii U, Windows)

Batman is a hard character to fit into various platforms, but "Arkham City" has done this well. The prequel was one of the best superhero titles ever made, and this time, Batman must deal with a whole section of Gotham City that hundreds of criminals call home. A great plot and gameplay drive this game to be one of the biggest hits of the year.

"The Ico & Shadow of the Colossus Collection" (for PS3)

Two of PlayStation 2's best titles, "Ico" and "Shadow of the Colossus," are being bundled together on a single Blu-ray disc for the PlayStation 3, remastered and in HD. Each alone could have easily been described as more than a game, to the point of being an experience. For those who didn't have the pleasure, now is the perfect time to find out what the rest of the gaming world has been so amazed about. Of course this only further builds up the anticipation for Team Ico's third game, "The Last Guardian" which is set to be released next year.

"Portal 2" (for Mac, Microsoft, PS3, Xbox 360)

Few games combine humor, puzzles and visuals, much less all in a first-person shooter. As with the first "Portal," players take on the role of Chell, a test subject in an Aperture Science laboratory who must navigate a facility that is being rebuilt by the artificial intelligence known as GLaDOS using the

portal gun. Freeing Chell from various deathtraps whipped up by GLaDOS and being mocked at every turn with a degree of black humor sounds repetitive, but when delivered this nicely it truly works, along with surprising character development. Together with bouncy gel, a new AI core called Wheatley and more hours of gameplay than the original, it's a definite adventure.

"Total War: Shogun 2" (for Windows)

This game actually came out earlier this year, but if you haven't picked it up yet now is the time to do so. "Total War" returns to Japan and has created a refined and simplified system that any players who enjoy turn-based or real-time strategy should enjoy. Players will engage in diplomacy, political maneuvering, espionage and assassinations, as well as general war strategies, making this game reminiscent of real life.

"Gears of War 3" (for Xbox 360)

"Gears of War" is probably one of the best-looking games available on the Xbox 360. For lovers of sci-fi and combat, it displays an immersive world that draws players in. Like previous games, it emphasizes the use of cover and squad tactics in combat situations. Modes such as the survival-based Horde and Beast add even more longevity to this shooter that will end the saga of Augustus Cole and his squad.

"Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim" (for Windows, PS3, Xbox 360)

The most anticipated RPG of the year comes in the form of "The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim." A massive world awaits players as they enter into this newest "Elder Scrolls" installment. Players now have the ability to dual wield weapons and spells, making for more interesting gameplay as well as other great features. Honestly though, the greatest thing about this game is its open-world format that is definitely larger than any previous "Elder Scrolls" games.

THE SYSTEMS

Kinect

The controller-less Kinect system allows a player to use his/her body's movements to interact with games. With a year being out it in the gaming world, it has a solid game library with some unique and innovative titles hitting the scene, including "Kotaku." Unfortunately, like the Wii system, it has a timing-based learning curve for new players, but this will hopefully only make the game more enjoyable.

Nyko Zoom for Kinect

Coupled with the Kinect system is the Nyko Zoom, a snap-on accessory. With this over the standard Kinect lens, players will have an easier time finding space for all the movements that games require. The space prerequisite of a standard Kinect is one of its major drawbacks, especially for those in small places – a worry that players won't have when using this attachment.

OnLive

OnLive connects players to some of the hottest games with its cloud game service system. Since the game is remotely stored, even low-end computers can play games that they ordinarily wouldn't be able to. On the negative side, there is the additional equipment and the fact that games take a little while to get on the OnLive's servers. But the system already carries many great hits like "L.A. Noire" making it a great deal.

PSP 3000

Players may feel really torn about this one. The system is on its way out with the PSP Vista coming along next year, so it's not something to upgrade to if you already have a PSP. But this is still a solid system. With great graphics, a light, slim enclosure and a highly competitive price, the PSP 3000 still has a place for someone new to the system.

CALENDAR20-SOMETHINGS

Campus Circle > Calendar

BY FREDERICK MINTCHELL

THURSDAY DEC. 1



Ski Dazzle – Ski Show and Snowboard Expo

L.A. Convention Center, 1201 S. Figueroa, Downtown; skidazzle.com

The 48th anniversary expo features over 375 exhibitor and sponsor booths showcasing a world of skiing and snowboarding under one roof. Runs through Sunday.

SATURDAY DEC. 3



"The Nutcracker"

Alex Theatre, 216 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; losangelesballet.org

The holiday tradition continues with Los Angeles Ballet's acclaimed original production of "The Nutcracker." Join Clara and her Nutcracker as they journey to magical realms where mischievous mice battle toy soldiers, snowflakes dance and Clara's dolls come to life. 7:30 p.m. Also Sunday @ 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 30

"A Christmas Westside Story"

Falcon Theatre, 4252 Riverside Drive, Burbank; falcontheatre.com

Celebrate the Season with the Troubies as they bring together two classic tales, *A Christmas Story* and "West Side Story." Somewhere in America, Ralphie wants to be "Cool" and get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Will his parents ever believe "A Boy Like That" can handle a Red Ryder? Or will Santa use "One Hand, One Heart" to ignore Ralphie and give a BB gun to Maria instead? Tell yourself "I Feel Pretty," hop on a Jet and dance your way to the show "Tonight!" Runs Wednesday through Sunday, through Jan. 15. No shows Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1..

WEDNESDAY NOV. 30

Grammy Nominations Concert

Nokia Theatre, 777 Chick Hearn Ct., Downtown; nokiathatrelive.com

LL Cool J is hosting again with performances by Lady Gaga, Sugarland, Jason Aldean, Lupe Fiasco and Ludacris. 7 p.m. Tix start @ \$35.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 30

A Snow White Christmas

El Portal Theatre, 5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood; elportaltheatre.com

Neil Patrick Harris, Lindsay Pierce ("The Glee Project"), "Star Trek: The Next Generation"'s Marina Sirtis and Erich Bergen from "Jersey Boys" star. Choreographed by "So You Think You Can Dance"'s Spencer Liff with "American Idol"'s Michael Orland serving as musical director, this updated version of the classic tale features magic, a comedic twist and modern music. Runs Wednesday-Sunday, through Dec. 18.

THURSDAY DEC. 1

Diner

LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles; lacma.org/event/diner

Barry Levinson's directorial debut gave a number of today's notable actors –Kevin Bacon, Timothy Daly, Mickey Rourke, Steve Guttenberg, Daniel Stern – a crucial break, as well as being the film debut of both Ellen Barkin and Paul Reiser. Writer-director Gavin O'Connor (*Warrior*, *Miracle*) and director Paul Feig (*Bridesmaids*) will appear in person to discuss the influence Levinson's world had on their work. 7:30 p.m. \$10.

THURSDAY DEC. 1

L.A. Kings Student Night

Staples Center, 1111 S. Figueroa, Downtown; kings.nhl.com

Get discounted tickets with your student ID when the L.A. Kings take on the Florida Panthers. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY DEC. 2

"A Christmas Carol"

Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd.; smc.edu/theatre

Join Ebenezer Scrooge as he learns the true meaning of the holiday season while visiting his past, present and future in Charles Dickens' classic tale presented by the Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department. Runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, through Dec. 11.

FRIDAY DEC. 2

A Clockwork Orange

The Nuart, 11272 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles; landmarktheatres.com

Who knew that "Singin' in the Rain" could be so creepy? Watch Stanley Kubrick's ultra-violent take on a dystopian future and you'll see. 11:59 p.m. \$10.50.

FRIDAY DEC. 2

The Dan Band

Club Nokia, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Downtown; thedanband.com

The band is well known for its covers of originally female-performed pop songs, with added obscenities and swearing. Their hilarious live show has become a staple of nightlife in Los Angeles, with *Entertainment Weekly* naming it "the hottest ticket in town, shit!" 9 p.m.

FRIDAY DEC. 2

The Groundlings Holiday Show

Groundlings Theatre, 7307 Melrose Ave., Hollywood; groundlings.com

Yuletide carols will ring throughout the evening of hilarious sketches and improv as director Jim Rash ("Community") is joined by his merry little bunch of Groundlings including: Jillian Bell ("Workaholics"), Andrew Friedman ("The Big C"), Ryan Gaul ("2 Broke Girls"), Charlotte Newhouse (*Fanboy*), Steve Little ("Eastbound & Down"), Lisa Schurga ("Leverage") and Alex Staggs ("Modern Family"). Fridays @ 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 & 10 p.m., through Dec. 17. \$18.

SATURDAY DEC. 3

Gibson Guitar Town "On the Sunset Strip" Charity Auction

Julien's Auctions, 9665 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills; julienslive.com

Granted, most of us can't buy the guitars, but how often can you see 10-foot instruments up close that celebrate various aspects of the Sunset Strip and its history and influence, with guitars honoring Slash, the Doors, Mötley Crüe, Ozzy Osbourne, Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, Cheech & Chong and more? 2 p.m.

SATURDAY DEC. 3

KIIS FM's Jingle Ball 2011

Nokia Theatre, 777 Chick Hearn Ct., Downtown; nokiathatrelive.com

Get your holidays rocking' with performances by Lady Gaga, David Guetta, Flo Rida, Sean Paul, Gym Class Heroes, Taio Cruz, Big Time Rush and more. 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY DEC. 4

Second Annual Santa Fun Walk

Westfield Topanga, 6600 Topanga Canyon Road, Canoga Park; santawalk2011.com

Run, walk, skip or jump around in a full Santa suit to raise money for children with special needs. Each lap is 1/3 of a mile. Get people to sponsor you per lap or mile. You decide how much you want to walk. The Santa suit cost is included in your registration fee. Plus there will be prizes, entertainment and a day full of fun. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. \$25.

SUNDAY DEC. 4

Jane Lynch

Barnes & Noble, 189 The Grove Drive, Los Angeles; barnesandnoble.com

The Emmy winner signs her book, *Happy Accidents*, which is part comic memoir and part inspirational narrative. 2 p.m.

MONDAY DEC. 5

A Holiday Party with Erich Bergen

Renaissance Hotel, 1755 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood; thecoteriela.com/erich-bergen

Erich Bergen, from the cast of "Jersey Boys" and television's "Gossip Girl," rings in the season with a swinging, upbeat kick-off to the end of year festivities. Featuring music direction by "American Idol"'s Michael Orland, A Holiday Party will feature your favorite holiday songs, new tunes and plenty of inappropriate laughter. There will also be

a special guest appearance by Lindsay Pearce, from the cast of "Glee" and "The Glee Project." 8 p.m. Free w/unwrapped toy worth \$10+.

MONDAY DEC. 5

Laughs for Clean Water

Laugh Factory, 8001 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood; gwcomedy.eventbrite.com

Hosted by Ryan Basford, a great line-up of comics including Nick Kroll, Josh Wolf, Ben Gleib and Robby Slowik will be performing to benefit Generosity Water, which builds wells in developing countries where people do not have access to clean drinking water. Last year's event funded a well in Ghana giving clean water to an entire village. 8 p.m.-10 p.m. \$20.

MONDAY DEC. 5

Music & Film/TV Networking Mixer and Open Mic

El Cid, 4212 Sunset Blvd., Silver Lake; musicmeetup2-eorg.eventbrite.com

It's not what you know but who you know, so put on a name tag, grab a margarita and start passing out those business cards. You never know where your next opportunity will come from. 7:30 p.m. FREE; \$5 if you take advantage of the open mic.

TUESDAY DEC. 6

Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival

hollywoodreelindependentfilmfestival.com

The festival honors truly independent cinema with screenings, Q&As, panels and parties at locations around Los Angeles. Runs through Dec. 11.

TUESDAY DEC. 6

Korn Album Release Show

Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd.; korn.com

The metal/hip hoppers celebrate today's release of their dubstep-infused album, *The Path of Totality*, by performing new songs, old songs and their biggest hits along with 12th Planet, Datsik, Downlink, Kill the Noise and other special guests.

For more events, visit campuscircle.com/calendar. To submit an event for consideration, e-mail calendar@campuscircle.net.

PIGSKINBLITZ

TROJANS ROUT BRUINS

BY MARVIN VASQUEZ

THE NO. 9-RANKED (AP) USC TROJANS FINISHED off the season with a tremendous win, topping their cross-town rival in UCLA by a score of 50-0 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. With the victory, the Trojans improved their overall record to 10-2 while moving to 7-2 in conference action. During the press conference after the win, several Trojan players were wearing Pac-12 Champions shirts. The Trojans have won 10 games for the eighth time in the past decade.

Meanwhile, UCLA dropped to 6-6 overall and 5-4 in the Pac-12. The staggering loss cost head coach Rick Neuheisel his job. UCLA still has to play in the Pac-12 Championship game, hosted by the No. 8-ranked University of Oregon Ducks, which will be Neuheisel's last game.

"Tonight they were clearly the superior team," Neuheisel confesses. "I don't think that's the case all the time. I believe we can close the gap, and we will. We weren't good enough to play a marquee team like USC."

Due to USC's NCAA sanctions, the Bruins have claimed the Pac-12 South Division. Nevertheless, the nation knows that USC is back, and they are on fire.

Junior quarterback Matt Barkley was quite aware that USC could not make an appearance in the postseason.

"We've worked hard for this, and I think we deserve to

celebrate this," he tells reporters. "We knew coming into this year, and there's nothing we can do about it. We just tried to take advantage of every opportunity we did have."

Barkley passed ex-USC quarterback Matt Leinart for the single-season conference record for touchdown passes. For the game, Barkley threw for 423 yards and six touchdowns on 35 completed attempts out of 42.

Freshman wide receiver Marqise Lee caught 13 passes for 224 yards and two touchdowns. Additionally, sophomore wide receiver Robert Woods had 12 catches for 113 yards and two touchdowns. Randall Telfer and Rhett Ellison each had a TD reception.

The Trojans also did solidly well in the running game. Junior running back Curtis McNeal rushed the ball 12 times for a whopping 124 yards, including a long 73-yard TD run in the first quarter. Senior Marc Tyler had six rushes for 31 yards.

For the Bruins, junior quarterback Kevin Prince passed for 261 yards while completing 21 of 33 throwing attempts. However, Prince was sacked four times, had one interception and no touchdown passes.

Prince also had 17 carries, good enough for 34 yards. USC's defense, which has drastically improved, completely shut him down as well as junior running back Johnathan Franklin. He had eight carries for 55 yards.

There was production on the receiving end, but not significant enough to make noise for the Bruins. Only senior wide receiver Nelson Rosario had prominent receptions (seven) and receiving yards (118).

USC took the lead at 13:15 of the first quarter when Barkley connected with Lee for a 42-yard TD pass and catch. After one quarter, the Trojans held a 14-0 edge, and it was really enough to secure the win that early.

Campus Circle > Sports > Football



Matt Barkley and USC finish the season with a win over UCLA.

The Bruins never responded, while the Trojans kept mounting points in each quarter. USC scored 15 in the second, 14 in the third and seven in the fourth.

"They took it very personally," USC coach Lane Kiffin says of Neuheisel's comments regarding UCLA football closing the gap on USC's talented team. "That's a pretty strong statement to make. Did it motivate them? I don't know, but it was talked about a lot, and not much by me. I think they felt disrespected."

No one truly knows if Barkley will return for his senior year at USC. Not even his coach thinks that.

"Unless he wants to do it, just to be a special Trojan, he ain't coming back," Kiffin depicts. "He's every bit ready to go to the NFL. It's just going to be a decision; does he want to do something really unique? He might be the guy to do that."

UCLA travels to Oregon on Saturday, Dec. 2, to face the Ducks in Eugene at 5 p.m.

"Life still goes on. We still have the opportunity to do something big in the Pac-12 championship," says senior running back Derrick Coleman after the awful defeat to the Trojans. "That was a shot to the gut for everybody. We can't take anything for granted. We've got to out and take it."

ONTHEMENU

LARRY'S

24 Windward Ave., Venice

BY GILLIAN FERGUSON

MUSCLE BEACH. SURFBOARDS. TATTOO PARLORS.
A Technicolor sunset.

The scene is Venice Beach, known more for kush doctors and rollerblades than wine bars and fine dining, but a new restaurant called Larry's is trying to change that. Situated at the west end of Windward Circle – the gateway to the Venice Boardwalk – Larry's combines the laidback style of Venice with the sophisticated cuisine of neighboring Culver City. The restaurant is part of a growing trend, started by nearby Venice Beach Wines, which says beach dining doesn't have to mean childlegs and cheap beer.

Larry's is an open-air restaurant, which means that lunch and dinner are served entirely al fresco. Personally, I love sharing a meal in the ocean breeze and the ability to watch the locals and tourists stroll to and from the beach. When you can see the stars from your table, the meal somehow becomes more enjoyable; it possibly even tastes better.

The restaurant is named after Larry Bell, a revered conceptual artist who lives part time in the nearby Erwin Hotel. A wall covered in chalkboard paint lists the names of over a hundred artists, some who are Bell's contemporaries and some much younger. A black and white photograph hanging near the bar shows Bell on the beach with his peers – Ed Ruscha and Ed Moses to name a few – who all built their lives and their careers in 1960's Venice Beach.

Chef Brendan Collins, who co-owns both Larry's and Waterloo & City in Culver City with his partner Carolos Tomazos, likens his restaurants to the eating clubs in the UK where he grew up. In conversation he explained that the intention of both Larry's and Waterloo & City is to serve as a meeting place, a destination where friends can meet for a pint and or for a meal.

The lunch and dinner menus look much the same. At the top of the menu is a list of pizzas, which like its sister restaurant Waterloo & City, boast some outrageously delicious toppings. There is the obligatory Margarita Pizza, but with combinations like green chorizo, egg and chipotle tomato sauce or Brussels sprouts, bacon, Parmesan and chile vinegar, the classic tomato and mozzarella fades quickly into the background. On my first trip to Larry's a table of four lively 20-something men were inhaling a pizza smartly dubbed the Porkalicious, which appeared to have sausage, bacon, prosciutto and chorizo on top.

If you aren't in the mood for pizza, a list of small plates and entrees provide an alternative. First come the house cured meats, made famous at Waterloo & City, which are followed by a handful of salad options, a burger and a short list of entrees. The cured meats range from the familiar slices of ham and cured beef to bizarre dishes like barbecue eel and foie gras terrine.

The salads at Larry's are both hearty and elegant at the same time. The heirloom potato salad with Cabra Verde goat cheese, cherry tomatoes, soft herbs and fried quail egg is delicately presented with snippets of chives carefully garnishing the lightly dressed potatoes, yet the dish packs a tangy punch with flavors of goat cheese and whole grain mustard.

The burger can be ordered with either lamb or beef, and

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Larry's barbecue eel and foie gras terrine

both are delicious. A steaming bowl of green curry mussels with ginger and Fresno chiles can serve as a light lunch or a perfect appetizer for two, but you will want to ask for extra grilled bread to sop up the buttery broth. Other entrees include a pasta, a halibut dish and Larry's signature pork cheek "BLT." With so many tasty small plates to choose from, by the time I work my way to the end of the menu inevitably I am already full.

Perhaps the best part about Larry's, even more than the ambience or the food, is the price. There is nothing on Larry's menu over \$15. Let me repeat that. Nothing on the menu at Larry's in Venice Beach costs more than \$15. Period.

Enough said.

For more information, visit larrysvenice.com.

TRENDBLENDER

Campus Circle > Blogs > Trend Blender

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

BY DANA JEONG

NOW THAT THANKSGIVING HAS PASSED, IT'S TIME TO START PUTTING TOGETHER OUR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY SHOPPING PLAN. I USUALLY LIKE TO START OFF WITH THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN ON MY WISHLIST FOREVER, BUT ALSO TRY TO MAKE ROOM FOR EARLY SHOPPING TO GET EXTRA DEALS. NOT SURE WHAT TO GET YOUR FRIENDS YET? TAKE A LOOK AT THE SUPER-EASY GIFT GUIDE BELOW, PERFECT FOR EACH OF THEIR TASTES AND YOUR BUDGET!

THE PREPPY ONE

Splurge!



Ideal for the holiday season, this adorable beret (circa Blair Waldorf, "Gossip Girl" Season 1) will perfectly complement her preppy school girl look. (Eugenia Kim Plaid "Charlotte" Beret, \$88)

Save!



This chic blouse would look incredibly charming when layered under a chunky knit. (In Line Blouse, \$38)

THE BOHO ONE

Splurge!



In case you haven't heard, backpacks are IN again – and your friend will be leading the trend with this tribal-printed cutie. (Jeffrey Campbell McCarthy Backpack, \$150)

Save!



Chic yet comfortable, this tribal-patterned sweater will make eyes turn as your friend walks around campus. (Staring at Stars Pattern Drape Open Cardigan, \$69)

THE GLAM ONE

Splurge!



This ultra-glam cropped fur will definitely turn heads as she makes her grand entrance at the latest club opening. (Motel Freya Faux Fur Coat, \$138)

Save!



Color block? Check. Velvet? Check. Extra high? Check. Give your fashionista friend the perfect heels that encompass all winter trends. (Oupid Black Velvet Color Block Pumps, \$32)

THE ROCKER ONE

Splurge!



The sweet pearls and edgy spikes create an irony that nobody can resist. (In Line Blouse, \$38)

Save!



The perfect gloves to go with her favorite leather jacket. (Aqua Mini Stud Glove, \$48)

5,000 YEARS OF CHINESE MUSIC & DANCE IN ONE NIGHT

— The New York Times



SHEN YUN
PERFORMING ARTS

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT SHEN YUN...

ALL-NEW SHOW WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA
30-COUNTRY WORLD TOUR



"It was an extraordinary experience...the level of skill, but also the power of the archetypes and the narratives were startling. And of course it was exquisitely beautiful."

— Cate Blanchett,
Academy Award-winning Actress



"Absolutely beautiful..." It has become this one big poetic event. It was so inspiring, I think I may have found some new ideas for the next AVATAR."

— Robert Stromberg, Academy-Award winner,
production designer for Avatar



"I have reviewed over 3,000 to 4,000 shows since 1942. I give this production 5 stars. That's the top... I've seen enough Broadway shows that still cannot compare to what I saw tonight. The best word to use is **'mind blowing'**."

— Richard Connema, renowned theatre critic



"This show is really out of this world! There is no word to describe it... If I had to describe it, the words might be **'divine', 'reborn' and 'hope'**... It's Beauty from beginning to end. You have to see it to believe it."

— Christine Walevska, cello virtuoso



"It's **so beautiful**. I'm amazed at how delicate it is, and clean and pure... there was something really touching about that. It was really sweeping and soulful. **I was about to start crying.**"

— Elan McAllister, Broadway producer, whose credits include Spamalot and Hairspray



"I come away with feeling like a better human being for having experienced this magnificent event. **It speaks not only to my intellect, but it speaks to my heart...** it was a complete edifying experience of the human spirit."

— Omega Medina, opera singer, former manager of Classical Music for the Grammy Awards

JAN 11-12, 2012
Segerstrom Center for the Arts, OC
Jan 11 - 7:30pm; Jan 12 - 7:30pm

JAN 13-14, 2012
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA
Jan 13 - 7:30pm; Jan 14 - 2:00pm & 7:30pm

tickets: LAspectacular.com
1.800.880.0188
info: ShenYun2012.com prices: \$60 - \$200