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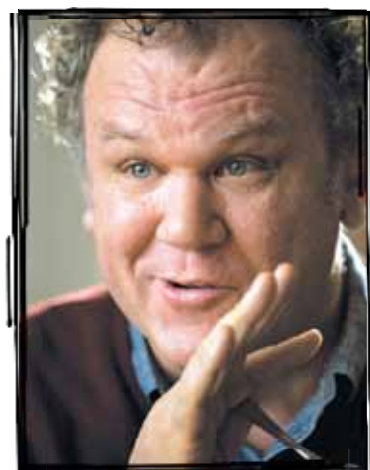
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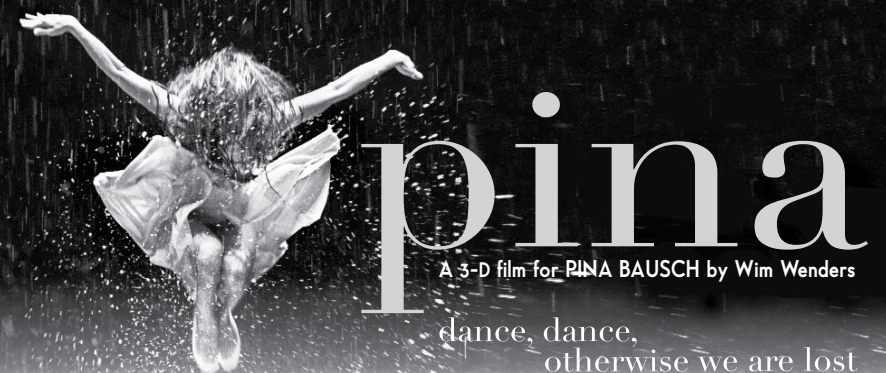
Anthony Lane, THE NEW YORKER

**“A GORGEOUS, HYPNOTIC  
TAPESTRY OF SOUND AND VISION.  
AFFECTED ME IN A WAY NO OTHER  
MOVIE OF 2011 QUITE MANAGED.”**

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**“MESMERIZING.  
THE ENTIRE FILM WAS, FOR ME, MEDITATIVE.”**

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# MY MOST ANTICIPATED MOVIES OF 2012 (Part 1)

**Come at me Hollywood. If the world ends this year, I better see some good movies before I die.**

BY SABINA IBARRA

## JANUARY

*The Iron Lady* (In Theaters Now): Two words: Meryl Streep. She is the main reason I will inevitably end up seeing this movie. There is definitely appeal there for Margaret Thatcher's journey as a woman having to climb to the top in a man's world. However, I've seen a good amount of great films about European political figures in the past few years, notably *The Kings Speech* and *Young Victoria* so I'm ready to see something different.

*Beauty and the Beast 3D* (In Theaters Now): Apparently Disney is going the Lucas route (more on that later), and re-releasing their films in 3D. I'm not the biggest fan of after-release conversion to make more money, but I'm a huge Disney Fangirl. Last year their re-release of the *Lion King* was a major success, and their bet on *Beauty and the Beast* should prove to be another good investment. Being one of their most successful films, as far as the Disney Princess franchise goes, *Beauty and the Beast* appeals to the women who grew up on the tale and introduces it to a new generation on the big screen. I was a toddler when what proved to be my favorite Disney Princess movie came out so I am beyond excited to see this and sing along with everyone else who knows every line by heart.

*Underworld: Awakening* (Jan.20): I hear that collective groan. Yes, vampires have been turned into a neutered genre by that teen franchise that will not be named and have left a good amount of audience sick of the word. Growing up, I have always loved vampires with FANGS. You know, the classic monsters that they are meant to be. From *Buffy* to *Blade*, vampire films and shows always maintained a balance between violence and thematic ideas. The *Underworld* franchise has deep roots in action and supernatural lore that sets it apart from what has been churned out. It's worth giving a watch if you've been a fan of the films or of Kate Beckinsale in that leather jumpsuit and corset.

*Coriolanus* (Jan.20): Shakespeare thrives still because so many of his plays have universal themes that resonate to this day. Ralph Fiennes's adaptation of *Coriolanus*, starring Gerard Butler, is relevant to today's social and political environment. At the core of the story is the battle of contrasts between the high society and the proletariat as well as liberals and the conservatives. The amazing thing about Shakespeare is that one can use any background or time period as the setting, and it will work. So I'm very much looking forward to seeing this spin on the Bard's work.



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Kate Beckinsale in *Underworld: Awakening*

## FEBRUARY

*The Woman in Black* (Feb.3): Daniel Radcliffe's first cinematic move after *Harry Potter* is the tale of a vengeful ghost that terrorizes a village. I'm really excited to see Radcliffe in a thriller, and from the looks of the trailer, the cinematography sets a visually stunning, spooky tone. Hopefully he doesn't suffer from the Sarah Michelle Gellar effect, who after *Buffy* starred in *The Grudge* as a woman haunted by a ghost that I kept wanting her to go all Buffy on. There may be moments where I will shout at Daniel to pull out a wand and *Avada Kedavra* the woman in black or set her up on a date with Nearly-headless Nick. She might just be lonely.

*The Inkeepers* (Feb.3): I hear a lot of great things about Sara Paxton's performance in this film about a hotel whose old guests return for a stay. From big names to my horror fanboy friends, Paxton is getting a lot of praise for a film I know little about. I am intrigued.

*STAR WARS: Episode 1-The Phantom Menace* (Feb.10) Forgot to mention its in 3D, and it's not really something I'm anticipating. Just needed to mention how ridiculous this all is. Re-releasing all six from episode one? Geez! Yes, I am a disgruntled *Star Wars* Fangirl, who hates all the CG changes and doesn't love the prequels. But as much as I will complain about this till it comes out, just like the blu-rays, I will probably end up seeing it. To quote Ackbar, "It's a trap!"

## MARCH

*The Hunger Games* (Mar.23) I had been hesitant to get into these books because they seemed like a young adult, watered down version of *Battle Royale*. Like what *Twilight* did to vampires, I didn't like the idea of a love story using a dystopia as mere background to the point where the focus on the leads would detract from thematic intent. Dystopian tales have balanced finely for generations. You read *1984*, see *The Matrix* - there are love stories in them, but you also get so much more out of those masterpieces. I had heard about the *Hunger Game* book before it was adapted, but it was all about Katniss and the two guys she liked. It took some of my guy friends to convince me to give it a chance and claimed the concept would really appeal to me. I am currently reading the book and plan to see the movie.

*Pirates! Band of Misfits* (Mar.20)

From the creators of *Wallace and Gromit-Stop*. Just stop there! I'm sold. I will be there opening day. If you don't know what *Wallace and Gromit* is, go and Netflix it right now! Just go!

## APRIL

*Titanic 3D Re-release* (Apr.6): Cameron can pull off visually stunning for sure with this favorite and his brand of re-release 3D conversion...I hope.

*Cabin in the Woods* (Apr.13)

Joss Whedon is the man this year. (*Avengers* and an indie adaptation of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*? Please and thank you, universe!) Little is known about this film other than it's "cabin in the woods" horror-fare born out of a collaboration between Whedon and his best writer from the *Buffy* and *Angel* era.

## MAY

*The Avengers* (May.4)

This Marvel super hero ensemble piece is one of the most anticipated films of the year. Whedon at the helm of it has added more excitement. It will be interesting to see the dynamic between the heroes. For me, particularly between Captain America and Iron Man. I'm curious to find out what happened to Peggy Carter and whether Mark Ruffalo will be able to pull The Hulk off. A lot is riding on this movie since it's the first to not focus on just one hero. With any luck, it will be a huge success, and Whedon can buy back the rights to *Buffy* before the remake happens.

*Dark Shadows* (May.11)

Burton goes back to his element. While others are weary due to his re-imaginings of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, they forget his excellent adaptation of *Sweeney Todd*. I have faith that with a script penned by Seth Grahame-Smith and a great ensemble including Michelle Pfeiffer and Chloe-Grace Moretz, *Dark Shadows* will be a return to the Burton-esque world we love. It is also Johnny Depp's first vampire role. He more than any other actor was made for a part like Collins.

Stay tuned for part 1 ½ (the summer blockbuster edition) of my most anticipated movies list!

## TILDA SWINTON AND JOHN C. REILLY IN *WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN*



*We Need to Talk About Kevin*: Lynne Ramsay's captivating new film

Courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories

### BY ARIEL PAREDES

**THE TITLE OF THIS FILM** doesn't quite convey the chilling story that unfolds in director Lynne Ramsay's newest film, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, which grabs you from the start. It tells the story of a mother plagued by the birth of her son, and the evil that a child is capable of.

In what seems to be an idyllic suburb, the town is shaken to its core when an unfathomable event takes place. What is most impressive in this film is the fragmented storytelling, juxtaposing the seemingly pleasant past to the jarring present. How could a concerned mother, Eva (Tilda Swinton) and loving father, Franklin (John C. Reilly) be at such odds about their "perfect" boy?

The film is an adaptation of Lionel Shriver's best selling novel, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, which Lynne Ramsay co-wrote with Rory Stewart Kinnear. "After having a really bad experience with wanting to adapt *Lovely Bones*, I said, 'I'm never adapting a screenplay again,' but my husband read this meaty book in two days and said, 'Dude, you have to do this!'"

After Ramsay's husband drew her to this book, she effused, "I read it and thought it was a modern classic, talking about something we normally don't talk about." Asking if Ramsay wanted to do an exact translation of the book, she graciously said, "I really respected Lionel and hoped she liked my storytelling. The structure of her book is a page turner like a thriller, and I tried to keep that feeling, a magnetic force." Also adding, "There was a lot of trust of her part, and she was really cool."

Not only was this film going to be an adaptation, which Ramsay swore she would never try to do again. She was also given some serious limitations on the budget and the a tight shooting schedule. "We had thirty days to shoot the film, which was really tough because we had kids and toddlers. Thirty days is nothing, and there wasn't a lot of margin for error. I had to have a Plan B and a Plan C," gasped Ramsay.

The conversation flowed effortlessly into how and why she chose her cast. Ramsay marveled, "Yeah I knew I needed reliable actors with such a tight schedule. Tilda is such a canvas. I dropped her in the middle of that Tomatina scene in Spain and she was down for it. She was so bold and just dove in!" Continuing, "We had two hours, and they did not care that it was Tilda Swinton, ya know! I was smacking people out of the way." Laughing, "She is awesome in the true sense of the word."

As far as the males she cast in her film, Ramsay remarked, "I like actors who are a bit quirky, and I loved John C. Reilly for the part. He is so warm." Adding that Ezra Miller who plays Kevin is wise beyond his years, a truly talented young actor." The actors who played young Kevin were Rock Duer and Jasper Newell, who "were also great to work with."

Ramsay emphasized, "I really wanted Tilda and Ezra to look similar with the dark hair and eyes, seeing a part of you in your kids, and that mothers can be such martyrs. How much do you take as a mom?"

After seeing this film, it will lead to so many questions that will surely surface from such a penetrating and disturbing subject matter. How much blame should you or can you take as the mother of a seriously damaged child? Where did she go wrong, if at all? This film will make you want to talk about Kevin and leave you with a feeling in the pit of your stomach.

Ramsay lastly added, "Even though this title really stays with people, it wasn't all serious on the set, we would jam out, and it was a great group. Had to lighten the mood!"

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# IN DARKNESS

BY PATRICK MEISSNER

## Review and Interview with Director Agnieszka Holland

**SET FOR A LIMITED RELEASE** in February 2012, *In Darkness* is the story of Leopold Socha, a Polish Christian and city sanitation worker during World War II. Caught in the chaos of Germany's invasion of his hometown, Socha reluctantly finds himself the guide for a group of Jews fleeing persecution. With his knowledge of the city's underground, Socha finds a means of escaping the Blitzkrieg, but not without risking his own life in the process.

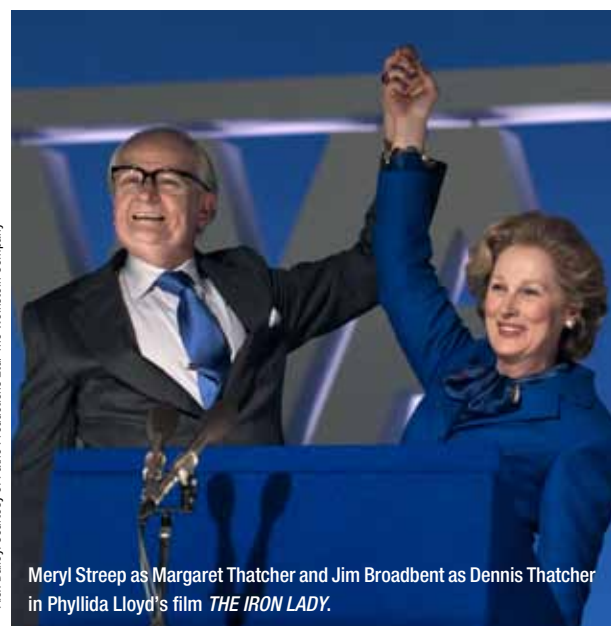
"I feel as though I am the one who needs to tell this story," says director Agnieszka Holland of the film. In a recent interview, Ms. Holland explained that the distinguishing characteristic of this film is the setting. Compared to other films about that period in time, *In Darkness* looks to use the frigid sewers of occupied Poland as a means of conveying emotion.

The most palpable force defining this movie is the crushing absence of light that remains on screen for the majority of the film. As the movie goes on, shots that contain light become increasingly rare, adding an element of hopelessness and fear.

A testament to the sense of realism portrayed on screen, much of the movie was shot on location, in the sewers beneath Poland. "Shooting in the sewer was a pain in the ass, especially in the winter," said Holland of her time spent below the earth's surface. She admits that the process was difficult and went on to explain, "For the cinematographer to make something really, really, dark, but at the same time to find a way that in a real way you see what you have to see to understand the story and be moved by the characters... that was not easy."

A powerful production complete with authentic languages, and genuine performances, *In Darkness* gives a fresh perspective on a well-known tragedy. It is a cerebral yet historical journey into the foul smelling recesses that provided an improvised escape from tyranny. Debatably long winded with a run time of 2 hours and 25 minutes, the story line is no less gripping with an ending that seeks not to sugarcoat the explanation of what had actually happened.

...



Alex Bailey, Courtesy of Pathe Productions Ltd./The Weinstein Company

Meryl Streep as Margaret Thatcher and Jim Broadbent as Dennis Thatcher in Phyllida Lloyd's film *THE IRON LADY*.

*The Iron Lady* is the story of Margaret Thatcher. For those who need a reminder, Thatcher was the UK's first female Prime Minister. Her confidence and absolute refusal to keep quiet about the things she believed in were perhaps the most notable things about her. Unlike most politicians today, Margaret did not care about polls or the opinions of her colleagues. She only cared about doing what was best for the future of her country. Though she endured many hardships, Margaret's legacy will



Left to Right: Milla Bańkiewicz as Krystyna Chiger and Robert Więckiewicz as Leopold Socha

Jasmin Maria Diehant, Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

undoubtedly live on for many years. However, what *The Iron Lady* seeks to do is show a more personal side of Margaret Thatcher.

The movie focuses on a present-day Thatcher (Meryl Streep), who is now living under the constant watch of her caretakers. We follow her through her everyday life - watching as she autographs books, sneaks out of the house to buy milk and has breakfast with her husband, Denis (Jim Broadbent), who has been deceased for eight years. The audience is treated to a view into the nature of Margaret's past and present struggles.

She is haunted daily by the memory of her dead husband, who serves as the driving force behind the story of the film. Denis is a constant reminder of her past, and as such, he triggers a series of brilliantly executed flashbacks that inspire sympathy and understanding from the viewer that may not have been so easily evoked from those who were around during the real Margaret Thatcher's time in office.

Audiences who are familiar with Streep's previous work will not be surprised by her outstanding performance as Margaret Thatcher, but it should be noted that her work on *The Iron Lady* is truly extraordinary. She, as well as the rest of the pitch-perfect cast, will undoubtedly capture much well deserved Oscar buzz for their impressive achievements in their roles.

Phyllida Lloyd's flawless direction, combined with superb acting, allows the audience to connect on an emotional level with one of the most influential women in political history as well as those who stood beside her along the way. *The Iron Lady* will remind viewers that behind every public figure, there exists a person who is just like the rest of us - a person who can also experience love, pain and loss. Perhaps this film will encourage a sense of compassion in all of us for our fellow man (or woman).

**Grade: A+**

-Nick Golden

### Miss Bala

One of the most talked about films from Mexico in the last couple of years finally comes to America with a big bang. Inspired by a true story, *Miss Bala* provides a certain authenticity thanks to relatively new director Gerardo Nariño. Showing off his directing chops, Nariño pulls you in from the opening credits when *Miss Bala* in blood red letters flashes across the screen. Still, the film manages to avoid the clichés of the deadly drug wars occurring in Juarez and other places throughout Northern Mexico and the U.S. border.

Initially, you are drawn into the complex story set in the Mexican border city of Baja. *Miss Bala* chronicles three terrifying days in the life of unsuspecting beauty queen hopeful, Laura Guerro (Stephanie Sigman), who finds herself in the struggles between the La Estrella gang and the police. Laura soon gets caught in the fast life of trafficking money and weapons across the US-Mexico border as her dream of being 'Miss Baja California' becomes a nightmare as she becomes a pawn between the Cartels and Federal agents.

Laura's firsthand struggle is to protect herself and her

family -- doing anything in order to make sure that happens. The film has elements of real menace, you just don't know how she is going to escape her predicaments; and showcases very well handled action scenes.

The first thing that really surprised me was the directing style, quite unusual but with purpose. There were lots of panning, traveling and sequence shots, giving a certain sense of a documentary style film making. Truly, this was the most notable aspect of the movie. The second was the realism of it all: the language, the characters-- especially Noe Hernandez portrayal as Lino. He really was a different spin on the stereotypical movie gangster.



Stephanie Sigman plays Laura Guerro.

The locations and shooting scenes between cops and the henchmen feel authentic enough to send a shockwave to your heart. Naranjo has what it takes to be a great director; the only drawback was that you couldn't feel the hidden beauty and flavor that exists throughout Latin America. *Miss Bala* felt somewhat slow and didn't have a large pay off at the end. I wouldn't put it in the category of pulse-pounding classics, such as *Maria Full of Grace*, *Sin Nombre* or *Traffic*. Naranjo fashions a highly original thriller that pulls you but has a difficult time keeping you enthused.

**Grade: B-**

-Sean W. Oliver  
(continued on page 8)

Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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-SPIN



# HAYWIRE

GINA CARANO MICHAEL FASSBENDER EWAN MCGREGOR BILL PAXTON CHANNING TATUM WITH ANTONIO BANDERAS AND MICHAEL DOUGLAS



RELATIVITY MEDIA PRESENTS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF Bord Scannán na hÉireann / THE IRISH FILM BOARD "HAYWIRE" GINA CARANO MICHAEL FASSBENDER EWAN MCGREGOR BILL PAXTON CHANNING TATUM MATHIEU KASSOVITZ MICHAEL ANCARANO WITH ANTONIO BANDERAS AND MICHAEL DOUGLAS CASTING BY CARMEN CUBA MUSIC BY DAVID HOLMES COSTUME DESIGNER SHOSHANA RUBIN PRODUCTION DESIGNER HOWARD CUMMINGS CO-PRODUCER KENNETH HALSBAND CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ALAN MOLONNEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RYAN KAVANAUGH TUCKER TOOLEY MICHAEL POLARE PRODUCED BY GREGORY JACOBS WRITTEN BY LEM DOBBS DIRECTED BY STEVEN SODERBERGH

THEY LEFT HER NO CHOICE.

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## • FILM REVIEWS •

(continued from page 8)



Valérie Donzelli (left)  
and Jérémie Elkaïm in  
*Declaration of War*.

### *Declaration of War*

A critic favorite of the Cannes Film Festival, *Declaration of War* comes stateside. Written and Directed by Jérémie Elkaïm and Valérie Donzelli. The couple also doubles as the stars of the film. Jérémie Elkaïm plays Romeo and Valérie Donzelli plays Juliette, two young and adventurous people without a care in the world. They fall in love at first sight, move in together and have a baby. Their relationship serves as the pace and pulse of the movie, and both Elkaïm and Donzelli immediately find the right tone and never fall out afterward.

Starting off typically, *Declaration of War* takes a unique turn when the picture perfect couple discovers their newborn child, Adam, is very ill. The young parents try hard to persuade themselves that everything is okay, but with the passing of time, they cannot delude themselves any longer. The couple declares war on his illness and will do anything to protect young Adam and ensure his survival.

Donzelli infuses the story with an unexpected host of cinematic techniques. There are great music and heartbreaking performances that create a strong emotional film about a modern day couple who show even themselves the inordinate strength to fight not only for the life of their child but for each other and their own sanity.

The film draws its rawness and realism from the pair's real life experience (Donzell and Elkaïm's own son fell ill). Their onscreen characters are enjoyable and interesting, drawing you in from their first kiss. *Declaration of War* will make some viewers' eyes water and dazzle you with its exuberance and filmmaking techniques. Donzelli not only gives her heart and emotion into this amazingly torturing yet redeeming story; She also proves to be a visionary with innovative and creative filmmaking, making this a beautiful, modern piece of artwork.

Grade: A-

—Sean W. Oliver

### *Carnage*

(Sony Pictures Classics)

Those unfamiliar with Yasmina Reza's critically acclaimed play, "God of Carnage," are in for a refreshing movie-watching experience in Roman Polanski's big screen adaptation. We've seen quite a few great films in recent years that were based on stage plays, like *Doubt* and *Rabbit Hole*, but none like this. First of all, you immediately notice that the story is indeed adapted from a play. The movie doesn't even attempt to pretend otherwise.

*Carnage* is restricted to Penelope (Jodie Foster) and Michael Longstreet's (John C. Reilly) small Brooklyn apartment. It's nice, but as other movies and TV shows seem to always ignore, New Yorkers are cursed with relatively compact living spaces. Except for the playground shots that bookend the movie, we are only let into this contained space where, with the couple's guests Nancy (Kate Winslet)

and Alan Cowan (Christoph Waltz), we see four seemingly civilized adults reduced to savage-like, petty behavior.

The restrictive setting makes way for the palpable tension between the four, executed beautifully by the carefully intense stage-like performances of the well-chosen cast. With no major action in the plotline – except for one scene where Winslet's character actually vomits from the

stressful circumstances – dialogue and acting become the central focus of *Carnage*.

What initiates the raucous in the first place? The Cowan's 11-year-old son, Zachary, "armed with a stick," attacks the Longstreet's son, Ethan, at the playground, knocking out two of his teeth. Penelope, a writer and part-time bookstore clerk, and Michael, home decor and toilet flushing-system salesman, welcome Nancy and Alan, outfitted in stereotypical New York power couple suits, into their quaint – albeit decorated with fancy tulips and rare art books – home.

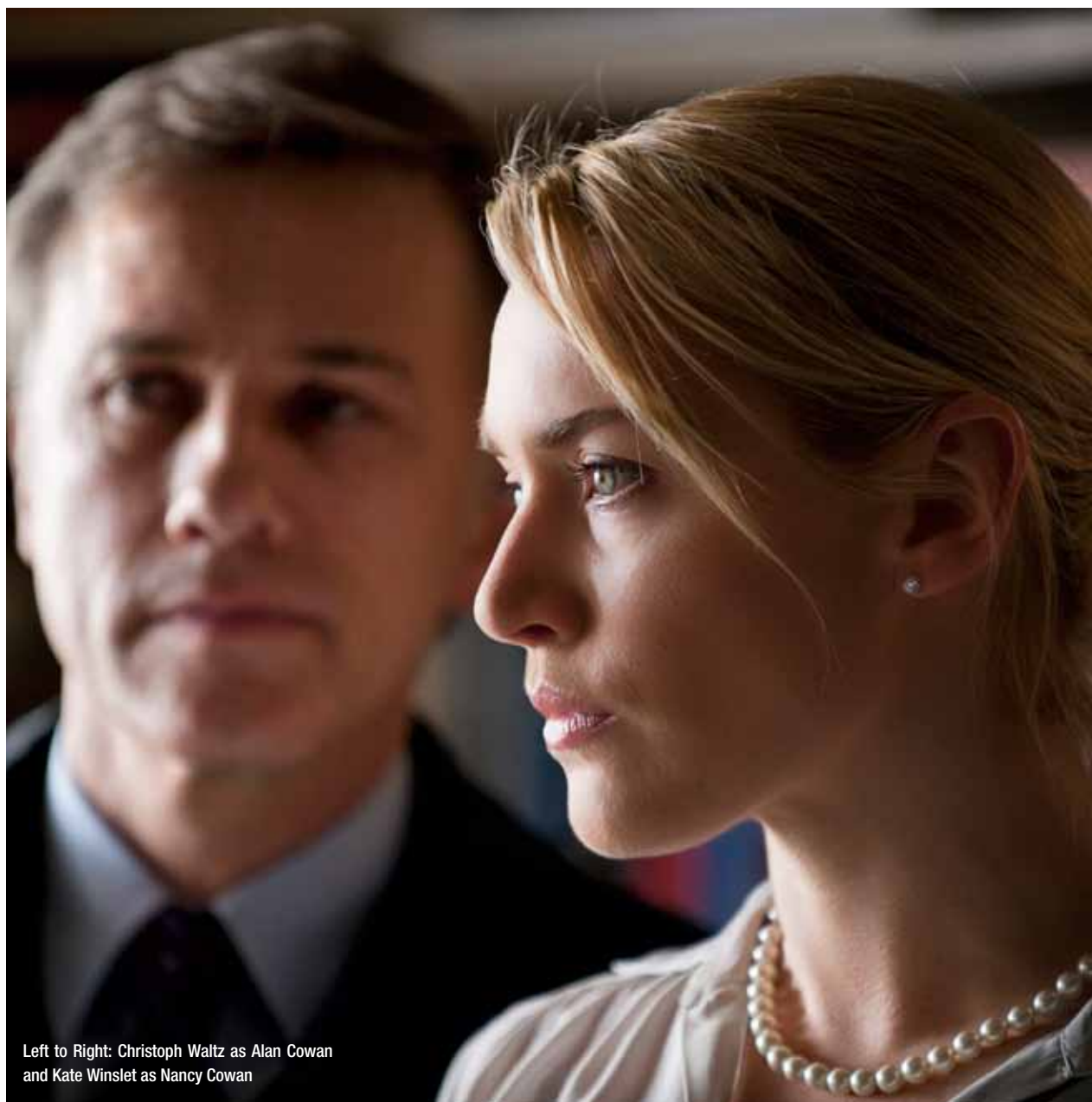
With the attempt to suppress any tension that might occur between two pairs of supposedly concerned parents, polite conversation devolves into hostility about class, marriage and values as citizens of the world. Peppered with plenty of comedic relief, from the sporadic ringing of Alan's Blackberry to Michael's mother's phone calls, *Carnage* delivers many laugh-out-loud moments, just like watching the real thing on stage.

Polanski's adaptation is exquisitely executed. What the movie lacks in the action that we expect in big-screen features, it more than makes up for by four very strong performances, especially on Waltz's and Winslet's part. The screenplay, likewise, is beautifully done. Every word packs a punch, and for a story that is an intriguing commentary on serious real-world issues, we laugh as we play along.

Grade: A+

—Kristina Bravo

*Carnage* is in theatres now. For more information, visit [sonyclassics.com/carnage](http://sonyclassics.com/carnage).



Left to Right: Christoph Waltz as Alan Cowan  
and Kate Winslet as Nancy Cowan

Guy Ferrandis, Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

# DVD SPECIAL FEATURES



Photo Courtesy Universal Pictures

Sara Paxton stars in Relativity Media's upcoming release *SHARK NIGHT 3D*.

BY MIKE SEBASTIAN

## THE IDIOTBOX

Kate Winslet stars in the HBO remake of James Cain's Depression era melodrama "Mildred Pierce."

Timothy Olyphant returns as a no-nonsense U.S. Marshal in "Justified: Season 3"

Adult Swim's animated '60s spy parody "Archer: Season 2"

A family in the witness protection program gets a reality show in "Delocated: Season 1 & 2."

A bevy of guest stars, including Keith Richards and Tony Hawk, lend their voices in "The Simpsons: Season 14."

Renegade cop shows make a prime target in the parody "Sledge Hammer! The Complete Series."

From a new baby to prison—all of life's highs and lows collide in "One Tree Hill: Season 8."

Matt Groening's sci-fi comedy is back with "Futurama: Season 6"

Jeremy Irons is the head of the notorious Italian Renaissance family, who rose to become a corrupt Pope in Neil Jordan's "The Borgias: Season 1."

Also available: David Cross in "The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret: Series 1," "Royal Pains: Season 3, Vol. 1"

**FUNNY BUSINESS** Sarah Jessica Parker is a hard-working mom/executive whose life is a complicated juggling act in *I Don't Know How She Does It*.

Brendan Gleeson nabbed a Golden Globe nomination as an eccentric small town Irish cop, who teams up with a strait-laced FBI agent (Don Cheadle) to take down a drug ring in *The Guard*.

Juno Temple stars alongside a star-studded cast in the quirky 1980s road trip coming of age tale, *Dirty Girl*.

Also available: Anna Ferris in *What's Your Number?*, *Division III: Football's Finest*

**FROM THE VAULT** Spencer Tracey stars in the French and Indian war adventure *Northwest Passage*, available through the Warner Archives.

**FOREIGN FARE** Jackie Chan stars in the Chinese war epic *1911*.

Also available: Animes: *Redline*, *First Squad: The Moment of Truth*, Alberto Lattuada's adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*

**UNDER THE RADAR** A young couple moves to the rural South and comes into mounting conflict with the locals in the remake of the Peckinpah classic *Straw Dogs*.

John Singleton directs up and coming star, Taylor Lautner, in the identity thriller *Abduction*.

*The Mummy* franchise continues in *The Scorpion King 3: Battle For Redemption* with Billy Zane

Also available: James Coburn double feature *The Last Hard Men/Skyriders*, Sean Bean in *Age of Heroes*, *Ice Quake*, *Sinners and Saints*, *In the Name of the King 2*

**ACTION!** A haunted veteran squares off against his brother in a Mixed Martial Arts tournament in *Warrior*, a moving and action-packed drama.

Sam Shepard is an aging Butch Cassidy in *Black Thorn*.

Also available: Graham Greene's *Brighton Rock*, *The Fat Boy Chronicles*, *Diary of a Single Mom*, *Kickoff*, *Courageous*

**THE HORROR! THE HORROR!** Guillermo Del Toro pens the remake of the classic haunted house Movie of the Week, *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark*.

When a bachelor party hits Las Vegas they discover a whole new meaning to high stakes gambling in *Hostel: Part III*.

*Apollo 18* takes the form of found footage from a nightmarish secret mission to the moon - the reason we've never gone back.

Also available: *Shark Night*

**STRANGER THAN FICTION** *Bombay Beach* is a poetic look at the Salton Sea, a once thriving tourist spot now abandoned.

Jane Goodall's life with apes in *Jane's Journey*

*Eames: The Architect and the Painter*

IMAX documentaries: *Arabia! 3D* and *Greece: Secrets of the Past*

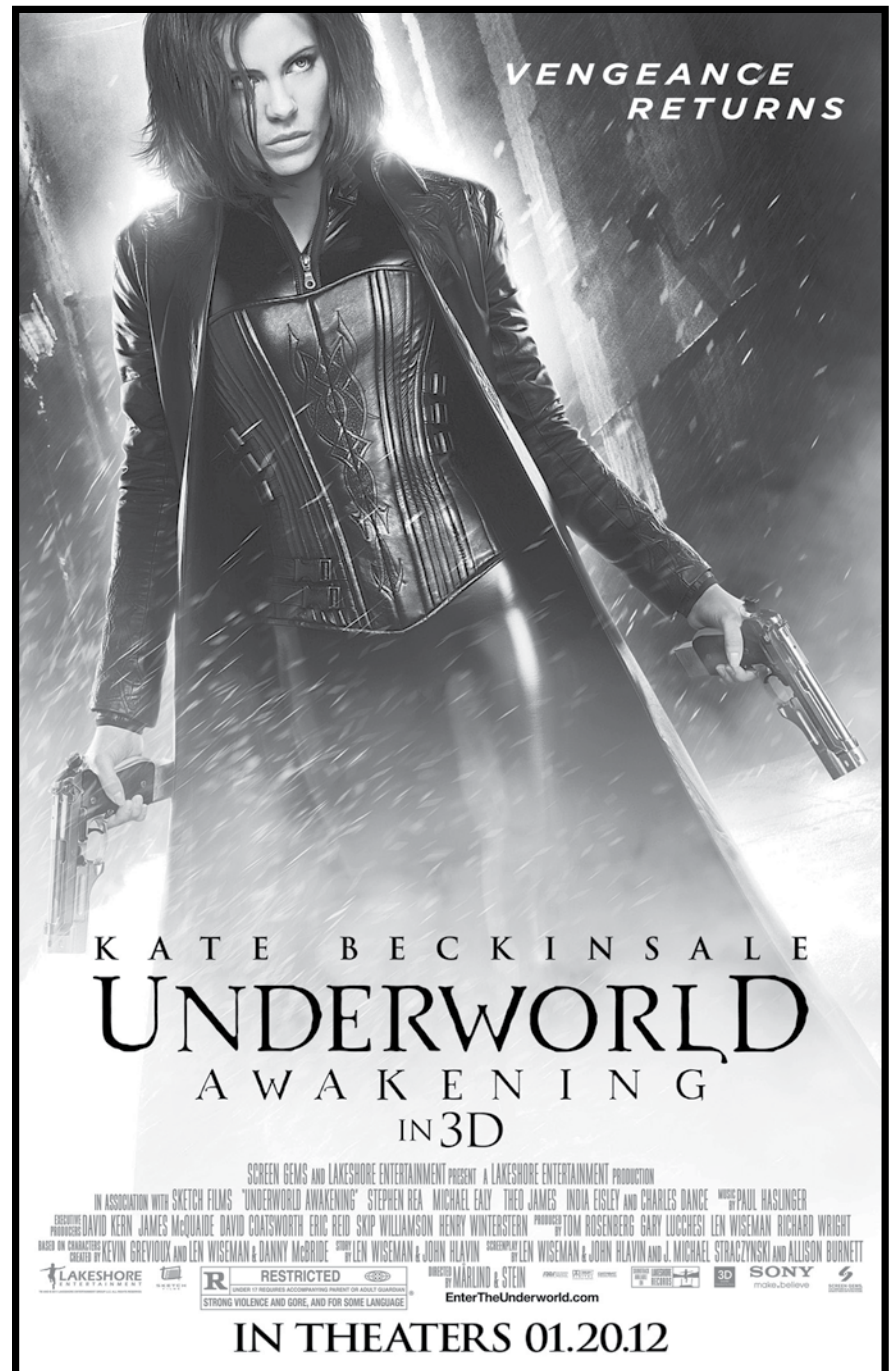
Cambodian Killing Fields exposé *Enemies of the People*

*The Last Lions*, *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975*, *Bobby Fischer Against the World*

**BLU NOTES** Clifton Webb stars as legendary composer John Phillip Sousa in the classic musical biopic *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

A star-studded cast brings to life both sides of one of America's greatest tragedies, the attack on Pearl Harbor, in *Tora! Tora! Tora!*

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# OVO

## Cirque du Soleil brings its magic to Santa Monica

BY KELLY HARGRAVES

After a quarter century, CIRQUE is an industry that employs artists from all over the world to realize the spectacular productions. There are 21 touring shows in production right now with three in the LA area this month: IRIS ensconced in the Kodak, Michael Jackson IMMORTAL TOUR coming to OC and the upcoming OVO in Santa Monica, which opens on January 20th.

If you've been to a Cirque show, you know that beyond all the typical, and atypical circus acts, the most interesting aspect of their shows is the staging and costuming. For OVO, built around the concept of the ecosystem of insects, Cirque brought in Brazilian choreographer Deborah Colker and teamed her with musician Berna Ceppas and set designer Gringo Cardia, who created the egg that houses the "insect" performers.

In Cirque style, they're not creepy, crawly looking things but rather more whimsical, outlandish and elaborate creatures designed by Montréal designer Liz Vandel, who has built an



OVO offers an eclectic performance.

Courtesy of Cirque du Soleil

**“There is an overall elegant beauty, a vibrant world of color, music and energy.”**

illustrious career in the contemporary dance world making signature and sculptural creations for renowned Canadian choreographers Marie Chouinard and Edouard Locke (*La La La Human Steps*). Vandel has learned how to build costumes that allow bodies to move naturally while adding the circus magic to create super-human, or non-human elements.

I spoke to Vandel about how she finds the inspiration to make such a signature statement in her work, a style inspired by futuristic superheroes and by suits of armor from all eras. She says that the energy of the collaborative creative team, allowed her to come up with elaborate ideas. Her biggest mandate was making sure no human element, or skin appeared on the performers.

Vandel has always had a special affinity for the world of the insects. “I’ve always had passion for them,” she says. “When I was just a kid, I put rocks down around the yard near the fruit trees, and I lifted them regularly to watch the insects who had taken up residence underneath them. I petted caterpillars and let butterflies into the house.”

This is not about creating a fashion statement but rather evoking the feeling of the insects. How would a spider look? For Vandel is elegant and sexy. Cockroaches: a goeey and repulsive aesthetic. “The solution was to connect with the feeling of being face to face with a spider, a cockroach or a butterfly,” she explains. The dragonfly’s wings are evoked by pants made of veined lace, and the mosquito’s stinger by a ‘Mohawk’ of fine red stems. The ten crickets, which are the key insects in the show, have detachable legs that break away from their bodies. “I have a particular soft spot for these characters,” she says, “because their costumes are so sexy, graphic and vibrant.”

There is an overall elegant beauty, a vibrant world of color, music and energy. Vandel thinks it allows access to the “pure soul and love that the team puts into the work, and the audience can feel it while watching.”

## “RAUNCHY TELEVISION: FAMILY TV NIGHT GONE WILD!”

BY NICK GOLDEN

**SO SAYS FRANK GALLAGHER** in his opening monologue of the first episode of Showtime’s hit new show “Shameless.” This seems to be the story for a host of raunchy shows that have gained popularity in recent years. You can walk into any entertainment store and find merchandise from shows like HBO’s “True Blood,” which is certainly no stranger to gore, sex and profane language.

So, why is it that these shows are so popular? What makes them so appealing? And should your family be watching them? They’re certainly a far cry from your average family television night. Perhaps people are drawn to these shows because they’re more reminiscent of life as it really is. But are these shows honestly any closer to real life than an episode of “How I Met Your Mother” or “Friends”?

For instance, in an episode from season one of Showtime’s “Shameless,” Frank Gallagher helps his children steal an elderly woman from a nursing home

The cast of the sexy HBO series “True Blood”.



Courtesy of HBO

**“...WE KNOW HOW TO F\*\*\*ING PARTY!”**

to avoid being arrested for cashing his dead aunt’s social security checks. When was the last time you spoke to someone who has to steal a dead relative’s money? Have you ever had a homosexual affair with the owner of the convenient store that you work in? Maybe you know someone who has become entangled in an intense love

quartet with two vampires and a werewolf. The latter may not have been the best example, but the fact is that no matter how believable they attempt to make these situations, some just aren’t.

However, it seems that the true reason people watch these shows may be that they’re unafraid to do what sitcoms can’t. They don’t hesitate to show you sex. They don’t censor language. People die on screen rather than off. Real life situations are combined with incredible circumstances, and the result is often quite spectacular. But the shows don’t lose the uncensored, raw feeling that life often presents. Viewers are enticed because they want to escape their day-to-day lives with fantastical stories and situations without losing the “real” feeling.

Whatever reason viewers have for watching raunchy television, its rise in popularity cannot be denied. The target audience for these shows is widening daily and with more and more series being produced each year, it shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

Many people are still turned off by the utter disregard for censorship that these shows proudly display, but will that be enough to stop popular sitcoms from going down the same path? Shows that have recently begun airing are already pushing the envelope as far as sexual content and language. For example, the script for the new, hit show “2 Broke Girls” is mainly composed of sexual innuendo-laced one-liners. In the near future, you may find yourself watching shows on channels like NBC and CBS that rival the raunchiest of shows in HBO’s current line up. Are viewers ready for this drastic change? And what sort of backlash might something like “Shameless” receive for airing on network TV? Only time will tell.

## NEW YEAR NEW GAMES

Taking a quick look at some of the most promising games 2012 will have to offer in the coming months.

BY ALEXANDRE JOHNSON



### Final Fantasy 13-2 (January 31, 2012 Xbox 360, PS3)

Though its linear storyline upset some fans, few can claim that Final Fantasy 13 did not have its great points such as its graphics and combat system. Many of these will be reintroduced in the second installment of the game while adding more such variations on the Active Time Battle and the Paradigm Shift systems. There are also additions like a new "Feral Link" feature that has the player tame monsters and use them as party members in battles, able to unleash special attacks.

The world that players knew from the 1st Final Fantasy 13 has changed, but the game still has familiar locations and characters. Starring a different protagonist, Serah (Lightning's sister), FF13-2 features multiple endings to the game. This is another one to look out for by the end of the coming month.

### Asura's Wrath (Feb. 21, 2012 - Xbox 360, PS3)

This looks to be one of the most interesting games to come out this year. *Asura's Wrath* promises to deliver a fresh take on the action gaming genre and the way players think about a game, even blurring the line between cut-scenes and gameplay..

Players will control Asura, a guardian general of heaven, who was framed for the murder of the emperor. Thrown to the earth and stripped of his powers, his journey features a mix of mythology and sci-fi with a vibrant, multi-textured world. Players go through an intense narrative, driven by revenge. Coupled with over-the-top boss battles and a storyline that delivers like a television drama, this is shaping up to be a must buy for 2012.

### Street Fighter X Tekken (March 6, 2012 - Xbox 360/PS3)

Considering all the other fighting team-up games that have come out, it is a surprise that a Tekken / Street Fighter has taken so long to come about. The game is set as two character tag team matches, made up of some of the most robust characters in game fighting history.

Street Fighter X Tekken features a Scramble Mode, which allows four players to play simultaneously to gem-power ups that modify characters' abilities and stats. To accommodate all fans, the game refined the system controls that both fans of Tekken and Street Fighter will be able to quickly pick up and play. In addition, the game features the "Cross Gauge" system that will allow players to be able to activate team attacks and super techniques.

### Mass Effect 3 (March 6, 2012 Windows, Xbox 360, PS3)

Mass Effect 3 will be the last of the trilogy and continues with Commander Shepard's mission of battling the Reapers, whom have launched an all-out attack. Combat has been changed from the last games with more emphasis on third-person perspective, new battleground options, and instant kills as well as improved AI.

Players will be able to import data from the previous two games, which will create a smooth transition as gameplay will be influenced by decisions made in Mass Effect 1 and 2. Mass Effect 3 itself will also react to each decision such as how you fight the enemy to whom you make an alliance with, making it a truly unique experience of the player's own creation. With the final appearance of Shepard and a game that allows for the possibility of a hero to really lose, Mass Effects has a draw that many gamers won't be able to resist.

### DmC (2012 - Xbox 360, PS3)

While this revamp of the Devil May Cry franchise features a protagonist named Dante who wears a red coat, it is definitely different from what fans are used to. Instead of totally redoing the series' format, the new DmC changes the familiar elements, creating an entirely new world.

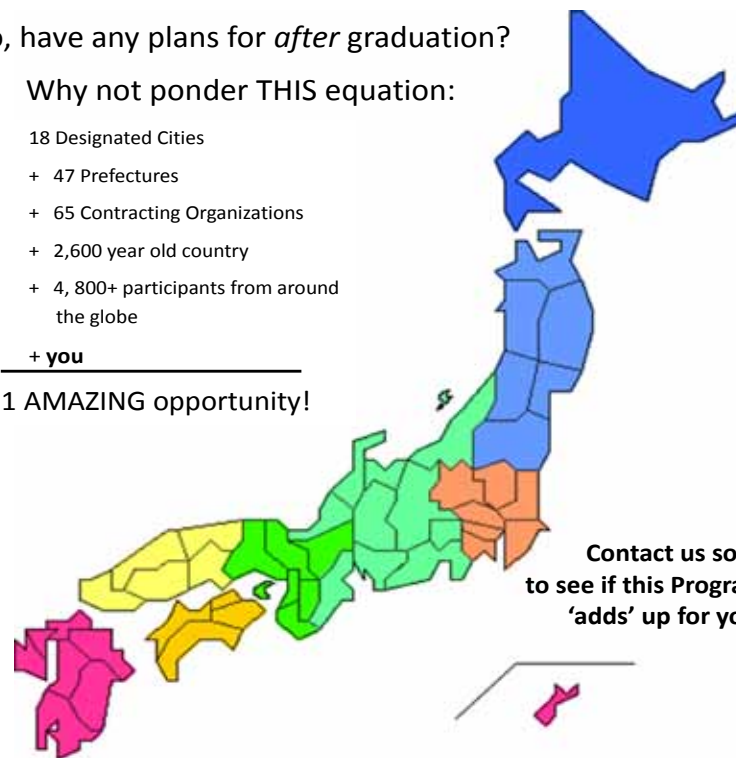
This interesting world is centered around the new Dante, who is a half angel and half demon, hunting other demons in Limbo City. While Dante has a pair of semi-automatic pistols, broadsword (his broadsword can change shape into a whip), battleaxe and scythe. How much control players will have on DmC has yet to be seen, but gameplay video does show it flowing seamlessly. Fans will definitely want to see if this new story will be an improvement on the original.

So, have any plans for *after* graduation?

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*All the cool places to go and things to do.*

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

### A Raisin in the Sun

Kirk Douglas Theatre  
9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City  
centertheatregroup.org

More than 50 years later, "A Raisin in the Sun" is still every bit as potent, poignant and intrepid in this triumphant revival directed by Phylicia Rashad. In her Los Angeles directorial debut, Phylicia Rashad (who won the 2004 Tony Award® for Best Actress for "A Raisin in the Sun") brings heart, soul and a flawless cast to a production the L.A. Times states, "seems more timely with each passing decade." Runs Tuesday-Sunday through February 19.

### Art Los Angeles Contemporary

Barker Hangar  
3021 Airport Ave., Santa Monica  
artlosangelesfair.com

The fair presents over 60 top international blue chip and emerging galleries from around the world with a strong focus on Los Angeles galleries. Participants showcase some of the most dynamic recent works from their roster of represented artists, offering an informed cross section of what is happening now in contemporary art making. Runs through January 22.

### College Night at Mountain High

Mountain High Resort  
24510 State Highway 2, Wrightwood  
mthigh.com/event/college-night

College Night....\$20 Night Lift Ticket with college ID. Drink specials, a DJ, prizes from all the rad snowboard companies. Don't miss It-it's all going down at the Foggy Goggle! 5:00 p.m.

### Jason Reitman's Live Read

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/event/live-read

The year's first installment with a surprise—and celebrated—cast and title to be announced. Buying tickets in advance is strongly recommended. Starts 7:30 p.m.

### Pacific Standard Time Performance and Public Art Festival

Getty Center  
1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles  
pacificstandardtimefestival.org

Featuring more than 30 extraordinary performances—including contemporary re-enactments of iconic works by artists such as Judy Chicago, Suzanne Lacy, Robert Wilhite and James Turrell. The Performance and Public Art Festival will reexamine, reinvent, reinterpret and renew an epochal movement in contemporary art for which Los Angeles has been an epicenter. Runs through January 29.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

### OVO from Cirque du Soleil

Santa Monica Pier

200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica  
cirquedusoleil.com

Cirque du Soleil is thrilled to return to the Santa Monica Pier with its critically-acclaimed and family-friendly big top touring show under the trademark blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau (big top). Since its world-premiere in Montreal in 2009, OVO has charmed well over 2 million spectators in more than 15 different cities in North America. Santa Monica will be the only Southern California stop for the Grand Chapiteau (Big Top) production in 2012. Runs through March 25.

### Beverly Hills' Chinese New Year's Celebration

lovebeverlyhills.com/dragon

A spectacular evening of entertainment, shopping and dining on the 400 block of Rodeo Drive as an exciting Chinese lion dance and drum corps performance group takes center stage plus several stores and restaurants on and around Rodeo Drive will celebrate with in-store specials and dining promotions throughout the evening. The first 1,000 people who register at the welcome table will also receive a Good Fortune envelope. Each envelope contains a commemorative pin and listing of special in-store events and offers. Additionally, a limited few might also be fortunate enough to win an exclusive gift valued at \$200 or more from one of Beverly Hills' merchants, restaurants or hotels. 6:00 p.m. Free.

### Lingerie Football

Los Angeles Coliseum  
3939 S. Figueroa St, Los Angeles  
lflus.com

Who knew that football could be so sexy? The Los Angeles Temptation takes on the Chicago Bliss in true fantasy football. 7:00 p.m.

### Margaret Cho

Largo at the Coronet  
366 N. La Cienega, Los Angeles  
margaretcho.com

The comedienne will be joined by special guests on the latest stop of her Cho Dependent Tour. 8:00 p.m. \$25.

### Rob Schneider

Brea Improv  
120 S. Brea Blvd., Brea  
improv.com/ComedyClub/Brea/Calendar

Did you know that he started his stand-up comedy career while still in high school? After opening a show by comedian Dennis Miller in 1987, Schneider won a slot on HBO's "13th Annual Young Comedians Special", which was hosted by Miller. Schneider's appearance on the HBO special led to a role on "Saturday Night Live." Runs through January 22.

### Tattoo & Body Art Expo

Pomona Fairplex  
1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona  
bodyartexpo.com

The world's largest tattoo and body art



convention features hundreds of artists, a skin show-off party, dozens of models & bands plus a Macabre & Freak Show. Runs through January 22.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

### La Teta Asustada (The Milk of Sorrow)

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film

Fausta is suffering from a rare disease called the milk of sorrow, which is transmitted through the breast milk of pregnant women who were abused or raped at the time of Peru's history of terrorism. While living in constant fear and confusion due to this "disease," Fausta faces the sudden death of her mother. She chooses to take drastic measures to not follow in her mother's footsteps. The film won the 2009 Golden Bear Award and FIPRESCI prize at the Berlin International Film Festival. It was nominated for the 82nd Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, becoming the first Peruvian film to be nominated for the award. 1:00 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

### El Violín (The Violin)

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film

Don Plutarco, his son Genaro, and his grandson Lucio live a double life: they are humble rural musicians, who also support the campesino peasant guerrilla movement against the oppressive government. One afternoon, they come home to discover the army has seized their village. Plutarco plays up his appearance as a harmless violin player to get into the village and recover the ammunition hidden in the corn field. His violin playing charms the army captain, who orders Plutarco to come back daily. Weapons and music play a tenuous game of cat-and-mouse that ultimately results in painful betrayal. Winner of three 2007 Ariel Awards, including Best First Feature. "One of the most amazing Mexican films in many a year"—Guillermo del Toro, director of *Pan's Labyrinth*. 3:00 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

### El Regalo de la Pachamama (The Gift of the Pachamama)

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film

This film is a spiritual tale set in Bolivia. Kunturi is a thirteen-year-old boy who leads a traditional life with his family near the salt lake of Uyuni. One spring, he goes with his father on his first trading caravan. Strapping blocks of salt to the backs of their llamas, they follow the "Salt Trail" for months, exchanging the precious mineral for other products of the Andes. By the end Kunturi discovers what his grandmother meant by "The Gift of Pachamama." 5:00 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

### AMA Supercross

Dodger Stadium  
1000 Elysian Park Ave., Los Angeles  
amasupercross.com

"The Monster Energy Supercross championship has always been about combining the best racers on the planet and one of the most accessible and fan-friendly stadium-based events you'll see anywhere," says AMA President and CEO Rob Dingman.

### No Good Deed

[Inside] the Ford  
2580 Cahuenga Blvd. E, Los Angeles  
iamhellbound.com

The world premiere of a gritty and savagely humorous live-on-stage action adventure that is part theater and part graphic novel. In Furious Theatre Company's bold exploration of the way junk news and media hype thwart the best efforts of real life heroes, no good deed goes unpunished when teen illustrator Josh Jackson transforms into a superhero—only to face mortal consequences for his actions in an epic battle of good vs. evil. Runs Wednesday-Sunday through February 26.

### Sarah Silverman and Friends

Largo at the Coronet  
366 N. La Cienega, Los Angeles  
sarahsilvermanonline.com

Each month Sarah Silverman brings a fantastic mix of comics and performers to the Largo stage. Past special guests have included Louie CK, Dana Gould, Garry Shandling, Aziz Ansari and more. 8:30 p.m. \$25.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

### Teshuinada, Semana Santa Tarahumara (Teshuinada, Holy Week at the Tarahumara)

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film

The Raramuri, or Tarahumara, once lived in the mountains of Chihuahua and Durango in Mexico. In the winter, they withdrew to houses and caves in the deepest canyons. In the spring, they moved to the sierra and celebrated this event and the new farming year with the Teshuinada. This film was made in the Holy Week of 1979 in Munerachi, a town in Batopilas, Chihuahua. The documented ritual is a poignant example of the coming together of pre-Hispanic and Christian worldviews. 12:30 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

### Solo un cargador (Porter)

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film

A beautiful documentary exquisitely filmed about the hard life of the cargadores who trek through the mountains and jungles of Peru with baggage on their backs. An anonymous porter

*(continued on page 15)*

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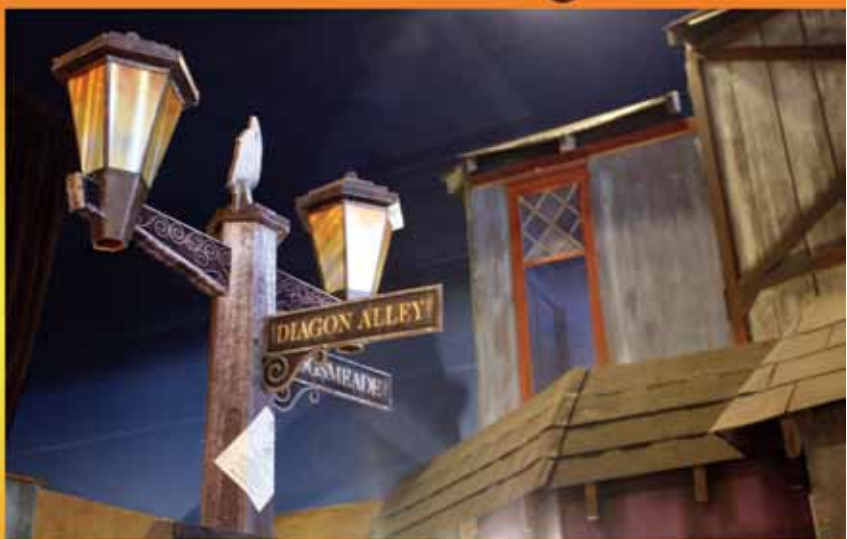
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**JAN. 19<sup>TH</sup> & FEB. 16<sup>TH</sup> 2012**



For more info go to [facebook.com/thepowerstrip](https://facebook.com/thepowerstrip) or [mthigh.com/college\\_night](http://mthigh.com/college_night)

(continued from page 12)

narrates this short documentary while hauling strangers' gear. His thoughts extend beyond material concerns and give way to a series of intimate and intense reflections on his life in a world that will never be fair. The film has won numerous awards for best short, including from the American Institute Film Festival and the Festival International du film d'Aubagne. 1:30 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

**El puente dorado (The Golden Bridge)**

LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
[lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film](http://lacma.org/series/contested-visions-latin-america-through-film)

The Qeswachaka hanging bridge of Cuzco is hand-woven every year from local grass. The bridge, which was once part of a network of bridges built in the time of the Inca Empire, is now the only one that survives, and it still unites the left and right banks of the imposing Apurimac River. Each year men and women from various Andean communities gather at the bridge for the rebuilding ceremony using ancestral techniques and traditions. Its reconstruction is much more than a yearly chore; it is a ritual imbued with the devotion, fervor, and sentiments of a community that continues to respect ancient customs and the world around them. 2:00 p.m. Free, RSVP required.

**Dine L.A. Restaurant Week**

[discoverlosangeles.com/restaurantweekv2/index.html](http://discoverlosangeles.com/restaurantweekv2/index.html)

Over 300 restaurants all over L.A. County are drastically reducing prices on prix-fixe 3-course meals. Now's your chance to get a gourmet meal at a fast food price (well, almost). Check website for details. Runs through February 3.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 24**

**Calibash 2012**

Staples Center  
1111 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles  
[staplescenter.com/events/event-detail/3031/calibash-2012](http://staplescenter.com/events/event-detail/3031/calibash-2012)

Calibash 2012 features the music industry's hottest Reggaeton, Hip Hop and R&B stars. This year's line up includes Wisin & Yandel, Alexis y Fido, Ivy Queen, Jowell y Randy, Zion y Lennox, Prince Royce, Arcangel y De La Ghetto, RKM y Ken-Y, Farruko, Nengo Flow, J Alvarez, Plan B, Estefano, Sensato and 3Ball. 8:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25**

**Remembering Marilyn Monroe**

Billy Wilder Theater  
10899 Wilshire Blvd., UCLA  
[cinema.ucla.edu/events/2012-01-25/remembering-marilyn-monroe](http://cinema.ucla.edu/events/2012-01-25/remembering-marilyn-monroe)

Tonight's program combines three ways of regarding Monroe. They begin with a selection from the Archive's vast Hearst-Metrotone News collection of newsreel clips and outtakes featuring a candid Monroe, followed by Terry Sanders's documentary, *The Legend of Marilyn Monroe* (1966), arguably the first documentary following the star's demise to combine in-depth research, testimonials from both celebrities and lifelong acquaintances. Sanders early, penetrating analysis opened up thoughtful questions both about Monroe's life and the precarious nature of celebrity. Tonight's event also includes author Susan Bernard, on hand to sign copies of her book, *Marilyn: Intimate Exposures*, a collection of photos showcasing the work of the author's father, Bruno Bernard, featuring many never

before published images. A discussion with Sanders and Bernard will follow the screening. 7:30 p.m. Free.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26**

**Jay Mohr**

Brea Improv  
120 S. Brea Blvd., Brea  
[improv.com/ComedyClub/Brea/Calendar](http://improv.com/ComedyClub/Brea/Calendar)

No doubt you've seen him on both the big and small screens, but he actually started out as a stand-up comic and got his big break when "Saturday Night Live" added him to their cast in 1993. Runs through January 29.

**O.A.R. (Of a Revolution...)**

House of Blues Anaheim  
1530 S. Disneyland Dr., Anaheim  
[ofarevolution.com](http://ofarevolution.com)

O.A.R.'s Wind-up Records debut album, *King* (out now), marks a new beginning for the band while also paying homage to their past. It is the seventh studio effort in a career that began with their high school recording, *The Wanderer*. Bringing back the title character from their first album, O.A.R. takes the listener on a journey to discover that what the *Wanderer*, and the band members themselves, had been searching for all along, was there from the beginning. As the closing song on the new disc states, a return "Back to One." 7:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 27**

**"Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!"**

Artworks Theater  
6585 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles  
[theatreinla.com/playdetail.php?playID=1715](http://theatreinla.com/playdetail.php?playID=1715)

After a sold-out run during the Hollywood Fringe Festival 2011, Best of the Fringe Award-winner "Be Careful! The Sharks Will Eat You!" returns. Jay Alvarez's acclaimed one-man show chronicles his family's alternately harrowing and humorous escape from 1960s Cuba. "Sharks" captures the sultry beats of the Tropicana in the '50s, the danger of Fulgencio Batistas fall and Fidel Castro's rise to power, the uncertainty of political revolution, the longing for a better life and the fear and excitement of the unknown. Runs Friday-Sunday through February 11.

**Grand National Roadster Show**

Pomona Fairplex  
1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona  
[rodshows.com/gnrs/index.html](http://rodshows.com/gnrs/index.html)

The longest running indoor car show in the world roars into town with the finest roadsters in the country vying for the coveted America's Most Beautiful Roadster award. This show is huge with more than 500 roadsters, customs, hot rods and motorcycles competing for top awards. Hundreds more roll in for the 7th Annual Drive-In for additional prizes on Saturday and Sunday. This year's show will also feature the 1932 Ford in the 80th Anniversary of "The Deuce." Visit the suede palace, hear bands all weekend long, see the trophy girl contest and join the model cars contest. Runs through January 29.

L.A. Convention Center  
1201 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles  
[events.latimes.com/travelshow/](http://events.latimes.com/travelshow/)

From safaris to scuba diving, wind surfing to wine tours, archeology excursions to relaxing on a pristine beach, here's where you'll discover amazing travel destinations, attractions, activities, resorts, products, luxury goods and services and so much more. Runs through January 29.

Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL World Tour  
Staples Center  
1111 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles  
[cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/michael-jackson-tour/default.aspx](http://cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/michael-jackson-tour/default.aspx)

This electrifying production will combine Michael Jackson music and choreography with Cirque du Soleil creativity. 8:00 p.m. Runs through January 29.

**My Fair Lady**

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts  
12700 Center Court Dr. S, Cerritos  
[cerritoscenter.com/tickets/production.aspx?productionSeasonId=3616](http://cerritoscenter.com/tickets/production.aspx?productionSeasonId=3616)

With a captivating score that includes "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?," "I Could Have Danced All Night," "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" and "Get Me to the Church on Time," fans worldwide – just like Henry Higgins – have fallen in love with Eliza Doolittle. Runs through January 29.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

Cesar and Ruben  
Santa Monica College  
1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica  
[smc.edu/theatre](http://smc.edu/theatre)

The Santa Monica College musical about civil rights leader Cesar Chavez written and co-directed by Emmy nominee Ed Begley, Jr., has been selected for the prestigious 2012 Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival's regional competition. "Cesar and Ruben" is one of 11 plays selected from 178 productions at 49 colleges and universities judged throughout the western region. The entries at the regional festival – which will be held Feb. 7-11 at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah – will be judged for possible selection to be performed this spring at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. \$30. Also on January 29.

**Chinatown's Chinese New Year Celebration**

Chinatown Central Plaza  
947 N. Broadway, Los Angeles  
[chinatownla.com](http://chinatownla.com)

After the 113th Annual Golden Dragon Parade on Saturday morning, there will be two days of live entertainment, workshops, vendors galore and lots of food (including gourmet food trucks and, of course, authentic Chinese). The wildly popular Cupcake Wars will be on hand with 1000 Chinese New Year themed cupcakes plus you can experience 500,000 firecrackers in action during a unique firecracker ceremony. Free. Also on January 29.

**Food Truck Festival**

Santa Anita Park  
285 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia  
[santaanitalive.com](http://santaanitalive.com)

Located in the spacious Santa Anita infield, roam around and find some of Los Angeles' finest food trucks. Plus, taste some of California's best crafted beers. Do all this while wagering and watching the horses run around you as you sit in your free (with paid admission) Santa Anita Beach Chair.

L.A. Fitness Expo  
L.A. Convention Center  
1201 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles  
[theftexpo.com](http://theftexpo.com)

California's largest fitness weekend allows attendees to meet top-tier celebrities, executives & fitness industry veterans with over 300 companies in fitness, offering discounts and

complimentary samples. Take part in or watch 15 fitness competitions including kickboxing, weightlifting and wrestling. Also on January 29.

Museums Free-For-All  
[museumsla.org/news.asp](http://museumsla.org/news.asp)

To help you with your New Year's resolution to expand your horizons, museums all over Southern California will offer free admission one or both days. Check website for locations. Also on January 29.

"Once Upon A Murder"  
Reef on the Water  
880 Harbor Scenic Dr., Long Beach  
[actoutmystery.com](http://actoutmystery.com)

Those faerie tale telling brothers, The Grimms, are missing and presumed dead. Their mother, Mrs. Grimm, is taking matters into her own hands in this murder-mystery dinner. Join Act Out Mystery Theatre as they spoof everyone from Cinderella, fairy godmothers, princes, Goldilocks, evil step-parents, little pigs, big bad wolves, witches, Hansel & Gretel to classic sitcom characters. 7:00 p.m. \$49.95 (includes 3-course dinner). Runs every Saturday through March 3.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

Bill Murray Double Feature  
New Beverly Cinema  
7165 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles  
[newbevcinema.com/calendar.cfm](http://newbevcinema.com/calendar.cfm)

Two of his comedy classics: *Ghostbusters & Groundhog Day* - which coincidentally is February 2. Runs through January 31.

Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling Tournament  
Bowlmor Lanes @ The District  
2405 Park Avenue, Tustin  
[act-today.org](http://act-today.org)

MLB All-Star Pitcher Eddie Guardado, who has a daughter with autism, has organized an all-star bowling tournament to help raise funds to provide resources, care and treatment for children with autism whose families cannot afford the necessary tools their children need to reach their full potential. 5:00 p.m.

*Tommy*  
Egyptian Theatre  
6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
[americancinemathequecalendar.com](http://americancinemathequecalendar.com)

The Who's classic rock opera about the psychosomatically deaf, dumb and blind boy who becomes a master pinball player and the object of a religious cult's desire because of that. 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 30**

Joan Rivers  
Freud Playhouse at UCLA Live  
245 Charles Young Dr., Los Angeles  
[joan.co](http://joan.co)

Before her stints on E!, QVC and reality TV, she was one of the funniest, edgiest stand-up comics around. In fact, she was one of Johnny Carson's favorite guest hosts for a while. 8:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

L.A. Kings Student Night  
Staples Center  
1111 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles  
[kings.nhl.com](http://kings.nhl.com)

Get discounted tickets with your student ID when the Kings take on the Blue Jackets. 7:30 p.m.

# SEARING YOUR MUSICAL SOUL

Interview with Phil Alvin of the Blasters

BY SUZI FOX

**YOU'VE HEARD THEIR MUSIC ON T.V.** and in films such as *From Dusk Till Dawn*. Seeing The Blasters live, what sears your soul is their intensity. As a four-piece band made up of Phil Alvin, John Bazz, Keith Wyatt and Bill Bateman, the members create a unique sound: they rip.

T-Bone Walker taught Alvin years ago to strip a band to its core. Then one could add horns, keys, etc... He took that message to heart.

Alvin has one of the most powerful, versatile voices in rock n' roll. Not only is he hitting notes he hit 30 years ago, but higher notes than he could back then. When asked about this:

"Well it's certainly not from good living! I was trained to sing from first grade on. The nuns at school taught me to breathe properly and would poke me in the ribs if my stomach stuck out when I breathed in. I have to give them a lot of credit actually for teaching me right. I was in choir until the eighth grade and then started my first band in ninth grade."

One element of The Blasters live is how fresh they keep their songs.

"That's the challenge of a singer!" exclaimed Phil. "It's my job to impart the intent of the song to you. If I can't do that, then I'm not doing my job. I use all sorts of internal mechanisms to accomplish this. I may be singing about one thing, but may go somewhere in my mind to symbolize those emotions. When I saw Muddy Waters, I wanted to hear 'I'm a Man' with as much intent."

The Blasters last album was released in 2009. When asked about the next one, Phil explained:

"We thought we were going on the road before I got this staph infection in my knee so we had just cut a new CD to bring on tour with us. It has eight songs, two originals. If I have a song that I feel says what I want to say, and I don't see that it exists out there, I get it out there. One I wrote is about bi-polarity. I don't know that anyone has ever written a song about that before. I almost titled it 'Bi-Polar Lover' but instead called it 'The Cool Breeze Came Creeping.'"

Phil seems like a kid onstage, enjoying every minute of it. But the road takes its toll.

"I love to play. You can tour for a while and then stuff happens at home like your mom dies, and you're gone, and there's nothing you can do about it. I'm in shape when I'm on the road. I spend a great deal of energy on stage and the next morning I'm on the road to the next town. Touring brings a certain diligence."

Alvin also has a most unconventional hobby, relaxing after a gig by doing math.

"I have a masters from Long Beach State in mathematics. I've actually been to UCLA twice working on set theory and semantics. My PhD was not accepted at the time because I was using information that was not yet found. It was unacceptable to them in 1979 but it's accepted now. For me, perfect harmony is when I go on road, play gigs and stay up all night doing math."

When asked about changes in the music business over the



The Blasters

years, Phil's response: "It's ruthless and illegal and has little to do with music at all, but things are coming around now. I was involved in a lot of contracts and if I had the person who wrote those contracts in my Business Math class that I taught, they would have gotten an F."

What advice does he have for musicians starting out? "Play well. The operative word is PLAY music... Seeing The Blasters live could be a stepping stone for you to someplace else--if not a resting point."

Their new CD, *Fun on Saturday Night*, drops in February.

*Suzi is the Founder & Developer of Artist From The Attic.org, an organization that offers a venue for musicians, writers, actors, artists and others to post their work for FREE for the world to see!*

## MUSIC REPORT

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

### GRAUMAN'S TO HONOR MICHAEL JACKSON

The estate of Michael Jackson has announced that the late singer will be immortalized in a hand and footprint ceremony at Hollywood's legendary Grauman's Chinese Theatre. The ceremony takes place on January 26<sup>th</sup> and coincides with the Los Angeles debut of *The IMMORTAL World Tour*, the critically acclaimed Cirque du Soleil production and top grossing tour in the U.S. Jackson's kids Prince, Paris and Blanket will be in attendance and use their father's sequined glove and shoes to make the impressions in the cement of the theatre's forecourt. The *IMMORTAL* cast will perform and "Hollywood Live" anchor Billy Bush will MC the event. The fun starts at 11:00 a.m. and will also be streamed live via Twitter @michaeljackson.

### THE YEAR OF THE DOORS

2012 is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the release of the classic *L.A. Woman* album by seminal Los Angeles band the Doors, and the powers that be have proclaimed this year: The Year of the Doors. First up in a year's worth of tie-ins is the release of a 2-CD version of the album from Rhino Records and a "the making of" documentary film, *Mr. Mojo Risin': The Story of L.A. Woman*, coming on DVD and Blu-ray from Eagle Rock Entertainment. Both titles drop on January 24, but there's a chance for you to see the film a few days earlier. The Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood will be hosting a one-time screening of *Mr. Mojo Risin'* at 7:30 p.m. on January 20, and there will also be a Q&A session afterwards with Elektra Records founder Jac Holzman, who signed the



band, and L.A. rock radio veteran Jim Ladd. "Surprise guests" are also promised.

### JOYFUL NOISE FLEXI-DISC SERIES

Joyful Noise Recordings has announced a series of Flexi-discs by artists like Deerhoof and of Montreal that will be available by subscription only. A Flexi-disc is a thin, flexible, single-sided vinyl record, and the ones that Joyful Noise is releasing (at the rate of one a month) will contain new and unreleased material that will not be available in any other format-- not even digital download. Lou Barlow, Akron/Family, Danielson, Dead Rider, Jad Fair, Make Believe, Tortoise, Richard Swift, Race Bannon and Rafter are the other artists that will be featured. Each Flexi will cost about \$4 and be limited to 500 copies. Subscription info is at joyfulnoiserecordings.com.

### CIRITH UNGOL: SERVANTS OF CHAOS

Metal Blade Records is releasing a 2-CD/1-DVD set of rare and live material from early '80s Ventura-based metal band Cirith Ungol. The audio portion of *Servants of Chaos* was originally released in Europe in 2001, but the new version represents the first time any live Cirith Ungol video has been made available commercially. Robert Garven, Jr., who served as the drummer for Cirith Ungol, explains the inclusion of the footage. "This amateur video was never meant to be released. The audio was taken off the mixing console and as we were an opening act, we had little or no sound check. Regardless, this rare and primitive video is one of the few ever taken of the band." The film was shot at the now defunct Wolf and Rissmiller's Country Club in Reseda in 1984. *Servants of Chaos* drops on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### GOOD LOVELIES: LET THE RAIN FALL

The three ladies who make up Canadian folk group Good Lovelies are a little bit confused about how the trio came to be. Sue Passmore says she met her band mates during a limbo competition while Caroline Brooks swears the girls met at a chess tournament. Kerri Ough has a most interesting theory, claiming that Good Lovelies came to fruition after the girls crossed paths during a bar fight. A couple of Good Lovelies facts are not up for conjecture: the band has recently released a new album called *Let the Rain Fall*, and they'll be performing live at Pepperdine University in Malibu on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

### The Heaven Switch

Ryan Calhoun has had plenty of success as a solo act; he's previously placed five songs on the iTunes Top 10 chart for singer/songwriters. Now the Los Angeles-based singer has formed a pop/rock band called the Heaven Switch; look for the group's self-titled debut on January 24<sup>th</sup>.



# CD Reviews

## BLACK PUSSY

*On Blonde*  
Made in China

Influences are front and center for stoner rockers Black Pussy. The band's half-hour, debut long-player, *On Blonde*, is dedicated to Brant Bjork (Kyuss and Fu Manchu), and it's clear Dustin Hill (who also plays in likeminded White Orange) and his cohorts worship the '90s hard-rock template Bjork helped to create. Post-Sabbath riffs with psychedelic overtones abound from openly anthemic "Marijuana," (with appropriate bong hit sound affects), to the four-on-the-floor

"Indiana" goes on far too long; more hedonism and less meditative groove might have been an improvement (the Bevis Frond never sounded this lethargic, for instance).

**Grade: B**  
By Doug Simpson

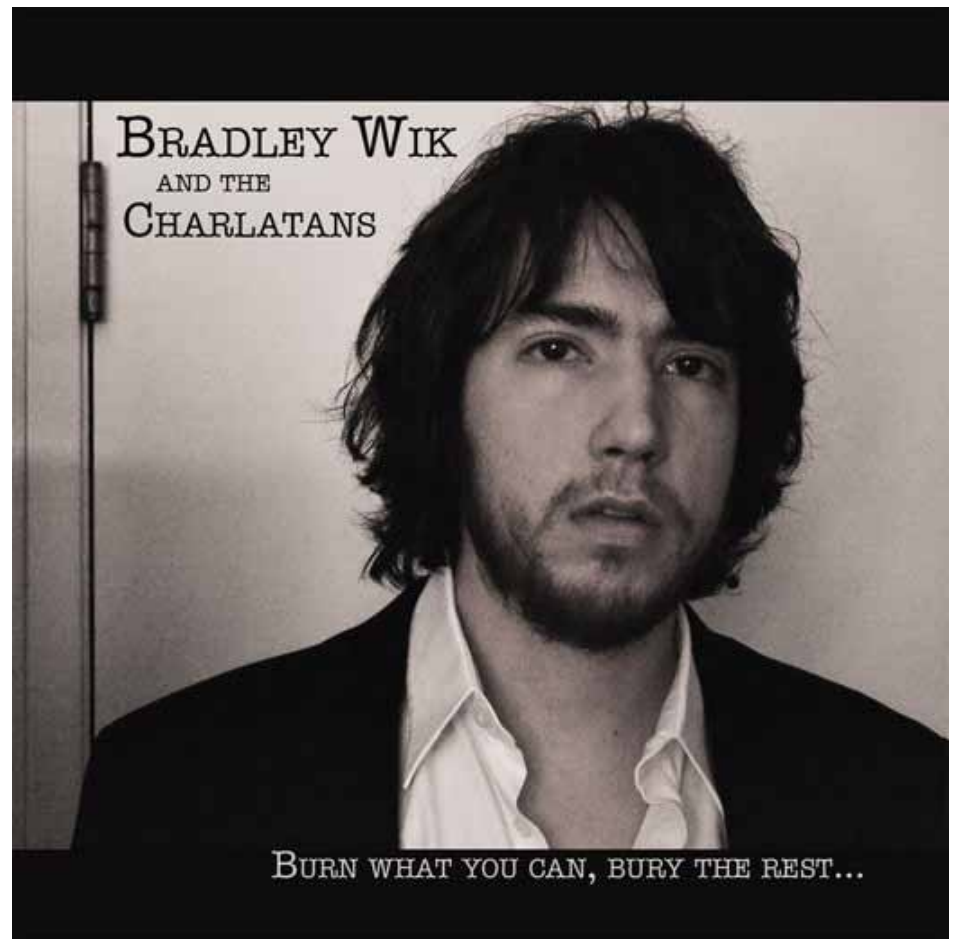
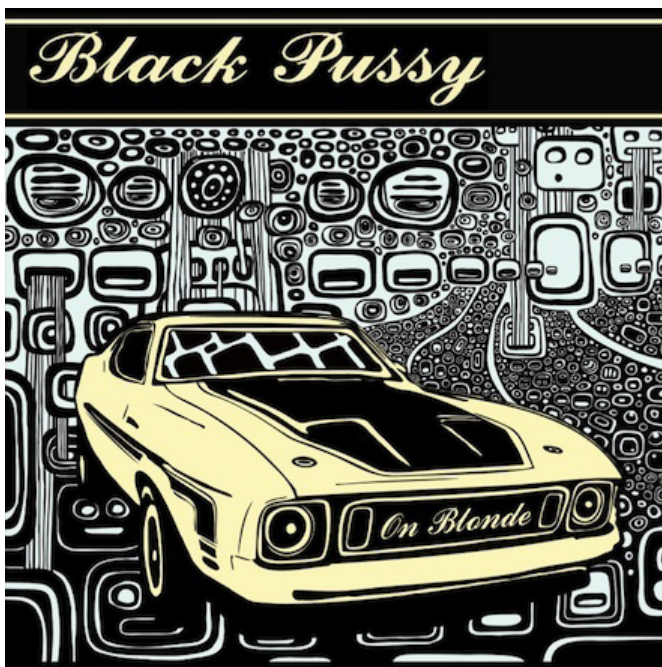
**BRADLEY WIK AND THE CHARLATANS**  
*Burn What You Can, Bury the Rest...*  
Self-released

Bradley Wik (like Ryan Adams and once upon a time Paul Westerberg) finds comfort and familiarity with the working-class Americana and rock typified by Bob Seger, Springsteen, Tom Petty and John (Cougar) Mellencamp. Wik was born and raised where Chevy's still rule and anthemic rock fills jukeboxes and ear buds. It is obvious Wik shares the introspective and world-weary sentiments of the aforementioned influences on *Burn What You Can, Bury the Rest...*, the self-released debut from Wik and his backing band, the Charlatans. His gravelly, raw and countrified voice works well on slowly-searing character sketches like "This Old House" and the slice-of-life, Mellencamp-esque "Midwest Winters," as well as mid-tempo heartland rockers such as "Friday Night Is for the Drinkers." Wik saves the best for last on epic closer

"Just like Jon Fickes," about a woman searching for someone else's song to sing; the track is a showcase for Wik's storytelling and narrative talents (which evoke Dylan circa 1979) as well as the Charlatans' Soul Asylum-like prowess.

**Grade: B**  
By Doug Simpson

beats and fuzzy guitar, which populate "When All the Indians Are Gone Who Will Bury the Chiefs?" The prerequisite wah-wah that wafts through the weaving "Swim," and the pedal-to-the-metal drive of "Blow Some Steam Off" evokes Queens of the Stone Age's first album. Not everything is golden as special brownies, though, as the overly-baked but undercooked



**LENINGRAD COWBOYS**  
*Buena Vodka Social Club*  
SPV

The thirteen members of this band may not actually drink as much vodka as they indicate in the lyrics of their songs but *Buena Vodka Social Club* is custom made for those who enjoy the kind of boisterous activity that might accompany such behavior. The band hails from Finland, but they sound more like a Balkan brass band on rowdy tunes like "Machine Gun Blues" and "Drill-A-Hole;" if ever there was a time to strip off your inhibitions (and maybe your clothes) and do some liquored-up Old Country dancing, this is it. "Gimme Your Sushi" taps into another genre that you wouldn't expect from these tipsy Finns---surf rock---and "I Kill the Dog" surprises with an opening of traditional acoustic Mexican music before it explodes into high energy punk at song's end. "Buena Vodka Social Club" finds the Leningrad Cowboys blatantly lifting riffs from the Scorpions and various Hollywood hair bands (these guys are a hair band of

their own), rolling into what is the most straight-played song on the album. Just about everything else though teeters on the edge of dementia, enough so to remind the listener not to get too serious; this is party music!

**Grade-B**  
By Kevin Wierzbicki





## Teach English in Japan

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# 2012 CAR



AUDI A4 2.0 T QUATTRO



CHEVROLET CAMARO RS CONVERTIBLE, 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

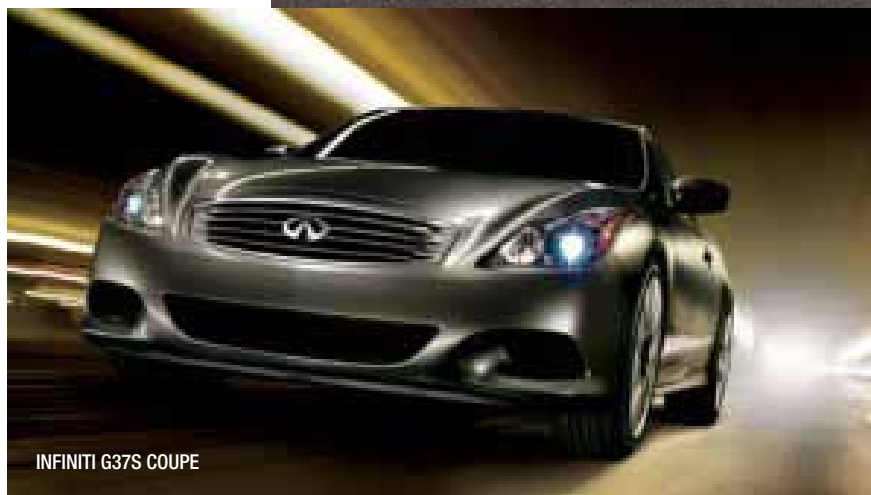


2012 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

# PREVIEW



2012 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5SV



INFINITI G37S COUPE



2012 FIAT ABARTH (500).

# Though there are hundreds of cars on the market today, here are some of the Top Cars to look for in the New Year.

BY URBAN DRIVER

**Top Choice\*\*\* Chevrolet Camaro RS Convertible, 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** The drop-top muscle car roars with a slew of tweaks that make the greater Camaro lineup, even much better than anything on the road. GM has retooled the rough edges and dull spots on Camaros, coupled with special wheels and badges that round out the package. The color is what differentiates the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition model - the special Carbon Flash Metallic steals your attention. The paint is only available on the anniversary model and is accented with gray and red striping on the trunk hood, and engine hood.

It would be nice to see some actual performance parts included. Still, some of the many things that the driver will enjoy are the ultra cool Led lighting throughout the side panel and the beautiful upholstery, which makes you feel as if you are sitting in a car that is one for the ages.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is complete with soft-touch materials on the dash, showcasing an in dash system, a new steering wheel that definitely provides a fun grip for those who love to push their cars to the limits on the road and a few suspension changes that give the new Camaro a strong feeling of comfort and safety – something the earlier model somewhat lacked. The new Camaro series SS models will be equipped with the FE4 suspension package, which came from the development of the faster Camaro ZL1.

The beautiful car bolsters a V6 engine, which now packs 323 horsepower, a gain of 11 over the 2011 model-year cars. With the addition to the interior and mechanical adjustments, the car showcases special 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logos on the steering wheel, fenders, seat backs, and dash to separate it from the rest of the Camaro stable.

**Pricing Details:** The 2012 Chevrolet Camaro 45th Anniversary Edition, priced between \$38,000-\$45,000, will arrive in showrooms this summer.

**AUDI A4 2.0 T QUATTRO,** Audi has officially stepped out of the shadow of other high-end car manufacturers, taking them to another level with the A4. The sleek and stylish contour lines of the Quattro grow on you, and before you know it—you are outright digging the sporty body. The premium trim comes standard with 17-inch alloy wheels, a sunroof, automatic headlights, automatic wipers, cruise control, fog lamps, automatic climate control, eight-way power front seats, a tilt-and-telescoping leather-wrapped steering wheel, leather upholstery, a dash-mounted Audi Multi Media Interface (MMI) and a 10-speaker sound system with a CD player, auxiliary audio jack and satellite radio.

The 2012 Audi A4 2.0T Quattro has a well-designed wheelbase, which gives it ultimate control when you take on the winding roads. Its sporty aerodynamic design and responsive V6 engine gives it the edge that takes it to the top of its class in power, and sophistication. In addition, the car features All-wheel

drive, MP3 Player, Satellite radio, Side/Curtain Airbags, Stability Control, Traction Control, Navigation System (Optional), Bluetooth (Optional), Ipod input (Optional). These details make the new Audi re-establish its luxury-level revamping of the sports wagon for the active and fast going lifestyle. The base model Audi A4 is a blast with fuel consumption of up to 21 city and 31 mpg hwy.

The Audi A4 2.0T Avant Quattro offers a big bang for the buck that rivals and out duels the Lexus IS250, BMW 328i and Mercedes-Benz C-Class. Audi has positioned the Quattro to stay a step ahead of rivals Lexus IS, which offers 3 liter and 210 Horsepower and BMW 328xi, which offers 3 liters and 230 hp. **Pricing Details:** Premium model starts at \$32,500 and Premium 2.0T Quattro starts at \$33,300.

**2012 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5SV** - The futuristic lights on the back of the new Maxima aren't the only touch of beauty. The 2012 Nissan Maxima Limited Edition package adds some of the SV Sport's features and flashier styling to the base model. This year's model also has freshened styling (grille and taillights) and updated interior trim. In these economic times, showing up to work in a new car with a fancy luxury badge may raise some eyebrows around the water cooler. Purchasing a new car like the Maxima that straddles the tricky divide between practical and upscale would be a good way to enjoy one's success without flaunting it. Under the hood of the Nissan Maxima is a 3.5-liter V6 that puts out 290 hp and 261 pound-feet of torque. Other included features are an auto-dimming rearview mirror, trip computer, Bluetooth phone capability and an eight-speaker stereo with a six-CD changer and an auxiliary audio jack. The new Limited Edition option package for S models includes a unique grille and 18-inch dark silver, alloy wheels, HID xenon headlights with smoke-tinted lenses, fog lights and a rear spoiler. Check it out.

**Pricing Details:** The Nissan Maxima base model starts at \$31,850 and the 3.5 SV model starts at \$34,550.

**2012 FIAT ABARTH (500).** The Arbat 500 injects the Fiat model with additional power and some sporting flair. The new model receives a much needed sport-tuned suspension that gives it the tight feeling to get somewhere in a hurry. Coupled with 17-inch wheels, and a strong, muscled appearance (courtesy of wide low standing wheel wells and a snout front clip), the Abarth packs a punch that will give you respect on the road. Apart from new wheel well reflectors, the American models appear to be looking similar to the European counterparts. Beneath the hood of the Arbat is a 1.4-liter engine, which packs a punch thanks to a turbocharger. The Abarths that are destined for our market will continue to employ the turbocharged 1.4-liter Multi fuel air engine, but the automaker has yet to disclose specifications for the U.S. -spec vehicle. **Pricing Details:**

**The Fiat Abarth is rumored to start around \$22,500 and top off at \$26,500.**

**2012 Volkswagen Beetle,** The completely redesigned 2012 Volkswagen Beetle is a little less cute to some and a lot more functional to others, but is still unmistakably a Beetle. The last "new" Volkswagen Beetle pioneered the automotive retro trend when it debuted back in 1998. Thanks to its distinctive styling and little touches, like a flower vase on the dash, the New Beetle was an immediate hit with younger buyers and Baby Boomers alike. But that homage to the 1960s only lasted so long without changes. In a way, the New Beetle has been a retro version of itself in its waning years. So it's with welcome relief that Volkswagen has introduced the redesigned 2012 Volkswagen Beetle. An entirely new model, it is based on the most recent mechanical underpinnings from the redesigned VW Golf. At first glance, it resembles a New Golf that's been squashed from above. The Beetle Turbo, on the other hand, is essentially a GTI with more interesting styling. Its turbocharged engine has plenty of punch, sounds great and gets better mileage than the base engine.

**Pricing Details:** The Volkswagen Beetle series starts at \$18,950, and The 2012 VW Beetle will be available in a variety of models at launch, including models with powerful and efficient 2.5L and 2.0 TSI® turbocharged engines. The forthcoming TDI® Clean Diesel Beetle will offer an estimated 40 mpg\* on the highway. All Beetles come with Volkswagen's advanced Intelligent Crash Response System, and all covered under the no-charge, 3-year/36,000-mile scheduled Carefree Maintenance® Program\*.

**INFINITI G37S COUPE,** Luxury sport coupes like the 2012 Infiniti G37 exist at the midway point between sports cars and entry-level luxury sedans. They are supposed to offer sharp handling but still ride comfortably. They look cooler than their four-door counterparts, yet still provide a backseat that can be used in a pinch. They should also come with all the leather and gizmos the term "luxury" denotes. They are a compromise and a best-of-both-worlds proposition. Quite pleasingly, the G37 meets the criteria. The 2012 Infiniti G coupe lies at the midway point between the Nissan 370Z sports car from which it borrows its platform and the Infiniti G Sedan from which it borrows just about everything else. The result is a two-door that offers a blend of handsome looks, strong performance and athletic handling. Inside the cabin is a stylish design and available high-tech features, plus one of the most user-friendly electronics interfaces around. You obviously don't get the spacious backseat of the G sedan, but it sure beats the Z's non-existent rear seat.

**Pricing Details:** The Infiniti G37 Coupe series starts at \$37,000 and tops around \$43,900 .

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# FOR CLIPPERS' PAUL, IT'S SHOE TIME

BY CHRIS ERSKINE  
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

**CHRIS PAUL WALKS INTO THE PARTY LIKE HE IS WALKING ONTO A YACHT.** Even at a press event, he arrives with his own microclimate of cool - sans the usual hubris. Needless to say, I see a lot of myself in him.

Here are some other things the Clippers' new star and I have in common:

**We're both short  
Both live in L.A.  
Both have a new line of NBA shoe.**

My new shoe comes with a protractor, hand sanitizer and a little secret chamber to stash band-aids. I make them in my garage using a glue gun and glitter.

So far, I have sold one pair, to a dude I met walking barefoot down Colorado Boulevard after the Rose Bowl. I think he was just cold and desperate. Now he is merely cool.

Paul's new shoe comes with two types of tread - one soft, one firm- and is engineered to accommodate that crazy Tchaikovsky toe roll he does, the one that makes defenders freeze, then panic, then curse.

Paul has the reflexes of a Paris pickpocket, and to quote the classic song, "more moves than Ex-Lax." He seems to be, in the few weeks we've gotten to study him, the real deal.

So, with Paul, we appear to have hit the jackpot, though we won't have the definitive answer for a year or so. Fair or not, a city's image is based on the demeanor of the athletes who represent it. The cool yet affable Paul could certainly be a welcome addition to a town that is currently defined by Kobe (too arrogant), Beckham (too Euro) and World Peace (too cosmic).

Welcome to our jungle, Mr. Paul. Next year, maybe you could host the Oscars?

This particular day, he's touting his newest shoe, the CP3.V, which sounds like one of those computer upgrades we all dread. No upgrade was ever better than the version that preceded it, that's a proven, but if America can sell you something there's pretty much no stopping "progress."

Took 15 months to develop this shoe, which is interesting only for what it tells us about Paul as a player and the wacky/sophisticated world of athletic shoes. It was only weeks ago that police pepper-sprayed frantic customers during release of the retro Air Jordans. As Sports Illustrated would put it, another sign of the apocalypse.

Anyway, Paul's new shoe is more than footwear. It comes with a story line and endearing tributes to his family.

For instance, there are 61 little triangles, which if you've followed Paul at all, you know is a venerable number. His beloved grandfather was slain at age 61, and as a high-schooler, Paul followed up that tragic day with a 61-point performance in his next game, intentionally sandbagging one free throw at the end just to preserve the numerical tribute.

Meanwhile, on the back of the new shoe, like Braille, there are nine dots, 10 dots, and 11 dots - 9/10/11 - the day he and his former college sweetheart were married. There is also a dot pattern in honor of his young son.

Such detail wasn't always part of Paul's wardrobe.

"Even when I was in middle school or high school, I could play in any shoe," Paul says. "I didn't care how much they cost. ... In college, I used to play in boats ... like bricks on my feet."



Chris Paul of the Clippers has a shoe upgrade, the CP3.V.

Wally Skelji/Los Angeles Times/MCT

**“My new shoe comes with a protractor, hand sanitizer and a little secret chamber to stash band-aids.”**

Ah, the good old days of five, six years ago.

Today, when Paul is working on a new version, the 26-year-old spends half a day in the shoe company's research lab, where they measure his zigzag game with such things as "pressure maps," a special liner in a test shoe that sends microbursts of stress-point data to a computer.

They also compress video to analyze a player's cuts and leaps.

Accordingly, the shoe is designed with the player's specific game in mind. In Paul's case, the tread is made softer on the inside to allow for the relentless pressure on that part of the foot, and firmer on the outside, for greater stopping power. The heel, likewise, has a crash pad in the center to cushion landings.

"Chris has an interesting style of play," says designer Tom Luedecke, who developed the shoe with Paul's input. "He uses his feet a lot more than other guys. With Chris, it's all about sprinting and cutting," Luedecke says.

"I'm always trying to get quicker and lower to the floor," says Paul, who uses a new pair for every game.

"I almost feel like I'm cheating with this shoe," he says. And if the marketing department didn't feed him that line, you know they're carving it into their wrists to use later.

Only about a dozen NBA players have lines of shoes specifically engineered for them, though tie-ins and sponsorships are widespread among other players.

And the league has to approve every shoe, Paul says, which means the flashiest version of the CP3.V, the Jekyll and Hyde, may not be seen this season.

You should see the Jekyll and Hyde, in colors that could burn away your retinas. Each shoe is a color inversion of the other: One shoe is snow-cone red with a gray interior; the other is gray on the outside and red on the inside.

"That's because I'm two different people, on the court and off," Paul explains.

Aren't we all.

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# TORRE LEAVES MLB POST TO PURSUE DODGERS OWNERSHIP BID

Joe Torre stepped down Wednesday from his post as Major League Baseball's executive vice president for baseball operations, both sides announced, so that Torre could dedicate himself full-time to pursuing ownership of the Dodgers.

BY KEN DAVIDOFF NEWSDAY(MCT)

Torre, 71, the Yankees' manager from 1996-2007, officially has joined the group of real estate developer Rick Caruso. If the Caruso group succeeds in purchasing the Dodgers from beleaguered owner Frank McCourt, then Torre, who managed the team from 2008-10, would likely oversee the club's baseball operations.

"In Rick, I found a partner who understands consumers and fully appreciates that the Dodgers are a treasured L.A. institution," Torre said in a statement. "Since moving to Los Angeles, I have seen firsthand Rick's dedication to business and the people of Los Angeles."

The idea of an ownership stake in the Dodgers has intrigued Torre since his days managing them, when McCourt's divorce cast doubt about his future viability as an owner. Initial bids for the Dodgers are due Jan. 23, and as per the terms of an agreement that McCourt cut with MLB, McCourt must choose a winner of the sweepstakes by April 30. All franchise sales must be approved by 75 percent of the other 29 owners.

The Dodgers, despite the damage they have suffered under McCourt's watch, are expected to set a record for a baseball sale; the Cubs, sold to the Ricketts family in 2009 for \$845 million, hold the mark. Although Torre's presence would appeal greatly to central baseball, there looks to be a fierce competition for ownership control.

Among those reported to be interested in purchasing the Dodgers are hedge fund magnate Steve Cohen (who also tried to buy the Mets); a group featuring basketball great Magic Johnson

and former Braves and Nationals executive Stan Kasten; former Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley; Dodgers greats Steve Garvey and Orel Hershiser; former Dodgers general manager Fred Claire; and a group including White Sox executive Dennis Gilbert (who tried to purchase the Rangers last year) and former talk-show host Larry King.

Said Caruso, in a statement: "Joe has a proven track record of fielding winning teams, and I am looking forward to our group benefiting from his unique experience. I am a lifelong Angeleno; I love this city and have dedicated my career to creating world-class destinations that support this community and foster great customer experiences. Joe and I believe in the Dodgers and Dodger fans and know that together we will foster a winning culture."

The MLB post essentially served as a layover for Torre, who accepted the job in late February 2011. In overseeing baseball's umpires and discipline for on-field matters, he gave the job more star power than to which it was accustomed. He also further solidified his once-broken relationship with the Yankees, attending his first Old-Timers' Day since his departure as manager.

His post will be filled on an interim basis by his three lieutenants: Joe Garagiola Jr., Kim Ng and Peter Woodfork.

"Joe has been an invaluable resource for me and all of us at Major League Baseball this year and has splendidly communicated with our on-field personnel, general managers and the umpires," Selig said in a statement. "I understand his



Caption: Credit: Barbara L. Johnson/Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT

Former Dodgers manager Joe Torre has joined a group to bid on the boys in blue.

desire to pursue an opportunity in Los Angeles. Joe has been a lifelong friend, and I know that will continue in the future."

Torre's new pursuit will allow him to spend the bulk of his time in Los Angeles where he moved his family after taking the Dodgers' managing job. In his MLB post, Torre traveled significantly and spent a great amount of time at baseball's New York office.

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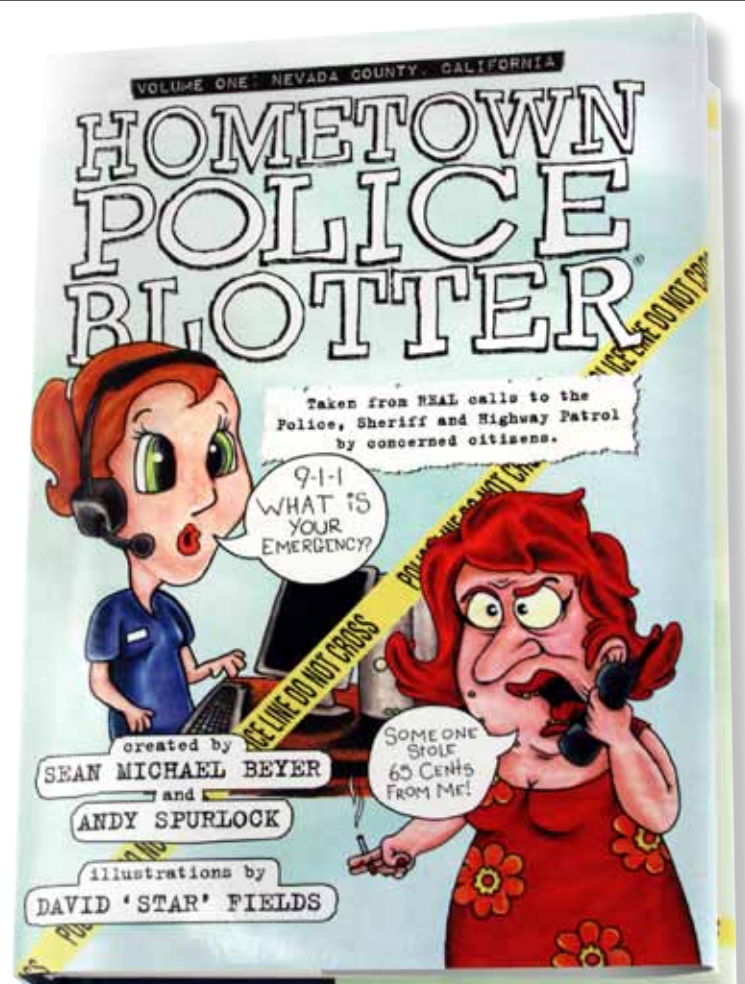
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# TROJANS, BRUINS FACE OFF ON THE ICE

BY MARVIN VASQUEZ

**YES, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TROJANS AND UCLA BRUINS** will face off with each other in back-to-back hockey games.

In the United States, college hockey is not that popular. But I am not here to offend any of those collegiate teams, more or less the sacred squads at USC and UCLA. Essentially, they play for one reason (as all athletes do): for the love of the game while competing.

In the coming days, both the Trojans and Bruins will face off

**“...they play for one reason: for the love of the game...”**

on the ice in two consecutive games, one on each team's home ice. Who will win? What will happen? These are two questions that I ask myself, but it could go either way. However, UCLA has had the edge thus far.

During September of 2011, USC and UCLA competed in a preseason match, with the Bruins coming out victorious by a score of 5-4. Now that is a shootout. Then, UCLA topped USC once again in October via shootout, 4-3 in the first game of the Crosstown Cup. And the Bruins finished off the Trojans in November in the second affair, 5-4, which was played at Staples Center in Downtown Los Angeles.



USC goalkeeper Jake Porter could see action against the Bruins.

USCicehockey.com

The Bruins are a power to reckon with in the Pac-8, but the Trojans can certainly compete at a high level. Could we see each team winning one of the games? Perhaps, but that will depend a lot on how the respective defenses, particularly the goalies, block their nets.

Junior Michael Carder leads the Bruins in scoring with double digits in goals and assists. For USC, Adam Zacuto is the

leader offensively, edging his teammates with goals and assists in a remarkable manner.

USC hosts UCLA on Friday, January 20, at The Rinks – Anaheim ICE in Anaheim at 8:30 p.m. On the next night (Saturday, Jan. 21), the Bruins are scheduled to entertain the Trojans at The Valley Ice Center in Panorama City at 8:30 p.m.



Barbara L. Johnson/Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT

**Jim Mora, who coached the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks, is the new football head coach at UCLA.**

## HOPEFULLY FOR MORA, IT WON'T BE MORE OF THE SAME

BY JEFF MILLER  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER(MCT)

The last new era died for UCLA football just hours before the latest New Year came to life.

So begins another do-over for a program that hasn't gotten it right in awhile. By "it," we mean pretty much everything. By "awhile," we mean since Bob Toledo was known as being a genius. Yeah, that long ago.

The Bruins lost to Illinois on December 31, 2011 in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl, 20-14 with the Illini winning for the first time since Oct. 8.

The result from a point-spread standpoint had been predicted, UCLA considered so fit for postseason participation that it was made an underdog to a team on a six-game losing streak.

We're not sure if new coach Jim Mora totally understands how much work he has in front of him, but here's hoping he brought a shovel to Westwood. This isn't just a rebuilding. It's one step from being an exhumation.

The Bruins simply make it too easy for their wise-cracking critics. They don't just lose their young quarterback prospect to injury; they lose him before camp even opens. They don't just embarrass themselves with their play; they go to Arizona and embarrass themselves with their behavior. They don't just lose to USC; they lose to the Trojans 50-0.

So it was logical, at least in UCLA's culture, for Rick

Neuheisel to launch into his "closed the gap" sales job concerning USC, only days before the Trojans closed the book on him.

Now, even the way the Bruins dress is being mocked. And the ridicule is coming from The Wall Street Journal, a profoundly professional operation that just likened UCLA's outfits to women's underwear.

The Journal honored the Bruins for having the worst uniforms in college football. The blue-and-gold color combination "doesn't look intimidating," a Hollywood costume designer told the newspaper. Remember, the Bruins then wore all-white against USC.

"The jerseys belong in one of those lingerie leagues," Anthony Coleman, the managing editor of a fashion blog, told the Journal. "Baby blue should not be a primary color in male apparel, ever."

For UCLA, turns out white isn't much of an option, either. Yes, the Bruins program currently is a joke, and everyone is lining up to take their swings.

Before Mora even could be formally introduced as UCLA's next coach, the Los Angeles Times predicted he "more than likely" was the wrong choice. The Los Angeles Daily News, attempting to illustrate how funny the rest of the world viewed the Kraft Bowl matchup, referenced "Henny Youngman," a comedian who has been dead now for nearly 14 years.

This is desperate journalism, sports fans, but that's where the Bruins have left each one of us, reaching so far for punch lines as to endanger rupturing a tendon.

In the past, schools have refused bowl invitations for all sorts of reasons, including the determination that the football

team wasn't worthy. Such a bold move isn't uncommon, particularly at proud institutions, like Notre Dame.

Ohio State, for example, declined an offer to play in the 1962 Rose Bowl. Minnesota went instead. The Golden Gophers even won the game, 21-3. Who'd they beat? Why, UCLA, of course. Did you really have to ask?

Then we have the Bruins, who played only after school officials petitioned the NCAA to be make the team eligible for the game, despite having a losing record.

We applaud these officials for fighting for their players. At the same time, formally begging for a bowl berth only plays into the well rooted notion that UCLA is an also-ran program, particularly compared to its neighbors at USC.

Incredibly, the Trojans, banned from postseason play by the NCAA, have had better bowl seasons the past two years than the unshackled Bruins have had. In being idle, USC still managed to pull away.

Now consider that UCLA's previous bowl appearance, the 2009 EagleBank, came only because Army lost its finale. The Bruins are establishing a tradition of possessing shaky credentials.

And today they are being led by someone who never has recruited or been a head coach in college. Does this sound like the start of something big? Or just the start of something different? Or, worse still, just the start of something the same?

Yeah, we're not sure if Mora totally understands how much work he has in front of him, but we're guessing he's starting to figure it out.

Along with all the Bruins' issues, along with sharing the same city with USC, along with learning on the job, Mora has to prepare for play in a difficult and deep Pac-12.

This is serious stuff.

This isn't the Victoria's Secret Football League, even if The Wall Street Journal says the Bruins are dressed for it.

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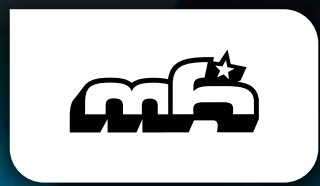
What's up?

OMG! Friday night was a blast. You should have seen the crowd. The people were going nuts, and so did we. My best friend was sooo excited – she nearly fainted. LOL. Saturday night was “GIRLS” night. We were looking fine and feeling good. Where were you? XOXO

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