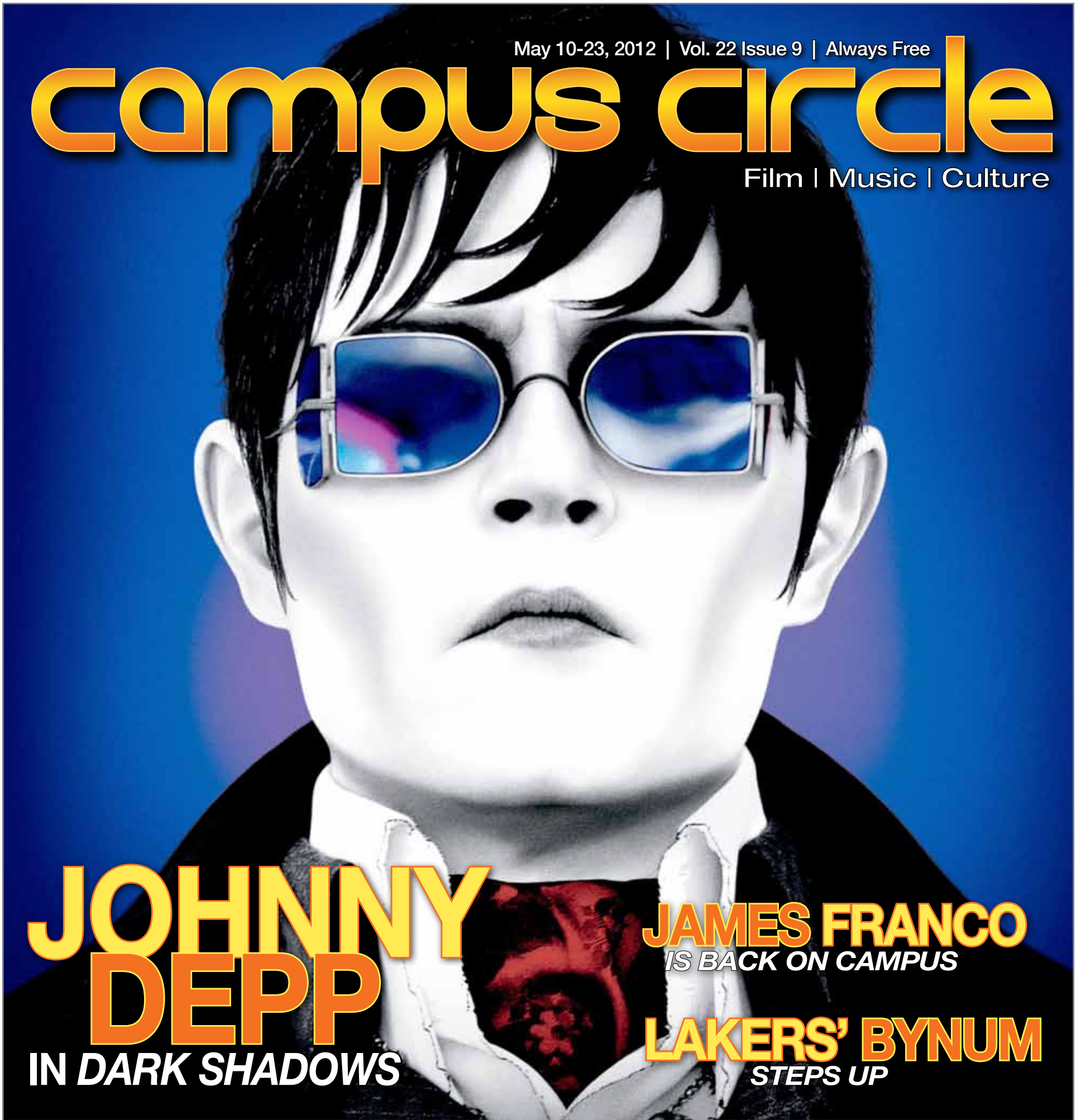


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Vol. 22 Issue 9

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Kerry Hayes/SMPSP

Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum star in Screen Gems' *The Vow*, now on DVD.

BY MIKE SEBASTIAN

**The Majors:** Steven Soderbergh enters the brave new world of contracted espionage in *Haywire*. The star-studded ensemble and backstabbing intrigue are all really just window dressing for mixed martial arts fighter Gina Carano to do her thing with some show-stopping action.

Rachel McAdams and the suddenly ubiquitous Channing Tatum star in the true romance, *The Vow*. After a car accident leaves his wife with no memory of the last five years, Leo has to win back the love of his life. Sam Neill and Jessica Lange co-star.

Madonna makes her writing/directing debut with *W.E.*, the story of what is called the greatest romance of the 20th century: King Edward VIII abdicating the crown in order to be with his American love.

**The Idiotbox:** The always-engaging Laura Linney stars as a suburban housewife diagnosed with cancer in “The Big C.” Season 2. She decides to fight back with humor while undergoing experimental treatment. Oliver Platt co-stars with guest stars Alan Alda and Parker Posey.

Computer geek turned government super spy Chuck returns for one last season in “Chuck.” Season 5. Newly married to Sarah, and after revealing his secret identity to his family, Chuck and his crew strike out on their own to save the world without the CIA’s help.

Kenneth Branagh narrates CNN’s incredible 24-episode documentary series “Cold War:” The Complete Series. Spanning nearly half a century and featuring interviews with Fidel Castro, Mikhail Gorbachev, George H.W. Bush and others, this Peabody Award-winning series is a must-have.

**Funny Business:** Fans of the demented comedy series “Awesome Show, Great Job!” will rejoice in its creators’ big screen debut, *Tim & Eric’s Billion Dollar Movie*, the characteristically absurd misadventures of two failed filmmakers turned shopping mall saviors. A Who’s Who of comedy guest stars drop by.

**The Horror! The Horror!** The director of *The Grudge* returns with *The Shock Labyrinth*. The thriller follows a group of teens who become trapped in a nightmarish hospital.

Kate Beckinsale returns in the stylish action-horror franchise *Underworld: Awakening*, where humans wage an all-out war on lycans and vampires.

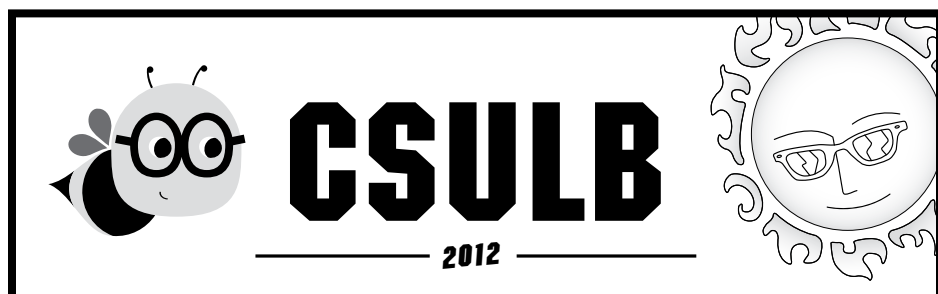
A detective (Christian Slater) investigating a missing teenager discovers an otherworldly evil in *Playback*.

**Foreign Fare:** The director of the Oscar-winning *No Man’s Land* returns with *Cirkus Columbia*, a black comedy set in the days leading up to the Bosnian War.

**Stranger Than Fiction:** *The Hitler Chronicles* collects four amazing documentaries that reveal sides of the Nazis rarely seen, including: *Hitler: A Career, Architecture of Doom*, *Dear Uncle Adolf* and *Top Secret Trial of the Third Reich*.

**Blu Notes:** Before the third installment hits theaters, revisit alien-policing agents J and K (Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones) in the original sci-fi action-comedies *Men in Black* and *MIB II*, now on Blu-ray and chock-full of special features.

Horror visionary Guillermo del Toro made his Hollywood debut with *Mimic*, which imagines a genetic experiment gone wrong, giving birth to a shape-shifting monster preying on New Yorkers. The *Mimic* three-film set brings del Toro’s director’s cut as well as the two sequels to Blu-ray.



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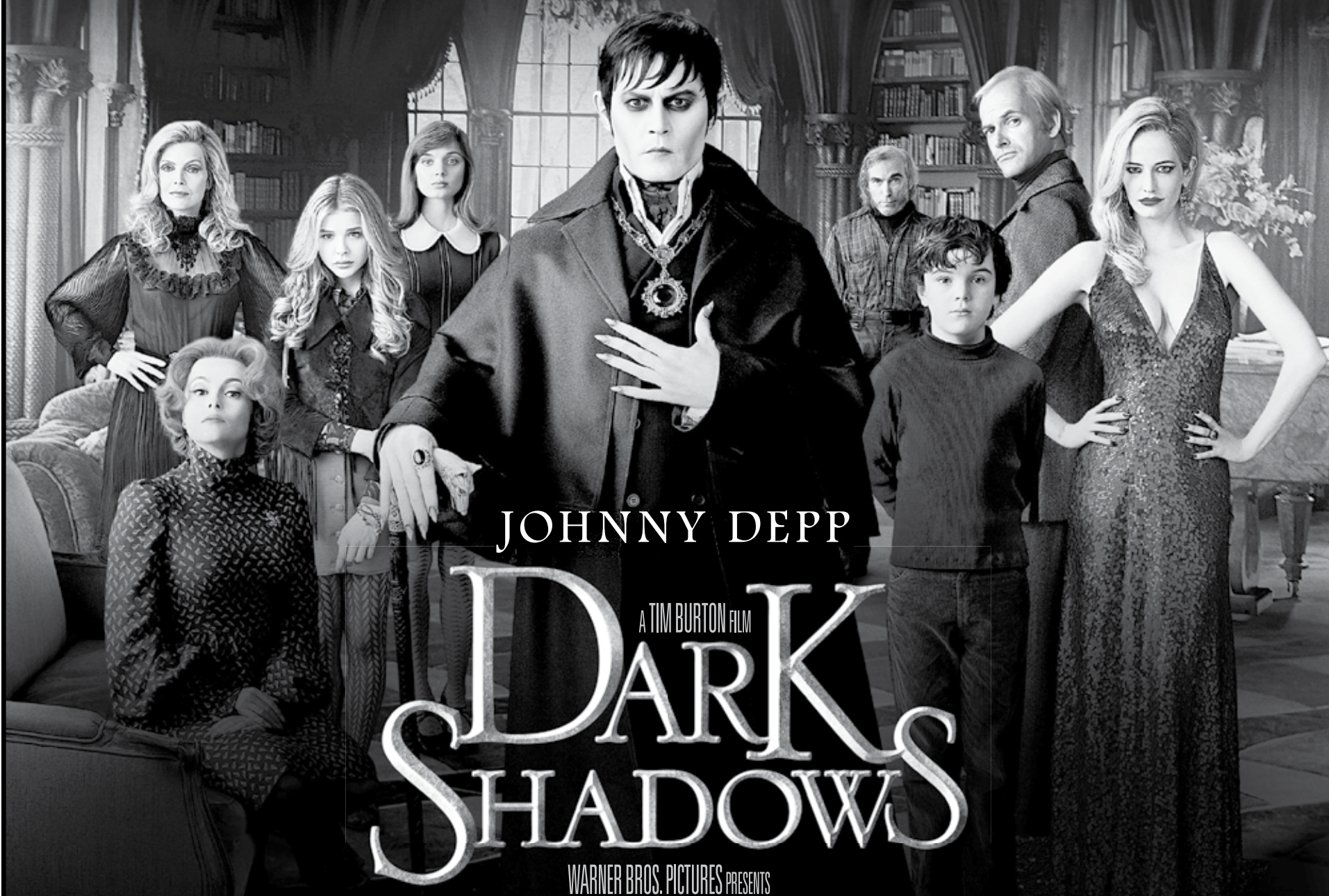
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## POLISSE IS AN ARRESTING LOOK INTO OFFICERS' LIVES

The French film won the Grand Jury Prize at the  
2011 Cannes Film Festival.



Les Productions du Trésor/Sundance Selects

Karin Viard as "Nadine" and Marina Fois as "Iris" in *Polisse*, directed by Maïwenn.

BY NATALY CHAVEZ

GRADE: B+

**FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT**, it's just another day in the office: arresting child molesters, interrogating abusive parents, taking statements from children, all the while trying to live a normal life as parents and spouses.

After extensive research and months spent with actual CPU officers, French writer-director Maïwenn, delved into bringing light to the untold story of this particular branch of the law in her film, *Polisse*. Wanting to stay as close to the real thing as possible, Maïwenn didn't refrain from speaking of pedophiles, incest or the exuberance of teen sexuality.

Like in any police film, this one revolves around a tight knit unit of officers who spend almost all their waking hours together, from the unfortunate cases of the day to after-hours drinks to let off steam. However, as cases start coming to incomplete conclusions, their work begins to hit close to home.

Already trying to grapple with the bitter sting of divorce, officers Nadine (Karin Viard) and Fred's (Joey Starr) escape is their children, but the reality that they live with is enough to put a barrier between them. In a pitiful scene, Fred can't even stand to touch his 4-year-old daughter as she takes a bath, a scene derived from true accounts of CPU male officers who said they are unable to even tickle their daughters.

The film does a reputable job covering a wide array of cases and the emotional weight it pulls on each character. Although the majority of cases deal with the inaudible violence taking place at home, the officers have to be the ones to separate a child from a loving parent in the child's best interest. Fred takes this part of the job especially hard, and in one heartbreaking scene, he must be the one to tell a young boy he will never see his mother again after no shelter will take them both. Fred loses all composure hearing the desperate cries of the child, and takes him in his arms as if he were his own in a powerful and honest performance.

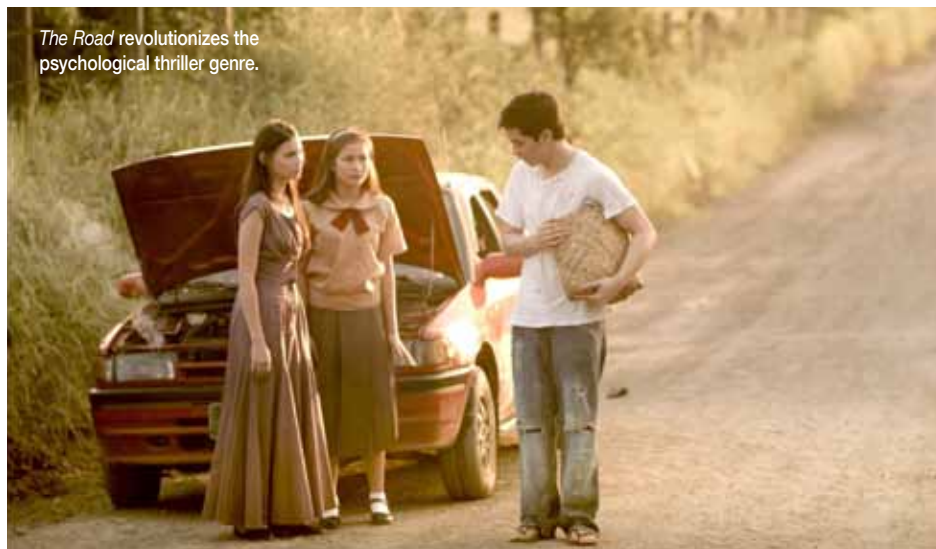
Even though the film deals with a very serious theme, Maïwenn plays with bringing humor to the most unexpected things. It adds to the officers' reality; for them, without humor life would almost be unbearable. She also pays careful attention to the interpersonal relationships between the officers. The close dynamic they share gives way to tensions that slowly build and eventually erupt in various explosive confrontations.

With its true and gritty characters with undeniable problems, *Polisse* commits to a realistic account of the lives behind the officers whose sole purpose is to protect those who can't defend themselves.

*Polisse* releases May 18.

# YAM LARANAS DIRECTS A MASTERFUL PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER

*The Road* is a must-see for horror fans.



BY MARVIN VASQUEZ

PERHAPS IT IS THE THREE STORIES WITHIN ONE, or the original horror entwined in the plot of this foreign film that make *The Road* one of the best movies for the ages in its genre, but the fact is that director Yam Laranas created a masterpiece.

“I look for inspiration here and there,” Laranas says, who in this case found it through a painting.

A psychological thriller out of the Philippines, *The Road* tells three different stories in three parts. However, they relate to the movie’s essence – a catastrophic past that leads to a series of unfortunate and evil events from beginning to end.

“The biggest challenge was to make logic of the story being told in reverse,” Laranas says. “I want you to feel a lot of things. To me, at the end of the film there are a lot of interpretations and different points of view. I see that as something that is new, which I am hoping will resonate with the audience.”

In part one, two girls, Ella and Janine, and a boy named Brian are on a joyride in the middle of the night in 2008. Brian takes charge behind the wheel in an effort to teach both how to drive. Suddenly, they enter a lost road that leads into the woods –and this turns out to be the biggest mistake of their lives.

“I was wondering about how it is to be trapped after one stupid mistake of going out and road tripping,” Laranas says. “What if I make this one really creepy road and create a ghost story?”

Part two features an incredibly gorgeous Rhian Ramos as Lara, the older sister of Joy, in 1998. It is daylight while Lara drives with Joy on the road. After passing a teen Luis (Alden Richards) while driving, their car breaks down. In need of water, the girls ask for help. Luis offers them just that, but instructs them to follow him back home. What evolves is a disaster for both.

“I was looking for a connection, and then came the story of the sisters,” Laranas shares. “This was inspired by a real crime in the Philippines.”

Laranas said that this part of the plot carries the scariest moment of the film.

“These are things you do not expect and that seem real. Real fear and real horror are things that we can relate to.”

Throughout part three, we see a young Luis (who also is in part one but at a much older age) at home suffering from physical, mental and emotional abuse from his mother Carmela (Carmina Villaroel), an unfaithful woman about to leave her husband Alberto (Marvin Agustin) and son for a lover.

After much begging for positive change, Alberto does the unthinkable to his wife and himself. This leaves the young Luis alone with degrading images of the occurrence.

In the end, all questions are answered in distinctive fashion, but others arise in this cinematic portrayal of murders, abduction and crimes.

*The Road* took five years to make, and was shot entirely in the Philippines.

Asked about a possible remake of it in the U.S., Laranas mentioned his potential involvement.

“It hasn’t crossed my mind at this point,” he says. “But if ever that happens, I may just help produce it.”

For its creative plot, solid acting, daring psychological thrills and prolific direction, *The Road* is the must-see horror flick of the year.

“I think somebody looking for a scare and a good time will find what they are looking for,” Laranas says. “Juxtaposing terror and beauty makes for an exciting visual experience, and I think that is present here.”

*The Road* releases May 11.



# YET ANOTHER MOVIE ABOUT UNHAPPY 30-SOMETHINGS

*Nesting* lacks the originality needed to make it a great film.

BY ARIEL PAREDES

GRADE: D

**WHAT HAPPENS** when you grow up and aren’t happy with the person you have become? Can you travel back and revisit your former self? Neil (Todd Grinnell) and Sarah (Ali Hillis) attempt to do that in the film *Nesting*, co-written and directed by John Chuldenko.

The movie follows two 30-something former hipsters who have become full-fledged yuppies. Despite buying expensive coffeemakers, high-end furniture in colors like “toasted almond” and fancy new flooring, they find themselves in a rut. Longing for those carefree times of their former selves, Neil and Sarah impulsively decide to head back to their old hip L.A. neighborhood. Illegally squatting in their previous apartment, they soon discover that being “young and fun” isn’t all that it cracked up to be.

Although the movie had good intentions, it felt like watching a student film project. The plot lacked originality: Watching 30-somethings cross over into yuppiedom and then freak about how they got there is a very worn story.

There were issues with the characters as well. Neil just seemed too corny and bland to make the audience ever believe he was once cool. There is a glimmer that his wife Sarah was edgy in her heyday, but it’s a longshot. How these two ended up together in the first place isn’t made clear either.

Neil’s best friend Graham, played by Kevin Linehan, was there to serve as comic relief, but he was far from funny; he was actually quite annoying. He came off like an adult suffering from arrested development who just kept spouting inappropriate things.

Hearing Neil constantly whine and complain about how nice their life turned out was a turn-off. Sarah was the sole breadwinner, yet Neil had no problem spending her hard-earned money. At one point he asks, “Are you happy?” If you have only been together for five years and are already asking that question, then it’s going to be a long road ahead for both them –and the audience.

Despite unlikable characters and mediocre acting, there were some bright spots in the film. Neil shined when he showcased his affection for Sarah, at one point telling her, “I love you so hard right now,” which was very endearing. In the end, we all want to hear someone say something like that.

Also, the sly comments about the current state of hipsters was witty and on-point, from jokes about the way they choose to dress in outfits suited for Jazzercise to their obsession with eating at “trendy” restaurants – one of which changed the name of a “Culture Club” sandwich to the “White Stripes,” simply because of the addition of mayo!

Overall, this film brought nothing new to the table, and lacked exciting characters. It was entertaining to catch a glimpse into life in a “cool” L.A. neighborhood and the people living in it, but it failed to make any lasting impression.

*Nesting* releases May 11.

# ***DARK SHADOWS*** **IS A SPOOKY** **TRIP INTO THE** **'70s** Johnny Depp gives **a riotous lead** **performance in the** **flick based on a** **classic TV series.**

BY SABINA IBARRA

**FOR TIM BURTON AND JOHNNY DEPP'S EIGHTH COLLABORATION**, they bring a re-imagining of the cult television series "Dark Shadows."

The film tells the tale of the Collins' family curse, which began when Barnabas Collins (Depp), a once-wealthy playboy from the 18th century spurns his former lover Angelique (Eva Green) for the beautiful Josette (Bella Heathcote). Unbeknownst to Barnabas, the heart he broke was of a powerful witch who curses the Collins' name, makes his beloved Josette plunge to her death, and turns Barnabas into a vampire condemned to suffer for all eternity. Encasing him in a tomb, Angelique unleashes her torment on the Collins family for 200 years, until Barnabas finally breaks free and vows to restore order in his family.

This is the first Burton-Depp collaboration not started at the suggestion of the director.

"I think it was during *Sweeney Todd*; I just blurted out mid-conversation, 'Maybe we should do a vampire movie where we actually have a real vampire that looks like a vampire,'" said Depp. "Tim and I started talking about ['Dark Shadows'], and Seth [Grahame-Smith] came on board, and the three of us riffed."

Grahame-Smith, author of the novel *Abe Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* (which has been adapted into a feature film produced by Burton), was enlisted to help create a story inspired by the series.

"We sat around a table and talked about the things they [Depp and Burton] loved about the show, talking about moments that would be fun to explore," explained Grahame-Smith of the filmmaking process.

The idea of unearthing a gentleman vampire who's used to a more rigid and proper age to a more modern time is something Depp and the gang wanted to explore.

"He is brought back to probably the most surreal era of our time: the 1970s," noted Depp. "[We wanted to show] how he'd react to things that were radically different than how things were; not just technology, but items of enjoyment like pet rocks, fake flowers, troll dolls, lava lamps."

Blending Burton's signature macabre tone with the style of the times to create a movie derived from a soap opera was no easy task.

"It's a tricky tone," admitted Burton. "When we talk about *Dark Shadows*, part of its appeal was the weird nature of all the elements that went into it."

The cast took their director's palate and worked to bring new interpretations of beloved characters. Eva Green even found inspiration for her characterization of the witch through Burton's drawings of broken dolls from a book of his acclaimed art exhibit.

"Tim represents his own genre," said Jackie Earle Hayley, who plays the family caretaker, and is the first to encounter Barnabas. "He's a very unique filmmaker. His aesthetics, his stylistic storytelling, the choices that [he] makes, makes it go beyond making a film—he builds his own world."

Barnabas arrives in a different time to find the old world that he knew and the new century



Dark Shadows puts a different spin on the current vampire craze.

overlapped atop the aristocratic Collinswood Manor.

For as long as Depp has been around, it's surprising to note that even in his Hollywood bad-boy days, he may have been likened to a vampire, but never played one until now. So why this character and this movie?

Depp explained: "What's most interesting in terms of Barnabas is the idea of the combination. It's the real challenge, probably more for Tim than for me, to make this guy that is clearly a vampire fit back into this odd society, this dysfunctional family, and I think he did it rather seamlessly."

One of the funniest moments in the film is Barnabas's horror at discovering a secret room filled with crafts made by living matriarch of the family, Elizabeth Collins Stoddard (Michelle Pfeiffer).

*Dark Shadows* is the second collaboration between Burton and Pfeiffer, who last worked together two decades ago on *Batman Returns*. The reunion came about when Pfeiffer, a fan of the "Dark Shadows" television series, caught wind of the project.

"I don't think I would've had the courage [to approach him, but] I was working with a mutual friend of ours who knew how much I wanted to be in this movie who egged me on," she joked about their initial conversation. "I shamelessly called him: 'Give me a job after 20 years!'"

The theme of the enduring nature of family is present in *Dark Shadows*, as well as within the collaboration between Burton and Depp, who have described their relationship as a brotherhood. The two worked carefully during the creative process to bring back a bit of the terror that vampires are supposed to elicit from people.

"It's a strange thing because as a child you have a fascination with monsters and vampires," said Depp. "There's a darkness, this mystery, this intrigue, and then as you get older you recognize the erotic nature of the vampire and the idea of the undead."

They also wanted to revive the classic look of the vampire, as opposed to the glamorized portrayals that have become dominant in pop culture (think *Twilight* and "Vampire Diaries").

"Tim and I talked early on, [and decided that] a vampire should look like a vampire," said Depp. "It was a kind of rebellion against vampires that looked like underwear models."

While he may not be an underwear model, pretty-boy type, Depp is a true cultural icon who doesn't need any awards to demonstrate his success—his achievements are far greater than that. His cultural impact stretches generations: From the original "21 Jump Street" to the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, he draws audiences in—and continues to work his silver screen magic with *Dark Shadows*. With his seemingly everlasting career, one could accuse Depp of making a deal with the devil.

"You're missing the point—I am the devil!" he joked—or at least a vampire, for now.

*Dark Shadows* releases May 11.

## THE LOVECRAFT ANTHOLOGY: VOL. 1 BRINGS THE AUTHOR'S EERIE TALES TO LIFE

The graphic novel stays true to H.P. Lovecraft's unique voice.

BY MIKE SEBASTIAN

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, Howard Phillips Lovecraft pioneered new territory in the horror tale. As society's scientific understanding grew, his stories of cosmic horror advanced the boundaries of the unknown, from superstition to terrors more probable and horrifying: ancient beings from outer space that once had domain over Earth. As our knowledge of the universe's greatest secrets expanded exponentially, so too did our conception of how little we really understood. Therein lies the key to Lovecraft's enduring relevance.

A veritable cottage industry of Lovecraftian horror is alive and well today, especially in comics. This is despite the fact that it's no easy task to adapt these tales. Much of their effect springs from Lovecraft's anachronistic language, which doesn't lend itself easily to a visual medium, and the vagueness of his descriptions of horrors the human mind can't experience without going mad, of which any attempt to depict has to fall

short, or risk losing one's readers.

The folks at SelfMadeHero, a publisher who specializes in literary adaptations, undertake this challenge with *The Lovecraft Anthology: Vol. 1*. This collection focuses on the Cthulhu Mythos, loosely connected stories of tragically curious individuals who just can't resist peeking behind the metaphorical curtain, usually chasing some rumor or ancestral connection that inevitably leads them to strange cults and encounters with these ancient and terrifying demigods from beyond the stars, and, from there, usually to madness and/or death.

Editor Dan Lockwood's approach is to preserve as much of the first-person narration as he can without overwhelming the illustrations, and to employ a series of stylistically varied artists to attempt to capture Lovecraft's singular combination of disquieting mystery, grotesque horrors and ancient, otherworldly artifacts.

It's a juggling act, which is on the whole successful. While

cutting down on the narration and dramatizing more of the events might make for a more effective comic, it would also make for a less Lovecraftian effect. Each approach has its advantages and disadvantages, and Lockwood elects to go the route more faithful to the source.

The highlight, David Hine and Mark Stafford's adaptation of *The Colour Out of Space*, about a meteor that crashes in a rural community and begins to rot the vegetation and, eventually, the inhabitants, nails the nauseating grotesqueries of the story to great effect.

For the reader who wants to find out what Lovecraft is all about without parsing his at times tangled prose, *The Lovecraft Anthology* is a fitting primer. The diehard Cthulhu cultist will most likely enjoy the varied interpretations, if only to marvel at the infinite ways readers continue to draw on the author's journeys into the unknown.



## WEBSERIES

## JAMES FRANCO HAS CAMERAS ON CAMPUS

What do you get when you combine James Franco, college students and reality TV? Introducing a new kind of reality show that's not all about getting drunk and hooking up.

BY SOLA FASEHUN

A MAN WEARING LIPSTICK in a blonde wig plays guitar and croons onstage. A heartbroken father describes his daughter's brutal killing after she tried to leave her boyfriend. A Vietnamese Air Force pilot stars in his own son's movie. We're not sure what's in the water that James Franco is drinking, but it seems like he might be taking himself a bit more seriously with the latest incarnation of his Web-based docu-reality series, "Undergrads: South."

Franco previously received backlash for "Undergrads: West," which portrayed University of Southern California students drinking and partying in excess. USC was not happy with the series, and it was subsequently taken offline.

Franco's latest creation, "Undergrads: South," features students in a much more positive light, documenting four undergraduate filmmakers at the University of Texas in Austin — David Bukstein, Ali Haji, Bao Truong and Morgan Young — in a behind-the-scenes look at students not too unlike himself: ambitious filmmakers who take on too much, but somehow get things done.

Joy Gohring, the show's director, whose previous series "DateAHuman.com" was praised for its high quality on a low budget, seems to be the go-to girl for Web content these days. She's gearing up to direct her first feature this summer after



winning Best Short at the 2011 Cannes International Film Festival.

I caught up with Gohring during post-production on "Undergrads: South" to ask her and two of the cast members, David Bukstein and Bao Truong, about the project.

The first thing I had to know was, how does Franco have time to take on yet *another* project?

"Adderall!" Gohring laughs. "No, he's just one of those people with a ton of energy. It's part of his company's philosophy to trust people they hire to facilitate their vision. I guess the combination of his big brain and that trust allows him to dip his hands into many projects at once."

With hundreds of film students to choose from, I was curious how the cast came together.

"I got a message on Facebook," Bukstein said, "and so did lots of my friends. But no one believed it was real and some people didn't even respond."

Whether Franco took the hint from the media or not, "South" is certainly a change for the better. The nine-episode series is honest and engaging, with real life drama that doesn't need to be manipulated by untrustworthy reality show producers.

In one very candid episode, Bukstein's father comes out to

his son as a cross-dresser.

"I had no idea that was going to happen," said Bukstein. "It was a shock to me. He asked me to go see him perform in drag, and I asked him if I could film my reaction. So I did." ("David's Dad Does Drag" airs at the end of May.)

Bukstein and Truong said that being on the show changed the way they related to their own lives.

"I kept thinking of my life in terms of plot points, and had a tendency to speak in sound bites," said Truong. "It was very surreal, especially getting to screen the show at the South by Southwest Film Festival."

After connecting with the cast, it made me think how awesome this show would be on MTV. Compared to "Jersey Shore" and "My Super Sweet 16," it's refreshing to watch a reality show about the human spirit in a state of creation instead of a state of chaos. Sure college can be about getting drunk and getting laid, but what about the part where students actually try to make something of themselves? I'm sure there are at least a few undergrads out there who can relate to that.

"Undergrads: South" will run from May to June, with new episodes available Thursdays at 7 p.m. CT at JamesFrancoTV.com. Watch a trailer now at jamesfrancotv.com/videos/155196.

## DANCE: BALLET

# “NEXTWAVE LA” FEATURES FOUR WORLD PREMIERE BALLETS

Los Angeles Ballet’s latest production enchants with its original choreography.

BY MARVIN VASQUEZ

**FOUR CHOREOGRAPHERS. FOUR DIFFERENT BALLET PIECES. SAME CAST. SAME DIRECTION. FABULOUS RESULTS IN A NEW VIEW.**

This is what Los Angeles Ballet – a non-for-profit arts company founded in 2006 – has assembled for its next production “NextWaveLA,” led by artistic directors Thordal Christensen and Colleen Neary.

“This remarkable quartet of choreographers reflect a broad range of style and sensibility, but share in common incredible talent and a commitment to drive the art of dance forward,” Christensen says through a prepared statement.

Acclaimed Southern California choreographers Kitty McNamee, Sonya Tayeh, Stacey Tookey and Josie Walsh will thrill audiences with their respective choreographies in these upcoming world premiere pieces.

“This marks LAB’s third collaboration with Sonya, second with Josie, and the first time Kitty and Stacey have choreographed for our company, although we know their work well. Thanks to their participation, ‘NextWaveLA’ has become one of our most anticipated programs,” Neary adds.

Allyne Noelle, a SoCal native, is a principal dancer for the company, gaining previous experience from stints at the National Ballet of Canada and Miami City Ballet. She explains that “NextWaveLA” is very different from LAB’s past pieces.

“Because this is a contemporary project, all the pieces are brand new; they are being created on the dance floors here at L.A. Ballet,” she explains. “Rehearsals are very different because it is a collaborative effort. Typically, the L.A. Ballet does pieces that are classical and have been created before, whereas this has been a very interactive and creative process.”

The show’s originality and innovation have made communication and chemistry between the choreographers and dancers essential, all with the goal of creating something marvelous for the audience – whom are the target at all times.

“[The choreographers] want us to speak up,” Noelle says. “They want our input, they want to know how things feel for us. They want an open dialogue and discussion at rehearsals. They want it to be a collaborative effort.”



“NextWaveLA” is a contemporary ballet piece featuring all-original choreography.

Because these dances are completely new for everyone involved, rehearsals have been arduous while the dancers learn, practice and strive to perfect these new routines.

“Rehearsals are coming along,” Noelle says with a laugh. “We are very busy because it is a lot of work – we are focused on getting ready.”

“NextWaveLA” figures to charm regular ballet-goers as well as those new to the art –and it has already charmed Noelle.

“I am very inspired,” she says. “[The choreographers’] passion and drive is really inspirational to all the dancers. They have fresh energy and are very, very excited about their work.”

While doing a contemporary piece is a change for Noelle and the rest of the LAB dancers, it is one they are all excited to embrace.

“The language of the pieces is all the same,” explains Noelle. “It is all dance and it is physical. The vocabulary of contemporary dance is very difficult and abstract in comparison to classical ballet, but working outside the box, so to speak, is a welcomed challenge.”

The “NextWaveLA” ballet is scheduled to make stops at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, Glendale’s Alex Theatre and the Broad Stage in Santa Monica. Opening night is May 12, and there will be five show dates throughout the month.

“Since all four pieces are new, I can guarantee that it will be [something audiences] have never seen before,” Noelle says. “They are very exciting, dynamic, outside of the box, physical, gorgeous pieces.”

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [losangelesballet.org](http://losangelesballet.org).

## TV: FEATURE



From left, Allison Williams, Jemima Kirke, Lena Dunham, and Zosia Mamet star in HBO’s new dramedy “Girls.”

**WHEN I WAS 24 AND LIVING IN A FUNKY NEW YORK CITY APARTMENT** with roommates, roaches and ambitions that were both utterly consuming and utterly unfocused, I was convinced my generation was cursed. It was the early 1990s, and between a recession, the AIDS crisis and the last vestiges of the crack-and-crime epidemic, daily life had a certain apocalyptic quality.

Thanks to baby boomers bottlenecking the middle rungs of the corporate ladder, we’d never move up from our entry-level jobs. Thanks to real estate prices that were skyrocketing even as the rest of the economy suffered, we’d never have decent apartments. At least that’s how my friends and I dramatically observed it when we got together to compare student loan debt and complain that we weren’t living in that bygone era when apparently all you had to do to get a cool job was show up in the lobby and say something witty.

Now, almost 20 years later, I don’t feel quite as sorry for my younger self. And not just because those doomsday scenarios proved untrue — I no longer fetch coffee for a living; I even managed to pay off my crushing debt — but because it’s plainly obvious that today’s twentysomethings have it far worse.

A Rutgers University study showed that only 56 percent of the class of 2010 had found employment by the spring of 2011. They desperately needed those jobs too: If they paid for college with a student loan — and who doesn’t? — they owed an average of \$25,000. Meanwhile my old roach-infested apartment (I slept in the dining room, by the way) would likely rent for three times as much as we paid.

A new HBO series, “Girls,” takes this particular version of youth culture and runs with it. Created by 25-year-old Lena Dunham (she writes, produces, directs and stars), it debuts Sunday [Ed. note: It

# THE RADICAL MESSAGE OF ‘GIRLS’

BY MEGHAN DAUM  
LOS ANGELES TIMES (MCT)

premiered April 15], amid a lot of talk about its unprecedented, raw depiction of the young urban female experience we’re more used to seeing in high gloss. Dunham plays Hannah Horvath, an aspiring creative type (based on the screener, she’s more interested in being the type than in actually creating anything) whose outsized self-confidence seems forever at war with her chronic self-loathing.

This has echoes of “Sex and the City’s” Carrie Bradshaw, not least because both are prone to unapologetic casual sex. But whereas Carrie’s improbable fabulousness bordered on caricature (the clothes, the career, the apartment, the men!), the fleshy, awkward and seriously cash-strapped Hannah is so real you sometimes can only peer at her through your fingers.

She pitches a fit when her parents cut off her money supply, botches a job interview by telling a rape joke and habitually has humiliating sex that she pretends to enjoy. Her friends are equally unmoored and almost as unglamorous. Tethered to social media, paralyzed by a lifeless economy and slayed daily by the disconnect between what the world’s offering and what they grew up believing they should have, the girls of “Girls” do something you almost never see on television: make older folks glad we’re not so young anymore.

“You couldn’t pay me enough to be 24 again,” says a middle-age female doctor as she screens Hannah for STDs. Most TV gynecological exams are limited to wondrous gazes at fetal ultrasound images. This one puts the indignities front and center: the flimsy gown, the feet in the stirrups, a scale mercilessly registering a weight taken with clothes on.

For just such details, the show is being touted as a watershed in its refusal to objectify women. But what’s arguably more radical is its refusal to romanticize youth. Just about everywhere else in the media (and in much of real life), youth is considered the highest form of currency. Dunham, on the other hand, makes sure we note the ways in which it can be a liability.

“I’m not being paid anything,” Hannah retorts to the doctor in her characteristic deadpan. It’s a zinger, but it also speaks to the ways in which that liability may now be particularly burdensome. Sure, there may still be some paid coffee-fetching jobs here and there, but I’m pretty sure unpaid internships are more the norm. A lucky few might get to sleep in their shared-apartment dining rooms, but a lot more are back at home with mom and dad.

While they’re stuck, they might take some comfort in Longfellow. “Youth comes but once in a lifetime,” he wrote.

Thank goodness for that.

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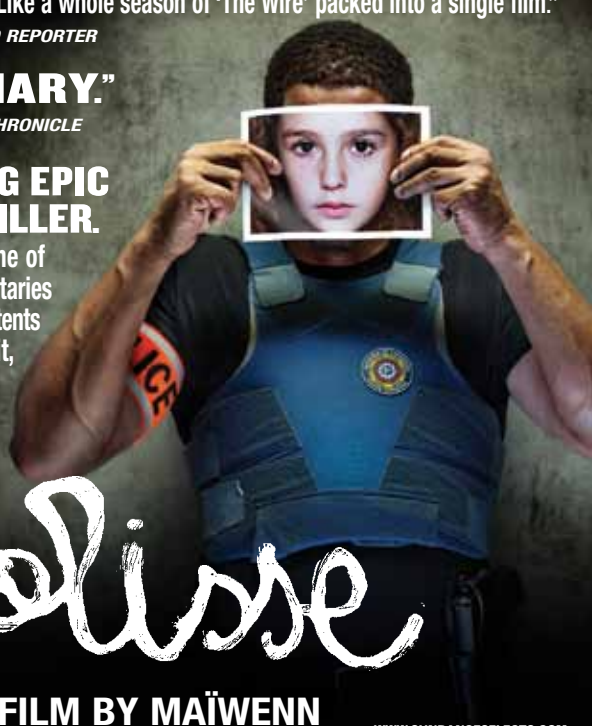
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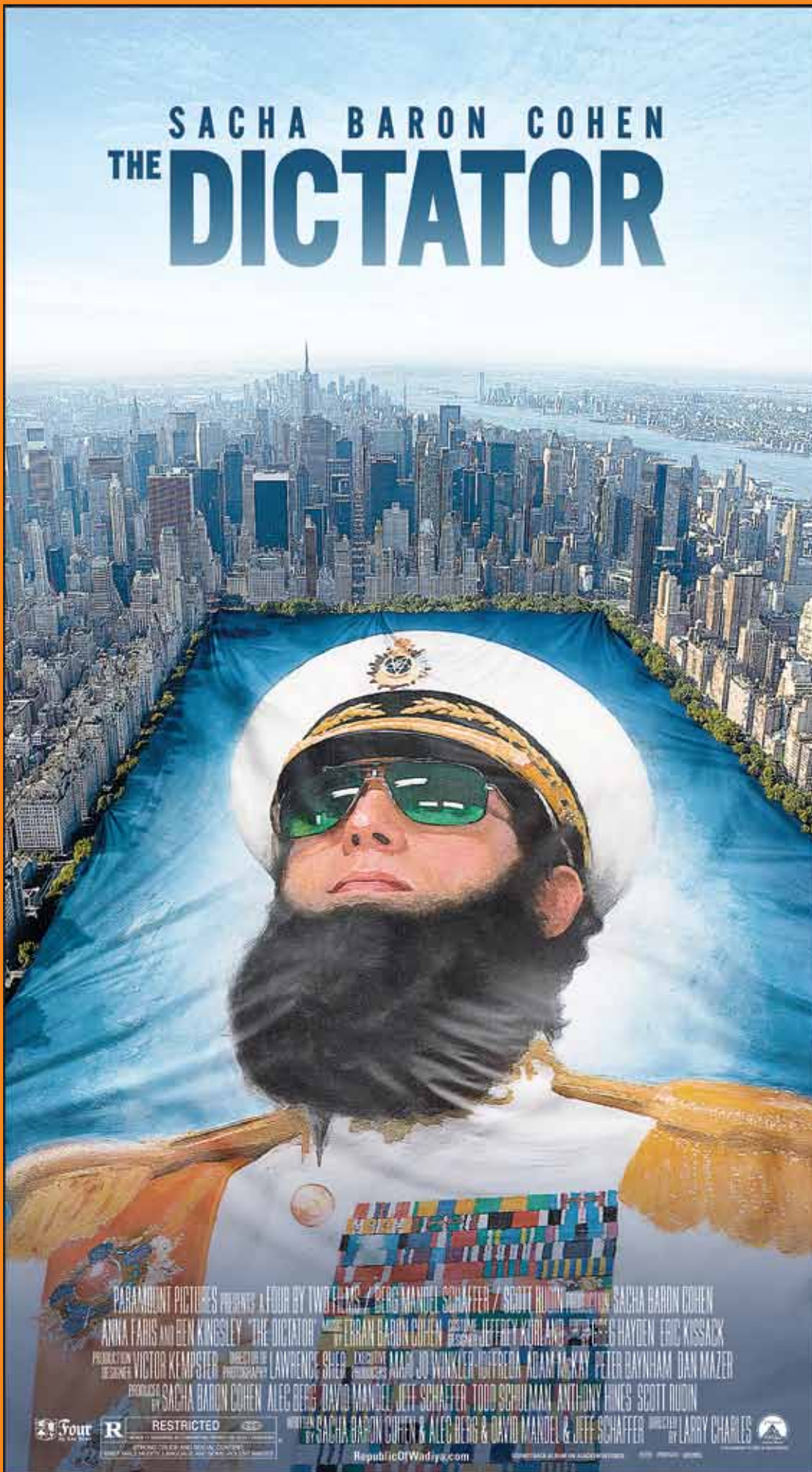
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*Moonrise Kingdom* opens in L.A., May 25th



Soso brings soulful electro-pop with her debut album, out now.

Richard T. Castano

# NEW ALBUMS KEEP A "SPRING" IN YOUR STEP

Check out these May and early June releases.

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

## OUT NOW:

FlyinFisch *Always Dreaming* (FlyinFisch) Disco beats, electronic bleeps and a little bit of funk, with guitar from Jose Luis Pardo of Los Amigos Invisibles.

Here We Go Magic *A Different Ship* (Secretly Canadian) Seeing Radiohead's Thom Yorke dancing at one of their shows led HWGM to record this one with Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich.

John 5 *God Told Me To* (Rocket Science Ventures) Rob Zombie's guitarist steps out with a diverse set of instrumentals; you'll hear speed metal, southern funk and even a cover of Michael Jackson's "Beat It."

Fela Kuti & Egypt 80 *Live in Detroit 1986* (Knitting Factory) Yes, the late king of Nigerian music loved to jam; there are only four songs on this three-disc set, but they swing for more than two hours.

Lazer Sword *Memory* (Monkeytown) One member of this electro duo lives in Berlin and the other in L.A.; beathead weirdness ensues. Soso *That Time I Dug So Deep I Ended Up In China* (This is Music) This debut set of soulful electro-flavored pop tunes is far better than so-so, even though the Swedish singer recorded the whole

thing in her bedroom.

Patrick Watson *Adventures in Your Own Backyard* (Domino) Music from Montreal these days seems mostly to be slow and dreamy, literate and spacey, and this third effort from Watson is no exception.

West of Hell *Spiral Empire* (Reversed) Debut from heavy metal Canadians demonstrates their love of Judas Priest and Black Sabbath.

## MAY 15:

PHILM *Harmonic* (Ipecac) PHILM is a side project of Slayer drummer Dave Lombardo, but songs like "Vitriolize" are more like surf rock than thrash.

## MAY 22:

The Cult *Choice of Weapon* (Cooking Vinyl) A strong comeback for these hard rock hit-makers; expect "Honey from a Knife" and "The Wolf" to tear up rock radio this summer.

Dope Body *Natural History* (Drag City) Not quite sludge, Dope Body favors slow-motion rhythms doctored up with elements of psychedelia and experimental sounds.

Grass Widow *Internal Logic* (HLR) This all-girl trio harkens back vocally to pop hit makers the Bangles and musically to the lovably quirky B-52s.

JBM *Stray Ashes* (Western Vinyl) JBM is the stage name of Jesse

Marchant, and this set of quietly introspective tunes is about the result you'd expect from a one-man-band recording in an isolated cabin in the Catskill Mountains.

Royal Thunder *CVI* (Relapse) Southern-flavored, metal-edge prog rock featuring whiskey-voiced singer Miny Parsonz.

Various Artists *Kitsune America* (Kitsune) This French label usually spotlights European artists, but here they draw their talent from the States, with cuts from St. Lucia, Gigamesh, Childish Gambino and 11 others.

## JUNE 5:

Catch Wild *Waking Up with Fire* (Self-released) Catch Wild's fans funded the making of this debut, and they get paid back with a strong set of powerful female-fronted radio-ready rock.

The Tallest Man on Earth *There's No Leaving Now* (Dead Oceans) The Tallest Man on Earth is Sweden-based Kristian Mattsson, and he has a fondness for Americana sounds, with a voice that recalls a young Bob Dylan.

Emily Jane White *Ode to Sentience* (Antenna Farm) The up-and-coming singer/songwriter has a voice like Hope Sandoval and writes like the late great Townes Van Zandt.

XNY *Through the Wall* (Self-released) The duo of drummer Jacob Schrieber and singer Pam Autuori makes minimalist rock, but they sound a lot bigger thanks to Autuori's forceful and anger-tinged vocals.

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## Serge Devant

*Rewind*  
(Ultra Music)

BY KEVIN WIERZBICKI

GRADE: B

Russian native Devant started DJing at age 17 when he first moved to New York in the '90s. His second album, *Rewind*, is a tribute to the sounds that were packing the clubs back in those days. Some tunes, like the pulsing re-imagination of KLF's "3 a.m. Eternal," actually come from that era, while others, such as the Devant-penned (and Madonna-like thanks to the vocals of guest singer Polina) "When You Came Along" and "You & Me" are

new compositions. Other guest singers include Hadley, Rachael Starr, Taleen and Danielle Parente, with female vocals bringing an airy aura to about half of the set. Devant also flashes back to the '80s with a nice take on the New Order track, "True Faith."

*Rewind is available now.*

## The Projection

*While You Were Out*  
(Paramount Drive)

BY DOUG SIMPSON

GRADE: B

**FORGET '70S OR '80S RETRO:** It's time for '90s nostalgia. On the Projection's sophomore album, *While You Were Out*, the Chicago punk-pop trio makes no excuses for influences, including MxPx, the Offspring and Blink-182. The group's half-hour release



Jacques LaMore (lead vocals/guitar) and Travis White (bass)

is filled with chunky six-string riffs, catchy melodies and 20-something angst. The title track, "Cross the Line," and others are tethered by tales about girlfriends who walked out the door, crummy day jobs and daydreams of rock star success. The three-piece mostly hit their marks, although some quick-tempo tunes don't move much past obvious references. One standout is peppy, Weezer-esque "Trying to Forget," underscored by a driving synth line. The Projection also mixes in semi-acoustics during the girl-is-gone head-nodder "Not a Day Goes By," which echoes Green Day. The album-closing Buddy Holly tribute, a ramped-up rendition of "Oh, Boy!," is a likeable way to end. *While You Were Out* is little more than entertaining punk-pop with some fun flashes, but that is a formula which worked two decades ago and can still be found on recent Vans Warped tours.

*While You Were Out releases May 8.*

# CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH FINDS ITS GROOVE BEFORE RETURNING TO L.A.

The band gears up for a performance at the El Rey on May 19.

BY JOSH HERWITT

**FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS**, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah didn't know if it would ever play a song together again.

After all, taking that much time off often means suicide for a band these days.

But for the Brooklyn-based indie rockers, the hiatus helped them rediscover their identity and redefine their purpose. The reputation the quintet had built in 2005 after enamoring droves with its self-titled debut album hadn't been completely tarnished.

So when CYHSY finally reunited last year to release its newest piece of work, *Hysterical*, the songwriting had jumped leaps and bounds from what fans heard on a lackluster sophomore effort, *Some Loud Thunder*.

During that time apart, each band member honed their respective skills by working on their own projects. Guitarist/keyboardist Robbie Guertin and bassist Tyler Sargent formed a band (Uninhabitable Mansions), drummer Sean Greenhalgh began producing records, and guitarist Lee Sargent (twin brother of Tyler) worked on the score for Alex Karpovsky's film, *Woodpecker*.

Frontman Alec Ounsworth, however, may have benefited the most, spending his time down in New Orleans writing a solo album with some of the city's best musicians — bassist George Porter Jr. of the Meters, drummer Stanton Moore of Galactic and keyboardist Robert Walter of the Greyboy Allstars, to name a few.

"To come back with a new record meant two things," Ounsworth explains. "It meant coming back with more material and [figuring out] how to present it in a live format, but also how to come back and play as a band."

Now, after months on the road touring the U.S. and Europe,

Ounsworth finally feels like things are clicking on stage for CYHSY once again.

"I'd like to say we have it nailed, but we'll see," he says with a laugh. "It's just a matter of everyone getting comfortable with their parts."

And when that happens, the real magic ensues for Ounsworth and his band mates.

"Once you get comfortable, the show becomes what it should be — based on instinct," he continues. "That's what makes shows interesting."

Meshering the old with the new in its live show hasn't been the issue for CYHSY. It's just taken some time to rebuild that chemistry it once had.

"The more I've been playing with these guys, the more I understand how things work in this project," Ounsworth says.

In a live setting, the band thrives in small clubs, something Ounsworth primarily envisioned when he first teamed up with his four friends from Connecticut College.

"It's a strange band," he admits. "It's a bigger sound, but it's a strange sort of format because the songs are written in such a way that we're not going for the big festival thing."

Even so, there have been opportunities for CYHSY to play among the masses, whether it's been at Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival last summer in San Francisco or a trip to the jaw-dropping Gorge Amphitheatre over Memorial Day weekend for Sasquatch! Music Festival.

Before it heads for the Pacific Northwest at the end of this month, the band will make a return to Los Angeles for the first time



Peter van Hattem

CYHSY is back and better than ever after a two-year hiatus.

since appearing at Culture Collide Festival with a Saturday, May 19 show at the El Rey Theatre.

It's a venue that CYHSY hasn't played in over six years, yet one that Ounsworth still remembers despite not having spent a lot of time on the West Coast.

"Everyone talks about audiences in Los Angeles as being somewhat distant, but it didn't seem to be the case for us," the Philadelphia native recalls.

If there's one thing for sure, CYHSY hasn't had an easy time booking dates in the City of Angels of late. It was originally scheduled to play Sunset Junction Music Festival in August before the event was shut down due to financial troubles, and a makeup show at the Echoplex in September was also wiped out when Hurricane Irene cancelled the band's flight to L.A.

But with a group of guys who have found their groove again, CYHSY should feel pretty good about what could be in store at the El Rey this time, too.

Jeremy Daniel



Christy Brinkley stars as Roxie Hart in "Chicago," opening at the Pantages Theatre on May 15.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING 5/10/12-5/23/12

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

## THURS • MAY 10

### THEATER

**7 Fingers: PSY**  
Irvine Barclay Theatre  
4242 Campus Dr., Irvine  
thebarclay.org  
Crazy characters and insane artistry make for a captivating spectacle from Montreal's newest cirque sensation. PSY is already getting rave reviews throughout Europe.  
*When* Thursday, May 10, 2012-Sunday, May 13, 2012  
*Times* Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.  
*Prices* Tix start @ \$18

### TV

**An Evening with Craig Ferguson**  
Paley Center for Media  
465 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills  
paleycenter.org  
The self-deprecatingly hilarious host of CBS's "The Late Late Show" makes a visit for a premiere screening of a special new episode followed by a conversation about his "improbable journey" from Scotland to the promised land of Hollywood.  
*When* Thursday, May 10, 2012  
*Time* 7:30 p.m.  
*Prices* \$15

## FRI • MAY 11

### EXPOS

**AltBuild Expo and Conference**  
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium  
1855 Main St., Santa Monica  
altbuildexpo.com  
The largest and most-respected green design and building expo in Southern California for both professionals and the public.  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012-Saturday, May 12, 2012  
*Times* 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
*Prices* Free

### MUSIC

**Chino y Nacho**  
Club Nokia  
800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles  
clubnokia.com  
Well established as Venezuela's top homegrown urban act, Chino & Nacho

signed an international recording contract with Universal Music in November 2009 and made their stateside debut with their break-out hit "Mi Nia Bonita." Over the course of the next several months, "Mi Nia Bonita" rose to the top of the Billboard Latin Songs chart, propelling them to international stardom.  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012  
*Time* 9 p.m.  
*Prices* Tix start @ \$35

### MUSIC

**Delta Spirit**  
The Music Box  
6126 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
goldenvoice.com  
Their music has been used in everything from "Friday Night Lights" and "Sons of Anarchy" to "The Big C" and "UFC Primetime."  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012  
*Time* 9 p.m.  
*Prices* \$21.50

### FILM

**Monty Python and the Holy Grail**  
Los Feliz 3 Cinemas  
1822 Vermont Ave., Los Angeles  
brownpapertickets.com/event/243011  
Originally, the knight characters were going to ride real horses, but after it became clear that the film's small budget precluded real horses, the Pythons decided that their characters would mime horse-riding while their porters trotted behind them banging coconut shells together. The joke was derived from the old-fashioned sound effect used by radio shows to convey the sound of hooves clattering.  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012  
*Time* 11:59 p.m.  
*Prices* \$10.50

### MUSIC

**Shooter Jennings**  
El Rey  
5515 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles  
goldenvoice.com  
Since his parents are country singers Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter, he spent his first few years in a crib on his parents' tour bus.  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012  
*Time* 9 p.m.  
*Prices* \$20.50

### FILM

**The Last of the Mohicans**

**Egyptian Theatre**  
6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
americancinemathequecalendar.com  
Director Michael Mann appears for a discussion following a 20th anniversary screening of the definitive director's cut of

the film, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and one of TV's hottest villains, Madeleine Stowe.  
*When* Friday, May 11, 2012  
*Time* 7:30 p.m.  
*Prices* \$11, \$9 w/ student ID

continued on next page

## FRI • MAY 11

## FILM



Catch *Transit* and four other original new action films during the After Dark Action Series.

## After Dark Action Series

Chinese 6 Theatres  
6801 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
afterdarkaction.com

Building upon the success of Horrorfest® and After Dark Originals, After Dark Films has partnered with Silver Pictures to develop and produce five action films. The ADA slate represents the next generation of action films featuring high concepts, high octane and the re-invention of classic action sub-genres such as martial arts, car chases, gun fights and hand-to-hand weapon combat.

*When* Friday, May 11, 2012-Thursday, May 17, 2012  
*Prices* \$13.75

SAT • MAY 19

FESTIVALS



Over 40 booths will serve a plethora of fresh strawberries and strawberry creations, including strawberry wine.

## California Strawberry Festival

Strawberry Meadows of College Park  
1661 Pacific Ave. #15, Oxnard  
strawberry-fest.org

Interactive exhibits, gooey contests, live entertainment, 200+ arts & crafts booths and an unbelievable assortment of delicious strawberry foods and beverages. The Strawberry Promenade offers cooking demonstrations and presentations too.

When Saturday, May 19, 2012-Sunday, May 20, 2012

Times 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Prices \$12

### FILM

*Wayne's World*  
The Nuart  
11272 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles  
landmarktheatres.com  
Not only was this Mike Myers's film debut, but the use of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" propelled the song to No. 2 on the Billboard singles chart nearly 20 years after its first release.  
When Friday, May 11, 2012  
Time 11:59 p.m.  
Prices \$10.50

### DANCE

*Los Angeles Ballet: NextWave LA*  
Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center  
1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Redondo Beach  
losangelesballet.org  
Acclaimed Southern California choreographers Kitty McNamee, Sonya Tayeh, Stacey Tookey and Josie Walsh will thrill audiences in May as LAB's commitment to new works continues.  
When Saturday, May 12, 2012; Also at the Alex Theatre in Glendale on Saturday, May 19, 2012  
Time 7:30 p.m.

Prices 20% off w/ student ID

### SPORTS

*Red Bull X-Fighters*  
Glen Helen Raceway  
18585 Verdemon Ranch Rd., San Bernardino  
redbullxfighters.com  
The world's premier freestyle motocross series returns to the United States. Created back in 2001, the Red Bull X-Fighters concept has grown to become the biggest and most respected freestyle motocross tour on the planet, featuring the world's best riders throwing down mad tricks in stunning locations across the globe.  
When Saturday, May 12, 2012  
Time 2 p.m.  
Prices Tix start @ \$20

### FOOD

*West Coast BBQ Classic*  
Queen Mary  
1126 Queen's Highway, Long Beach  
westcoastbbqclassic.com  
BBQ masters from all around the country are getting ready for this year's West Coast BBQ Classic! Let the debate rage as to which barbeque style is king. Is it North

Carolina? Kansas City? Maybe Memphis? Or Texas? Tangy, spicy, smoky or sweet, whichever you prefer, you'll be sure to get plenty of it at the West Coast BBQ Classic.  
When Saturday, May 12, 2012  
Time Gates at 11 a.m.  
Prices \$10

SUN • MAY 13

### SPORTS

*Free Mother's Day Tote*  
Dodger Stadium  
1000 Elysian Park Ave., Los Angeles  
http://losangeles.dodgers.mlb.com  
If your mom's a Dodger fan, not only does she get a free tote, but the Dodgers are having a Mother's Day Walk Around the Park too when L.A. takes on Colorado.  
When Sunday, May 13, 2012  
Time 1:10 p.m.  
Prices Tix start @ \$10

MON • MAY 14

### BURLESQUE

*Monday Night Tease! Presents: Madonna*  
3 Clubs  
1123 Vine St., Los Angeles  
brownpapertickets.com/event/244004  
The weekly burlesque show presents their third annual burlesque tribute, inspired by Madonna.  
When Monday, May 14, 2012  
Time 9:30 p.m.  
Prices \$15

TUES • MAY 15

### THEATER

*Chicago*  
The Pantages  
6233 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
broadwayla.org  
After her critically-acclaimed debut as Roxie Hart on Broadway and in London's West End, Christie Brinkley, one of the world's most successful supermodels, will make her highly-anticipated Broadway tour debut as she reprises her killer role in the six-time Tony Award-winning musical smash.  
When Tuesday, May 15, 2012-Sunday, May 27, 2012  
Times Tues.-Fri. at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 & 6:30 p.m.  
Prices Tix start @ \$25

THURS • MAY 17

### FILM

*Tim Burton/Johnny Depp Double Feature*  
Egyptian Theatre  
6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles  
americancinemathequecalendar.com  
An "Ed" two-fer! Screenings of *Ed Wood* and *Edward Scissorhands* with *Ed Wood* screenwriters Larry Karaszewski and Scott Alexander on-hand to discuss the 1994 biopic of the legendary schlock director.  
When Thursday, May 17, 2012  
Time 7:30 p.m.  
Prices \$11, \$9 w/ student ID

SAT • MAY 19

### FESTIVALS

*Santa Monica Festival*  
Clover Park  
2600 Ocean Park, Santa Monica  
smgov.net  
Features an eclectic array of traditional and contemporary music and dance on several stages, demonstrations of traditional crafts by local artists, hands-on art and environmental workshops, food & merchandise booths, an eco-zone and more.  
When Saturday, May 19, 2012  
Times 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Prices Free

### ART

*Venice Art Walk & Auctions*  
theveniceartwalk.org  
The original Los Angeles art walk features the Venice Art Walk with studio tours, a food fair, an art auction, live entertainment and an amazing community celebration; Art & Architecture Tours of artist studios & architecturally significant homes; and the Surf & Skate Auction featuring one-of-a-kind skate decks and surfboards created by artists, musicians and athletes. Benefits the Venice Family Clinic, the largest free clinic in the United States.  
When Saturday, May 19, 2012-Sunday, May 20, 2012

SUN • MAY 20

### SPORTS

*Sparks Home Opener*  
Staples Center  
1111 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles  
wnba.com/sparks  
The L.A. WNBAers (with the 2012 draft top pick, All-American Nneka Ogumike of Stanford) start their season vs. Seattle.  
When Sunday, May 20, 2012  
Times 5:30 p.m.  
Prices Tix start @ \$10

MON • MAY 21

### THEATER

*Stuffed and Unstrung*  
Largo at the Coronet  
366 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles  
largo-la.com  
Eighty Henson puppets. Six comedians. One hundred percent uncensored. Made for grown-ups. A wild romp in which the skilled art of puppetry and spontaneous comedy collide. Unpredictable and irreverent, it's never the same show twice.  
When Monday, May 21, 2012  
Times 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.  
Prices \$40

TUES • MAY 22

### CONCERTS

*Sugarland*  
Greek Theatre  
2700 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles  
sugarlandmusic.com  
Plus special guests "American Idol's" Lauren Alaina and Canaan Smith.  
When Tuesday, May 22, 2012  
Time 7:30 p.m.  
Prices Tix start @ \$41



Carlos Torres-Garzon

Cristobal (left) and Sebastian Zegers (right) are the 32-year-old Chilean natives who founded Huntcha.com.

**THEY LEFT EVERYTHING BEHIND** – their lives, culture, family and careers – for an opportunity to launch an innovative project.

Although they miss their native country of Chile, 32-year old twin brothers Cristobal and Sebastian Zegers have found a new home in Santa Monica, and are here to globalize their social network, Huntcha.com.

“It’s a love site,” Cristobal explains. “It is something we believe in.”

Currently at more than 50,000 subscribers, predominantly from Chile, Huntcha.com was formulated out of an idea the brothers had while working as advertising professionals.

Essentially, Huntcha is a social network service aiding the discovery of secret admirers. It is completely anonymous unless there is a match between two subscribers. Each person who registers an account, which is done through Facebook, has the option of naming a total of nine people whom are of interest. Once there is a match, Huntcha notifies both parties of it. The rest, well, is history.

“Huntcha.com allows you to flirt with those you have a crush on without exposing yourself,” Cristobal states. “This is a

different way to interact.”

Since last fall, both resigned from their jobs, created the Web site and started a successful television advertising campaign, which became rather popular in Chile due to its exquisite, yet sexy acts and celebrity appearances.

They are currently working to promote the site in the U.S., and have been meeting with several executives from the tech giants in Silicon Valley.

“We realized that we have a great opportunity here, which is why we went to Silicon Valley,” Sebastian notes. “Everyone there loved it.”

Although it is currently open for anyone to join, Huntcha.com will have its official American launch in May, and will target high school seniors in the hopes that they will use the social network as a way to find a prom date.

With this new and changing technological world, Huntcha.com – available now in Chile, England and France – could very well be the next big social network.

“You always win [with Huntcha.com],” Cristobal says. “You can only win...we wanted to create a facilitator to get matches,

to get couples together.”

His brother elaborated on this idea.

“There is no way you can lose here,” Sebastian explains. “You do not expose yourself and it is free. The other good thing about Huntcha.com is that it does not introduce you to new people, which the other dating sites do; it just helps you [connect] with the people you already have a crush on, so it’s natural and real.”

Potential connections through Twitter and other social networks are also in the works.

“We are developing ways to interact with these,” Cristobal says.

When they are not tending to their business, the guys like going out to a movie or enjoying the fun and sun at the beach nearby their home.

“It’s not as easy living here, but we are enjoying it a lot,” shares Cristobal.

Visit [Huntcha.com](http://Huntcha.com) to find out more; you may even find a love connection!

## UCLA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

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Left Photo: (Before) Existing tooth-colored fillings and porcelain crown

Right Photo: (After) IPS e.max all-ceramic crowns and veneers

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Koreatown (213) 386-6884 • Lawndale (310) 214-8704 • North Hollywood (818) 766-7184 • Pacoima (818) 890-5515  
Palmdale (661) 947-4545 • Pasadena (626) 577-1723 • Saugus (661) 259-3895 • Simi Valley (805) 522-2586  
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Van Nuys (818) 786-3204 • Wilshire/Highland (323) 939-7661 • Winnetka (818) 700-0509

# MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

Nor sure what to get your mom this holiday? Read on to find the perfect present just for her!

BY ANGELA MATANO

**LUXURY-LOVING MOMS**

**DINING**

Want to splurge on an elegant meal by the sea? Shutters on the Beach's One Pico offers a delicious prix fixe Mother's Day brunch, with choices like asparagus quiche and chocolate terrine. Not only is the food delicious, but the view is unbeatable.

**BEAUTY**

By Terry's Crème de Rose moisturizer captures that je ne sais quoi of France - rich and romantic, with a touch of luxury.

**GRANDMAS**

**SPA**

Pure pampering does exist, and Le Merigot does it like no one else. The spa has some great specials for Mother's Day, including the Queen for a Day package, which includes an anti-stress body wrap, aromatherapy massage, European facial and champagne. Heaven!

**BOOKS**

One of my favorite authors, Anne Lamott, bowls me over again with *Some Assembly Required*. This fearless and compassionate account of a mother coming to terms with her teenage son's unconventional choice to become a father is inspirational in the best way possible.

**BEAUTY**

For the lady with everything, Osea's Sea Minerals toner may be the one thing she has overlooked. Moisturizing and rich in antioxidants, this spray restores balance while offering up a dreamy glimmer of the ocean.

**SENSITIVE MADRES**

**BEAUTY**

Completely natural, Astar's Activated Sea Mineral Mask works wonders to remineralize the skin. A "raw, botanical and energized" product, this mask doesn't skimp on results.

**BATH**

EmerginC's Scientific Organics uses the wonder of Kombucha in its cleanser to gently scrub skin without any harsh drying. This line gets great results without resorting to environmentally damaging chemicals.

**HIP MAMAS**

**BEAUTY**

The epitome of cool, right down to the Japanese writing on the box, Koh Gen Do's Fresh Face Cheek Color in Coral Pink brightens you up without too much frill. For girls more Mara sisters than Kardashian, this is your go-to blush.

With nail polish colors coming in every hue, Priti NYC still manages to come up with something fresh and new. Peperomia Pixie, a mossy green, is perfect for summer.

**ORGANIC MOMMAS**

**BOOKS**

A flower's shelf life is limited, so why not gift *The 50 Mile Bouquet* instead? This book, written by Debra Prinzing with photographs by David E. Perry, inspires, informs and delights with its tales of sustainable flower farmers.

**BODY**

Both heavenly and earthly, Anjolie Ayurveda's Aromatherapy Body Oil emanates calm. The Neem & Tulsi scent is light and fresh, and works perfectly as an after-shower moisturizer.

**FOR MOM & BABY**

Surprisingly, a lot of mommy and baby skin care

an application of the right mask. Embryolisse's Hydra-Mask does this exact trick by replenishing moisture and leaving behind rejuvenated skin.

Suki's Intensive Nourishing Cream comes with the added bonus of a brightening complex to leave skin looking decidedly more youthful.

**SPORTY MAS**

**GIFTS**

As concerns over plastic water bottles increase, BKR steps into the breach with ingenious glass bottles, sheathed in silicone sleeves - both safe and cool.

body cream, a less-is-more girl could use nothing else and be left with luscious skin.

**NEW MAMAS**

**BOOKS**

Do French people do everything better? Pamela Druckerman seems to think so. In *Bringing Up Bebe*, she counts the ways and lets us Americans in on some of their secrets.

**FOR MOM & BABY**

Dolphin Organics' baby products, for parents and kids, have a juicy citrus smell reminiscent of creamsicles. The hypoallergenic bubble bath, baby shampoo and lotion clean without leaving a residue or any uncomfortable dryness.

**WORKING MOTHERS**

**BEAUTY**

Busy and apt to multi-task, many women don't get the chance for facials. KenetMD pH polisher brings all the benefits of professional care right into your own bathroom with a product that leaves skin radiant.

A fantastic new concept, gel polish, by Nutra Nail, miraculously staves off dings and smudges, and it comes in great colors, like raspberry and tangerine.

**SEXY MOMS**

**DINING**

It's hard to beat the newly refurbished Hotel Bel-Air in terms of pure glamour, and with the addition of Wolfgang Puck as head chef, it's the place to beat for Mother's Day brunch. A stroll by the swans, a sip of champagne and a bit of lobster should keep you in your mom's good graces for the remainder of 2012.

**BEAUTY**

The right mascara can transform a face from blah to glamorous, and EyeKo's Curvy Brush mascara does just that. It curls, lengthens and accentuates to the max.

**HAIR**

EVO's Liquid Rollers Curl Balm puts the va-va-voom back into frizzled locks. Nonsense and reliable, this cream easily soaks into hair, bringing great shine and control.

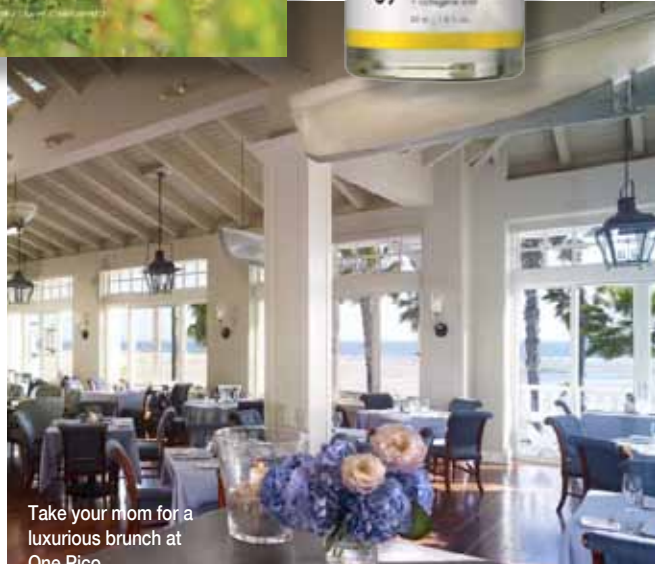
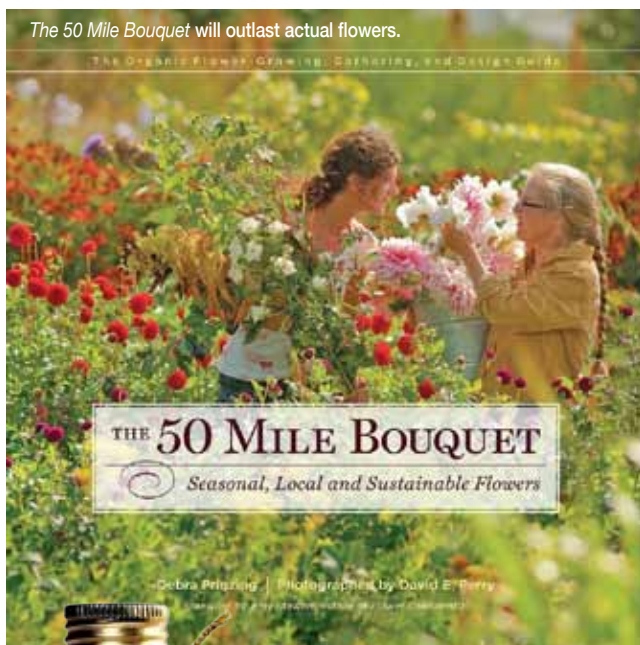
**HELICOPTER MOMS**

**BOOKS**

Amy Chua's *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* created immediate controversy. This Chinese-American mom's struggle to get the best out of her daughters both intrigues and horrifies.

**BEAUTY**

Some women need an excuse to take a minute for themselves, and Malie Organics luscious Mango Nectar Body Cream provides just that. Irresistibly rich and delightfully fragrant, this lotion provides a mini vacation.



Suki's Intensive Nourishing Cream leaves skin looking more youthful.



# BRICK + MORTAR IS SANTA MONICA'S NEWEST CULINARY TREASURE

The Main Street eatery is perfect for a date or a night out with friends.

BY ANGELA MATANO

AS A SANTA MONICA RESIDENT, I have been complaining that Venice's Abbot Kinney gets all the luck as far as grub goes (see: Gjelina, Tasting Kitchen, Intelligentsia Coffee), but the tide is beginning to turn as Main Street may be getting a second wind. At the forefront of this evolution is the new Brick + Mortar. Set behind Peet's Coffee in a somewhat secluded courtyard, this self-described gastropub strikes a delicate balance between cozy and bustling, making it work equally well for a date or a night out with friends.

The space itself has been gently but firmly reimagined since its days as Salute. Less modern and with a warmer vibe, the eponymous bricks and open beams suit the large space, and the low lighting and deep booths create a pleasant intimacy.

A large bar dominates the back wall, with offerings that range

from a solid beer and wine list to unique house specialty drinks, like Blueberry Breeze – spiked with acai berry vodka – and the savory Cucumber Basil Refresher – garnished with the fragrant, fresh herb.

The menu, an eclectic mix of the melting pot of America, features staples like a fantastic burger and thin crust pizzas, as well as more unusual fare, such as crab & ricotta squash blossom fritters with chili aioli. The food offerings change weekly, reflecting seasonal changes in produce.

I visited recently with a couple of friends. We found ourselves greeted cordially, and were quickly ensconced in a corner booth.

We started with the chicken & pork potpie after getting a thumbs up on the dish from a neighboring table. Well seasoned and juicy, this filling twist on the English standby was a big hit. Another favorite of the table was the appetizer of curried hummus



Brick + Mortar serves an eclectic variety of food.



The curried hummus appetizer is a popular dish.

accompanied by a loaf of fresh, hot pizza dough.

Also delicious was the braised beef shin, blue cheese and arugula pizza. And in the end, although full, we managed to polish off a yummy sticky toffee pudding and a triple tiered, moist piece of carrot cake.

It's safe to say that Brick + Mortar is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Brick + Mortar is located at 2435 Main St., Santa Monica. For more information and for reservations, call (310) 450-3434.

## CLEAN OUT YOUR FRIDGE FRIED RICE

Save yourself from a delivery fee by making the Chinese take-out staple at home for less!

BY TAYLOR LIPTAK

**CHEAP AND EASY** are the two main criteria for most college chefs; I also like to add healthy to that list. Using that formula, my roommate and I devised a recipe for Clean Out Your Fridge Fried Rice.

It's not a novel concept, I know, but it's delicious and costs nothing. When you're hungry and there's too much month at the end of your money, fried rice is a great go-to for a filling meal that can be made with just about anything you have on hand (as long as one of those things is rice).

One-pot meals like this one are my favorite because you have very few dishes to clean afterward, which is another bonus. I also have no patience for following recipes and prefer to make things up as I go along, so if you are like me this is an awesome recipe-free dish. Instead, I'll just give you a few guidelines. Feel free to ignore any of them and make up your own; it's pretty hard to screw this one up.

This will only take 10-15 minutes, will cost less than \$5, and depending on what you add, it is pretty low-fat and full of protein and vitamins. Win!



This fried rice recipe is cheap, easy and healthy!

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- A large pan/pot/wok/cooking vessel of some sort
- Cooked rice – white or brown, leftover or fresh – it doesn't matter
- Oil
- Soy sauce

### WHAT YOU CAN ADD:

- Cabbage and really any other veggies you might have that need to be used up, chopped up small
- Minced garlic
- Frozen peas, carrots, corn and edamame (beans only, not the shells)
- Egg
- Cooked meat – ground or minced chicken, pork or shrimp, or crumbled bacon – whatever you have on hand
- Diced tofu
- Teriyaki sauce (not the syrupy kind though)
- Chopped green onion
- Chopped peanuts

### DIRECTIONS:

Heat your pan and add a small splash of oil. Add any fresh veggies you might be using and cook for a couple of minutes until just tender. Add garlic if you want, and cook for another minute, and then add any frozen vegetables and cook until defrosted. If adding egg, push the veggies to the side of the pan and scramble the egg on the other side. Add any meat or tofu, and season with salt and pepper to your liking. Finally, add the rice and stir everything together until it is hot. Add a splash of soy sauce and/or teriyaki sauce. Let the rice cook without stirring for a couple of minutes so some of it gets crispy. Turn off the heat, and sprinkle on green onions and peanuts if you have them. Enjoy!

# LAKERS' BYNUM OVERCOMING FEAR FACTOR

BY KEVIN DING  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER (MCT)

**ANDREW BYNUM IS STILL ON THE RISE** seven years into his NBA career, which is why it's easy to chronicle his slow climb.

From the happy-go-lucky kid who showered in his socks and then raided the hotel-room mini-bar ... to the inconsistent, very slow role player Kobe Bryant wanted traded for more proven help ... to the still-injury-prone, still-tradable but emerging commodity capable of crushing opposing centers' spirits and J.J. Barea's ribcage.

In the Lakers' sharpest blueprint, they would have traded Pau Gasol and Lamar Odom for Chris Paul, 26, reinforced the power-forward spot with Michael Beasley, 23, and swapped an All-Star Bynum for Dwight Howard, 26, at the trade deadline to put the final massive piece of the puzzle in place.

All that, in theory, was how the Lakers' past glory would seamlessly evolve into the present and future.

All that, however, will wind up less a part of Lakers history than Jason Kapono.

What the Lakers are looking at now is just how high Bynum can climb, especially after he reached up Sunday (April 29) to block 10 shots, as many as anyone ever in an NBA playoff game, and post the league's first postseason triple-double from a center since David Robinson did it five years before Tim Duncan even entered the league.

How incredible would it be if the Lakers won a championship this season after being fully prepared to trade both Bynum and Gasol? Well, to show you just how locked in Bynum is on making that unlikely scenario happen ...

Bynum said Monday (April 30) he has not even discussed his offseason plans to have the innovative German procedure - the one that Bryant has raved publicly about helping him last offseason - on his troublesome knees.

"It hasn't come up," Bynum said.

Bynum laughed as he said it - but as exciting as the idea of an even stronger, quicker Bynum is, he has seriously kept himself from delving too deep into that project.

For all the cries of immaturity and unprofessionalism he has evoked and endured in his breakout season, Bynum is that locked in on winning now.

"I've got to really look at the process," Bynum said. "I know it helped Kobe a lot, Alex Rodriguez and some other guys. I don't know exactly what it does; I haven't really dealt with it. I'm just getting through these playoffs, and then that'll be the first thing I do over the summer."

Bynum said he isn't certain he will go through with the procedure - which involves drawing blood, then altering it on a molecular level into a protein-rich serum that greatly improves joint function upon injection. It looks awfully promising, though.

"We sent MRIs, and they said it can help me," Bynum said. "But I haven't made the final decision."

Bynum has a genetic predisposition for knee injuries,

ligamentous laxity (or "looseness") contributing to hurting his left knee in 2008 and then his right knee in 2009 and '10. He wears a brace over the right knee in games and practices and has been told to wear it for the rest of his career. His risk

part of his doctor-mandated maintenance - he deserves a ton of credit for overcoming the fear factors with his knees.

He averaged 18.7 points for the season, not missing one game because of injury. (Bynum did have painful corns on his feet for most of the season, so he's wearing those three pairs of socks of different length to fill his shoes for a particularly snug, secure feel. The different lengths? That's just Bynum being different.)

Bynum played fewer than 28 minutes per game last season, when Coach Phil Jackson admitted to trying to minimize Bynum's exposure to injury. Bynum played 35-plus minutes per game this season.

His 30 rebounds came in the Lakers' most impressive regular-season victory at San Antonio while Bryant was injured. Now his 10 blocked shots were delivered in the Lakers' playoff tone-setter - and the only real piece of news to come out of that opener against an unready, inexperienced Denver team was Bynum so embracing the pivotal defensive aspect of his job description.

"It's not pressure," he said about the Lakers needing his best to go the distance this postseason. "It's just the truth."

There was understandable concern in the Lakers' inner circle during the regular season as Bynum chased stats, thirsted for 3-pointers, shrugged off discipline and blared music through his headphones that he might be more about entitlement than a title hunt.

This new Lakers coaching staff that hardly knew him wondered more than a few times whether Bynum testing limits meant he wanted more ... or less.

After all, he got two NBA championship rings already, so does this guy wearing his new All-Star ring everywhere really care?

Well, even with all that has changed in him, Bynum has always been hungry to win - dating way back to when his age made his juvenile habits more appropriate. He goofed around, but he never backed away from a challenge - whether it was basketball, video games, math problems or the chessboard.

Bynum's plans to visit Germany to treat his knees are his latest example of Kobe-like ambition to achieve more tomorrow. The vagueness of those future plans is a testament to Bynum's full intention to seize today.

We all have sad stories to tell about what didn't happen for us yesterday.

You know Bynum could.

But we don't get 30 rebounds or block 10 shots by thinking about what our knees might not be able to do.

We only reach our potential in life by finding freedom from the limiting beliefs of our past.

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Lakers' Andrew Bynum is developing into the best center in the NBA.

management is so intensive that he even planned to wear a brace over the left knee in the 2009-10 season despite it not bothering him at any point during the previous season.

When you consider the confidence and activity that Bynum has been showing lately - after, it should be noted, he got a lubricating injection in his right knee at the All-Star break as

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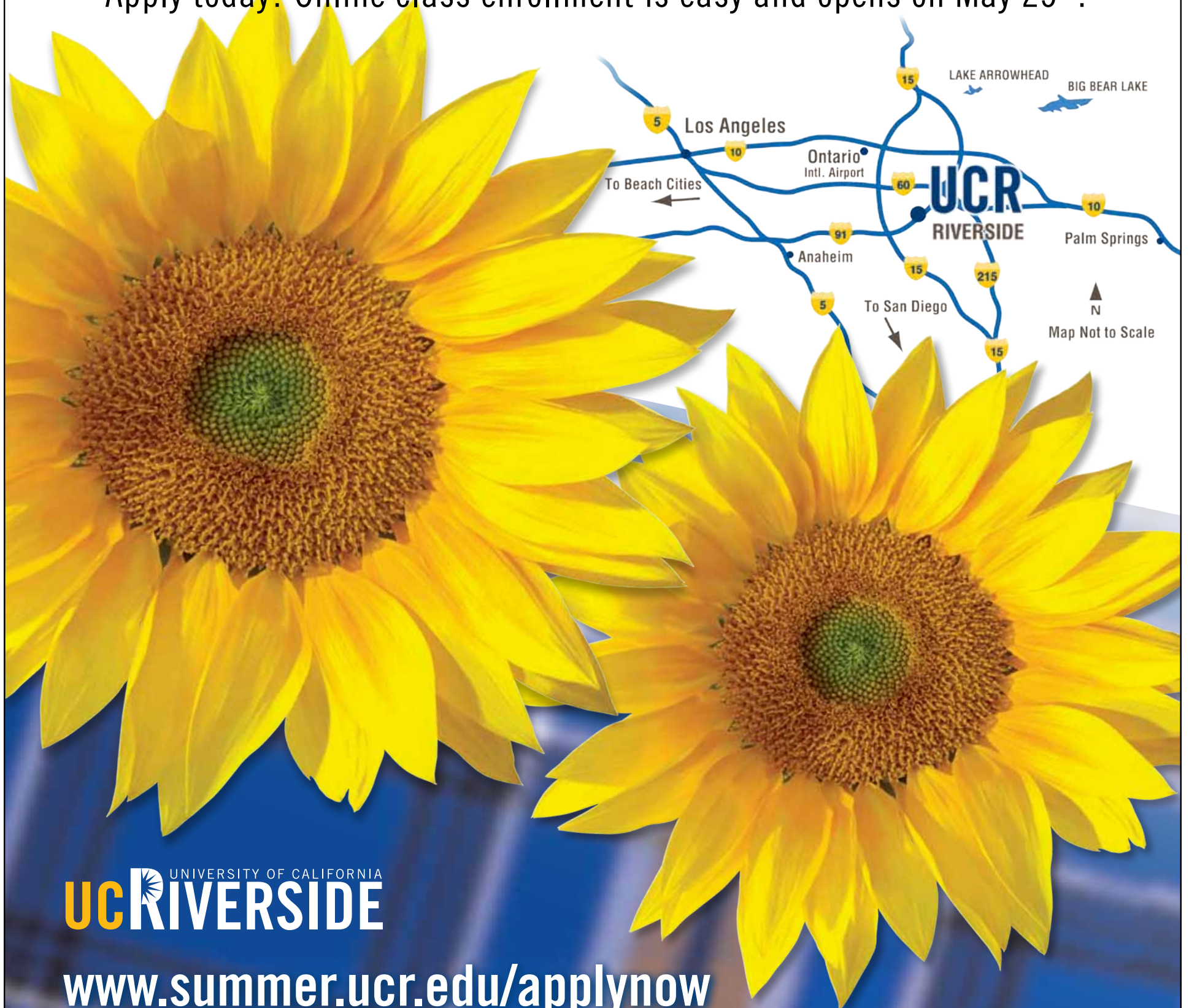
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