

WESTCHESTER MAGAZINE

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What to Do This Season

By: Laura Joseph Mogil with Harlan Jacobsen and Marisa LaScala

FALL

Arts Preview

As the weather cools down, the arts scene heats up around the county. Here's our guide to dancing, singing, laughing, gasping, and ooh-ahhing your way through this fall's cultural offerings.

By Laura Joseph Mogil

Innovative. Cutting Edge. Groundbreaking. Westchester's fall arts calendar is chock full of exciting art exhibitions, plays, dance performances, musical events, and book readings that will make you open your eyes, perk up your ears, and sit on the edge of your seat. There's no need to tax your EZ Pass when you can experience some of the best au courant visual and performing arts right here in Westchester—or sample classic fare if that is more to your liking. Read on to find out about what's hot, hip, and happening in Westchester this fall.

art

Shattering Glass: New Perspectives

Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah

November 11, 2007 - February 24, 2008



Forget the glass slipper:

Karen LaMonte's sculpture, Dress Impression with Train, is a whole glass gown.

Don't expect to find traditional glass bowls or vases at the Katonah Museum's Shattering Glass exhibit. As the title implies, this exhibition was designed to shatter visitors' expectations of glass: what it is, how it looks, how it functions, and any perceived limitations of scale, texture, and malleability.

"We're pretty much knocking things off the pedestal," says museum director Neil Watson (a former chief curator at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington), who is co-curating the exhibition with Ellen Keiter, the museum's curator of contemporary art and exhibitions. Watson says the goal of Shattering Glass is to "show people what artists are currently doing with the material." And that's exactly what it does, shedding light on the astonishing range of artwork being created in the medium, including stained glass, found glass, and glass that's been cast, cut, sandblasted, etched, slumped, and blown, as well as works in crystal, neon, mosaic, and fiber optics.

Among the eye-catching, site-specific artwork is Sharon Louden's 12-foot-high installation made of black, white, and clear tubes of

"framework" glass. The tubes, which have been heated, bent, and twisted, look like giant squiggles; they dart in and out of the walls and ceiling. Another must-see is Dante Marioni's eight-foot-long wall piece made of more than 100 clear, hand-blown glass vessels with black outlines, which look like line drawings that seem to, says Watson, "dance across the wall." Beth Lipman's table-top still life, composed of plates, glasses, silverware, food, and fabrics created entirely out of glass, is another show-stopper, as are the two translucent and ethereal, cast glass figurative sculptures featuring empty dresses with the ghost of a figure within by Karen LaMonte.

OUR PICKS:

In Continuum: Current Work by Past Members

Clay Art Center, Port Chester

September 5 - 29 (opening reception is September 8 from 6 to 8 pm)



It's a blast from the past at the Clay Art Center, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary by mounting an exhibition in its Choy Gallery that highlights the work of 28 past members. Giving testament to the wide range of artwork that has been fabricated at this small but highly venerated Center over the years, In Continuum includes functional pottery, wall works, and decorative vessels as well as figurative and abstract sculptures.

Size Matters: XXL

Recent Large-Scale Paintings

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art Peekskill;

September 16, 2007 - Spring 2008

The bigger the better in this exhibition that showcases works in which size plays a major role. The second in a two-part series that looks at issues of scale in contemporary painting, the show features monumental works by some of today's most influential artists. Don't miss Richard Jackson's "performative painting" featuring a living room set splattered in paint, or Jonathan Meese's 20-foot-wide by 12-foot-high mixed-media work with photos collaged onto the canvas.

Twist & Shout: The New Needle Arts

Pelham Art Center, Pelham

September 21 - November 2



A far cry from Grandma's stitching sampler, this show gives a refreshing perspective on the five time-honored needle art techniques: embroidery, needlepoint, cross stitch, knitting, and crocheting. Among the 14 contemporary fiber artists to produce provocative, concept-driven art are Paté Conaway, whose 15-foot mittens are the product of four-foot knitting needles and upholstery, and Donna Rosenthal, whose crocheted steel-wire miniature clothing conveys gender-related messages.

Tzedakah: The Path to Righteousness

Westchester Arts Council's Arts Exchange

White Plains

September 24 - October 27

The more than 40 tzedakah (charity) boxes on exhibit here not only are visually stunning but also explore the significance of charity in all religions and cultures. From the collections of five local lenders, the breathtaking boxes range in time period from the early 19th century to the present and are created from a variety of products, including silver, brass, and wood.

Hearing Space

The Studio: An Alternative Space for Contemporary Art, Armonk

September 29 - November 11

You'll not only have to open your eyes, you'll also have to listen very closely at this exhibition by sonic artist and philosopher Bruce Odland, who takes the sounds of the environment to create music. Expect to hear Westchester like you've never heard it before, from a harp played by a snow-and-ice storm to a one-string fiddle bowed by the flooding Croton River. Enhancing the exhibition are DVD visuals on monitors as well as displays of the unusual instruments and recording devices that the artist constructed to gather the sounds.

ALSO CONSIDER...

The Rye Arts Center holds its 7th Annual Painters on Location from September 9 to 15. Approximately 45 professional artists, who've been invited to paint around the Sound Shore area, will exhibit and auction off their work to benefit the center.



At The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, Connecticut, **James Prosek's** new works depict beautifully rendered birds hovering in abstract environments in the exhibition, *Life & Death: A Visual Taxonomy*, running from September 16, 2007 to June 8, 2008. The Hudson River Museum in Yonkers hosts *Pattern and Decoration: An Ideal Vision in Contemporary Art, 1975-1985*, from October 27, 2007 to January 27, 2008, which features the art of 11 painters, sculptors, and printmakers who were influenced by the visual pleasure and beauty of women's work.



Looking for a charming watercolor, beautifully crafted ceramic vase, or handsome hand-blown glass bowl? You're in luck because Westchester is hosting three major arts and crafts shows this fall. It all begins with the 23rd annual Fall Crafts at Lyndhurst, running from September 14 to 16 in Tarrytown. You'll find contemporary works by more than 300 artists and craftspeople from across the country, including one-of-a-kind and limited edition jewelry, fashion and accessories, furniture, and home décor pieces as well as functional and sculptural work in ceramics, glass, and metal—not to mention an outstanding array of painting and photography. Next on the circuit is the Armonk Outdoor Art Show, now in its 46th year, featuring arts and crafts from 190 juried artists from 35 states. Taking place on September 29 and 30 in the North Castle Community Park, this year this top-ranked, juried show includes 40 new exhibitors and showcases everything from watercolors, oils, photography, and sculpture to fine crafts such as jewelry, leather, and raku. Last but not least is the 14th annual Westchester Craft Show, which returns to the Westchester County Center in White Plains on October 19 to 21. This prestigious show and sale is highlighted by expertly crafted glass, porcelain, wood, precious metals, wearable art, and furniture. "Part of the enjoyment of attending the show is being able to see a full range of each artist's work, while having the opportunity to become acquainted with those artists whose work you admire and collect," says Elizabeth Kubie, head of Crafts America, the organizer of the show.



WHAT'S HOT

Richard III
The Insights & Revelations Performance Series
Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester, Pleasantville
 September 29



Want to feel like a real theater insider? Then pay a visit to the Rosenthal JCC, home to Insights & Revelations, which recently won this magazine's "Best of Westchester" award for best new performance series.

Producer Anna Becker says this fall, theatergoers can get a "behind-the-scenes look at bringing Shakespeare from the page to the stage" when the Classic Stage Company holds an open rehearsal of the Bard's Richard III before bringing it Off Broadway later in the year.

This is a great chance to see major Shakespearean actors up close, including Obie Award winner **Michael Cumpsty** (see Datebook, page 219), who'll be tackling the leading role of Richard III, Western literature's grandest villain. Talking about Cumpsty, the Wall Street Journal asks rhetorically, "Is there a better Shakespearean actor in America?"



According to Becker, the audience will get a chance to see "the creative process in motion," as director **Brian Kulick** has the cast repeat scenes and try them in different ways during the rehearsal. He'll also speak openly with the audience about what he's trying to accomplish and discuss different acting approaches and directorial interpretations. Really, what better way is there to get the inside theater scoop?
1984

The Actors' Gang

*The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Purchase
October 5 and 6*

The mission of The Actors' Gang, founded in 1981 in Los Angeles by a group of renegade theatre artists, is to create bold, original works for the stage and daring reinterpretations of the classics. Under the direction of Academy Award winner Tim Robbins, the Gang is mounting a brand new adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984.

Evermore...Murder and Mystery

by Edgar Allan Poe

The Rye Arts Center, Rye; October 21

Prepare for Halloween with an afternoon of scary tales, featuring a haunting performance of three of Edgar Allan Poe's works by actor/director Tony Tsendas. Other featured guests include Jeff Jerome, curator of Baltimore's Poe House and Museum; music legend and two-time Edgar Award winner Rupert Homes; and CBS-TV and radio journalist Anthony Mason, who will share secrets, discuss mysteries, and answer questions about America's most chilling author.

NBC's Last Comic Standing Live Tour

Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown; October 24

What could be funnier than watching NBC's smash hit Last Comic Standing? The answer is seeing the comedians live on stage when the official "NBC's Last Comic Standing Live Tour" comes to Tarrytown. Don't miss this opportunity to laugh out loud at the hilarious stand-up routines of five finalists from the popular series, including the comic America selected as the funniest new comedian in the world.

Hong Kong

Blueberry Pond Theatre Ensemble,

Cedar Lake Park in Ossining; November 2 - December 2

Directed by Southern playwright Lloyd Pace, Hong Kong was developed inside Blueberry Pond's theatre labs as part of the center's efforts to bring cutting-edge performances to Westchester. (FYI: Blueberry Pond received this magazine's "Best of Westchester" Award in 2005 for "Best Venue for Original Theater" in the county.) The play traces what happens when a love triangle and a major business deal intersect inside the city of Hong Kong. So, sit back in your comfy leather club chair inside the Shine House's intimate 49-seat theater and enjoy!

Reading: Peter Cole and Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore

Hudson Valley Writers' Center, Sleepy Hollow; November 18

Co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Understanding, this heavy-hitting program promises to be "an event that provokes thought and discussion through the power of the written and spoken word," says Jerri Lynn Fields, executive director of the Writers' Center. Sharing the mike are Israeli poet and translator Peter Cole and Muslim poet and translator Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore

ALSO CONSIDER...



MASKED AND ANONYMOUS: Robert Cuccioli and Glory Crampton in Phantom, to be performed this season at the Westchester Broadway Theatre.

Come enjoy some theater classics: Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford presents **Phantom** from October 4 to November 25 and December 27 to January 27, 2008. The Sound of Music is at the Irvington Town Hall Theater on November 3 to 4 and 9 to 11, and the White Plains Performing Arts Center puts on Man of La Mancha from November 29 to December 16.

DANCE



OUR PICKS:

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Purchase September 28

Calling all lovers of modern dance: **Mark Morris**, who's considered one of the greatest choreographers of our time, is bringing his dance company to Purchase this fall. Formed in 1980, the Mark Morris Dance Group gave its first performance in New York City and then was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium in 1988. Thankfully, the troupe returned to the United States in 1991 and has been delighting dance lovers ever since.



Taylor 2 Dance Concert

Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre

Valhalla; October 20

Paul Taylor has been called a genius, a legend, and a cultural icon, and you'll be able to see why when Taylor 2 comes to town. Formed in 1993, Taylor 2 is a company of six dancers who bring many of the choreographer's modern masterworks to smaller venues around the globe. The athleticism, humor, and range of emotions found in Taylor's work are sure to draw you in and make you a big fan, if you aren't already.

Steffi Nossen School of Dance presents An Afternoon of Dance: A Choreography Showcase

Purchase College Dance Theater Laboratory, Purchase

December 1

Grab the opportunity to see the work of Westchester's emerging choreographers in this dance showcase that features a broad spectrum of styles from contemporary and modern to jazz. Among the highlights is the premiere of a newly commissioned work by Sidra Bell, a White Plains resident and Purchase College MFA graduate whose works have been seen at the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival in Lee, Massachusetts; The Yard in Martha's Vineyard; and various New York City venues. As an added bonus, the performances will be followed by a Q & A session with the choreographers and dancers.

WHAT'S HOT

Beijing LDTX

The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Purchase

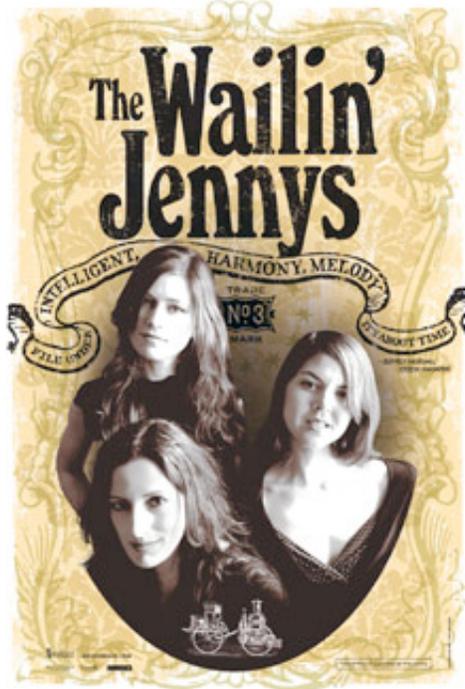
October 19 and 20



Who knew beyond the Great Wall of China lay such cutting-edge dance talent? Founded two years ago by US-educated, Hong Kong native Willy Tsao, Beijing LDTX "expertly integrates China's traditional culture with influences from abroad and contemporary dance technique," says Brian McCurdy, director of the Performing Arts Center. The result is a repertoire that shows off unsurpassed technical skills and ground-breaking choreography.

Friday night's program features the company's acclaimed full-evening work, *The Cold Dagger*. Based on the traditional Chinese game of Weigi, this thought-provoking look at human confrontation juxtaposes incredible acrobatics with perfectly-timed paired movement. Saturday's program includes *All River Red*, a striking piece performed to Stravinsky's classic *The Rite of Spring*, paired with the company's newest commissioned work *Pilgrimage*, featuring music by the "father of Chinese rock," Cui Jian.

MUSIC



OUR PICKS:

THE WAILIN' JENNYS

Tarrytown Music Hall, Tarrytown

September 29

Traveling in on a fresh acoustic breeze from Canada's mid-western heartland, the Wailin' Jennys is a trio of three extraordinary voices singing together in heavenly harmony. It's an evening of down-home roots, country, and bluegrass music that promises to blow you away.

Westchester Philharmonic

The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Purchase

October 6 and 7

If classical music is more your style, come celebrate the Westchester Philharmonic's 25th anniversary and Music Director and Conductor Paul Lustig Dunkel's final season. (We're so sad to see him leave!) For the opening performance, the orchestra presents masterworks by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, and Brahms. Special guest is world-renowned piano virtuoso Misha Dichter.

America

Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill

October 13 and 14

Get ready for some classic pop-rock when America swings into town to sing some of their biggest hits, including the song that made them famous in 1972, "A Horse with No Name." You can safely bet that other all-time favorites, such as "Sister Golden Hair" and "Ventura Highway," are also on the play list.



Beatlemania Now

The Emelin Theatre, Mamaroneck;
October 20

Travel back in time with John, Paul, Ringo, and George as they evolve from their early days when they kicked off the British Invasion with their appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show in February, 1964, to their 1970 breakup, marked by a "Let It Be" finale. The Beatlemania Now tribute band makes it even more real by playing on vintage instruments just like the ones The Fab Four used, from George's Gretsch and John's Rickenbacker guitars to Paul's Hofner bass to Ringo's famous Ludwig drums.

Great Artists in the Music Room

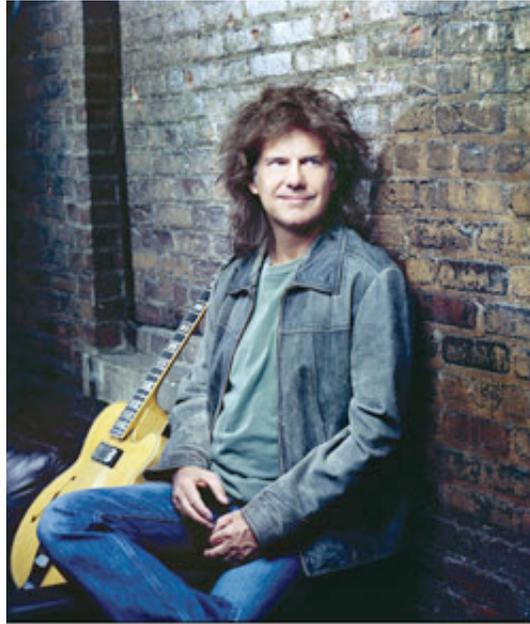
Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, Katonah
October 20

You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy classical music in the elegant and intimate Music Room, which has been praised as a "highly-polished jewel at the heart of Caramoor." Internationally-acclaimed performers Vladimir Feltsman on piano, Paul Neubauer on viola, and baritone William Sharp perform beloved works by Beethoven, Schumann, and Shostakovich.

Songs of the Spirit

Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill;
November 18

A soulful celebration of unity among diverse faiths and cultures, this program combines contemporary popular music with traditional sacred music in a unique fusion of genres, styles and traditions. The performance features Hugh Masekela, South Africa's legendary Afropop Jazz ambassador, and Odetta, the folk-music icon who's been called the "Mother Goddess of Folk & Blues" by the New York Times.



pat metheny | photo by jimmy katz
courtesy of www.patmethenygroup.com

JAZZ IT UP: Pat Metheny comes to The Performing Arts Center

ALSO CONSIDER...

The Irvington Town Hall Theater presents songwriter and folk singer Loudon Wainwright III on October 6. On October 14, the New Rochelle Opera performs highlights from *The Barber of Seville* at Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre in Valhalla. Jazz-lovers get the chance to see the Pat Metheny Trio with Christian McBride and Antonio Sanchez at The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College on October 26, and The Westchester Chamber Orchestra's 11th concert season opens on November 3 with an evening of Mozart and Schubert at Iona College's Joyce Auditorium in New Rochelle.

WHAT'S Hot



Matthew Graybill, Pianist

Photo: R. Andrew Lepley/ Courtesy Stecher and Horowitz Foundation

Downtown Music at Grace Celebrates 20th Anniversary Season

Downtown Music at Grace Church, that soothing oasis of art and culture in the heart of White Plains, is marking its 20th anniversary with a lineup of full-length weekend concerts this fall offering a number of celebratory "firsts." "First" number one is the local debut of Les Petits Chanteurs, the 40-member boys' choir of École de Musique Ste Trinité (Holy Trinity Music School) from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on September 22. The choir, which will be joined by a chamber orchestra of 10 musicians from the Holy Trinity Philharmonic Orchestra, promises to deliver "an evening filled with traditional Haitian and sacred music," Executive Director Michael Chang vows.

The second "first" is artistic/founding director Timothy Lewis's first appearance as organ soloist with the Downtown Sinfonietta, Downtown Music's resident chamber orchestra, on October 21. The Sinfonietta, conducted by Vincent Lioni of the Metropolitan Opera orchestra, will perform Joseph Rheinberger's "Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Bass" with Lewis at the helm of the church's mighty Guilbault-Thérien pipe organ.

For the third "first," Downtown Music will present the first-ever Westchester County opera-in-concert performance of *Treemonisha* by African-American ragtime composer and Pulitzer Prize winner Scott Joplin on November 18. "The opera is about love, redemption, and salvation," Chang says, "and contains music that is romantic in style, fusing elements of ragtime, spirituals, southern folk song, blues,

and jazz." (FYI: if you can't make it to the Weekend Concerts, drop by during the week for one or more of Downtown Music's "Noonday Getaway" series starting September 19.)

MOVIES

September 7

Our Pick: [3:10 to Yuma](#)



Before actor Christian Bale dons the Batsuit again for next year's *The Dark Knight*, he breaks out his cowboy hat and spurs for this Western remake. Bale plays Dan Evans, a Civil War veteran and rancher who agrees to take notorious railroad-robber Ben Wade (Russell Crowe) to the train that will take Wade to his trial—if they can get to it before Wade's posse catch up with them. Also Opening: Those looking for more shootouts can take in the gritty, aptly titled *Shoot 'Em Up*, which has Clive Owen and Paul Giamatti as unlikely rivals facing off over the life of a woman and her child.

September 14

Our Pick: [Eastern Promises](#)

Director David Cronenberg and actor Viggo Mortensen, who previously joined forces for 2005's



A History of Violence, have teamed up once again for more, well, violence. Mortensen stars as Nikolai Luzhin, a gangster who runs afoul of a midwife (Naomi Watts) in possession of evidence of his prostitution ring. Also Opening: If *Shoot 'Em Up* and *Eastern Promises* don't have enough flashy gang brutality for you, *War* has two action/martial-arts vets, Jet Li and Jason Statham, squaring off at the center of a frenetic mob feud. For a different treatment of violence, *The Brave One* follows a woman, played by Jodie Foster, dealing with the consequences of a brutal incident in her past.

Friday 21

Our Pick: [The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward](#)



In this introspective, atmospheric Western, Brad Pitt leaves his famous real-life fatherhood behind and steps into the role of the title outlaw, while Casey Affleck (brother of Ben) plays a member of James's posse who decides to turn on its leader. The material sounds dark—and indeed it might be—but the Los Angeles Times reports that “some who have seen the film say the performances by Pitt and especially Affleck are among the best in their careers.”

Also Opening: Face it: sometimes you just want a break from the artiness and just want to watch people fight zombies. If that's the case, head to *Resident Evil: Extinction*, in which survivors from the first two movies (and pop star Ashanti) battle the undead while trying to take down the nefarious Umbrella Corporation.

Friday 28

Our Pick: [Across the Universe](#)

Looking for an original, innovative fall movie? All you need is love. Well, love, and this imaginative musical—yes, musical—from Julie Taymor, director of Broadway's *The Lion King*. Taymor manages to bring together a love story, anti-Vietnam protests, civil-rights riots, the 1960s counterculture scene, and even some animation—all set to the songs of the Beatles. (The main character? His name is Jude.)

Also Opening: In *The Darjeeling Limited*, Adrian Brody, Owen Wilson, and Jason Schwartzman are a trio of brothers looking to reconnect on a cross-country tour of India. The film comes from stylish director Wes Anderson, so expect an audience full of hipsters. Otherwise, political intrigue and Middle East relations rear their ugly heads again in *The Kingdom*, in which Jamie Foxx stars as an FBI agent in charge of a team of experts investigating the bombing of an American facility in Saudi Arabia.

October 5

Our Pick: [Grace Is Gone](#)



Also Opening: Fans of twisty, complicated, lots-of-ins-and-outs plots should skip *Grace* for *Michael Clayton*, a movie that somehow susses out the dealings of an über-powerful law firm, the firm's in-house “fixer” (George Clooney—swoon), a litigator at the head of the firm's multi-million dollar class-action suit, and the rival attorney willing to do anything to bring that suit down. Take notes to keep up.

October 12

Our Pick: [Elizabeth: The Golden Age](#)

Anglophiles enamored of all things royal can take in *The Golden Age*, a sequel to 1998's *Elizabeth* that has the queen defending her throne while coming to terms with her attraction to Sir Walter Raleigh (played by Clive Owen, so who could blame her?).

Also Opening: Fans of *The Office*—and who isn't?—can watch Steve Carrell bring his brand of comedy to the big screen in *Dan in Real Life*, where he plays a man smitten with his brother's girlfriend.

October 19

Our Pick: [Gone, Baby, Gone](#)



Ben Affleck, possibly looking to get back some of those Good Will Hunting good vibes, returns to his Massachusetts roots for his directorial debut. Based on a novel by Dennis Lehane, *Gone, Baby, Gone* has P.I.s Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro on the hunt for a four-year-old girl who went missing in her working-class Boston neighborhood.

Also Opening: Vampires are on the attack in Alaska in *30 Days of Night*, and the attempt to thwart them becomes complicated when the town heads into a month without sunshine. Hopefully, Josh Hartnett will be tough enough to stop them.

October 26

Our Pick: [Things We Lost in the Fire](#)



Two haunted humans, tragic pasts, and lost souls that become intertwined—these are the fibers that fall movies are made of. This time out, Halle Berry plays a recent widow (*Troubled Soul #1*) who invites her husband's no-good best friend (*Troubled Soul #2*) to live with her and her two daughters. Healing ensues.

Also Opening: John Cusack's back in *Martian Child*, where he once again plays a troubled father—this time to an offbeat boy who believes that he's from Mars. And—fess up—we know you're curious about the fate of *Jigsaw's* victims in *Saw IV*. The last two *Saw* movies made more than \$80 million apiece, so you don't have to feel too embarrassed for wanting to see the fourth installment.

November 2

Our Pick: [American Gangster](#)

We love watching locals on the big screen, so we have to support Mount Vernon native Denzel Washington's newest film—even if he takes on the role Frank Lucas, head of a powerful 1970s Harlem drug ring that smuggles heroin in the coffins of soldiers returning from Vietnam. Let's hope that FBI agent Richie Roberts, played by Russell Crowe, gives him his comeuppance to ease our consciences.



Also Opening: Based on a bestselling novel, *The Kite Runner* tells the harrowing story of Amir and Hassan, two childhood friends in Afghanistan who are separated under distressing circumstances. For something a little lighter, **Bee Movie** is an animated film about Barry B. Benson (Jerry Seinfeld), an industrious bumblebee who graduates from college and wants to discover life outside the hive. (Don't we all?)

November 9**Our Pick:** **No Country for Old Men**

Also Opening: Robert Redford examines the situation in Afghanistan through the eyes of a senator, a journalist, a professor, and a soldier in *Lions for Lambs* (with Meryl Streep and Tom Cruise), while, far away from Afghanistan, Santa Claus's slacker older brother (Vince Vaughn) causes trouble at the family's North Pole homestead in *Fred Claus*.

November 16**Our Pick:** **Beowulf**

You probably haven't thought about this ancient tale since the Early Middle Ages (aka AP English), but Robert Zemeckis should reawaken your interest with this animated version. (For a real jolt to your scholarly senses, check it out in IMAX 3D.) Though they only appear through motion-capture, the cast is star-studded, with Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins, Crispin Glover, and John Malkovich lending their vocal talents to a script penned by venerated fantasy writer Neil Gaiman. This one goes well with a nice pint of mead. Also Opening: *The Squid and the Whale* director Noah Baumbach brings his melancholy sense of comedy to *Margot at the Wedding*, about the relationship between two sisters (Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Jason Leigh) at a time when one is considering marrying her floundering boyfriend (Jack Black, in what film columnist Jeffrey Wells calls Black's possible "Terms of Endearment role").

November 30**Our Pick:** **Cassandra's Dream**

Woody Allen leaves his beloved New York again in favor of South London for *Cassandra's Dream*, which features two quarreling brothers (Colin Farrell and Ewan McGregor) who turn to crime to please—whom else?—the woman they both desire.

Also Opening: Hopefully, Diane Keaton can recover from the disaster of *Because I Said So* with *Mama's Boy*, where she plays a mother to a 29-year-old son (Napoleon Dynamite's John Heder) with no intentions of moving out of the family home. Some Westchester parents can probably relate.

December 7**Our Pick:** **His Dark Materials:**

The Golden Compass



Armored bears, otherworldly scientific instruments, daemons, witches, and magic dust all find their way into *The Golden Compass*, a film based on the critically acclaimed book series by Philip Pullman. Lyra, an orphaned girl living among scholars in Oxford, undertakes a mission to leave academia and rescue kidnapped children, guided by a truth-telling device known as an alethiometer. Think of it as this year's *Chronicles of Narnia*, only with much better source material.

Also Opening: You've read *Atonement*, the bestselling, award-winning novel by Ian McEwan. Was there any doubt in your mind that they'd eventually bring it to Hollywood? Christopher Hampton (*Pride and Prejudice*) leads Kiera Knightly and James McAvoy in the screen adaptation. And while the eggheads go to the literary movie, the jocks can go see *Leatherheads*, a George Clooney-directed film about 1920s football.

December 14

Our Pick: **I Am Legend**



Aliens, killer robots, giant mechanical spiders—what else can Will Smith fight off to save the world? Answer: the undead. Smith plays the last human alive defending himself from the human monsters in *I Am Legend*, a remake of 1971's *The Omega Man*. Let's hope he throws in a trademark Smith "Oh hell no!"

Also Opening: Those who adored Judd Apatow's summer hit *Knocked Up* should get in line early for the Apatow-written *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story*, a film that spoofs Oscar-bait musical biopics à la *Walk the Line* and *Ray*. Really, that had it coming.

December 21

Our Pick: **Sweeney Todd**

The story of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street as it was always meant to be seen: a film version directed by goth guru Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter. Let's hope Depp's singing voice is as good as his pirate swagger.

Also Opening: In *The Other Boleyn Girl*, Scarlett Johansson and Natalie Portman play sisters Mary and Anne Boleyn, both vying for the affection of Henry VIII—and I think we all know how that one ends. Scenesters might skip all the royal drama for *Be Kind Rewind*, the newest outing by surreal director Michel Gondry, about a man (Jack Black) who accidentally erases an entire video store's stock of movies and decides to remake the films himself—all of them.

December 28

Our Pick: **The Savages**

Estranged brother-and-sister Jon and Wendy Savage (Philip Seymour Hoffman and Laura Linney) are reunited to take care of their aging father. Expect more moodiness and tragicomedy—a perfect antidote to Christmas cheer.

Also Opening: Another one for the home team: *Charlie Wilson's War*, a film about one congressman's undercover operations supporting Afghanistan's mujahideen in the 1980s, was written by Scarsdale native and West Wing creator Aaron Sorkin. While both *The Savages* and *Charlie Wilson's War* are certainly worthy, we really couldn't blame you if you ditched them for another movie opening in this prime holiday time-slot, a film certain to be ignored come awards season: *Alien vs. Predator 2*.

Note: Film release dates are notoriously fickle, and some of these may have shifted after we went to press. Please check your local listings.

FILM FAVES

A wealth of serious quality offerings from the top indie film festivals

By Harlan Jacobson

Doomed politicians, astronauts forever changed by space, Mexican immigrants on the run, brothers on the road, Queen Elizabeth in torment (for a change), the death of a soldier-mom in Iraq, another Coen Brothers' golem-gone-renegade down in Cormac McCarthy's Texas, and *The Kite Runner* are all making their way across the screen this fall in what is decidedly a season of serious, quality offerings.

The first two major stops on the film trade show circuit, Sundance and Cannes, in January and May respectively, had pretty good years, particularly Cannes, which celebrated its 60th anniversary. Usually these big anniversary years are flops—evidence of the film gods' wicked sense of humor—but this year not so. Critics kept scratching their heads between screenings at their great, good fortune—well, acceptable fortune—they're critics after all. How did all these interesting pictures get made, and then, miracle of miracles, end up here in front of me, justifying my existence, or more importantly, my expenses?

Here are some highlights of films arriving at area screens this fall that already made their marks at Sundance or Cannes, plus some coming via Toronto, and some still wet from the lab.

SEPTEMBER

Two Moon Pictures from Sundance

In the Shadow of the Moon.

It took a British director, David Singleton, to mount a doc on the glorious Apollo moon program of the 1960s, with a pounding soundtrack and the testimony of astronauts Jim Lovell, Mike Collins, Ed Mitchell, Alan Bean, and Buzz Aldrin, among others.

Nostalgia rarely has delivered such a shock about what's missing from the present landscape. Here, it's mixed with awe: this country, drowning in one swamp after another today, soared to the moon in under a decade? True, the moon shot was derided as a detour in the progress of space exploration by the likes of Tom Wolfe in *The Right Stuff* and other critics. Singleton's film recalls the enterprise as a moment when the world cheered America for an effort that was both universal and noble—who doesn't remember where they were when the Eagle had landed? NASA ultimately was the original source of a world that now runs on its computer chips. But following a Sundance screening, Aldrin acknowledged that Apollo's real achievement was as a geopolitical sign to the Kremlin about American resolve and resources to win the Cold War.

The men who went to the moon, however, came home changed, so it's fascinating to listen to what "quest" meant to the generation that started as boys flying in World War II and arrived on the moon in their 40s. Don't look for Neil Armstrong, however, the first man on the moon, who remains as elusive as the man in it. A Sundance '07 entry, *THINKFilm* begins a limited release

September 7.

Under the Same Moon

(La Misma Luna)

My notes from Sundance say, "Ought to strap the right-wing radio gasbags and all the presidential candidates to chairs and make 'em watch this until they become human beings or die—whichever comes first."

That's because it's an illegal immigrant's story that captures both aspects of the experience: a Mexican mom's daily struggle in LA, and her 10-year-old son's perilous journey across the border to find her. A bit too neat plot-wise, but timely in personalizing a political hot-button issue. Fox Searchlight, September 28.

Also: *Salvador Allende*, a doc by Patricio Guzmán; David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises* with Naomi Watts and Viggo Mortensen; *Silk*, Francois Girard's adaptation of the Alessandro Baricco novel with Keira Knightley; *The Price of Sugar*, about a European rebel priest's challenge to Dominican sugar-cane slave labor, narrated by Paul Newman; *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (Brad Pitt); *The Jane Austen Book Club* (red flags all over this one); and *The Darjeeling Limited*, in which Wes Anderson puts Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, and Jason Schwartzman on the trans-India railroad.

OCTOBER

Stars and Strife Forever

Grace Is Gone, by writer/director James C. Strouse, grows John Cusack up in a hurry, as he shifts character gears from irony to melodrama. The story is about a straight-laced dad who postpones telling his two daughters, 12 and 8, that their soldier-mom was killed in Iraq, by taking a madcap road trip until he finds the words and the place to say them. That person sobbing non-stop in the theater is you—along with everyone else. The Weinstein Company, October 12.

Lake of Fire, a high-profile doc in a political season by Tony Kaye, in which Noam Chomsky and Alan Dershowitz, among others, duke

it out over abortion, from Toronto '06, and out also via THINKFilm, October 3.

Rendition, by South African director Gavin Hood (Tsotsi), packs a hot cast—Reese Witherspoon, Jake Gyllenhaal, Meryl Streep, Peter Sarsgaard, and Alan Arkin—into a political thriller about a chemical engineer who vanishes en route to Washington from South Africa. Fresh out of the Toronto Film Festival via New Line Cinema, October 12.

Also: *My Kid Could Paint That*, a doc by Amir Bar-Lev; *Michael Clayton* by Bourne Supremacy screenwriter-turned-director Tony Gilroy, with George Clooney (also fresh from Toronto '07); *Sleuth*, Harold Pinter's adaptation of Anthony Shaffer's 1970s play directed by Kenneth Branagh—will it have teeth 35 years later?

NOVEMBER

Novel idea: **Bee Kind to Writers**

The Coen Brothers, Joel and Ethan, are purty good dudes and they made a mean movie out of Cormac McCarthy's novel, **No Country For Old Men**, with help from ace cinematographer Roger Deakins.

Tommy Lee Jones is an all-business sheriff, Josh Brolin hits the jackpot and has to run like hell to keep it, and Javier Bardem, overlooked for best actor at Cannes, where this film had its world premiere, is a desert golem in a genre movie that zags every time you think it's going to zig. Hewing closely to the book, the Coens have found in McCarthy a writer suited to their worldview: Evil can pretty much count on a free pass. Paramount Vantage releases November 9.

For *Bee Movie*, Jerry Seinfeld has co-produced and co-written an animated comedy about a bee that sues humanity over the misappropriation of honey. With voiceover characters by Chris Rock, Renee Zellweger, Ray Liotta, Matthew Broderick, Chris Rock, Oprah, Larry King, Kathy Bates, Sting (get it?), and Michael Richards, which shows Jerry is a standup guy in more ways than one. And in Cannes, where Paramount showed the first reel of the film, Seinfeld jumped off the fancy-schmancy Carlton Hotel roof in a bee costume attached to a gondola cable and got more worldwide press than Paris Hilton in the squad car. That's 'cause he floats like a butterfly and is dumb like a fox. Opens wide, November 2.

Also: Marc Forster's film of Khaled Hosseini's 2003 novel, *The Kite Runner*; and Mike Newell's adaptation of Gabriel García Márquez' novel, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, with John Leguizamo and Liev Schreiber.

With this lineup, Thanksgiving could have the first turkey you see.

Harlan Jacobson, who can be heard reviewing films every Friday morning on WFUV, hosts Talk Cinema sneak preview-and-discussion series (www.talkcinema.com) at The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

FAMILY:

WHAT's Hot

**Lower Hudson Valley Native American Heritage Celebration FDR State Park, Yorktown Heights
September 22 and 23**



FDR State Park will become the largest Native American community in Westchester for two days in September, when it serves as the

location for the Lower Hudson Valley Native American Heritage Celebration. This family-friendly festival boasts more than 600 artists, performers, and educators from across the Americas demonstrating the finest in Native American song, dance, drumming, food, arts, and crafts. "The highlight every year is the dancing, with Native Americans from across the country showcasing their different styles," says Cliff Matias, cultural director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council (the event's sponsor). According to Matias, some of the most popular categories are "Men's Fancy War Dance" in which contestants spin furiously with a circle of eagle feathers on their backs, and "Women's Jingle Dress," featuring female dancers "making the sound of gentle rain falling to the earth." And if that's not enough, you can eat authentic cuisine, from buffalo burgers to venison stew; buy breathtakingly beautiful paintings, pottery, beadwork, and jewelry; and even view a tepee raising.

A CELEBRATION OF AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA AT PURCHASE COLLEGE



The arts buzz around the Purchase College campus this fall is all about Africa and the African diaspora. For starters, the Neuberger Museum of Art debuts the vastly expanded reinstallation of its major collection of African art on October 12. The 95 extraordinary and unique objects on view span a broad historical and geographical range—from Mali to Mozambique—and offer major insights into more than 30 distinct African cultures.

Among the highlights are a striking wooden figure with intricate scarification carvings from the Democratic Republic of the Congo used in ancestor worship and an elaborately decorated ceremonial apron made of multicolored glass beads, goat fur, and leather from the Ndebele people of South Africa.

"African art in motion is at the core of the new installation," says Marie-Thérèse Brincard, the museum's curatorial advisor of the African art collection. Innovative installation techniques will allow visitors to view sculptures from unexpected angles, see rotating pieces drawn from storage or on loan from private collections, and observe artwork situated in its cultural context.

In celebration of the reopening, the museum is hosting an African Market and Festival from October 12 to 14, featuring one-of-a-kind items, ranging from dazzling fabrics and intricately woven baskets to dramatic masks and wonderful jewelry. In conjunction with the market, there's a Family Festival on October 14 with performances, workshops, and demonstrations celebrating the rich arts of Africa. There's more! Award-winning, Caribbean-born author Caryl Phillips, reads and talks about his new book, *Foreigners*, as part of the Royal & Shirley Durst Chair Lecture Series on October 3; Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the world-famous a cappella vocal ensemble, mixes "township jive," beautiful and complex Zulu harmonies, energetic dancing, and a bit of American gospel into a joyous musical celebration on October 5; and Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, a modern dance troupe that blends African, modern, ballet, and hip-hop dance styles to tell stories of the human experience, appears on November 16 and 17.

book group

Our expert predicts the must-read books for fall.

By Marisa LaScala



As beach vacations slowly turn into foliage-spotting weekend getaways, it's time to put away the trashy romance novels and spy thrillers and tuck into something with a little more meat in it. We asked Joan Ripley, owner of the Second Story Book Shop in Chappaqua, to use her powers of prognostication—based on the authors, subject matter, good word-of-mouth from industry insiders, and old-fashioned mojo, since many of these titles are so new they didn't even have review copies when we caught up with her—to select seven books she thinks we'll still be talking about at Christmas.

The Street of a Thousand Blossoms

By Gail Tsukiyama

Release Date: September 4

(St. Martin's Press)

Fans of *Dreaming Water: The Samurai's Garden* should be pleased to learn that Tsukiyama returns yet again to Japan for her sixth novel, which tells the story of orphaned brothers Hiroshi and Kenji Matsumoto. The pair start to make their way in the world—Hiroshi is invited to train with a world-famous sumo champion, and Kenji learns to make masks for the Noh theater—until the attack on Pearl Harbor forces the brothers to cope with the consequences of war.

Fire in the Blood

By Irène Némirovsky and Sandra Smith (translator)

Release Date: September 25 (Knopf)

Like Némirovsky's previous bestseller, *Suite Française*, it's a small miracle that *Fire in the Blood* will see the light of day. The Ukrainian-born author died in Auschwitz in 1942, and her work would have been lost had her daughters not had the foresight to save her papers, unaware that they contained unpublished manuscripts. Instead of the war-torn narrative of *Suite Française*, *Fire in the Blood* is the story of life in a small, close-knit village touched by other kids of tragedy.

Bridge of Sighs

Richard Russo

Release Date: September 25 (Knopf)

The beginning of this novel is familiar territory for the Pulitzer Prize-winning Russo (*Empire Falls*), who begins his story in a small, upstate New York town similar to the settings of his previous books. Things change, however, when Russo brings his main character, convenience-store owner Louis Charles Lynch, and his wife on a trip to Italy to visit a childhood friend living as an expatriate.

Run

By Ann Patchett

Release Date: October 1 (HarperCollins)

Six years after writing the PEN/Faulkner Award-winning novel *Bel Canto*, Patchett returns to the novel form with *Run*, about a former mayor of Boston who encourages his two adopted sons to enter politics. Patchett describes the book to Amazon.com as, "Joe Kennedy meets *The Brothers Karamazov*," but promises it's not too long.

A Pigeon and a Boy

By Meir Shalev

Release Date: October 16 (Schocken Books)

Ripley calls this book her "sleeper" candidate, a novel by an Israeli author who's been gathering buzz from those who've read—and love—this new work. Shalev unravels the unusual parallel love stories of an Israeli tour guide, who reconnects with a friend from his childhood, and his mother, who communicates with her love via homing pigeon.

The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court

By Jeffrey Toobin

Release Date: September 18 (Doubleday)

Yes, this book is about a Chamber of Secrets but, no, there is no wizardry involved—unless you consider shaping the country's legal landscape to be a feat of sorcery. Author Jeffrey Toobin, a senior legal analyst at CNN and New Yorker writer, heads to the judges chambers at the Supreme Court, where he profiles all nine of the justices, probing them on issues ranging from abortion to *Bush v. Gore*.

Also Consider...

The Race By Richard North Patterson Release Date: October 30 (Henry Holt and Co.)

Politicos who just can't wait for the 2008's knock-down, drag-out presidential campaigns can whet their appetites with a fictional version from the bestselling author of Exile. Patterson's candidate is Corey Grace, a maverick Republican known for straight shooting and voting his conscience. Patterson explores whether charisma and honesty are enough to win the White House—or even the primary.

television

The Four Network Shows You Must Watch This Fall
Plus 24 more prime-time premieres for the real couch-potatoes.
By Marisa LaScala

Sure, we all want to find out about Jim and Pam's first date on *The Office* and figure out what the heck is happening on *Lost*. But, if there's just the tiniest bit of room in your TV-viewing schedule, some exciting primetime, network series will be making their debuts this fall. Or, if you've got loads of time and are interested in more shows about lawyers, cops, humans with super powers, wealthy families, and single women, we'll also provide a brief rundown of all the new shows on deck for this season.

The 4 Shows You Must Watch

Pushing Daisies
Wednesdays at 8 pm, ABC



If you came to us and said, "My TiVo is maxed out—I couldn't possibly start watching a new series!" we'd still insist you watch *Pushing Daisies*, confident it'll earn a spot on your always-record list. (C'mon, you were sick of *Heroes* anyway.) *Pushing Daisies* is a twisted fairy tale informed by the sensibilities of moody geniuses like Lemony Snicket, Tim Burton, and Edward Gorey. The hero is Ned, a man who at a young age learns that he can touch dead things and bring them back to life. His power comes with two big caveats: if he touches a re-animated person for a second time, the person dies again, and, if he leaves them living for longer than a minute, someone else in proximity will die. (Ned finds his power useful for awakening unsolved murder victims, finding out who the killer is, and then collecting the rewards.) Things become complicated in the very first episode when Ned brings back his childhood love, knowing he could never even hold her hand. It might seem like dark material, but a visual style with gorgeous, super-saturated color palettes and bold patterns keep the fantasy feeling, and clever, lightning-fast dialogue keeps things light.

Dirty Sexy Money
Wednesdays at 10 pm, ABC



Dirty Sexy Money delivers the goods for those who always wanted to see *The Royal Tenenbaums* with a more pessimistic spirit. After his father's death, Nick George (Peter Krause from *Six Feet Under*) agrees to take over his post as lawyer to the Darling family, described as "absurdly wealthy" and one of the most well connected in New York. George is determined to remain uncorrupted by their vast resources, but finds himself wading through their gambling debts, sex scandals, arrests, affairs, and other legal nightmares. (See Bedford resident William Baldwin take on the role of Patrick Darling, the eldest son, a rising Congressman—and a closeted homosexual.) While it takes a while to figure out who's who in the Darling family (after all, there are five Darling children by our count—

we think), the dysfunctional family dynamic and class differences between the Darlings and George provide more drama than could ever be found in a hospital full of attractive doctors.

Bionic Woman
Wednesdays at 9 pm, NBC



Government conspiracies, high-tech treachery, hidden histories, and ass-kicking females come together in this modern gloss on the 1976 spin-off of *The Six Million Dollar Man*. In the first episode, Jamie Sommers suffers a near-fatal car wreck, causing her boyfriend to bring her to a shadowy government agency that updates her broken body with some serious hardware. Sommers must come to terms with her new bionic abilities and protect her family from forces that want to manipulate her internal weaponry. Fast-paced, action-packed, and intriguing, this series is sure to keep the blood pumping and the heads scratching.

Viva Laughlin
Sundays at 8 pm, CBS



Every once in a while—usually during sweeps—an ongoing series mounts one much-hyped musical episode, in which networks hope to inflate their audiences by making their stars sing and dance. (*Scrubs* presented its musical event this year.) *Viva Laughlin* hopes to bring that frenzied energy each week. The series—about an optimistic businessman who is struggling to open a casino just south of Las Vegas—has its characters regularly bursting into well-known songs (think *Blondie*'s "One Way or Another" and, of course, *Elvis*'s "Viva Las Vegas"). We're not sure how the rest of the show is going to go, but the premiere is worth watching, if only to see series regular and executive producer Hugh Jackman do an unforgettable version of the *Stones*' "Sympathy for the Devil."

also premiering

Dramas

Life Is Wild (Sundays at 8 pm, CW) A city-dwelling teenager is packed up with her blended family and sent into the safari-land of South Africa in this wholesome family drama. (There may be lions in the script, but the first episode is mostly toothless.)

Lipstick Jungle (Sundays at 10 pm, NBC) This series is based on the novel by *Sex and the City*'s Candace Bushnell—and has a premise eerily similar to the blockbuster show that made her famous. Three ladies—a magazine editor-in-chief, a fashion designer, and a movie executive (Brooke Shields)—all help each other navigate through their privileged lives in the big city. No doubt, at least one of these ladies is on the hunt for her own Mr. Big.

Aliens in America (Mondays at 8:30 pm, CW) Not a sci-fi show, *Aliens* focuses on two teens in a Midwestern town: the dorky Justin Tolchuk and his Pakistani exchange-student, Raja Musharaff. It's a bitter reminder about the cruelties of being an outsider in high school—only it's supposed to be a comedy.

K-Ville (Mondays at 9, FOX) New Orleans is still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and FOX is debuting a show about two police officers who want to straighten the place out. In this standard good-cop, bad-cop format, Anthony Anderson (*The Departed*) is the wild-card who'll do whatever is necessary to catch the crooks, while Cole Hauser (*The Break-Up*) is his by-the-book counterpart who returned from a stint as a soldier in Afghanistan.

Journeyman (Mondays at 10 pm, NBC) Fans of slowly unfolding mystery plots will enjoy this *Quantum Leap*-style series, about a man who involuntarily travels into the past to change the lives of strangers—and finds out more about his deceased fiancée. (Does it count as cheating on his new wife if he kisses his old fiancée in the past?)

New Amsterdam (Tuesdays at 8 pm, FOX) Westchester resident Lasse Hallström (The Hoax) helms this series, which on the surface might seem like another New York City-based police procedural. But did we mention that the protagonist is immortal, and has been bumping around the city since 1642?

Chuck (Tuesdays at 9 pm, NBC) Think of Chuck as the "Bionic Man," only 10 times dorkier: the Zork enthusiast and computer repairman accidentally (and subliminally) absorbs a main-frame's worth of government secrets, forcing him to become an unlikely spy helping the NSA and FBI hunt down decidedly less nerdy assassins.

Reaper (Tuesdays at 9 pm, CW) Comic-book fans might find this premise familiar: Sam, a 21-year-old who skipped college for a dead-end job, discovers that his parents made a bargain with the devil for his soul, and now he must track down escaped baddies and send their spirits back to hell. The slacker vibe and sarcastic comedy makes this more like the campy Buffy the Vampire Slayer than super-serious Ghost Rider.

Cane (Tuesdays at 10 pm, CBS) Another rich, extended family takes center stage, this time with more Latin flavor. Jimmy Smits stars as head of a Cuban-American family, all heirs to a bustling rum and sugar-cane business in Florida. Like the Darlings in Dirty Sexy Money, the family has skeletons piling up in their walk-in closets.

Private Practice (Wednesdays at 9 pm, ABC) Grey's Anatomy fans already know about this newly launched Grey's spin-off, in which Addison Forbes (Kate Walsh) brings the melodrama with her from Seattle Grace Hospital to a private practice in sunny L.A.

Gossip Girl (Wednesdays at 9 pm, CW) A teen soap-opera for the digital age, Gossip Girl follows the dramas of impossibly wealthy and fabulous Upper East Side high-school cliques, and their obsession with an anonymous, omniscient blogger who puts all their juicy stories on the Internet.

Life (Wednesdays at 10 pm, NBC) Life's protagonist has all the loveable misanthropy of Dr. House mixed with the dead-on police instincts of Law & Order's Detective Green. After serving 12 years of wrongful imprisonment, an out-of-touch, newly Zen Detective Charlie Crews goes back to life on the force to solve new murders while trying to figure out who orchestrated his frame-up.

Big Shots (Thursdays at 10 pm, ABC) In a gender-reversed Sex and the City, four male friends and corporate CEOs bond over drinks and discuss their life problems. Look for a shout-out to Yonkers in the first episode—as a place where Dylan McDermott's character picks up a transvestite prostitute. (Didn't they get the memo about the Yonkers revitalization?)

Moonlight (Fridays at 9 pm, CBS) Do you miss Angel? No worries: another vampire-turned-private-eye hits the small screen in Moonlight, and there's a mortal love interest waiting in the wings who'll hopefully be less stake-happy than Buffy.

Women's Murder Club (Fridays at 9 pm, ABC) This series, based on novels by James Patterson, approximates an all-female version of Law & Order, where a detective, a district attorney, a medical examiner, and a newspaper reporter all band together and use girl power to solve homicides.

Comedies

The Big Bang Theory (Mondays at 8:30 pm, CBS) Can Cal Tech geeks and hot girls speak the same language? According to CBS, the answer is a resounding no—and the resulting awkwardness between a quartet of big-brained friends and their ditzzy blonde neighbor is mined for odd-couple comedy.

Samantha Who? (Mondays at 9:30 pm, ABC) In a comedic spin on Memento, Christina Applegate steps into the title character, a woman who suffers from amnesia and begins to piece her life together only to find she's not been so nice in the past.

Cavemen (Tuesdays at 8 pm, ABC) Yes, ABC went and picked up a pilot based on those Geico insurance commercials. The series finds modern-day cavemen attempting to lead normal lives in a show that ostensibly tries to make a point about society's prejudices.

Carpoolers (Tuesdays at 8:30 pm, ABC) Another show about a corporate foursome and male kinship, only centered around a daily carpool. This time, careful attention is given to representing a range of ages, incomes, and races in this innocuous and environmentally friendly comedy.

Back to You (Wednesdays at 8 pm, FOX) Television heavyweights Kelsey Grammar and Patricia Heaton return to the small screen and unleash their nasty sides not seen in Frasier or Everybody Loves Raymond. Grammar and Heaton play two rival news anchors who try to muster enough on-air chemistry to mask their off-air enmity.

Reality Shows

Kid Nation (Wednesdays at 8 pm, CBS) The frontier town of Bonanza City, New Mexico, was abandoned and turned into a ghost town in the 19th century, but CBS aims to repopulate it—with kids. Children ages 8 to 15 will spend 40 days trying to create a working mini-government, kid-sized economy, and tiny cohesive society—and they have to do it all before bedtime.

Kitchen Nightmares (Thursdays at 9 pm, FOX) Gordon Ramsay, firebrand chef behind Hell's Kitchen, offers another reality show to showcase his talents: cooking and shouting. In it, he visits a new ailing restaurant each week and attempts to turn things around for the owners and kitchen staff—presumably by yelling at them.

The Search for the Next Great American Band (Fridays at 8 pm, FOX) Like American Idol only with drums and guitars, The Search for the Next Great American Band has Idol producers heading out on a quest to find the best undiscovered musical group—and, they hope, ratings as big as its big-sister show.

Nashville (Fridays at 9 pm, FOX) There's always room for more music-themed reality shows, right? This time, Laguna Beach producers tail a group of friends trying to break into Nashville's always-booming music scene.

The Aldrich Contemporary

Art Museum
Ridgefield, CT (203) 438-4519
www.aldrichart.org

Armonk Outdoor Art Show

Armonk (914) 806-6307
www.armonkoutdoorartshow.org

Arts on Third

Mt. Vernon (914) 699-7230

www.cmvny.com

Blueberry Pond

Theatre Ensemble
Ossining (914) 923-3530
www.blueberrypond.org

Caramoor Center

for Music and the Arts
Katonah (914) 232-1252
www.caramoor.org

Clay Art Center

Port Chester (914) 937-2047
www.clayartcenter.org

**Downtown Music
at Grace Church**

White Plains (914) 949-0384
www.dtmusic.org

Emelin Theatre

Mamaroneck (914) 698-0098
www.emelin.org

Historic Hudson Valley

All locations (914) 631-8200
www.hudsonvalley.org

Hudson Ferry-Go-Round

Haverstraw, Ossining, Peekskill and Tarrytown (845) 352-3650
www.ferrygoround.com

Hudson River Museum

Yonkers (914) 963-4550
www.hrm.org

Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art

Peekskill (914) 788-0100
www.hvcca.com

Hudson Valley Writers' Center

Sleepy Hollow (914) 332-5953
www.writerscenter.org

Insights & Revelations,

Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester
Pleasantville (914) 764-4028
www.deepend.typepad.com

Irvington Town Hall Theater

Irvington, (914) 591-6602
www.irvingtontheater.com

Katonah Museum of Art

Katonah (914) 232-9555
www.katonahmuseum.org

Lower Hudson Valley

Native Heritage Celebration
Yorktown (718) 686-9297 for the Redhawk Native American Arts Council www.redhawkcouncil.org

Lyndhurst

Tarrytown (914) 631-4481
www.craftsatlyndhurst.com

Neuberger Museum of Art

Purchase (914) 251-6100
www.neuberger.org

New Rochelle Opera

New Rochelle (914) 576-0365
www.nropera.org

Paramount Center for the Arts

Peekskill (914) 739-2333
www.paramountcenter.org

Pelham Art Center

Pelham (914) 738-2525
www.pelhamartcenter.org

Performing Arts Center

Purchase (914) 251-6200
www.artscenter.org

Rye Arts Center

Rye (914) 967-0700
www.ryeartscenter.org

Steffi Nossen School of Dance

White Plains (914) 328-1900
www.steffinossen.org

The Studio:

An Alternative Space for Contemporary Art

Armonk (914) 273-1452
www.thestudiony-alternative.org

Tarrytown Music Hall

Tarrytown (914) 631-3390
www.tarrytownmusichall.org

Westchester Arts Council

White Plains (914) 428-4220
www.westarts.com

Westchester Broadway Theatre

Elmsford (914) 592-2222
www.broadwaytheatre.com

Westchester Chamber Orchestra

New Rochelle (914) 654-4926
www.westchesterchamberorchestra.org

Westchester Community

College
Valhalla (914) 606-6262
www.sunywcc.edu

Westchester Craft Show

Green Farms, CT (203) 254-0486
for Crafts America
www.craftsamericashows.com

Westchester Philharmonic

White Plains (914) 682-3707
www.westchesterphil.org

White Plains Performing Arts Center

White Plains (914) 328-1600
www.wppac.com