



The Diners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

and her enthusiasm. By the time we left, there were six diners in the space that has a capacity for about 50 people. The music had improved, and I knew I would be back soon.

A Chorus Line

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

If you are *A Chorus Line* fan, you will be pleasantly nostalgic, and, if you have never seen this inspiring piece, this version is a wonderful introduction to the line.

A Chorus Line continues its run at Paper Mill Playhouse through Sunday, October 14.

POPCORN™

The Curse of The Jade Scorpion: A Blessing For The Funny Bone

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
3 popcorns

Call him the Satchel Paige of cinema comedy. Sixty-six years old and Woody Allen is still pitching winners. Singing a zany love song to the movies of his youth in *The Curse of The Jade Scorpion*, the filmmaker combines and then satirizes both the film noir and screwball genres while also managing to thread a present-minded commentary through the nutty plot doings.

The result is witty, wise and filled with plenty of jounce thanks to the writer-director's signature selection of background jazz tunes. But what really puts the humorous bite into *Scorpion* is Woody's by-now-familiar interpretation of a comic tradition first fostered on celluloid by Chaplin and Keaton: the schnook as hero.

Actually, add a little bit of W.C. Fields and Groucho Marx to this derivation, too. For like those delightful scoundrels, Allen's C.W. Briggs is also a bit of a cad. Otherwise, the rumpled, aging little guy is the best insurance investigator in New York, circa 1940, though no one, maybe not even he, is exactly sure how he does it. Why, just last week he cracked the famed Picasso case...found the rolled-up canvas hidden in a pawn shop telescope.

"It wasn't easy. I was looking for a picture, and not all those little triangles," brags the impossibly uncultured C.W. A disheveled portrait in sepia and gray, Woody's diminutive sleuth could be voted mostly likely to fade into the woodwork. It might be a contributing factor to his success.

"Relies on low-life street informers and probably just dumb luck," is how company president Chris Magruder (Dan Aykroyd) explains away his foible-ridden, albeit Runyonesque, top gumshoe to Betty Ann Fitzgerald.

Played by Helen Hunt, she's the newly-hired efficiency expert hell-bent on relieving the firm of all its dead wood. And you don't have to possess C.W.'s native intelligence or fabled intuition to figure out that he and she aren't going to get along. The zings and the barbs fly, and how.

Miss Fitzgerald has Mr. Briggs figured for a chauvinist, and technically, she's probably right. In fact, he's anathema to everything her modern woman persona stands for. But while C.W. knows it, he could neither understand it nor ever come to grips with it. It's against his type...the unlikely comic hero is hardwired not to seek redemption, but to prevail in a world that seeks to punish him for his iconoclasm. He could never be politically correct, and especially not for the sake of acceptance.

Thus, while Hunt's Betty Ann is the classical foil, ostensibly playing Margaret Dumont to Allen's Groucho, she is nonetheless a much more real character than C.W. and therefore saddled with mostly straight lines. Woody, on the other hand, varies character accountability when it suits the script's vaudeville-laced shtick, allowing him the flippant liberty, for example, to explain their differences thusly: "She thinks she has it over me because she went to Vassar and I only graduated from driving school."

The inherently different plateaus from whence their characters emanate may be mistaken for a lack of chemistry, when in actuality Hunt is to be commended for supplying the force with just the right amount of adversarial concern.

Given the apparent constancy of their hatred, it would take an act of magic to break things up a bit. And so presto, no sooner said than done, an office birthday party at the Rainbow Room features Voltan, a performance hypnotist portrayed nicely by David Ogden Stiers. Naturally, both C.W. and Betty Ann are ushered on stage when he calls for volunteers. Using a jade scorpion as his trance-inducing pendulum, Voltan informs both parties that the word Madagascar will hereafter put them in a hypnotic state; hearing the name Constantinople will convince them that they are in love with each other.

P.S.—Everyone has fun at the party, not realizing when the show is over that Voltan has neglected to de-program his subjects.

Later that night, a phone call from the hypnotist orders C.W. to burglarize the Kensington manse. Made theft-proof by C.W. himself, said estate is the repository of beaucoup jewels and home to typically spoiled vamp daughter, Laura Kensington, skillfully played to type by Charlize Theron. In a sleepwalk, he completes the heist with seamless aplomb.

The next day, the trance removed and back on the job, it's no wonder C.W. practically turns himself inside-out trying to solve what he believes is an inside job. Specifically, signs point to someone from his firm, and C.W. even conjectures that it

On The Beat

'The King' Swivels On In 4-CD Box Collection; Joe Jackson Sounds Sharp

By ANDY GOLDENBERG
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As we say goodbye to summer, as well as a lackluster musical release period, I have a good vibe going into the fall, as some great reissues hit my mailbox.

RCA/BMG continue their excellent Elvis Presley archival series with "Elvis, Live In Las Vegas," a four-CD box set featuring the best of "The

Kings'" live appearances in America's premier gambling mecca from 1956-1975.

While these appearances have been much maligned over the years by ridiculing comedians, this box set proves that Elvis took these performances seriously and cranked out some serious rock n' roll. RCA must be commended for their careful selection of excellent tracks.

Speaking of classic reissues, Columbia/Legacy has finally reissued the Simon & Garfunkel back catalog complete with bonus tracks. In terms of sheer sonic clarity, these reissues blow the old CD's out of the water and are a must-have for any S&G fan or '60s music fan.

Also just out from Columbia/Legacy is another seminal Miles Davis recording, "Live at the Fillmore East (March 7, 1970) It's About That Time." Recorded live in New York City as Davis's popularity spread out amongst the hippie conglomerate, these live recordings feature the Bitches Brew band including Chick Corea and Jack DeJohnette. Keep these Davis releases coming.

Universal/A&M have just released two seminal early New Wave reissues from Joe Jackson, "Look Sharp" and "I'm The Man." Featuring such classic hits as "One More Time," "Sunday Papers" "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" and many others, Jackson was the only one in the early '80's challenging Elvis Costello for most vitriolic singer/songwriter. The sound quality is astounding on these two and must be mentioned because these tapes were always rather murky-sounding. Great job Universal/A&M.

Enough reissue-speak, let's check out some hot new releases! Beginning with Cousteau's self-titled debut (Palm Music), this great new band has a unique-sounding lounge/rock/crooning sound. I can't stop playing this album, especially on headphones because the production

is excellent and features some great instrumental combinations such as Hammond B-3 organ, flugelhorn viola and piano. Pick this great release up immediately.

Another CD I keep spinning is Laurie Anderson's *Life On A String* (Nonesuch/Warner) Well-known in New York art circles as a musical experimentalist, Anderson's new release features groovy, slow, melodic sonic adventures, including her trademark electric violin and her electric guitar from beau Lou Reed. This is an atmospheric late-night gem.

Also from Warner Bros. Records comes a great new live album from KD Lang, "Live By Request" featuring "Constant Craving" "Crying" and the magnificent "The Consequences of Falling."

Another great new release comes surprisingly from a reformed Waterboys featuring Mike Scott. Their new album, "A Rock In The Weary Land" (Razor & Tie) rocks from beginning to end with smart pop melodicism. Also from Razor & Tie comes "Out There Live," a great new live album from Dar Williams, a darling of the Folk-rock movement of the early '90s and a frequent performer at New York's Bottom Line.

Razor & Tie also brings another great offering of tunes by punk pioneer Graham Parker, "Deepcut To Nowhere." While never rising to the level of fame of say, Elvis Costello or The Police, Parker has consistently delivered album after album of great tunes.

Lastly on the Alternative-Country front, two recent releases deserve mention. The Ass Ponys Lohio & The Silos, Laser Beam Next Door (Checked Past Records). Don't be dissuaded by the names, both of these bands perform country-rock mixtures with fervor.

Tune in next week for the latest and greatest picks in Andy's DVD collection.



Watercolorist Bambas Earns HEART Grant

WESTFIELD — Kathleen Bambas, a watercolorist from Westfield, is the recipient of a 2001 HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Her artwork, made possible in part by the grant, are historical/artistic views of older buildings in Union County that she expresses as handpainted greeting cards.

For a glimpse of Ms. Bambas' creations, she will be on hand at the Discover Jersey Arts Fair in Nomahegan Park on Saturday, September 15.

WSO Schedules Season Opening

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) opens its Variations on a Fantasy Season 2001-2002 with a gala concert entitled, "Victories," on Saturday, October 6, at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

David Wroe, Music Director and Conductor, selected a program of music guaranteed to please both the casual music lover and the most sophisticated symphony attendee.

Richard Rodgers' tone poem, "Victory at Sea," will begin the concert. Maestro Wroe selected this work to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rodgers' birth. The concert will end with Nicolay Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade." Internationally-known pianist Leon Fleisher will join Maestro Wroe and the WSO in Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto for Left Hand.

Tickets may be purchased directly from the WSO at (908) 232-9400, the UCAC box office at (732) 499-0441, or at one of the following ticket outlets: Martin Jewelers in Cranford, Beautiful Things in Scotch Plains, Lancaster, Ltd. and The Town Book Store of Westfield and Bayberry in Mountainside.

The following restaurants offer a 10 percent discount on pre-concert meals with a 5 to 5:30 p.m. seating: Chez Catherine, Elm Street Café, Kotobuki, and Northside Trattoria. Patrons must show their tickets to qualify for the discount. Reservations are highly recommended.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-17454-00
COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., PLAINTIFF vs. CARLOS M. ESTEVA, ET AL., DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED JUNE 06, 2001 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 2001 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is ONE-HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND ONE-HUNDRED NINETEEN & 82/100 (\$181,119.82).

DOCKET NO.: F-17454-00
MUNICIPALITY: Elizabeth
COUNTY: UNION STATE OF NEW JERSEY

STREET AND STREET NO.: 37 Atlantic Street
TAX BLOCK AND LOT NOS.:
BLOCK NO.: 5 LOT NO.: 53
DIMENSIONS OF LOT: 71.98 feet x 25.05 feet

NEAREST CROSS STREET: 172.50 feet from Second Avenue
SUPERIOR INTERESTS (if any): NONE
There is due approximately the sum of ONE-HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND SEVEN-HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO & 98/100 (\$189,772.98) together with lawful interest and costs.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROEHLICH
SHERIFF

WILLIAM M. E. POWERS, JR.
CHARTERED
737 Stokes Road
PO Box 1088
Medford, New Jersey 08055-9962
CH-756088 (WL)
4 T - 8/23, 8/30, 9/6
& 9/13/01

Fee: \$191.76

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, CHANCERY DIVISION, UNION COUNTY, DOCKET NO. F-3015-01
HOMESIDE LENDING, INC., PLAINTIFF vs. IRIS CHAVEZ; HECTOR ANDRADE; DEFENDANT.

CIVIL ACTION, WRIT OF EXECUTION, DATED MAY 14, 2001 FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PREMISES.

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the Union County Administration Building, 1st Floor, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY THE 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D., 2001 at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is TWO-HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND THREE-HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN & 93/100 (\$216,377.93).

The property to be sold is located in the CITY OF ELIZABETH in the County of UNION, and the State of New Jersey.

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COMMONLY KNOWN AS 591 MADISON AVENUE, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07201

Dimensions of the Lot are (Approximately) 150.00 feet wide by 44.00 feet long.

Nearest Cross Street: Situated on the southeasterly side of Madison Avenue, 44.00 feet from the southwesterly side of Fairmount Avenue.

There is due approximately the sum of TWO-HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX-HUNDRED SIXTY NINE & 17/100 (\$28,669.17) together with lawful interest and costs.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff's Office.
The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale.

RALPH FROEHLICH
SHERIFF

SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP
Suite J
406 Lippincott Drive
Marlton, New Jersey 08053
CH-756082 (WL)
4 T - 8/23, 8/30, 9/6
& 9/13/01

Fee: \$191.76

Neil Young

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

new album, 1988's "American Dream."

As the 1990s dawned and many musical acts from the 1960s were being relegated to classic rock radio or nostalgia tours, Young experienced a popular resurgence as the emerging alternative-rock and grunge music movement embraced him as a godfather, of sorts. He worked with many of the new bands of the early 90s, including Pearl Jam and Social Distortion.

With the new millennium, Young has again rejoined with his three bandmates of yesteryear, and CSNY are taking their act on the road yet again this year.

Back in 1986, Young and his wife started the Bridge School in San Francisco, a learning center for handicapped children with problems communicating. Two of his children were born with cerebral palsy, and each year, Young holds a benefit concert to raise money for the school.

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Get Outta the House

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Test your musical talents by attending one of the *New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra* (NJIO) of Cranford's open rehearsal and registrations. Select either the regular orchestra or the chamber group. Tonight and next Thursday night you have an opportunity to strut your stuff at 6:30 p.m. at Cranford High School's choir room. Join this team of growing musicians, ages 4 to 90. The NJIO is now in its eighth year, and has achieved an enormous amount of media attention and success. Call them at (908) 709-0084 for more information, or visit them at www.njio.org.

As the *Little Opera Company of New Jersey* turns one, they celebrate their first year with a benefit concert of operatic favorites. The performance will take place at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Saturday, September 22, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. The program will be conducted by Robert Butts, and will feature selections by Verdi, Bizet, Rossini, Donizetti, Mozart, and my favorite, Puccini. In addition to the voices of sopranos, tenors, and bass-baritones, the Company will be joined by the Chorus, made up of individuals as young as age six, who have been professionally trained. For tickets and information, call (800) 831-6215.

The *Experience Big Band*, which delighted hundreds at the First United Methodist Church with a concert in July, will be back with an encore free performance on Saturday, September 22, same place. If swing and jazz getcha moving, you will love the selections from composers including Johnny Mercer, Richard Rodgers, and Hoagy Carmichael. They may even be planning a big band version of "YMCA," but you didn't hear it from me. The roster of performers (16 of them) reads like a *Who's Who of Big Band Musicians*. The entire family is welcome to attend this 1 1/2 hour musical extravaganza. Parking is also free. Call them for information at (908) 233-4211.

For yet another musical choice, the *Mostly Music Chamber Music Series*, based in Maplewood, will present an evening of Violin Quintets by Mozart and Mendelssohn, along with the Ravel Duo at Temple Emanu-El on Broad Street in Westfield. The concert will be held on Sunday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m., and will feature Ani Kavafian on violin, Carter Brey on cello, along with special friends. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20, \$18 for seniors, and \$13 for students. You can get more information by calling (973) 762-0108.

September 23 marks *Westfield's 12th Festival of Arts and Crafts*, a popular area event. Downtown Westfield will be filled with thousands of people (yes, even more than on a Saturday afternoon), enjoying the sounds of five terrific bands, tasting a variety of festive food from funnel cakes and smoothies to Chinese and Greek treats, and shopping at more than 300 vendors of artist and local businesses. From fine artists and photographers to talented crafters, you will surely find something unique. There will be special children's activities, and streets will be closed to traffic all day until 5 p.m.

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