

Agenda

FRONTIERS SUGGESTS: Our top picks for the next 14 days



WED., AUG.

1

Ask a Mexican

Gustavo Arellano pressed more than a few buttons in 2004 when he wrote a spoof column for the *O.C. Weekly* called **iAsk a Mexican!**. But his straight-talk answers to impertinent questions about Mexican customs, culture, and politics proved so provocative, the paper decided to give it a regular spot. In the process, Arellano has started a dialogue about race and communication in O.C. and beyond. Three years later, he's collected a book of his best columns for the edification of gringos (which, according to Arellano, is a term that only a gringo would use). *Book Soup*. 7 p.m. 310/659-3110. www.booksoup.com.



FRI., AUG.

3

Some Enchanted Evening

Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved **South Pacific** is among the very few musicals in Broadway history to win a Pulitzer Prize in drama. For their annual staged musical, the Hollywood Bowl snagged Reba McEntire and Broadway leading man Brian Stokes Mitchell to reprise their roles from 2005's Carnegie Hall concert staging. *Hollywood Bowl*. 8:30 p.m. Also Sun., Aug.

5, at 7:30 p.m. \$7-147. 323/850-2000. www.hollywood-bowl.com.

Effin' Hilarious

At the monthly **Effinfunny** comedy showcase, \$10 buys you free drinks and an evening of laughs. Stand-up Tig Notaro is slated for the August edition (you may recognize her as the object of Sarah Silverman's affection from Silverman's brief foray into sitcom lesbianism on her Comedy Central show). *Empty Stage Comedy Theatre*. 10 p.m. \$10 310/470-3560. www.affinfunny.com.



SAT., AUG.

11

Judging Judas

In playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis' latest, **The Last Days of Judas Iscariot**, he leaves his typical down-and-out Giuliani-era New Yorker characters behind in favor of a more metaphysical setting—a courtroom somewhere between heaven and hell, where history's most famous traitor is having his day before the judge. The patois is still distinctly New York, and Guirgis' ear for dialogue, not to mention his gift for blending pathos and humor, is only getting better. *Lutheran Church of the Master, Westwood*. Through Sun., Aug. 26. 866/468-3399. www.thedahlia.com.



THURS., AUG.

2

Marge Attacks

Cinespia's cemetery screening of Tim Burton's first full-length feature, **Pee-Wee's Big Adventure**, has become something of a Southland summer institution. Last year, Pee-Wee himself (aka Paul Reubens) and a whole host of actors from the film took the stage before the movie to greet the crowd. You'll need to get there pretty early to get a spot on the lawn—plan on being in line by no later than 5 p.m. to see Pee-Wee get his bike back. *Hollywood Forever Cemetery*. Gates open at 7:30 p.m. \$10. www.cinespia.org.



SAT., AUG.

4

Bells Are Rocking

Since 2003, **Rock the Bells** has been the must-see music festival for fans who prefer their hip-hop with a side of social consciousness. This year's fest outdoes itself, with a reunited Rage Against the Machine headlining alongside Public Enemy, the Wu-Tang Clan, Cypress Hill, the Roots, Nas, Sage Francis, and many, many more. *Hyundai Pavilion, San Bernardino*. 11 a.m. \$77-152. 213/480-3232. www.rockthebells.net.

There's a Small Hotel

Reprise!, L.A.'s musical-theatre company with the mission of producing "overlooked musical gems," mounts Rodgers and Hart's rarely revived 1936 musical **On Your Toes**. They could hardly have picked a more appropriate venue—the original Broadway production starred vaudevillian Ray Bolger, who sponsored the musical-theatre program at UCLA; his memorabilia are on display at the Freud Playhouse. *Freud Playhouse*. Through Sun., Aug. 26. \$60-75. 310/825-2101. www.reprise.org.



TUES., AUG.

14

> HOMO MUST

THURS., AUG.

9

Old Country Remedy

Traditional music's handsomest band returns to Los Angeles in support of their latest album, **Big Iron World**. **Old Crow Medicine Show** seamlessly mixes rocked-out country standards with original songs that sound like standards. Legend says the boys were busking in front of a pharmacy when Doc Watson happened by, and before they knew it, they were opening for Dolly at the Opry. *Avalon*. 8 p.m. \$26. 323/462-8900. www.livenation.com.



COMPILED BY MATTHEW C. POE

Send your submissions to agenda@frontierspublishing.com.

92 **FILM**

95 **VISUAL ARTS**

99 **MUSIC**

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106 **DINING**

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LIMITED RUN

FANTASY, SCI-FI, AND HORROR

Bring out the "vampires, fiends, aliens, werewolves, mad scientists, and other atrocities" (as well as their admirers) for the seventh year running in an American Cinematheque film fest. *Egyptian and Aero. Thurs., Aug. 2, through Sun., Aug. 26. 323/466-FILM. www.americancinematheque.com.*

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Ends the summer of cinematic sin at the Hammer in the 1949 Cecil B. DeMille biblical epic, starring Hedy Lamarr and (the very young) Angela Lansbury. It's a most appropriate end to the series of "films of temptation and destruction." *Hammer Museum. Fri., Aug. 3. 7 p.m. 310/206-FILM. www.hammer.ucla.edu.*

KURT VONNEGUT

Is remembered with a double feature as a part of the Fantasy, Horror, and Sci-Fi Festival. On the bill are 1972's movie adaptation of *Slaughterhouse-Five* and the rarely screened *Happy Birthday, Wanda June. Egyptian. Wed., Aug 8. 8 p.m. 323/466-FILM. www.americancinematheque.com.*

RESURRECTING THE CHAMP

Ends Stephen Farber's Reel Talk summer series with a screening of a new drama about an old boxer, played by Samuel L. Jackson, and the guy who finds him homeless and tries to get him to train again (Josh Hartnett). Writer-director Rod Lurie will be on hand with actress Kathryn Morris for a Q&A. *Landmark. Mon., Aug 13. 7 p.m. \$20. 310/821-8233. www.landmarktheatres.com.*

> HOMO MUST

DAVID LYNCH

Takes questions from the audience after a screening of his latest film, *Inland Empire. Hammer Museum. Wed., Aug. 1. 7 p.m. Reservation recommended: rsvpla@filtermmm.com. 310/443-7000. www.hammer.ucla.edu.*

EXHIBITIONS

FRANÇOIS-MARIE BANIER

Says what holds his attention is "the moment when singularity becomes universal. Pain, seduction, the ravages of time, life problems, looming death." The novelist, playwright, and photographer has a collection of his photos of such moments. Probably not very cheerful, but very, very French. *Gagosian. Through Fri., Aug. 10. 310/271-9400. www.gagosian.com.*

UNDERDOG

Fights all who rob or plunder—on the walls of the ArcLight. The canine crime-buster (who was busting baddies when McGruff was just a pup)—along with other '60s cartoon characters—is the subject of a series of paintings by P.J. Andrews. *ArcLight. Opening reception: Thurs., Aug. 2. 9 p.m. 323/464-1478.*

THE ARTS IN LATIN AMERICA, 1492-1820

Disregards national boundaries in favor of exploring artistic threads in colonial Latin America. Over 250 works are presented. *LACMA. Sun., Aug. 5, through Sun., Oct. 28. 323/857-6000. www.lacma.org.*

CHARM SCHOOL

Failed to help Valley-girl artist Nikki Nash, by her own admission, but she uses the conceit as an opportunity to explore "subtle nuances and subconscious desires of darkness and melancholy along with repressed desire ... with a twist of satire and humor." *Conference Room. Opening reception: Sat., Aug. 11. 6:30 p.m. 310/734-4162. www.theconfroom.com.*

> HOMO MUST

SoCAL

Gets a serious artistic once-over in LACMA's exhibition of the same name, of California art from the '60s and '70s with "images of both the utopian and the dystopic" in the Golden State. *LACMA. Sun., Aug. 19, through Sun., March 30. 323/857-6000. www.lacma.org.*

CONCERT CALENDAR

THE SLITS

Supported the Clash on the White Riot tour alongside a band called the Buzzcocks, just a year after they formed, and you don't get much more punk-rock than that. *El Rey*. Fri., Aug. 3. 9 p.m. \$20. 323/936-6400. www.theelrey.com.

BILLY BOB THORNTON

Gained fame (notoriety?) for his film roles, but has had a concurrent career as a roots-rock singer-songwriter. The former Mr. Jolie performs in support of his latest, released in July, called *Beautiful Door*. *El Rey*. Sat., Aug. 4. 9 p.m. \$25. 323/936-6400. www.theelrey.com.

THE SANTA MONICA PIER

Hosts progressive Atlanta-based hip-hoppers Arrested Development for a '90s flashback. The show is a part of the annual Twilight Dance Series, where artists perform weekly on the famous pier, free to the public. *Santa Monica Pier*. Thurs., Aug. 9. 7:30 p.m. 310/458-8900. www.twilightdance.org.

THE AVETT BROTHERS

Created a genre that sits at the intersection of the Beatles (by way of Jon Brion, some reviewers have aptly observed) and bluegrass. If you were going to make a bet on the next big band in roots music, here's an ace up your sleeve. *El Rey*. Sat., Aug. 11. 9 p.m. \$15. 323/936-6400. www.theelrey.com.

> HOMO MUST

SQUEEZE

Reunites (partially—without Holland or Lavis) behind the rerelease of their landmark New Wave albums, as well as a new best-of called *Essential Squeeze*. In equally exciting news, Fountains of Wayne supports. *Greek Theatre*. Mon., Aug. 13. 7:30 p.m. \$35–55. 213/480-3232. www.greektheatrela.com.

LIMITED RUN

REDCAT'S NOW FESTIVAL

Uses dance and performance over the course of three last nights to talk about connection to home, rhetoric and double-speak around the Iraq war, and Indian miniature paintings, respectively. Three separate performances make up this third and final program of the festival. *REDCAT*.

Thurs.–Sat., Aug. 2–4. 8:30 p.m. \$18. 213/ 237-2800. www.redcat.org.

THE MYSTERY PLAYS

Centers around the mysteries of "death, the afterlife, faith, redemption, and forgiveness" in two interrelated one-act thrillers, billed as a "chilling mixture of Hitchcock, Lovecraft, and Kafka." *Theatre 40. Sat., Aug. 4, through Sun., Sept. 2. \$20–22. 310/364-0535. www.theatre40.org.*

RAISED IN CAPTIVITY

Lets loose Nicky Silver's manic, absurdist wit on NoHo in this black comedy about the unfathomable nature of families and the virtues (and perils) of being stuck in one's own head. *Avery Schreiber. Fri., Aug. 10, through Sat., Sept. 1. \$17. 818/793-6127. www.averyschreibertheatre.com.*

THE CHUCK MEE CHALLENGE

Begins with a script, but then, "in one evening, 10 directors will present 10 scenes using 30 actors, free to do whatever they want with the script, including cut lines, combine characters or even throw out the text entirely." *American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Sat., Aug. 11. 7 p.m. \$15. 800/222-2867 x127.*

> HOMO MUST

GEORGES SEURAT

Is the jumping-off point for Stephen Sondheim's most ambitious concept musical. *Sunday in the Park with George* uses theatrical and musical pointillism to ask hard questions about art, artists, and art's admirers. *Chance Theater. Fri., Aug. 3, through Sun., Sept. 16. \$25. 800/838-3006. www.chancetheater.com.*