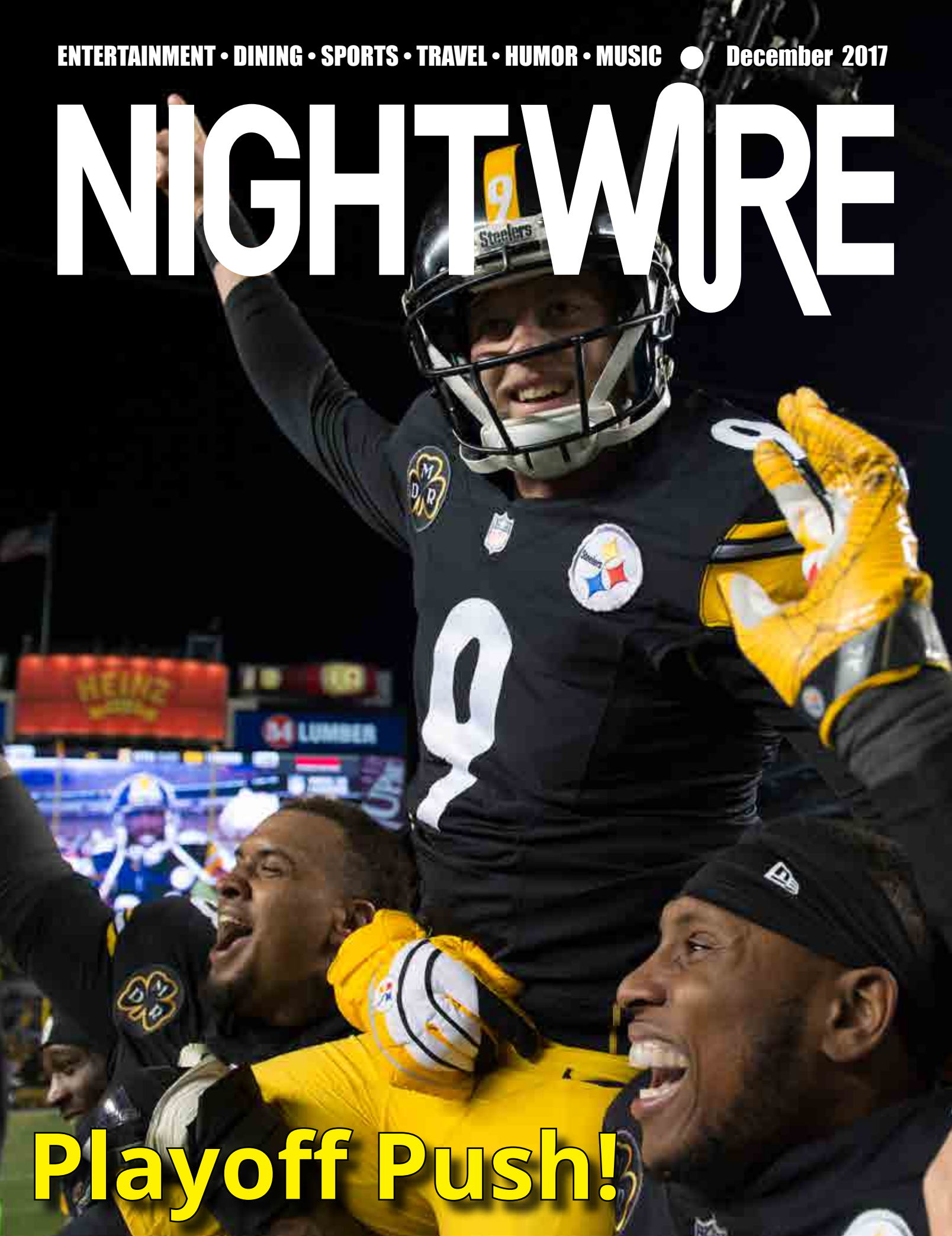


NIGHTWIRE



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SPORTS:

Playoff Push

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Photos ©2017 Pittsburgh Steelers / Karl Roser

It's December and you know what that means. The football season is in the home stretch. It's crunch time. Mike Tomlin has the Steelers off to the best eleven game start in his eleven years as head coach. At 9-2, last year's runner up in the AFC has positioned itself to fight for home field advantage. Their biggest challenger? The New England Patriots, of course. They happen to be the only team with a winning record left on the Steelers schedule and the matchup at Heinz Field in Week 15 could decide where this year's AFC Championship game is played.

But that means the Steelers have to take care of business against their division – they have one game against each of their AFC North foes plus a trip to Houston. Ben Roethlisberger is 22-7 all-time versus the Bengals and has never lost to the Browns at home. The Ravens are always tough and look to be the only challenge left for the Steelers outside of the Patriots. Of course, execution and playing the right way to beat the teams they're supposed to beat has to be emphasized. No overlooking teams as the showdown with New England looms. No busted coverages. No stupid penalties.

And please, please, please get well soon, Joe Haden. In his





absence, the secondary has been torched for five touchdown plays of 50 yards or more. 2016 first round pick, cornerback Artie Burns has lived up to the name, seeing way too many names on the backs of jerseys. The defense remains ranked in the top five in yards allowed and points per game and is second in the league in sacks, averaging more than three a contest. The front seven has proven itself as one of the best and Cameron Heyward is leading the way with nine sacks – already a career high – with five games to go. If those guys can keep pressuring opposing quarterbacks and giving the ball back to Ben & Co., the offense can keep them in any game.

Speaking of offense, the Steelers have the NFL's leading receiver after 12 weeks in Antonio Brown, who is averaging over 100 receiving yards a game (1,195 total). Brown also leads the league with 80 catches and is second with eight touchdowns. And if that wasn't enough, the Steelers also have leading rusher



Le'Veon Bell (981 yards) who happens to also have the 11th most receptions with 61. Not too shabby.

Last season, this team was 6-5 through 11 games and won out for 11 wins, just to watch their season end in Foxboro. Thus year the Steelers are riding a six-game win streak into December, looking to force the road to Super Bowl 52 to run through Pittsburgh instead.



Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard weekends on CBS Sports Radio 93.7 The Fan, and has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com





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Phipps Holiday Magic! Photos by Paul G. Wiegman

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens has transformed with the arrival of Winter Flower Show and Light Garden: Holiday Magic! Explore Phipps' 14-room glasshouse and 23 distinct gardens filled with the magic and inspiration of the holidays, with more gleaming indoor and outdoor lights, expanded stunning flower displays, and delightful miniature trains in Phipps' Garden Railroad.

New Timed Tickets allow guests to conveniently book their visit entry time at hipps.conservatory.org. With the show's widespread appeal, guests are urged to book tickets in advance for all days of the show running now through Sun., Jan. 7, with Timed Tickets required during peak times. Once guests enter Phipps to experience Holiday Magic!, they may stay as long as Phipps is open, until 11 p.m. nightly.

The magic of Winter Flower Show is brought to life in signature Phipps fashion with artful LED lights, decorated fir and pine trees, amaryllis, orchids, and over 2,000 poinsettias. This year's dazzling displays also feature new heartwarming vignettes including an abundant winter feast, Santa's workshop, sparkling New Year's Eve celebration and more.

From majestic, illuminated trees to whimsically oversized



ornaments, books, and toys, Phipps' holiday spectacular will delight the senses and kindle the spirit of the season in guests of every age. Adding to the festive atmosphere, Phipps' Winter Light Garden sparkles with luminous orbs, trees, fountains and a beautiful tunnel of lights that shine like a twinkling winter sky.

One ticket gives guests access to three shows in one: Phipps' Winter Flower Show, Winter Light Garden, plus Garden Railroad: Treasure Island. A show that truly puts the "arr!" in garden, this year's engaging new train exhibit will delight guests with a fun



- Print the confirmation email or show it on a mobile phone at Phipps' entrance — and get ready for a holiday experience filled with magical moments that will create lifetime memories.
- This year, guests can also share their magical holiday photos in the #PhippsHoliday Photo Gallery. Submit your favorite holiday photo at Phipps, home or around town and tag it with #PhippsHoliday on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to be a part of the interactive online gallery, in partnership with Pittsburgh Beautiful.

Plan your holiday visit today at phipps.conservatory.org. Timed Tickets can also be reserved in advance at Phipps, located at One Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA.



treasure hunt, pirate jokes and more. Interactive push buttons set miniature locomotives chugging through an island filled with plants, water features and detailed pirate props that everyone will enjoy.

Reserving Timed Tickets is easy! Visit phipps.conservatory.org and follow these three easy steps:

- Select an available date and entry time for your Phipps visit and place your order.
- Look for an email confirmation with your tickets.

Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

Holiday Lights 2017 Bringing Happiness Beyond Kennywood Visits

Kennywood's Holiday Lights opened Black Friday, collecting donations for Toys for Tots

Photos by Brian Gallo, Kurt Miller, and Rich Frollini

The stockings are hung, the lights are strung, and all that's left is to flip the switch to begin the seventh season of Holiday Lights at Kennywood!

Holiday Lights began on Friday, November 24 and continues every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night through December 23 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Holiday Lights will also be open nightly from December 26 – 30.

New this year, Kennywood is working with Toys for Tots to collect toys for children in need. From November 24 to December 10, guests can receive \$6 off on up to four Holiday Lights ticket when bringing a new, unwrapped toy to donate. "We're happy to partner with Toys for Tots this season to

bring cheer to kids in need," says Kennywood General Manager Jerome Gibas. "Guests can have fun at Kennywood and pass on some holiday goodwill at the same time."

Kennywood will again boast Pennsylvania's tallest Christmas tree (90 feet, plus a 10-foot tree-topping ornament), featuring a nightly tree lighting ceremony at 5:45. And in addition to the





continuing addition of light displays around Kennywood (now closing in on 2 million lights in all), we've done some rearranging for 2017.

The Pittsburgh Independent Hi-Railers model train display moves to a larger space in the Penny Arcade, where they can construct an even more elaborate attraction for guest viewing. With space in the Penny Arcade opened up, more guests can get warm in the historic Parkside Café, which will offer expanded food service this winter.

Tickets for Holiday Lights can be purchased online at www.Kennywood.com, with prices starting at \$15.99. Children three

Kennywood Holiday Lights - By The Numbers

Kennywood's Holiday Lights has grown greatly in six short years, and is now recognized as one of the best Christmas events in the amusement/theme park industry. Below are some fun facts and figures about how Holiday Lights comes together.

2 million – The approximate number of lights filling Kennywood in various light displays.

12 miles – The distance all the extension cords connecting and powering lights around the park, enough to connect Kennywood to Heinz Field. Similarly, 11.5 miles of air craft cable suspends various hanging displays around the park.

55' long, 45" wide – The size of the Pittsburgh Independent Hi-Railers model train display in its new home at the Penny Arcade, roughly double the display's size in previous years.

80 – Gingerbread men, women and children in the life-size gingerbread village on the Gingerbread Express train ride.

90 feet – The height of the Christmas tree that serves as the centerpiece of Holiday Lights. When including the tree-topping ornament, the display towers over Kennywood's Lagoon area at 100 feet tall.

250,000 – The number of LED lights adorning the 90-foot tree.

\$6 – The discount guests can receive when they bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to our local Toys for Tots drive. Discount available on up to 4 tickets per toy, offered from Nov. 24 – Dec. 10.

12 minutes – The duration of The Polar Express™ 4-D Experience, playing continuously in the Kennywood 4-D Theater. The movie is included in the price of admission to Holiday Lights.

60 – The number of live pine trees donated by the Indiana County Tree Growers Association



years of age and under are free. Parking is also free. To see a full list of activities, plus information on schedules, discounts and more, visit www.kennywood.com/holidaylights. For more information on Toys for Tots, please visit their regional web site.

About Kennywood and Palace Entertainment:

Kennywood is America's Finest Traditional Amusement Park! The Pittsburgh-area park offers a unique mix of classic rides and modern thrills, including seven roller coasters, a 14-ride Kiddieland, and several attractions that cannot be found anywhere





else. Kennywood, founded in 1898 and named a National Historic Landmark in 1987, continues to provide unforgettable fun for all ages.

Kennywood is owned and operated by Palace Entertainment, one of the leading leisure park operators in the United States. Palace Entertainment owns and operates 21 major entertainment venues across 10 different states, offering a wide range of family friendly rides, shows and attractions.



Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

DAGUERROTYPE

What do you have when famous Japanese Horror Film Director Kiyoshi Kurosawa, opts to make a film in France? You have a meandering, plodding, watching paint dry tale, in search of a genre. Is it a ghost story? Is it a psychological thriller? After 30 minutes of DAGUERROTYPE, it won't matter. You'll just look for the exit door.

A successful screenwriter will capture the viewer's attention within the first ten pages, or ten minutes of the film.

DAGUERROTYPE takes over 45 minutes before an inkling of the plot takes shape. There are no interesting characters to hold attention and not enough conflict to merit continued viewing.

Jean, played by Tahar Rahim, manages to find a job working as an assistant for celebrated photographer Stephane, played by Olivier Gourmet. This is a good thing, because Jean apparently has no skills, other than drinking beer with his unemployed mates.

It's not long before Jean begins to fall for Stephane's daughter, Marie, played by Constance Rousseau. Their affair, however, is disrupted by Stephane's obsessive work habits and his remorse over the recent death of his wife.

To further complicate issues, a real estate mogul wants to buy Stephane's house for an exorbitant amount of money. Jean and Marie see this as a method of financing their love life together.

So, is DAGUERROTYPE a crime thriller, a ghost story, a Freudian study in psychosis? The answer becomes moot when finally revealed, due to the tortuous unveiling of the plot. A crime thriller without a crime; a ghost story without scares; and a mindless psychological thriller.

DAGUERROTYPE is only for die-hard Kurosawa fans. It is available on VOD, and was an official selection for the Toronto International Film Festival. If you desire to watch this film, I recommend you have a strong and tasty libation, with plenty of snacks.



DEVIL'S WHISPER

I am increasingly surprised by the horror films issued from the Indie market. The latest, DEVIL'S WHISPER is a very pleasant revelation which bounces haphazardly between a psychological thriller and tale of possession. The acting is solid, as are the SFX. The strength of the film, however, is in the delivery of the script. Director Adam Ripp wrote the screenplay, along with Paul Todisco and Oliver Robins. If you enjoy horror films that entertain both the religious and scientific explanations of supernatural events, DEVIL'S WHISPER will regale you.

A young man, Alex, played by Luca Oriol, with aspirations of becoming a priest, is suddenly beset by a demon once he finds an heirloom from his grandfather. The movie appears to be a psychological commentary masked as a horror film, as there is



a dark, and sordid past between Alex and his grandfather. Just when it appears Alex's psychiatrist will dissipate his demon through modern scientific methods, it sprouts wings and begins a supernatural killing spree that affects his entire cache of family, friends and his priest mentor.

Starring with Oriol are: Tessie Santiago; Rick Ravanello; Alison Fernandez; Jasper Polish; Coy Steward; Justin Tinucci; and Benjamin A. Hoyt. While not A-listers, the cast performs credibly and helps the story flow.

The SFX, especially the demon, are acceptable, given the usually low budget level for these items in Indie films. Independent moving shadows, like BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA, sped film creature movements, like JU-ON: THE GRUDGE, and bat-wings like JEEPERS CREEPERS, all combine to give credence to the creature.

I enjoyed DEVIL'S WHISPER, and liked the non-commitment of Ripp not to side with one or the other interpretation until the end. Some of the folks I saw the film with did not appreciate the ambiguity; but personally, I think it's the only way the conclusion works. If you like endings open to interpretation, and key dialogue set ups, I believe you will enjoy DEVIL'S WHISPER.

JUSTICE LEAGUE

For the uninitiated, or those needing a refresher course, I award THE FIST OF FIORE to movies that exemplify excellence in film entertainment. These are movies worth the price of admission. They are films you will readily add to your home video collection, and they are films that merit repeat viewings.

In times past, I usually had little difficulty tagging ten films with this honor. Recently, however, the number has dropped to five, or less. I'm happy to report JUSTICE LEAGUE earns the honor for 2017. I enjoyed this film immensely, and I think you will, too.



JUSTICE LEAGUE begins shortly after the events in BATMAN V. SUPERMAN. The world is under siege from an alien warlord, and only the combined efforts of Earth's known superheroes can stop the invasion.

Returning are Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Ezra Miller as Flash, Jason Momoa as Aquaman, Gal Godot as Wonder Woman, Jeremy Irons as Alfred, J.K. Simons as Commissioner Jim Gordon, Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Dianne Lane as Martha Clark, and Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor. Affleck and Cavill are great, especially Affleck's portrayal of an older, middle-aged crime fighter. Miller's Flash is given a bit of a nerd twist, making him the plucky comic relief and aligning him more with Tom Holland's interpretation of Spider-Man over in the Marvel Universe.

Momoa's Aquaman is fun. He is portrayed as a hard-fighting, hard-drinking rowdy rogue, patterned a bit after his character on FRONTIERE. And, Ray Fisher is impressive as Cyborg. This is a character I was unfamiliar with, as I stopped reading Justice League stories decades ago; but his character is presented in grand fashion and he fits seamlessly into the superhero storyline. Finally, Ciaran Hinds plays Steppenwolf, the film's heavy and agent of Darkside. He is unrecognizable in villain's make-up, but is certainly more menacing than David Thewlis as an antagonist.

Technical credit must go to Editor Richard Pearson, who also cut KONG: SKULL ISLAND for the Monsterverse series. He paces JUSTICE LEAGUE at break-neck speed and never allows the audience to snooze. Director of Photography Fabian Wagner is best known for his work on GAME OF THRONES. He has a

few scenes where the matting is obvious, but these are coupled with slow or stop motion, making them more palatable. Finally, Patrick Tatopoulos, who is still trying to slip from under the shadow of Mathew Broderick's GODZILLA, paints a grim Gotham, meticulous Metropolis and rustic Russia. Danny Elfman scores JUSTICE LEAGUE and incorporates his original Batman theme from 1989.

While there are plenty of Easter eggs for fanboys, JUSTICE LEAGUE holds well for those not versed in comic book geekdom. The characters are all solid and the action constant. This is why you go to the movies; to be thoroughly entertained, and JUSTICE LEAGUE does it in marvelous fashion.

KILLING OF A SACRED DEER

It's difficult to give credence to a film when the dialogue is written in a juvenile manner and delivered in a stilted style. No one speaks like the characters in Yorgos Lanthimos' latest film, KILLING OF A SACRED DEER. Despite having quality actors, the screenplay is surrealistic due to its butchered discourse.

Colin Farrell plays Dr. Steven Murphy, a successful surgeon, who has a troubled past. He befriends the son of one of his former



patients, Martin, played by Barry Keoghan. Martin, however has sinister designs for Dr. Murphy and his wife Anna, played by Nicole Kidman. The film's script, penned by Lanthimos and Efthymis Filippou, never reveals the mystic, supernatural powers Martin seems to command. Nor does it explain how all the main characters escape any consequences for their actions in the film's conclusion. Alicia Silverstone makes a cameo appearance as Martin's mother.

Thimios Bakatakis offers THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER's only saving grace with excellent cinematography. He incorporates extreme close up shots, which are too rare in cinema these days. Sabotaging his endeavors is Editor Yorgos Mavropsaridis, who paces the movie with a dawdling alacrity. One is therefore forced to suffer through the sequences for a totally unsatisfying conclusion.

It is somewhat concerning that the trend in horror films lately is directed toward incompetent members of the medical profession. This, more than likely, relates to the slacking of

requirements a decade ago, to effectuate increased female and minority representation.

THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER opens with one of the grossest scenes imaginable. It then gives way to an irrational script. The talents of Farrell and Kidman are wasted. This one will not satisfy horror, nor thriller fans.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Of all the Hercule Poirot mysteries to make, or remake, it's rather ambitious for Kenneth Branagh to select MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS. The Agatha Christie story is a literary icon, and only the culturally retarded would not know of the detective or his most famous case. Retelling a murder mystery when nearly everyone already knows who the killer is, is a monumental task. Branagh is a master filmmaker, but even he cannot accomplish the undertaking. Instead, this version of MURDER ON THE



ORIENT EXPRESS appears more of an opportunity for him to play a role he has always coveted, and nothing more.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS features extremely compelling cinematography. Credit Haris Zambarloukos for the spectacular visuals. Many of the train scenes seem to be purloined from Disney's THE POLAR EXPRESS. The film was shot on 65mm film, a rarity in this digital age; but for Branagh, who both stars and directs, it was his medium of choice.

"In our digital age, it's increasingly rare for films to be shot on celluloid, and mostly when they are, it's 35mm," said Branagh. "We are shooting on 65mm. So, in crude terms, it's twice the size of the 35mm negative. It essentially means, in layman's terms, that it looks sharper, richer, more colorful, and it feels like you're inside it. That's what 65mm does for me, and I wanted to take the audience onto the train. That's why we chose that format."

Additional tinkering with the story is detrimental to its telling. Screenwriter Michael Green has adapted Christie's original tale to infuse elements of race, war and politics. These themes are unnecessary and only serve to detract from the story, and provide characters the opportunity to make biting comments on America. Definitely, unnecessary.

Green's script also suffers at the hands of Editor Mick Audsley.

During the second act, the interrogation of the suspects, while vital, drags mercilessly. This should be a cat and mouse sequence, but plays like sleep-ease.

Famed detective Hercule Poirot has just completed solving a robbery in Jerusalem when he is called back to London. He boards the famed Orient Express passenger train for transport, but a murder is committed on the train before it reaches its destination. Poirot is asked to solve the mystery before the train reaches the station, and the local authorities are called.

Starring with Branagh are: Johnny Depp; Michelle Pfeiffer; Josh Gad; Penelope Cruz; Derek Jacobi; Willem Dafoe; Lucy Boynton; Sergei Polunin; Judi Dench; Olivia Colman; Leslie Odom, Jr.; Tom Bateman; and Daisy Ridley. Of all these fine actors, Branagh seems to be having the most fun.

Fans of the Agatha Christie novels balked with Branagh's interpretation of Poirot's mustache. In the books, it is described as a fine, thin handle-bar mustache; but Branagh's version looks like something Kurt Russell would sport while playing a Western. Fans are always hard to please, but this film has more problems than the style of mustache.

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, made in the 70's, holds up better than this latest offering. The only actor who seems to be plying his full talents is Branagh. The rest are doing yeoman's duty. The script updates are unnecessary and distracting. Sometimes, usually most, the agendas do not fit. This version of the mystery classic will only satisfy those ignorant of a literary giant, like Hercule Poirot.

ONLY THE BRAVE

For a disaster film, ONLY THE BRAVE fares better than most. Though long, it offers fine acting and exceptional cinematography.

Disaster films cannot simply show the disaster. The films spend most of their time creating emotional content for the viewers. The often mundane lives of principals involved in the disaster are orchestrated to allow a crescendo of empathy for those characters once the disaster occurs.

To accomplish this, a producer needs several key elements. The first is quality actors and ONLY THE BRAVE succeeds here. Josh Brolin, Jeff Bridges and Jennifer Connolly combine to add gravitas to the story. Connolly is exceptionally notable, and may garner Best Supporting Actress nods.

The next elements needed are technical. The script needs to be solid, and this one is. Those who know the story of the Granite Mountain Hot Shots will be familiar with the story and its conclusion. Those not, will be pleasantly surprised. Even though the film is over two hours, it is well paced. With the exception of the road discussion and walk home sequence, it flows well enough to make its length unnoticeable. ONLY THE BRAVE also features impressive cinematography, especially the aerial shots of the wildfires. There is also a cool special effect of a burning bear, which symbolically serves as a chapter segue throughout the tale.

Disaster tales are generally trite. Their stories are mere appetizers to SFX wizardry. ONLY THE BRAVE offers more, and makes for a much better viewing experience.

jingle Palcos

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**PAW & ORDER
DOG TRAINING**



Glutenberg Brewery

by Brian Meyer

Gluten is my best friend. From bread to beer to seitan, if it has gluten in it, I'll probably love it. While I may revel in all things glutinous there are some brave men and women out there that due to intolerance or disease simply can't partake in the joy that is gluten and are forced to live a life without never-ending pasta bowls or cheesy bread.

Until very recently those afflicted with celiac disease or gluten intolerance have been forced to live a life without some of their most beloved food and drink, with the most notable exclusion being beer. Made primarily from barley, beer may not have an abundance of gluten in the finished product, but it's more than enough for those suffering from celiac disease to be forced to abstain.

Thankfully the days of swearing off beer due to gluten are a thing of the past. Today there are a number of breweries and beers focusing on those not gifted with the ability to have gluten, helping them to live full, happy beer-inclusive lives. The most recent addition to this list in the Pittsburgh area comes to us via Canada and the Glutenberg Brewery.

The Founding of Glutenberg

The goal of Glutenberg Brewery is a simple one, to brew



delicious beers that are on-par with other craft beers in the market, but to do so with zero gluten. More than a marketing trend, the brewery grew out of co-owner Julien Niquet's own experience with celiac disease. Along with his long-time friend David Cayer, the pair founded Glutenberg in 2010 not only to help Julien to have the beer he was craving, but to help others like him to be able to enjoy beer like the rest of us.

Along with Julien and David, head brewer Gabriel Charbonneau make up the core team and after more than a year of research and development they released their first (and current flagship) beer, Glutenberg Blonde, into the market in Québec.

Fast-forward to today and Glutenberg offers a variety of gluten-free beers and distributes their beer in seven countries including Canada and the United States, which receives 50% of their total production.

Glutenberg Brewery features more than twenty seasonal beers and five year-round beers. They employ four full-time brewers that utilize the brewery's sixteen fermentation and conditioning tanks to give gluten-free beer lovers around the world the best beer possible.

Gluten-Free Brewing

So how does one brew a gluten-free beer? When talking about



beer on its most basic level, there are four primary ingredients: water, barley, hops, and yeast. As you may have guessed, the gluten in a typical beer comes from the barley, which is the grain the beer is brewed with. To create a truly gluten-free beer, the barley must be replaced entirely with a grain that doesn't have gluten in it. This may seem easy, but without getting into the science behind brewing and the need for certain enzymes found in barley, you'll just have to believe me that it's not easy to do. It's even harder to brew a gluten-free beer that actually tastes good, too!

Glutenberg uses millet, buckwheat, corn, quinoa, and amaranth to brew their beers. These grains may seem exotic, but they give Glutenberg the ability to brew 100% gluten-free beers that lack nothing in taste when compared to their gluten-full counterparts.

There's no magical gluten removal process or secret sauce that makes these beers gluten-free, just hard work, quality ingredients, and a specialized brewing process that meets the needs of the grains being used. In the end we have a lineup of beers that look great, taste great, and help those required to stave off gluten to enjoy great beer.

The Beers

While that's all nice and fine, it's the finished product that has the final say on how good the brewery, ingredients, and process truly are, and the beers from Glutenberg truly speak for themselves. Since we haven't perfected the inclusion of beer samples with every magazine just yet (trust me, I'm trying!) I'll have to speak for these beers until you're able to find them in the wild and try them for yourselves.

Even if you're of the gluten-enabled masses the beers from Glutenberg are worth a try, as there's truly nothing lacking from them other than the gluten that I'm sure you won't miss. Take it from me, a pro-gluten fanatic that now likes gluten-free beer.

While Glutenberg features more than 25 different beers offered around the world, Pittsburgh will be starting off with their 4 most popular brews to get us started with a life less gluten-y. Each of these beers are available in 16oz cans and on draft.

Blonde

The first beer released by Glutenberg and their current flagship beer, their Blonde ale comes in at 4.5% ABV and 15 IBUs with a

light, lemony character with floral, herbal notes. Think pepper, pears, and fennel with some lemon peel on the finish. Their Blonde ale is brewed with millet, corn, and demerara sugar as the fermentable base.

IPA

Glutenberg Brewery IPA is 6% ABV, 76 IBU, and a shining example of what a great IPA should be. There is a severe lack of quality gluten-free IPAs in the craft beer market, which is why Glutenberg put so much thought and care into making theirs. While this beer may have zero PPM gluten content, it's full of citrus aroma, fresh hop flavor, and a sharp kick of bitterness. Expect to find lemon and floral notes on the nose with apricot and bitterness on the middle and finish. Glutenberg IPA is brewed with millet, buckwheat, corn, black rice, and corn maltodextrin.

White

Showing their French-Canadian roots, Glutenberg's White Ale is better known as Blanche, and no, that's not a reference to



my favorite Golden Girl, but rather the fancy way to say white in French. Blanche is a 5% ABV, 13 IBU beer that has everything you'd expect from a true Belgian White. While traditional versions of this beer feature wheat, the Glutenberg iteration utilizes buckwheat, millet, amaranth, and quinoa, making it one of the most complex beers brewed by the guys in Canada. Along with these ingredients you'll find more traditional ones like coriander and orange peel, too. The quinoa and amaranth



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give this beer a notably “grainy” character that helps mimic the mouthfeel of a true Belgian White that’s brewed with wheat.

Red

Referencing their French-speaking roots yet again is the last of the initial launch beers for our area from Glutenberg with their Rouse, or Red for those of us less French-enabled. Rouse comes in at 5% ABV and 24 IBUs, and while it may have no gluten in it, it does come with a World Beer Cup win as well as four Canadian Brewing Awards.

Glutenberg’s take on the classic red ale starts with aromas of roasted nuts, coffee, and caramel and follows up with tastes of toasted bread, coffee, and chestnuts. To achieve such a

consistent and remarkable beer without gluten in it, the guys at Glutenberg use buckwheat, millet, candi syrup, and quinoa in this beer alongside molasses and chestnuts to round this beer out and make a truly outstanding gluten-free red ale.

Variety 4-pack

For those of us that can’t decide, Glutenberg also has a variety 4-pack featuring one of each beer so you can get a well-rounded dose of gluten-free beer and see that while there’s no flavor or aroma missing, the gluten most definitely is.



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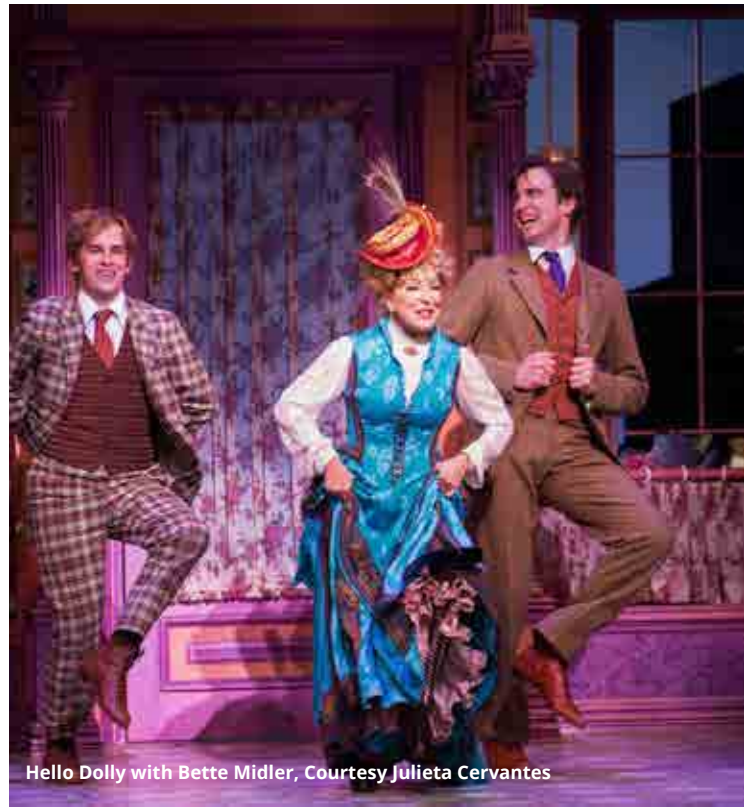
“Give ‘Your’ Regards to Broadway!”

By Suzanne Ferrara

Seeing Broadway shows in New York City is magical in and of itself, but having a complete quintessential Broadway experience is even more captivating! Broadway aficionados know the complete show experience includes legendary pre-and-post theatre dining and cocktails, plus those iconic accommodations all in mid-town Manhattan in the heart of the theatre district. When you attend a Broadway show, it is a timeless experience and one that dates back to the opening of the first New York City theater in 1750.

There are 41 Broadway theatres showing everything from the most recent arrivals to the box office hits, and to some of the longest-running productions. There are literally dozens of musicals and plays from which to choose, and there is sure to be something that will suit your taste. Rest assured: You will be swept away by the profound talent of Broadway's high-profile stage actors and world-class sets, the combination of which will give you a respite from the daily grind. (Fun Fact: According to The Broadway League, total Broadway attendance was 13.27 million in 2016–2017).

To ensure a smooth experience, it is best to purchase your Broadway tickets in advance, either online through the actual theatre or through a reputable ticket seller. While you can walk up to the theatre box office right before a show to purchase tickets, there's no guarantee that particular show will have



Hello Dolly with Bette Midler, Courtesy Julieta Cervantes

seats for sale. Upon availability and for select shows, you can also purchase discounted same-day tickets at the TKTS booths throughout the city and in Duffy Square, in Times Square.

Another great option is to purchase tickets in advance through Broadway Inbound, which sells tickets for Broadway, Off-Broadway and for Lincoln Center performances. Broadway Inbound offers deals on tickets for groups of six and more; it can be friends, families or organizations. This group ticket supplier is tied to the long-standing The Shubert Organization, which has been around for more than a century and adds to Broadway Inbound's trusted reputation. (Fact: The Shubert Organization is the oldest professional theatre company in the United States). Broadway Inbound can also help you and your group plan the perfect Broadway experience.

No Broadway experience is complete without visiting the iconic and legendary Sardi's Restaurant. An American institution, Sardi's is a must for pre-or-post theatre dining and cocktails, and has been for nearly a century! The likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Burnett, Bruce Willis and Bette Midler have dined at Sardi's, and it's not unusual to see celebrities—as they have since 1927-- sitting at their favorite tables.

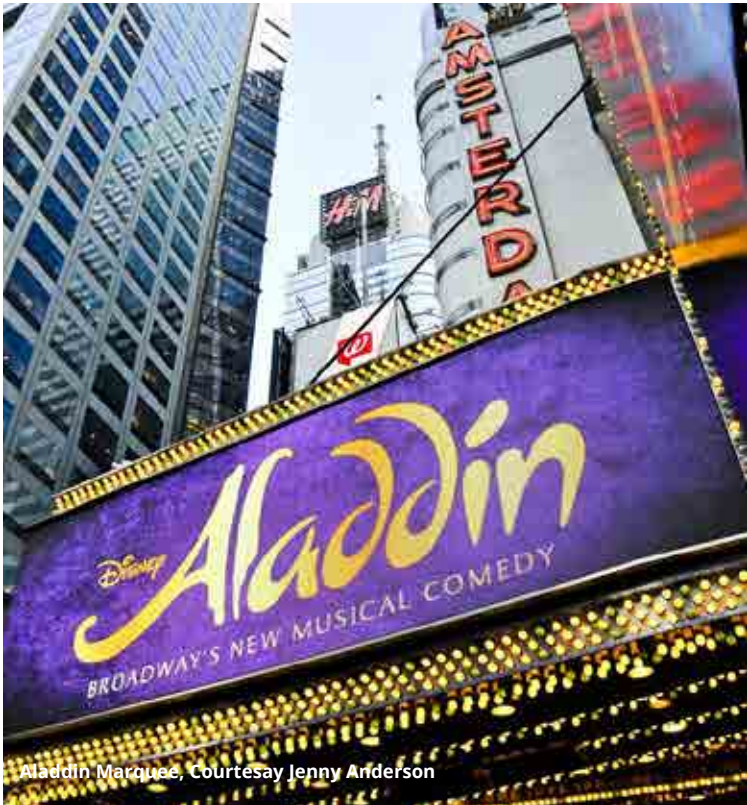
Be sure to request a table with Johnny Felidi, a long-time waiter and a former Off-Broadway actor who is a charismatic fixture! Johnny is a walking encyclopedia chowk-full of Sardi's



View from Top of the Rock

history and will show you Al Pacino and Shirley MacLaine's favorite tables (corner tables in opposite sides of the room) which you, too, can reserve. (Tip: Veteran patrons request table #4, and celebrities tend to dine here on Wednesdays and after shows on Thursdays).

Millions have come through Sardi's doors just see the walls draped with Alex Gard's (a Russian refugee) caricatures of numerous show business legends hundreds of the famous in show business from 1927 to today's work which has been illustrated by Richard Baratz for the past 29 years. (Fun Fact: In the 1920s, Gard struck a deal with owner Vincent Sardi, Sr., that for every caricature he drew, he would get one free meal a day. That deal stuck until Gard's death).



Aladdin Marquee, Courtesy Jenny Anderson

You can tempt your taste buds with the same historic dishes enjoyed by its most famous patrons, dishes that include its famous Cannelloni au Gratin (a family recipe of "Jenny" Pallera, 'the wife of Vincent Sardi, Sr.). In addition, Sardi's version of an antipasto is a must, as is the Orange Teriyaki Glazed Broiled Salmon (Warning: You will have a hard time leaving this place because of its welcoming and fun atmosphere, plus its mouthwatering continental cuisine)! Be sure to finish off your pre-and-post Broadway meal with Sardi's famous creamy New York Cheesecake and its Tahitian Vanilla Bean Crème Brulee!

There are eight performances a week on Broadway, giving you several opportunities to see shows and to dine. In terms of the latter, another quintessential New York theatre dining option is the Rock Center Café which overlooks the Rockefeller Center's

magical ice-skating rink and the stunning bronze gilded Titan Prometheus statue. (Tip: The best time to dine here is at night when the ice skating rink and the Prometheus are lit up).

The employees at the Rock Center Café are second-to-none, and many have been working here for several decades because they love it! Mike Berman, the general manager, joins his staff by serving dishes to patrons, and will even tend bar and concoct a refreshing, classic New York Sour. (Fun Fact: The assortment of fresh-baked bread offered here, including the Cranberry Loaf, comes from the beloved Amy's Bread down the street). Some of the most popular dishes here include the Crispy Calamari, the Burrata, the Rigatoni Amatriciana, the Skirt Steak, the RCC Chef's Burger, and the Shrimp Chop-Chop Salad, which has been on



Sardi's



Rock Center Cafe, Courtesy Patina Restaurant Group

the menu for 15 years! (Big tip: Be sure to request tables #305, #306(which seats two) or table #308 (which seats up to six) for the best view of the rink and for 'people watching' in the house). Be sure to finish off your meal with the New York Cheesecake and the Honeycrisp Apple Crostata!

When you walk through the antique revolving doors of the legendary Russian Tea Room, you will feel as though you've stepped into another world. This iconic restaurant was founded by members of the Russian Imperial Ballet in 1927. You can easily be swept away by the main dining room's scheme; it's draped in lavish modernist Russian-style décor with bold colors of rich red, gleaming gold and deep green. The Russian Tea Room has hosted New York's elite with its continental fine dining, including High Tea, and the finest vodka and caviar selections.

High Tea, by the way, includes two courses and is served with cherry preserves, clove honey and cinnamon which you can put inside your tea or to accompany baked delicacies. Other popular menu options are the traditional Tea Room Red Borscht, Chicken Kiev, and Boeuf à la Stroganoff.

You can reserve the plush booth on the left, from which Dustin Hoffman sat and ordered a double vodka in the movie *Tootsie*, or sit at booth #2, where Woody Allen found inspiration for the movie *Manhattan*; most recently, *Gossip Girl* was filmed here. (Fun Fact: Madonna was a coat check girl before she became famous).

Be sure to ask Igor, a longtime floor manager, to show you the Hearth Room on the fourth floor, which has a glass enclosed



Russian Tea Room, Courtesy Russian Tea Room

active diorama of the Kremlin. On the second floor is the Bear Lounge, which has the stunning Fabergé-inspired Venetian glass eggs hanging from a tree and a 15-foot tall revolving glass bear aquarium. On the 3rd floor is the Bear Ballroom where you will find massive imperial bronze chandeliers decked with frisky brass bears.

After all the excitement of Broadway and dining, you will be ready for a good night's sleep. Head to the Lotte New York Palace, formerly the Helmsley Palace, on Madison Avenue. This luxury hotel has unparalleled and breathtaking views of the massive St. Patrick's Cathedral and Rockefeller Center. The skyline view of the iconic historical cathedral structure is reason enough to reserve a room during your stay. Simply put: There are no words to give this heavenly view justice. (Tip: Reserve

a Premier Skyline high floor view room that overlooks the Cathedral). (Fact: The Palace received the 2017 World's Best Awards and was listed among the Top 10 Hotels in New York City by Travel & Leisure).

Additionally, there are also no words to describe the genuine and helpful bellmen, all of whom offer warm New York hospitality, and who will make sure you feel as though this historic hotel is your home away from home. (Tip: Paul and Michael at the front desk will also make sure your every need is met). Be sure to enjoy a mouthwatering breakfast at the VILLARD, formerly the landmarked historic residence known as the Villard House. (Tip: Sit in VILLARD's enchanting and stunning Gold Room). The Lotte New York Palace also boasts



View from Lotte New York Palace

a full-service spa and fitness center that overlooks the same breathtaking views. (Tip: Need some R and R? Robin and Camille are among the most-requested massage therapists).

If you can carve out some time, purchase a CityPASS for a more quintessential New York experience. This pass allows you to visit several landmarks including The Empire State Building, the American Museum of Natural History, Top of the Rock Observation Deck, and the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island.

Once you've immersed yourself in the full Broadway experience, you will have discovered this timeless magical gift of American theatre can only be encountered in the world's greatest city!

Thanksgiving, California Style

By Suzanne Ferrara

If the present day southern California coast had been the place onto which the Pilgrims first stepped foot in 1621, you can bet Thanksgiving Day would have been very different. The mild climate, the harvest and the indigenous peoples would have added amazingly unique touches to a Thanksgiving that... might have been. While this scenario would have been nearly impossible, what is a fact is that Americans who live in this region have celebrated Thanksgiving since 1850 when The Golden State became our country's 31st state.

Southern California may have never seen the Mayflower, but Dana Point was the port for Boston-owned tall ships carrying goods to the Pacific shore in the early 1800s. Today visitors can board the historic replica Pilgrim, a stunning sailing brig which skirted the California coast and Dana Point during this hide trade.

For an unforgettable Thanksgiving, head to the California coast, specifically Dana Point and make California Dreamin' a reality—it will be a trip of a lifetime with unparalleled experiences in a stunning backdrop, that's for sure! Dana Point is a beach town known for its stunning cliffs skirting the coastline and for its whale watching and surfing. Before delving into those unforgettable discoveries, make sure you have plans for a Cali Thanksgiving feast.

There's nothing like eating turkey, all the delicious fixings and fresh coastal seafood with the gorgeous Pacific Ocean in full-view. Adding to this inviting scene are the mild temperatures of November and southern California's sunshine.

For an extraordinary experience that features both unforgettable ocean settings and unsurpassed cuisine, make a reservation at Raya, located at The Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel in Dana Point. There isn't a bad seat at Raya; but while this split-level restaurant offers stunning views from just about any spot, try to reserve a window table with an unobstructed view of the Pacific.

Offerings in Raya's three-course Thanksgiving menu include Adobo Free-Range Turkey and Prime Rib. (Tip: Before enjoying your Thanksgiving Feast, sip a refreshing hand-crafted cocktail



outside at 180blu, which is perched 150-feet above the beach. The panoramic views of the Pacific are incredible).

There's a philanthropic side to Raya as well: This triple-A five-diamond resort also offers a Thanks-For-Giving Buffet, which features a sea of culinary options, and is held in a luxurious ballroom. (Tip: Guests are encouraged to bring canned goods and non-perishable food items that will then be donated to Orange County Rescue Mission).

While at The Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel during Thanksgiving, be sure to notice the amazing gingerbread extravaganza being constructed by the resort's skilled pastry team. This year's massive confectionary display highlights climate change, sustainability and clean energy through a representation of the California landscape, and reflects how the resort supports and helps protects the environment. The pastry team is expected to



Ocean Institute's Tall Ships, Dana Point



Whale Watching, Dana Point, Ca.



spend more than 500 hours creating this unforgettable show of gingerbread artistry.

Speaking of the environment, Dana Point is known as a hotspot for whale and dolphin watching. A boat trip aboard one of the many whale watching cruises is a must and a great experience to add to this memorable California Thanksgiving.

For a one-of-a-kind experience, board the 'Dana Wharf Whale Watch'. Coasting alongside these whales is a sight to behold, especially when the world's largest mammals spout vapors from their blowholes. You will also see pods of dolphins on this trip!

Need more adventure? Make a bee-line to the Ocean Institute where, among many fascinating things, you can board the tall ship Pilgrim. Aboard this breathtaking ship you can travel back in time with period costumed docents who will show you the ship,

sing sea chanteys and tell stories of nautical lore. You can even help them raise the sail or sit back and relax and enjoy the sea air while strolling the decks.

You can also tour the tall ship Spirit of Dana Point, a replicated 1770s privateer schooner used during the American Revolution, and this holiday season's visiting vessel, Hawaiian Chieftain. (Tip: Be sure to sign up for one of the Institute's Tall Ship Sails).

Want more sailing? You can also join Ocean Institute scientists on a whale watching cruise, and/or take the Sea Explorer voyage during which scientists will teach you fascinating facts about the ocean animals and much more.

The Ocean Institute is also where you can experience the captivating Headlands & Beyond exhibit. This exhibit offers hands-on exploration of the ocean's underwater world, plus interactive programs featuring California's fascinating maritime history.

After taking in all the sights, you will need---and definitely have--- a great night's sleep at The Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel. It's not just the goose-down comforters and pillows, and luxurious 400-count Egyptian cotton sheets that will leave you immeasurably relaxed, but also the ocean air and unparalleled



Raya restaurant, Ritz Carlton, Dana Point



Ocean Institute's Marine Life, Dana Point, Ca.



Dana Point Harbor, Tall Ships

views (offered in most rooms) of the hypnotic surf. (Tip: First floor ocean view rooms have an outdoor firepit).

Need more relaxation? You won't come out of the Ritz Carlton Spa the same person you were when you walked in. All of your cares will certainly melt away in this award-winning spa which offers ocean-inspired services that incorporate sea salt, algae, minerals and water to enhance your relaxation and rejuvenation. (Tip: One of the most popular massages is the PACIFIC WAVE, a beach-inspired treatment that uses the ocean rhythm movements found in Ashiatsu barefoot massage techniques. These will ease muscular tension and leave you in a state of bliss).

Need even more relaxation and rejuvenation? This resort offers ocean-front wellness classes, including yoga and Pilates. There are also two outdoor ocean-view pools and whirlpools, and be sure to relax in an Adirondack chair on one of the luxurious lawns overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

After experiencing The Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel resort-- which is ranked among the world's premier travel destinations -- you will want to return again and again, and, like many, create Thanksgiving memories for generations to come.

For more information go to: <http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/california/laguna-niguel/>, <https://www.ocean-institute.org/>, and <https://www.visitcalifornia.com/in/attraction/dana-point>



Whale Watching, Dana Point, Ca.



Ocean Institute, Dana Point Harbor



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Santa Stats

- There are currently 78 people named S. Claus living in the U.S. -- and one Kriss Kringle. (You gotta wonder about that one kid's parents)
- December is the most popular month for nose jobs.
- Weight of Santa's sleigh loaded with one Beanie Baby for every kid on earth: 333,333 tons.
- Number of reindeer required to pull a 333,333-tons sleigh: 214,206 -- plus Rudolph.
- Average wage of a mall Santa: \$11 an hour. With real beard: \$20.
- To deliver his gifts in one night, Santa would have to make 822.6 visits per second, sleighing at 3,000 times the speed of sound.
- At that speed, Santa and his reindeer would burst into flame instantaneously.

Santa's Bad Day

The Birth of a Tradition

One particular Christmas season a long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip, but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress. Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked, and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys. So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor, and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door, and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?" Thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Case Report:

Unique Case of Aerial Sleigh-Borne Present-Deliverer's Syndrome

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Source: North Pole Journal of Medicine, Vol 1 no.1,

Author: Dr. Iman Elf, M.D.

On January 2, 2017 Mr. C, an obese, white caucasian male, who appeared approximately 65 years old, but who could not accurately state his age, presented to my family practice office with complaints of generalized aches and pains, sore red eyes, depression, and general malaise. The patient's face was erythematic, and he was in mild respiratory distress, although his demeanor was jolly. He attributed these symptoms to being "not as young as I used to be, HO! HO! HO!", but thought he should have them checked out. The patient's occupation is delivering presents once a year, on December 25th, to many people worldwide. He flies in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, and gains access to homes via chimneys. He has performed this work for as long as he can remember. Upon examination and ascertaining Mr. C's medical history, I have discovered what I believe to be a unique and heretofore undescribed medical syndrome related to this man's occupation and lifestyle, named Aerial Sleigh-Borne Present-Deliverer's Syndrome, or ASBPDS for short. Medical History: Mr. C. admits to drinking only once a year, and only when someone puts rum in the eggnog left for him to consume during his working hours. However, I believe his bulbous nose and erythematic face may indicate long-term ethanol abuse. He has smoked pipe tobacco for many years, although workplace regulations at the North Pole have forced him to cut back to one or two pipes per day for the last 5 years. He has had no major illnesses or surgeries in the past. He has no known allergies. Travel history is extensive, as he visits nearly every location in the world annually. He has had all his immunizations, including all available vaccines for tropical diseases. He does little exercise and eats large meals with high sugar and cholesterol levels, and a high percentage of calories derived from fat (he subsists all year on food he collects on Dec. 25, which consists mainly of eggnog, Cola drinks, and cookies). Family history was unavailable, as the patient could not name any relatives.

Physical Examination and Review of Systems, With

Social/Occupational Correlates: The patient wears corrective lenses, and has 20/80 vision. His conjunctivae were hyperalgesic and erythematous, and Fluorescein staining revealed numerous randomly occurring corneal abrasions. This appears to be caused by dust, debris, and other particles which strike his eyes at high velocity during his flights. He has headaches nearly every day, usually starting half way through the day, and worsened by stress. He had extensive ecchymoses, abrasions, lacerations, and first-degree burns on



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his head, arms, legs, and back, which I believe to be caused mainly by trauma experienced during repeated chimney descents and falls from his sleigh. Collisions with birds during his flight, gunshot wounds (while flying over the Los Angeles area) and bites consistent with reindeer teeth may also have contributed to these wounds. Patches of leukoderma and anesthesia on his nose, cheeks, penis, and distal digits are consistent with frostbite caused by periods of hypothermia during high-altitude flights. He had a blood pressure of 150/95, a heart rate of 90 beats/minute, and a respiratory rate of 40. He has had shortness of breath for several years, which worsens during exertion. He has no evidence of acute cardiac or pulmonary failure, but it was my opinion that he is quite unfit due to his mainly sedentary lifestyle and poor eating habits which, along with his stress, smoking, and male gender, place him at high risk for coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, emphysema and other problems. Blood tests subsequently revealed higher-than-normal CO levels, which I attribute to smoke inhalation during chimney descent into non-extinguished fireplaces. He has experienced chronic back pain for several years. A neurological examination was consistent with a mild herniation of his L4-L5 or L5-S1 disk, which probably resulted from carrying a heavy sack of toys, enduring bumpy sleigh rides, and his jarring feet-first falls to the bottom of chimneys. Mr. C. had a swollen left scrotum, which, upon biopsy, was diagnosed as scrotal cancer, the likely etiology being the soot from chimneys.

Psychiatric Examination and Social/Occupational

Correlates: Mr. C's depression has been chronic for several years. I do not believe it to be organic in nature-rather, he has a number of unresolved issues in his personal and professional life which cause him distress. He exhibits long-term amnesia, and cannot recall any events more than 5 years ago. This may be due to a repressed psychological trauma he experienced, head trauma, or, more likely, the mythical nature of his existence. Although the patient has a jolly demeanor, he expresses profound unhappiness. He reports anger at not receiving royalties for the widespread commercial use of his likeness and name. Although he reports satisfaction with the sex he has with his wife, I sense he may feel erotic impulses when children sit on his lap, and I worry he may have pedophilic tendencies. his could be the subconscious reason he employs only vertically-challenged workers ("elves"), but I believe his hiring practices are more likely a reaction formation due to body-image problems stemming from his obesity. The patient feels annoyed and worried when he is told many people do not believe he exists, and I feel this may develop into a serious identity crisis if not dealt with. He reports great stress over having to choose which gifts to give to children, and a feeling of guilt and inadequacy over the decisions he makes as to which children are "naughty" and "nice". Because he

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experiences total darkness lasting many months during winter at the North Pole, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) may be a contributor to his depression.

Treatment and Counseling: All Mr. C's wounds were cleaned and dressed, and he was prescribed an antibiotic ointment for his eyes. A referral to a physiotherapist was made to ameliorate his disk problem. On February 9, a bilateral orchidectomy was performed, and no further cancer has been detected as of this writing. He was counselled to wash soot from his body regularly, to avoid lit-fire chimney descents where practicable, and to consider switching to a closed-sleigh, heated, pressurized sleigh. He refused suggestions to add a helmet and protective accessories to his uniform. He was put on a high-fibre, low cholesterol diet, and advised to reduce his smoking and drinking. He has shown success with these lifestyle changes so far, although it remains to be seen whether he will be able to resist the treats left out for him next Christmas. He visits a psychiatrist weekly, and reports doing "Not too bad, HO! HO! HO!".
Conclusions: Physicians, when presented with aerial sleigh-borne present-deliverers exhibiting more than a few of these symptoms, should seriously consider ASBPDS as their differential diagnosis. I encourage other physicians with access to patients working in allied professions (e.g. Nightly Teeth-Purchasers or

Annual Candied Egg Providers) to investigate whether analogous anatomical/ physiological/psychological syndromes exist. The happiness of children everywhere depend on effective management of these syndromes.

A Politically Correct Christmas Poem

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
And labor conditions at the North Pole,
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.
Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.
And equal employment had made it quite clear,
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,
were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!
The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,
And millions of people were calling the Cops,
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.
Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite
frightened,


The advertisement for Blackwhale Design features a central computer monitor displaying a stylized black whale logo with red flames above its head. To the left of the monitor is a collage of various design samples, including a red and orange abstract graphic, a yellow and blue 'SCON' logo, a 'SPAGHETTI WESTERN SALOON' sign, and a 'EAT Drink MARRIED' sign. Above the collage, the text 'BLACKWHALE DESIGN' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'BLACKWHALE' on the top line and 'DESIGN' below it. Below this, the words 'Graphic Design' are written in a large, red, serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text 'LOGOS | WEB DESIGN | FLYERS | T-SHIRTS' is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, the website address 'www.blackwhaledesign.com' is written in a white, sans-serif font on a red background.

and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".
 To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.
 He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,
 demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.
 So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife
 who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,
 joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,
 demanding from now on that her title was Ms.
 And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion
 that making a choice could cause such commotion.
 Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...
 Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.
 Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,
 Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.
 Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,
 Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.
 No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.
 Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.
 And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,
 were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,
 for they raised the hackles of those psychological,

who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.
 No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,
 besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.
 Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.
 and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.
 So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,
 he just couldn't figure out what to do next?
 He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,
 but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.
 His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,
 nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.
 Something special was needed, a gift that he might,
 give to us all, without angering the left or the right.
 A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,
 each group of people in every religion.
 Every race, every hue,
 everyone, everywhere...even you!
 So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
 "MAY YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES, ENJOY PEACE ON EARTH"

**Martha Stewart Holiday Calendar
 December 1**

Blanch carcass from Thanksgiving turkey. Spray paint gold, turn upside down and use as a sleigh to hold Christmas Cards.



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December 2

Have Mormon Tabernacle Choir record outgoing Christmas message for answering machine.

December 3

Using candlewick and hand gilded miniature pine cones, fashion cat-o-nine-tails. Flog Gardener.

December 4

Repaint Sistine Chapel ceiling in ecru, with mocha trim.

December 5

Get new eyeglasses. Grind lenses myself.

December 6

Fax family Christmas newsletter to Pulitzer committee for consideration.

December 7

Debug Windows '10

December 8

Decorate homegrown Christmas tree with scented candles handmade with beeswax from my backyard bee colony.

December 9

Record own Christmas album complete with 4 part harmony and all instrument accompaniment performed by myself. Mail to all my friends and loved ones.

December 10

Align carpets to adjust for curvature of Earth.

December 11

Lay Faberge egg.

December 12

Erect ice skating rink in front yard using spring water I bottled myself. Open for neighborhood children's use. Create festive mood by hand making snow and playing my Christmas album.

December 13

Collect Dentures. They make excellent pastry cutters, particularly for decorative pie crusts.

December 14

Install plumbing in gingerbread house.

December 15

Replace air in mini-van tires with Glade "holiday scents" in case tires are shot out at mall.

December 17

Child proof the Christmas tree with garland of razor wire.

December 19

Adjust legs of chairs so each Christmas dinner guest will be same height when sitting at his or her assigned seat.

December 20

Dip sheep and cows in egg whites and roll in confectioner's sugar to add a festive sparkle to the pasture.

December 21

Drain city reservoir; refill with mulled cider, orange slices and cinnamon sticks.

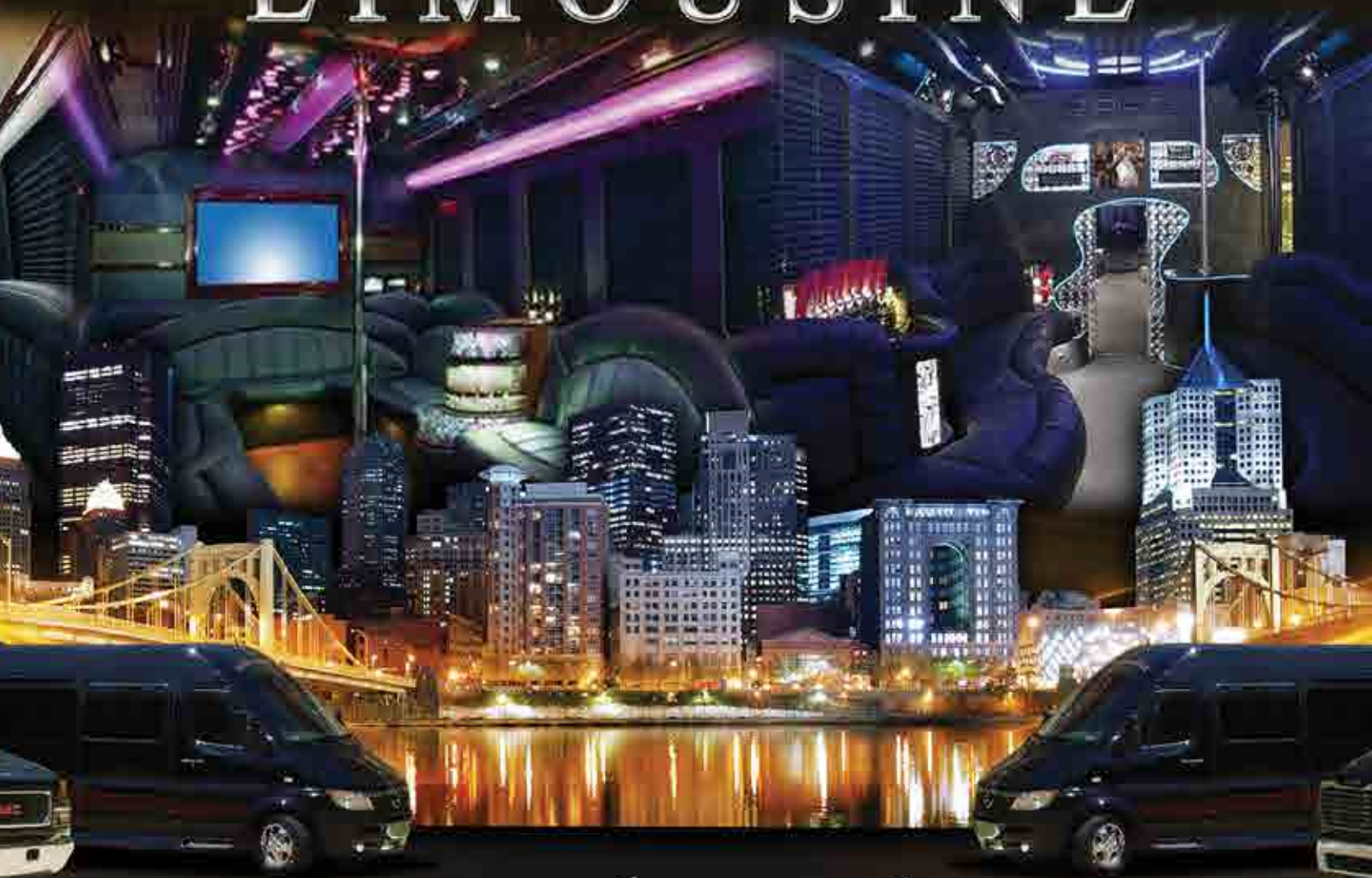
December 22

Float votive candles in toilet tank.

December 23

Seed clouds for white Christmas.

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December 24

Do my annual good deed. Go to several stores. Be seen engaged in last minute Christmas shopping, thus making many people feel less inadequate than they really are.

December 25

Bear son. Swaddle. Lay in color coordinated manger scented with homemade potpourri.

December 26

Organize spice racks by genus and phylum.

December 27

Build snowman in exact likeness of God.

December 28

Take Dog apart. Disinfect. Reassemble.

December 29

Hand sew 365 quilts, each using 365 material squares I weaved myself used to represent the 365 days of the year. Donate to local orphanages.

December 30

Release flock of white doves, each individually decorated with olive branches, to signify desire of world peace.

December 31

New Year's Eve! Give staff their resolutions. Call a friend in each time zone of the world as the clock strikes midnight in that country.

I think Santa Claus is a woman....and the rebuttal

I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off! For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. It's as if they are all frozen in some kind of Ebenezerian Time Warp until 3 p.m. on Dec. 24th, when they --with amazing calm --call other errant men and plan for a last-minute shopping spree. Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets, and mood rings left on the shelves. (You might think this

would send them into a fit of panic and guilt, but my husband tells me it's an enormous relief because it lessens the 11th hour decision-making burden.) On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman. Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag. Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted and strapped on to the rear bumper of the sleigh amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist. Even if the male Santa DID have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions. Add to this the fact that there would be unavoidable delays in the chimney, where the Bob Vila-like Santa would stop to inspect and repoint bricks in the flue. He would also need to check for carbon monoxide fumes in every gas fireplace, and get under every Christmas tree that is crooked to straighten it to a perfectly upright 90-degree angle.

Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

Men can't pack a bag.
Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
Men would feel their masculinity is threatened...having to be seen with all those elves.
Men don't answer their mail.
Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described even in jest as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly."
Men aren't interested in stockings unless somebody's wearing them.
Having to do the Ho Ho Ho thing would seriously inhibit their ability to pick up

women.

Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment.

And Now The Rebuttal

We Wrote:

I think Santa Claus is a woman...I hate to be the one to defy a sacred myth, but I believe he's a she.

Think about it... For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve.

THE REBUTTAL:

And when does Santa deliver his presents? The Friday after Thanksgiving when the malls are open for 20 hours? I don't think so. Christmas Eve deliveries are irrefutable proof that Mr. Claus is a man.

We Wrote:

And a male Santa would inevitably have transportation problems because he would get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions.

THE REBUTTAL:

Santa uses a reindeer so drunk his nose is glowing as his

navigator. You think a woman would allow those cute deer to work on Christmas Eve? In the cold? A female Claus would dress those poor deer in sweaters and booties.

WE WROTE:

- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.

THE REBUTTAL:

When was the last time you saw a woman in a red velvet suit? The fact Santa can ignore "fashion" and wear the same suit for 500 years proves he couldn't possibly be a woman.

WE WROTE:

- Men don't answer their mail. (Except email of course)

THE REBUTTAL:

And when was the last time Santa answered a letter? Like, never.

WE WROTE:

- Men aren't interested in stockings UNLESS somebody's wearing them.

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THE REBUTTAL:

And women aren't interested in stockings unless someone better looking than them is wearing them.

WE WROTE:

- Having to do the Ho Ho Ho thing would seriously inhibit their ability to pick up babes.

THE REBUTTAL:

As many presents as Santa delivers he has no trouble with babes. It's amazing how grateful a woman is when you deliver a nice diamond solitaire or electric socks.

WE WROTE:

- Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment

THE REBUTTAL:

And also requires the ability to stay up for 24 hours straight in the cold with a bunch of mangy deer and going up and down soot infested chimneys. You think a woman would go down a chimney and risk staining that red velvet? Of course not. Commitment also requires that Christmas is the same day each year. With a female Santa, Christmas would be late because she'd have to touch-up her makeup and do her hair after leaving each house. Let's face it, Santa Claus is, and always has been, a guy.

Holiday Best Wishes Disclaimer

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all. I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2007, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AMERICA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, or sexual preference of the wishee. By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms:

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Happy Holidays! Holiday Fruitcake Recipe

- 1 C Water
- 1 C Sugar
- 4 Large eggs
- 3 C dried fruit
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 C Brown sugar
- Lemon juice, nuts
- 1 FULL bottle of your favorite whiskey

Sample the whiskey to check for quality.

Take out a large bowl.

Check the whiskey again to be sure that it is of the highest quality. Pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer; beat 1 C of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 tsp. sugar and beat again. Make sure the whiskey is still OK. Cry another cup. Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the burner. If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a screwdriver. Sample the whiskey to check for toxisisticity. Next, sift 2 cups of salt.Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one tablespoon of sugar or something...whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn on the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window. Check the whiskey again. Go to bed. Who the hell likes fruit cake anyway???

Happy Solstice, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza

Sorry for the delay...our Legal Department just approved the following Holiday Greeting:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday(tm), practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular

persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all . . . and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2000, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make America great, (not to imply that America is necessarily greater than any other country or is the only "AMERICA" in the western hemisphere), and without regard to the race, creed, color, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, or sexual orientation of the wishee. By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Internet Style
A festive holiday poem
'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the Net,
There were hacker's a surfing.
Geeks? Yeah, you bet.
The e-mails were stacked by the modem with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The newbies were nestled all snug by their screens,
While visions of Java danced in their dreams.
My wife on the sofa and me with a snack,
We just settled down at my rig (it's a Mac).
When out in the Web there arose such a clatter,
I jumped to the site to see what was the matter.

To a new page my Mac flew like a flash,
Then made a slight gurgle.
It started to crash!!
I gasped at the thought and started to grouse,
Then turned my head sideways and clicked on my mouse.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
My Mac jumped to a page that wasn't quite clear.
When the image resolved, so bright and so quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick!
More rapid than mainframes, more graphics they came,
Then Nick glanced toward my screen,
my Mac called them by name;

"Now Compaq! Now Acer!"; my speaker did reel;
"On Apple! On Gateway!" Santa started to squeal!
"Jump onto the circuits! And into the chip!
Now speed it up! Speed it up! Make this thing hip!"
The screen gave a flicker, he was into my RAM,
Then into my room rose a full hologram!
He was dressed in all red, from his head to his shoes,
Which were black (the white socks he really should lose).
He pulled out some discs he had stored in his backpack.
Santa looked like a dude who was rarin' to hack!
His eyes, how they twinkled! His glasses, how techno!
This ain't the same Santa that I used to know!
With a wink of his eye and a nod of his head,
Santa soon let me know I had nothing to dread.
He spoke not a word, gave my Mac a quick poke,
And accessed my C drive with only a stroke.
He defragged my hard drive, and added a SIMM,
Then threw in some cool games, just on a whim!
He worked without noise, his fingers they flew!
He distorted some pictures with Kai's Power Goo!
He updated Office, Excel and Quicken,
Then added a screensaver with a red clucking chicken!
My eyes widened a bit,

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my mouth stood agape,
 As he added the latest
 version of Netscape.
 The drive gave a whirl,
 as if it were pleased,
 St. Nick coyly smiled,
 the computer appeased.
 Then placing his finger
 on the bridge of his nose,
 Santa turned into nothing
 but ones and zeros!
 He flew back into my screen
 and through my uplink,
 Back into the net
 with barely a blink.
 But I heard his sweet voice
 as he flew from my sight,
 "Happy surfing to all,
 and to all a good byte!"

Christmas Carols for the Psychiatrically Challenged

SCHIZOPHRENIA -
 Do You Hear What I Hear?

MULTIPLE PERSONALITY -
 We Three Kings Disoriented
 Are.

DEMENTIA -
 I Think I'll Be Home For
 Christmas.

NARCISSISTIC -
 Hark The Herald Angels Sing
 (About Me)

MANIA -
 Deck the Halls and Walls and
 House and Lawn and Streets
 and and Office and Town ...or
 Deck the Halls and Spare No
 Expense!

PARANOIA -
 Santa Claus is Coming To Get
 Me.

PERSONALITY DISORDER -
 You Better Watch Out, I'm
 Gonna Cry, I'm Gonna Pout,
 then MAYBE I'll tell you why.

DEPRESSION -
 Silent anhedonia, Holy
 anhedonia. All is calm, All is
 pretty lonely.

**OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE
 DISORDER-**
 Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle
 Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle
 Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle
 Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell
 Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell,
 Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle Bell,
 Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell Rock,
 Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle
 Bell Rock, Jingle Bell, Jingle
 Bell, Jingle Bell Rock, Jingle
 Bell, Jingle Bell, Jingle Bell
 Rock, Jingle Bell... (YOU GET
 THE IDEA)

**OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE
 PERSONALITY-**
 The Twelve Days of Christmas
 (don't make me repeat that
 again)

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY -
 Thoughts of Roasting in an
 Open Fire.

PASSIVE/AGGRESSIVE -
 Silent Night

Christmas Riddles
 When you stop believing in
 Santa Claus is when you start
 getting clothes for Christmas.

What do snowmen eat for
 breakfast?
 Snowflakes!

Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Procter
 and Gamble?
 It's true....Comet cleans sinks!

What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?
 Crisp Cringle.

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do astronauts get?
 Missile-toe!

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa?
 Claus-trophobic.

Why does Rudolph feel at home in strip clubs?
 It's the red-light district.

Why did Santa Claus trade Rudolph?
 He wanted change for a buck.

Where can you find literature about Santa's assistants?
 In the Elf-help section.

What is the best evidence that Microsoft has a monopoly?
 Santa Claus had to switch from Chimneys to Windows.

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— Don, January 2016

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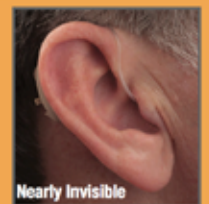
don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a medical-grade hearing aid. MDHearingAid PRO® gives you a sophisticated high-performance hearing aid that works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a hearing specialist conveniently on-line or by phone—even after sale at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know... why pay more?



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