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February 2017

# NIGHTWIRE



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# SPORTS:

## That One Hurt

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

Well, that wasn't a fun way to end the season.

Getting blown out at Gillette Stadium while playing for all the AFC marbles was not the best a man – or woman – could get. Some may say that being one of four teams still standing on championship weekend should be celebrated. That it's an accomplishment. That 28 other teams would just love to have had the season the Steelers had in 2016. There's some truth in that logic. But it doesn't always fly in Pittsburgh.

In Philadelphia? Sure. After a string of four straight NFC Championship game appearances, the Eagles haven't sniffed at it in 12 years and are still looking for that first ring. Shoot, Cincinnati hasn't even won a playoff game in the 14 years with Marvin Lewis at the helm. Or the dozen before that. The Bengals' last appearance in the AFC title game was nearly three decades ago, when they won the chance to lose to San Francisco in the Super Bowl for the second time. The Browns would . . . ah, forget it. We all know what Cleveland fans would give to be competing for the Lamar Hunt trophy.

You get the point. Plenty of teams are envious of the Steelers' success. But as the black and gold fandom knows, Pittsburgh is not "plenty of teams." Pittsburgh holds its football franchise







to a very high standard. Being one step away from a ninth Super Bowl appearance, a chance at Lombardi number seven and not sealing the deal is agonizing, not pat-on-the-back inducing.

Head Coach Mike Tomlin is well aware of “the standard.” At his final press conference, he agreed that success is measured in titles. “My goal was to be world champs. And we weren’t that. So, you can describe it in whatever way you choose to. In

that vein, I’ve only been successful one time in 10 years.”

So, after tripping at the top of the stairway to seven, bruising egos and crushing tired game plans as they tumbled back down to the bottom, the Steelers begin that climb again. For the eighth time. Las Vegas thinks they have a fairly good chance to finally make it to the top of those steps next year. At 10-1 odds, Pittsburgh is only behind Dallas and – surprise – New England as the favorites to be the last team standing in





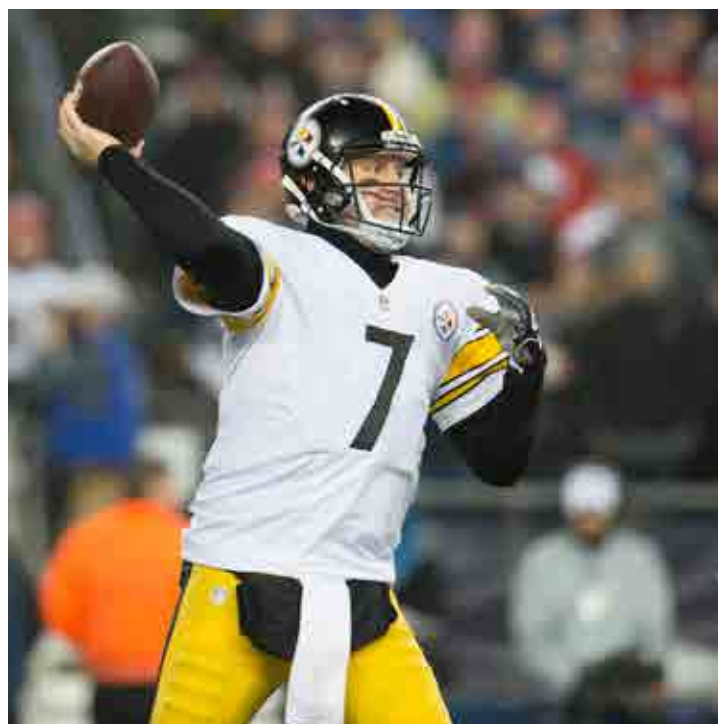


February 2018.

The Steelers do have a baker's dozen worth of unrestricted free agents. Throw a couple of critical players looking for contract extensions heading into the final years of current deals on top of that pile of to-do, and General Manager Kevin Colbert has some difficult decisions to make. But there's one that is easy. Slap the franchise tag on Le'Veon Bell. According to reports, that's exactly what the team will do as

they decide on whether or not to negotiate a long-term deal. The elite running back led the NFL in scrimmage yards per game despite missing the first three, and posted single-game franchise rushing records for both the regular season and playoffs. Not having a healthy Bell versus the Patriots hurt. Well that and failing to adapt defensively.

Unfortunately, if the only time you saw the Steelers play was the AFC Championship game, improved defense would not be







something you'd think they could hang their helmet on going into next season. But indeed, Keith Butler's crew grew stronger as the season went on, fueling their nine-game winning streak that took the team from a losing record to the precipice of the promised land. 25 of the team's 38 regular season sacks

came in the last seven games. That coincided with the return of second-year linebacker, Bud Dupree, who collected four and a half sacks in that span. The pass defense improved from 30th in the NFL in 2015 to 16th and they continued to build upon their positive turnover ratio.







While the majority of the defense is young and getting better – safety Sean Davis, cornerback Artie Burns and nose tackle Javon Hargrave all contributed as starters in their rookie season – there are a couple of guys that led the team in tackles and sacks that are in the back end of their careers. Lawrence

Timmons and James Harrison, respectively. Both free agents. Harrison has already asserted “I’m not done yet” and nobody would argue with him, so assume the Steelers re-sign the almost 39-year old. Timmons may also find his way back, but it will have to be a team-friendly deal. The emergence of Dupree and the ability of Ryan Shazier to stay healthy should help minimize the loss of Timmons if it comes to that, despite the big cleats to fill. Defensive Captain, Cameron Heyward will return to bolster the line and Martavis Bryant will certainly be a sight for sore eyes as he stretches the field.

With a lot to look forward to next season, Ben Roethlisberger has another opportunity to lead this proud franchise to yet another title. Doubt he leaves that on the table.

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](mailto:sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com)





# Pittsburgh Cultural Trust - February at the August Wilson Center

February at the August Wilson Center In the heart of downtown Pittsburgh, the August Wilson Center sits at the entrance to Cultural District, and this February, it will showcase some of the best arts in the district in celebration of Black History Month. The August Wilson Center is offering a full schedule of events chosen to complement its mission of honoring and supporting the important cultural contribution of African-Americans from a local, national and international perspective. The variety of exhibits upholds the second part of the mission: to illuminate artists of every inventive genre. Programming for the month spans visual arts, music, theater and festivals, offering something for everyone. The August Wilson Center, located at 980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, is open to the public and welcomes the region to participate, share and celebrate this very American experience. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.TrustArts.org](http://www.TrustArts.org) or call 412-456-6666.

## **JH: Mechanics of a Legend - February 9-18**

An original work presented by the Pittsburgh-based performance company, Hiawatha, JH: Mechanics of a Legend honors the legend of John Henry, the only African-American folktale hero while celebrating the rich African-American oral history traditions that inspired the legend. The tale of John Henry pits man in a race against a machine, after a brief moment of victory, John Henry died from the effort. Henry was not merely a myth, but also a real man whose story is rooted in the dawn of a new nation and the American age.

A diverse team of artists join forces with theater making company, Hiawatha Project, in a creative retelling of the legacy left to us in song by early American minstrels and echoed today by Harry Belafonte, Johnny Cash and Bruce Springsteen. Hiawatha measures the myth, the man, and the machine, revealing a poetic and dangerous truth inside the machinations of history, rooted in the economics of slavery. The performance aims to help audiences better realize America's brutal and capitalistic history of slavery before the Civil War and recognize the disempowerment and subjugation of many African Americans after the way.

## **An Evening with Gregory Porter - February 22 | 8:00 pm - Special Encore Performance**

An artist whose music is at once timeless yet utterly of its time, Gregory Porter solidifies his standing as his generation's most soulful jazz singer-songwriter. Since 2012, Porter has grown into a global phenomenon. His album *Liquid Spirit* won the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album, and went on to sell a million albums worldwide. Both *ESQUIRE* and NPR Music declared Porter "America's Next Great Jazz Singer," and he was awarded JazzFM's International Jazz Artists of the Year in 2015. Porter released his newest album, *Take Me To The Alley* in May of 2016, receiving a 2017 Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Album of the Year. On his new album, Porter continues to redefine what it means to be a jazz singer, pushing the boundaries of jazz singing.

Porter returns to the Cultural District having previously performed at the 2014 JazzLive International Festival, the Cabaret at Theater Square, and as part of the 2015-16 Soul Sessions Series. During his last performance at the August Wilson Center in 2015, Porter was presented with the Jazz Journalist Association Male Vocalist of the Year award. Don't miss this acclaimed singer in his return to the August Wilson Center.



## **Showcase Noir: Artist and Designer Market - 2/24-26**

Admission is free and open to public

Created in response to a lack of exposure for artists of color and places to purchase their work, Showcase Noir features art and crafts created by artists representing the African Diaspora locally and nationally. For over twelve years, Showcase Noir has provided a unique opportunity for the most talented artists and designers from around the country to display and sell their wares. Pottery, paintings, glassware, jewelry, photography and more will be on display and for sale in the halls of the August Wilson Center. In 2017, the showcase is expanding to three days. The show opens on the evening of Friday, February 24 at 5:30 pm. Saturday the show is open all day from 11-8pm. On Sunday, the show is open from noon-5pm. Times are subject to change. Live music and performance will also take place throughout the weekend.

## **Black Bottom Film Festival - February 24-26**

The weekend of February 24th through 26th will mark the first annual Black Bottom Film Festival (BBFF). BBFF aims to emphasize African-American contributions to cinema, from age-old classics to contemporary masterpieces. Through screenings of feature films, documentaries, and shorts complemented by a series of special events and speakers, the BBFF aims to foster an examination and discussion of how hot filmmakers use art to uplift, confront and impact American culture. This year's festival will focus on the reoccurring themes of spirituality, race, family conflict, and working class struggle that serve as the foundation for August Wilson's award-winning Pittsburgh Cycle plays. The festival will also celebrate the creative contributions of Michael Schultz. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust will present Mr. Schultz with the Black Bottom Film Festival Award for Cinematic Excellence on Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 pm.



# Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Twelfth Night

Director Ted Pappas celebrates love and laughter with a lively new production of William Shakespeare's rowdy and romantic comedy.

Pittsburgh Public Theater plays on in grand style with William Shakespeare's masterpiece of comedy, *Twelfth Night*. Directed by The Public's Producing Artistic Director, Ted Pappas, *Twelfth Night* runs January 26 – February 26, 2017 at the O'Reilly Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater's home in the heart of Downtown's Cultural District. For tickets call 412.316.1600 or visit [ppt.org](http://ppt.org). *Twelfth Night* is presented by Highmark.

William Shakespeare wrote *Twelfth Night* as a brilliant entertainment to end the holiday season for the Elizabethan court. Ted Pappas sets his production pre-World War I, with jazzy original music composed by Michael Moricz. The songs are sung by Feste, who is played by Broadway veteran (Rock of Ages) and Carnegie Mellon grad, Mitchell Jarvis. Accompanying him live on stage are Curio (Chad Bender on piano) and Valentine (Andrew Miller on guitar).

The action takes place in Illyria, where outspoken Viola (Carly Street) washes ashore after a shipwreck. The fact that she has a twin brother, Sebastian (Max Rosenak), complicates things as the play unfolds. Pretending to be a boy, Viola serves Duke Orsino (Timothy D. Stickney), who burns with unrequited passion for the noblewoman Olivia (Gretchen Egolf). But Viola's gender disguise leads to an outrageously out-of-whack love triangle among the three.

Also causing a stir in Olivia's household are carousers Sir Toby Belch (John Ahlin) and Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Daniel Krell). Along with the not-so-gentlewoman, Maria (Helena Ruoti), they trick pompous steward Malvolio (Brent Harris) into ridiculous public displays of affection for Olivia. Rounding out the cast in this play that's both funny and moving in equal measures are Tony Bingham, Don DiGiulio, and Drew Stone.

The design team for *Twelfth Night* is James Noone (Scenic), Gabriel Berry (Costumes), Kirk Bookman (Lighting), and Zach Moore (Sound). Casting is by McCorkle Casting. The Production Stage Manager is Ruth E. Kramer and the Assistant Stage Manager is Phill Madore.



## **Pittsburgh Public Theater Presents Twelfth Night January 26 – February 26, 2017 Performance Schedule**

**Tuesdays at 7 pm.**

**Wednesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm  
(except Feb. 8).**

**Saturdays at 2 pm (except Feb. 4)  
plus 2 pm on Thursday, Feb. 23.**

**Sundays at 2 & 7 pm  
(except Feb. 26 when the final show is at 2 pm).**

**Opening Night is Friday, Feb. 3.**

**Ticket prices: \$30 – \$62.  
Tickets for students and age 26  
and younger are \$15.75.**

**Discounts for groups of 10+ are available by  
contacting Casey Helm at 412.316.8200 ext. 704  
or [chelm@ppt.org](mailto:chelm@ppt.org).**

**Ticket prices are subject to change.**

**For tickets call 412.316.1600, go to [ppt.org](http://ppt.org), or  
visit the O'Reilly Theater Box Office.**



# Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

## ALLIED

ALLIED is a dual speed film, beginning with a brisk rabbit pace and concluding in a tortoise crawl. The contrast is stark, transforming what could have been a cinematic tour de force to a mundane tale.

In 1942, a Royal Canadian Air Force spy, Max Vatan, played by Brad Pitt, is dropped in the desert just outside of Casablanca for a covert mission to assassinate a German ambassador. The viewer is never told why this particular ambassador is targeted, nor why the protagonist is Canadian. Since World War II is considered one of America's greatest victories, perhaps this was a method of inclusion, showing other countries contributed as well. Needless, but it would fit in with the current Hollywood concept of not praising the country. Brad Pitt is commanding on screen. Regardless of the part, he always brings a certain *je ne sais quoi* to his performances, even when the characters are mundane. His hair coloring and attire make him look very much like Robert Redford when he portrayed Jay Gatsby.

Max's contact, and co-conspirator in the assassination, is Marianne Beausejour, played by Marion Cotillard, who is a notorious member of the French Resistance. While they meet, and schmooze their way among Casablanca's elite, they never stop at Rick's Café, exchange banter with Louie or sing "As Time Goes By". Pity. Cotillard has a rough-Earth beauty; she is simultaneously commonplace, yet mesmerizing. She and Pitt play off each other well.

### KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. THE SAND STORM
2. THE AIR RAID
3. GIVE ME A GRENADE

This first half of the story shows well. It is fast-paced, energetically shot and contained with succinct dialogue. Once Max and Marianne's suicide mission is complete, the scene shifts to London, and the tale begins to slog.



At this point in ALLIED, inconsistencies in the story become rampant. Since Max is a member of the Canadian Air Force, why does he return to London and not Canada? Why does Marianne, who is supposedly ruthless, demonstrate extreme charity before leaving Casablanca? Why is Max's sister living in London, instead of Canada? How is it she is a lesbian, and conducts an openly homosexual relationship in London at a time when homosexuals were incarcerated and put to death? Why is Max's wardrobe so similar to today's style of mixing stripes and checks, when the fashion of the day was much more sensible? Apparently, after making love, men in Casablanca sit on their rooftops. There are four such scenes in ALLIED, yet in each, Max is the only man on a roof. What caused all the other women in Casablanca to turn frigid? Obviously, these questions reveal Screenwriter Stephen Knight, as is his penchant, needs to insert the agenda into his script, even when it is obviously revisionist history and detracts tremendously from the story.

After returning to London, Max and Marianne develop a relationship despite warnings from his superiors, marry and raise a family. When all seems idyllic, Max is informed his wife may be a double agent, and the second half of the film centers on his discovery of the truth. While the concept is stellar, the film drags in the second plot unfolding, with long sequences for minor plotpoints and near impossible timeline occurrences. Where the Casablanca setting offers a compelling espionage tale, the London setting plays as if it were a John LeCarre omnibus.

The production design team of Gary Freeman and Raffaella Giovannetti do a superb job of recreating the look of the 1940's. Alan Silvestri scores a moving soundtrack befitting the period. Robert Zemeckis orchestrates the opus, and frankly I'm rather surprised he allowed the film to slow so much in the second half. Perhaps part of the problem is utilizing an editing team. I'm not a fan of more than one editor on a film; I believe it clouds the vision. Regardless, Zemeckis is not known for braking his workflow.

ALLIED, like so many other films that are high ranking contenders for awards this year, is worth a look, but certainly not worth repeated viewings. Had the London escapade kept pace with Casablanca, ALLIED could very possibly have been one of the year's best.

**THE GRADE FOR ALLIED = C**

## ARRIVAL

From the earliest to the latest, science-fiction stories have contained a cultural or social sub theme. They warned to "look toward the skies", or "we are not alone" or "join us in peace, or we will reduce your planet to a burnt-out cinder." The social and cultural messages often blend harmoniously with the plot, and as such, make for compelling movies. Unfortunately, this is not the case with ARRIVAL.

At first glance, ARRIVAL bears a striking resemblance to Jodie Foster's CONTACT. The story, penned by Eric Heisserer, quickly degenerates into a fostering of all the social constructs that resulted in the Democratic humiliation that was the past presidential election.

A dozen alien ships land strategically around the world. A ploy similar to the one used in the original INDEPENDENCE DAY. These alien crafts, however, are not stationed for global destruction in a checkmate pattern. Their location is puzzling,



and so a method of communications becomes necessary.

Enter Dr. Louise Banks played by Amy Adams. A very cunning linguist, Adams is portrayed as the idol of the feminist movement; a single mom raising a child capably, without benefit of the family unit. She is apparently doing a fine job, until her daughter is diagnosed with cancer, and dies. This is the typical single mother syndrome promoted by Tinseltown, based on a Helen Reddy mantra; I am woman, I am strong, and I can do it all without a man. Please.

Dr. Banks becomes the front man for an elite crew designated to establish contact with the aliens. Her partner is Dr. Ian Donnelly, played by Jeremy Renner. The group is overseen by Colonel Weber, played by Forest Whitaker, who is excellent in his portrayal.

The tone of the film is firmly set in the opening reel. Weber comes to ask for Banks' assistance in alien translation, and she replies with a snarky comment about the military. She is immediately given all the looney liberal ideologies associated with academia, especially on the college level, and utilizes every opportunity to spew the sewage.

Heisserer's script proceeds to denigrate the military, conservative news, religion and conservative talk radio, with a parody of Rush Limbaugh. His screenplay concludes with a jumble of coagulated messages meaningful only to those on medical marijuana. The sum line is, if we can improve our interpersonal relationships, then we will have better relationships with other countries across the world. It's not as serious as the burnt-out cider warning.

#### KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **REMOVAL OF THE SPACE SUITS**
2. **CRACKING OF THE CODE**
3. **SCENES WITH FOREST WHITAKER**

Technically, ARRIVAL is slick. The aliens are a rip-off from Gareth Edwards' MONSTERS, but on a smaller scale. They are constantly surrounded by a fog atmosphere, giving them a more menacing appearance. But, make no mistake, to drive home the "can't we all just get along" message, these aliens are very Spielberg-like in nature. Louis Morin handles the SFX.

ARRIVAL also has a rousing score by Johann Johannsson, and a nice collection of cant camera angles by Cinematographer Bradford Young. The polished visage of ARRIVAL cleverly disguises its liberal lunacy.

ARRIVAL is worth a view, for the film's look, Whitaker's performance and that of Adams, who seems quite comfortable in these loving motherly roles. The package of the film is a little too neat, with the only real threat coming from ourselves, and not the aliens who are the story's catalyst.

**THE GRADE FOR ARRIVAL = C**

#### ASSASSIN'S CREED

Full disclosure – ASSASSIN'S CREED is a video game I've never played. So I went into the press screening, not knowing much about the characters or the premise. I found the movie quite enjoyable. Lots of action, solid acting and a story that, while farfetched, had enough credibility to fit nicely in the realm of fantasy.

I feel compelled to mention I never played the game because the same situation occurred years ago, with DOOM. I never played the game and came out of the press screening thinking Dwayne Johnson and Carl Urban had a fairly decent action flick. Afterwards, I realized the vast difference between the video game concept and the watered-down version presented in the film. It was a disappointment, to say the least.

The main character for ASSASSIN'S CREED does not exist in any of the games. Michael Fassbender plays Cal Lynch, a criminal rogue prone to acts of extreme violence, and his historical counterpart, Aguilar de Nerha, a deadly member of a league of assassins spawned from the tenants of Islam.

Lynch is scheduled for the death penalty, when he is rescued by a secret organization, Abstergo Industries. Their desire is to use a machine, the Animus, to tap into Lynch's former lives to find an historic relic, The Apple of Eden. Depending on ideology, the Apple of Eden either contains a DNA cure for aggressive behavior in man, or the components of man's first original sin.

Two groups are vying for the Apple, the Assassins and the Knights Templar. The Assassins want the Apple buried and forgotten, never to be used, thus preserving free will in man.





The Templars want to use the Apple to eliminate aggression in man and create a world of peace. But, it's a little more complicated than that.

A rogue sect within the Templars wants to use the Apple to bring the world under the its own rule. They are headed by Ellen Kaye, played by Charlotte Rampling, who has visions of directing the world according to her whims. Sounds a bit similar to the recent Hillary campaign.

Her instrument of world domination is Rikkin, played by Jeremy Irons. He is a brilliant scientist with the ability to decode the Apple to turn man into a society of automatons.

But, Rikkin is having difficulty finding the Apple, so he enlists the aide of his daughter, Sofia, played by Marion Cotillard. He convinces Sofia the Templars will use the apple to eliminate violence in mankind and it is only until the film's final reels she realizes she has been duped. Something about the road to hell being paved with good intentions, comes to mind. Caught in the middle of the ideological conflict is Lynch. His part in the melodrama is further complicated by the appearance of his father, played by Brendan Gleeson, who adds clarity to Lynch's misguided past.

#### **KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:**

- 1. EAGLE FLIGHT SEQUENCES, ESPECIALLY THE OPENING**
- 2. SYNC FIGHT SEQUENCES WITH 1492 AND THE ANIMUS**

Fassbender is impressive as Lynch. Not normally known as an action star, he fights his way through remarkable fight sequences with aplomb. Credit intense training before filming and/or remarkable stuntmen. As Aguilar de Nerha, Fassbender purloins all the superhero qualities of comic book fame. He climbs walls and swings between buildings like Spider-Man; he fights and shoots with a bow and arrow like Green Arrow; he heals in a special solution bath, like Wolverine; he fights with the ferocity of DareDevil; and of course, survives falls from great heights by landing in the Stan Lee superhero landing pose, just before delivering a Superman Punch, a la Roman Reigns.

There are several flaws with ASSASSIN'S CREED, and they are major. The presentation of the 'leap of faith' is given short-shrift. The casual observer, not familiar with the video game, would easily think Aguilar has a suicidal death wish as he swan dives off the highest buildings in town. In the movie, the landings of those dives are never shown, save for one.

While eagles follow Aguilar through his adventures, the 'eagle vision' for identifying friends and foes, is never utilized. This may be a good thing, as it would present a PREDATOR aspect to the protagonist.

The premise for ASSASSIN'S CREED is troubling. It makes heroes out of Islamic killers. The group is based on the Hashashins of Nizari Islam. This was a fanatic cult responsible for the deaths of thousands. Their lunatic rantings were augmented through the tales of Marco Polo. They followed a mythical figure known as "the Old Man on the Mountain". Islamic assassins are all to prevalent in our current society. They are not the substance of heroes, and their elevation to this status in the film is disturbing.

Conversely, the Knights Templar was a heroic clan, organized by the Roman Catholic Church. They included some of the biggest movers and shakers of history, and held considerable power during the Middle Ages. The Knights Templar disappeared at the height of their power, spawning belief they transformed into a covert organization, much like the Free Masons.

It's telling that the corrupt Abstergo Industries is contained within the Templars and not the Assassins. Conveniently, the

movie, which follows parameters set in the game, continues Hollywood's desire to debase anything Christian, while promoting a retrograde religion.

Since ASSASSIN'S CREED is targeted for audiences including teens, it would be wise for parents to point out and correct this insidious indoctrination into the world of progressive globalists by screenwriters Adam Cooper and Bill Collage. The movie is enjoyable with a proper perspective and not an 'aloha snack bar' mentality. These two are also responsible for EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS, which basically told the story of Moses, by removing God from the tale. At least they are consistent in their propaganda.

ASSASSIN'S CREED is planned as a trilogy. If this first venture is any indication, the films should be fun. Great casting of established stars adds gravitas to an otherwise fantastical yarn. Just be cautious of the indoctrination techniques, especially to youngsters, and don't succumb to them.

#### **THE GRADE FOR ASSASSIN'S CREED = B**

#### **LIVE BY NIGHT**

Like Westerns, gangster movies hold a revered spot in Hollywood. From the Golden Era of Edward G. Robinson, James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart and George Raft, through Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, Ray Liotta and Robert DeNiro, organized crime captures audiences with style and brutality. Ben Affleck's name can now be added to that list, as he directs, stars and pens one of the better gangster films in quite some time, LIVE BY NIGHT.

LIVE BY NIGHT takes place in Boston, and as such is a sister to the mob glory days of Al Capone and the Chicago syndicate. It's the roaring '20's, and Prohibition is the law of the land, spawning a complex network of bootleggers. This is a time in the Northeast, before the Italians ruled the crime world, and battles are raging between various ethnic groups for control of the lucrative booze and prostitution businesses.

In Boston, the Irish are at odds with the Italians for the bootlegging empire. Albert White, played by Robert Glenister heads the Irish mob, while Maso Pescatore, played by Remo Girone, is his Italian counterpart. Caught in the middle of the two warring gangster bosses is Joe Coughlin (Ben Affleck). Joe is



a returning war hero, who wants nothing to do with either gang, but rather opts to work small jobs on his own with no allegiance to any mob. He does this at the chagrin of his father, played by Brendan Gleeson, who is Deputy Police Superintendent.

Joe is forced to deal with both crime lords, when he falls for White's girlfriend, Emma, played by Sienna Miller. Like the Man with No Name in Clint Eastwood's *A FIST FULL OF DOLLARS*, Joe pits the mob bosses against one another, constantly attempting to retain his independence. The cat and mouse game augments when Joe goes to Florida to expand the bootlegging empire.

#### KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **THE LANCASTER BANK JOB**
2. **THE DISCUSSION WITH LORETTA AT THE BREAKFAST TABLE**
3. **THE TUNNEL ASSAULT**

Ben Affleck is currently a tour de force in Tinseltown. He is flexing more celluloid muscle than any of his contemporaries. It would be wise not to bet against him. Leo DiCaprio didn't. He produced *LIVE BY NIGHT* and stands to gain by riding the crest of Affleck's current wave. Wearing more than one hat for a production is daunting; Affleck does three in *LIVE BY NIGHT*, and does each with aplomb.

*LIVE BY NIGHT* is probably the best ensemble cast film since *SUICIDE SQUAD*. Gleeson, Chris Cooper, Elle Fanning, Anthony Michael Hall, Zoe Saldana, Girone, and Glenister all waltz through the film in various lengths, performing their characters admirably.

Robert Richardson utilizes a combination of autumn colors and filters, even for scenes in Tampa, to give the film a period mien. His shots are compelling; even simple sequences like the motor boat ride on the inlets are notable. Couple the visuals with a captivating score by Harry Gregson-Williams (hyphenated, but still a dreaded three name soul), and *LIVE BY NIGHT* makes for a complete movie package.

Gangster movies are near and dear to my heart, as their themes constitute much of my youth. Many of the more recent flicks are very disappointing. With *LIVE BY NIGHT*. Affleck has returned royal status to the genre. This is one you don't want to miss. I enjoyed it, and I think you will, too.

#### THE GRADE FOR *LIVE BY NIGHT* = A

#### PATRIOT'S DAY

It's a fictitious part, but Mark Wahlberg encompasses his love for America and his adopted city of Boston in *PATRIOTS DAY*. This is no easy feat, since Wahlberg is one of the few conservatives working in the liberal progressive cesspool of Hollywood. He has found a comrade in Director Peter Berg, though even Berg let's a few of the liberal agendas mantras surface in the film.

Mark Wahlberg plays Tommy Saunders, a police officers at ground zero and a key component of the manhunt for the terrorists. Michelle Monaghan plays his wife. According to the film, Saunders is a rogue sergeant, serving a temporary punishment demotion, most likely for insubordination. This puts him at odds with Commissioner Ed Davis, played by John Goodman, and Superintendent Billy Evans, played by James Colby. Kevin Bacon pops in as FBI Inspector Richard DesLauriers and J.K. Simmons is Sgt. Jeffrey Pugliese, the officer who shot the first terrorist brother. Alex Wolff and Themo Melikdze play the two Muslim terrorist brothers responsible for the attack, Dzhokhar and Tamerla Tsarnaev, respectively. All these characters are true players in the event, except for Wahlberg's.



#### KEY SCENES TO LOOK FOR:

1. **KICKING DOWN THE DOOR**
2. **THE STREET GUN BATTLE**

Trent Reznor applies an appropriate soundtrack for *PATRIOTS DAY*, alternating between heroic and tragic melodies. Cinematographer Tobias Schliessler shoots the film well, periodically inserting actual footage from both the bombing and the manhunt. His ground level shots of the bombing are especially effective.

*PATRIOTS DAY* is too long, clocking in at 133 minutes. There is a growing tendency for filmmakers to utilize more than one editor on a film. I have always held this as a mistake. While the director makes the film, it is generally the editor's vision. When the vision is divided, it loses impact. Gabriel Fleming and Colby Parker, Jr. cut *PATRIOTS DAY*. Either one of them, working alone, could probably have done a better job.

When dealing with a tragedy, myriad subplots help add substance to the film. This was quite evident in *SULLY*, with Tom Hanks, where a single incident was elongated into a two-hour movie, quite effectively, by Director Clint Eastwood. Berg does the same with *PATRIOTS DAY*. There are subplots of Dzhokhar's college roommates; a lost boy; newlyweds; a budding romance at a Chinese restaurant; and a sympathetic rant on the trials and tribulations of being a Muslim woman and wife.

Wahlberg does his best to promote the themes of love and strength, and many may watch *PATRIOTS DAY* and come away with those feelings ingrained. However, many others will watch the same film and be filled with remorse and anger at members of a religion who sanctimoniously decided our way of life deserves destruction.

After watching *PATRIOTS DAY*, I am convinced, more than ever, that every American should exercise his second amendment right to carry arms; and that terrorists are not criminals, they are enemy combatants. As such, they forfeit all rights to trials, lawyers and the American judicial system. Not sure that is the message Berg wanted for *PATRIOTS DAY*. Guess, for me, he failed the Zettl Effect to Cause Model.

#### THE GRADE FOR *PATRIOTS DAY* = C



# Craft Beer for a New Year by Brian Meyer

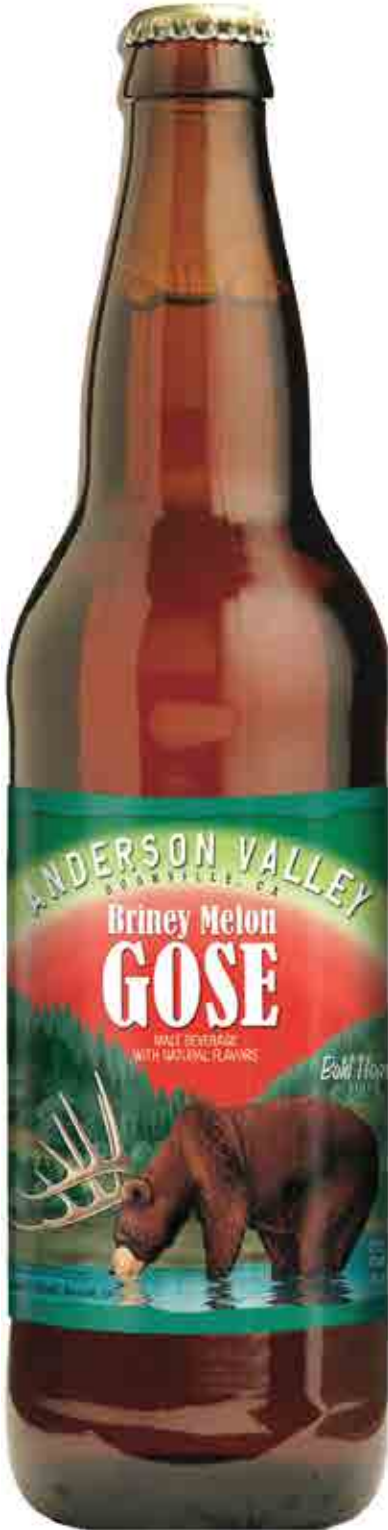
We're one month into 2017 and the craft beer calendar is already shaping up to be a real winner. From returning favorites to new and interesting one-off beers...February is definitely here to help you recover from our collective post-election hangovers.

## Anderson Valley Brewing Co.

**Briney Melon Gose** - You may not be familiar with the gose beer style (pronounced go-sah), but you should be. These beers are slightly salty with a tart character that's akin to sour beers, but more tart than sour. The folks over at Anderson Valley Brewing Company have brewed a few varieties of this classic beer style, including this brand-new iteration that's bound to please.

The classic gose style is paired with subtle watermelon aroma and flavor to give this beer a perfect harmony between acidity and fruity sweetness. The finish is nice and dry, giving you a beer that's both tart and sweet without any lingering sweetness on the finish. As with others in the style, this new gose will come in at a sessionable 4.2% ABV and is available in bottles, cans, and on draft.

**Ee Tah! IPA** - Adding to Anderson Valley's strong pale ale portfolio is their Ee Tah! IPA. Golden yellow in color, this India pale ale features aromas of tropical fruit, passion fruit, and just a hint of citrus. The impressive hop profile comes via Chinook, Citra, and Amarillo hops while pale, pilsner, and midnight wheat malts give the beer a nice balance. Coming in at 7.5% ABV, this is one beer that'll pair with your favorite grilled meats and spicy dishes.



## Bell's Brewery

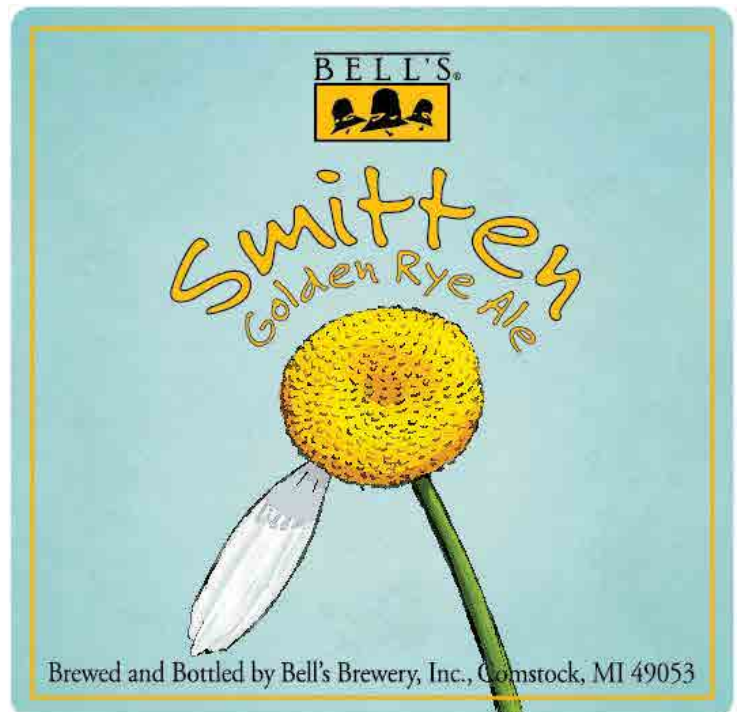
**Hopslam** - When it comes to IPAs, this one may very well be king. Bell's Brewing uses six different varieties of hops to craft the huge citrus and floral flavor that's packed into this beer, giving it a complex and very bitter taste and aroma. Weighing in at a hefty 10% ABV, Hopslam is a beer for true lovers of the hop.

Hopslam is a true imperial IPA, with a huge flavor and enough alcohol to give the beer a slight warmth on the finish. As you might have guessed, Cupid's worked overtime on this one, making just about everyone love Hopslam, so while it may take a little work to find this beer, the work is definitely worth the reward. Hopslam this year is available in 12oz cans, and on draft.

**Smitten** - Smitten isn't a word that's used too often anymore, but I argue that it should be. A perfect use of this word is for the golden rye ale brewed by Bell's Brewing. Their idea of Smitten starts with rye to impart a spiciness and body to the beer that give the beer an almost magical presence.

On the nose, you'll notice peppery rye spiciness along with a noticeable bready aroma. The taste has rye up front with a nice citrusy hop character following it up. All of this sits nicely on a malt backbone that's all about bready malt. The rye imparts a creamy mouthfeel that finishes the beer up perfectly.

Bell's Smitten Golden Rye Ale clocks in at 6% ABV and is available during the spring and early summer. Smitten is a great example of an interesting take on the traditional American Pale Ale with a nice rye malt twist. Smitten Golden Rye Ale pairs very well with strong cheeses, salty snacks, and savory meats. Smitten is available in 12oz bottles, 16oz cans, and on draft.



### **Dogfish Head Brewery**

**Flesh and Blood** - While 60 and 90 Minute may be IPAs from Dogfish Head we've grown to love, Flesh & Blood IPA is the up-and-comer that's won over a lot of hearts. Originally released in 2016, this IPA features a hearty dose of real citrus including lemon flesh and orange juice as well as orange and lemon peel. Flesh & Blood balances the American IPA style with zesty fruitiness to give it the bitterness that hopheads love and the drinkability that those less hop-inclined need. Coming in at 7.6% ABV and 45 IBUs, Flesh & Blood IPA is just about perfect, especially now that it's available year-round, and it's even available in cans!

### **Erie Brewing Co.**

**Ol' Red Cease & Desist** - Ol' Red is a big 10.1% ABV wee heavy Scotch ale that features a strong caramel malt flavor that finishes with a smooth, alcohol warming sensation. This hefty beer is a deep red color with a light foamy head. Aromas include dark fruit, malt, and a touch of caramel.

Ol' Red pairs well with Fruity, mild, or buttery cheeses as well as smoked and roasted meats, sausages, and even crême brulee and shortbread cookies.

### **Heavy Seas Beer**

**TropiCannon** - Citrus and IPAs go together like, well, citrus and IPA! This seasonal offering from Heavy Seas Beer clocks in at 45 IBU and 7.25% ABV, and features huge citrus aroma and flavor that's backed up by a balanced hop profile.

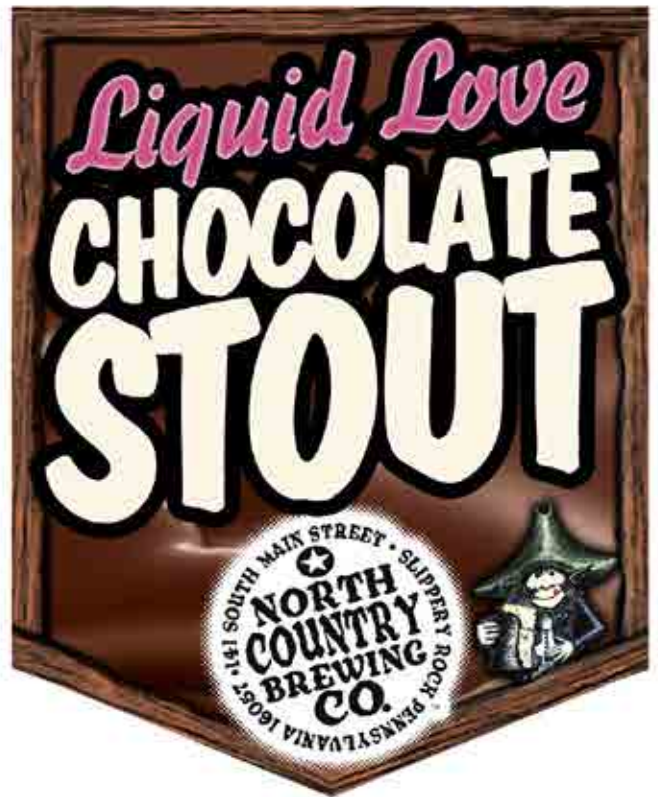
TropiCannon starts its life similar to Loose Cannon, and while they share the same ABV, the beer cousins couldn't be more different. On the citrus side you'll find blood orange, grapefruit, mango, and lemon in both the aroma and flavor while the hop side you'll get some piney hop flavor along with even more citrus thanks to the Amarillo and Simcoe hops.

### **North Country Brewing Co.**

**Liquid Love** - One of the tenants of a good Valentine's Day is chocolate. A close second to this would be, in my book, alcohol, so why not combine the two into a stout that is part chocolate, part beer, and all amazing?

North Country Brewing out of Slippy Rock, PA brews their Liquid Love Stout to be the perfect balance of chocolate and dark stout not only for those of us celebrating Valentine's Day, but for anyone else looking for a great dark beer with overtones of dark chocolate. When it comes to chocolate stouts, a little goes a long way, which is why this beer is so great. The beer is well balanced with enough bitterness paired with the toasted malt to support the chocolate and make this 6.5% ABV beer extremely drinkable and infinitely enjoyable, but make sure to find it on draft, as it's the only way you'll find it this year.

**Thanks Daaaaan** - Brewed with legendary sportscaster Dan Potash, Thanks Daaaaan Belgian Wheat is a light, refreshing Belgian wheat beer that comes in at 5.5% ABV and like most wheat beers, is a hazy golden color with a frothy white head.



### **Oskar Blues Brewing Co.**

**Deviant Dales** - This imperial IPA comes in at 85 IBUs and 8% ABV, and features aromas of citrus, grapefruit rind, and piney resin. Deviant Dale's pours a deep copper color with an off-white foamy head.

As for flavor, Deviant Dale's packs in more of that citrus and pine and follows it up with a malt backbone that finishes slightly dry.

### **Otter Creek Brewing Co.**

**Kind Ryed** - When it comes to IPAs, a growing trend is the use of rye in the recipe to give the beer an added bit of spiciness and body. Otter Creek Brewing does just that with their Kind Ryed IPA, giving it a strong rye malt backbone to support the 60 IBU and 6.5% ABV the beer features.

By using a combination of Apollo, Simcoe, Chinook, and Centennial hops, the brewers at Otter Creek give this beer a clean, refreshing taste that has just enough rye to make it one of the more unique IPAs around.

### **Saugatuck Brewing Co.**

**The Reverent Monk** - Belgian monks have been brewing beer for hundreds of years, giving them a history of quality that's simply amazing. While the monks brewed their beer for help with nutrition while on fasts as well as to sell to travelers, Saugatuck Brewing brews their Reverent Monk Belgian Tripel purely for our enjoyment.

Coming in at 10% ABV, Reverent Monk features complex flavors of clove, banana, and spicy esters to give the beer a depth of character that's hard to find outside of the Belgian borders.



## Stone Brewing

**Ripper** - The different varieties of pale ales are often overshadowed by the bigger, hoppier India Pale Ales. While some may say these styles are starting to merge, there's still more than enough room for the base pale ale in our beer world.

Take for example Ripper, a 5.7% ABV pale ale. This beer features tropical and floral aroma and flavors in a bright, golden body. Technically considered a West Coast pale ale, this is the perfect beer for long days at the beach or warm evenings on your porch, both of which we're hoping to see very soon.

**Jindia Pale Ale** - Always ones to experiment with the IPA style, Stone Brewing is releasing a one-off IPA that's sure to impress. Their Jindia Pale Ale comes in at 8.7% ABV and features balanced levels of ginger, juniper, and citrus to give this beer a very gin-like quality that makes it bright and refreshing. This, paired with the beer's intense hop flavor make for a brew you won't soon forget.

## Straub Brewing

**Groundhog Altbier** - Whether that seer of seers and prognosticator of prognosticators predicts more winter or an early spring for us, one thing we can be certain of is Straub's Groundhog Altbier and its ability to get us through however many cold nights we have left.

Coming in at 6.9% ABV, this end of winter beer pours a bright copper color with a toasty, caramel flavor and aroma.

## Tröegs Independent Brewing

**Nugget Nectar** - Here's a beer you could really make your main squeeze. Nugget Nectar is Tröegs Brewing's ode to the hop. Tröegs uses ultra-fresh hops to give this beer huge aroma and flavor that's hard to beat. Coming in at 7.5% ABV and a hefty 93 IBUs, this beer is technically considered an imperial amber ale, even though it's stiff competition for any IPA out there.

Nugget Nectar just saw its 2017 release in January to a thirsty throng of beer lovers, and if you want to get your hands on this lovely, you better do it soon or else be without the one you love for another year. And trust me, this isn't one you want to have a long-distance relationship with. Nugget Nectar will be available in 12oz bottles, cans, and on draft.

## Victory Brewing Co.

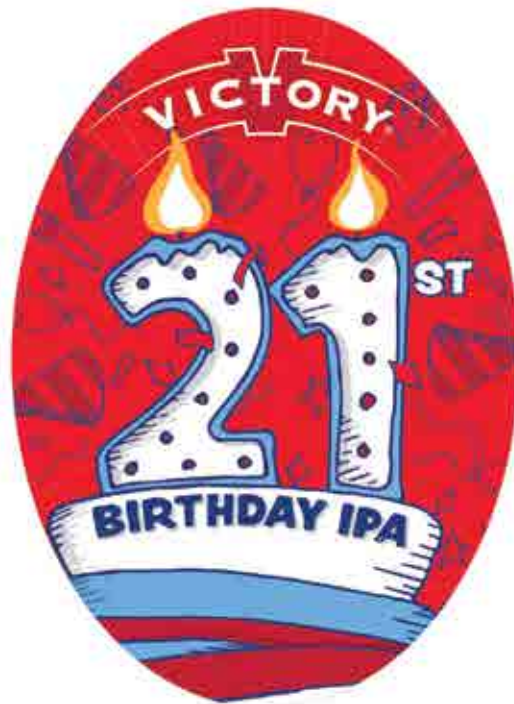
**Sour Monkey** - Sour beer is something of an acquired taste. When first trying a sour beer, it can be somewhat overpowering and not at all what you're expecting. Given a few tastes however, you'll find depth of flavor and aroma that makes these beers a truly unique experience.

Sour Monkey is a 9.5% ABV version of the popular Golden Monkey is soured using a strain of Brettanomyces, giving it added flavors of lemon, tartness, and overall Brett funkiness.



**21st Birthday IPA** - Ah, the joy of the 21st birthday. Being able to go out to the bar and legally buy the drinks you've longed to have. It's an event most of us remember (for the most part, that is) as being a fun, special day.

Victory Brewing is turning 21 this year, which means it's time for them to celebrate by having themselves a beer. This year Victory chose to brew a special IPA that features aggressive kettle and dry hopping with fresh-harvested hops, giving this 6.1% ABV beer some real character.



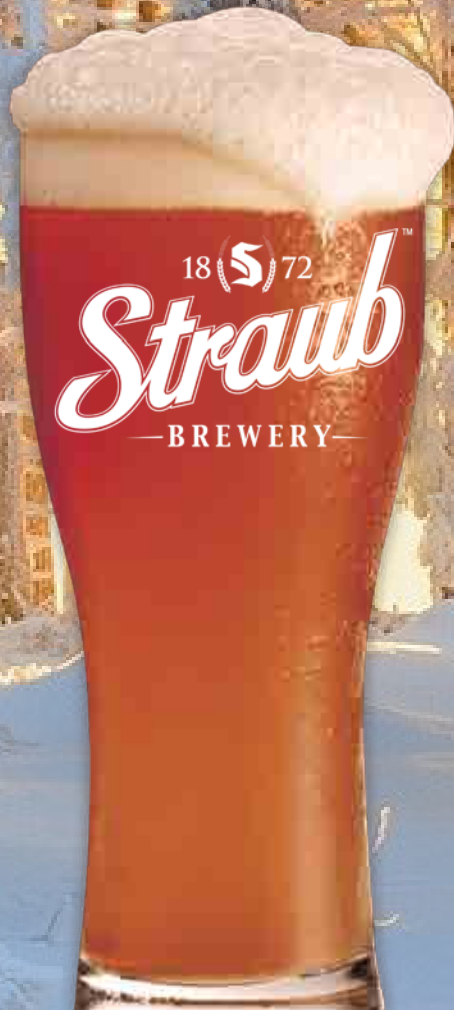
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# Panhandle Bliss

By Suzanne Ferrara

What was once a sleepy fishing village, with miles of deserted sand dunes on land and some of the best catch available in the waters, has come a long way. Today Destin, Florida is one of the top beach destinations in the world, and is famous for its beautiful clear turquoise waters, sugar-white sand beaches and yes, for fishing. Once you defrost in this heavenly beach playground, you'll know why it ranks so high. While you really can't go wrong when choosing a place to stay on this beach, there are some places that are worth mentioning, including one-of-a-kind experiences that everyone can enjoy!

It's a refuge which oozes an unmatched setting. Bordering the pristine beach of the Emerald Coast and the breathtaking Henderson Beach State Park Preserve is an oasis unlike any other, The Henderson Beach Resort. This Salamander Beach and Spa Resort in Destin is the newest and one of the most luxurious beach destinations offered between New Orleans and Sarasota Florida. Not all resorts are created equal, a statement that certainly rings true at this irresistible retreat; it's no wonder, because The Henderson was spawned from the adjacent, award-winning Henderson Park Inn.

This massive replica of a seaside inn is chockfull of enticing amenities and will wow you with its beautiful architectural design. From the wall of windows, to the cedar-exposed beams and tresses, to hundreds of pieces of stunning artwork adorning



Sandcastle Lesson, Jade East Towers



Henderson Resort Beach, Destin, Florida

every corner, you will surely be inspired by this haven.

This quintessential American beach resort has a plethora of special touches like the sunset salutation bell which reminds guests to witness the amazing sight of a Destin sunset. (Tip: Watch the sunset from the rooftop terrace). While taking in the views, sip complimentary beverages like ice tea, morning coffee and hot teas available in the lobby. Be sure to enjoy the sprawling veranda overlooking the state park and adjoining gulf coast. Right off this gallery is the octagon-shaped Horizons Bar with huge bay windows and a striking Italian marble fireplace. Here you can enjoy house-made snacks, precision mouthwatering cocktails and craft beers.

The balcony of your accommodations can give a vantage point that will instantly melt your cares away. (Tip: Request either the third or fourth floor corner rooms/suites which offer unparalleled views of both the stunning gulf and the unspoiled maritime forest preserve). You can also enjoy Mother Nature's wonders up close on two wheels; the resort offers complimentary bikes and passes to the state park. (Tip: The resort offers free shuttle service).

After wetting your whistle, head to the Primrose Restaurant which boasts an open-air kitchen and unbeatable sushi bar, courtesy of Chef Hieu and his culinary masterpieces. The cuisine and service here are superb, and the dock-to-table

dishes scrumptious. (Must try: the Chef's Featured Catch of the Day and the Henderson Roll). Be sure to meet chefs Zachary Garza and Chase Gilley, both of whom pour their hearts into every delectable dish. Another dining option is the Beach Walk Restaurant which has sweeping views of the gulf at the resort's Henderson Park Inn. (Must try: Smoked Tomato Soup with crab and Pepper-Crusted Yellow Fin Tuna).

After a good night's rest, you'll be ready to enjoy the zero-entry adults-only pool and cabanas, or take a relaxing float down the lazy river with the kids. For more sun action, take a stroll on the beach and enjoy complimentary beach chairs, umbrellas and free lemonade. Want to get active? The Henderson Beach Resort also offers various water sports and a state of the art fitness center and, for younger guests, a Kids Club.

A stay at The Henderson Beach Resort is not complete without experiencing the world class luxury Salamander Spa. You will not want to leave this tranquil paradise which exudes a healing atmosphere. A visit here begins with a one-of-a-kind 'singing bowl' welcome ritual. Complimentary offerings include wholesome snacks, chocolate-covered berries, and a variety of teas to be relished in their inviting relaxation lounge. This full-service spa boasts several water features and a lengthy list of services that will surely disconnect you from the cares of the day. (Tip: Two popular services are the Essential Balancing Facial and the Well-Being Swedish Massage).

Now, if you love everything about the beach, this is one thing



Henderson Resort, Destin, Florida

you don't want to miss and it's for all ages: sandcastle lessons. In fact, you can build your dream sandcastle right on the sugar-white sand in front your beach resort.

Beach Sand Sculptures make 'house calls' all along the coast on both public and private beaches. Its sand castle experts haul out all the supplies and tools you will need to make your castle (which naturally makes this special activity very convenient), and all you've got to do is show up.

It's a great way to bond with your family, friends or with the love of your life; a truly magical experience. You will learn all the secrets of how to build sand castles, and you'll be able to take these tips to every beach you visit! At the end, their experts will snap a picture of you and your family, proudly standing right in front of your sand castles. (Tip: This photo will make for a great Christmas Card!)

Speaking of conveniences, a really neat and refreshing lodging option is staying at the Jade East Towers in Destin. There's just something about a smaller property that sets the mood for a totally intimate beach experience, not to mention having that wonderful property next to the emerald waters. If want your accommodations to be as close to the water as possible, the Jade East Towers are only 30 steps from the beach! Yes, Jade East has all the amenities you need including a Gulf-front pool, beach service, grills and a lighted tennis court, and the accommodations offer a number of things money can't buy! For example: In addition to condos with sweeping balcony views of



Henderson Resort Beach, Destin, Florida





Salamandar Spa, Henderson Resort

the Gulf, you can also receive a sensory experience, namely, the hypnotic sounds of the ebb and flow of the ocean. (Tip: Unit #0720 is a great option for this sensory experience, and the unit also has little inspiring touches like a desk planted within a floor to ceiling bay-window overlooking the hypnotic gulf or for a more dramatically experience on the higher-level floors reserve #1540 or #1040).

Jade East Towers is one of several diverse Newman-Dailey Resort Properties ranging from beach homes, condos to villas and cottages. All Newman-Dailey vacation rentals have special offers to enhance your vacation stay - a "Be Free Bundle" gift card to use toward area activities from the Big Kahuna's Waterpark, snorkel excursion, a sunset dolphin cruise and much, much more. Go to:

One of those hotspots included on the Newman-Dailey 'Be Free Bundle' that will surely put a smile on your face is the Track Family Recreation Center. There aren't many places in America where you can ride a go-kart on a three-story spiraling wooden track, so be sure to take a spin on the Wild Woody; plus, there are also four other tracks including the 'Slick Track' and a great family track with an overpass simply known as 'The Track'. For the little-ones. The Kiddie and Rookie Karts tracks are a great option, and The Track also offers mini-golf where you will discover jungle animals, right next to a great arcade and bumper cars. Feeling adventurous? The Track has bungee jumping and a Skyflier in which you glide in the air and get a feel for skydiving.

Hungry? You cannot beat the fresh seafood in Destin! Steeped



The Destin Roll, Primrose Restaurant



Chef's Catch of the Day, Primrose Restaurant





The Track, Wild Woody, Destin



Build Your Own Boil, Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer



The Jack Scallops, Dewey Destin Harborside

in history and overlooking the marina Dewey Destin's Restaurant. The Destin family and the community of Destin, Florida have been intertwined since Dewey's great, great grand-father Leonard Destin founded; the town in 1835. (Tip: sit on the back porch overlooking the beautiful harbor and be sure to order the Jack Scallops appetizer and any fresh fish dish).

Another great option is the newly-owned Brotula's Seafood House and Steamer. Chef Tommy Lamasters, a local boy, worked his way up the ranks in the restaurant industry and pours his heart into every dish he prepares. Fresh steamed and boiled seafood is a must, as well as locally caught fish. (Tip: Be sure to order the Build Your Own Boil and any Fresh Fish from the Gulf dish).

For breakfast, head to the apply named The Pancakery where you will find the mouthwatering Blueberry Hill, Destinite, and Chocolatier pancakes, to name a few. They also serve scrumptious freshly made omelets and crepes.

For more information on accommodations visit: HendersonBeachResort.com., jadeeastcondos.com and DestinVacation.com.

For information on the aforementioned activities and special offers visit: beachesandsculptures.com, destintrack.com, and destinvacation.com/gift-card)



## A Thoughtful Valentine's Day Gift

Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. 'Yes,' came the answer from Tony who was a bit of a chauvinist, 'I've bought her a belt and a bag.' 'That was very kind of you,' Jim added, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.' Tony smiled as he replied, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.'

## My One And Only

Roger, who was 19 years old, was buying an expensive bracelet, to surprise his girlfriend on Valentine's Day, at a very smart jeweler's shop in Hatton Garden, London. The jeweler inquired, 'Would you like your girlfriend's name engraved on it?' Roger thought for a moment, grinned, then answered, 'No, instead engrave "To my one and only love".' The jeweler smiled and said, 'Yes, sir; how very romantic of you.' Roger retorted with a glint in his eye, 'Not exactly romantic, but very practical. This way, if we break up, I can use it again.'

## Question and Answer Valentine Jokes

Q: What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

A: Forget-me-nuts.

Q: What did the valentine card say to the stamp?

A: Stick with me and we'll go places!

Q: What did the light bulb say to the switch?

A: You turn me on.

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, but they had an Apple.

Q: What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

A: Can I hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand?

Q: What did one snake say to the other snake?

A: Give me a little hug and a hiss, honey.

Knock, Knock,

Who's there?

Olive

Olive who?

Olive you!

Q: Why did the banana go out with the prune?

A: Because it couldn't get a date.

Q: What is a ram's favorite song on February 14th?

A: I only have eyes for ewe, dear

Q: What travels around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A stamp.

Q: What happens when you fall in love with a French chef?

A: You get buttered up.

Q: What is a vampire's sweetheart called?

A: His ghoul-friend.

Q: If your aunt ran off to get married, what would you call her?

A: Antelope.

## Valentine Dreams

One morning Emma woke up with a start. Her husband Jim asked what was the matter, she told him, "I just had a dream that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," Jim said. That evening, Jim home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, Emma opened it - only to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".

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## 500 Valentine Cards Sent by Desperate Man

Mike walked into a post office just before Valentine's Day, he couldn't help noticing a middle-aged, balding man standing in a corner sticking "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. Then the man got out a bottle of Channel perfume from his pocket and started spraying scent over the envelopes. By now Mike's curiosity had got the better of him, and so I asked the man why he was sending all those cards. The man replied, "I'm sending out 500 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'" "But why?" asked Mike. "I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replied.

## What did the stamp say to the envelope?

I'm stuck on you.

## Be My Valentine

It was Valentine's Day and Jim and Danielle's first date. They sat in the darkened cinema waiting for the film to start. The screen finally lit up with a flashy advertisement for the cinema's concession stand. Jim and Danielle realized that there was no sound. The film began but the silence continued. Suddenly, out of the darkness, an irritated voice in the crowd loudly shouted, 'Okay, who's got the remote control?'

## Love is Blind?

Phil, a smart and handsome young man, dressed in the latest fashion, walked into this local pub. He noticed a woman gazing at him without blinking her big eyes. Phil felt flattered so he walked up to the woman and said in his deepest voice, 'I'll do anything you wish, beautiful lady, for just \$10 but on one condition.' The woman appeared to be trapped in the moment and asked as if in a trance, 'What's your condition?' Phil answered, 'Tell me your wish in just three words.' There was a long pause, the woman opened her purse, counted out the money and handed it to the man along with her address. She then looked deeply into his eyes and whispered, 'Clean my house.'

## How Long Have You Been Married?

When a woman on the staff of the school where I worked became engaged, a friend and colleague offered her some advice. 'The first ten years are the hardest.' 'How long have you been married?' she asked. 'Ten years', he replied.

## Don't Make a Fuss About Valentine's Day

My dearest wife is always going on and on and ON about NOT

making a fuss over her on Valentine's Day. She repeats that it's the thought that counts.

Well, I put a lot of thought into the gifts from previous February 14ths but she didn't quite take to any of them like I assumed she would. Here's my list - see what you think:

- Brand new mop and bucket.  
I was thinking it would be fun to see what color the floor was because I couldn't remember.
- Romantic dinner at fast food restaurant.  
I was thinking that she might like to go inside for a change instead of fetching dinner at the drive through.
- Chocolates left-over from last year's candy box.  
I was thinking of how proud she'd be of me for not wasting food. She's been nagging me for years to recycle.
- Midnight moped ride through the park.  
I was thinking that I'm getting too old to be peddling on the bike.
- Dozen roses printed on high quality photo paper. One of my favorites this - I was thinking these would last a lifetime instead of just a week.

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- 45 second back massage.  
I was thinking any longer and she might think I was interested in something else.
- Windows 10.0  
I was thinking how proud she would be to be a part of the technology crowd.

### A Kiss for Prince Charming?

Nigel, an alcoholic, staggered into a bar on Valentine's Day and, after staring for some time at the only woman seated there, walked up to her and gave her kiss in honor of Valentine's Day. She jumped up and slapped him really hard. Nigel immediately apologized and explained, 'Look, I'm sorry. I thought you were my wife. You look exactly like her.' 'Why you worthless, insufferable, wretched, no good drunk!' she screamed at the top of her voice. 'Funny,' Nigel muttered, shaking his head, 'you even sound exactly like her.'

### Kissing One-liners

Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss, and fifty cents for your soul. Marilyn Monroe 'I married the first man I ever kissed. When I tell my children that, they just about throw up.' Barbara Bush



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### Trivia About Kissing:

- The science of kissing is called philematology
- Lips are 100 times more sensitive than the tips of the fingers
- A real kiss may quicken the pulse to 100 beats in a minute
- A French kiss moves about 29 muscles in the face
- One little kiss burns up to 3 calories. The longer the kiss: the better the exercise
- The world's longest kiss took place in New York City, lasting 30 hours, 59 minutes, and 27 seconds
- It is thought that men who kiss their wives every morning before going to work live 5 years longer than men who don't
- 70% of people aged 16 to 24 years had their first kiss by the age 15, whereas only 46% of their parents had kissed by the same age
- Couples may transfer an average of 9 milligrams of water, 0.7 milligrams of protein, 0.18 milligrams of organic matter, 0.71 milligrams of fat and 0.45 milligrams of salt to each other with each open-mouthed kiss
- It is said that an average woman kisses about 29 men before getting married
- A kiss can contain up to 278 of different bacteria, most of which are non-dangerous
- An average person spends two weeks of his or her life kissing
- Two out of every three couples turn their heads to the right when they kiss
- Eskimos, Polynesians and Malaysians rub noses instead of kissing
- First movie kiss was in 1896 when John C Rice kissed May Irwin in the film called 'The Kiss'
- Kissing helps reduce tooth decay because the extra saliva it creates helps clean out the mouth
- More than 4,400 couples arrived together in the streets in Chile for a ten second kiss, this set the world record for the largest number of people kissing simultaneously

### Poor Robin's Almanac - Attitude to Kissing

The attitude of people in England toward St Valentine's Day in the middle of the eighteenth century can be seen in this verse

printed in Poor Robin's Almanac\* in 1757:

This month bright Phoebus enters Pisces,

The maids will have good store of kisses,

For always when the fun comes there,

Valentine's Day is drawing near,

And both the men and maids incline

To chose them each a Valentine;

And if a man gets one he loves,

He gives her first a pair of gloves;

And, by the way, remember this,  
 To seal the favor with a kiss.  
 This kiss begets more love, and then  
 That love begets a kiss again,  
 Until this trade the man doth catch,  
 And then he doth propose the match,  
 The woman's willing, tho' she's shy,  
 She gives the man this soft reply,  
 'I'll not resolve one thing or other,  
 Until I first consult my mother.'  
 When she says so, 'tis half a grant,  
 And may be taken for consent.

### I've Often Wished to Have a Friend

I've often wished to have a Friend  
 With whom my sweetest hours to spend  
 To whom I safely might impart  
 Each wish and weakness of my heart  
 Who might in every sorrow share  
 And mingle with my grief a tear  
 For whom alone I wish to be  
 And who would only wish for me  
 And to secure my bliss for life  
 I'd wish that friend to be my Wife.

### My Own Sweet Valentine

Like the sweetly budding rose,  
 Freshened by the gentle rain  
 Like the Evening Star that glows,  
 Brightest of the starry train  
 Like a well arranged Bouquet,  
 Where the fairest flowers combine,  
 Odors rich and colors gay,  
 Is my own Sweet Valentine

'I Thee Wed' - Romantic Valentine Poem by Charles Dickens  
 'Come, let's be a comfortable couple and take care of each other!

How glad we shall be, that we have somebody we are fond of always, to talk to and sit with.

Let's be a comfortable couple.

Now do, my dear!

### Martyrdom by John Keats

I have been astonished that men could die martyrs for their religion -

I have shuddered at it.

I shudder no more.

I could be martyred for my religion

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Love is my religion  
And I could die for that.

I could die for you.  
I Wish You Were My Valentine  
I wish you were my Valentine  
Though I may not be yours,  
And I may, in my ignorance,  
Be speaking to closed doors.  
I have no inkling of your heart,  
No hint what you might say;  
But when I think of you the sun  
Will just not go away.  
There is in you a loveliness  
That makes my darkness shine,  
And so I'll wait, if wait I must,  
To be your Valentine.

**Forget-me-not - Classic Victorian Romantic  
Valentine Poem**

Forget me not  
No other heart  
Can ever be more true than mine  
Though many loving friends surround  
Thy sunny path, my Valentine  
My So Nearly Valentine!  
I'm going to tea at the Reasons  
Such an elegant up market affair.  
I've scrubbed me hands  
Face and neck and brushed me 'basin' cut hair!  
I skip down the hill to his big posh house  
Heading for tasty treats  
He lives in the shop next the flicks  
The one that sells chocolates and sweets.  
Terry wants me to be his Valentine  
His red velvet card told me so  
This evening he waits on my answer  
But will I say yes or no?  
Their house is the best there's none finer  
Silk curtains held back with a frill  
There's always fresh fruit on the sideboard,  
Even when nobody's ill!  
I sit at their sumptuous table  
Look in wonder on bone China plates  
Drinking tea from a matching cup  
Eating cake made with nuts and dates.  
We said a prayer before we began  
Though his posh mam called it 'grace'.

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And I dabbed my lips as the adults did  
 On a napkin of flowers and lace.  
 Their sugar came in tiny cubes!  
 That was such a surprise to me,  
 Used the real silver sugar tongs  
 And dropped some in my tea!  
 I've made up my mind and wink at him  
 he's the Valentine I want.  
 He blows me a kiss  
 Across the cheese and salmon vol au vent!  
 He's blonde and wears blue plastic glasses  
 They call him four eyes at school  
 He woos the girls with Mars Bars and Kit Kats  
 'cos this lad is nobody's fool.  
 Christine Dunn wants him all to herself  
 But she's far too old at aged ten.  
 But then that's Christine all over  
 Always going for much younger men!  
 But I had a trick up my sleeve  
 And captured my beau fair and square  
 I did what the other girls couldn't  
 I taught the lad how to swear!

Now I've seen the way he looks at me  
 And I know I have made him mine  
 Though I have not quite yet turned eight  
 he's that a bit older, he's nine!  
 Stuffed to the gills I'm so happy  
 As we stroll arm in arm up the hill  
 Me pockets filled with toffees  
 And the tanner he's nicked from the till.  
 In our entry he stops to give me a kiss  
 - I blush cos it's my first!  
 But our noses crashed, his glasses smashed  
 Our affair was sadly cursed.  
 Only friends now with no spark of romance  
 Though I got the odd Mars bar or three  
 Christine Dunn got all his attention  
 She steamed his glasses not me.  
 I saw him a few years ago  
 He asked how I was I said 'Fine!'  
 Now as wide as he once was tall  
 He was so nearly my first Valentine!  
 My Funny Valentine - By Chet Baker

My Funny Valentine  
 Sweet Comic Valentine  
 You Make Me Smile With My Heart  
 You're Looks Are Laughable,  
 Un-photographable  
 Yet You're My Favorite Work Of Art  
 Is Your Figure Less Than Greek  
 Is Your Mouth A Little Weak  
 When You Open It To Speak  
 Are You Smart  
 Don't Change A Hair For Me  
 Not If You Care For Me  
 Stay Little Valentine Stay  
 Each Day Is Valentine's Day  
 Cupid - Valentine Day Poem / Song  
 Cupid, draw back your bow  
 And let your arrow go  
 Straight to my lover's heart for me  
 for me  
 Cupid, please hear my cry  
 And let your arrow fly  
 Straight to my lover's heart for me  
 Now I don't mean to bother you  
 But I'm in distress

There's danger of me losing all of my happiness  
 For I love a girl who doesn't know I exist



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# Humor

And this you can fix  
So, Cupid, draw back your bow  
And let your arrow go  
Straight to my lover's heart for me  
Nobody but me  
Cupid, please hear my cry  
And let your arrow fly  
Straight to my lover's heart for me  
Now, Cupid, if your arrow makes his love strong for me  
I promise I will love him until eternity  
I know between the two of us his heart we can steal  
Help me if you will  
So, Cupid, draw back your bow  
And let your arrow go  
Straight to my lover's heart for me  
Nobody but me  
Cupid, please hear my cry  
And let your arrow fly  
Straight to my lover's heart for me  
Now, Cupid, don't you hear me calling you, I need you,  
Cupid, help me.

## The Magic Of Love - Another Romantic Poem for Valentine's Day

Love is like magic  
And it always will be.  
For love still remains  
Life's sweet mystery.  
Love works in ways  
That are wondrous and strange  
And there's nothing in life  
That love cannot change.  
Love can transform  
The most commonplace  
Into beauty and splendor  
And sweetness and grace.  
Love is unselfish,  
Understanding and kind,  
For it sees with its heart  
And not with its mind.  
Love is the answer  
That everyone seeks...  
Love is the language,



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That every heart speaks.  
Love can't be bought,  
It is priceless and free,  
Love, like pure magic,  
Is life's sweet mystery.

Written by Helen Steiner Rice

### If You Love a Vegetarian - Unusual Valentine Day Poem

Cabbage always has a heart;  
Green beans string along.  
You're such a Tomato,  
Will you Peas to me belong?  
You've been the Apple of my eye,  
You know how much I care;  
So Lettuce get together,  
We'd make a perfect Pear.  
Now, something's sure to Turnip,  
To prove you can't be Beet;  
So, if you Carrot all for me  
Let's let our tulips meet.

Don't Squash my hopes and dreams now,  
Bee my Honey, dear;  
Or tears will fill Potato's eyes,  
While Sweet Corn lends an ear.  
I'll Cauliflower shop and say  
Your dreams are Parsley mine.  
I'll work and share my Celery,  
So be my Valentine.  
You've Touched My Heart  
You've given me a reason  
For smiling once again,  
You've filled my life with peaceful dreams  
and you've become my closest friend.  
You've shared your heartfelt secrets  
And your trust you've given me,  
You showed me how to feel again  
To laugh, and love, and see.  
If life should end tomorrow  
And from this world I should part,  
I shall be forever young  
For you have touched my heart

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## Valentine's Trivia about Flowers and Chocolates

- 110 million roses, the majority color red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- The red rose was the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. Red stands for strong feelings
- California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America.
- 15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.
- 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.
- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- While 75% of chocolate purchases are made by women all year long, during the days and minutes before Valentine's Day, 75% of the chocolate purchases are made by men.
- Over \$1 billion USD worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.
- One-third of all Valentine cards are accompanied by gifts.
- An estimated 25% of Valentine's Day cards are humorous.
- 70% of those celebrating the holiday give a card, followed by a telephone call [49%], gift [48%], special dinner [37%], candy [33%] restaurant meal [30%], and flowers [19%].
- The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets. (Probably chocolate.)
- The most fantastic gift of love is the Taj Mahal in India. It was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife.

## Valentine's Day - Place Names

Two places in the USA have the name Valentine: Valentine, Nebraska, with a population of 2,842; and Valentine, Texas, with a mere 185 residents.

Love is a much more popular town name as nine places claim: Loveland, Colorado, with approx 55,273 residents. Other love-ly places are Lovejoy, Georgia; Loves Park, Illinois; Lovelock, Nevada; Love Valley, North Carolina; Loveland, Ohio; Loveland Park, Ohio; Loveland, Oklahoma; and Lovelady, Texas.

## Valentine Kiss

Betty logged onto her Facebook account early in the evening on Valentine's Day. She posted, "As soon as I got home this evening, I received a big wet kiss from the one I love!"



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"That's so sweet!" Her friend Jill posted in reply, "What did he say afterward?" Betty answered, "He didn't say anything. He just kept kissing me until I gave him one of his favorite doggy treats."

Dirty Joke

1+1 = 3 (think about it)

Anti-Humor Joke

Wife: Why did you come home so early today?

Husband: My boss told me to go to hell.

Yo Momma Joke

Boy: You're gay!

Boy 2: I'm straighter than the pole your mom dances on.

Anti-Humor Joke

Do you want to see a funny joke?

Just look in the mirror.

One Liner Joke

I play the world's most dangerous sport. I disagree with my wife.

Funny Joke

Diet Day #1- I removed all the fattening food from my house. It was delicious.

Funny Pun

Can't believe they fired me from the clock factory after all the extra hours I put in.

Funny Comeback

Ex Girlfriend: You'll never find someone like me

Me: That's the point

One Liner Joke

Does running late count as exercise?

Funny Puns

Did you hear about the theme park ride made entirely out of Iron? It was a ferrous wheel.

I often try to drown my problems. So I took my wife to the lake.

978,000 people quit smoking every year... By dying.

New Salesman

A young guy from North Dakota moves to Florida and goes to a big "everything under one roof" store looking for a job.

The Manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?" The young guy says "Yeah. I was a vacuum salesman back in North Dakota."



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-----  
When I see a woman driving a bus I smile and think about how far we as a society have come in equality. And then I wait for the next bus.

-----  
Wikipedia: I know everything!

Google: I have everything!

Facebook: I know everybody!

Internet: Without me you are nothing!

Electricity: Keep talking b\*tches!

-----  
Can a woman make you a Millionaire???

Yes, if your a Billionaire.

-----  
What do you do when an idiot throws a grenade at you?

Answer: Pull the pin and throw it back

### How To Keep Your Romance Alive:

Need a little help or a few quick ideas on how to keep your romance alive? Below is a list of 102 ways to spark up your love life! Rules To Live By:

1. Laugh a lot, have a good sense of humor.
2. Look for new ways to fall in love all over again.

3. Let your love know you are there for them.
4. Show your partner you love them in every way possible.
5. Spend time apart, give each other space.
6. Add spice to your love life.
7. Avoid arguing.
8. Try new things.
9. Put your love's feelings first.
10. Keep your relationship full of surprises.
11. Trust one another.
12. Believe romance is important to your relationship.
13. Always have a good conversation with your partner.
14. Have faith in your relationship.
15. Tell your sweetheart how much they mean to you.
16. Be yourself.
17. Be romantic.
18. Always be there for each other.
19. Spend time together.
20. Whenever you have a misunderstanding make sure to talk about the problems and try your best to solve it together.
21. Treat your love as if they mean everything to you.
22. Treat your partner with the respect they deserve.
23. Never hang up the phone without saying I love you.
24. Never part without kissing.



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25. Praise your partner often.
26. Never take your relationship for granted.
27. Make each moment with your with each other count.
28. Remember to take time for each other.
29. Keep happy.
30. Spoil your partner rotten!
31. Never go to sleep mad at each other.
32. Don't be afraid of making a fool of yourself.
33. Let your imagination be your guide.
34. Be a good listener.
35. Get to really know your partner.
36. Make yourself trustworthy.
37. Never be predictable.
38. Kiss your partner like you won't see them again.
39. Be open and honest.
40. Keep open communication with your partner.
41. Maintain a great friendship with your love!
42. Rituals of Love:
43. Take a few minutes each day to say I love you.
44. Kiss everyday.
45. Start each day with a kiss and an I love you.
46. End each day with a kiss and an I love you.
47. Plan a monthly overnight/weekend getaway.
48. Take bubble baths together at least once a month.
49. Go out on at least one date a week.
50. Take walks together as often as possible.
51. Give your love a card once a week.
52. Set one day out of each week to do something special and never miss it.
53. Say something sweet to your love every day.
54. Send an e-mail every day.
55. Every night before bed wish your partner sweet dreams.
56. Romantic Ideas:
57. Give your partner a smile or soft kiss and just let them know you are there for them.
58. Cuddle together on the couch and watch a movie.
59. Cuddle together on the couch and talk about your dreams and future plans.
60. Ask each other out on dates.
61. Write sweet letters.
62. Always hug and kiss your love.
63. Send little gifts to them by surprise.
64. Call them up at work to remind them you love them.
65. Rub their feet.
66. Place love notes in their lunch.
67. Buy their favorite cookies and hide them for your love.
68. Flirt with your sweetheart when your in a store.
69. Blow an unexpected kiss.
70. Read to each other.
71. Surprise your partner to a romantic weekend together.
72. Tell your love how sexy and beautiful they are.
73. Give special surprises like little teddy bears with "I wanna sex you up" notes or something silly like that.
74. Kiss in a lot of different ways.
75. Send a romantic e-card.
76. Stick little notes in their car.
77. Bring flowers when they least expect it.
78. Take showers together.
79. Picnic under the moonlight.
80. Give a single perfect rose for no reason at all.
81. Dance on the balcony.
82. Try new thing when making love.
83. Put on your favorite songs and dance around in the kitchen.
84. Create love, friendship and devotion page for each other.
85. Write I love you on the bathroom mirror with a soap bar.
86. Have pizza with a love note delivered to your partners work.
87. Have coded messages to send pages to each other.
88. Cuddle up with your love in the cold.
89. Go hiking.
90. Ride horses.

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91. Cook together.
92. Light candles, drink wine with strawberries and have lots of loving!
93. Keep a mini mailbox, leave the flag up when you've left a love note.
94. Pretend like you're meeting for the first time.
95. Get a babysitter.
96. Making It Intimate:
97. Take one night each week and give into each other's sexual fantasies.
98. Buy new sexy clothes.
99. Get a red light bulb, a nice and sexy lingerie , make a little dinner and then comes dessert. :)
100. Send your love x-rated e-mail.
101. Wear sexy lingerie.
102. Send your partner sexy websites by e-mail to let them know you are thinking about them.

Why is divorce so expensive?

Because it's worth it.

---

What do you see when the Pillsbury Dough Boy bends over?  
Doughnuts.

---

Why is air a lot like sex?

Because it's no big deal unless you're not getting any.

---

What do you call a smart blonde?

A golden retriever.

---

What do attorneys use for birth control?

Their personalities.

---

### Something to Offend Everyone!

What is a Yankee?

The same as a quickie, but a guy can do it alone.

---

What's the difference between a girlfriend and wife?

45 lbs

---



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What's the difference between a boyfriend and husband?

45 minutes

What's the fastest way to a man's heart?

Through his chest with a sharp knife.

Why do men want to marry virgins?

They can't stand criticism.

Why is it so hard for women to find men that are sensitive, caring, and good-looking?

Because those men already have boyfriends.

What's the difference between a new husband and a new dog? After a year, the dog is still excited to see you

What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying? The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

Why don't bunnies make noise when they have sex? Because they have cotton balls.

What did the blonde say when she found out she was pregnant?

"Are you sure it's mine?"

Why does Mike Tyson cry during sex?

Mace will do that to you.

Why did OJ Simpson want to move to West Virginia? Everyone has the same DNA.

Why do men find it difficult to make eye contact? Breasts don't have eyes.

Why do drivers' education classes in Redneck schools use the car only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays? Because on Tuesday and Thursday, the Sex Ed class uses it.

Where does an Irish family go on vacation? A different bar.

What would you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other? A speech impediment.

What does it mean when the flag at the Post Office is flying at half-mast? They're hiring.

What's the difference between a southern zoo and a northern zoo? A southern zoo has a description of the animal on the front of the cage along with... "a recipe".

How do you get a sweet little 80-year-old lady to say the F word?

Get another sweet little 80-year-old lady to yell \*BINGO\*!

What's the difference between a northern fairytale and a southern fairytale?

A northern fairytale begins "Once upon a time..."! -A southern fairytale begins "Y'all ain't gonna believe this sh \* it...".

Why is there no Disneyland in China?

No one's tall enough to go on the good rides

### Things You Should Never Say to a Police Officer:

1. I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer. (OK in Texas)
2. Sorry, Officer, I didn't realize my radar detector wasn't plugged in.

3. Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
4. Hey, you must've been doin' about 125 mph to keep up with me. Good job!
5. Are You Andy or Barney?
6. I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer.
7. You're not gonna check the trunk, are you?
8. I pay your salary!
9. Gee, Officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning, too!
10. Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.
11. I was trying to keep up with traffic. Yes, I know there are no other cars around.. That's how far ahead of me they are.
12. When the Officer says "Gee ....Your eyes look red, have you been drinking?" You probably shouldn't respond with,"Gee Officer your eyes look glazed, have you been eating doughnuts?"

### A Little Union Humor:

A fellow stopped at for gas and, after filling up, he paid the bill and bought soft drink. He stood by his car to drink his cola and he watched a couple of men working along the roadside. . .One man would dig a hole two or three feet deep and then move on. The other man came along behind and filled in the hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was about 25 feet behind filling in the old. Completely mystified, the fellow walks up to workers and say, "OK.. hold it," he said to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here with this digging?" "Well, we're union, and we work for the state," one of the men said. "But one of you is digging a hole and the other fills it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you wasting the county's money?" "You don't understand, mister," one of the men said, leaning on his shovel and wiping his brow. "Normally, there's three of us--me, Freddie, and Tom. I dig the hole, Freddie places in the tree, and Tom here puts the dirt back. Union says that just because Freddie's out sick, that don't mean that Tom & me shouldn't work!"

### Working in 2017:

The businessman dragged himself home and barely made it to his chair before he dropped exhausted. His sympathetic wife was right there with a tall cool drink and a comforting word. "My, you look tired," she said. "You must have had a hard day today. What happened to make you so exhausted?" "It was terrible," her husband said. "The computer broke down and all of us had to do our own thinking."

### Actual Quantas Airline Maintenance Complaints:

Quantas pilots fill out a form called a "gripe sheet", which tells Mechanics about problems with the aircraft. Mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight... Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Quantas pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded by the maintenance engineers (marked with an M). By the way, Quantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.

M: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

M: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

M: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

M: Live bugs on back-order.





---

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

M: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

---

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

M: Evidence removed.

---

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

M: DME volume set to more believable level.

---

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

M: That's what they're for.

---

P: IFF inoperative.

M: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

---

Suspected crack in windshield.

M: Suspect you're right.

---

P: Number 3 engine missing.

M: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

---

P: Aircraft handles funny. (I love this one!)

M: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

---

P: Target radar hums.

M: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

---

P: Mouse in cockpit.

M: Cat installed.

---

And the best one for last...

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

M: Took hammer away from midget

### Indian Mating Season

Two Indians and a Tennessee Hillbilly were walking through the woods. All of a sudden one of the Indians ran up a hill to the mouth of a small cave. "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" he called into the cave and listened closely until he heard an answer, "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo! He then tore off his clothes and ran into the cave. The Hillbilly was puzzled and asked the remaining Indian what it was all about. "Was the other Indian crazy or what?" The Indian replied "No, It is our custom during mating season when Indian men see cave, they holler 'Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!' into the opening. If they get an answer back, it means there's a beautiful squaw in there waiting for us." Just then they came upon another cave. The second Indian ran up to the cave, stopped, and hollered, "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" Immediately, there was the answer. "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" from deep inside. He also tore off his clothes and ran into the opening. The Hillbilly wandered around in the woods alone for a while, until he spied a third large cave. As he looked in amazement at the size of the huge opening, he was thinking, "Hoo, man! Look at the size of this cave! It is bigger than those the Indians found. There must be many many, fine women in this cave!" He stood in front of the opening and hollered withall his might "Wooooo! Wooooo! Wooooo!" Like the others, he then

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heard a huge answering call, “WOOOOOOOOOO, WOOOOOOOOOO, WOOOOOOOOOO!” With a gleam in his eye and a smile on his face, he raced into the cave, tearing off his clothes as he ran. The following day, the headline of the local newspaper read.... NAKED HILLBILLY RUN OVER BY TRAIN!!!

## Things To Remember When You Get Old:

Games For When We Are Older

1. Sag, you're It.
2. Hide and go pee.
3. 20 questions shouted into your good ear.
4. Kick the bucket
5. Red Rover, Red Rover, the nurse says Bend Over.
6. Musical recliners.
7. Simon says something incoherent.
8. Pin the Toupee on the bald guy.

## Signs Of Menopause

1. You sell your home heating system at a yard sale.
2. You have to write post-it notes with your kids' names on them.
3. You change your underwear after a sneeze.

## Old Is When

1. Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.
2. You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.
3. Getting a little action means I don't need fiber today.
4. Getting lucky means you find your car in the parking lot.
5. An all-nighter means not getting up to pee!

## Thoughts For The Weekend

1. I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!
2. When I was young we used to go “skinny dipping,” now I just “chunky dunk.”
3. Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over?
4. Stress is when you wake up screaming and then you realize you haven't fallen asleep yet.
5. My husband says I never listen to him. At least I think that's what he said.
6. Just remember...if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
7. If raising children was going to be easy, it never would have



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started with something called labor!

8. Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

### Flying Parrot

On reaching his plane seat a man is surprised to see a parrot strapped in next to him. He asks the Flight Attendant for a coffee where upon the parrot squawks "And get me a whisky you cow!" The flustered Flight Attendant, brings back a whisky for the parrot and forgets the coffee. When this omission is pointed out to her the parrot drains its glass and bawls "And get me another whisky you idiot". Quite upset, the girl comes back shaking with another whisky but still no coffee. Unaccustomed to such slackness the man tries the parrot's approach "I've asked you twice for a coffee, go and get it now or I'll kick you". The next moment, both he and the parrot have been wrenched up and thrown out of the emergency exit by two burly Flight Attendants. Plunging downwards the parrot turns to him and says "For someone who can't fly, you complain too much!"

### Gate Change

At the airport for a business trip, I settled down to wait for the boarding announcement at Gate 35. Then I heard the voice on the public address system saying, "We apologize for the inconvenience, but Delta Flight 570 will board from Gate 41." So my family picked up our luggage and carried it over to Gate 41. Not ten minutes later the public address voice told us that Flight 570 would in fact be boarding from Gate 35. So, again, we gathered our carry-on luggage and returned to the original gate. Just as we were settling down, the public address voice spoke again: "Thank you for participating in Delta's physical fitness program."

### Software Engineering

At a recent software engineering management course in the US, the participants were given an awkward question to answer. "If you had just boarded an airliner and discovered that your team of programmers had been responsible for the flight control software how many of you would disembark immediately?" Among the ensuing forest of raised hands, only one man sat motionless. When asked what he would do, he replied that he would be quite content to stay onboard. With his team's software, he said, the plane was unlikely to even taxi as far as the runway, let alone take off.

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