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NIGHTWIRE



Baseball is back!



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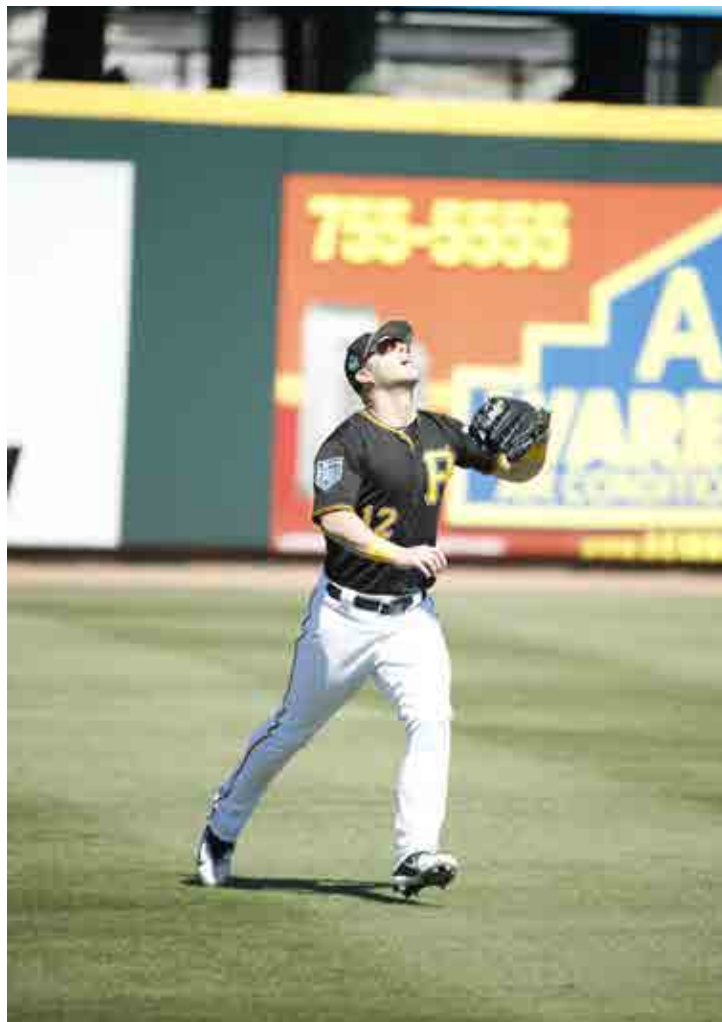
SPORTS:

Baseball is Back!

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Photos ©2018 Pittsburgh Pirates

Baseball is back. For some, that might not have the same ring to it as it did the past five years or so. But if you peel back the layers of apathy, frustration and anger you may have wrapped yourself up in over the Pirates' offseason, you'll find love. Because you wouldn't be feeling those feelings if you didn't care at your core. So, while you swear you won't pad ownership's pockets this season, it's still possible you'll find yourself sneaking peeks at what's happening on the field at PNC Park. You just can't help but watch and with no expectations, at least you know you won't be disappointed.

Baseball Prospectus projects the Bucs to finish three wins better than last season at 78-84, although they also predicted the Pirates to be .500 or better in 2016 and 2017. Two losing seasons later and we can take these pre-season projections with a grain of salt. General Manager Neal Huntington has said he feels this team has a chance to surprise similar to the 2013 squad. Before that season, the team was forecasted to win





79 games. They won 94. Unfortunately, this year's team isn't building on two seasons where they got progressively better as they learned how to play winning baseball for 162 games. Instead of being on the rise, this team is riding two seasons where they regressed back to losing baseball. To expect them to shock the world is asking a bit much. There's no MVP-in-waiting on this roster. There's no veteran addition to inject a championship attitude. Even so, there are still some interesting things to watch for during the season.

Josh Bell is certainly tops on that list. And while he might not be a MVP-caliber player this season, he definitely has the offensive tools to build towards that. It will be fun to watch him develop in his second full season in the majors. His power is explosive and his plate discipline pristine. Defensively, Bell is a work in progress and at times it can be hard to watch. But the long ball run production always makes up for that.

An Andrew McCutchen-less outfield for the first time in nine

years will be under the microscope. How will Starling Marte transition to being the captain in centerfield? Will Gregory Polanco ever reach his potential? What will Corey Dickerson bring to the team? If Dickerson produces the way the Pirates hope he does, Huntington will have stolen candy from a baby. One of the players sent to Tampa Bay in return for the all-star outfielder, reliever Daniel Hudson, didn't even make the team. Polanco looks like he is primed for a breakout season as long as he stays healthy. At 26 years old, he has rededicated himself to conditioning and said he has something to prove. Hopefully Marte proves he can keep his head in the game and eliminate avoidable mental mistakes.

Without Gerrit Cole, all eyes will be on Jameson Taillon in the starting rotation. The young hurler has a chance to take a huge step forward this year. Before his cancer diagnosis and treatment, he posted a 3.31 ERA last season and ended the year as the only starter with a winning record. The second overall pick



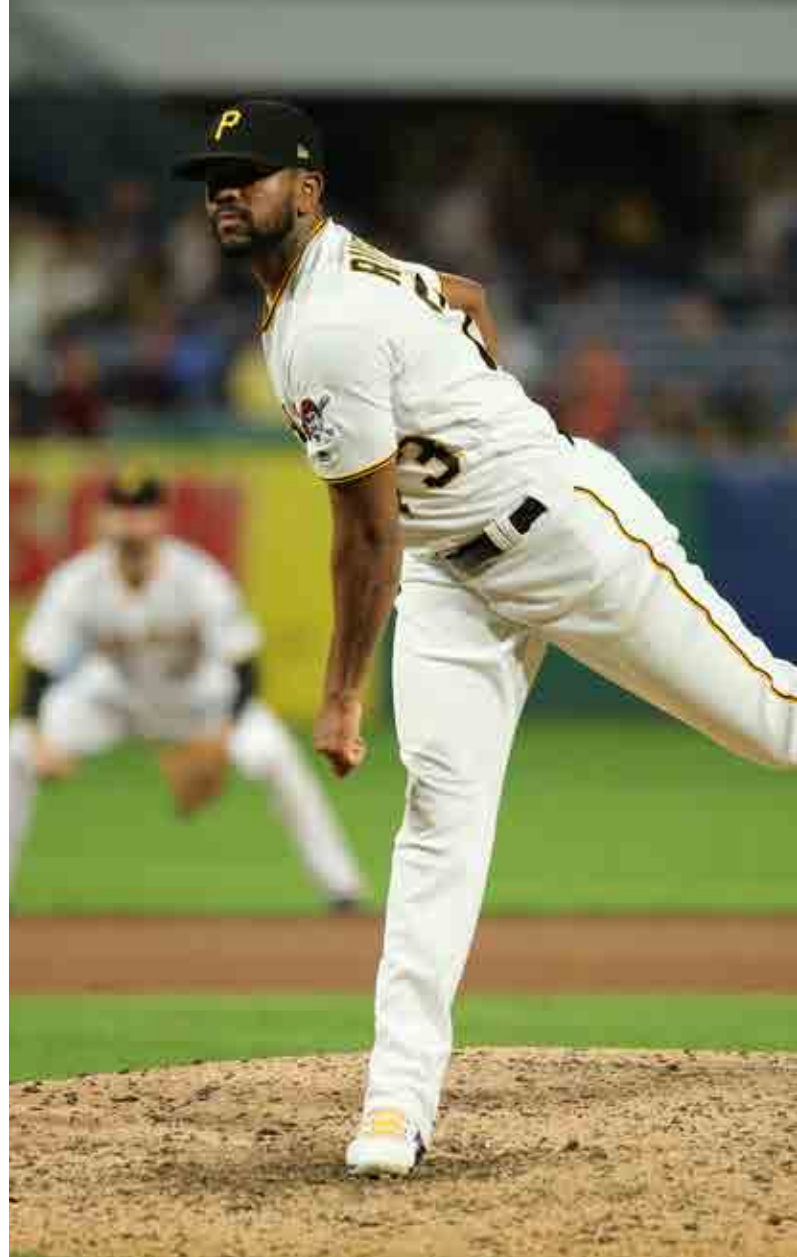


in the 2010 draft, Taillon is another player with high expectations not yet met. Might he have performed at an all-star level if not for his health issues? Possibly. But this is a season the Bucs need him to break through.

Trusting a rotation of young arms – besides Ivan Nova – means that the bullpen could get a lot of work. The Pirates are entertaining the idea of a 13-man bullpen that includes Tyler Glasnow and Stephen Brault. Unconventional as it is, the Bucs aren't alone as teams including the Dodgers, Tigers and White Sox are all

going with the baker's dozen set of relievers. Glasnow is the guy to watch. Will he get it together? Can he be consistent in relief? Will he prove that Huntington was smart not to trade him away? Hopefully fans get to see him realize his potential.

What will be the fate of Jose Osuna? If the Pirates go with just 12 position players to start the season, Osuna will be the odd man out. This guy can flat out rake. At the time of this writing, he's hit five homeruns and has 16 RBI in 49 at-bats this spring. Will the Bucs find room for him on the 25-man roster? Fingers crossed.



If the Bucs defy the odds and are in contention at the trade deadline, will they remain status quo? Will the ire of the fanbase influence their decisions? Might they “go for it”? As those playoff seasons get further and further in the rearview mirror, the fans are getting

less and less accepting of excuses. While this season isn’t one as eagerly anticipated as those in years past, baseball is still beautiful and Pittsburgh will embrace it again if they win. Hopefully the front office is paying attention.

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





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Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

TOMB RAIDER

Hollywood is determined to shove its Women Warrior Agenda down the throats of viewers. All their endeavors should be as strong as the latest incarnation of TOMB RAIDER. This movie is fun; a great action adventure from beginning to end. I could easily watch this one again.

TOMB RAIDER needed a reboot in celluloid because it underwent a similar process in its video game origin. The Lara Croft of old, noted by her ever shifting bustline, and almost super-hero abilities, embodied by Angelina Jolie on film, are gone, replaced by a sleek, obsessive-compulsive adventurer, in the guise of Alicia Vikander.

This movie is fast-paced, thanks to the editing of Stuart Baird, one of Tinsel Town's premiere cutters. The fight scenes are expertly choreographed by Grant Powell, so I never had to sit through the javelin-thin Vikander throwing around 300 lb. men as if they were toddlers. Paul Linden provides provincial SFX, without going overboard and everything is wrapped in a rousing score by Tom Holkenborg (aka Junkie XL).

For seven years, Lara Croft (Vikander) lived without her father, Richard, played by Dominic West. He was lost, searching for an uncharted island housing the tomb of Japanese sorceress Himiko. She teams with Lu Ren, played by INTO THE BADLANDS star Daniel Wu, son of the sea captain who transported her father on his ill-fated voyage. They find the island, and a mercenary troupe, led by Mathias Vogel, played by Walton Goggins. The troupe, working under the auspices of a secretive organization known as Trinity, wants the Himiko tomb as well, for far more nefarious reasons. Also starring are Kristin Scott Thomas, Derek Jacobi and Alexandre Willaume.

A word of caution to gamers: the storyline in the film is significantly different than the three new videogames. Because of Hollywood's desire to spread the failed mantra of secular Humanism, the writers, Geneva Robertston-Dworet and Alastair Siddons, removed all elements dealing with religion and spirituality. Even though the religious overtones in the game are based on Japanese culture, they are still treated as inconsequential to the TOMB RAIDER adventure. Filmmakers did the same thing with DOOM, when a doorway to hell and demons were replaced by space zombies.

In addition, Queen Himiko in the games is an evil sorceress. She is Queen of Death, and is one nasty villain for Lara. But, in the day of the Woman Warrior Agenda, she cannot be bad, because Hollywood doesn't make villains out of victims its attempting to elevate. This queen is noble and one little girls



would admire. Big difference; and not a good one.

For those who are not gamers, TOMB RAIDER is a fun-filled action adventure worth the price of a ticket. For gamers, there is sure to be chagrin over the producers' politically correct vicissitudes.

THEY REMAIN

There are many films concerning cults, like THE SACRAMENT, THE MASTER and HOLY SMOKE. They range from thrillers, horror films, action films to documentaries. THEY REMAIN is a new Independent film attempting to straddle two camps, posing as an action thriller, with elements of horror. While it is an interesting view, it never succeeds in either genre.

In true indie fashion, the story is reduced to bare elements. There are two main stars who carry the bulk of the tale. William Jackson Harper (member of the dreaded three name people) is Keith, while Rebecca Henderson is Jessica. These two have been working together for some time. There seems to be tension between them, though it is never explained. Keith and Jessica are dispatched by a nameless company to investigate and research an area previously owned by a cult. Apparently, the cult members died in a mass suicide- murder spree and the two researchers are supposed to discover if there are any abnormalities in nature that could have caused the cult to flourish and become violent.

Why anyone would want this information, or what it could possibly be used for, remains a mystery. Jessica is supposed to stay indoors and collate data while Keith inspects numbered areas around the base collecting samples. Its not long before Keith is slacking and sleeping on the job, discovering a plethora of items he is not reporting to Jessica, while she is wandering away from camp and exploring things on her own.

Cinematographer Sean Kirby cuts in flashes of cult action

which have no relevance to the story. Director and screenwriter Philip Gelatt adds a sub plot of a previous cult on the same land decades ago, but the story is lost in the mishmash of events and never given true course. Gelatt's primary background is in comics and video games. *THEY REMAIN* is more akin to one of those formats than film.

Based on a short story by Laird Barron, *THEY REMAIN* is a film in search of a platform. The events unfold far too slow to rise viewer tension levels, and there are too many repetitious segments of the couple's disintegration from a dynamic duo to a dysfunctional duet. The few horror elements involved are effective, but minor. The conclusion is predictable, and too abrupt to make sense.

THEY REMAIN is a struggling Indie film, constantly striving to be a thriller or a horror tale, and never triumphing in either. It may be a good view for those who particularly like tales of cults, but no one else.

THE RIFT: DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

Two astronauts, exploring the moon, discover a rift in the time space continuum. One is sucked into the vortex. Thirty-five years later, he appears on Earth and brings with him, the death of death. This is the underlining theme behind an intriguing new science-fiction tale, *THE RIFT: DARK SIDE OF THE MOON*. This film shows some of the less than stellar production values of Independent films, but it does offer an interesting story, with an open-ended conclusion, similar to John Carpenter's works.

THE RIFT: DARK SIDE OF THE MOON is a combination Serbian and South Korean production, helmed by Director Dejan Zecevic. It was not released to theatres, but rather to VOD and premium streaming services. It is now available for home video on DVD and Blu-Ray. It is worth a look for its unique approach to the manipulation of the time space continuum and Armageddon.

THE RIFT: THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON is penned by Barry Keating and Milan Konjevic. Director of Photography Dimitrije Jokovic uses subdued lighting to set an aura, and floor angle framing for the beginning of action sequences. Editor Aleksandre Popovic keeps the film to an ideal length of ninety minutes, though his quick cut montage toward the conclusion is a bit uneven. It's apparent the producers wanted to have Pink Floyd's *DARK SIDE OF THE MOON* as a soundtrack, but couldn't secure the right. Nikola Jeremic does his best to score the film with Floydian undertones.

The acting is as eclectic as the production team. Ken Foree, Katarina Cas and Dragan Micanovic comprise the multicultural task force seeking the cause of the Rift. Monte Markam plays the astronaut from the original moon trip and Denis



Muric is Lazar, a retarded boy, who looks like Peewee Herman, complete with bike, who is the first person to experience the effects of the Rift.

I am deeply impressed when I find a gem among the swamp of Indie films. *THE RIFT: DARK SIDE OF THE MOON* provides a new twist to some old sci-fi standards. It is refreshing, and a much better way to exemplify diversity than creating lecturing documentaries. The production values are not up to Hollywood standards, but this story is strong enough to make it quite interesting to watch.

GOLDEN EXITS

New Yorkers are neurotic; yet, consistently they feel their neurosis is the bar everyone else should strive to attain. This maxim is the foundation for the new film by writer, director Alex Ross Perry, *GOLDEN EXITS*. It concerns the lives of intertwined couples who experience a shaken not stirred moment when an Australian woman invades their superficial existence through a foreign exchange internship.

Nick, played by Adam Horovitz, is a broken and defeated man. Only in his 40's, he has reached a point in his marriage that usually doesn't strike until the 60's. He is a defeated man, succumbing to a banal existence. His wife, Alyssa, played by Chloe Sevigny, cannot forgive him for a past indiscretion, so she torments his life with a lack of affection and a constant melancholy akin to serving in hell. This is particularly twisted since she is a psychologist and spends her days listening to and giving life advice to others. She is an expert in what she herself, cannot do; come to grips with life as it is and seek happiness. Her sister Gwen, played by Mary Louise Parker, is a shrew in the Shakespearian sense; unable to maintain a relationship of any kind, she serves as the catalyst for breaking up relationships that others have, including her sister's.

Into this dysfunctional mess comes Naomi, played by Emily Browning. She has an internship with Nick, who is an archiver. Unfortunately, his current job is to archive his father-in-law's estate, which brings the entire family into conflict. Everyone

Movie Reviews

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

assumes Nick is having an affair with Naomi and they all foster their own insecurities with innuendo. Naomi, meanwhile, wants desperately to have coitus with the one character in the film she cannot have; Buddy, played by Jason Schwartzman, is slow to realize Naomi's come-ons, but is committed to his marriage and wife and wants no part of Naomi's advances.

It's interesting that in this age of the Woman Warrior Agenda in Tinseltown, the female characters are all portrayed as strong and independent, but totally unempathetic. They are, instead pathetic, pleading for avoidance. These women, embodying the principles so desire on celluloid today, are unmasked for their hypocrisy when confronted by a foreign woman seeking to simply sow her wild oats with a childhood friend. The only woman of any character in *GOLDEN EXITS* is Buddy's wife, Jess, played by Analeigh Tipton, who stays loyal and true to him, trusts him and does not become engaged in the gossip of the others. Perhaps this is irony on the part of Perry.

There is a melodic, but cheesy score by Keegan DeWitt. It bounces freely from forgettable pop to syrupy dribble. *GOLDEN EXITS* call for nothing exceptionally creative from the camera, but Cinematographer Sean Prince Williams (another of the dreaded three name people) does frame his two shots effectively. Finally, editor Robert Greene incorporates a film tradition of a long, slow fade to black at the end of a sequence, followed by a slow up from black into the next scene. This serves to keep the concluding action in some sequences a mystery, which plays to the film's benefit.

There is no doubt *GOLDEN EXITS* greatest asset is its ensemble cast. The actors hold this self-serving story together. The bottom line, however, is that none of these characters is exceptionally interesting. They have created their own hell on earth and somehow expect viewers to emote with their plight. It's, like I said, a New York thing.

While the acting is solid, the script screams "Who cares?". Women will like this one. Wait a few months until it shows up on OWN, then find an excuse to watch the hockey game in the neighborhood bar with friends.

EXPATRIOT

EXPATRIOT is a film released directly to home video. Normally, these films are secondary in nature, but *EXPATRIOT* works on enough essentials to make it worthwhile.

First, the bad stuff. *EXPATRIOT* follows too many of the



current Hollywood schemas. It features a woman warrior, though she is a traitor. It paints America, and the CIA as corrupt, which President Trump may actually agree with at this point, and it establishes Columbia as a better country to live in than the U.S. I'll let that absurdity sink in for a while.

Second, the good stuff. Editor Sebastian Hernandez does an excellent job of pacing the film's concluding reels, adding a tension to an otherwise mundane story.

EXPATRIOT concerns CIA analyst Riley Connors, who, like Edward Snowden, has a sudden surge of conscience, and opts to go to the press with details of CIA surveillance on citizens. As a result of her expose, several deep cover agents, and a bus load of innocent folk are killed in terrorist bombings. She is excoriated as a traitor and is smuggled by friendly socialists to Columbia. She hides there for two years until her fellow co-worker and lover tracks her down with an offer to restore her good name and return her home.

The movie stars Valene Kane, Charlie Weber, Mario Espitia, Marcela Mar and David Valencia. All perform well, though at times Weber seems bored.

There is enough Tinseltown tripe weaved through the plot to

make you want to turn this off, but the editing in the film's climax is puissant enough to make you skip over the snarky tone. Not a bad flick for a comfy night in, as it is currently available on DVD and streaming services.

DEATH WISH

It's only natural to compare and contrast two films when one is a remake of the other. *DEATH WISH*, with Charles Bronson, made back in 1974, was an iconic film. It captured the public sentiment vis-à-vis crime and presented it in a fashion of proactiveness when everyone felt helpless. The film made a star of Bronson, and spawned far too many sequels, none of which measured up to the first.

Now, four decades after the original, Eli Roth is resurrecting *DEATH WISH* with Bruce Willis. There are notable differences. First, Willis is already a bona fide action star; no need to enhance his reputation. Second, Bronson never had to deal with social media or instant videos when he attempted to clean up New York City. Finally, while Dean Norris makes an adequate detective, he's not a streetwise, allergy-suffering hard-boiled one like Vincent Gardenia.

Probably the biggest change, however, is the purpose. In the first, Bronson's Paul Kersey is a architect, a bleeding heart liberal who is a conscientious objector to the war and anti-gun. Ironically, he is a crack shot because he grew up on a farm where gun proficiency is essential for everyday life. When he is confronted with crime first hand, he loses everything and the film details his transformation from mild-mannered suburban husband to back alley vigilante. The transformation is a formative part of the film, much like it is in Sam Peckinpah's *STRAW DOGS*.

Willis' Kersey is a surgeon. When he is confronted with crime, he doesn't lose everything and approaches his vengeance from the aspect of saving his daughter. Rather than a transformation, Willis simply shifts to a temporary violence to ensure family safety. He never goes full-Rambo.

Roth is known for gore, and so this version has a few scenes of knife cutting that are a bit gruesome. There is also confusion, especially when it comes to guns, about self-defense in this one. Willis' scene in the gun shop, and his final confrontation with Detective Raines are evidence of Roth pandering to a pro gun control crowd.

The first *DEATH WISH* was a schlock B action film that turned into a classic. This newest version is also a schlock B action film, though the production values are better. The new script,

while modernizing the story, does not deal with Kersey's Jekyll and Hyde persona, nor does it stir public response for meting crime with reciprocal violence, as the first. It's worth a view, but certainly not as profound.

ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES

Bad cinema lovers rejoice. *ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES* is chock full of bad acting, horrible dialogue, cool make up effects, ridiculous plotlines, a lack of continuity and questionable production values – all combined in ninety minutes of celluloid chaos. *ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES* isn't as bad as *SHARKNADO*, which is prepping for its sixth sequel, but it's pretty close.

Myriad elements have been blamed for the zombie apocalypse, from government experiments to bad burgers in Philly, but *ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES* blames the scientists attempting to grow better food through GMOs and herbicides. The producers even thank those same scientists in the end credits.

Originally, the movie was called the *KUDZU ZOMBIES*, but the producers realized only a certain section of the country would know what a kudzu was, hence the name change.

Where do I start? Continuity is non-existent. The town's mayor is killing zombies with a guitar. He drops the instrument, picks up a gun and begins shooting them. Next scene, though he is across town, he has the guitar back. Go figure.

The producers didn't receive the permits to close the streets down, so while the town is under siege by zombies, you can see normal everyday traffic going by in the background. In several scenes, the commuters begin rubber-necking at the production, causing a minor traffic jam. Epic.

ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES takes place, and was shot in Charleston, Mississippi. It stars Escalante Lundy, Chris Monroe, Moses Moseley, Michael Emery, Michael Joiner and Susan and Johnny McPhail. The Director is Mark Newton, and Christian Hokenson polished the screenplay, though he may not want that known.

Zombie movies have run their course. Unless you're playing the genre for laughs, like Syfy's *Z-NATION* or *ASH VS THE EVIL DEAD*, they are, generally, a waste of time. *ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES* not only lampoon's the zombie flicks, but also lampoons the lampoons. If you love bad cinema and can't wait for the next installment of *SHARKNADO*, *ATTACK OF THE SOUTHERN FRIED ZOMBIES* will keep you satisfied in the interim.

Ellicottville Brewing Company

by Brian Meyer

With the number of breweries opening around us every day, it's easy to believe that the craft beer movement is unique to the United States, but while we definitely have the most growth and expansion happening, other countries have been, and continue to have success in brewing great beer with quality ingredients. Take for example the family-owned Irish brewery O'Hara's, also known as Carlow Brewing Company.

Based in County Carlow, Ireland, O'Hara's mixes traditional Irish brewing practices with inspired craft beer creations to give us a brewery that's both old and new, traditional and innovative. Founded in 1996, O'Hara's took two years to completely restore the 19th century "Goods Store" they chose to be their brewpub as well as collect the required licenses, materials, and of course brewing equipment, officially launching their first beer in 1998.

The first beers produced by the fledgling brewery were their current year-round offerings of Irish Red and Curim Gold Celtic Wheat. The next year, O'Hara's launched their current best-seller in the form of their ubiquitous Irish Stout. From there the brewery continued to brew traditional Irish beers like their Irish Red and Pale Ale while adding in seasonal beers and brews with higher hop content to meet the growing trend of hop-forward beers.

This lead O'Hara's to start their craft-focused lineup of beers centered around the IPA style including their 51st State IPA, Freebird White IPA, HopSession IPA, and Notorious Red IPA. This also spawned their Hop Adventure series of beers as a seasonal offering, with each unique beer focused on one specific type of hop.

The brewery expanded their production capacity in 2005 and moved to an even larger brewery just a few years later in 2009. In 2011 the brewery added a significantly expanded kegging system to better distribute their award-winning beers.

Much like some of their American brewing brethren, O'Hara's received a license to distill in 2012, adding even more history and innovation to their lineup.

Today O'Hara's Irish lineup of beers are available thanks to distributors that understand that a craft beer doesn't have to be American to be great. With the help of Vecenie's Distributing in Millvale we're able to enjoy these fine Irish beers not only for the now passed St. Paddy's Day, but all year long.

Beer Lineup

While not all of O'Hara's Irish Ales are available this side of



the pond, knowing their lineup and what they have to offer is never a bad thing. One beer that's always available to us is their tried and true O'Hara's Irish Stout. This nitrogenated flagship beer comes in at 4.3% ABV and is uniquely Irish while staying true to the taste one would expect with a modern craft beer. First brewed in 1999, Irish Stout features a robust flavor that's accentuated by complex coffee and licorice notes in both the aroma and flavor. The combination of traditional hops with modern Fuggle hops give this beer a slightly more hop-forward flavor while not stepping outside of the flavor profile one would expect with an Irish Stout.

O'Hara's Irish Stout uses no less than five varieties of wheat and malt to craft the flavor, aroma, and mouthfeel of this award-winning beer. This, paired with a secret recipe of hop varieties and additions leaves you with a beer that's traditional enough to evoke memories while exciting enough to warrant a spot on your favorite beer list all year long.

One of the two original beers brewed more than seventeen years ago, **O'Hara's Irish Red Ale** is a malty, complex example of a traditional Irish Red Ale that stands out from a

category that can sometimes be less than impressive. This 4.3% ABV beer features a low bitterness level that allows the bready maltiness to show through beautifully. While often overused, O'Hara's Irish Red Ale is the definition of smooth and balanced, allowing the beer to be somewhat sweet and bready while staying far away from being cloying or sugary.

Originally known as Moling's Red Ale when first brewed, this is one beer that has stood the test of time and will be around for years to come.

While Ireland isn't typically known for pale ales, **O'Hara's Irish Pale Ale** will leave you wondering just why that is. This 5.2% ABV beer follows suit with traditional European IPAs while adding a generous amount of dry hopping that is more in-line with American pale ales. Best described as refreshing and zesty, the bitterness in this IPA (Irish Pale Ale) is balanced yet bright enough to bring out the fruit and floral notes hiding just below the surface.

With the success of their Irish Stout, O'Hara's brought on another Irish style stout with their **Leann Folláin**. Gaelic for "wholesome stout," this intense beer is a full-bodied Irish stout that features flavors of dark chocolate, vanilla, and balanced bitterness.

With a balance between sweetness and bitterness, you get a bite of hop bitterness on the finish after a pleasant flavor of chocolate and vanilla. Think of the 6% ABV Leann Folláin as the big brother to O'Hara's Irish Stout.

Sticking with the traditional names for beers, **O'Hara's Curim Gold Celtic Wheat** is named for the old Celtic word for beer, "Curmi/Cuirim." Diverging from the traditional wheat beer style, Curim features a higher hop rate than typical wheat ales, which means the result is a beer with a slightly tart finish that helps to balance the fruity ester flavors of peach, banana and plum.

Curim Gold comes in at 4.3% ABV and thanks to its higher alpha-acid content hops, gives you a wheat beer that has more than meets the eye.

Look for O'Hara's Irish Ales on draft and in bottles both at

your favorite craft beer bars as well as your local distributor or bottle shop. With so many different breweries in the world, it can be tough to know which ones are truly independent and family-owned and which ones are not. Thankfully O'Hara's Irish Brewery has been independent and family-owned since opening more than 17 years ago, and continues that tradition today.



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Travel: Hypnotic Niagara

by Suzanne Ferrara



There is nothing in the world like sitting on the banks across from one of the biggest wonders of the world, Niagara Falls. You are in awe. In fact, once you sit there, it will be hard to leave this surreal scene, and as you look at our fellow onlookers—also in serene, trance-like states—you'll know you're not the only one who has quickly fallen under Niagara's spell. (Fact: Niagara Falls is actually three waterfalls that straddle the international border between Ontario, Canada and the New York).

The banks of the massive Niagara Gorge provides one

stunning vantage point, but you can get even closer to the thunderous roar created by more than 280 tons of water plunging over the falls each and every second. Getting as close as possible to the Falls at its base is a must, and you can do what onlookers have done for more than a century: board the Maid of the Mist, which will give you an unforgettable sensory experience as you feel the power of the Falls. While on board, although they give you a rain poncho to wear, be sure to get wet from the roaring falls. (Fact: The rushing water from the Falls comes from four of the five Great Lakes: Superior, Michigan,

Huron and Erie).

Captains have safely navigated the mighty waters of the gorge since 1846, and you won't believe how close you will get to the base of the powerful falls; it is truly a humbling vantage point. The half-hour ride is accessed from the park's Observation Tower on the United States side; from there, the captain takes up to 600 passengers along the Niagara River to the base of the American and Horseshoe Falls. (Tip: If want to get wet, position

(Fun Fact: Niagara Falls has long been visited by honeymooners. As legend has it, Niagara Falls' honeymoon trend began in 1801 when the daughter of future U.S. Vice-President Aaron Burr, Theodosia, traveled to Niagara Falls with her fiancé Joseph Alston a few months before their marriage. According to documented history, Jerome Bonaparte, (Napoleon's younger brother) also honeymooned at the falls with his American bride, Elizabeth Patterson.



yourself in the front of the main deck).

Another 'must' is experiencing the rushing waters of the Bridal Veil Falls on the Cave of the Winds tour. Once you are in the provided rain gear-- including special footwear-- you descend 175-feet deep into the Niagara Gorge. From there, you follow a tour guide on a chain of wooden walkways to the thrilling Hurricane Deck where, from that point, you will be only 20-feet from the thundering falls, and yes, you will get drenched. Be sure to look for the rainbows which are seen day and night at this site

Niagara Falls State Park --America's oldest state park-- has more than 400-acres of lush landscape awaiting your exploration. While in Niagara Falls, don't miss the Aquarium of Niagara where there are more than 1,500-aquatic animals including Humboldt penguins, California sea lions, and harbor seals. Another captivating place is The Niagara Gorge Discovery Center which highlights the mesmerizing natural and local history of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Gorge. There are interactive displays, a simulated elevator trip, and a 180° multi-screen



theater presentation of how the colossal Niagara River carved the gorge and the falls, which is a 12,000 years process that continues to this very day! Want to get your body moving? The Discovery Center is also home to the Niagara Gorge Trailhead Center, which has some of the best hiking and biking trails in the region.

Don't miss the one-of-a-kind experiences to be had on the Canadian side of the Falls! (Important Tip: You will need a passport or passport card to cross over into Canada). Consider the Whirlpool Aero Cable Car ride over the Niagara Gorge; this cable car has been in operation since 1912, is suspended from six sturdy cables and offers stunning views of the Niagara Whirlpool and the roaring whitewater rapids.

For the thrill-seeker in you, get strapped into the MistRider Zipline and travel 670-feet into the gorge, past the American Falls, and towards the base of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. This experience and the view is breathtaking! For a more relaxing experience, visit the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory where more than 2,000 brightly colored butterflies live amid



the lush vegetation and tropical surroundings. Having these butterflies land on your arm or hand is super cool!

Hungry? For a one-of-a-kind dining experience, head straight to the Top of the Falls Restaurant on Goat Island, where you will not only get an unforgettable view of the Falls, but you'll also enjoy some farm-to table dishes. The restaurant overlooks Terrapin Point, and offers panoramic views of Horseshoe Falls. The fantastic views are possible thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows, plus there's awesome outdoor dining decks. (Menu Tip: Among their popular lunch items are the Bistro Burger and Chilled Asian Noodle Salad, followed by a slice of melt-in-your-mouth cheesecake).

For another great dining option, head to the Canadian side and enjoy a great meal at the world-famous Revolving Dining Room Restaurant at the Skylon Tower. The tower offers two levels of fine dining which are both 775-feet above the Falls. Before or after your award-winning meal, head to the Indoor/Outdoor Observation Decks; as you ride inside the exterior glass-enclosed "Yellow Bug Elevators", you will enjoy



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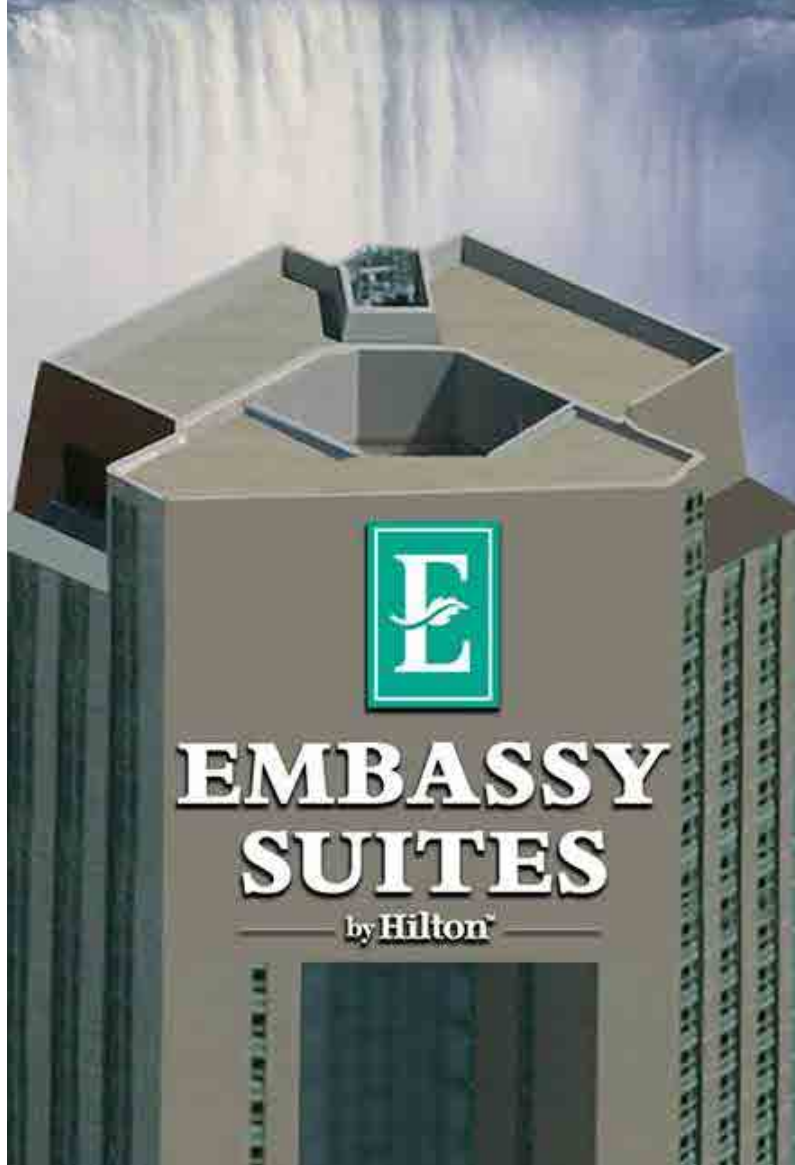
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spectacular views of the Falls. (Tip: The restaurant offers a family-affordable Summit Suite Buffet Dining Room and Early Dinner specials).

After all this adventure, you will be ready for a good night's rest, and while there is no lodging with the Niagara Falls State Park, there are a handful of hotels nearby. The Comfort Inn The Point is the most convenient because it is directly across the park entrance and is also a 15-to-20 minute walk to the entrance to Canadian side. (Room Tip: Request one of the only four corner rooms with views of the Niagara River rapids; these are single rooms with a king bed). Another option is to make your lodging base two blocks away at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Niagara Falls New York which is located alongside the Niagara River in downtown Niagara Falls. (Tip: Request a room with views of the Niagara River that offer a whirlpool).



For an historic experience, stay overnight at The Red Coach Inn, an English Tudor inn which sits alongside the Upper Rapids of the Niagara River. This cozy inn has been serving guests since 1923, and there's a romantic, old world ambiance which simultaneously boasts Jacuzzi tubs and a full-service restaurant. The Inn is just a fifteen-minute walk to the American Falls.

For the absolute best views of Niagara Falls from your hotel room, head straight to the Canadian side where there are nearly a dozen hotels that offer stunning vantage points in and around Fallsview Boulevard.

The room views from the Embassy Suites Niagara Falls are considered the best among many hotels because there aren't any other hotels in front of it. Be sure to request rooms from the 16th-to-20th floors that offer full-views of both falls, and at times, you can see the reflection of the river as the sunrises.

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(Huge Tip: Be sure to request “Full View of the Falls” rooms when making reservations). (Breakfast Buffet Tip: Arrive around 7 a.m. to avoid the 9 a.m. rush). The Embassy Suites Niagara Falls also has The Keg Steakhouse Restaurant which overlooks Niagara Falls and has stunning views. (Menu tip: Be sure to order the mouthwatering, slow roasted Prime Rib, the succulent Steak and Lobster (Atlantic lobster tail), or the Prime Rib Sliders. (Tip: Because of the restaurant’s awesome window views, window tables are snatched quickly, and while they take reservations, they do not reserve specific tables. For dinner, it is highly recommended you arrive as early as 4 p.m. to get one of the more than a dozen window tables, and for lunch, be at the door when they open at 12:00 p.m. sharp).

Another option is The Tower Hotel, which is truly unique because it starts at 300-feet in the air and the windows are from the floor to the ceiling. Be sure to request a Luxury Falls View room, and if you can get it upon check in request, a Center View Room. Hungry? There’s an Ihop on the 26th floor.

If you want an awesome view and a balcony where you can

stare at one of the world’s natural wonders, head straight to the Four-Diamond Sheraton on the Falls. Book a corner suite from level 17-to-21 because there are no balconies on the corner suites on the 16th floor; these suites have floor-to-ceiling windows, king-sized beds, pull-out queen sofa beds, oversized soaker tubs and electric fireplaces.

This Sheraton also has the luxurious Christienne Fallsview Spa (with a Hydrotherapy Infinity Tub) overlooking Niagara Falls. (Tip: One of the top spa services here is the Couples Retreat which includes a pair of 55-minute massages and private use of the Hydrotherapy Jacuzzi for two).

Want some water fun for the whole family? The Sheraton on the Falls is home to the Falls-view indoor waterpark and is North America’s largest indoor waterpark. The park boasts sixteen waterslides--up to six stories high--including the Niagara Extreme Slide Racing slides. There’s also a giant wave pool, two oversized adults-only Jacuzzis, Beach House Play Area and Rain Fortress with the famed 1000-gallon tipping bucket, and rope ladders.



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PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST ANNOUNCES PNC BROADWAY IN PITTSBURGH 2018-19 SEASON

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is thrilled to announce the 2018-19 PNC Broadway in Pittsburgh season featuring the most new productions in series history, continuing the tradition of bringing the best of touring Broadway directly to Pittsburgh. The series, presented in partnership with Broadway Across America, will feature 11 productions comprised of seven season events and four Season Specials.

The seven-show season lineup features six entirely new Broadway shows and one new Broadway revival, boasting a combined 19 Tony® Awards. The season is anchored by HAMILTON. Also headlining is six-time 2017 Tony Award- and 2018 Grammy®-winning Best Musical DEAR EVAN HANSEN. In addition, the season features the Tony Award winners and nominees THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, COME FROM AWAY and ANASTASIA, the sweetest ticket in Pittsburgh, Roald Dahl's CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, and the revival of the theatrical masterpiece FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

The 2018-19 PNC Broadway in Pittsburgh Season Specials feature the return of the holiday classic ELF THE MUSICAL and the spectacular new production of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. Back by popular demand following sold out record breaking engagements, THE BOOK OF MORMON returns to Pittsburgh. Included in the Season Specials is the world premiere of CIRQUE ÉLOIZE HOTEL, which is also a featured event of the Trust's 2018 Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts.

The PNC Foundation joins the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in bringing the best of Broadway to entertain, enlighten, and complement the rich experiences that add to the region's exceptional quality of life. The seven season presentations and four specials contribute to the city's reputation as a major destination for the arts, culture, and world-class entertainment.

TICKET ADVISORY

There has been an unprecedented demand for tickets and ticket availability will change. For the most up-to-date ticketing information, visit TrustArts.org/BroadwayFAQ.

SEASON PRESENTATIONS

The Play That Goes Wrong

September 18-23, 2018 • Benedum Center

What would happen if Sherlock Holmes and Monty Python had an illegitimate Broadway baby? You'd get THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, Broadway & London's award-winning smash comedy! Called "A GUT-BUSTING HIT" (The New York Times) and "THE

FUNNIEST PLAY BROADWAY HAS EVER SEEN" (HuffPost), this classic murder mystery is chock-full of mishaps and madcap mania delivering "A RIOTOUS EXPLOSION OF COMEDY" (Daily Beast). Welcome to opening night of The Murder at Haversham Manor where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. With an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines), it's "TONS OF FUN FOR ALL AGES" (HuffPost) and "COMIC GOLD" (Variety) – sure to bring down the house!

Anastasia

October 16-21, 2018 • Benedum Center

Inspired by the beloved films, the romantic and adventure-filled new musical ANASTASIA is on a journey to Pittsburgh at last! From the Tony Award-winning creators of the Broadway classic RAGTIME, this dazzling show transports us from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love, and family. ANASTASIA features a book by celebrated playwright Terrence McNally, a lush new score by Stephen Flaherty (music) and Lynn Ahrens (lyrics) with direction by Tony Award winner Darko Tresnjak.

Fiddler on the Roof

November 20-25, 2018 • Benedum Center

"An entirely fresh, funny, and gorgeous new production. A REASON FOR CELEBRATION!" – New York Magazine
Tony Award-winning director Bartlett Sher and the team behind SOUTH PACIFIC, THE KING AND I, and 2017 Tony-winning Best Play OSLO, bring a fresh and authentic vision to this beloved theatrical masterpiece from Tony winner Joseph Stein and Pulitzer Prize winners Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick.
The original production won 10 Tony Awards, including a special Tony for becoming the longest-running Broadway musical of all time. You'll be there when the sun rises on this new production, with stunning movement and dance from acclaimed Israeli choreographer Hofesh Shechter and based on the original staging by Jerome Robbins. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family.



Featuring the Broadway classics "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker," and "To Life," **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** will introduce a new generation to this uplifting celebration that raises its cup to joy! To love! To life!

Hamilton
January 1-27, 2019 • Benedum Center

HAMILTON is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and was the new nation's first Treasury Secretary. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B, and Broadway, **HAMILTON** is the story of America then, as told by America now.

Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
January 29-February 3, 2019 • Benedum Center

Roald Dahl's amazing tale is now Pittsburgh's golden ticket! It's the perfect recipe for a delectable treat: songs from the original film, including "Pure Imagination," "The Candy Man," and "I've Got a Golden Ticket," alongside a toe-tapping and ear-tickling new score from the songwriters of **HAIRSPRAY**. Willy Wonka is opening his marvelous and mysterious chocolate factory...to a lucky few. That includes Charlie Bucket, whose bland life is about to burst with color and confection beyond his wildest dreams. He and four other golden ticket winners will embark on a mesmerizing joyride through a world of pure imagination. Now's your chance to experience the wonders of Wonka like never before – get ready for Oompa-Loompas, incredible inventions, the great glass elevator, and more, more,

more at this everlasting showstopper!

Come From Away
April 9-14, 2019 • Benedum Center

The true story of the small town that welcomed the world. Broadway's **COME FROM AWAY** has won Best Musical all across North America!

The New York Times Critics' Pick takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Don't miss this breathtaking new musical written by Tony nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein, and helmed by this year's Tony-winning Best Director, Christopher Ashley. Newsweek cheers, "It takes you to a place you never want to leave!" On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all.

Dear Evan Hansen
May 21-26, 2019 • Heinz Hall

WINNER OF SIX 2017 TONY® AWARDS INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL AND THE 2018 GRAMMY® AWARD FOR BEST MUSICAL THEATER ALBUM

A letter that was never meant to be seen, a lie that was never meant to be told, a life he never dreamed he could have. Evan Hansen is about to get the one thing he's always wanted: a chance to finally fit in. **DEAR EVAN HANSEN** is the deeply personal and profoundly contemporary musical about life and the way we live it.



"One of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history," says The Washington Post. The New York Times calls DEAR EVAN HANSEN "a gut-punching, breathtaking knockout of a musical" and NBC News says that the musical is "an inspiring anthem resonating on Broadway and beyond."

DEAR EVAN HANSEN features a book by Tony Award winner Steven Levenson, a score by Grammy, Tony and Academy Award® winners Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (LA LA LAND, THE GREATEST SHOWMAN), and direction by four-time Tony Award nominee Michael Greif (RENT, NEXT TO NORMAL).

The Original Broadway Cast Recording of DEAR EVAN HANSEN, produced by Atlantic Records, made an extraordinary debut at #8 on the Billboard 200— the highest charting debut position for an original cast album since 1961 -- and went on to win the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. A special edition coffee table book authored by Levenson, Pasek and Paul, Dear Evan Hansen: through the window (Grand Central Publishing / Melcher) is now available, offering an in-depth, all-access look at the musical, including never-before-seen production photos and cast portraits, behind-the-scenes stories, and a fully annotated script by the authors.

2018-19 PNC BROADWAY IN PITTSBURGH SEASON SPECIALS

Cirque Éloïze Hotel **September 25-30, 2018 • Benedum Center**

For its 25th anniversary, Cirque Éloïze once again presents a touching, poetic, one-of-a-kind creation.

HOTEL is the story of a place and the travelers who come passing through it. A stopover where lives intersect, collide and juxtapose for a brief time to generate tales and memories.

Acrobatics, theatre, dance and live music will draw spectators into a colorful, timeless world. Avant-garde stage design, inspired by the elegance of the great hotels, will carry the narrative. All that remains is to enter through the lobby door and get swept away by the grandeur and poetry of HOTEL.

CIRQUE ÉLOÏZE HOTEL is also part of the 2018 Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts.*

ELF The Musical **December 26-30, 2018 • Heinz Hall**

ELF The Musical on tour is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. This modern-day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner ELF.

The Phantom of the Opera **February 20-March 3, 2019 • Benedum Center**

Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA makes its triumphant return to Pittsburgh as part of its North American Tour. Critics are raving that this breathtaking production is "bigger and better than ever before" and features a brilliant new scenic design by Paul Brown, Tony Award-winning original costume design by Maria Björnson, lighting design by Tony Award-winner Paule Constable, new choreography by Scott Ambler, and new staging by director Laurence Connor. The production, overseen by Matthew Bourne and Cameron Mackintosh, boasts many exciting special effects including the show's legendary chandelier. The beloved story and thrilling score - with songs like "Music of the Night," "All I Ask Of You," and "Masquerade" - will be performed by a cast and orchestra of 52, making this PHANTOM one of the largest productions now on tour.

The Book of Mormon **April 16-21, 2019 • Heinz Hall**

The New York Times calls it "the best musical of this century."

The Washington Post says, "It is the kind of evening that restores your faith in musicals." And Entertainment Weekly says, "Grade A: the funniest musical of all time." Jimmy Fallon of The Tonight Show calls it "Genius. Brilliant. Phenomenal." It's THE BOOK OF MORMON, the nine-time Tony Award-winning Best Musical.

This outrageous musical comedy follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway across the world to spread the Good Word. Now with standing-room-only productions in London, on Broadway, and across North America, THE BOOK OF MORMON has truly become an international sensation. Contains explicit language.

Broadway Across America

Broadway Across America (BAA) is part of The John Gore Organization family of companies, which includes Broadway.com and The Broadway Channel. Led by 11-time Tony-winning producer John Gore (Owner & CEO), BAA is the foremost presenter of first-class touring productions in North America, operating in 44 markets with over 400,000 subscribers. Current and past productions include Beautiful, Cats, Chicago, Dear Evan Hansen, Groundhog Day, Hairspray, Hello, Dolly!, Million Dollar Quartet, On Your Feet!, The Producers, School of Rock and Waitress. Broadway.com is the premier theater website for news, exclusive content and ticket sales. For more information please visit BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com and Broadway.com.

* Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust will present its fourth Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts—a city-wide, performing and visual arts festival to be held in the fall of 2018. The Festival programming will be announced spring 2018. Highlights include seven dizzying weeks, featuring exclusive events by renowned international artists and contemporary performing arts companies premiering for the first time in the U.S. and in some cases, the world. Thirty international companies and artists from 18 countries will capture your imagination, challenge you to think outside the ordinary, and leave you seeing the world in an entirely new way. Festival events will be presented in association with other Pittsburgh cultural organizations and events, offering visceral experiences for audiences at various traditional and non-traditional venues throughout the downtown Cultural District.

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has overseen one of Pittsburgh's most historic transformations: turning a seedy red-light district into a magnet destination for arts lovers, residents, visitors, and business owners. Founded in 1984, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a non-profit arts organization whose mission

is the cultural and economic revitalization of a 14-block arts and entertainment/residential neighborhood called the Cultural District. The District is one of the country's largest land masses "curated" by a single nonprofit arts organization. A major catalytic force in the city, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is a unique model of how public-private partnerships can reinvent a city with authenticity, innovation and creativity. Using the arts as an economic catalyst, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust has holistically created a world-renowned Cultural District that is revitalizing the city, improving the regional economy and enhancing Pittsburgh's quality of life. Thanks to the support of foundations, corporations, government agencies and thousands of private citizens, the Trust stands as a national model of urban redevelopment through the arts.

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During a true emergency situation, you don't have time to take out your phone, unlock it, and call for help. That's where Revolar comes in. With one click, Revolar can let a friend virtually walk you home, make your phone ring so you can excuse yourself from uncomfortable situations, let you check-in with loved ones, or ask for help if you need it. It can be easily hidden under your clothes, clipped on to your keys, purse or backpack which means that it is not noticeable at all and it's connected with an app on your smartphone and you activate the device by clicking on the emergency button. You can read more about the technology in TechCrunch, Business Insider, and VentureBeat, and see Revolar in action in this video here:

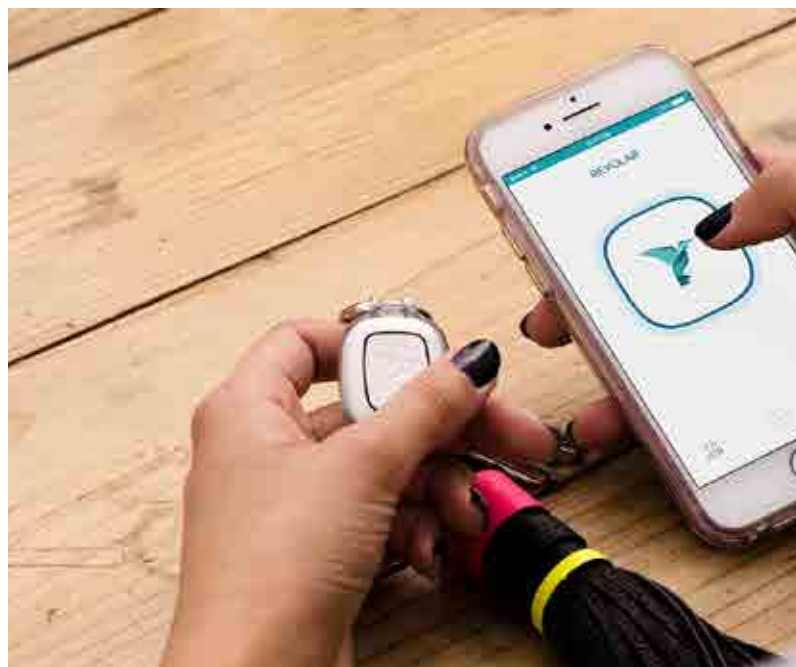
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To date, Revolar has helped 9,500 Safe Check-Ins, 10,000 Yellow Alerts, and 6,400 Red Alerts. It's important for your readers to know about products like Revolar especially at a time where we can act on the #MeToo movement and tech products to help prevent situations from occurring. Revolar was inspired by the co-founders' personal experiences. After Jacqueline Ros found out her sister was sexually assaulted, twice, and Andrea Perdomo's grandmother was kidnapped by guerrillas in Colombia, they knew that they needed to make it easier for women and men to get help when needed and to feel safe at all times

Revolar is available worldwide online through www.revolar.com and Amazon for a one-time and limited time fee of \$59.98 (originally \$79.99).

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- CNN: This wearable device aims to help you feel safer when you're out alone
- Business Insider: This discreet gadget makes me feel a lot safer wherever I travel alone — here's how it works
- Huffington Post: Wearable Technology Contributing to the Sexual Assault Awareness Conversation



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Nightwire is gearing up for summer fun and we have found THE perfect beach/concert or use anywhere blanket.. The Grand Truck's Parasheet Beach Blanket. For travelers and beach goers looking to keep packing and gear light and lean we have the perfect solution. The Grand Truck's patented Parasheet Beach Blanket, truly the best blanket.. EVER for any outdoor summer fun!!

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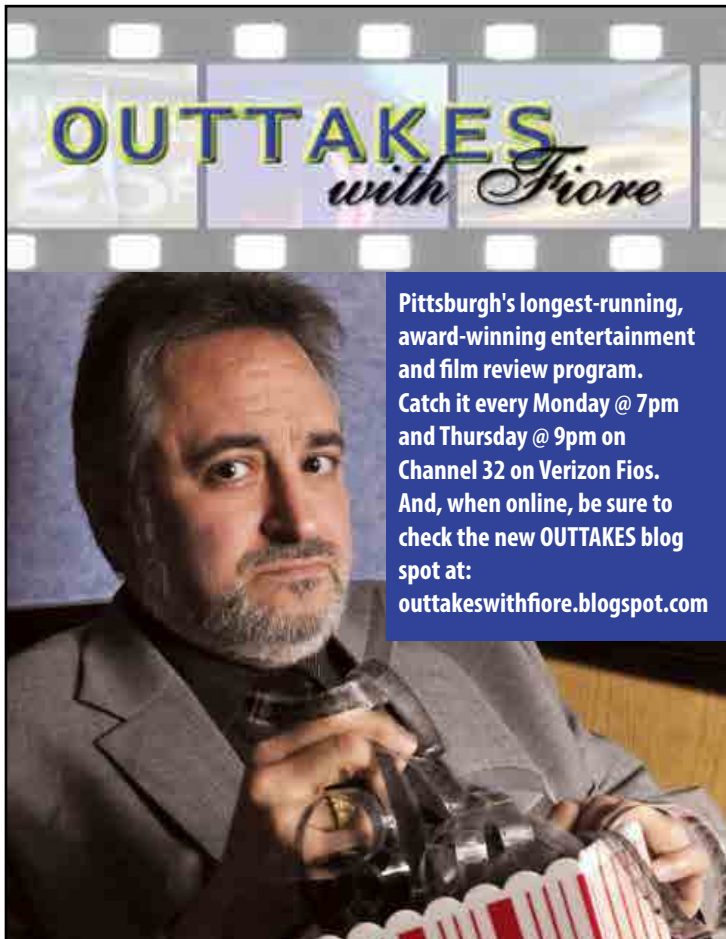
Parasheet Beach Blanket (\$39.95): This 100% parachute nylon blanket is great for outside lounging on the sand, grass and everywhere in between. The versatility is endless, from sitting around the airport or picnicking with a friend at a local festival. The patented sand pocket design helps fight beach winds, keeping the blanket in-place, while the added stake loops are great for use on firm ground. The blanket packs up as small as grapefruit and weighs less than 1lb; pack it in a carry-on or purse and head towards the beach or outdoor adventure! Great color combinations to choose from and best of all its windproof and will be the last blanket you will even need.

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Easter April Fool's Pranks

Where are the eggs?

Probably the most obvious Easter/April Fools prank is to have an egg hunt with no eggs. Hide your eggs as usual, but when the hunters come outside, direct them to the wrong area of the yard. Make sure the actual hunting grounds are far enough away so eggs can't be seen. However long you let hunters search with no luck is up to you. If tears appear, it's probably time to confess.

My eggs won't open!

Seasoned egg hunters know the first thing to do post-hunt is open the plastic eggs in search of candy and coins.

This year, super glue the plastic eggs together before you hide them. Step it up a little and make sure you can hear the prize inside when the winner shakes the egg. Coins will really drive them crazy.

EASTER EGGS

Replace any Easter egg chocolates with grapes.

This prank could be combined with the glued eggs prank if you're really into April Fools Day. The hunter can't get the egg open, but when they finally do, it's not even real candy. Classic.

Your kids can't be mad at you if the Easter Bunny is the trickster. Take a little extra time prepping baskets this year and create a prank basket. Fill it with veggies, toys your kids already own, school supplies, etc. Hide a note from the Easter Bunny at the bottom saying "April Fools!" with a little scavenger hunt to the real Easter basket.

Solid Easter breakfast

This April Fools prank is a classic for a reason and will start your Easter off with smiles. For breakfast, present your kids with cereal frozen solid from the night before. If cereal isn't on the menu, make a glass of juice or Kool-Aid that's actually Jell-O. This option is also less wasteful, since they'll get a surprise snack.

Here are some Easter jokes and puns to make your friends laugh this year

1. What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs bunny

2. What's wrong with Easter jokes?

They crack you up

3. What did the Easter bunny say about the Easter parade?

It was eggs-cellent

4. How does the Easter bunt stay fit?

Eggs-ercise

5. Where does the Easter bunny get his eggs?

From eggplant

6. What happened to the Easter bunny at school?

He was eggspelled

7. What do you call a mischievous egg?

A practical yolker

8. What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?

He cracked up.

9. Why was the Easter bunny upset?

He was having a bad hare day

10. What happened when the Easter Bunny met the rabbit of his dreams?

They lived hoppily ever after

11. What do you call an egg from outer space?

An "Egg-tra terrestrial"

12. What sport are the eggs good at?

Running

13. What did the Easter bunny say to the carrot?

It's been nice gnawing you

14. What music does the Easter bunny like?

Hip hop

15. What day does an Easter egg hate the most?

Fry-day

11 Easter Puns

Egg-sactly

Egg-citing

Egg-static

Egg-stravagent

Egg-splosive

Egg-streme

Eggs-ercise

Egg-ceptional

Egg-streme

Eggs-plorer

Eggs-aggerate

Funny Riddles On Easter

Q: Is it true that bunnies have good eye sight?

A: Well you never see a bunny wearing glasses, do you?

Q: What did the grey rabbit say to the blue rabbit?

A: Cheer up!

Q: Why did the farmer feed crayons to his chickens?

A: He wanted them to lay colored eggs!

Q: What do you get if you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?

A: Hot cross bunnies!

Q: How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?

A: EGG-xercise and HARE-robics!

Q: What do you call Easter when you are hopping around?

A: Hoppy Easter!

Q: Why was the rabbit rubbing his head?

A: Because he had an eggache! (Headache)

Q: What's the difference between a counterfeit dollar bill and a crazy rabbit?

A: One is bad money, the other is a mad bunny!

Q: What did the rabbit say to the carrot?

A: It's been nice gnawing at you.

Q: Why did a fellow rabbit say that the Easter Bunny was self-centered?

A: Because he is eggocentric.

Q: How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket?

A: Only one □ after that it's not empty any more!

Q: How did the Easter Bunny rate the Easter parade?

A: He said it was eggs-cellent!

Q: What is a dog's favorite Easter treat?

A: Jelly bones!

Q: Why are people always tired in April?

A: Because they've just finished a March

Q: What kind of jewelry do rabbits wear?

A: 14 carrot gold.

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny.

Q: What's red and blue and sogs up your Easter basket?

A: Colored scrambled eggs!

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Q: How do you catch the Easter Bunny?

A: Hide in the bushes and make a noise like a carrot!

Q: What did one colored egg say to the other?

A: Heard any good yolks lately?

Q: What did the bunny want to do when he grew up?

A: Join the Hare Force.

Q: What's the difference between the Easter Bunny and a lumberjack?

A: One chews and hops, the other hews and chops.

Q: How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?

A: With a hare-dryer!

Interesting & Fun Facts About Easter

- Easter has been named after Eastre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess. The symbols of the goddess were the hare and the egg.
- Apart from English and German, the name of 'Easter' has been derived from Pesach, the Hebrew name of Passover festival.
- Right from ancient times, egg has been regarded as a symbol of rebirth in most of the cultures.
- The customary act of painting eggs is known as Pysanka.
- Just like Passover which is dependent on the phases of the moon and has different dates each year, Easter is also a movable feast.
- Easter always falls between March 22nd and April 25th.
- The first Easter basket was given the appearance of a bird's nest.
- Chocolate eggs were made for the first time in Europe, in the 19th century. Till date, they remain one of the favorite Easter treats.
- Easter is the top-selling confectionery holiday in the west, second only to Halloween.
- On Easter, 76% people bite off the chocolate bunny ears first, while 5% bite the feet first and 4% eat the tail first.
- The custom of giving eggs at Easter dates back to the time of the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans.
- As per the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest Easter egg made till date, was just over 25-ft high and was made of chocolate and marshmallow. Weighing at 8,968 lbs., the egg was supported by an internal steel frame.
- Every year on Easter, Pope gives his "Urbi et Orbi" (papal address) to the world.
- Red jellybeans qualify as the most favorite food stuff for kids on Easter.

continued on 34

- Easter is known by different names across the world. Some of them are: English - Easter, French - Paques, Spanish - Pascua, Italian - Pasqua, Albanian - Pashke, German - Ostern, Greek - Pascha, Norway - Paaske, Holland - Pasen and Swedish - Pask.
- Egg, bonfires & candles, lily, cross, palm, bunny and lamb are the most popular symbols of Easter.
- Egyptians were initially the ones who exchanged eggs to symbolize the resurrection of Christ. It was later that the tradition was passed down to early Christians.
- For Americans, Easter is the second most important candy-eating occasion of the year, after Halloween.
- In the mid-20th century, it used to take as much as 27 hours to make a marshmallow peep. Today, the time has been reduced to six minutes.
- Hot cross buns, made by European monks, are counted amongst the earliest Easter treats. They were given to the poor people, during the month of Lent.

Riddles:

What do you call a three humped camel?

Answer: Pregnant.

There is a dead man in the middle of a field, nothing is around him and there are no footprints of any sort. There is an unopened package next to him. How did he die? HINT: As he approached the field he knew he was going to die.

Answer: Failed Parachute

A man was born in 1898. He is still alive now at the age 33. How is this possible ?

Answer: He was born in room 1898 in the hospital

There was a man who was born before his father, killed his mother, and married his sister. Yet, there was nothing wrong with what he had done. Why?

Answer: His father was in front of him when he was born, therefore he was born before him. His mother died while giving birth to him. Finally, he grew up to be a minister and married his sister at her ceremony.

As I was going to the mall I met a man with seven wives, Each wife held two bags, Each bag held a mother cat, Each mother cat had six babies, how many people were going to the mall?

Answer: One! As I was going to the mall I met a man...

Lighter than what I am made of, more of me is hidden than is seen.

Answer: Iceberg

One is to three as three is to five and five is to four and four is the magic number. What is the pattern?

Answer: One has three letters in the word three has five letters in it five has four letters and four has four letters in it (if you try more numbers they will always come back to the number four: so four is the magic number)

In a contest, four fruits (an apple, a banana, an orange, and a pear) have been placed in four closed boxes (one fruit per box). People may guess which fruit is in which box. 123 people participate in the contest. When the boxes are opened, it turns out that 43 people have guessed none of the fruits correctly, 39 people have guessed one fruit correctly, and 31 people have guessed two fruits correctly.

The Question: How many people have guessed three fruits correctly, and how many people have guessed four fruits correctly?

Answer: It is not possible to guess only three fruits correctly: the fourth fruit is then correct too! So nobody has guessed three fruits correctly and $123 - 43 - 39 - 31 = 10$ people have guessed four fruits correctly.

A large truck is crossing a bridge 1 mile long. The bridge can only hold 14000 lbs, which is the exact weight of the truck. The truck makes it half way across the bridge and stops. A bird lands on the truck. Does the bridge collapse? Give a reason.
Answer: No it does not collapse. Because it has driven a half mile - you would subtract the gas used from the total weight of the truck

I am slim and tall, many find me desirable and appealing. They touch me and I give a false good feeling.

Once I shine in splendor, but only once and then no more. For many I am "to die for." What am I?

Answer: A Cigarette

You are right next to a river and have a 5 gallon container and a 3 gallon container. You need to measure out 4 gallons of water. How do you do it?

Answer: You fill up the 3 gallon container and pour the 3 gallons into the 5 gallon container. You fill the 3 gallon container back up, and pour it into the 5 gallon container. You empty the 5 gallon container and pour the 1 gallon left in the 3 gallon container

Answer: The envelope glue was poisoned and when the man
licked the envelope to seal it, so he died.

Where is there is no south, west, nor east, and weather not fit
for man or beast

Answer: The South Pole

Short Spring Jokes

When do monkeys fall from the sky?

During Ape-ril showers!

Can February March?

No, but April May!

Why is everyone so tired on April 1?

Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!

What season is it when you are on a trampoline? Spring-time!

What flowers grow on faces? Tulips (Two-lips)!

Why are trees very forgiving? Because in the Fall they "Let It Go"
and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf".

Why is the letter A like a flower? A bee (B) comes after it!

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?

A hot cross bunny

What did the tree say to spring? What a re-leaf.

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily!

What does the Easter Bunny order at a Chinese Restaurant?

Hop Suey!

What does the Easter Rabbit get for making a basket? Two
points just like everybody!

Skipped Classes

Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morn-
ing classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they
had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well,
you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another
and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them
to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"



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Best April Fool's Jokes

13: The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest

In 1957 the respected BBC news show Panorama announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in, and many called up wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti trees. To this question, the BBC diplomatically replied that they should "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

12: Virgin Cola's Blue Cans

In 1996 Virgin Cola announced that in the interest of consumer safety it had integrated a new technology into its cans. When the cola passed its sell-by date, the liquid would react with the metal in the can, turning the can itself bright blue. Virgin warned that consumers should therefore avoid purchasing all blue cans. The joke was that Pepsi had recently unveiled its newly designed cans. They were bright blue.

11: Moving The Eiffel Tower

The Parisien stunned French citizens in 1986 when it reported that an agreement had been signed to dismantle the Eiffel Tower. The international symbol of French culture would then be re-constructed in the new Euro Disney theme park going up east of Paris. In the space where the Tower used to stand, a 35,000 seat stadium would be built for use during the 1992 Olympic Games.

10: MITkey Mouse

On April 1, 1998 the homepage of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced some startling news: the prestigious university was to be sold to Walt Disney Co. for \$6.9 billion. A photograph of the university's famous dome outfitted with a pair of mouse ears accompanied the news. The press release explained that the university was to be dismantled and transported to Orlando where new schools would be added to the campus including the School of Imagineering, the Scrooge McDuck School of Management, and the Donald Duck Department of Linguistics. The fact that the announcement appeared on MIT's homepage added official credibility to it. But in fact, the announcement was the work of students who had hacked into the school's central server and replaced the school's real web page with a phony one.

9: Moscow's Second Subway

In 1992 the Moskovskaya Pravda announced that the winds of

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capitalism transforming Russia would bring further changes for the residents of Moscow. Apparently plans had been finalized to build a new Moscow subway system. Of course, there was nothing wrong with the city's current subway. But in the spirit of capitalism, the second system would be built to promote "the interests of competition."

8: Y2K Solved

In 1999 the Singapore Straits Times reported that a 17-year-old high school student had one-upped all the major software corporations of the world by creating a small computer program that would easily solve the Y2K bug. The camera-shy C student had supposedly devised the program in twenty-nine minutes while solving an algebra problem for his homework. His family and a technology consulting group were reportedly forming a joint venture named 'Polo Flair' in order to commercialize the discovery. They anticipated achieving revenues of \$50 million by the end of the year. Numerous journalists and computer specialists contacted the Straits Times, seeking more information about the boy genius and his Y2K cure. One journalist even wanted to know if the boy would be willing to appear on TV, despite the fact that he was camera shy. Unfortunately the boy and his ingenious program didn't exist. Quick-witted readers would have noticed that 'Polo Flair' was an anagram for 'April Fool.'

7: Life Discovered on Jupiter In

1996 AOL subscribers who logged onto the service were greeted by a news flash announcing that a "Government source reveals signs of life on Jupiter." The claim was backed up by statements from a planetary biologist and an assertion by Ted Leonsis, AOL's president, that his company was in possession of documents

proving that the government was hiding the existence of life on the massive planet. The story quickly generated over 1,300 messages on AOL. A spokesman for the company later explained that the hoax had been intended as a tribute to Orson Welles's 1938 Halloween broadcast of the War of the Worlds.

6: The 26-Day Marathon

In 1981 the Daily Mail ran a story about an unfortunate Japanese long-distance runner, Kimo Nakajimi, who had entered the London Marathon but, on account of a translation error, thought that he had to run for 26 days, not 26 miles. The Daily Mail reported that Nakajimi was now somewhere out on the roads of England, still running, determined to finish the race. Supposedly various people had spotted him, though they were unable to flag him down. The translation error was attributed to Timothy Bryant, an import director, who said, "I translated the rules and sent them off to him. But I have only been learning Japanese for two years, and I must have made a mistake. He seems to be taking this marathon to be something like the very long races they have over there."

5: Corporate Tattoos

In 1994 National Public Radio's All Things Considered program reported that companies such as Pepsi were sponsoring teenagers to tattoo their ears with corporate logos. In return for branding themselves with the corporate symbol, the teenagers would receive a lifetime 10% discount on that company's products. Teenagers were said to be responding enthusiastically to this deal.

4: Chewy Vodka Bars

In 1994 Itar-Tass reported that an alcoholic beverage company had invented a new kind of candy sure to be a favorite

with the Russian people: chewy Vodka Bars. These bars, designed to compete with Mars and Snickers bars, would come in three flavors lemon, coconut, and salted cucumber. The same company was also said to be perfecting another new product: instant vodka in tea bags.

3: Big Ben Goes Digital

In 1980 the BBC reported that Big Ben, in order to keep up with the times, was going to be given a digital readout. It received a huge response from listeners protesting the change. The BBC Japanese service also announced that the clock hands would be sold to the first four listeners to contact them, and one Japanese seaman in the mid-Atlantic immediately radioed in a bid.

2: Arm the Homeless

In 1999 the Phoenix New Times ran a story announcing the formation of a new charity to benefit the homeless. There was just one catch. Instead of providing the homeless with food and shelter, this charity would provide them with guns and ammunition. It was named 'The Arm the Homeless Coalition.' The story received coverage from 60 Minutes II, the Associated Press, and numerous local radio stations before everyone

realized it was a joke. The Phoenix New Times's joke was actually a reprise of a 1993 prank perpetrated by students at Ohio State University.

1: Drunk Driving on the Internet

An article by John Dvorak in the April 1994 issue of PC Computing magazine described a bill going through Congress that would make it illegal to use the internet while drunk, or to discuss sexual matters over a public network. The bill was supposedly numbered 040194 (i.e. 04/01/94), and the contact person was listed as Lirpa Sloof (April Fools backwards). The article said that the FBI was going to use the bill to tap the phone line of anyone who "uses or abuses alcohol" while accessing the internet. Passage of the bill was felt to be certain because "Who wants to come out and support drunkenness and computer sex?" The article offered this explanation for the origin of the bill: "The moniker 'Information Highway' itself seems to be responsible for SB 040194... I know how silly this sounds, but Congress apparently thinks being drunk on a highway is bad no matter what kind of highway it is." The article generated so many outraged phone calls to Congress that Senator Edward Kennedy's office had to release an official denial of the rumor that he was a sponsor of the bill.

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Alligator Short Jokes

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A: An Investigator

Q: What's the similarity between a Alligator and Windows?

A: Neither of them has enough bytes!

Q: How many arms has a alligator got?

A: Depends how far he has got with eating his dinner!

Q: Why don't alligators like fast food?

A: Because they can't catch it!

Q: What do you get if you cross a alligator with a flower?

A: I don't know, but I'm not going to smell it!

Q: Did you hear about the law firm with the most intimidating lawyers?

A: It's filled with liti-gators.

Q: What do you call a crocodile with GPS?

A: A Navi-gator.

Q: What do alligators call human children?

A: Appetizers.

Q: Who gives alligators presents on Christmas?

A: Santa Jaws!

Q: What's worse than one alligator coming to dinner?

A: Two alligators coming to dinner

Q: What do alligators drink before a race?

A: Gator-Ade.

Q: Why are alligators comedians so funny?

A: Their wit is as razor sharp as their teeth!

Q: Why won't alligators attack lawyers?

A: Professional courtesy!

Q: Why shouldn't you shoot an alligator?

A: He'll just bite the bullet and make the best of it.

Q: What do you call an alligator that sneaks up and bites you from behind?

A: A tail-gater.

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Q: What do yuppie alligators like to drink

A: Jaw-va

Q: What was the nerd alligators favorite programming language

A: Jaw-va

Q: What do you call an alligator that makes others fight?

A: An Instigator.

Q: What is an alligators favorite smell?

A: Human blood.

Q: What do you get a girl that likes crocodiles?

A: All I got her is shoes.

Q: What do you call a man too big for an alligator to eat?

A: a jawbreaker.

Q: Did you hear about the crocodile who became a congressman?

A: He was an expert dele-gator.

Q: Why shouldn't you taunt an alligator?

A: Because it might come back to bite you in the end.

Q: What do you call a reptile that works on a farm?

A: An irri-gator.

Q: What's the difference between a dog and a gator?

A: One's bark is worst than his bite.

An alligator can go through 3,000 teeth in a lifetime.

Got infected from an alligator bite, now I have gatoraid.

An alligator walks into Sea World and says whale whale whale
what have we here.

See ya later alligator, getting wild crocodile

The news reported that an alligator had been found in the Artic,
the locals said they were not surprised because they were ex-
pecting a cold snap!

Customer: "Do you have alligator shoes?" Clerk: "Yes, sir. What
size does your alligator wear?"



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Alligator Bar Jokes Walks into a Bar

A man walked into a Florida bar with his alligator and asked the bartender: "Do you serve lawyers here?" "Sure." "Good. One beer for me and a lawyer for my alligator."

Double Dare

One day, a very rich man announced in a party that if any person present in the party dares to swim across the swimming pool which has more than twenty crocodiles, he will be awarded with either half of the rich man's property or his beautiful daughter. After a period of silence, the rich man saw a young man splashed into the pool swimming as fast as he can, with all his efforts, saving himself from the crocodiles. And at last, he survived through the pool. Everybody started clapping. The rich man was overjoyed with the young man's bravery. He congratulated him and then asked what do you want, my property or daughter. To this, the man replied, "Sir, neither I want your property, nor your daughter, I just want the man who threw me in the water."

Alligator Shoes

A man was on holiday in the depths of Louisiana, where he tried to buy some Alligator shoes. However he was not prepared to pay the high prices, and after having failed to haggle

the vendor down to a reasonable price level, ended up shouting "I don't give two hoots for your shoes man, I'll go and kill my own 'croci,'" to which the shopkeeper replied, "by all means, just watch out for those two 'ole boys" who are doing the same!". So the man went out into the Bayou, and after a while saw two men with spears, standing still in the water. 'They must be the 'ole boys' he thought. Just at that point he noticed an alligator moving in the water towards one of them. The guy stood completely passive, even as the gator came ever closer. Just as the beast was about to swallow the him, he struck home with his spear and wrestled the gator up onto the beach, where several already laying Together the two guys threw the gator onto its back, where-upon one exclaimed "Darn! This one doesn't have any shoes either!".

How do You?

A student named Jacob was sitting in class one day and the teacher walked by and he asked her "How do you put an elephant in the fridge?" The teacher said "I don't know, how?" Jacob then said "You open the door and put it in there!" Then Jacob asked the teacher another question "How do you put a giraffe in the fridge?" The teacher then replied "Ohh I know this one, you open the door and put it in there?" Jacob said "No, you open the door, take the elephant out, and then you put

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it in there." Then he asked another question..."All the animals went to the lion's birthday party, except one animal, which one was it?" The teacher a bit confused and said "The lion?" Then the student said "No, the giraffe because he's still in the fridge." then he asked her just one more question...."If there is a river full of alligators and you wanted to get across it, how would you?" The teacher then says "You would walk over the bridge." Then Jacob says "No, you would swim across because all the alligators are at the lion's birthday party!" She laughs and walks away.

Chimp Jokes

Q: What is a monkey's favorite cookie?

A: Chocolate chimp!

Q: Who is the Chimps favorite President of recent years?

A: Hairy Truman!

Q: Why did the Chimpanzee fail English?

A: He had little Ape-titude!

Q: What is a chimp's favorite Christmas carol?

A: Jungle Bells!

Q: What did the orangutan say to the chimp?

A: Ginger's the new black!

Q: What is sweet smelling, but cheeky?

A: chim-pansy!!

Q: What does a logger say before he cuts down a tree?

A: Let the chimps fall where they may.

Q: Did you hear about the awful jungle party?

A: Somebody forgot to bring the chimps and dip.

Q: Where do chimpanzees keep their babies?

A: In apricots!

Q: What do you call a Chimpanzee that works in a bar?

A: A Monkey Wench.

Q: What do you call a chimp playing quidditch?

A: A hairy potter!!

Q: What do you call a baby monkey?

A: A Chimp off the old block.



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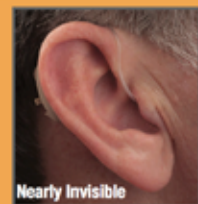
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