



under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio
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Photo by: Larry Graham

Book of the Month

The holidays are a perfect time to catch up on my reading. My book for the month of December is a return to another world, one where wizards and magic run free. Yes, my inner geek and love for the Harry Potter series is real and I was beside myself when I found out there was a new play continuing the Harry Potter saga. I am talking about Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.

The two-part West End stage play was written by Jack Thorne and based on an original new story by Thorne, J.K. Rowling, and John Tiffany. The show premiered on July, 30 2016. This is the first new Wizarding World story in nearly a decade, the rehearsal script, which was not a novelization of the play, was released on November 18, 2015 and became the official eighth Harry Potter story.

The book follows the timeline of an older Harry James Potter and his struggles in British magical society taking place in the year 2020, but beginning in 2017. The story begins nineteen years after the events of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows and follows Harry Potter, now a Ministry of Magic employee, and his younger son Albus Severus Potter as a dark chain of events unfolds. The play's starting point is identical with the epilogue of Deathly Hallows with the grown Harry Potter bringing his son Albus to the Hogwarts Express, en route to his first year school year. In both the book's epilogue and the play's opening act, Albus expresses his apprehension that the Sorting Hat would place him in the Slytherin House. The play goes on to show that this would indeed come to pass: Albus would be placed in Slytherin – and it would turn out to be the right choice.

Reading the book version of the Cursed Child was like revisiting old friends. Every character throughout all the seven books was brought back for this quick read. A theatrical script is a different read from a straight on novel, but once you get used to it, the book moves at a steady base building the storyline and introducing you to new characters. I especially love the comedic overtones both from Ron and Scorpius, Draco Malfoy's son. His friendship and bond with Albus is the strength of the storyline and propels the story forward.

I highly recommend the Cursed Child, it will especially make for a fabulous Christmas present under the tree this year. For more information on this novel and any other of her books, go to www.jkrowling.com.

Since we are talking about books I read over the holidays, worth mentioning is Murder House, the newest James Patterson novel that is a standalone that is not part of any of his series. Written with David Ellis, Murder House takes place at No. 7 Ocean Drive. It is a gorgeous, multi-million-dollar beachfront estate in the Hamptons, where money and privilege know no bounds. But its beautiful gothic exterior hides a horrific past: it was the scene of a series of depraved killings that have never been solved. Neglected, empty, and rumored to be cursed, it's known as the Murder House,

and locals keep their distance.

The story revolves around Detective Jenna Murphy who hasn't been back since she was a girl. She is trying to escape her troubled past and rehabilitate a career on the rocks. When a Hollywood power broker and his mistress are found dead in the abandoned Murder House, the gruesome crime scene rivals anything Jenna experienced in Manhattan. And what at first seems like an open and shut case turns out to have as many shocking secrets as the Murder House itself, as Jenna quickly realizes that the mansion's history is much darker than even the town's most salacious gossips could have imagined.

Murder House has lots of plot twists all the way to the end. Another Patterson novel that does not disappoint. For more information on James Patterson, go to www.jamespatterson.com.

Hot Happenings

Don your gay apparel with lots of Christmas cheer as we get ready for the New Year! I hope the holiday season is not stressing you out. Grab that spiced egg nog or that glass of champagne and enjoy yourself. Here are just a few of the hot happenings to look forward to as we say goodbye to 2016.

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Come join The BIG EASY SISTERS for a night of holiday cheer at their Christmas Eve Beer Bust at the Phoenix (941 Elysian Fields) from 9 pm to midnight. The cost is \$10 for the beer bust and all the holiday cookies you can eat.

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Scorpio Boys Entertainment presents "Bayou Boylesque" at GrandPre's (834 North Rampart St.). This month will feature founders of Scorpio Boys Entertainment Eros S Guillen and Poseidon S Davenport with newest member of Scorpio Boys with his debut show the sexy and fantastic Fathoms Deep. Get your friends together, have a drink, and sit back for an amazing show. There is a \$5 cover for all this sexiness!

Saturday, December 31, 2016

Don't miss the Four Seasons' (3229 N. Causeway Blvd., Metairie) NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA with RUPAUL's Sensational Star Latrice Royale as she puts on her Large and in Charge Show! It all starts at 10 pm with a headliner cast! Tickets are \$35-\$50 and includes a buffet plus champagne at midnight for their annual Derriere Drop! Get your tickets now, by going to the following Facebook page: Latrice Royale NEW YEARS EVE at the FOUR SEASONS.

Wednesday, January 4 – Sunday, January 29, 2017

Hakuna Matada Y'all! The Lion King is back in New Orleans. The North American touring productions of THE LION KING have been seen by more than 17 million



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theatergoers and grossed more than \$1.2 billion to date. Having already played more than 70 cities across North America, THE LION KING now proudly makes its New Orleans debut at the Saenger Theatre.

In its 19th year, THE LION KING continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals in the world. Since its Broadway premiere on Nov. 13, 1997, 23 global productions have been seen by more than 85 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions under the direction of Thomas Schumacher, THE LION KING is only the second show in history to generate five productions worldwide running 10 or more years. THE LION KING won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (Richard Hudson), Best Costume Design (Julie Taymor), Best Lighting Design (Donald Holder), Best Choreography (Garth Fagan) and Best Direction of a Musical. THE LION KING has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy Award® for Best Musical Show Album, and the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design.

The show's director, costume designer and mask co-designer Julie Taymor continues to play an integral part in the show's ongoing success. The first woman to win a Tony Award® for Direction of a Musical, Taymor has supervised new productions of the show around the world in recent years.

The Broadway score features Elton John and Tim Rice's music from animated film, along with three new songs by John and Rice; additional musical material by South African Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor and Hans Zimmer; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film written by Lebo M, Mark Mancina and Hans Zimmer. The resulting sound of THE LION KING is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy Award®-winning song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" to the haunting ballad "Shadowland."

Tickets for THE LION KING start at \$35 and will be available at the Saenger Theatre Box Office, 1111 Canal St., New Orleans, Louisiana 70112, BroadwayInNewOrleans.com, all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at 800.982.2787. In New Orleans, THE LION KING will play Tuesdays through Sundays with Saturday and Sunday matinee and

evening performances. The full schedule can be found at <http://www.saengernola.com/shows/the-lion-king>. For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com.

Saturday, January 7, 2017

The Joy Theater and Jonathan Mares Productions are happy to announce the return of LAST DANCE: A TRIBUTE TO DONNA SUMMER. This spectacular tribute show stars the multi-talented New Orleans native Anais St. John. Backed by a seven piece band, three backup singers and four go-go dancers, Anais will take you on a journey through the age of disco featuring some of the biggest hits of the era, including "She Works Hard for the Money," "Bad Girls," and, of course, "Last Dance." This high energy 2015 Big Easy Award nominated show has drawn rave reviews and played to sold out audiences. Due to popular demand, the Joy Theater and Jonathan Mares Productions are happy to bring this wonderful night of music, dance and fun back to New Orleans.

Tickets are now on sale at www.thejoytheater.com or 504.208.1180. Show time is at 8 pm. Ticket prices range from \$35-\$40 and VIP tickets are available.

Party Down

Are you ready for Christmas? I love this time of the year, my trees (yes I am one of those people that have multiple trees in their house) are up, my presents wrapped, the cocktails flowing and I am ready for the holidays and the New Year! But until then my two weeks have been abuzz with parties, fundraisers, tree lightings, snow and a jaunt to the Mile High City!

I had two tree lighting this week with the first on Tuesday at the historic Roosevelt Hotel. Their modern and pristine holiday look to the lobby brings guests from far and near to see their lovely holiday lights. They had some of the cast from NCIS New Orleans on hand to help throw the switch. One thing I look forward to is to see their holiday gingerbread creation they make every year. This year was a New Orleans style Christmas tree complete with cards and presents made completely out of gingerbread and fondant. Now that is one talented pastry chef.

On Wednesday, it was time to go to the Roosevelt for their lighting of the outside balconies. They had a party in their ballroom with cocktails and fantastic food. The Roosevelt brings a calm and true local

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Eggplant Parmesan @ Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St.



Cheddar Burger @ Restaurant of The Year, Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St.



Shrimp, Andouille & Stoneground Grits @ The Country Club, 634 Louisa St.



Sloppy Roast Beef Po-Boy @ Gene's Po-Boys, 1040 Elysian Fields



Fried Chicken @ Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St.



Chargrilled Oysters @ Royal House Oyster Bar, 441 Royal St.



chop chop

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain
Email: ripna@ambushmag.com

Metairie Restaurant Guide

Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop & Pub, 2309 N. Causeway Blvd., 835.2022, GumboStop.com, is a quaint eatery serving five different gumbos (ranked Top 5 Gumbos in the city), New Orleans favorites, house specials, specialty sandwiches, daily specials, appetizers and desserts all prepared by award winning Chef Ron lafrate. Open Mon-Sat. 11am-9pm, closed Sunday.

New Orleans Restaurant Guide

The Bombay Club, 830 Rue Conti, www.bombayclubneworleans.com, 577.2237. The Bombay Club is host to an eclectic menu of British-Cajun fare, quality craft cocktails & unique martinis. Enjoy live music showcasing the most talented jazz musicians in New Orleans. Dining hours 4-10pm Sun.-Thur., 4-11pm Fri.-Sat.

Broussard's Restaurant & Courtyard, 819 Rue Conti, 581.3866, http://broussards.com. A favorite fixture in New Orleans for nearly 100 years, Broussard's is located in the heart of the French Quarter, featuring classic French and Creole food, old architecture, and tradition. Dining hours 5:30-9pm Tues.-Thurs. & Sun., 5:30-10pm Fri.-Sat., 10:30am-2:30pm Sunday Brunch.

Cafe Sbisà, 1011 Decatur St., 522.5565, www.cafesbisandola.com. Jazz Brunch is every Saturday and Sunday from 11am until 2:30pm served with "bottomless" champagne and mimosas. Enjoy dining under the giant famous "George Dureau" above the bar in the first floor dining room. All your favorites are available ...Crabcakes and Eggs, Eggs Sbisà, Eggs Benedict, Crawfish and Andouille Omelette, Grillades and Grits, New Orleans BBQ Shrimp, Pain Perdu, and more. The restaurant also serves dinner nightly 5:30pm until 10pm.

Cheezy Cajun, 3325 St. Claude Ave., www.TheCheezyCajun.com, 265.0045, is one of NOLA's restaurants serving a variety of Cajun foods including Boudin and Cracklins' mixed with a variety of Wisconsin Cheeses, plus fab party trays. Open Lunch & Dinner 11am - 9pm Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., closed on Wed., Brunch & Lunch 10am - 4pm Sat. & Sun.

Clover Grill, 900 Bourbon St., 598.1010, CloverGrill.COM, is open 7 days, 24 hours. and features breakfast including build your own omelettes. But let's not forget their fab burgers grilled right under a hub cap and then there's all those sandwiches, sides, desserts and shakes.

Country Club Restaurant, 634 Louisa St., 504.945.0742, www.TheCountryClubNewOrleans.com - Chef Chris Barbato's food is attentive to detail and ingredient, with a focus on flavors that taste of the Creole South. Serving 7 days 10am-10pm; Saturday & Sunday Brunch 11am-3pm (Reservations strongly suggested).

Gene's Po-Boys & Daquiris, 1040 Elysian Fields Ave., 943.3861, www.genespoboy.com, is famous for its New Orleans style po-boy sandwiches chockful of ingredients. Open 24 hours. Hop the Rampart/St. Claude Street Car Line... the last stop at Elysian Fields!

Ilys Bistro, 1040 Elysian Fields Ave., 947.8341, www.Facebook.com/ILYSBistro, offers home cooking and friendly service, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner featuring plates, poboys, and daily specials. Breakfast Mon.-Sat. 6am-11am & Sun. 11am-1pm; lunch and dinner 11am-close. Hop the Rampart/St. Claude Street Car Line... the last stop at Elysian Fields!

Kingfish Kitchen & Cocktails, 337 Chartres St. 598.5005, www.KinfishNewOrleans.com, "brings customers back to the Huey P. Long era with vintage-inspired cocktails & unique Creole and Southern dishes. Join us for dinner, or meet up with friends to relax at our cocktail bar."

Mona Lisa Restaurant, 1212 Royal St., 522.6746, features Italian specialties including salads, pizzas, sandwiches and both lunch and dinner entrees. Open Mon.-Thurs. 5-10pm, Fri.-Sun. 11am-10pm.

Orleans Grapevine Wine & Bar Bistro, 720 Orleans, 523.1930, is located in a beautiful renovated 1809 building offering a pleasant atmosphere, extensive wine list with 200 selections, and delicious food including soups, salads, appetizers, entrees and house made desserts that will delight any palate. Open daily at 4pm serving dinner Sun.-Thurs. 5-10:30pm, Fri.-Sat. 5-11pm.



Trout Eugene @ Cafe Sbisà, 1101 Decatur St.

Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli, 1100 Bourbon St., 529.1416, www.QuartermasterDeli.net, voted Restaurant/Deli of the Year, is open 24 hours 7 days. Serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night menu, the deli offers free delivery.

Royal House Oyster Bar, 441 Royal St., 528.2601, www.RoyalHouseRestaurant.com, is a casual classic, offering fresh-shucked oysters and fresh local seafood in a setting that follows the best traditions of dining in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter.



BBQ Shrimp & Waffles @ Kingfish Kitchen & Cocktails, 337 Chartres



Spaghetti & Meatballs @ Ilys Bistro, 1040 Elysian Fields Ave.



Boudin Scotch Eggs @ The Bombay Club, 830 Conti St.



Mumbo Gumbo @ Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop, 2309 N. Causeway Blvd., Metairie



Boudin Burger @ Cheezy Cajun, 3325 St. Claude



Filet Mignon Broussard @ Broussard's, 819 Rue Conti

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