

Concierge Events

On Thursday, March 16th, concierge took in the Off-Broadway musical *The Black & White Blues*, with a pre-show party complete with food and drinks hosted by **West Bank Cafe** (407 W. 42nd St., 695-6909). Thanks to everyone for making this such a great night!



Bottom Row (L to R): Carl White, Producer; Harry Mayronne, Composer; Tom Smedes, Producer (*The Black & White Blues*); Todd and Scott, *Morgans Hotel*
 Second Row (L to R): Stefano and Deniz, *Jolly Madison Hotel*; Thomas Merkel, *Helmsley Park Lane*, with Augusta and Monica, *Herald Square Hotel*
 Third Row (L to R): Grete and Kari, *Muse Hotel*; Janet Barbash, *City Guide*, with Christine Spenser, *Renaissance Times Square*; Amir Ruiz, *Premier Hotel*
 Back Row (L to R): David Almada, *W New York Hotel*, with guest, and Danuta Matus, *Surrey Hotel*

Photos by Lynn Federico

FYI News

New York City's Hotel Concierge Newsletter

April 2006

Spring Sightseeing News

With tourism kicking into high gear, we've put together a guide to the most popular destinations in the city. Over the next two months, we'll cover the best tours and attractions in town and some of their new offerings.



CitySightsNY

New Additions and Events

CitySightsNY (212-812-2700) has added the new **Uptown Treasures & Harlem Tour** to their slate, covering Central Park, Striver's Row, Museum Mile, and other destinations, and with admission to the Museum of the City of New York. April events at **Grand Central Terminal** (42nd St. & Park Ave., 212-340-2210) include **Tartan Week** (4/1-8), the **Earth Fair** (4/14-22), and the **Spring Fair** (4/24-5/13), which includes products from 64 carefully selected vendors.

While journeying through the studios and

newsrooms on the **Inside CNN Studio Tour** (866-426-6692), guests can now make a DVD of themselves reporting news at the **new interactive desk**.

Be sure your guests get a lovebirds'-eye view of the city with **Liberty Helicopter Tours'** (*Pier 6 & the East River*, 212-967-6464; *VIP Heliport: W. 30th St. & 12th Ave.*) new "**Romance Over Manhattan**" tour. They now also offer **24-hour express service** to the 3 major airports.

To celebrate the start of the baseball season, **Madame Tussauds New York** (234 W. 42nd St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves., 800-246-8872) has opened their own diamond, where visitors can mingle with the likes of **Derek Jeter**, **George Steinbrenner**, and other Boys of Summer.



Liberty Helicopter

Springtime Stand-Bys

Circle Line Downtown (212-269-5755) is still the only way to get to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and as always, the one-hour narrated harbor cruises aboard *Zephyr* depart from Pier 16 at the South Street Seaport.

If you're like us, you're sad to see the end of "Will & Grace" and "The West Wing." Pay your respects at the **NBC Experience Store** (30 Rockefeller Plaza, 49 St. btw. Fifth & Sixth Aves., 212-664-3700), where you'll find souvenirs from all your favorite shows. It's also home to the **Studio Tour**, complete with interactive experiences.

New York Party Shuttle (212-277-8019), NYC's most comprehensive 5-1/2-hour tour, combines driving and short walks with a ferry cruise past the Statue of Liberty.

After they've hit the pavement, steer your guests toward NY Waterway's

(800-533-3779) 50-minute Lower Harbor Sightseeing Cruise or a full weekend getaway.

Send star-struck travellers on a tour past the doorsteps of TV and movie characters and celebrities with **On Location Tours** (212-209-3370)—"The Sopranos" Tour is especially appropriate as the final season heats up.

Worried that the crowds at **Top of the Rock** (50th St. btw. Fifth & Sixth Aves.; 877-NYC-ROCK) haven't died down? It hardly matters with their timed-ticket options: be sure to point your guests to www.topoftherocknyc.com.



David Moreno, chef concierge, *The Mark Hotel* NY.

March's photo of the Citicorp Building was identified by janet@cityguidemagazine.com with your answer and be mentioned in next month's FYI.

How well do you know NYC? Can you identify this **Mystery Photo**?



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Concierge Corner

news from the Front Desk



The 53rd les Clefs d'Or Congress/ Washington, D.C.: "New York, New York"

The Ronald Reagan International Trade Center was the site of this fabulous event on January 11th. 31 countries were represented and over 400 people filled the huge atrium space for an evening of dinner, dancing, and some amazing talents showcased by New York concierges. Our show began with the group number "Seasons of Love" from *Fantasy*. It was a great expression of the concierge community's unity.

George Domenick of the Ritz Carlton Central Park Hotel was our spectacular host for the evening and director of the show. The solos began with **John Adler** of the St. Regis Hotel performing a rousing rendition of "Lullaby of Broadway" from *42nd Street*, the perfect choice to set the mood for the rest of the performers. Next was **Meghan Kulig** from the Hudson Hotel performing "I Dreamed a Dream" from *Les Misérables*. Meghan has an extraordinary voice and brought the house down with her rendition of this famous song. **Maria Trejo** of the Ritz Carlton Central Park Hotel and **Maurice Dancer** of the Pierre Hotel wowed the crowd with a dance duet to "All That Jazz" from *Chicago*. The precision, creativity, expert execution and heart and soul that went into this number was dazzling. They were followed by **Melody Williamson** and **Tim DiFiore** of the New York Palace Hotel with a singing duet, "All I Ask Of You" from *The Phantom of the Opera*. The combination of their beautiful voices and the emotion expressed in their execution, made for a memorable love duet. **Vanessa Williams** from the Sofitel Philadelphia joined the New York gang to perform "Don't Rain On My Parade" from *Funny Girl*. What a powerhouse voice Vanessa has—I am sure will be seeing her perform at many future events! Yours truly, **Peter Johnson** from the Kimberly Hotel, performed "I Can Do That" from *A Chorus Line*. This is a tap number I re-created again after many years have passed and it was a joy to be part of the performance.

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If you have any news or events you would like to share with the concierge community through FYI, please e-mail janet@cityguidemagazine.com.

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Concierge Corner

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Jana Saidl from the W Times Square Hotel, rocked out with her performance of "Mamma Mia" from the show *Mamma Mia!*—she was a joy! **Melody Williamson** returned to the stage to do a powerful rendition of "Memory" from *Cats*. What a beautiful and moving performance—vocally stunning! **Dean Colby** of the Westin Times Square Hotel performed "Time Heals Everything" from *Mack & Mabel*. Dean was a delightful crooner, bringing us a beautiful torch song that added another dimension to the show. **Mark Peterson** of the New York Palace Hotel changed the pace with a rockin' rendition of "Johnny B Goode," dedicated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This number blew the roof off the Reagan Center. The entire ensemble came out to close with "New York, New York," bringing the audience to its feet. We were the talk of the week throughout the Congress! Again, many thanks to George Demonick for his superb direction and **Gunter Kleeman** for being our stage manager. It was an historic evening!

How exciting for many of us in the concierge community to experience **Dinosaur Bar-B-Que** (646 W. 131st St., 212-694-1777; www.dinosaurbarbque.com) on January 17th! What a friendly staff, and what a fabulous feast! This restaurant is indeed "A Genuine Rib Joint." Our party was treated like platinum as we dined on the best ribs in town, chicken, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, pork, corn bread, collard greens, and beef brisket. True comfort food, served in a casual, down-home atmosphere. Quality barbecue and abundance unmatched in Manhattan! They host private parties, have late-night dining on weekends, live blues on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and accept reservations. This is a great venue for hotel guests!

Gray Line then escorted us to the Walter Kerr Theater. What a great treat it was to have our colleague, **James Whelan**, as our guide. His knowledge of the city made for the most interesting and entertaining ride downtown for **Doubt**. Dame Eileen Atkins, Ron Eldard, and Jena Malone have joined veteran cast member and Tony Award-winner Adriane Lenox in this superb drama. The show remains equally brilliant with the new cast members and we were lucky to have the opportunity to experience this amazing show thanks to *City Guide*! The year got off to a great start!

—Peter Johnson

Discounts for Your Guests

As Found in City Guide

shopping

Century 21, 22 Cortlandt St., 212-227-9092: Free gift with purchase
Conway, 1333 Broadway, 212-967-3460: \$5 off \$25+ purchase
Fifth Avenue Men's Suits, 605 Fifth Ave., 3rd floor btw. 48th & 49th Sts., 212-319-5071: Free tie with any suit purchase
Genesis, Lexington Ave. btw. 57th & 58th Sts., 212-980-1514: 10% off with ad
J&R Music and Computer World, Park Row across from City Hall, 212-238-9000: \$15 off \$150+ purchase
Lexington Luggage, 793 Lexington Ave., 212-223-0698: 10% off with ad
Macy's, Broadway & 34th St., 212-494-2922: Visitors-only Macy's Savings Pass with ad
M&J Trimming, 1008 Sixth Ave. btw. 37th & 38th Sts., 800-9-MJTRIM: 10% off purchase
NBA Store, Fifth Ave. at 52nd St., 212-515-NBA1: Silver Valet Keychain with \$25+ purchase
PeachTree on Fifth, 580 Fifth Ave. btw. 47th & 48th Sts., 212-398-1758: Free gift with purchase
Shoe Mania, Various locations, 866-GO-MANLA: 10% off any footwear purchase

tours/attractions

Circle Line Downtown, 866-9CLINE1: \$2 off Harbor Cruise ticket
Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. & Park Ave., 212-340-2347: Free souvenir with ad
Inside CNN New York Studio Tour, Time Warner Center 3rd floor, Eighth Ave. btw. 58th & 60th Sts., 212-275-8687: \$2 off admission
Intrepid Museum, 12th Ave. & 46th St., 212-245-0072: 20% off admission
Liberty Helicopter Tours, 800-542-9933: Free gift with ad
Madame Tussauds, 234 W. 42nd St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves., 800-246-8872: \$8/\$4 (child) off admission
Madison Square Garden All-Access Tour, 32nd St. & Seventh Ave., 212-465-5800: \$3 off admission
NBC Studio Tour, Rockefeller Plaza @ W. 49th St., 212-664-3700: \$2.50 off admission
The Radio City Stage Door Tour, 50th St. & Sixth Ave., 212-247-4777: \$3 off admission

museums

Museum of Sex, Fifth Ave. & 27th St., 212-689-6337: \$5 off admission

nightlife

B.B. King Blues Club & Grill, 237 W. 42nd St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves., 212-997-4144: 20% off with ad
Dangerfield's, First Ave. & 61st St., 212-593-1650: 10% off with ad
Ha! Comedy Club, 369 W. 46th St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves., 212-977-3884: \$7 cover with City Guide mention
Improv Comedy Club, 318 W. 53rd St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves., 212-757-2323: \$3 off with City Guide mention
New York Comedy Club, 241 E. 24th St. btw. Second & Third Aves., 212-696-5233: \$3 off with City Guide mention

dining

Au Bon Pain, various locations, 800-825-5227: Free cup of coffee with any purchase
Broadway Joe Steak House, 315 W. 46th St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves., 212-246-6513: 20% off with ad
Buona Notte, 120 Mulberry St. btw. Canal & Hester, 212-965-1111: 15% off with ad
China Regency, 850 Seventh Ave. btw. 54th & 55th Sts., 212-247-6440: 10% off with theatre ticket or hotel key
Frankie & Johnnie's, 32 W. 37th St., 212-947-8940: Complimentary limo to and from the restaurant
Spirit Cruises, Chelsea Piers & Weehawken, NJ, 1-866-399-8439: \$10 off dinner cruise, \$5 off lunch cruise
Tonic Bar & Grill, 727 Seventh Ave. btw. 48th & 49th Sts., 212-382-1059: Buy 1 drink, get 2nd free

theatre

Tony n' Tina's Wedding, 212-352-3101: \$20 off all seats

services

Carmel Car & Limo, 212-666-6666: \$6 off any \$20+ trip
The Change Group Money Exchange, 48th St. & Seventh Ave., 212-245-7020: Free clock with ad
Dial 7 Car & Limo, 212-777-7777: \$4 off from airport; \$3 off to airport
SuperShuttle, 212-258-3826: \$2 off online booking

health & beauty

Nina's European Day Spa, 5 W. 35th St. btw. Fifth & Sixth Aves., 212-594-9610: 20% off massages and facials

Be sure guests bring their copies of City Guide to receive their discounts!

Start Your Engines

International Auto Show NY

April 14-23

An entertaining event for the entire family, the **2006 New York International Automobile Show** runs this month from Friday, April 14th through Sunday, April 23rd. Featuring some of the hottest concepts and production cars ever made, guests will enjoy over 1,000 new cars, trucks, minivans, and SUVs from more than 43 vehicle manufacturers. See more than three dozen new car debuts from nearly every major automaker. Expect never-before-seen vehicles from Acura, Bentley, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Infinity, Jeep, Lexus, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Saleen, Saturn, Scion, Suzuki and Volvo. These cars will allow guests to experience what the future of automobile design and technology holds. While some vehicles will be only a few steps away from production, others will display



International Auto Show NY

innovative designs. The New York International Automobile Show will be held at Jacob Javits Convention Center, Eleventh Ave. btw. 34th & 39th Sts., 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Sun., 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on . Adults: \$14, children under 12: \$4. For more info, call 800-282-3336 or visit www.autoshowny.com.

The Great White Way

Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Beyond

For a description of these shows and their playing schedules consult the current edition of City Guide or log onto our website at www.cityguideny.com. All information is subject to change.

april previews and openings

Awake and Sing!—A rare revival of the Clifford Odets classic play starring Ben Gazzara, Lauren Ambrose, and Zoe Wannamaker. Currently in previews for a 4/17 opening at the Belasco Theatre. **The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial**—David Schwimmer and Zelikjo Ivanek star in the revival of this celebrated courtroom drama. In previews 4/14 for a 5/7 opening at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. **The Drowsy Chaperone**—This new musical import from LA arrives with rave reviews. Starring Sutton Foster and Georgia Engel. In previews 4/3 for a 5/1 opening at the Marquis Theatre. **Faith Healer**—Cherry Jones and Ralph Fiennes in a spellbinding drama by Brian Friel that sold out the Dublin Gate Theatre. In previews 4/18 for a 5/4 opening at the Booth Theatre. **Festen**—Major hit play from London starring Julianna Margulies, Larry Bryggman and Ali MacGraw. Currently in previews for a 4/17 opening at the Music Box Theatre. **History Boys**—The original London cast stars in this first Alan Bennett play to debut here since 1975. In previews 4/14 for a 4/30 opening at the Broadhurst Theatre. **Hot Feet**—Maurice Hines choreographed and Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) supplied the music for this new dance musical. In previews 4/18 for a 4/30 opening at the Hilton Theatre. **Lestat**—Elton John and Bernie Taupin supplied the score for this lush new musical based on the Anne Rice character. Currently in previews for a 4/25 opening at the Palace Theatre. **The Lieutenant of Inishmore**—Moving to Broadway after a smash Off-Broadway debut at the Atlantic Theatre Company. Previews 4/18 for a 5/3 opening at the Lyceum Theatre. **Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical**—New Musical created by Richard Maltby. Opened 3/12 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. **Shining City**—Brian O'Byrne, Oliver Platt & Martha Plimpton in a hot new play by Conor McPherson (*The Weir*). In previews 4/20 for a 5/9 opening at the Biltmore Theatre. **Tarzan**—Disney musical extravaganza from animated feature with score by Phil Collins and book by



The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial's David Schwimmer

David Henry Hwang (*M. Butterfly*). "American Idol" finalist Josh Strickland is Tarzan. Currently in previews for a 5/10 opening at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. **Three Days of Rain**—Julia Roberts and Paul Rudd star in this new Richard Greenberg play. Sold out except for obscured-view and last-minute house seat releases. Currently in previews for a 4/19 opening at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre. **The Threepenny Opera**—Alan Cumming, Jim Dale, Cyndi Lauper, Ana Gasteyer and three celebrated female impersonators star in this musical revival with a new translation by Wallace Shawn and costumes by Isaac Mizrahi. Currently in previews for a 4/27 opening at Studio 54. **The Wedding Singer**—New musical based on the 1998 Adam Sandler-Drew Barrymore film. Currently in previews for a 4/27 opening at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre. **Well**—Lisa Kron's ingeniously quirky Public Theatre hit play of 2004 has moved onto the Broadway roster. Opened 3/30 at the Longacre Theatre.

limited runs

Awake and Sing! (through 6/11); **Bridge & Tunnel** (through 7/9); **Faith Healer** (through 7/30); **The Light in the Piazza** (through 7/2); **The Odd Couple** (through 6/4); **The Pajama Game** (through 6/18); **Three Days of Rain** (through 6/18); **The Threepenny Opera** (through 6/11).

LimoRes.net Limousine Service

With 200 limos in NYC and the Tri-State Area, LimoRes.net will be on time anywhere. LimoRes.net's happy drivers make for happy customers—and happy customers are what make this such a great company. In addition to a fleet of luxury sedans, town cars, stretch limos, vans, and specialty vehicles, LimoRes features on-line reservations, and e-mail confirmations, and will check each reservation four times before a client is picked up—all to ensure their policy of "zero errors and 100% customer satisfaction." Both drivers and customers are given immediate access to details of every job so everyone can be certain of what took place during the limo reservation, dispatch, pickup, the trip, bill, and final payment, something no other car service offers. For more info, call 212-787-7777 or visit www.limores.net.

This Month in New York City

4/1-8: **Tartan Week**, Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. & Park Ave., 212-340-2210

4/1-30: **National Garden Month**, Various locations, 311; www.nyc.gov/parks

4/4-9/24: **Energy/Experimentation: Black Artists and Abstraction, 1964-1980**, Studio Museum in Harlem, 144 W. 125th St., 212-864-4500

4/5: **Yo Yo Ma**, Carnegie Hall, 212-247-7800

4/5-7/2: **Warriors of the Himalayas: Rediscovering the Arms and Armor of Tibet**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 212-535-7710

4/6-TBD: **On the Couch: Cartoons from The New Yorker**, Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., 212-534-1672

4/7-22: **Carmen**, New York City Opera, Lincoln Center, 212-870-5570

4/8: **National Tartan Day Parade**, Sixth Ave. from 44th to 58th St.; www.tartanweek.com; 2 p.m.

4/8-5/28: **Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Hanami**, 1000 Washington Ave., 718-623-7200

4/12-TBD: **Sberil Schell: Unknown Modernist**, Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., 212-534-1672

4/14: **New York Choral Festival**, Alice Tully Hall, 212-721-6500; lincolncenter.org

4/14-22: **Earth Fair**, Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. & Park Ave., 212-340-2210

4/14-23: **The New York International Auto Show**, Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 W. 34th St. at Eleventh Ave., 800-282-3336; www.autoshowny.com

4/15: **Central Park's Spring Eggstravaganza**, Mid-park at 72nd St.; www.nyc.gov/parks; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

4/15-6/4: **The Spring Flower Show**, New York Botanical Garden, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, 200th St. & Kazimiroff Blvd., The Bronx, 718-817-8700



Yo Yo Ma

4/16: **Easter Parade**, Fifth Ave. from 50th to 57th St.; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

4/20-23: **The 26th New York International Orchid Show**, Rockefeller Center, 49th-50th Sts. & Fifth-Sixth Aves., 212-332-6577

4/24-5/13: **Grand Central Terminal's Spring Fair**, 42nd St. & Park Ave., 212-340-2210

4/25-5/7: **1-2-3 Festival**, Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Ave., 212-242-0800

4/25-5/7: **The Fifth Annual Tribeca Film Festival**, Various locations, 1-866-941-FEST (3378); www.tribecafilmfestival.org

4/25-6/8: **Cirque du Soleil's Corteo**, Randall's Island, 212-307-7171

4/25-7/30: **The Art of Betty Woodman**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 212-535-7710

4/25-10/29: **The Roof Garden**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 212-535-7710

4/28-5/3: **The 4th Annual Spring International Art & Antiques Show**, Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Ave. & 67th St., 212-744-5022 x1355; www.nyinternationalantiquesshow.com

(See above for theatre openings.)