

# FYI News

New York City's Hotel Concierge Newsletter



## news from the Front Desk

by Peter Johnson

It was a full turnout on Monday, Sept. 18, at the Palm West Restaurant for the **Gem of a G.M. Luncheon**, honoring our general managers from around the city. **Maria Bortoluzzi** and I welcomed everyone with our address about the history of this event and why it is so important. Maria then introduced one of our honored guests, **Cristyne L. Nicholas**, president and CEO of NYC & Company. Nicholas spoke of the continued growth in tourism, and read the Mayor's Proclamation declaring September 18, 2006 "Gem of a G.M. Day!"

Manhattan Borough President **Scott Stringer** followed with his enthusiastic words on the state of our fine city and tourism. **Mary T. Murphy**, concierge at the Omni Berkshire Place Hotel and president of the New York City Association of Hotel Concierges, delivered a beautiful speech comparing the relationship between hotel guests and concierges to a dance between Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **Mark Peterson**, assistant chef concierge at the New York Palace Hotel, spoke on behalf of Les Clefs d'Or U.S.A., for which he is director of concierge relations.

We were so proud to have very talented performers for our event. Comedian **Brad Zimmerman** was hilarious and brought the house down. He was followed by **Kevin Kearns** and **Tina Madigan**, from *The Wedding Singer*. They sang the beautiful song, "Grow Old With You," from the show. **Christopher Gilman**, general manager of Palm West, was away on vacation, and **Andrea Roman** spoke on behalf of the restaurant. Andrea's work is much appreciated. Closing words were brought to us by **David L. Miller**, publisher and editor-in-chief of *City Guide*. Special thanks to Nick at Starbright Florist, whose arrangements brightened the entire room. Not enough can be said about our **Janet Barbash**, who, with Maria and I, comprised the committee for the luncheon. Her extraordinary work was evident in the great success of this event. Thank you to everyone, and we look forward to the next Gem of a G.M. Luncheon!

If you have any news or events you would like to share with the concierge community through *FYI*, please email [janet@cityguidemagazine.com](mailto:janet@cityguidemagazine.com).



Online Concierge Access | [www.cityguideny.com](http://www.cityguideny.com)

**H**ave you registered yet for the **Concierge-Only Access** area on the *City Guide* website? You can check out new and noteworthy restaurants, get information on upcoming *City Guide* concierge events and photos from past parties, share news, ideas, tips, and new discoveries on the message board, and more. Surf on over to [cityguideny.com/registerconcierge.cfm](http://cityguideny.com/registerconcierge.cfm).

Concierge Corner



## "Deal or No Deal" at Toys"R"Us Times Square

"Deal or No Deal," the NBC game show phenomenon that's sweeping the nation, has found a home at **Toys"R"Us Times Square** (1514 Broadway at 44th St., special events hotline 646-366-8855; complimentary personal shopping 866-742-6423; [www.toysrus.timessquare.com](http://www.toysrus.timessquare.com)). Not only has a "Deal or No Deal" game boutique opened there recently, but Toys"R"Us has launched a promotion in newspaper circulars that invites customers to play a retail version of the "Deal or No Deal" game.

Starting Sunday, Oct. 1 and continuing for four consecutive weeks, those Toys"R"Us circulars will include a game piece featuring two briefcases: one for "Deal" and one for "No Deal." Customers can bring their circular to any Toys"R"Us location to select either the "Deal" (an automatic 10 percent off any one item) or take their chances and choose "No Deal"—trying their luck to win \$1 million or hundreds of thousands of other incredible prizes including Nintendo Wii™ home video game consoles, trips to see the taping

of "Deal or No Deal," Schwinn bikes, Sony MP3 players, and more. If the briefcase comes up empty, customers will still receive an in-store discount.

Besides the "Deal or No Deal" excitement, Toys"R"Us Times Square offers unbelievable displays and retail attractions, including a 4,000-square-foot Barbie Dollhouse, a New York City skyline constructed entirely of LEGO bricks, a 20-foot-high animatronic Jurassic Park T-rex dinosaur, and a 60-foot indoor Ferris wheel with individually themed cabs.

## Fall Foliage and More from Circle Line Downtown



Send your guests up the river on Sunday, Oct. 22, Sunday, Oct. 29, and Saturday, Nov. 4, with **Circle Line Downtown** (866-925-4631; [www.circlelinedowntown.com](http://www.circlelinedowntown.com)) for a Fall Foliage Cruise up the Hudson River Valley aboard their luxury yacht *Zephyr*. The cruises include continental breakfast, hors d'oeuvres, buffet lunch, live music, a live narrator, and a cash bar, and feature a free wine tasting by Peconic Bay Winery ([www.peconicbaywinery.com](http://www.peconicbaywinery.com)). **Circle Line Statue of Liberty Ferry** is also the only way to get to the Statue of Liberty and the **Ellis Island Immigration Museum** (866-782-8834; [www.statuereservations.com](http://www.statuereservations.com)), which feature exhibits, tours, and more (depart from Battery Park in lower Manhattan and from Liberty State Park in Jersey City, NJ). Guests can enjoy the day visiting Ellis Island or experience one-hour narrated harbor tours of lower Manhattan.

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## October Events

### Arts & Crafts

10/13-15: **The Modern Show**, 69th Regiment Armory, Lexington Ave. at 26th St., 212-255-0020; [www.stellashows.com](http://www.stellashows.com)

10/14-15 & 21-22: **Fall Crafts Festival at the Brooklyn Museum**, 200 Eastern Parkway, [www.craftsatlincoln.org](http://www.craftsatlincoln.org); 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

10/20-22: **The Gramercy Park Antiques Show**, 69th Regiment Armory, Lexington Ave. at 26th St., 212-255-0020; [www.stellashows.com](http://www.stellashows.com)

### Cultural Arts

10/6-8: **The New Yorker Festival**, Various locations, 877-391-0545; [festival.newyorker.com](http://festival.newyorker.com)

10/14-15: **CultureFest 2006**, Battery Park, Battery Pl. & Broadway, 212-484-1222; [www.nycvisit.com/culturefest](http://www.nycvisit.com/culturefest); 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

### Dance

10/10-15: **Merce Cunningham Dance Company**, The Joyce Theater, 175 Eighth Ave. at 19th St., 212-242-0800

10/18-11/5: **American Ballet Theatre's 2006 Season**, City Center, W. 55th St. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves., 212-581-1212; [www.citycenter.org](http://www.citycenter.org)

### Exhibit Openings

10/3-12/31: **Cimabue and Early Italian Devotional Painting**, Frick Collection, 1 E. 70th St., 212-288-0700; [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)

10/4-1/7: **A Deaf Artist in Early America: The Worlds of John Brewster Jr.**, American Folk Art Museum, 45 W. 53rd St., 212-265-1040; [www.folkartmuseum.org](http://www.folkartmuseum.org)

10/5-12/9: **Maria Fernanda Cardoso: Death Becomes Her**, Chelsea Art Museum, 556 W. 22nd St. at Eleventh Ave., 212-255-0719; [www.chelseartmuseum.org](http://www.chelseartmuseum.org)

10/5-12/31: **Gilded Splendor: Treasures of China's Liao Empire (907-1125)**, Asia Society, 725 Park Ave. at 70th St., 212-288-6400; [www.asiasociety.org](http://www.asiasociety.org)

10/6-12/30: **Going Public 2: City Snapshot(s) and Case Studies of the Mayor's Design and Construction Excellence Initiative**, Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Pl., 212-683-0023; [www.aiany.org](http://www.aiany.org)

10/7-5/28: **The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter**, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., 212-769-5100; [www.amnh.org](http://www.amnh.org)

10/10-1/21: **Lucio Fontana: Venice/New York**, Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th St., 212-423-3500; [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)

10/13-1/7: **Fragonard and the French Tradition and Mozart at 250: A Celebration**, Morgan Library and Museum, 225 Madison Ave., 212-685-0008; [www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

10/13-2/9: **Building the Collection: Acquisitions 2005-2006**, Rubin Museum of Art, 150 W. 17th St. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves., 212-620-5000; [www.rmany.org](http://www.rmany.org)

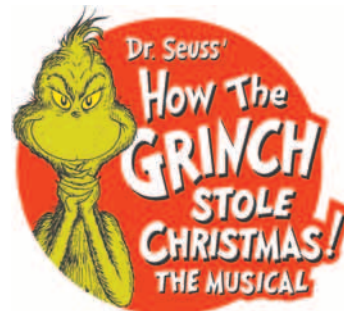
10/13-6/3: **Made to Scale: Staircase Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection**, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, 2 E. 91st St. at Fifth Ave., 212-849-8400; [www.cooperhewitt.org](http://www.cooperhewitt.org)

10/20-1/21: **Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's**

*Continued on Page 3*

## How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Christmas is coming, much to the Grinch's dismay! He's put up with it for 53 years now, but from Oct. 25 through Jan. 7, your guests can watch the Grinch try to stop the whole thing as **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** comes to Broadway (Hilton Theatre, 213 W. 42nd St., 212-307-4100). Tony Award-winning director Jack O'Brien brings a limited engagement of the Dr. Seuss holiday classic to the Broadway stage. Your guests can save with special promotions on most preview shows Oct. 25-Nov. 8 (offer not valid on certain performances Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 4-5)—there are \$59 orchestra seats, and \$10 savings on other seats. There are three ways to save: call Ticketmaster and mention code CITY; visit [www.grinchmusical.com](http://www.grinchmusical.com) and enter promotion code CITY on the purchase page; or surf to the "Save Money" section of [www.cityguideny.com](http://www.cityguideny.com), print out the page, and bring it to the Hilton Theatre box office or mention code CITY. Don't just stand there puzzling till your puzzler is sore—send your guests over to the Hilton Theatre to see the Grinch!



## Comix: A Dream Venue for Stand-Up



New York's hottest new comedy nightclub, **Comix** (353 W. 14th St., just east of Ninth Ave., 212-524-2500; [www.comixny.com](http://www.comixny.com)) is "...more than just funny." The upscale club features headline comedians and established New York-area comics, the best of cutting-edge alternative comedy, improv and sketch comedy, as well as music and variety programming. With a 320-seat showroom and 14,000 square feet, the club can accommodate up to 700 people. The ample elbow room allows guests to spread out and indulge in superior cocktails while they enjoy top-of-the-line entertainment. There is pure, high-tech sound and clear sightlines of

the expandable stage. The showroom is designed with full TV-studio capabilities, ready to host future live broadcasts and tapings.

Comix was born when comedy veteran Bobby Collins combined creative forces with businessmen Harlan Halper and Michael Palitz. "Comix [is] what comedy clubs have never been and what comedians, and their audiences, have been waiting for—an elegant space, comfortable seating, a relaxed atmosphere, unobstructed stage views, the purest sound, superior food, unsurpassed service and no minimums," said Halper. Diners at Comix can enjoy a wide range of starters, entrées, and tasty desserts prepared in a state-of-the-art kitchen...a first for comedy-goers in New York.

Comix's flexibility is perfect for corporate functions, special events, and private parties. They cater to every food, beverage, and service need while enhancing each event with Wi-Fi multimedia and video capabilities, a broadcast-ready showroom, and two additional lounge/breakout areas. Comix is open seven days a week. Showtimes are Mon.-Wed. at 8 p.m., Thurs. at 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m., and Sun. at 7:30 p.m. What a perfect comedy venue for your hotel guests!

## Kellari Taverna



A breathtakingly beautiful restaurant designed by Yannis Skordas, **Kellari Taverna** (19 W. 44th St. btw. Fifth & Sixth Aves., 212-221-0144) is convenient to theaters and Grand Central Terminal. Kellari features traditional Greek taverna specialties, such as grilled whole fish and prime chops and meats, and an assortment of contemporary Hellenic appetizers (*mezedes*). The menu is the creation of corporate chef Costas Tsingas.

A three-course luncheon is offered at \$24.06, a great value for midtown. Choose from a wide variety of appetizers and soups for the first course, a main course, and tasty dessert, including the all-time favorite, baklava. Hotel guests will want to take advantage of the pre-

theatre menu. A delicious three-course meal is offered at \$29.95. A first course can be the hearty soup of the day or appetizer, and the main course includes the fish fillet selection of the day or favorite Greek specialties such as *kotopoulo* (roasted chicken breast stuffed with pastourma and haloumi cheese, artichokes, and potatoes) and *mousaka* (layers of eggplant and ground beef with a bechamel sauce topping). A weekend brunch menu is offered at \$19.95, which includes a complimentary cocktail. Omelettes, traditional American breakfast, fruits and yogurts, Aegean frittata, and the Kellari burger are some of the items available.

Kellari boasts the largest selection of Greek wines available in any U.S. restaurant, and about 12-16 wines are available by the glass. If you're hosting a party, a semi-private dining space is available for up to 50 people. Many concierges and guests were lucky to feast on a sumptuous buffet, as a pre-theatre event for the *City Guide* function on Aug. 24. From there we were treated to a performance of *The Fantasticks* in its return to the New York stage. Thank you, Kellari Taverna and *City Guide!*

—Peter Johnson

# Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Beyond

For descriptions of shows and playing schedules, consult the current edition of City Guide or log onto [www.cityguideny.com](http://www.cityguideny.com). All information subject to change.

## October closing

**History Boys** (through 10/1)

## October openings

**Butley** – In previews for a 10/25 opening at the Booth Theatre. **A Chorus Line** – In previews for a 10/5 opening at the Schoenfeld Theatre. **Heartbreak House** – In previews for a 10/11 opening at the American Airlines Theatre. **Losing Louie** – In previews for a 10/12 opening at the Biltmore Theatre. **The Times They Are A-Changing** – In previews for a 10/26 opening at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

## October previews

**The Coast of Utopia, Part One: Voyage** – In previews from 10/17 for an 11/5 opening at the Vivian Beaumont. (Part 2 is scheduled for December; Part 3, for late Jan. thru mid-Feb.) **Company** – Previews from 10/30 for a 11/29 opening at the Barrymore Theatre. **Grey Gardens** – Previews from 10/3 for an 11/2 opening at the Walter Kerr Theatre. **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** – Previews begin 10/25 for an 11/8 opening at the Hilton Theatre. **Les Miserables** – Previews from 10/22 for at 11/9 opening at the Broadhurst Theatre. **The Little Dog Laughed** – Previews from 10/26 for an 11/13 opening at the Cort Theatre. **Mary Poppins** – Previews from 10/14 for an 11/16 opening at the New Amsterdam.

## Limited runs

**Butley** (through 1/14); **The Coast of Utopia, Part One: Voyage** (through 3/11); **Heartbreak House** (through 12/10); **Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** (through 1/7)



Nathan Lane in *Butley*

## October Events

Continued from Page 2

**Life, 1990-2005**, Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway at Prospect Park, 718-638-5000; [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

10/24-1/28: **Americans in Paris, 1860-1900**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 212-535-7710; [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

10/27-3/18: **Alex Katz Paints Ada**, Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave. at 92nd St., 212-423-3200; [www.thejewishmuseum.org](http://www.thejewishmuseum.org)

10/29-1/15: **Brice Marden: A Retrospective of Paintings and Drawings**, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St., 212-708-9400; [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org)

## Family Fun

10/19-1/7: **The Big Apple Circus: Step Right Up!**, Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center, 62nd St. btw. Columbus & Amsterdam Aves., 800-922-3772; [www.bigapplecircus.org](http://www.bigapplecircus.org)

## Music

10/20: **The New York Pops' Opening Night: Doc's Big Band Salute to Skitch**, Carnegie Hall, 57th St. & Seventh Ave., 212-765-7677

10/22: **The New York Philharmonic Ensembles 2006-2007 Season Begins**, Merkin Concert Hall, 129 W. 67th St., 212-501-3330; [www.nyphil.org](http://www.nyphil.org)

## Open Houses

10/7-8: **Open House New York**, Various locations, 917-583-2398; [www.ohny.org](http://www.ohny.org)

## Outdoor Fun

10/8: **Medieval Festival**, Fort Tryon Park, 212-795-1600; noon-6 p.m.

10/15: **MS Bike Tour 2006**, South Street Seaport, 212-463-9791

## Parades

10/8: **Hispanic Day Parade**, Fifth Ave. from 44th to 86th St.; 11 a.m.

10/9: **Columbus Day Parade**, Fifth Ave. from 44th to 86th St.; noon

10/9: **Village Halloween Parade**, Sixth Ave. from Spring to 22nd St.; 7 p.m.

## Performance Festivals

Through 10/15: **44th Annual New York Film Festival**, Walter Reade Theater, Lincoln Center, 212-496-3809, [www.filmlinc.com/nyff/nyff.htm](http://www.filmlinc.com/nyff/nyff.htm)

10/7-6/3: **Lincoln Center's Great Performers 2006-2007 Season**, Lincoln Center, 65th St. & Broadway, 212-721-6500; [www.lincolncenter.org](http://www.lincolncenter.org)

## Theatre

10/20-22: **The 2nd Annual Broadway Cabaret Festival**, Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd St., 212-840-2824



## On Location Tours Visits NYC TV/Movie Sites

New York City is one of the most recognizable places for television and movie location shoots. Your guests can escape reality on a guided tour of many of those locations with **On Location Tours** (212-209-3370; [www.screentours.com](http://www.screentours.com)), New York City's only TV and movie tour company.

On Location Tours visits the doorsteps of favorite television and movie characters and real-life celebrities. Your guests can shop, eat, drink, and dance at the sites they've seen on both the big and small screens. Exciting bus tours visit locations from favorite TV shows and movies: Manhattan TV and Movie Tour (over 60 sites from "Friends," "Seinfeld," *Spider-Man*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, and more); Sex and the City Tour (40+ sites, including the Jimmy Choo shoe store, outside of Carrie's apartment); and The Sopranos Tour (40+ sites in New York City and New Jersey, including the Bada Bing, Satriales pork store, and Pizzaland). There's also the Central Park Movie Tour, a walking tour that visits 40+ sites from *Ghostbusters*, *When Harry Met Sally*, and more, lunchtime to late night. Be sure to recommend it your hotel guests!



## Gray Line Adds Clean-Air, Wheelchair Accessible Buses

Gray Line New York Sightseeing has announced it will be upgrading its fleet of 74 double-decker buses by adding 13 new, environmentally friendly TransBus Enviro500 open-top double decker buses, valued at \$6.5 million, in March and April 2007. With this upgrade, Gray Line New York will be the operator of the largest fleet of clean-air double-decker buses in the USA.

The triple-axle Enviro500s have 82 seats: 53 on the upper deck and 29 in the air-conditioned lower salon, which also features tinted glass. The new vehicles are wider, providing visitors with more comfort and space. Two wheelchairs can be accommodated in the lower deck, with access via a ramp in the front entrance of the two-door buses. A three-camera CCTV system ensures passenger safety, with coverage of the top deck, the center exit door, and the area behind the bus.

## Street Festivals

**10/1: Third Avenue Merchants Association Street Festival** (btw. 69th & 95th Sts.)... **10/7: Union Square Autumn Fair** (Park Ave. South btw. 17th & 23rd Sts.); **Upper Broadway Fall Festival** (Broadway btw. 110th & 118th Sts.)... **10/8: Amsterdam Avenue Street Fair** (btw. 76th & 86th Sts.); **Lexington Avenue Fall Festival** (btw. 34th & 42nd Sts.)... **10/9: Columbus Day Festival** (Water St. btw. Fulton & Broad Sts.)... **10/14: Eighth Avenue Autumn Festival** (btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)... **10/15: Avenue of the Americas Family Expo** (Sixth Ave. btw. 42nd & 56th Sts.)... **10/21: Washington Square Festival** (Waverly Pl. btw. Broadway & Fifth Ave.)... **10/22: The Great Third Avenue Fair** (btw. 23rd & 34th Sts.)... **10/28: Park Avenue South Autumn Fair** (btw. 17th & 23rd Sts.)... **10/29: The Seventh Avenue Autumn Carnival** (btw. 47th & 57th Sts.)

# Concierge Events

Concierges had their funny bones tickled at the all-new **Ha! Comedy Club** location in the heart of Times Square (163 W. 46th St., 212-977-3884), which is much larger than the prior location. After laughing hysterically, we moved down the hall to **Sweet Carolines at Ha! Comedy Club**, where two pairs of hands tickled the ivories while we snapped our fingers and stomped our feet to all the classics. Hotels guests will love this...where else can they enjoy dueling pianos?

The new version of **The Fantasticks**, at the brand new Snapple Theater Center (210 W. 50th St.), showed why the original was the longest-running play ever. One of the creators of the show back in 1960, Tom Jones, is now one of its stars. Who doesn't love the classic songs from the show, including "Try to Remember" and "Soon It's Gonna Rain." Before the show, **Kellari Taverna** (19 W. 44th St., 212-221-0144) put out another Greek feast that was, in a word, outstanding. Kudos to Stavros, Nick and the hospitable staff!

Two concierge nights were held at the 10-years-old-and-still-going-strong **Blue Man Group** (Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St., 212-254-4370). The first night took us to the one-of-a-kind **Ninja New York** (25 Hudson St. btw. Duane & Reade Sts., 212-274-8500). The sushi was as good as it gets in NY! Dining in a replica of a hidden 18th century Ninja village, where the staff dresses as ninjas, is sure to please hotel guests looking for that one-of-a-kind New York experience.

The second Blue Man night was hosted by **Colors** (417 Lafayette St. btw. Astor Pl. & E. 4th St., 212-777-8443). That the restaurant is co-owned by 40 former workers of the legendary Windows on the World at the World Trade Center will inspire hotel guests to visit. However, the food, drinks and atmosphere make this spot a home run.

## Upcoming Events

- 11/1: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*
- 11/7: *Suddenly Last Summer*
- 11/27: *Spring Awakening*

Look for more coverage of Gem of GM next month – including photos.



Eli Marcus, City Guide; Jonathan Henthorne, Waldorf=Astoria



Gilmar Scantambulo, W Times Square, and guest



Keoni Boyer, W Hotel New York; Janet Barbash, City Guide; Celco Moreira, Pierre



Sergio Nieto, InterContinental, and guest



John Rothermel, Novotel, and guest

How well do you know NYC? Can you identify this photo? Be the first to e-mail [janet@cityguidemagazine.com](mailto:janet@cityguidemagazine.com) with your answer and be mentioned in next month's FYI.

Loida Diaz of the Hilton New York identified last issue's mystery photo, which was of the landmark James A. Farley Post Office, site of the famous Postal Service motto and soon to be the new Moynihan Train Station, on 8th Ave. across from Madison Square Garden.

## Mystery Photo



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