

Concierge Events

On May 25, concierge enjoyed a choice of three exciting tours courtesy of **New York Party Shuttle Tours** (212-277-8019, www.newyorkpartyshuttle.com), including the Five Points tour (the setting of the film *Gangs of New York*), the Unseen New York (secrets of the East Side), and A History of Times Square. Fascinating! The tours were preceded by great food and drink at **Kevin Saint James** (741 Eighth Ave., 212-977-5984). On June 9, concierge took in a live outdoor concert from the **NBC Toyota Concert Series on "Today"** featuring recording star **Natasha Bedingfield**, right in the heart of Rockefeller Center. The new "Rock Pass" was introduced, which allows your hotel guests to save on admission to the Top of the Rock Observation Deck, the NBC Studio Tour and MoMA. A sumptuous five-star breakfast buffet was provided at **The Sea Grill** (Rockefeller Center, 212-332-7610) courtesy of Restaurant Associates.

Upcoming Events

- 7/20: Circle Line Dockside Western/Country Barbeque & DJ Dance Cruise with WPLJ 95.5
- 7/27: Museum of the City of New York
- 8/22: *The Fantasticks*

Adhara Morales, Hudson Hotel; Kelly Doule, W Times Square, and guests



Li Tom, Stanley Wong, Embassy Suites, and guests



Melanie Bruno, Westin Times Square, and guest



Shantala Dugay, St.Regis; Anya O, New York Palace; Maria Wittorp, St. Regis; Kelly Doule, W Times Square; Celso Moreira, Pierre; Cathy Grahame, Waldorf-Astoria



Keith Douglas, Top of the Rock; Vincent Timpone, City Guide



Dean Colby, Westin Times Square; Vincent Timpone, City Guide



Cathy Grahame, Waldorf-Astoria; Janet Barbash, David Miller, City Guide



Eli Marcus, City Guide (right), and others watch Natasha Bedingfield perform



Maria Wittorp, St. Regis; Domenic Alfonzetti, Intercontinental



Nellie Salas, Sea Grill

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

Len Felner of the Hilton Times Square identified June's mystery photo, which was of the Cloisters in Fort Tryon Park.

Mystery Photo



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FYI News

New York City's Hotel Concierge Newsletter



news from the Front Desk

by Peter Johnson

Concierge Corner

Happy Summer to all our friends. The New York City Association of Hotel Concierges is proud to announce eight new members. From the Intercontinental/The Barclay Hotel, hats off to **Sergio Nieto**, **Keoni Boyer** and **Vicki Ramirez**. The Benjamin Hotel's **Diego Chinigo** joins the association team. **Melania Bruno** also became a member; she is at the Westin Times Square Hotel. Finally, the Peninsula Hotel brings us three new members, so we congratulate **Amy Bowman**, **Victoria Mortenson** and **Faisal Abbasi**. We wish them all great success in the association.

We would like to thank **George Domenick** of the Ritz Carlton Central Park New York Hotel. George is working with CBS and The Early Show, refining the "Concierge on the Corner" segment, in which George appeared on June 2nd (we are all very proud of him). It takes place on the plaza at 58th Street and Fifth Avenue. Negotiations are underway to make this a regular Friday feature on the show. Concierges from different hotels would share the spotlight each week, so many members will be able to represent the community. It's not yet official that it will be a recurring spot on the show, but George is hard at work as our association's public relations director to see if it can happen.

We are in the planning stages of the **Gem of a G.M. Luncheon**. At this wonderful annual event, chef concierges honor hotel general managers. You are invited to bring your G.M. to participate. It will take place on September 18th. Save the date!

Join me in welcoming **Naia Cardoso** to the concierge staff at the Kimberly Hotel. To all chef concierges out there, please inform us if anyone new joins your team so that we may share it with our readers in the newsletter. To all, have a great summer.

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

Online Concierge Access | www.cityguideny.com



The Concierge-Only Access area on the *City Guide* website (www.cityguideny.com) can be your best friend: 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. There's even video of our NBC Toyota Concert Series on "Today" event! Surf on over to cityguideny.com/registerconcierge.cfm. Are you registered yet?

Recently, *City Guide* completely revamped its website (www.cityguideny.com) to include even more useful visitor information than ever, making it the most comprehensive resource for NYC tourists on the web. What you'll find:

- an activity calendar searchable by date
- dining reviews
- links to purchase Broadway and Off-Broadway tickets
- coupons, both new and archived columns
- every Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Off-Off Broadway show
- more than 1,000 restaurants
- hundreds of shopping destinations
- museums and galleries
- tours and attractions
- transportation
- health and beauty
- and much more

Summer Breaks



Through September 4th, visitors can enjoy a number of exceptional experiences around town with **Summer Breaks** (www.nycvisit.com/summerbreaks). This program, from NYC & Company, offers discounts at more than 200 of New York City's top destinations with the use of an American Express card. Great offers include fantastic rates at New York City accommodations, special admission to cultural attractions, dining deals, and discounts on popular attractions and Broadway shows. Call 800-NYC-GUIDE for more information.

Superman Lands at Madame Tussauds



The wax Superman with Brandon Routh, his celluloid counterpart

Visitors can now get in touch with their inner superhero at **Madame Tussauds New York** (234 W. 42nd St., 800-246-8872; www.nycwax.com). In honor of *Superman Returns*, Madame Tussauds unveiled its wax figure of Superman (modeled on Brandon Routh, star of the film), as well as an interactive experience that allows guests to act out their fantasies as the Man of Steel. Madame Tussauds' giant dome theater houses the Superman exhibit and features a replica of Metropolis. To enter the experience, guests walk through a telephone booth; once inside, kids and adults alike have a few chances to pretend they're Superman. Other recent additions at Madame Tussauds include the Britney Spears figure, a Johnny Cash experience where visitors can strum along with the "Man in Black," and the Hillary Clinton experience, where guests can enter a booth and vote on whether or not they would ever cast a ballot for a female president.

Summer Events

Dance

Through 7/22: **Midsummer Night Swing**, Josie Robertson Plaza, Lincoln Center, 212-875-5456

Through 7/22: **The New York City Tap Festival**, 229 W. 42nd St., 646-230-9564

7/29-8/27: **The City Parks Dance Festival**, various locations, www.cityparksfoundation.org

Food

7/17-21: **Summer Restaurant Week 2006**, citywide, 212-484-1222, nycvisit.com

8/20: **Blues and BBQ Festival**, Hudson River Park, Pier 54, 13th St. & West Side Highway, 212-627-2020, www.hudsonriverpark.org

Museums

Through 9/3: **Full House: The Whitney's Collection at 75**, Whitney Museum of American Art, 945 Madison Ave. at 75th St., 800-WHITNEY

Through 9/11: **Dada**, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St. btw. Fifth & Sixth Aves., 212-708-9400

7/15-1/17: **Yellowstone to Yukon**, The American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., 212-769-5100, www.amnh.org

7/25-10/29: **Gardens of Eternal Spring: Two Mughal Carpets**, The Frick Collection, 1 E. 70th St., 212-288-0700, www.frick.org

7/30-31: **US Coast Guard Appreciation Weekend**, The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, W. 46th St. & 12th Ave., 212-245-0072, www.intrepidmuseum.org

8/25-1/7: **Looking Back from Ground Zero: Images from the Brooklyn Museum Collection**, The Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, 718-638-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org

Music

Through 9/29: **Toyota Concert Series on The Today Show**, 49th St. & Rockefeller Pl.

7/18, 25: **Washington Square Chamber Ensemble**, Washington Square, W. 4th & MacDougal Sts., 212-252-3621

7/28-8/26: **The Mostly Mozart Festival** 40th anniversary season, Lincoln Center, 212-875-5766, www.lincolncenter.org

8/22-9/1: **Metropolitan Opera City Parks Concert Series**, 212-362-6000, www.metoperafamily.org

Outdoor Fun

7/16: **NYC Celebration of Nations Festival**, Madison Avenue btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.

7/22: **The Harlem Book Fair**, W. 135th St. btw. Fifth Ave. & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.

7/30: **"A Great Day in Harlem,"** part of **Harlem Week**, www.harlemdiscover.com

8/10-20: **Festival Latino NYC** throughout East Harlem/El Barrio, 212-983-0219

8/12: **Living History Day**, Governor's Island, www.govisland.com

8/19: **Harlem Week Children's Festival**, Henry Highland Garnet Outdoor Plaza btw. Malcolm X & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvds.

8/20: **Harlem Day Celebration**, 135th St. from Fifth to St. Nicholas Ave.

8/26: **Battle Week**, Governor's Island, www.govisland.com

Parades

7/16: **Bronx Dominican Day Parade**, Grand Concourse from E. Tremont to 161st St.

7/16: **The Captive Nations March**, Fifth Ave. from 59th to 72nd Sts.

7/30: **The Juan Pablo Duarte Parade**, Amsterdam Ave. from 165th to 190th St.

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Gray Line New York Sightseeing: What's New



With the number of projected visitors to New York City on the rise for 2006, so are the number of red double-decker buses operated by **Gray Line New York Sightseeing** (800-669-0051; www.newyorksightseeing.com) and the number of new tours they offer. Summer visitors will enjoy Gray Line's Day Trip to Coney Island, which includes round-trip air-conditioned motorcoach transportation from midtown to Coney Island, admission to the New York Aquarium, unlimited rides at Astroland, and a VIP coupon book with exclusive discounts to restaurants, museums,

and sideshows, plus admission to Deno's Wonder Wheel and unlimited rides on the historic Cyclone rollercoaster. Dipping their toes in the Atlantic Ocean is at your guests' leisure, and also at no extra charge! The Day Trip to Coney Island is available through October.

Every minute counts—especially in New York City—and Gray Line has created a brand new combination tour package called "In a New York Minute Package." This combo package is designed to allow maximum photo van-tages and less wait. It includes a double-decker Downtown Loop, ticket to the Empire State Building Observatory, and a "Lady Liberty Harbor Cruise" that circumnavigates Liberty Island. Though the boat doesn't stop, it pauses at just the right spots for visitors to take those special up-close shots of the Statue of Liberty.

Exciting hidden jewels of Manhattan are revealed with Gray Line's Uptown Loop/Cloisters Tour, making them the first New York City sightseeing company to offer hourly services to this often overlooked part of Manhattan. This seasonal service showcases Manhattan's northern sections, with stops ranging from the famous museums and churches to the vibrant neighborhoods of Harlem. Customers will be able to hop-on and hop-off at Fort Tryon Park, Heather Garden, and The Cloisters at leisure from the double-decker bus, as well as at other stops in Harlem, Museum Mile, and midtown.

Gray Line has added admission to Top of the Rock to their Essential New York combo package, which already includes the All Loops Tour (hop-on, hop-off bus with admission to Uptown, Downtown, Brooklyn and Night Tours for 48 hours); ticket for the ferry to The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island; ticket to The United Nations Tour; and a ticket to the South Street Seaport Museum.

Among Gray Line's other offerings: the Multilingual Tour, a 4-1/2 hour fact-filled journey from Uptown to Downtown, which is now offered in Mandarin Chinese.

Ruth's Chris Steak House



General Manager
Matt Brice

The Manhattan outpost of **Ruth's Chris Steak House** (148 W. 51st St., 212-245-9600) announces that Matthew Brice has been named General Manager. The steak house, descended from the original founded in New Orleans in 1965, is famous for its sterling reputation as one of New York City's best. Their thick-cut steaks are seared to perfection at 1,800 degrees. The Midtown location is sumptuously decorated in deep tones complemented by beautiful modern art and rich, mahogany paneled walls, and Art Deco sconces throughout, providing perfect ambience for a romantic steak dinner for two or an important business luncheon.

The New York Party Shuttle Tour



What a wonderful experience it was to enjoy, along with *City Guide*, the **New York Party Shuttle Tour**. It is one of the most comprehensive tours we've been on, lasting about 5-1/2 hours. The tour guides are very detail-oriented, and pointed out many things we often walk past, unaware of their history.

There are a number of tours to choose from. When your shuttle reaches its destination, the tour guide takes you to some fascinating New York sites, combining a bus tour with short walks and a ferry cruise across New York Harbor. There are architecture tours, celebrity movie tours, and historical sightseeing all in one! Some of sites you will see include Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Church, World Financial Center, Madison Square Park, the Flatiron Building, South Street Seaport, Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Central Park, the Dakota Building, Strawberry Fields, the Empire State Building, FAO Schwarz, Lincoln Center, the Chrysler Building, the Woolworth Building, Trump Tower, Central Park Zoo, Washington Square Park, Herald Square, and so much more. Tours are in smaller groups and the guide's attention to questions and—once again—detail is amazing. Recommend it to your guests!

Hop on the shuttle on the west side of *Seventh Ave.* btw. 49th & 50th Sts. Tours depart at 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. You can reserve by calling 212-361-9349, or see more details at www.newyorkpartys Shuttle.com.

Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Beyond

For descriptions of shows and playing schedules, consult the current edition of City Guide or log onto www.cityguidenyc.com. All information subject to change.

July closings *Doubt* (through 7/2); *A Light in the Piazza* (through 7/2); *Shining City* (through 7/16).

Coming soon *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*—A new musical comedy co-conceived by Martin Short along with *Hairspray* alums Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. Previews begin 7/28 for an 8/17 opening at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre.

Limited runs *Bridge & Tunnel* (through 8/6); *Faith Healer* (through 8/13); *History Boys* (through 10/1).



Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me

Destination! NYC



A new provider of upscale sightseeing and dining experiences, **Destination! NYC** (212-946-4885; www.destinationnyc.com) promises to provide your guests with an unsurpassed, exclusive and dynamic tour that captures the essence of what it means to be a New Yorker. They offer half-day (morning or afternoon), full-day, three-day, and customized tours focusing on Manhattan. During the entire tour, your guests will be led by one of Destination! NYC's licensed, knowledgeable and friendly tour guides. Tours include a private limousine service and chartered boats (when available). All dining, transportation, and attraction fees are included.

The Studio



In a unique experience in my ongoing exploration of New York City, I discovered **The Studio** (218 W. 29th St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves., 212-947-9347; www.jeanclaudeinnewyork.com), owned and operated by Jean Claude Mastroianni. Mr. Mastroianni, designer extraordinaire, has created a studio containing more than 10,000 pieces of vintage clothing, including costumes, couture, accessories, handbags, shoes, and jewelry. He can arrange clothing for any occasion, including photo shoots, television, film, and theatre, and his items have graced the pages of major fashion publications everywhere. For about \$300, Jean Claude will put together your rental outfit from head to toe, complete with accessories. (Visits are by appointment only.)

Jean Claude began collecting during his studies at Parsons School of Design, and continues to teach interns at the Fashion Institute of Technology. His pieces include one of the rare printed dresses Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis wore, and her famous pink Valentino suit, which is still scented with the aroma of "Fracas," her favorite perfume. Another of his prize possessions is a stunning silver-and-gold evening dress owned by Marilyn Monroe.

From gracing the covers of such magazines as *Vanity Fair* to outfitting pets and Barbie Doll designs, he is a one-man marvel. Original Chanel bags and dresses, the bra from Madonna's "Blonde Ambition" tour, and clothing worn by Cher, Linda Evans, and many other famous ladies are throughout The Studio. His "Legendary Ladies" collection includes clothing previously owned and worn by Audrey Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Grace Kelly, Bette Davis, Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, Vivien Leigh, Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth, Doris Day, and Joan Crawford. Many of these items can be modeled at special events, but are generally not rented out for an evening.

"Couture is an art and a skill," he says. "When you enter the atelier of a great couturier, you enter the studio of an artist." Jean Claude continues, "Fashion is a branch of the visual and performing arts. Clothes make a statement and costumes tell a story. That is why I collect and create fashion as works of art and have such a passion to share them with whoever shares my vision." Jean Claude is a master of his art, and provides an extraordinary service for concierges to have at their fingertips for those last-minute special requests that will make their guests feel like a star! Visit the showroom—it truly is as exciting as some of Manhattan's finest museums!

—Peter Johnson

Summer Events

Continued from Page 2

8/13: **Dominican Day Parade**, Sixth Ave. from 36th to 62nd St.

8/20: **India Independence Day Parade**, Madison Ave. from 41st to 23rd St.

8/27: **Pakistan Independence Day Parade**, Madison Avenue from 41st to 26th St.

Performance Festivals

Through 7/30: **Lincoln Center Festival 2006**, 212-721-6500, www.lincolncenter.org

Through 8/5: **Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival**, Prospect Park bandshell, 718-965-8999, www.celebratebrooklyn.org

Through 8/25: **River to River Festival 2006**, Various locations, 212-835-2789, www.rivertorivernyc.com

Through 9/6: **Central Park Summerstage**, Rumsey Playfield, 212-360-2777, www.summerstage.org

7/17-8/6: **Seventh Annual Midtown International Theatre Festival**, various locations, 212-868-4444, www.midtownfestival.org

8/4-27: **Lincoln Center Out of Doors**, 212-LINCOLN

8/19: **Harlem Week presents "Uptown Saturday Nite,"** W. 135th St. from Malcolm X Blvd. to St. Nicholas Ave.

Sports

7/16: **NYC Triathlon**, www.nyctri.com

7/23: **7th Annual Hudson River Swim** including the **Cove-to-Cove Swim** and the **Aquathon: Freedom Tower**, Battery Park City, 212-267-9700

7/27: **Rumble on the River** boxing series, Hudson River Park, 212-627-2020, www.hudsonriverpark.org

8/26: **Arthur Ashe Kids Day**, USTA National Tennis Center, Flushing, www.usopen.org

Theater

7/15-8/20: **Ice Factory 2006** theater festival, 66 Wooster St. btw. Spring & Broome Sts., 212-868-4444, www.sohothinktank.org/icefactory.html

8/1-2: **An Evening With Harry, Carrie and Garp**, Radio City Music Hall, 1260 Sixth Ave. at 50 St., 212-307-7171

8/11-27: **New York International Fringe Festival**, 212-279-4488, www.fringenyc.org

Street Festivals

Through 7/26: Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Pleasant Ave. btw. 114th & 117th Sts.)... **7/22: Fourth Avenue Summer Fest** (btw. 5th St. & Astor Pl.)... **7/23: Eastside Summer Festival** (Lexington Ave. btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)... **Motion Picture Club Festival** (Seventh Ave. btw. 47th & 57th Sts.)... **Theatre District Street Fair** (47th St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves.)... **7/28-30: Hermanos Fraternos de Loiza Aldea** (105th St. btw. Lexington & Park Aves.)... **7/30: 52nd Association Festival** (52nd St. btw. Lexington & Seventh Aves.)... **Tepeyac Sun Festival** (14th St. btw. Seventh & Eighth Aves.)... **8/5: Greenwich Avenue Street Fair** (Greenwich Ave. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves.)... **8/6: Festival of the Americas** (Sixth Ave. btw. 42nd & 56th Sts.)... **Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center Festival** (Columbus Ave. btw. 66th & 72nd Sts.)... **8/12: Greenwich Village Festival** (Greenwich Ave. btw. Sixth & Seventh Aves.)... **8/13: Madison Avenue Summer Fair** (btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)... **8/19: Summer Seaport Festival** (Water St. btw. Fulton & Broad Sts.)... **8/19-20: Harlem Week Uptown Saturday Night** (135th St. btw. Fifth & St Nicholas Aves.)... **8/20: India Day Festival** (Madison Ave. btw. 23rd & 26th Sts.)... **Lexington Avenue Summerfest** (Lexington Ave. btw. 42nd & 57th Sts.)... **8/26: Gramercy Park Neighborhood Festival** (Third Ave. btw. 14th & 23rd Sts.)... **8/27: Pakistani Day Festival** (Madison Ave. btw. 23rd to 26th Sts.)