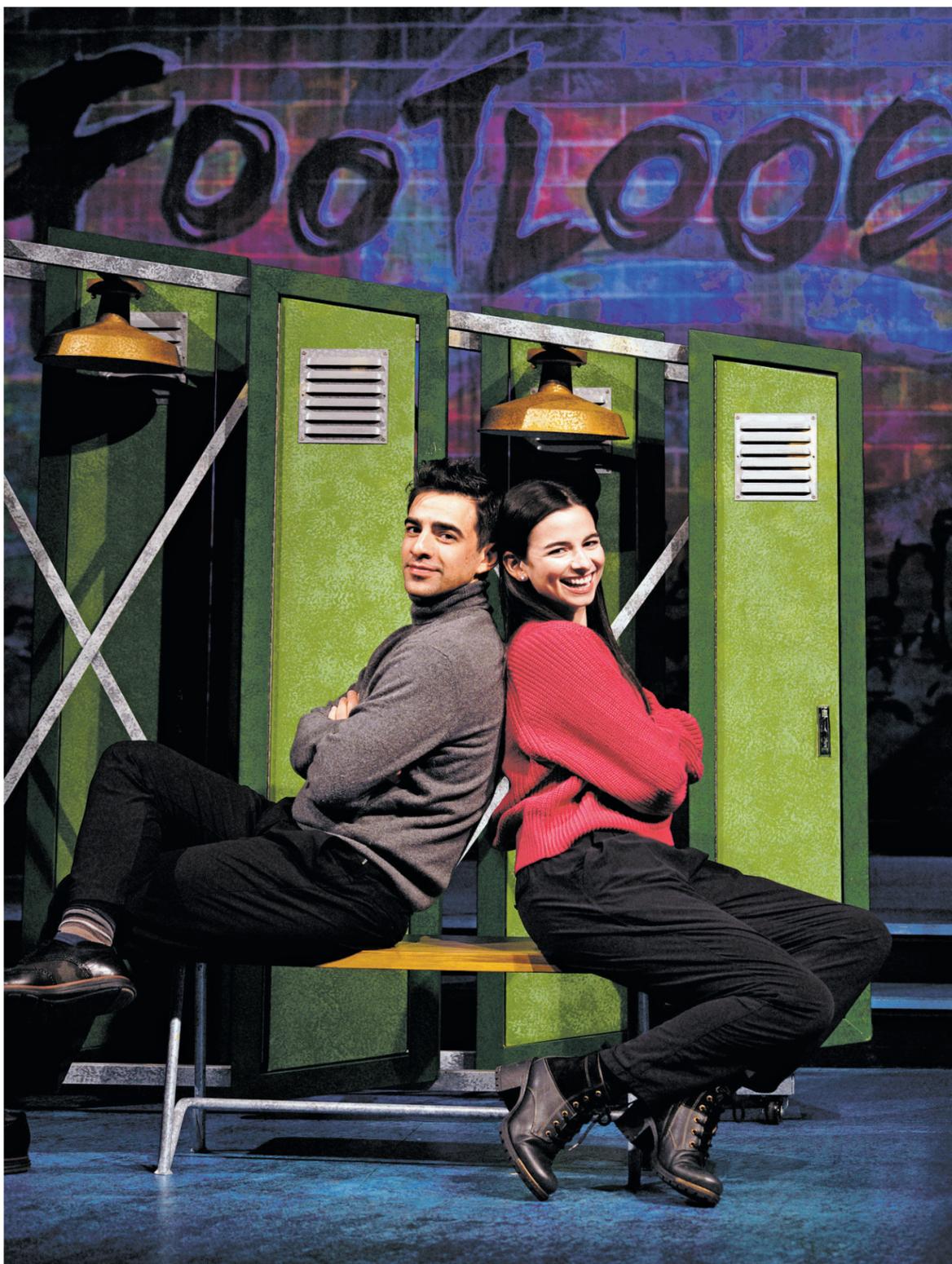


VARIETY



BRIAN PETERSON • brian.peterson@startribune.com

Rush Benson and Renee Guittar on the set of "Footloose," opening this week at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

'Wicked,' 'Hamilton,' 'Les Miz' on the way

Hennepin Theatres book an ambitious lineup of touring Broadway shows.

By ROHAN PRESTON
rohan.preston@startribune.com

Broadway shows, which have been on a stop-start roller coaster for two years, are scheduled to come to the Twin Cities in the 2022-23 season with a vengeance.

The Hennepin Theatre Trust has announced a lineup of high-wattage productions, including classics, new musicals and a play starring veteran actor Richard Thomas. Blockbusters "Wicked" and "Hamilton," an add-on to the season, each run for a month. Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical was slated to have been at the Orpheum Theatre nearly a year ago but got pushed back because of the pandemic.

As theaters have gotten back into something of a regular groove, they have seen a pent-up demand from patrons, said Mark Nerenhausen, president and CEO of Hennepin Theatre Trust, which presents touring Broadway in Minneapolis. Touring Broadway also had a backlog because of the pandemic.

"My gosh, talk about a circle of riches: We've got 16 weeks of some of the best shows that are touring the country right now plus the rescheduled 'Hamilton,'" said Nerenhausen. "The message is that we're back — and bigger and better than ever."

The new roster includes return engagements of "Wicked," "Les Misérables" and "Cats." The lineup also has shows that are new to the Twin Cities such as "Beetlejuice," "Tootsie," "Jagged Little Pill" and "Tina — The Tina Turner Musical."

The season kicks off with "Wicked," the 2003 prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" that has sold out repeat runs at the Orpheum. "Wicked," about sisterhood and social isolation, revolves around green-skinned Elphaba as she builds

See **BROADWAY** on E8 ▶



JOAN MARCUS
Talia Suskauer as Elphaba in "Wicked," which kicks off the Broadway series in July.

Dancing through life

"Footloose" choreographer Renee Guittar and actor/dancer husband Rush Benson believe their opposite personalities attract.

By ROHAN PRESTON • rohan.preston@startribune.com

Director Michael Brindisi did not know what he would get dance-wise on the first day of rehearsal of "Footloose."

Since 2004, he and choreographer Tamara Kangas Erickson, co-owners of Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, have worked in tandem to produce virtually all the main-stage shows at the nation's largest dinner theater.

But for "Footloose," which opens Friday, they tapped actor, dancer and choreographer Renee Guittar, who has previously created dances in several of Brindisi's shows, along with her husband, Rush Benson, to assist.

On the first day of rehearsals, Brindisi's safety mask hid some of his nervousness.

"The music came on and Renee choreographed the very first lyric that everybody knows, 'Footloose,' and the [usual] step was gone," Brindisi said. "I turned to [music director] Andy Kust and said, 'We're in good hands.' Renee and Rush are doing new stuff, different stuff, for today. They're fearless, and often go out on a limb where the good fruit is."

"Footloose," drawn from a 1984 film and 2011 remake, dances around a big-city heartthrob who moves to a small town that has banned dancing. The newcomer works to overturn the ban and gets some townspeople in a lather along the way.

The show, whose score includes Kenny Loggins' title song plus Deniece Williams' "Let's Hear It for the Boy" and Quiet Riot's "Bang Your Head (Metal Health)," marks a huge leap

See **'FOOTLOOSE'** on E8 ▶

'DEATH ON THE NILE' ★★★

Kenneth Branagh breathes new life into 'Death'

By CHRIS HEWITT • chris.hewitt@startribune.com

Think of "Death on the Nile" as a do-over for director/star Kenneth Branagh, who botched his "Murder on the Orient Express" but gets just about everything right with this second remake of an Agatha Christie novel/film.

The new "Nile" glitters from the witty 1978 adaptation, which features glittering performances from Peter Ustinov (as detective Hercule Poirot), Angela Lansbury and Maggie Smith. It's worth seeing for its snarky one-liners and sumptuous costumes and for one of Christie's cleverest feats of misdirection.

The new movie is not very amusing but a funnier version still exists so it makes sense to go in a different direction. This "Nile" invents a backstory for Poirot, exploring



the sentimental streak that was always there in the books. A flashback to World War I suggests why Poirot was especially sympathetic to the difficulties of young lovers and complements the mystery of "Death on the Nile," which takes place on a wedding cruise through Egypt, where the groom's ex makes a surprising and deadly appearance.

The air of melancholy also suits an unusually high corpse count for Christie, with almost half of the characters ending up in body bags. Everyone on the cruise ship has reason to think ill of the bride (Gal Gadot) or groom (Armie Hammer), including a blues singer (Sophie Okonedo, lip-syncing to Sister Rosetta Tharpe recordings), a society matron (Annette Bening) and the bride's social-aunt (comedian Jennifer Saunders, underscoring the

See **'DEATH'** on E2 ▶

Branching out with humor, rooted in feelings

“Redwood” tackles the country’s racial history from a place of love.

By ROHAN PRESTON
rohan.preston@startribune.com

“Redwood” was worth the wait.

Nearly two years after shutting down during previews because of the pandemic — with its set sitting onstage ever since — Jungle Theater’s production of Brittany K. Allen’s dramedy opened last weekend in Minneapolis.

Director H. Adam Harris’ smart and efficient staging unfolds on a candle-bedecked set as a frothy, over-the-top comedy in the first act and a touching drama in the second. Harris maximizes the humor before taking square aim at the heart.

He gets well-timed and nuanced performances from his cast, led by China Brickey, who delivers a beautifully chiseled turn as lead character Meg. The show has a versatile Greek chorus that includes Dwight Xaveir Leslie, who also plays a hip-hop dance class instructor; Dana Lee Thompson, who also depicts



Kevin Fanshaw, China Brickey, Bruce A. Young and Thomasina Petrus in “Redwood.”

family matriarch Alameda; Morgen Chang, who doubles as a stepmom; and the inimitable Max Wojtanowicz, playing an insouciant barista and an old slave owner.

“Redwood” orbits interracial Baltimore couple Meg, a Black teacher, and Drew (Kevin Fanshaw), a white doctoral candidate in physics. Always ready to start dancing together, these two hipsters are secretly shacking up to the consternation of Meg’s

mother, Beverly (Thomasina Petrus), a practicing Christian.

The couple’s rhythms are disturbed after Beverly’s fraternal twin, Uncle Stevie (Bruce A. Young), discovers that the youngsters may be literal kissing cousins: Drew’s family owned Meg’s family during slavery.

Playwrights are often among the world’s deftest smugglers, slipping weighty matters into the theater on the backs of light comedy. Think

“Tartuffe” and its withering attack on religious hypocrisy. Allen’s play is less bracing, coming from a place of intimacy and love.

But its subject — the buried history around slavery that exerts a powerful though unseen gravitational influence on those walking above ground — is becoming increasingly popular and more personal as people use genealogical research to unlock family histories.

In “Redwood,” such a pursuit undoes the stories that the families of Meg and Drew tell about themselves.

Talking to Meg in her kitchen, Beverly tells her daughter that Alameda, the family’s founding ancestor, was from the Ivory Coast. Meg is wary.

“Apparently, these kind and decent people took her in?” Beverly says.

“Took her in? Mom!”

“Look, you need to give me a break, Little Miss Black Panther. Some kind and decent people bought her.”

Historical frames also tie the tongue of Drew, who only knows that his family has done noble things for foreigners. As Uncle Stevie shows Drew his genealogical research in a coffee shop, the blood leaves his face.

“I don’t wanna know any more,” Drew pleads.

There’s a lot of music in “Redwood,” including songs by Bruno Mars used for a hip-hop class. But the song that could also have been used is Sister Sledge’s “We Are Family.” “Redwood” is named for the world’s tallest tree and one whose roots are entangled with other trees.

Redwood

By: Brittany K. Allen. Directed by H. Adam Harris.

When: 7:30 p.m. Tue.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Ends March 13.

Where: Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Av. S., Mpls.

Protocol: Vaccine or negative test, along with masks, required.

Tickets: Pay-as-you-can (\$45 recommended), jungletheater.org.

The play’s major nit is its false ending. The lovers also describe each other as their persons, which stands out because it sounds so studied.

Allen wrote “Redwood” after the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Now the play has opened days after another traumatizing killing, this one of Amir Locke in downtown Minneapolis, just 2 miles from the theater.

Those bookends show that the voids that “Redwood” seeks to fill — including in knowledge and understanding — remain as urgent as ever.

Rohan Preston • 612-673-4390

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Universal Pictures

Kat Valdez (Jennifer Lopez) falls for Charlie Gilbert (Owen Wilson) at first sight in “Marry Me.”

A rom-com fit for J.Lo

A megastar tries to balance a love life amid the trappings of fame. Sound familiar?

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

It’s refreshing to see Jennifer Lopez make a return to the rom-com fold, playing a character who just makes sense for her: a global pop superstar.

But it’s not just a professional life that Lopez shares with her character, Kat Valdez, in “Marry Me.” She brings authenticity to her portrayal, and that’s a good thing.

Superstar Kat and Bas-

Marry Me

★ ★ ½ stars out of 4

Rating: PG-13 for some language and suggestive material.

Where: In theaters and streaming Friday on Peacock.

tian (Colombian pop singer Maluma) are supposed to have a huge concert before saying their wedding vows. But she is publicly humiliated when she discovers Bastian’s infidelity, an illicit smooch caught on camera.

In a moment of desperation, Kat sees a sign in the crowd, held by a math teacher and single dad, Charlie Gilbert (Owen

Wilson), reading “Marry Me?” She says yes and the two get married onstage, at first sight, in front of the whole world.

As Kat and Charlie attempt to maintain their dignity, they grapple with the high-visibility expectations placed on Kat and the newfound attention Charlie doesn’t want.

Though the situation is far from realistic, “Marry Me” is dynamically directed by Kat Coiro, swiftly paced and emotionally grounded. The belief in the power of love, not that it conquers all, but that it can, and will, bloom again, is the beating heart of the movie, which is otherwise a frothy and deeply silly rom-com.

Breathing new life into ‘Death’

◀ “DEATH” from El moody tone by never once being funny). So there are plenty of suspects.

For reasons that have little to do with the film, the most suspect of the suspects may be the groom. Branagh made “Death on the Nile” well before “Belfast” but its 2020 release was repeatedly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of Hammer, whose private life made salacious headlines. Fortunately, he’s not too distracting in a colorless role.

Poirot often said he could solve any mystery without leaving his chair but “Orient Express” tried to reinvent him as a geriatric action hero, gal-

Death on the Nile

★★★ out of 4 stars

Rated: PG-13 for violence.

Where: In area theaters.

ivanting around Europe on the trail of a killer. Branagh abandons that here, in favor of a psychological portrait of someone realizing that the life he has chosen is a lonely one. Poirot can claim he’s through with love but, as the saying goes, denial is not just a river in Egypt that he’s cruising on in a ship that looks like a floating chandelier.

Branagh plays fair with viewers, lingering over crucial clues to make sure they

register, and he gives “Nile” a sense of place that the 1978 film lacked. I love that movie, which is larkier than the current one. But I prefer Branagh’s earnest performance to Ustinov’s tongue-in-cheek one because the former makes clear that there’s lots more to reveal about the character.

The actor captures the gravity and romantic spirit of Poirot, who realizes some important truths in this story and who said, in Agatha Christie’s “Death on the Nile” although not in this movie: “It is not the past that matters but the future.”

Chris Hewitt • 612-673-4367

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

EMAGINE WILLOW CREEK: “My Bloody Valentine,” 7:30 p.m. Mon. 9900 Shelard Pkwy., Plymouth. \$6. emagine-entertainment.com.

HEIGHTS THEATER: “North by Northwest,” 7:30 p.m. Mon., “Cry Danger,” 7:30 p.m. Thu. 3951 Central Av. NE., Columbia Heights. \$12. heightstheater.com.

COMP FILM SOCIETY: Virtual: “France” and “Hive (Zjoi).” Viewers have 48 hours to watch films. St. Anthony Main Theatre, 115 SE. Main St., Mpls. \$9-\$12. mspfilm.org.

PARKWAY THEATER: “West Side Story,” 1 p.m. Sat.; “Romeo + Juliet,” 8 p.m. Mon.; “The Princess Bride,” 8 p.m. Thu. \$5-\$12. theparkwaytheater.com.

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA OMNITHEATER: “Omnifest” and “Not The Science Type,” ends March 6; “Dinosaurs of Antarctica,” ongoing. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed., Thu. and Sun. Check website for availability. \$3-\$9.95. 120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. new.smm.org/omnitheater.

TRYLON CINEMA: “Kagemusha,” 7 p.m. today-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun.; “Odd Man Out,” 6 p.m. Sun., 7 & 9:15 p.m. Mon.-Tue.; “Hunan Highway,” 7 p.m. Wed.; “Hello Again - Ein Tag Für Immer,” 7 p.m. Thu. (gaimn.org/calendar/kino), 2820 E. 33rd St., Mpls. \$8-\$12. trylon.org.

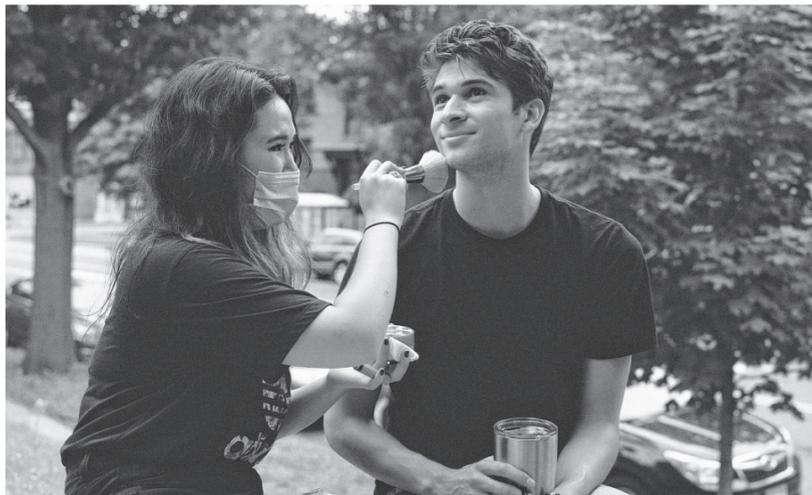
WALKER ART CENTER: 2022 Film Independent Spirit Awards ends Feb. 19; “Virtually Asian & Beirut Outtakes,” ends Feb. 22. Free. 725 Vineland Place, Mpls. walkerart.org.

ARTCETERA

Remember what July looks like?

Shot two summers ago in the middle of a pandemic, “Undergrads” is appearing this week (still in a pandemic) at the San Francisco Independent Film Festival. Henry Sibley High School grads John Cronin, Dillon Orth and Andrew Zuckerman filmed the comedy/drama at Sibley and various St. Paul locations. Movie fans can see the result through Sunday at the festival, which is both in-person and virtual. “Undergrads” is a hangout movie, modeled on Richard Linklater’s “Slackers,” that drifts among a group of friends and friends-of-friends on the verge of life changes such as moving to New York, ending a romance or planning a career. Despite sound issues, the performances are excellent and the locations — including Bogey’s Lounge and the instantly recognizable mural on the side of Thomas Liquors — are fun to spot. A \$10 virtual ticket lets you see them — plus a timely reminder of what a sunny, green July in Minnesota looks like. Details at sfindiefest2022.eventive.org.

CHRIS HEWITT



RUDY GAPINSKI

Livia Caligor applied makeup to Trace Guzmán during filming of “Undergrads.”

The prodigal cherry returns home

Minneapolis’ iconic “Spoonbridge and Cherry” will be reunited next Friday. The 1,200-pound red aluminum cherry left for New York in mid-November to get a new coat of paint at Fine Art Finishes, a company that specializes in repainting the works of Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, whose work has been the centerpiece of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden since 1988. The cherry will be lowered and bolted back into place around 11 a.m. Feb. 18 — there to remain another 10 years or so before it needs a paint job again.

ALICIA ELER

of Minneapolis. Designed by

Leon Aral, the architect behind the Foshay Tower (also on the list), this Italian Renaissance Revival beauty has graciously presided over the southern end of Loring Park since 1928. Check it out this weekend, when former “Prairie Home” regular Sue Scott hosts a live recording of her “Island of Discarded Women” podcast there with writer Carolyn Holbrook as guest. (2 p.m. Sun., \$20, islandofdiscardedwomen.com)



Sue Scott

RICK NELSON

A last hug for Louie

Pauly Shore was most likely the last comic to bid farewell to Louie Anderson. And that’s appropriate. His mother, the late Mitzi Shore, ran the famed Comedy Store in Los Angeles and was one of the first gatekeepers to recognize Anderson’s talent. The “Encino Man” star visited Anderson a few hours before the beloved Minnesotan died last month. “I wanted him to see a loving face,” Shore said last weekend after performing at the Mall of America’s House of Comedy. “I told him that my mom loved him.” Louie recognized him, and they shared a goodbye kiss and hug. “I cried,” Shore said, adding that he expects his mom’s former club to host some kind of tribute to Anderson, as it did for the late Bob Saget.

NEAL JUSTIN

New hire at Mia

The Minneapolis Institute of Art has hired its first chief diversity and inclusion officer. Virajita Singh, who worked as associate vice provost in the University of Minnesota’s Office of Equity and Diversity, will begin her new role in March. Trained as an architect, Singh has worked in India and the United States.

A.E.

Gehry on the Weisman

In November, the University of Minnesota’s College of Design launched its Kusske Lecture & Dialogue Series with architecture’s biggest boldfaced name: Frank Gehry. Now a video of that discussion — led by Jennifer Yoo, head of the U’s School of Architecture and a principal of Minneapolis-based JVAA — is available to the world. Yes, the force behind the world-famous Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain talks about his first museum commission, the U’s Weisman Art Museum. Watch it at bit.ly/3ATawjB.

R.N.

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OUR FRIDAY BEST

Dessa

Minnesota's favorite Renaissance woman went all Roman on us last year with "Ides," a project in which she released a new track on the "ides" (the middle) of successive months. (Remember, Julius Caesar was killed on the ides of March.) After a fall tour, Dessa kicks off her 2022 concert dates in her hometown, with a new band. Songs from "Ides" — it's hard not to like the squiggly "I Already Like You" — figured prominently in last year's set lists. Meanwhile, Dessa is back with Season 2 of her podcast "Deeply Human," conversing with psychologists, mathematicians, DJs and animal behaviorists to ask, "Why do you do what you do?" Mayy-adda opens. (8 p.m. Sun., First Avenue, 701 1st Av. N., Mpls., \$35, first-avenue.com)

JON BREAM

'Carolyn Lazard: Long Take'

Opening Saturday at Walker Art Center, the first solo U.S. museum show by New York/Philadelphia-based artist Lazard focuses on the polarities of care and harm in relation to disability and Blackness. It includes a moving image and seating arrangement that mysteriously documents a performance without revealing any footage. Instead, the final product is text and sound, forcing viewers to reconsider the way artworks are made accessible, and to whom. The gallery will be covered with vinyl flooring mats. Altered benches make the space more comfortable. (11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun., 11-9 next Thu., 725 Vineland Place, Mpls., \$2-\$15, walkerart.org)

ALICIA ELER

Paul Taylor Dance Company

The Northrop Centennial Commission is set to premiere "A Call for Softer Landings," choreographed by Paul Chu, when this famed troupe takes the stage. Chu has been a dancer with Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite's company Kidd Pivot and was a guest choreographer on Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance." The company also will perform two works from its repertory, created by Paul Taylor, who died in 2018: "Airs," with music by Handel, and "Promethean Fire," set to three keyboard works by J.S. Bach. (7:30 p.m. Sat., Northrop, 84 SE Church St., Mpls., \$41-\$62, 612-624-2345, northrop.umn.edu)

SHEILA REGAN



Paul Taylor Dance Company's "Promethean Fire," on stage at Northrop auditorium on Saturday.

PAUL B. GOODE



JEFF WHEELER • Star Tribune

Dessa plays First Avenue on Sunday.



SHAWN BRACKBILL

The War on Drugs comes to the Palace for a two-night stand.

Lewis Black

The pandemic probably wants to make you throw a fit. Maybe it's better to sit back, relax and let the master throw a fit for you. Black, who has been nominated for his third Grammy, may not be as popular as he was when he regularly blew a gasket on "The Daily Show," but he hasn't lost his edge. Each show on his latest tour, appropriately titled "Off the Rails," concludes with a livestreaming section called "The Rant Is Due," in which the comic shares the audience's gripes with the rest of the world. Have your list

ready. (8 p.m. Sat., Mystic Lake Casino, Prior Lake, \$39-\$99, mysticlake.com)

NEAL JUSTIN

'Cabarave: Love Languages'

If your Valentine's Day urges lean toward the floaty and twisty, consider this evening of aerial arts, music, painting and dance. Five acts promise a sexy and unusual program to get pulses racing. The rest is up to you. (8 p.m. Sat. & Mon., Brother Justus Whiskey Co., 3300 NE 5th St., Mpls., \$25, rathausproductions.com)

CHRIS HEWITT



Pitch Perfect

Lucy Dacus plays First Avenue next Thursday.



Sweatshirt

Action Bronson & Earl Sweatshirt

These two rabble-rousing underground rap stars, both of whom have teetered on mainstream success, make a good fit for a co-headlining tour. Brawny NYC native and Viceland TV star Bronson tops off the schedule after building up his reputation on tour. But Los Angeles' Sweatshirt — who has also put on some wild shows here with Tyler, the Creator and their Odd Future crew — is riding a strong buzz for his more tempered and contemplative but still lyrical pandemic album "Sick." The Alchemist and Brody James open. (7 p.m. Sat., Fillmore, 525 N. 5th St., Mpls., \$60 & up, ticketmaster.com)

CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER

Slobodeniouk and Skride with the Minnesota Orchestra

Let the final round of auditions begin for the Minnesota Orchestra's next music director. Within a month, three increasingly ubiquitous guest conductors will make their final local stops of the season, starting with Russian-born Finn Dima Slobodeniouk. The complete ballet music from Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird" should be a fine forum for his talents, while Mozart's Fourth Violin Concerto may do the same for the excellent Latvian violinist Baiba Skride. (8 p.m. Fri.-Sat., Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Mpls., \$35-\$109, 612-371-5656 or minnesotaorchestra.org)

ROB HUBBARD

Lucy Dacus

After cutting loose in the indie supergroup Boygenius with Phoebe Bridgers and Julien Baker in 2018, Dacus refocused her candid songwriting style on her more personal and ambitious third album, "Home Video," a concept record of sorts revisiting the sweet and sour memories of her youth in Richmond, Va. Also an inventive guitarist, she musters up a lot of power in concert. Saddle Creek Records' rising star Indigo De Souza opens. (8:30 p.m. next Thu., First Avenue, sold out except for resale)

C.R.

Note: Please contact venues for the latest information on cancellations or postponements.

MUSIC

POPULAR

EXCISION: 8 p.m. today-Sat. The Armory, 500 S. 6th St., Mpls. 1-800-982-2787.
JENNIFER ECKES AND ARNE FOGEL: 7:30 p.m. Sat. Phipps Center for the Arts, 109 Locust St., Hudson, Wis. 1-715-386-8409.
KUNG FU HIPPIES: 8 p.m. today. \$20-\$40. Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Av. S., Mpls. 612-822-8080.
MARIACHI VARGAS DE TECALITLAN: 8 p.m. today. \$49-\$124. State Theatre, 805 Hennepin Av. S., Mpls. 1-800-982-2787.
MONROE CROSSING: 4 p.m. Sun. Free, but advance registration required. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lynedale Av. S., Mpls. 612-312-3400.

CLASSICAL

DAKOTA VALLEY SYMPHONY: 3 p.m. Sun. \$20-\$30. Ames Center, 12600 Nicollet Av. S., Burnsville. 952-895-4680.
MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA: Dima Slobodeniouk conducts works by Chin, Mozart and Stravinsky with violinist Baiba Skride. 8 p.m. today-Sat. \$35-\$104. Winter Chamber Music. Musicians play works by Villa-Lobos, Reich and Schubert. 4 p.m. Sun. \$32. Orchestra Hall, 11th St. and Nicollet Mall, Mpls. 612-371-5656.

CLUBS

318 CAFE: Jeff Dayton. 8 p.m. today. \$25; Ali Gray. 8 p.m. Sat. \$15. 318 Water St., Excelsior. 952-401-7902.
331 CLUB: Midwestern Standard, Jackson Atkins and Jeff Larson. 10 p.m. today; Gabe Barnett. 10 p.m. Sat. 331 13th Av. NE, Mpls. 612-331-1746.
AMSTERDAM: Niice, Thank You I'm Sorry, Gramma and Double Grave. 7 p.m. today. \$15. 6 W. 6th St., St. Paul. 651-222-3990.
BLAINE VFW: Rockin Hollywoods. 7 p.m. Sat. 1374 109th Av. NE, Blaine. 763-757-4540.
BUNKERS: Alex Rossi. 9 p.m. today; Chase & Ovation. 9:30 p.m. Sat.; Dr. Mambo's Combo. 9:30 p.m. Sun. 761 Washington Av. N., Mpls. 612-338-8188.
CROONERS: Arne Fogel. 6:30 p.m. today; Cate Fiero. 8 p.m. today; Andrew Walesch & His Orchestra. 4 p.m. Sat., 7 p.m. Sun.; Jennifer Grimm. 7 p.m. Sat. 1601 W. University Av., St. Paul. 651-647-0486.
VARSITY: Knuckle Puck. 6:30 p.m. Sat. 1308 SE. 4th St., Mpls. 612-604-0222.
WICKED WORT: Carl Davis. 7:30 p.m. today; Scotty Reed Band. 7:30 p.m. Sat. 4165 W. Broadway, Robbinsdale. 763-504-9977.

ON STAGE

OPENING

THEATRE IN THE ROUND: "Marjorie Prime." An elderly woman embraces the age of artificial intelligence. 7:30 p.m. today-Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. Ends March 6. 245 Cedar Av. S., Mpls. 612-333-3010.

CONTINUING

CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATRES: "Footloose." 8 p.m. today; 1 & 8 p.m. Sat.; 6:30 p.m. Sun. \$53-\$78. Ends Sept. 24. 501 W. 78th St., Chanhassen. 952-934-1525.
HISTORY THEATRE: "Not for Sale." A rising star in Twin Cities real estate puts his career on the line to represent families of color. 7:30 p.m. today-Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. Ends Feb. 27. 30 E. 10th St., St. Paul. 651-292-4323.
MYSTERY CAFE: "Hollywood's Most Wanted." 7 p.m. today. \$71.50. Ends Feb.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

MUSIC

BACK CATALOG LISTENING PARTY: Hosts Mother Banjo and Anthony Ihrig. 4 p.m. today. Facebook and YouTube.
JAZZ FEST LIVE: No Room for Squares. 7 p.m. Thu. crowdcast.io/tcjazzfestival.

THEATER

JAMES SEWELL BALLET: "JSB Sweetener." A virtual performance and benefit. 5 p.m. today. \$50-\$150. jsballet.org.
WALKING SHADOW THEATRE COMPANY: "Reboot." Online play with puzzles. Ends Feb. 27. \$30-\$60. walkingshadow.org.

ART

CIRCA GALLERY: "Road Games." Works by Kathleen Waterloo. Ends March 18. circagallery.org.
MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART: Virtual public tour led by guide. 1 p.m. Sat.; 1 p.m. Tue. artsmia.org.
ROBBIN GALLERY: "Crossing Boundaries." Silk paintings and batiks by Jeanne Aaron and mixed media paintings by Andrea Canter. Ends Feb. 26. robbingallery.org.
SUSAN HENSEL GALLERY: "Talk to Me." Works by Ingrid Restemayer. Ends March 15. artsy.net.

Monster Jam

Stalled for two years by the pandemic, Grave Digger, Bad Company, Saigon Shaker, Kraken and other oversized vehicles rev up their engines and return to the dirt at U.S. Bank Stadium. See air-defying stunts during the stadium championship series that includes drivers Mark List and Cynthia Gauthier. (7 p.m. Sat., 1 p.m. Sun., 900 S. 5th St., Mpls. ticketmaster.com)

MELISSA WALKER

The War on Drugs

Having mined the Dylan/Springsteen/Petty/Knopfler

classic-rock vein for 15 or so years, these Grammy-winning indie-rockers from Philly dropped "I Don't Live Here Anymore" last year. The record glistens with more synthesizers than usual, but frontman Adam Granduciel and pals pack in enough hooks, guitar fireworks and passionately introspective musings to win over the faithful. The highlight is the title track, featuring guests Lucius and a flashback to a Dylan concert before the love faded. (8:30 p.m. Tue.-Wed., Palace Theatre, 17 W. 7th Place, St. Paul, \$40-\$56, first-avenue.com)

J.B.

p.m. Sun. Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. 952-979-1111.

CABARET

BRYANT-LAKE BOWL: "Junkyard Cabaret." With Mistress Ginger. 7 p.m. today-Sat. \$22. 810 W. Lake St., Mpls. 612-825-8949.

COMEDY

ACME COMEDY COMPANY: Nate Abshire. 7 & 9:30 p.m. today-Sat. \$28. Ends Sat. 708 N. 1st St., Mpls. 612-338-6393.
FITZGERALD THEATER: Ronny Chieng. 9:30 p.m. today. 10 E. Exchange St., St. Paul. 651-290-1221.
GUTTY'S COMEDY CLUB: Jake Ruble. 7:30 p.m. today-Sat. \$20. Southdale Center, 66th St. and France Av. S., Edina. 952-582-1699.
HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST: Valentine's

ART

MUSEUMS

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART: "Venice in the 1700s." Ends Oct. 16. "British Watercolor Landscapes." Ends June 5. "Parallel Lines: New Textile Masterworks Inspired by Geometry." Ends Aug. 28. 2400 3rd Av. S., Mpls. 612-870-3000.
MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART: "Cosmist Reconstructions - Memories of Earth." Works by Andrea Stanislav. Ends Feb. 27. "The Portrait Tells a Story: Lloyd Patterson in Soviet Russia." Ends March 20. "Sergei and Aleksei Tkachev: Masters of Russian Realist Art." Ends March 20. \$5-\$14. 5500 Stevens Av. S., Mpls. 612-821-9045.
WALKER ART CENTER: "Carolyn Lazard: Long Take." Installation. Ends Dec. 11. "David Hockney: People, Places & Things." Portraits and landscapes. Ends Aug. 21. "Julie Mehretu." Drawings, paintings and prints. Ends March 6. "Shen Xin: Bine Lake (A New Body)." Ends June 3. \$10-\$15. 725 Vineland Place, Mpls. 612-375-7600.

ARTISTRIES

ART CENTER: Inez Greenberg Gallery: "On Belonging." Works by Lois Bielefeld and Nirmal Raja. Ends Feb. 19. 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington.

Day Comedy Jam. With DeRay Davis, DC Young Fly, Chico Bean, Karlous Miller, Michael Blackson and Lil Duval. 8 p.m. Sat. \$59-\$129. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Av. S., Mpls. 1-800-982-2787.
RUNNING ACES HARNESS PARK AND CASINO: Nathan Hults. With Jodie Maruska and Shannan Paul. 6:30 & 9 p.m. Sat. \$30. Running Aces Harness Park, 15201 Zurich St., Columbus. 651-925-4600.

DANCE

COLLIDE THEATRICAL DANCE COMPANY: 7:30 p.m. today-Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun. \$25-\$45. Ends Feb. 19. Collide Cabaret Space, 755, St. Paul. 651-395-7903.
THE HOOK & LADDER THEATER & LOUNGE: Duniya Drum & Dance. 7 p.m. Sat. \$20. Ends Sat. 3010 Minnehaha Av. S., Mpls. 612-345-7166.

FOCI MINNESOTA CENTER FOR GLASS ART: "From Darkness Into Light: Claude Riedel and the Art of the Ner Tamid." Ends March 27. 2213 Snelling Av. S., Mpls. 612-759-8476.
RUMRIVER ART CENTER: "Commemoration and Inspiration." Works by Heather Barr. Ends Feb. 27. 2665 4th Av., Anoka. 763-323-8830.

COLLEGES

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA: Goldstein Museum of Design: "Totally Radical: Designing the 1980s." Gallery 241 Ends May 27. 1985 Buford Av., St. Paul.

GALLERIES

BURNET FINE ART & ADVISORY: "Winter Exhibition." Prints, drawings, sculpture and paintings by various artists. Ends March 26. 775 E. Lake St., Wayzata. 952-473-8333.
GROVELAND GALLERY: "Scenic Route." Works by Greg Graham. Ends Feb. 26. 25 Groveland Terrace, Mpls. 612-377-7800.

COMICS

BLONDIE DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE LYNN JOHNSTON



PICKLES BRIAN CRANE



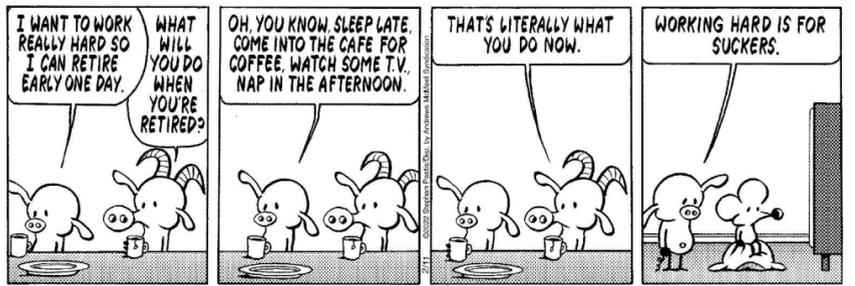
JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO AND MIKE MANLEY



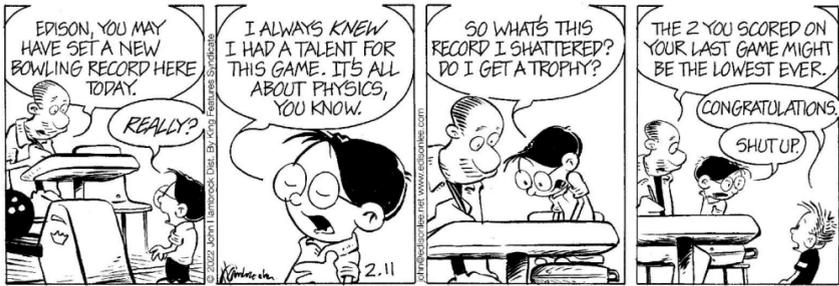
DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE JOHN HAMBROCK

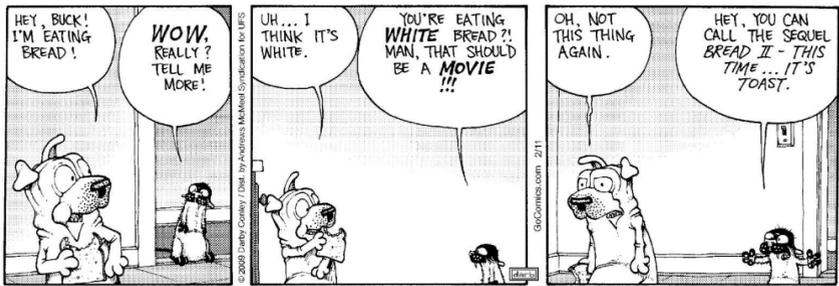


GARFIELD JIM DAVIS



GET FUZZY DARBY CONLEY

Darby Conley is on vacation. These strips have previously run.



SALLY FORTH FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE



BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



HEART OF THE CITY STEENZ

Steenz is on vacation. These strips have previously run.



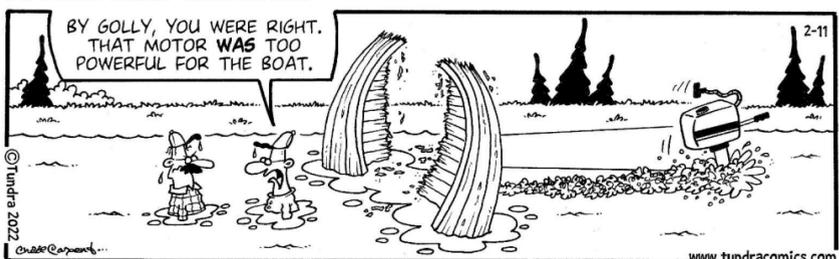
BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



ONE BIG HAPPY RICK DETORIE



TUNDRA CHAD CARPENTER



CRANKSHAFT TOM BATIUK AND CHUCK AYERS



ZITS JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman are on vacation. These strips have previously run.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM MIKE PETERS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE HILARY PRICE



MISTER BOFFO JOE MARTIN



COMICS & GAMES

PEANUTS CHARLES SCHULZ



ARLO 'N' JANIS JIMMY JOHNSON



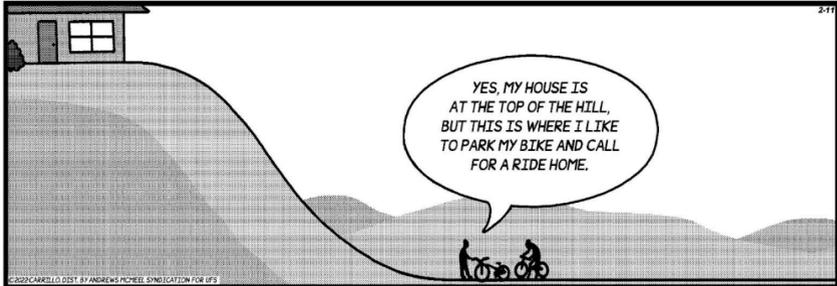
MARK TRAIL JULES RIVERA



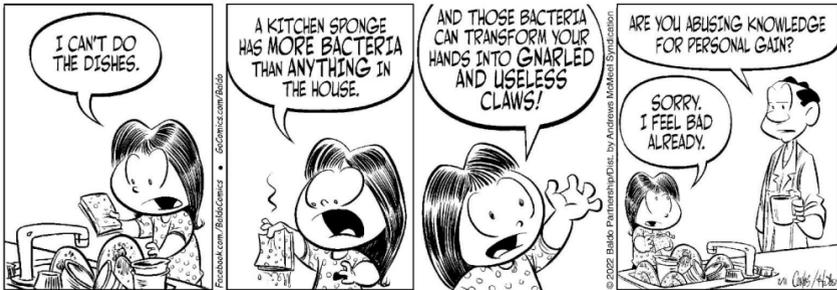
JUMP START ROBB ARMSTRONG



F MINUS TONY CARRILLO



BALDO HECTOR CANTU AND CARLOS CASTELLANOS



HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE CHRIS BROWNE



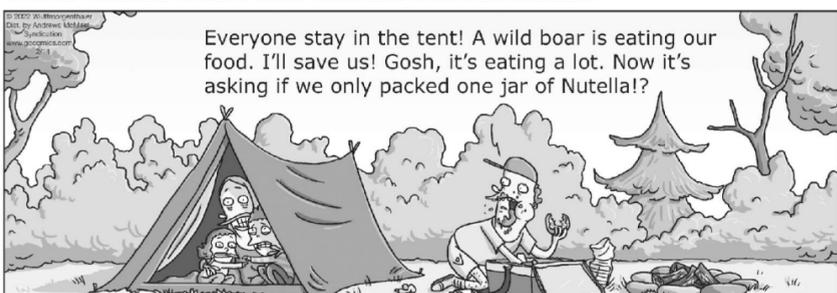
HI AND LOIS BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



BETLE BAILEY MORT AND GREG WALKER



WUMO MIKAEL WULFF AND ANDERS MORGENTHALER



HOROSCOPE HOLIDAY MATHIS

Your birthday today: Grab the wheel if you must, but you'll find this year quite un-steerable. Handle it like an ice skid... HOROSCOPE (June 22-July 22). As others run from responsibility, you run toward it. Work is an essential part of who you are and your need for it is more ample than your need for play or rest. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Money is important, but not the most important, and certainly shouldn't have the emphasis that certain people around you seem to give it. Chasing the dollar leads to hollow victory at best. Center your goals on helping. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When guests leave your home, you see them to the door, a gesture to soothe the transition and prevent emptiness from settling into the separation. You'll metaphorically enact this lovely gesture in other settings. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You allow yourself to be unserious and people relax around you. The spirits of playfulness, laughter and creativity will be your constant companions. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will receive a blessing of sorts. It won't be from a religious official, and it won't happen in a formal context. You will feel the energy of this blessing open something up in you. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People will have a strong need to categorize you, only because they're trying to figure out where you fit into their lives. Just don't let them define you. You define you, and that definition is ever evolving. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If love is a game, this will be a prize-winning round. Hand on the buzzer, you're ready to come up with the right answer. Make your move. Don't wait to be sure. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Artistic expression is stress relief. A regular creative practice will net you a calmer and more centered existence with the bonus of being masterful at your craft. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have your choice of a few different investments. It will be better to invest in a person than it will in an object or commodity. Tonight: Fortune favors you when you express your love in actions instead of words. If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page.

WUZZLES TOM UNDERWOOD

Each Wuzzle is a rebus — a word riddle created from combinations of words, letters, syllables, figures or symbols, positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

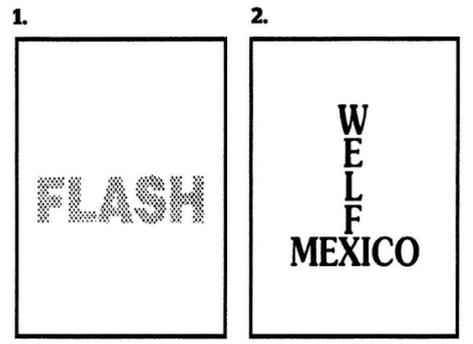
Example: NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

Print your answers here:

- 1. _____
2. _____

Today's answers:

1. Flashlight 2. Flew up from Mexico



CRYPTOQUIP

Each letter stands for another. If you think X=O, for example, it would equal O throughout the puzzle.

SUSCTVNOT NJ KT VINEP AR RNUIAJY

ZIYSVCZ ZJO EZIEXIXR LCNVISKR IAPS

Today's cryptoquip clue: T equals Y

KZO. AG'R KZGM MTRGSCAZI

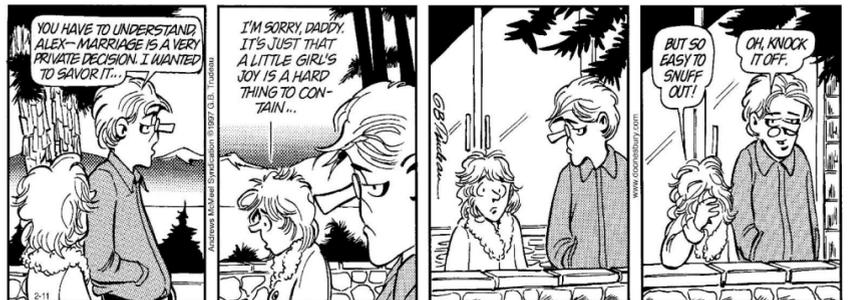
Thursday's answer: Popular candy bar being manufactured in the shape of a legendary loch monster: Nessie Crunch.

LUANN GREG EVANS



DOONESBURY GARRY TRUDEAU

Garry Trudeau is on hiatus. These strips have previously run.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



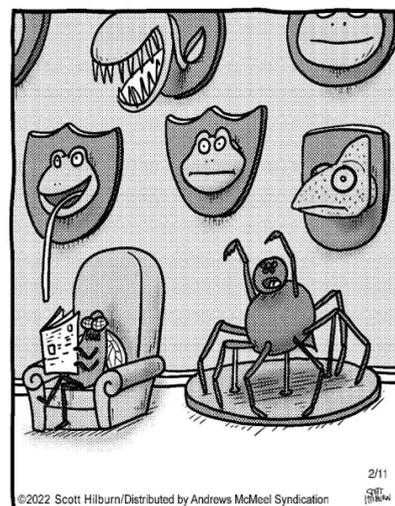
"You hafta leave the Band-Aid on or the shoe will leak out."

DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM

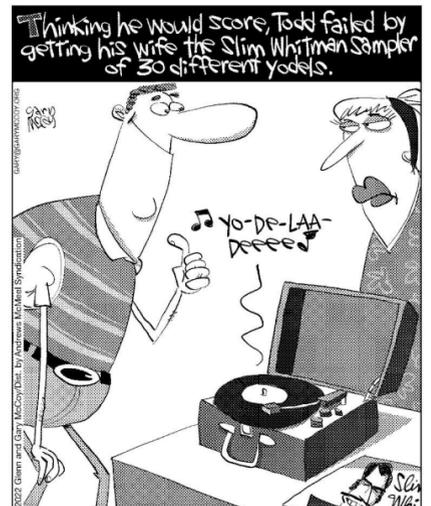


"Why did you act up at dinner, Dennis?" "I needed an ESCAPE PLAN!"

ARGYLE SWEATER SCOTT HILBURN



FLYING MCCOYS GLENN AND GARY MCCOY



MEDIA

NEW MUSIC REVIEWS

Mitski goes electronic and looks inward on 'Laurel Hell'

POP Mitski, "Laurel Hell" (Dead Oceans)



"Let's step carefully into the dark," Mitski sings to begin her new album, and continues, "Once we're in, I'll remember my way around."

Strategic, sure-footed, vulnerable and prepared to face all sorts of trouble: That sums up Mitski's songwriting as it has unfolded on the

albums she has been making since she was a music student in 2012. Over the decade she has chronicled yearnings, frustrations, messy romances, the life of a performer and the persistence of doubts and questions. Along the way, her music has moved through piano-centered orchestral pop, guitar-driven indie-rock and, with "Be the Cowboy" in 2018, a willingness to try for pop bangers.

On "Laurel Hell," Mitski takes just half a step back from that extroversion. Largely electronic and inward-looking, the album is filled with a pandemic-era sense of isolation, regret and reassess-

ment. Yet she doesn't entirely reject pop gloss, especially when she can give it an ironic twist.

Her new songs grapple with depression, uncertainty, dependence and separation; she's constantly observing and interrogating herself. Her melodies are long-breathed and deliberate, sung with calm determination, while the arrangements veer between austere, exposed meditations and perky, danceable propulsion.

Throughout "Laurel Hell," Mitski, now 31, both misses and rejects her youthful naiveté. In "Working for the Knife," she struggles to pull herself out of a creative

block: "I always thought the choice was mine," she sings, "And I was right, but I just chose wrong."

Mitski deploys a full pop arsenal in "Love Me More." Its title is concise and hook-ready; But the music's confidence utterly belies the raw longing in the lyrics. She's trying to discover the will to go on, fighting anxiety, wondering how everyone else gets through "another day to come, then another day to come," and begging for someone who can "drown it out, drown me out." All of her musical command can't stave off the dark.

JON PARELES, New York Times

NEW RELEASES

- Eddie Vedder, "Earthling"
Big Thief, "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You"
Spoon, "Lucifer on the Sofa"
Alt-J, "The Dream"

NIELSEN RATINGS

Olympics captures gold, silver, bronze

Here are the top 20 broadcast TV shows for the week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6 (Monday to Sunday), based on the number of viewers, according to data released Tuesday by the Nielsen Co.

- 1 Winter Olympics, Sunday (NBC)
2 Olympics Opening Ceremony (NBC)
3 Winter Olympics, Saturday (NBC)
4 Winter Olympics, 8 p.m. Thursday (NBC)
5 FBI (CBS)
6 Winter Olympics, 8:30 p.m. Thursday (NBC)
7 60 Minutes (CBS)
8 FBI: International (CBS)
9 911: Lone Star (Fox)
10 FBI: Most Wanted (CBS)
11 Young Sheldon (repeat) (CBS)
12 This Is Us (NBC)
13 America's Funniest Home Videos (ABC)
14 NASCAR Busch Lite Clash (Fox)
15 Celebrating Betty White (NBC)
16 The Neighborhood (repeat) (CBS)
17 Ghosts Special (CBS)
18 Judge Steve Harvey (ABC)
19 The Amazing Race (CBS)
20 Big Brother, Wed. (CBS)

MOVIE RENTALS



Finn Wolfhard in "Ghostbusters: Afterlife."

'Ghostbusters' lives

Here are Redbox's top 10 movie rentals in the Twin Cities for the previous seven days, according to data released Tuesday.

- 1 "Ghostbusters: Afterlife"
2 "Clifford the Big Red Dog"
3 "Dune"
4 "No Time to Die"
5 "Last Survivors"
6 "The Addams Family 2"
7 "Venom: Let There Be Carnage"
8 "Deadlock"
9 "Free Guy"
10 "Halloween Kills" (Extended Cut)

TALK SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 A.M. Today Updates on the Olympics, the making of a Super Bowl ad. (KARE, Ch. 11)
Good Morning America Chef George Duran, Paul Brunson. (KSTP, Ch. 5)
9 A.M. Today 3rd Hour Olympics, former NFL player Derrell Smith shares Super Bowl recipes. (KARE, Ch. 11)
10 A.M. Today With Hoda & Jenna Super Bowl cookoff, tips for throwing a Super Bowl party. (KARE, Ch. 11)
The View Super Bowl snacks. (KSTP, Ch. 5)
11 A.M. Live With Kelly and Ryan Dr. Sandra Lee, Joshua Weissman. (KARE, Ch. 11)
Tamron Hall Paris Hilton. (KSTC)

Friday February 11, 2022

Table with 12 columns (Morning to 11:30am) and 12 rows of TV listings including channels like TPT, TPTMN, WCCO, KSTP, KSTC, MeTV, Antenna, ThisTV, KMSP, WFTC, KARE, WUCW, KPXM.

Table with 12 columns (Afternoon to 5:30pm) and 12 rows of TV listings including channels like TPT, TPTMN, WCCO, KSTP, KSTC, MeTV, Antenna, ThisTV, KMSP, WFTC, KARE, WUCW, KPXM.

Table with 12 columns (Evening to 11:30pm) and 12 rows of TV listings including channels like TPT, TPTMN, WCCO, KSTP, KSTC, MeTV, Antenna, ThisTV, KMSP, WFTC, KARE, WUCW, KPXM.

Table with 12 columns (Evening to 11:30pm) and 12 rows of TV listings including channels like TPT, TPTMN, WCCO, KSTP, KSTC, MeTV, Antenna, ThisTV, KMSP, WFTC, KARE, WUCW, KPXM.

Advertisement for TV Weekly Magazine featuring 'GET A GREAT DEAL!' and 'Readers Love TV Weekly Magazine' with contact information for Star Tribune readers.

ADVICE & GAMES

CAROLYN HAX

Couple's finances based on tyranny

Dear Carolyn: When my husband and I first met in 2015, we both had jobs we loved and made approximately the same, about \$100,000 annually each. As part of our relationship understanding, we deliberately kept our finances separate and got one joint credit card that we use for mutual expenses and pay evenly.

Over the years, we both made progress in our careers and at the beginning of 2020 we were both making around \$150,000 annually. Then COVID hit. I lost the job I loved and have been forced to take a significant pay cut to \$60,000. Meanwhile, with a few lucky breaks, he's now making well over \$300,000.

I'm happy for him, but he still insists we split all the bills evenly. Frankly, I can't afford it. I don't want to deny him the perks of making that kind of income, but I can't split \$200 dinners out every other night or lavish vacations. I've been trying to keep up but have been dipping into my savings and 401(k) to do so. When I try to bring the topic up, I get a lecture about how he used to make \$60k (when he was 24 and lived with his parents) and made it work and that I need to be better at budgeting.

I don't know what to do. We have a happy, loving marriage otherwise, but I can't financially kill myself, either.

Carolyn says: He's a terrible person.

Can I just come out and say that? I want to respect the "happy, loving marriage otherwise," I really do, and honor your 2015 judgment in choosing him as your spouse. I'd like to think he's just having a terrible moment.

But your career got kneecapped in a global economic spasm, and Hubbubs decided the proper expression of sympathy was ... continued luxury spending and a bill for half? And a lecture

that glorified his 24-year-old dependent self?

Unless you're misrepresenting him somehow, that's a first-ballot Hall of Shame-r.

Just to be clear — separate accounts are not the problem. There are many respectful ways to share a life.

Sharing liabilities but not assets is the problem. Smug condescension is the problem. Capricious disregard for your suffering is the problem. And that joint credit card is a problem you want out of carefully and ASAP.

It's also not all on him. When you first logged on to your 401(k) to appease a spouse who had apparently incurred brain/empathy damage from sniffing his own superiority, there has to have been a little bell going off somewhere in your head. One you ignored.

So that's where you start: Heed the alarm of his cruel condescension and your capitulation to it, and stand up for yourself. Tell him where he can stuff his lecture.

Your husband's lecturing does work, actually, as a kind of blueprint for you. You can start to right yourself emotionally by getting "better at budgeting," and decline all dinners and vacations you can't afford. He can keep his perks. You can't.

Reserve your money for counseling, if your new job doesn't offer an Employee Assistance Program — and for a good attorney. Both can provide support where your spouse has declined to despite his multiple, ongoing, obvious and (for him) readily affordable opportunities to behave as a life partner would.

I'm sorry yours is a dud. And don't lay another hand on your 401(k), unless it's to get yourself free.



E-mail Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com.

SUDOKU

Complete the grid below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. For help, go to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku.

Thursday's Answer

6	9	4	7	1	2	8	3	5
7	1	8	4	5	3	9	6	2
2	3	5	8	9	6	1	4	7
3	7	9	2	4	1	6	5	8
4	6	2	5	8	9	3	7	1
5	8	1	3	6	7	4	2	9
8	5	3	1	2	4	7	9	6
9	2	7	6	3	8	5	1	4
1	4	6	9	7	5	2	8	3

2				8	3			
8	4		6	5				
		7		2		4	3	
	2		5	6				
6				1				4
				7	2		6	
	5	2		4		8		
				9	5		7	3
			2	3				6

2/11 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

SUBJECT: FIVE-LETTER WORDS WITH "X" IN THE MIDDLE
Provide a five-letter word that has "x" in the middle to complete the sentence. (e.g., A ___ is a female fox. Answer: Vixen.)

Freshman level

- Muhammad Ali was a famous _____.
- June is the _____ month of the year.
- Both _____ among the natives pierce their ears for ornaments.

Graduate level

- A _____ woman is slightly plump in an attractive way.
- Her favorite _____ was "Don't count your chickens before they hatch."
- The insecticide is highly _____ to birds.

Ph.D. level

- Jerusalem is the _____ for three religions.
- It takes _____ to pull up roots and live in a foreign land.
- A _____ is the smallest unit of an image on a computer screen.

Answers:

1. Boxer 2. Sixth 3. Sexes 4. Buxom 5. Maxims 6. Toxic 7. Nexus 8. Moxie 9. Pixel

Scoring:

- 18 points: congratulations, doctor
- 15 to 17 points: honors graduate
- 10 to 14 points: you're plenty smart, but no grind
- 4 to 9 points: you should hit the books harder
- 1 to 3 points: enroll in remedial courses immediately
- 0 points: who reads the questions to you?

DAILY BRIDGE CLUB

By FRANK STEWART

South dealer North-South vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 7 2
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ K Q J
♣ K 5 2

WEST
♠ 4
♥ J 10 9 7 3 2
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 8 6 3

EAST
♠ A 8 6
♥ A
♦ 9 8 5 3 2
♣ A J 7 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 9 5 3
♥ K 4
♦ A 10 4
♣ 10 9

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl(!)
All Pass
Opening lead — ♥ J

"It's bad enough that she beats me," Cy the Cynic groaned to me in the club lounge. "Now she's beating me after she doubles me."

Minnie Bottoms, our senior member, wears old bifocals that make her mix up kings and jacks, often to her opponents' dismay. Cy has been Minnie's chief victim.

"Look at this," Cy said, displaying today's deal. "I was South and Minnie was East. After she hammered me at four spades, West led the jack of hearts. Minnie took the ace and firmly laid down the jack of clubs."

"She thought her jack was the king," I laughed. "She was cashing her four top tricks."

"I took dummy's king," the Cynic said. "After we convinced Minnie that it wasn't her lead to Trick Three, I led a trump. Minnie won, frowned and led a LOW club. West won and led a heart, and Minnie ruffed. Down one."

"Quite a spectacle," I sighed. "She's an expert disguised as a little old lady," Cy growled.

After the opening lead, Minnie found the only winning defense.

Daily question

You hold: ♠ A 8 6 ♥ A ♦ 9 8 5 3 2 ♣ A J 7 4. You open one diamond, and your partner bids one spade. What do you say?

Answer: Raise to two spades. Suppose you bid two clubs instead, and partner goes to two diamonds or 2NT. Then you must pass; if you bid a third time, you will suggest interest in game, and your hand is too weak for that. Raising a major-suit response with decent three-card support in a minimum hand is a winning tactic.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Something you may want to clear up
- Othello, for one
- Loses sheen, perhaps
- One of the Aesir
- Uncovered
- ID seen at the post office
- Nobel winner Morrison
- Dressing room encouragement
- "Stop trying to help!"
- A counting job?
- Own up (to)
- Purpose
- Eva Perón was one: Abbr.
- You can bet on it!
- Simple matter of probability
- Numbers not meant to be shared
- Speedy sci-fi technology
- Secretly unionize?
- Drop the ball
- With 11-Down, kids' party activity
- "Peter Pan" princess
- Lashes makeup
- Look that might freeze you in your tracks
- Martini option
- Subj. of international treaties
- Bon ___ (high society; Fr.)
- Friendly introduction?
- Cause of weakness
- What Babe aspires to be in "Babe"
- Romantic bunch
- Moun- tains, range crossed on the Trans-Siberian railway
- What "he" and "do" don't do
- Biblical preposition
- Terpsichore or Calliope
- Strategic bodies of water
- "Out of Africa" author Dinesen
- Little drones

DOWN

- Story that goes over your head?
- One constantly craving kisses?
- "It was not my intention to make anyone upset," often
- CNN's Burnett
- Scavenger hunt cry
- Little sucker
- Substance
- Towering figure in "The Two Towers"
- "Wake up, sleepyhead!"
- Kake ___ (Japanese dish)
- See 37-Across
- Biblical pronoun
- vide (culinary technique)
- Substitute for legal tender
- Ports, e.g.
- Pathetic
- Metaphorical knowledge
- Eric who wrote "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"
- Accomplice in "Romeo and Juliet"
- Broadway show where everyone knows the ending?
- Country named for a now-banned trade
- They can be felt
- Org. for Carl Sagan
- "That's odd ..."
- Rapper/producer who won the 2018 Pulitzer for music
- Gets by
- Letter in the Greek spelling of Athens
- Looks like a jerk
- Driver in "House of Gucci"
- Canceled
- Book after 2 Chronicles
- Runners' event
- Figs. assigned randomly since 2011
- Animal also known as a catamount
- Air France confirmation

Thursday's Answer

S	P	A	N		M	E	E	K		H	A	L	O											
C	A	M	O		I	S	L	A		A	X	O	N											
A	V	I	D							M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y								
L	I	L	P	D	A		S	A	M	E	S	E	X											
L	O	N	L	O	N		M	O	N	T	H		K	I	T									
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Theme answers: Murder mystery, Pride Month, penal colony

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Puzzle by Robyn Weintraub

No. 0107 02/11/22

UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Secret stockpiles
- Macadamias, e.g.
- Zig's counterpart
- Bring up, as a topic
- Four Corners state
- Sense of self
- Nissan compact
- Milk Dud relative
- Historic opening?
- Candidates' addresses (In this clue's answer, note letters 5-7)
- Against
- Floral neckwear
- Deli bread
- Demi Moore, once (... letters 4-6)
- F-, but not A+
- NATO alpha-bet letter after Whiskey
- Jim's love on "The Office"
- Small, strong insect
- Display of bad temper
- Hard ___ (jazz subgenre for Art Blakey)
- It's fit for a pig
- "Pow!"
- Fruit used in gin
- Tip of a 10-Down
- Enjoy a trampoline (... letters 4-6)
- "___ the ram-parts ..."
- Diarist Anais
- Overnight lodgings
- Certain smartphone transaction (... letters 4-6)
- Ominous sighting in "Jaws"
- Member of a South Asian diaspora
- Capital on the Hudson
- Abdullah, to Muhammad
- Part of a guitar neck
- Opposite of ample
- 63/63
- Bubble bath overflow
- Woodworker's fasteners
- "FBI" channel
- "Roses ___ red ..."
- Invariable
- Metaphorical acknowledgment
- Unbleached linen's color
- Knockoff hand-bag, say
- Locale for baby bloomers
- Place that means "no place"
- Story
- Foot-long object?
- Light breeze
- Be harmonious
- Heads a green light
- Kilt fold
- Study all at once
- Kyrgyzstan's continent
- 12 hours from midnight
- Org. that fights poverty
- Fuss in front of the mirror
- Ice cream parlor freebie
- Recorded
- Mont ___, highest of the Alps
- Rocky period of history?
- College ___ (place such as Laramie, Wyoming)
- Hankering
- Sound heard before "Excuse me"
- Seance visitors
- Senator Shaheen
- In its original packaging, say
- Ban from practicing law
- Often-caramelized veggie
- "Should that be the case ..."
- Files that may be signed
- Inca Trail's country
- Some holiday roasts
- Name in "dialect"
- Start of four U.S. state names
- Soph. and sr., e.g.

Thursday's Answer

B	A	L	M		A	R	A	B		T	H	A	T	S					
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Couple dance through life

◀ **“FOOTLOOSE”** from El for Guittar and Benson. The young couple have become known for dancing, acting and singing on stages large and small around the Twin Cities. Both have been in several shows at Chanhassen, where Benson played bare-chested best man Pepper in “Mamma Mia!” while Guittar played a friend of bride Sophie.

Both also acted in “The Music Man” at the Guthrie. And during the pandemic, they danced the title roles of “Romeo and Juliet” for Collide Theatrical.

“They’re terrific actors, so I knew them from that. When Tam put them at the top of the list, I said, yes, let’s go fresh and creative,” Brindisi said.

“I totally trust them,” Kan-gas Erickson added.

Guittar and Benson are a match made on the hill overlooking the prairie in St. Peter. The Gustavus Adolphus College sweethearts met more than a decade ago at a dance rehearsal for “Urinetown,” on which Guittar served as a dance captain.

They would perform together in more shows before he worked up the nerve in his junior year — her senior — to ask her to be his dance partner for a talent show.

“It was to a hip-hop love medley of Usher songs,” Benson said. “When we won the talent show, it was like a switch went off. This works.”

Born in Lincoln, Neb., Guittar was hooked on Disney musicals as a child and dreamed of a life onstage. She has been dancing since third grade, but didn’t think of pursuing a career in it. When she entered Gustavus — on a dance scholarship, no less — she planned to become a dance therapist.

Benson came of age in Minneapolis’ hippie haven of Cedar-Riverside and performance is a family busi-



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Rush Benson and Renee Guittar lead a “Footloose” actor through his paces during a rehearsal at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres.

ness. His parents met at the interactive Murder Mystery Café dinner theater. While his mother, Maria, played piano, sang and danced, his father, Craig, acted on stage and screen. His brother Nikko is a musical composer seeking his break in New York.

“It can be a grind but he’s been re-honing this show, ‘Nikola Tesla Drops the Beat,’ for eight years,” Benson said. “When it drops, it’s gonna be big.”

Guittar and Benson dated for 10 years — longer than they had planned, as the pandemic canceled their original

wedding date. They finally got married last July and consider it a natural evolution of their partnership.

In 2016, they played the married couple Al and Christine in “A Chorus Line” at the Ordway. Christine cannot sing, and it is her husband who helps her with it.

“It was kind of funny how that mirrored our actual lives,” Benson said.

At the time, Guittar was not very confident in singing as she grew up a dancer. Benson came to her aid.

“Rush helps me a lot with finding my voice as far as

speaking and singing go,” Guittar said.

It wasn’t just the Guittar-Benson nuptials that the pandemic interrupted. On the second day of rehearsal, Benson tested positive for the omicron variant.

“I was devastated, because Rush wasn’t going to be there,” Guittar said. “He had to isolate and for the rest of rehearsal, he was checking in by Zoom until the last day. But one of my favorite moments was when he was watching on Zoom and he texted me to have them turn around on a certain part. I was like, ‘Yes,

that’s it!’ So we were able to collaborate virtually.”

The couple believe that their differing personalities and work styles complement each other.

“I have a lot of anxiety and tend to picture the worst-case scenario, so I prepare for that,” Guittar said, sharing conversations she sometimes has with herself.

She uses her self-doubts — “I’m not qualified for this and everyone is gonna hate what I do” — as inspiration to work harder. “That’s when the things that I worry about end up not being a problem. But

Footloose

Who: Composed by Tom Snow with lyrics by Dean Pitchford, who co-wrote the book with Walter Bobbie. Directed by Michael Brindisi.

When: 8 p.m. Tue.-Sat., plus 1 p.m. Wed. & Sat., 6:30 p.m. Sun. Through Sept. 24.

Where: Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, 510 W. 78th St., Chanhassen.

Protocol: Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test.

Tickets: \$53-\$96. Call 952-934-1525 or visit chanhassendtd.com for showtimes.

if I don’t do that, then those things could be.”

For his part, Benson has a lot of confidence.

“I tend to be a little more precious with my choreographic and movement ideas,” he said. “But Renee will be like, ‘Oh, that won’t work.’ She’s helped me detach from those feelings, those moments that I thought were comedic gold.”

The choreography “has to be in service of the work and lean into story more than necessarily setting up a punch line in a scene,” Guittar said.

They are not intimidated by the fame of “Footloose,” having taken in the film and Broadway versions.

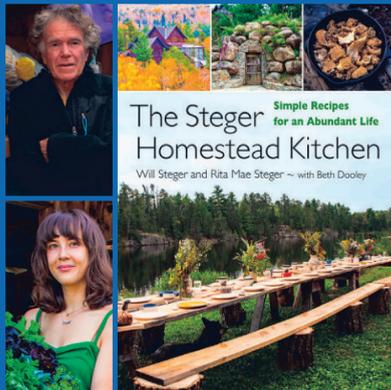
“There are a couple of moments that are iconic. So I try to sprinkle aspects of ‘80s moves in there,” Guittar said. “But for us, it’s about updating the movement to be more contemporary, more 2022.”

Benson agrees. “We do hit that nostalgia button but we want it to be fresh and exciting,” he said.

This “Footloose,” they said, will be a kick.

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Twitter: @rohanpreston

Talk of the Stacks



Will Steger & Rita Mae Steger

In conversation with

Beth Dooley

A VIRTUAL EVENT

FEB. 24 | 7 PM

The legendary explorer and his niece discuss their new cookbook **The Steger Homestead Kitchen.**

This virtual event is FREE and open to the public. Visit our event website to register.

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‘Wicked,’ ‘Hamilton’ coming to town

◀ **BROADWAY** from El a friendship with Glinda (July 27-Aug. 28).

“Beetlejuice,” based on Tim Burton’s wacky, ghost-filled 1988 film and featuring “Day-O,” the song made popular by Harry Belafonte in the 1950s, is slated to make its regional premiere (Sept. 13-18).

While the recent film version of “Cats” flopped, the Andrew Lloyd Webber spectacle, which won seven Tonys back in 1983, is still a favorite among theatergoers. This refreshed production has new choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler of “Hamilton” fame (Oct. 25-30).

“Beautiful — The Carole King Musical,” which tells the story of the writer of such tunes as “One Fine Day,” “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman” and “You’ve Got a Friend,” makes its third appearance in the Twin Cities since 2015 (Nov. 16-20).

A new staging of “Les Misérables,” the Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg juggernaut set during the French Revolution, is slated for the run-up to the holidays (Dec. 6-18).

The lineup also has shows that obliquely address our historic moment. “Hairspray,” about teenager Tracy Turnblad’s dream of landing a spot on a TV dance show in 1960s Baltimore, gets a new production from original director Jack O’Brien and original choreographer Jerry Mitchell, both Broadway heavyweights (Jan. 10-15, 2023).

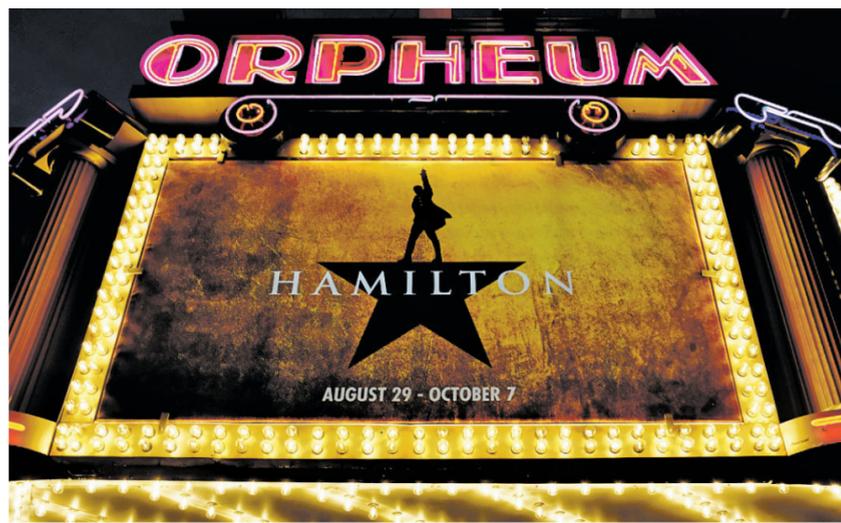
The sole play in the trust’s season, and one whose themes of social justice still resonate, is “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Aaron Sorkin’s adaptation of Harper Lee’s canonical novel. The drama is headlined by Thomas, who shot to fame playing John-Boy Walton in “The Waltons” 50 years ago, as attorney Atticus Finch (Feb. 14-19, 2023).

“Tina — The Tina Turner Musical,” about the rock icon, also will make its regional



MATTHEW MURPHY

“Les Misérables” played in Minneapolis in 2018. It will be back in a new staging in December.



Star Tribune file

“Hamilton,” postponed from last year, returns to the Orpheum in spring 2023.

premiere. There’s no word yet about casting or if Adrienne Warren, who won a Tony for playing the “Proud Mary” and “What’s Love Got to Do With It” singer, will star on tour (March 1-12, 2023).

The much-anticipated return of “Hamilton,” the Miranda juggernaut set during the American Revolution, will play the Orpheum (April

4-May 7, 2023).

The trust’s season stretches into summer of next year, when it will present the Broadway adaptation of Sydney Pollack’s 1982 comedy “Tootsie” (June 20-25, 2023) and “Jagged Little Pill,” the Alanis Morissette musical that has a book by former Minnesotan Diablo Cody (Aug. 8-13, 2023).

Season ticket packages,

ranging from \$300 to \$1,104, are available to current subscribers. New packages will go on sale in April. Single tickets go on sale on a show-by-show basis at later dates. For information, call 1-800-859-7469 or visit hennepin-theatretrust.org.

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