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The CULTURE PAGES

To

DO

Twenty-five things to see, hear, watch, and read.

MAY 22-JUNE 5

TV

1. Watch The Acolyte

Use the force.

Disney+, June 4.

In the scheme of new installments of giant franchises, optimism for *The Acolyte* falls somewhere between *Andor* and *The Mandalorian* season two. It may just be more *Star Wars* TV, overly safe and utterly underwhelming. But it's made by *Russian Doll* co-creator Leslye Headland; it's set in a not-Luke Skywalker period of this universe; and it stars Amandla Stenberg, Lee Jung-jae, and Carrie-Anne Moss. Wouldn't it be fun if it were great?

KATHRYN VANARENDONK

THEATER

2. See The Welkin

These women's work.

Linda Gross Theater, through June 30.

Sarah Benson directs a wildly exciting cast (Sandra Oh, Nadine Malouf, Susannah Perkins, the list goes on) in Lucy Kirkwood's sharp, intense drama about a group of women gathered together in a rural English community in 1759—as they await Halley's Comet's ominous return—to decide whether or not a young woman accused of murder is telling the truth about being pregnant.

SARA HOLDREN

MOVIES

3. See Lumumba: Death of a Prophet

A documentary classic.

Jacob Burns Film Center, May 20 and 22.

Hop a train to Pleasantville for Restored and Rediscovered, a festival celebrating film preservation, to catch a screening of 1990's *Lumumba: Death of a Prophet*, a personal and historical doc

about the Democratic Republic of the Congo's first prime minister, from *I Am Not Your Negro*'s Raoul Peck.

ALISON WILLMORE

TV

4. Watch Couples Therapy Season Four

And how does that make you feel?

Paramount+ with Showtime, May 31.

Every season of this docuseries is great, but this spring's new season is the best the show has been and not just because Dr. Orna counsels a throuple. There are no heroes and no villains; every couple dynamic is compelling in ways that feel both familiar and utterly distinctive. And not for nothing, *Couples Therapy*'s B-roll footage is some of the best portraiture of New York City ever put on TV.

K.V.A.

CLASSICAL

5. Hear Mozart's Requiem

Wolfgang's last work.

Geffen Hall, May 23 through 28.

Come for Mozart's embrace of his own premature death, but pause first for Sofia Gubaidulina's mysteriously seductive, slightly terrifying viola concerto, performed by Antoine Tamestit and the New York Philharmonic, led by Jaap van Zweden.

JUSTIN DAVIDSON

ART

6. See Amy Sillman

Abstract figures.

Gladstone Gallery, 515 West 24th Street, through June 15.

Amy Sillman molds paint into shapes and spaces that evoke feet or a naked lady on the one hand

and a sort of echoing Abstract Expressionist matrix on the other. Over the past ten years, she has really stepped forward. Sillman's secondary colors, her intimations of process, and her thick and thin paint with a loose cartooning style make her a reliable constant in the art world.

JERRY SALTZ

TV

7. Watch We Are Lady Parts Season Two

Our favorite punk rockers, back for seconds.

Peacock, May 30.

Nida Manzoor's immensely original series about a group of female Muslim punk rockers who find themselves and new friendships through their band was among the best shows of 2021. If you haven't experienced the joy of watching these women scream along to System of a Down, now you can, as the show returns for a long-awaited second season with the band's newfound popularity (and a rival band copying their whole deal!) complicating their intragroup dynamics.

ROXANA HADADI

PODCASTS

8. Listen to Walkin' About

Just vibe out.

Hyperobject Industries.

In this part audio diary, part hangout cast, the actor Allan McLeod records his strolls around an array of outdoor spaces as he chats and pontificates with a lineup of guests, including Ed Begley Jr. and Janet Varney.

NICHOLAS QUAH

MOVIES

9. See Dangerous Game

Madge on 35-mm.

Roxy Cinema, May 23, June 1-2.

The combination of Abel Ferrara and Madonna proved too volatile for 1993 audiences, who rejected this thriller starring Harvey Keitel as increasingly abusive filmmaker Eddie Israel, but *Dangerous Game* does feature one of the pop icon's best screen performances as the female lead in the movie Eddie's directing.

A.W.

CLASSICAL

10. Go to Orchestra of St. Luke's Bach Festival

For the love of Johann.

Zankel Hall, June 4.

Bach is never out of season, but somehow June brings an especially bright burst. OSL's annual festival opens with a program of concertos (including two of the Brandenburgs) and cantatas (with soprano Joëlle Harvey), led by conductor Jeannette Sorrell.

J.D.

THEATER

11. See The Fires

Brooklyn boys.

Soho Rep, through June 16.

Raja Feather Kelly's choreography is everywhere, from Brooklyn to Broadway. Now he's making his playwrighting debut (and directing it too) at Soho

Rep with a surreal new show about three different men living in a South Brooklyn railroad apartment in 1974, 1998, and 2021. Expect time to slip, overlap, and get tangled—bodies, too!

S.H.

TV

12. Watch Clipped

About that other L.A. basketball team.

Hulu, June 4.

It's natural, if not entirely fair, to compare this FX-produced limited series about the Los Angeles Clippers to HBO's *Winning Time*, a two-season drama about the reinvigoration of the L.A. Lakers in the 1980s. Aside from a shared interest in the same sport and city, though, the two are not much alike. For example, *Clipped* is much more focused on the events within a tight timeframe: the lead-up to the 2014 leak of recorded racist remarks by Clippers owner Donald Sterling and the fallout that followed. That specificity is a major storytelling asset.

JEN CHANEY

ART

13. See Alexi Worth

Small-scale jewels.

DC Moore Gallery, through June 15.

Alexi Worth may be the best painter-writer around right now. His observations always impress. His latest three-part paintings mix abstract passages of thinly applied paint, semi-geometric forms, representational shapes, figurative intimations, and formalist flights of fancy. See

what looks like a double door next to a Jasper Johns-like profile (who may be smoking) next to a blank panel. All this comes together in observation, imagination, speculation, maybe madness, and certainly singular obsession.

J.S.

MUSIC

14. Hear Bad Rabbits

Beefy party bangers.

The Meadows, May 31.

The Boston-area road warriors make music indebted to the '90s new-jack swing era but also crunchier, shoegazier sounds beyond the pale. On the heels of last year's lively *Garden of Eden*, Bad Rabbits plays Brooklyn alongside the versatile, uncategorizable power trio Proper and soulful math-rock outfit Origami Button.

CRAIG JENKINS

MOVIES

15. Go to Seven Bloodstained Gialli: Another Murder Mystery Marathon

A Memorial Day Weekend marathon.

Spectacle Theater, May 25.

What if we kissed at this 14-hour marathon of lurid Italian thrillers, taking place at Williamsburg's finest volunteer-run microcinema housed in what was once a bodega?

A.W.

TV

16. Watch Evil Season Four

You'll be missed, you weird-ass show.

Paramount+, May 23.

Not every show is bold enough to begin its final season by declaring that the birth of the Antichrist is imminent. But then not every show is *Evil*.

J.C.

CLASSICAL

17. Hear Bach's B-minor Mass

Saturday contemplation.

Church of St. Jean Baptiste, June 1.

The early-music chamber ensemble Tenet has spent years making its way through all of Bach's oratorios, a commitment that culminates with a performance of a work that took Bach even longer to compose: the majestic *Mass*.

J.D.

THEATER

18. See The Lonely Few

Every day is a winding road.

MCC Theater, through June 2.

Zoe Sarnak wrote music and lyrics and Rachel Bonds (playwright of the captivating *Jonah*) wrote the book for this new rock musical about Kentucky honky-tonk musician Lila, her band,

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