



Our weekly picks

What to do Oct. 22-28, 2008

Guardian Staff

WEDNESDAY 22nd

MUSIC

Buzzer and Lover!

With a new single out on Atlanta's Douchemaster Records — yeah, you read that right — Oakland's Buzzer throws its hat in the ring and joins the ranks of fellow Bay Area garage rockers the Time Flys, Apache, and the Pets. There's a little bit of mid-1970s pining going on here, but otherwise, this record smokes. I sense these guys need to be heard in a live setting to get the full effect, so go see them before they start playing the Fillmore for \$50 a pop. Memphis' fuzzed-out Grade-A tunesmith Lover! gets things started. **(Ezra Provost)**

With the Safes and Fault Lines

9 p.m., \$7

Hemlock Tavern

1131 Polk, SF

(415) 923-0923

www.hemlocktavern.com

EVENT

Fito Reinoso y su Ritmo y Armonia benefit for WRAP

Soneros were the traditional balladeers of Cuba, blending call and response African rhythmic singing with working class tales of love, poverty, mirth, and woe. They've been eclipsed by glitzy modern salsa, but native Cuban Fito Reinoso, who has made the Bay Area his home since 1980, carries on the *sonero* tradition. His performance with Ritmo y Armonia at Slim's benefits the hard-working SF homeless rights group, Western Regional Advocacy Project. WRAP does righteous work exposing the true roots of the national housing crisis, pressures Washington, DC, to fund housing and services for low and no income people, and works to protect their rights. WRAP's efforts deserve your \$25, and you deserve to dance your ass off. **(Amanda Witherell)**

With the John Santos Sextet

7 p.m., \$25

Slim's

333 11th St.

(415) 255-0333

www.slims-sf.com

THURSDAY 23rd

VISUAL ART

"Muerte Sin Fronteras/Death Without Borders"

Ever since I can remember, they've filled my house. I woke up to them, went to bed with them, and even ate with them. They adorned the walls and shelves of my young life, and somewhere along the way, they crept into my chest and burrowed deep into my heart. I know I'm not the only one. The Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts has decided to bring together others like me, who have a passion for the striking *calaveras* (skulls), *calacas* (skeletons), and other renderings used to remember lost loved ones while reminding us to celebrate the joyful folly that is life. More than 20 artists have brought their altars and installations to the MCCLA for a month-long celebration of this facet of Mexican culture and art. For those of you not lucky enough to have experienced this darkly comedic tradition, it's not too late to get afflicted. **(Daniel N. Alvarez)**

10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Tues.–Fri., through Nov. 22), free

Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts

2868 Mission, SF

(415) 821-1155

www.missionculturalcenter.org

MUSIC

The Felice Brothers

Let's get this out of the way: the Felice Brothers bear more than a casual resemblance to the Band. Like the legendary roots revivalists they inevitably get compared with, the three brothers — Ian, Simone, and James, joined by a bass player who answers to the name Christmas — find inspiration in the woods and wilds of the Catskills Mountains, creaking out gorgeously rustic tales of cabins and moonshine and last-chance wanderers. Sound familiar? Here's the kicker: these guys offer up a considerably darker vision of bygone days, as goosebumpingly demonstrated this year on a self-titled Team Love Records full-length recording. Riveting, ragged stuff. **(Todd Lavoie)**

With Deer Tick

9 p.m., \$16

Great American Music Hall

859 O'Farrell, SF

(415) 885-0750

www.gamh.com

FRIDAY 24th

FILM/EVENT

Nosferatu screening and post-movie Dream Talk

In Transylvania, Hutter awakens from a deep sleep. The couch he has been sleeping on is smelly, old, and inside an ancient castle crawling with centipedes and spiders. Thus he assumes the two bite marks on his neck are from a mosquito. I bet you can guess what they're really from. The vampire motif wasn't always so familiar, though. For evidence, check out the new high-definition video restoration of F.W. Murnau's 1922 German Expressionist film *Nosferatu*. Unlike Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*, it decrees that sunlight can kill bloodsuckers. Afterward you can discuss the vampire archetype — symbolizing longing, addiction, and a lack of vital selfhood — with the experts at the Dream Institute. **(Michelle Broder van Dyke)**

7–10:15p.m., \$12

The Dream Institute

1672 University at McGee, Berk.

(510) 845-1767

www.dream-institute.org

MUSIC/CLUBS

ZomBEAST

The gay are so edgy — at least the eight percent that aren't downloading "Womanizer" *right this goddamned minute*. They're so way ahead they're celebrating official homo-holiday Halloween a week early, with a special edition of the hetero-welcoming, artistically inclined BEAST party. The Transfer will be transformed into a perky pet cemetery as denizens of all zombie walks of nightlife manifest furry inner familiars and cavort to the scarily soulful sounds of DJs Juanita More! and Javi en Rose/Natureboy. Sex-eyed platypi will eat your puny brains! Dress code: radical roadkill, undead dolphin, bedraggled badger, seriously hung over hummingbird, slaughtered schnauzer, murderous mallard ("quacks with an axe"), etc. Hosted by House of Horseface designer Mica, a.k.a., Tit Mouse, darling of the gorgeously goatish gay underground. **(Marke B.)**

10 p.m.–2 a.m., \$5

The Transfer

198 Church, SF

(415) 861-7499

www.myspace.com/beastparty

SATURDAY 25th

EVENT

Chance Operations

The word "change" tinkled like a digital pundit on the Bushy airwaves at the start of 2008. But it quickly morphed into "chance" as the economic aleatory brutally overtook the electoral logical, gobbling it up like an octopus would a Rubik's Cube. Chance is on the Bay arts menu — seasoned culturati are a-dither over Merce Cunningham's upcoming CalPerf extravaganza, and club music has been invaded by glitches and random presets. Now the local visual art scene erects a metaphorical tinfoil popcorn monument to the adventitious with this group show, in which 12 up-and-comers toss a gorgon harness at fate's bifurcated neck. Lucky

makers like Niki Shapiro, Kirkman Amyx, Victor Cartegena, Double Vision, and Luis Delgado will display their chance experiments in a glittering foofaraw of video, performance, photography, and more. Un coup de dés, indeed. **(Marke B.)**

8 p.m.-midnight, \$10.

Climate Theater/Gallery NINE

285 Ninth St., SF

(415) 263-0830

www.climatetheater.com

THEATER

Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show

J. Hoberman and Jonathan Rosenbuam's 1983 book *Midnight Movies* kicks off with a look at the birth of *Rocky Horror*. "In 1972, the 30ish [Richard] O'Brien set to work writing a rock musical called *They Came From Denton High*," the book relates. "O'Brien spent six months writing his musical, conceiving of it as "something any 10-year-old could enjoy," which would also attract freaks like himself into the theater. He changed his title to *The Rock Horroar Show*, then *The Rocky Horror Show*." Thirty-six years and one amazing picture-show version later, *Rocky Horror* still lives. Bring a freak, a 10-year-old, or a 10-year-old freak to Ray of Light's new production. **(Huston)**

8 p.m. (also Fri., 8 p.m. and Sat. 11 p.m.; through Nov. 15), \$22-\$35

Victoria Theatre

2961 16th St., SF

(415) 863-7576

www.rockysf.com

SUNDAY 26th

FILM/MUSIC

"Sight and Sound: Philip Greenlief and SL Morse"

SL Morse is composed of stalwart instant composers Sarah Lockhart and Weasel Walter. Initially a conceptual art project for radio, it has grown — from the idea of translating texts into Morse code, and Morse code into music — into something even less bound to context. Opening with a screening of Lockhart's 1950s B-movie tribute *Giant Fly Attack*, tonight's SL Morse program pairs another Lockhart film, *Myth of Sisyphus* — its title nicked from Albert Camus' early philosophical essay — with a live performance, ostensibly of the Morse version of Camus' text. While the music isn't free improv, it bears a similar sonic profile. Isn't it interesting, living in a country where taking official culture as your subject matter is more subversive than retiring to your niche? **(Brendan Bussolini)**

8 p.m., \$5-\$10

Artists' Television Access

929 Valencia, SF

(415) 824-3890

www.atasite.org

MONDAY 27th

LIT

Marilynne Robinson

It took Marilynne Robinson 24 years to write and publish her second novel. The first one, 1980's *Housekeeping*, got her nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and the second, *Gilead*, won it — clearly, her effort paid off. Imagining what Robinson did during the intermittent years is not difficult: although her books make for an effortless read, she may easily have spent a day on each sentence. Her deep, patient reflections on rural American landscapes — spiritual and topographical — yoke you in until you've finished the story. This year Robinson published her third novel, *Home* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 336 pages, \$25). Another meditation on Midwestern cities, it's a companion novel to *Gilead*. Come hear the longtime Iowa Writers' Workshop teacher read from it and reflect on the writing life. **(Broder van Dyke)**

8 p.m., \$20

Herbst Theatre

401 Van Ness

415-392-4400

www.cityarts.net

MUSIC

Girl Talk

Girl Talk's brand-spanking-new pay-what-you-like full length, *Feed the Animals* (Illegal Art), and his previous one, 2006's *Night Ripper* (Illegal Art), are both perfect. They're perfect for the ADD music listener, with their seamless low-attention-span shifts from one pop masterpiece to the next. And they're perfect for the OCD hipster, who must decode the puzzle and decipher the original sources within all of Gregg Gillis' mish-mashed tracks. This will be an epic concert. It is not to be missed: not to go home and feed your cat; not because you need to study for that midterm; not because the second coming is *really* coming; not for anything. **(Broder van Dyke)**

With Grand Buffet, the Deathset, Hearts of Darkneses, and CX Kidtronik

8 p.m. (also Tues/28, 8 p.m.), \$20

Fillmore

1805 Geary, SF

(415) 346-6000

www.thefillmore.com

TUESDAY 28th

MUSIC

Sunburned Hand of the Man

What to make of free folk, now that Devendra Banhart is shtupping Natalie Portman? SF was once the

epicenter for the movement. While free folk hasn't exactly squandered its promise, the contingent of bands leaning more heavily on the "free" part of the equation have largely fallen back into obscurity. Sunburned Hand of the Man are thrilling because they're entirely unreliable — starting and ending with free improvisation, they're more likely to fall apart than to come together, and rightly so. Their best trick, though, is to fall apart in a slow motion, gravity-defying way. They do it as often as they find a groove to work at with their primitive tools. **(Bussolini)**

9 p.m., \$8

Hemlock Tavern

1131 Polk, SF

(415) 923-0923

www.hemlocktavern.com

The *Guardian* listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian Building, 135 Mississippi St., SF CA 94107; fax to (415) 487-2506; or e-mail (paste press release into e-mail body — no text attachments, please) to listings@sfbg.com. We cannot guarantee the return of photos, but enclosing an SASE helps. Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.

Tuesday October 21, 2008