

The Ticket: What's happening in the local arts world

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Taylor Goldsmith (left, with Wylie Gelber) brings Dawes to the Boch Center Wang Theatre Feb. 2. OWEN SWEENEY/INVISION/AP/FILE

MUSIC

Pop & Rock

JON SPENCER The scuzzy groove-punk pioneer slash paragon of downtown cool released his first solo album, “Spencer Sings the Hits!,” last year; it surrounds his swaggering, street-preacher bellow with thick synths and clanking beats. *Feb. 1, 9:15 p.m. \$18, \$16 advance. Great Scott. 617-566-0914, www.greatscottboston.com*

PETAL “Magic Gone,” last year’s album from Pennsylvania’s Kiley Lotz, is a stunner, Lotz’s bell-clear voice serving as an anchor even when she’s recounting white-knuckle emotions and surrounded by pedal-borne distortion. *Jan. 27, 7 p.m. \$15. Brighton Music Hall. 617-779-0140, www.crossroadspresents.com*

ADVERTISING



NAO This British singer-producer, on tour behind last year’s “Saturn,” has a sweetly powerful voice and a golden touch in the studio that make her blend of funk, R&B, and electro a sound delight. *Feb, 1, 6 p.m. \$25 and up. Royale. 617-338-7699, www.royaleboston.com*

MAURA JOHNSTON

Folk & World

STEVE GUNN The singer-songwriter-guitar virtuoso is touring in support of his transporting new release, “The Unseen In Between,” which is informed and inspired by, and conveys, the emotive force of his father’s death and the reconnection of father and son beforehand. Meg Baird and Mary Lattimore also perform. *Jan. 31, 9 p.m. \$16. Great Scott. 888-929-7849, www.axs.com*

THE LIL SMOKIES This Montana band’s version of high-energy progressive bluegrass has been attracting attention and awards, including winning the Bluegrass Band Competition at Telluride and being named Momentum Band of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association. *Feb. 1, 9 p.m. \$15. The Sinclair, Cambridge. 888-929-7849, www.axs.com*

DAWES The still rootsy (if less so than in the past) SoCal outfit turns its attention on its latest, “Passwords,” to what technology hath wrought: “I’m always lookin’ over shoulders/ Not knowing what I’m looking for/ Now that the feeling someone’s watchin’/ Isn’t just a feeling anymore.” Call it Dawes’s moods for moderns. *Feb. 2, 8 p.m. \$29.25-\$68.25. Boch Center Wang Theatre. 800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com*

STUART MUNRO

Jazz & Blues

RAN BLAKE SOLO In 1961, Blake and Jeanne Lee recorded the classic “The Newest Sound Around,” pairing his flinty piano with her poised vocals. On the occasion of the long-delayed release of their further 1960s collaborations, entitled “The Newest Sound You Never Heard,” the pianist reflects on the life of his dear departed colleague. *Jan. 27,*

3 p.m. Free. New England Conservatory, Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre, 255 St. Botolph St. www.necmusic.edu/concerts

CHARLIE KOHLHASE'S EXPLORERS CLUB Adventurous multi-saxophonist and composer Kohlhase leads his intrepid octet in an exhilarating program of originals and numbers by Duke Ellington, Elmo Hope, Makanda Ken McIntyre, and former Kohlhase collaborators Roswell Rudd and John Tchicai. Feb. 1, 8 p.m. \$15. Third Life Studio, 33 Union Square, Somerville. www.thirdlifestudio.com, www.mandorlamusic.net

ANTHONY GERACI & THE BOSTON BLUES ALL-STARS The veteran keyboardist-composer celebrates his latest album, "Why Did You Have To Go," with his Boston all-star group of singer, guitarist, and harmonica player Dennis Brennan, guitarist-singer Troy Gonyea, bassist-singer Michael "Mudcat" Ward, and drummer-singer Jeff Armstrong. Feb. 2, 8 p.m. \$20. Bull Run Restaurant, 215 Great Road, Shirley. 978-425-4311, www.bullrunrestaurant.com

KEVIN LOWENTHAL

Classical

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Conductor Juanjo Mena visits the Symphony Hall podium to lead a Haydn symphony, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with soloist Julian Rachlin, and two pieces by Janáček. *Symphony Hall. Jan. 31-Feb. 5. 888-266-1200, www.bso.org*

NO TENORS ALLOWED The father and son-in-law duo of lyric baritone Thomas Hampson and bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni take the stage for a joint recital of songs for low voice from the opera, operetta, and Broadway repertoires. Presented by Celebrity Series of Boston. *Jordan Hall. Feb. 1, 8 p.m. 617-482-6661, www.celebrityseries.org*

IL FLAUTO MAGICO Recorder expert Han Tol and the Boreas Quartett Bremen (all former students of his) bring a full arsenal of instruments to a Boston Early Music

Festival-presented concert, covering centuries of music for recorder consort. *First Church in Cambridge, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. 617-661-1812, www.bemf.org*

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MADONNA

ARTS

Theater

OTHELLO Because questions of race and gender sit squarely at the center of this Shakespeare tragedy, watching it in 2019 underscores the extent to which his plays somehow manage to seem torn from any era's headlines as well as from the fathomless depths of the human soul. Those dual qualities of timeliness and timelessness run through Bill Rauch's sinewy production of "Othello," which features a masterly performance by Chris Butler in the title role and a portrayal of Iago by Danforth Comins that is very nearly as impressive. *Through Feb. 9. Production by Oregon Shakespeare Festival presented by American Repertory Theater at Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge. 617-547-8300, www.americanrepertorytheater.org*

THE END OF TV Among the achievements of this ingenious production, directed by Julia VanArsdale Miller, is the intimacy it achieves and sustains despite its screen-centric structure. Utilizing overhead projectors, video feeds, shadow puppetry, and live-action silhouettes, "The End of TV" poignantly dramatizes the relationship between an elderly white woman named Flo (Kara Davidson) who is slipping into dementia and a young black woman named Louise (Sharaina L. Turnage) who gets to know, and care about, Flo while working as a driver for Meals on Wheels. *Through Jan. 27. Production by Manual Cinema presented by ArtsEmerson. At Robert J. Orchard Stage, Paramount Center. 617-824-8400, www.artsemerson.org*

THE WOLVES In this splendid group portrait of a girls' soccer team, playwright Sarah DeLappe demonstrates an uncanny grasp of the everything-at-once nature and pace of teenage conversation. More important, DeLappe shows how those torrents of talk are the girls' way of trying on personae while figuring out how to live in the wider world. Director A. Nora Long and her topnotch Lyric Stage cast make movingly clear how a team can function as a kind of surrogate family. *Through Feb. 3. Lyric Stage Company of Boston. 617-585-5678, www.lyricstage.com*

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS M. Bevin O'Gara directs Bess Wohl's seriocomic gem of a play, in which six lost or wounded souls try to get whole again at a New Age-y spiritual retreat while navigating connections and conflicts that only complicate their elusive quest for inner peace. Featuring Marianna Bassham as their autocratic, unseen teacher, who does most of the talking — well, that and the sextet's body language — in a play characterized by long stretches of expressive silence. *Through Feb. 2. SpeakEasy Stage Company. At Roberts Studio Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts. 617-933-8600, www.speakeasystage.com*

DON AUCOIN

Dance

WONDERTWINS Known for combining hip-hop with tap, vaudeville, and theatrical dance, brothers Billy and Bobby McClain have carved a distinctive niche in Boston's dance scene. As part of World Music/CRASHarts's "Dance UP" presentations, this concert pairs two very different works: the Broadway/Vegas tribute "That's Entertainment" and the Boston premiere of "Black," a documentary-style exploration of police brutality toward African-Americans. *Jan. 27. \$32-\$36. Institute of Contemporary Art. 617-876-4275, www.worldmusic.org*

NEDERLANDS DANS THEATER 2 Nederlands Dans Theater's acclaimed second company of young performers, now in its 40th year, returns to Celebrity Series of Boston

for the first time since 2009. Though the dancers are classically trained, the company is known for nurturing new ballets that have a contemporary edge. The program includes works by Marco Goecke, Edward Clug, and collaborators Sol León and Paul Lightfoot.

Jan. 27. \$35-\$77. Boch Center Shubert Theatre. 866-348-9738,

www.celebrityseries.org

PEPPERLAND Might be a good idea to reserve your tickets early for the Celebrity Series presentation of this highly acclaimed full-evening production by Mark Morris Dance Group. Colorfully psychedelic, it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' extraordinary "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." But don't expect to sing along. Ethan Iverson's original chamber music score (performed live) totally transforms some of the original music and adds new material inspired by the album. *Feb. 8-10.*

\$35-\$75. Boch Center Shubert Theatre. 617-482-6661, www.celebrityseries.org

KAREN CAMPBELL

Galleries

SUARA WELITOFF: RIGHT NOW THIS MOMENT The Cambridge artist alters found video to toy with our perception of time passing. Slowing clips down, putting them on loops, and homing in on hitches and mistakes, she conjures an eternal present.

Through April 7. Anderson + Grossman Galleries, School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, 230 The Fenway. smfa.tufts.edu/events-exhibits/galleries

JOSH JEFFERSON: NOT FOR NOTHING Jefferson, a painter and Instagram wiz, makes dense, bustling canvases that refer, sometimes obliquely, to figures and heads, suggesting that his painterly fireworks represent an inner reality. Here, collaged painted scraps tease the viewer's sense of texture, and butt up against declarative brush strokes.

Through Feb. 23. Steven Zevitas Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave. 617-778-5265, www.stevenzevitasgallery.com

SOJOURN: SIX DAYS IN A SOVIET-ERA WEATHER STATION More than a century ago, Heddi Vaughan Siebel's grandfather was marooned during an expedition to the Russian Arctic. In 2018, the artist and photographer visited the place he was stranded, explored the remains of a Soviet weather station, and considered humanity's draw to unforgiving landscapes. *Through Feb. 23. Soprafina Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave. 617-728-0770, www.soprafina.com*

CATE McQUAID

Museums

JOAN JONAS: I KNOW WHY THEY LEFT In 2017, Jonas was the artist in residence at the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, mining its collection for representations of animals. Why? To create a small suite of mournful drawings that capture "the importance of nature's life-force and our disruptive human presence." *Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way, through Oct. 14. 617-566-1401, www.gardnermuseum.org*

JACE CLAYTON: THE GREAT SALT 1638 marked the arrival in the Massachusetts Bay Colony of at least two things: A piece of fine silver, owned by John Glover, and the first slaves from Africa. That polarized pairing — finery versus oppression, humanity at its best and absolute worst — piqued the interest of Jayce Clayton, who selected the piece (called "The Great Salt," a fine vessel for the then-valuable mineral) as a symbol of the Middle Passage, where privilege assigned value to things over human lives. His response, an algorithmic thrumming of Afro-Cuban beats that emanate from a tangle of wires and components, haunts his installation like a ghost, and freights an object with meaning well beyond its form. *Lightbox Gallery, Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St., through Feb. 4. 617-495-9400, www.harvardartmuseums.org*

COLLECTING STORIES: NATIVE AMERICAN ART This show at the Museum of Fine Arts is the first of three extended exhibitions in which the museum dives deeply into an under-explored trove of its Art of the Americas collections. Native American objects are displayed here with often twinned labels: with words from an “expert,” who in some cases collected the piece, and from Native American sources that situate the piece in its use and social role. The show offers what appears to be a mea culpa: We’ve done too little, for too long. That changes now. *Museum of Fine Arts, through March 10. 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org*

MURRAY WHYTE

EVENTS

Comedy

HIDEOUT COMEDY The closing of Durgin-Park displaced this twice-weekly comedy show, which has moved to the White Bull Tavern. Hosts Dylan Krasinski and Same Ike welcome Sean Sullivan and Drew Dunn on Friday and Dan Crohn and Jiayong Li on Saturday, plus a few comics doing shorter sets. *Feb. 1-2, 8 p.m. \$10. White Bull Tavern, 1 Union St. 617-681-4600, www.thewhitebulltavern.com*

GREG FITZSIMMONS A sharp wit and welcoming presence, Fitzsimmons got his start as a Boston college student, and now writes for HBO’s “Crashing.” Catch Fitzsimmons’s interview with Judd Apatow on the latest episode of his podcast, “Fitzdog Radio.” *Jan. 31 at 8 p.m., Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. \$25. Laugh Boston, 425 Summer St. 617-725-2844, www.laughboston.com*

RON WHITE The “Blue Collar Comedy” veteran doesn’t let up on his fast and loose image in his latest Netflix special, “If You Quit Listening, I’ll Shut Up.” “I’ve drank so much in my life,” he says, “now on the back of my driver’s license there’s a list of organs I need.” Early show is sold out. *Feb. 1, 10 p.m. \$45-\$240. Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St. 617-248-9700, thewilbur.com*

NICK A. ZAINO III

Family

BOTSHOP Recycle outside of the bin. Using recycled materials like wood and rope, kids learn some engineering basics while building their own robots. *Jan. 27, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. \$30. Minni, 71 Thayer St. minni.space*

YOUNG COMPOSERS FESTIVAL Jam with the pros. Kids compose and perform alongside professional musicians. No previous experience necessary. *Feb. 1-2. Free. Community Music Center of Boston, 34 Warren Ave. cmcb.org*

FRANKLIN PARK WINTER FESTIVAL Take a break from trudging through the snow to enjoy it. Join the park coalition for sledding, snowshoeing, tracking animal prints, and more. *Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Franklin Park Golf Course, 1 Circuit Drive. www.franklinparkcoalition.org*

JENNI TODD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 13 **Gin Blossoms** at Paradise Rock Club songkick.com

Feb. 14 **Car Seat Headrest** at Royale songkick.com

Feb. 17 **Chippendales** at House of Blues livenation.com

Feb. 21 **You Me At Six** at Brighton Music Hall ticketmaster.com

Feb. 23 **Anderson .Paak** at Orpheum Theatre songkick.com

Feb. 25 **Vince Staples** at House of Blues livenation.com

Feb. 26 **Wiz Khalifa** and **Curren\$y** at Royale songkick.com

Feb. 26 **Le Butcherettes** at Brighton Music Hall ticketmaster.com

JENNI TODD

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