

The New York Times

December 2, 2016

10 Things to Do Now in NYC

Compiled by Louis Lucero II



Revelers at Studio 54 in 1979. Credit Bill Bernstein

Survey Films Focused on Israeli Communities

JCC Manhattan's 10th Annual Other Israel Film Festival

The Other Israel Film Festival — continuing through Thursday — emphasizes movies that focus on the country's Arab and Palestinian communities. The selections include Udi Aloni's "Junction 48" (Saturday), which won the best international narrative feature prize at this year's Tribeca Film Festival; it follows a rapper (the real-life musician Tamer Nafar) and his girlfriend (Samar Qupty) as they channel their love of hip-hop into social protest. "Mr. Aloni fuses joy and sorrow throughout the film and ends with a devastating image encapsulating the intransigent forces that conspire to silence young artists," Mike Hale wrote in The New York Times when the movie showed at Tribeca. Mr. Nafar will appear in concert with Marcus Mumford on Monday, at Le Poisson Rouge. BEN KENIGSBURG

Navigate a 'Nutcracker' That Leaves Clara in the Past

Gelsey Kirkland Ballet at GK Arts Center

In 1977, Gelsey Kirkland became America's Clara when she danced the role in a televised performance of Mikhail Baryshnikov's "The Nutcracker." For her own company's version, the heroine is known as Marie

(which is the case in many productions). Perhaps it's a way to let her talented protégées come into their own, without having to dance in her shadow. Names aside, the traditional narrative and merriment remain, though Ms. Kirkland's version makes Marie a more participatory heroine (2:00 with intermission). The company will begin performances of the seasonal staple on Thursday. BRIAN SCHAEFER

**Illuminate the Dark Corners of Storied New York Nightclubs
'Night Fever: New York Disco 1977-1979, the Bill Bernstein Photographs' at the Museum of Sex**

In the late 1970s, The Village Voice sent a young Bill Bernstein to shoot a ceremony honoring President Jimmy Carter's mother, Lillian, at Studio 54, and he left with the first of his images, now mythic, of disco at its peak. Moved by the libertine inclusivity and joy he found at Studio 54 — after Mrs. Carter retired for the evening, and it metamorphosed into a club — Mr. Bernstein went on to document night life at iconic salons like Paradise Garage and Le Clique during a critical point in disco history. "Night Fever" features 40 images from the era, as well as a pop-up disco featuring live D.J.s, whose mixes get a boost from an era-standard Richard Long audio configuration. The museum also promises cocktails that, mercifully, adhere to '70s-era prices. RYAN BURLESON

**Experience 'Drawing' in the Loosest Sense of the Word
'Cecily Brown: Rehearsal' at the Drawing Center**

This London-born painter's drawing practice makes a virtue of being hit or miss. Repeated studies of source imagery from internet pornography to old masters, in media including ink, watercolor and gouache, achieve an illuminating meditative clarity wholly separate from the virtues (or otherwise) of any given single piece. This Drawing Center exhibition dedicated to Ms. Brown's work will continue through Dec. 18. WILL HEINRICH

**Rock the Night Away at a Concert Benefiting Homeless Youth
Cyndi Lauper & Friends: Home for the Holidays at the Beacon Theater**

On Saturday Ms. Lauper will return with the annual benefit concert for her True Colors Fund charity, which aims to end homelessness among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. And she is calling on a diverse roster of performers to assist the cause: Billy Corgan of the Smashing Pumpkins, the singer-songwriter Sharon Van Etten, the soul singer Aloe Blacc, the alternative hip-hop group Oxymorrons, the comedian Judy Gold and others are scheduled to appear. The television personality Carson Kressley will host the evening, the net proceeds from which will go to Ms. Lauper's organization. KEVIN O'DONNELL

**See Stereotypes Upended by Realities of the Refugee Experience
'Vietgone' at City Center Stage I**

A raucous, audacious comedy by Qui Nguyen, directed by May Adrales and featuring an excellent cast, that strafes just about every subject it tackles and every character it presents. The play, based on the story of Mr. Nguyen's parents — refugees from South Vietnam who came to America in 1975 — inverts stereotypes with freewheeling abandon (2:20). It closes on Sunday. CHARLES ISHERWOOD

**Enjoy a Performance That's Directionless by Design
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra at Stern Auditorium**

The Turkish pianist and composer Fazil Say, a dynamic (some say excessively so) and outspoken artist, shows both facets of his work in a Saturday program at Carnegie Hall with the impressive Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. First, Mr. Say will be the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C; then he will play his own Second Piano Concerto ("Silk Road"). The orchestra also offers a Rossini overture and Haydn's Symphony No. 83 in G minor, both scores, as is this ensemble's way, performed without a conductor. ANTHONY TOMMASINI

**Catch the Final Gig of a Variety Show
'Showgasm.' at Ars Nova**

John Early returns on Thursday for one more extravagant night of his joyous variety show, sure to feature comedy, music and an eclectic assortment of performers. He'll be joined as always by his sidekick Hamm Samwich and the Cocoon Central Dance Team. ELISE CZAJKOWSKI

**Save an Island From a Villain's Evil Clutches
'Pip's Island' at Skylight Modern**

If your children have ever wondered what it might be like to step out of one of the gondolas during a theme park ride and interact with all the surrounding animatronic creatures, now's their chance.

It's called "Pip's Island," a show that is as much a technological extravaganza as it is a theatrical experience — sometimes more so.

Developed by Rami Ajami and Rania Ajami, a brother-and-sister team, and the production's creative director, Walter Kudrop, the show takes groups of about 50 through a dozen environments in which the children attending help act out the story. The object? To save this magical isle from the villainous Joules Volter, who wants to wrest all its energy from the realm's benevolent guardian, Amperes Wattson. LAUREL GRAEBER

**Join a Trio in Welcoming a Soulful Guest
Gerald Clayton Trio With Miguel Zenón at Jazz Standard**

Mr. Clayton has proved himself one of the standout jazz pianists of his generation, possessed of silvery technique and an intent but relaxed way with a phrase. He works most often in a trio, like the one he has here, with Joe Sanders on bass and Kendrick Scott on drums. Joining them for these Tuesday and Wednesday performances is Mr. Zenón, an alto saxophonist with a brilliant and soulful style. NATE CHINEN