

INSPIRATION

'Be faithful to your own taste, because nothing you really like is ever out of style.'

BILLY BALDWIN

Good Life

THE BOSTON GLOBE, SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019



LOVE LETTERS

What was simply a short summer fling quickly became more important to me.

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BEAT THE HEAT



The Colonnade Hotel's rooftop pool offers great views of the Back Bay and is open to the public during the week and hotel guests all the time.

Try cooling off at one of these rooftop bars and patios

By Chris Triunfo and Martha Merrow

GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

It's time to brace ourselves for the worst of the summer heat, and there's no better way to do it than with an ice cold drink, some great food, and a good view from some of the city's best patio and rooftop bars.

Publico Beach Club

Vibes: South Boston has turned South Beach with this summer's newest pop-up: Publico Beach Club. OK, so you can't dip your toes in the sand, but you can breathe in the fresh air at this "oceanside haven." There's major nautical vibes going on here, complete with all the beachy decor you need to pretend you're in Miami: retro beach stripes, pops of orange and turquoise, and buoys galore. The snack-shack-inspired menu includes some sensational seafood: clam fritters, lobster rolls, and beach sticker oysters. This summer oasis is fresh, fun, and free of Cape Cod traffic.

Guest list: Publico Street Bistro's local regulars make up a big part of the crowd, but it's becoming friendly to a few new faces, especially among families and younger friend groups.

Eat this: Chef Joel Howard's signature Hot Dawg is a slam dunk: Kayem hot dog, poblano chili, pineapple sal-

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THE WEEKENDER

French films, first-rate fests, and OMG 'Evan Hansen'!

By Michael Andor Brodeur
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Hey there Weekenders, how go those dog days?

It's official: We've entered the serious (or is it Sirius?) stretch of the summer, which means it becomes more tempting than ever to follow Fido's lead and just tip over somewhere cool and dark until the sun calms down.

As nice as that sounds, this weekend I urge you to resist the call of the mild. Why? Because there's so much going on, and it's all high-quality stuff (meaning, not "Stuber"). So who wants to go outside? Do you want to go outside? (OK, that's enough with the dog stuff.) Let's go!

BIG LITTLE LIE: No parent of a teenage theater geek could
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PHOTOS BY PARAS GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES



BENNETT RAGLIN/GETTY IMAGES

Essence Festival is a black woman's world

Attendees celebrate event's 25 years of black affirmation

By Jeneé Osterheldt
GLOBE STAFF

NEW ORLEANS — Under the sea, Ariel wished to be part of our world. The Little Mermaid, like black women, wanted to be free.

For a few days in July every year, black women do not have to fit into a white world. New Orleans is their world, as Essence Festival takes over the city with more than half a million black women flying in from all corners of the globe to celebrate the magazine that raised us.

Last week, as the pre-festivities were kicking off, we were given one more reason to celebrate: Actress and singer Halle Bailey was cast as Ariel in Disney's live-action "The Little



AMY HARRIS/INVISION/AP

Left: Michelle Obama (far left) and Gayle King spoke at the Essence Festival in New Orleans. Other guests included (above, clockwise from top left): Jemele Hill, Missy Elliott, Indya Moore, and Ava DuVernay.

Mermaid."

As a sea of sistas washed into New Orleans, where black women and girls are known to make history, we delighted in the news of a black mermaid of our own. Immediately, poor unfortunate souls tried to steal our joy with #NotMyAriel, an online movement decrying a fictional fishgirl's blackness. We aren't surprised. We live in a

world where a red carpet of racism welcomes us into every room. But last week in New Orleans, where every step you took was in the direction of a black woman, our happiness was unbothered. "I felt like I was at home," said Danielle Taylor, 28, a Boston engineer. "Seeing all of these beautiful black faces from all walks of life, especially now that I live in an area where the black population isn't as high, it was beautiful."

Taylor, like so many black women, grew up flipping through the glossy pages of Essence magazine in her

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Inside



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EMOTIONALLY POTENT

Tony-winning musical 'Dear Evan Hansen' feels of-the-moment and built to last

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Cool off at one of these rooftop bars, patios

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sa, bacon, and lime mayo.

Drink this: It's summer in the city: you need a frozen cocktail. There are three options at the beach club: spiked lemonade, a Dark N' Stormy, and frosé.

Etc.: On Saturdays and Sundays, Publico Beach Club opens at 11 a.m. for brunch: blessed. Check Publico's social media channels for information about upcoming events at the beach club, including summer movies and a Caribbean night. Publico Beach Club at Public Street Bistro & Garden. publicoboston.com

The Colonnade Hotel Rooftop Pool

The vibe: Poolside paradise. One of Boston's few rooftop pool bars, the Colonnade offers an upbeat scene for sun lovers and loungers. Few things in this world will make you feel more boujee than sipping cocktails on this 12th-floor terrace. Make sure to enjoy its expansive views of Back Bay on a day with some breeze and cloud coverage — you'll probably need it to beat the heat and cramped space.

Guest list: It's a mixed bag. Young professionals during the day, locals and singles at night, and a steady international crowd throughout the week.

Drink this: The raspberry mojito or strawberry margarita should do the trick. When in doubt, go for the classic: aperol spritz.

Eat this: Two words: cheeseburger sliders. Two more: treat yourself.

Etc.: It has been said that the rooftop is great for parties after 5 p.m., (i.e. giant "monster mules" fit to serve a small army) but keep in mind that there's a fee for nonhotel guests. It's \$45 during the day for people who aren't guests of the hotel, and \$25 after 5. Weekends, it's guests only. And it should be noted that the rooftop fills quickly — the hotel stresses that the rooftop is open on a first-come, first-served basis. 120 Huntington Ave. 617-424-7000; www.colonnadehotel.com/roof-top-pool

Pier 6

The vibe: Chic, elegant, and a little bit on the swankier side, Pier 6 in the Charlestown harborside offers some peace and quiet away from the city's buzz and bustle. Steps from the USS



ANJA MARINKOVIC

Constitution in the marina, this rooftop bar and patio features panoramic views, a seafood-heavy menu, and lots of "nautical design elements" to match its backdrop.

Guest list: Pier 6 suits a casual crowd, mainly the after-work crew, young couples, and families. Plus, on one occasion, the Bruins: The NHL team paid a visit just last week.

Drink this: The much-buzzed-about crab cake with frisee, red onions, and chipotle aioli. And depending on the market prices for the day, the lobster roll is worth checking out, too.

Drink this: Shared cocktails (there's one called "a Nauti Bath"), watermelon frosé, plus wine and beer on tap.

Etc.: Pier 6 offers a complimentary boat shuttle to the marina on weekends, noon to 10 p.m. There's a parking lot next to the restaurant that charges an hourly rate — credit cards only. There's also a garage across the street at Flagship Wharf. 1 8th St., Charlestown, 617-337-0054; www.pier6boston.com

Publico Street Bistro is transforming its interior courtyard and garden space into "Publico Beach Club."

away. 250 Hanover St., 617-371-1176; www.ristorantefiore.com

Boston Seasons Patio at City Hall Plaza

The vibe: This cozy spot is a public-private pop-up project, right across from the Dreamland Wax Museum. Renewed for the summer after last year's successful stint, The Patio — laid back, covered, and always bustling — is good for almost any occasion.

Guest list: Anyone, really! Coworkers gather in the late afternoon and couples flock at night, but you'll always find a group of friends itching to get a cookout started.

Eat this: This spot is interesting because it's very DIY. While the beer is provided by Wachusett Brewing Co., the food is more or less up to you. Guests are encouraged to bring their own coolers full of food for a cookout using one of four electric grills, which are first-come, first-served. Not in the mood to lug food around? You can buy grillables onsite from Bittersweet

Ristorante Fiore

The vibe: It's refined, it's regal, it's relaxed. Ristorante Fiore is a rooftop gem in the North End. Spy on the masses below from a cast-iron seat or catch up with the local teams on the flatscreens. This spot defines versatility, welcoming any crowd and occasion. Are you in Boston? Or are you in Tuscany?

Guest list: Tourists and locals alike. It's a popular spot with the professionals of the financial district, too.

Eat this: It's the North End: homemade pasta or bust. Its chitarrine alla carbonara, for example, has received high praise.

Etc.: The rooftop is covered, so even a rainy day shouldn't keep you

Days of French films and first-rate fests

► **WEEKENDER**
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possibly be unaware of this fact but I'm putting it out there anyway: It's opening week for "Dear Evan Hansen" and you *have to go*. This aggressively contemporary tale of a social-media fib that whips itself into a viral whirlwind became its own sensation and scored a half-dozen Tony Awards in 2017, including the trophy for best musical. (Check out Globe correspondent Christopher Wallenberg's recent chat with songwriting team Benj Pasek and Justin Paul and writer Steven Levenson.) The Broadway in Boston presentation runs **through Aug. 4** at the Citizens Bank Opera House.

WHY CAN'T I BE YOU: From "Big" to "Little" to the novel and 2003 hit film in between, we've seen various variations on the fable of "Freaky Friday" for years, but in Disney's new musical adaptation, the freshened-up book by Bridget Carpenter and score by Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winners Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey put a "contemporary fairy tale spin" on this well-worn tale of trading places. (Plus, the more we tell this story, the easier it is for people to understand that I'm not being remotely figurative when I say I'm actually Lindsay Lohan on the inside.) It's onstage at North Shore Music Theatre **through July 21**.

FRESH FROM THE PIERRES: Kicking off this week and running **through July 28** at the Museum of Fine Arts is the 23rd annual Boston French Film Festival, which Globe correspondent Loren King says "delivers on the frequent festival claim of offering something for everyone." Among this weekend's offerings are Pierre Salvadori's "The Trouble With You" on Saturday; and Pierre Schoeller's revolutionary epic (just in time for Bastille Day), "One Nation, One King" on Sunday.

OWING MUSES: Leonard Cohen wasn't such a big fan of his nicknames — from the common ones ("High Priest of Pathos") to the not ("Patron Saint of Disappointment"). "You get tired, over the years, hearing that you're the champion of gloom," he once told the BBC. After all, despite all of those dirgy jams, Cohen was a lover at heart — and it's a side of the art-

ist that comes fully to light in "Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love," a new documentary about Cohen and his longtime lover, friend, and muse, Marianne Ihlen, directed by Nick Broomfield (who "fell in love with their relationship"). **Now screening.**

FEST CASE SCENARIO: If festing of some sort is on the weekend agenda, you've got two solid options. At the fairgrounds in Marshfield, you can take in the aggressively chill Levitate Music and Arts Festival, with a week-end-long lineup of performers with headliners including Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats on **Saturday** and Damian Marley on **Sunday**. And farther afield in Greenfield, a limited number of weekend passes remain for the ever-more-powerful Green River Festival, this year featuring the Wood Brothers headlining on **Saturday**, and the Devil Makes Three on **Sunday**. (But don't miss psych-folk duo Mapache, or erstwhile Carolina Chocolate Drop and MacArthur Fellow Rhianon Giddens.)

TWEE THE PEOPLE: So lilting, so swoonworthy, so kitten-soft, so effervescently sensitive. . . . I still haven't fully emerged from the wistful daydream inspired by my last encounter with Scottish twee-pop powerhouse Belle & Sebastian, so I daren't return just yet — lest I drift irretrievably further into my reverie. For the rest of you, they're at House of Blues on **Saturday**, playing tracks off a new album called "How to Solve Our Human Problems." (I suggest listening to way too much Belle & Sebastian, for starters.) Get there early to get your hair blown back by Mary Timony's swagatacular trio, Ex Hex.

GROWN UP: Ex-"SNL" star Rob Schneider is up in these parts to film a movie (uh-oh), and he's making a stand-up stop on stage at the Wilbur on **Saturday** night. But if your relationship with Rob Schneider ended roughly around the same time as your relationship with whoever that you see "The Waterboy," let me assure you that was a long, long time ago, and Schneider's more recent forays into conversational podcasting with his wife, Patricia Maya ("See What Happens"), present a very different side of



MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS/FILE 1997



ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Schneider. (Oh sweet Lord no, not that side again.) You know what? Maybe never mind.

PILLOW FLIGHT: This weekend at Jacob's Pillow in Becket brings a 50th-anniversary appearance by the renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem. The 16-member company led by founding member and former princi-

pal dancer Virginia Johnson will honor late cofounder Arthur Mitchell with presentations of Darrell Grand Moultrie's "Harlem on My Mind" along with works by Balanchine, Wheeldon, and Ochoa. Also onstage this weekend is the world premiere of the Shaker-inspired work "POWER" by Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group.

Homestead, which will offer all the makings of a perfect cookout: burgers, Italian sausages, hot dogs, lemonade, and even some sweets. Not in the mood to cook? Well, from 5 to 8 p.m. every day, and at lunchtime, food trucks line the plaza, with regular appearances from Roxy's Grilled Cheese, Maria's Taqueria, Clyde's Cupcakes, and Tacos Don Beto.

Drink this: Wachusett has some awesome beer, but we like the blueberry wheat ale. Refreshing, light, and fruity — it's our definition of summer.

Etc.: A fan favorite from last year, the patio is featuring "Wag Wednesdays," a recurring weekly event where people can meet and play with adoptable dogs from Shultz's Guest House. 1 City Hall Plaza. cityhallplazaboston.com/patios-pints

Felipe's Taqueria

The vibe: Sometimes, you want to hit a rooftop bar that has a dress code. The kind where you order martinis and pretend to know a lot about the jazz song that's playing over a sophisticated speaker. Sometimes the music is even live. But there are other times where you want to just get up there and EAT. Maybe a few margaritas won't hurt either. That's where Felipe's comes in. A fast-casual Mexican joint, this spot has become a Cambridge favorite since it earned a full liquor license.

Guest list: Lots and lots of college students and young working professionals. This spot is less than a block away from Harvard Yard, and even though it's summer, a lot of students and graduates stick around and love to get drinks.

Eat this: You can't go wrong with Felipe's quesadilla.

Drink this: The frozen margarita! It's all anyone can talk about.

Etc.: Not in the mood to drink alcohol? Try a Jarritos. This Mexican staple is a strikingly sweet soda with all sorts of fruity flavors, but avid drinkers consider it to be more of a nectar. 21 Brattle St., Cambridge, 617-354-9944; harvardsq.felipestaqueria.com

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TLC's "JFK Jr. and Carolyn's Wedding: The Lost Tapes" offers never-seen footage of John F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Bessette (at left). Below: Marianne Ihlen and Leonard Cohen in the documentary "Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love."

FAR OUT: And while you're way out west, Globe critic Mark Feeney really dug "Woodstock to the Moon: 1969 Illustrated," on view at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge **through Oct. 27**. It's an exhibition of illustrations that gets right to the heart of "the clash of turbulence and continuity" that defined the time. Featuring prints, posters, newspapers, LP covers, manuscripts, and other illustrated artifacts, what could be a cluttered time capsule is actually an exhibition of "impressive concision." "One could go on about the show's skillful blending of rad and trad," writes Feeney.

OR STAY IN: Maybe the dog has the right idea. On the couch this weekend you can catch "Shangri-La," the four-part Showtime documentary on music producer and pop guru Rick Rubin, famous for his work with the Beastie Boys, Public Enemy, Adele, Aerosmith, Kanye West, and Lady Gaga. You can binge all four episodes on Showtime streaming apps.

And with the 20th anniversary of JFK Jr.'s death approaching (July 16), you'll be seeing a lot of his objectively ruggedly handsome mug around as appreciations and searching biographies try to recapture the allure of the "reluctant prince." And if you really want to work that fake-royal angle, on Saturday night at 8 p.m., TLC is airing the two-hour special "JFK Jr. and Carolyn's Wedding: The Lost Tapes," which features never-seen footage of the 1996 wedding of John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette, and I am already on the couch with my bonbons waiting for it to start.

And that, heat-weary Weekenders, is all I've got in the doggie bag this week. Stay cool, stay hydrated, stay out of trouble, and however you spend your weekend, make it one you'll miss come Monday.

Want the Globe's top picks for what to see and do each weekend e-mailed to you? Sign up for the Weekend newsletter at bostonglobe.com/weekender.

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