



Goes for rock and roll; a hot dog makes her lose control

Diviant Behavior. The musical misadventures of Carol Vanness and Cheryl Strudel, two opera stars no one can tell apart. Tonight, the girls play a practical joke on guest star Thomas Hampson. Carol: Nora Dunn. Cheryl: Kathy Najimy. Vocal highlights: "Autumn in New York" (Carol); "Moonlight in Vermont" (Cheryl); "Dove sono i bei momenti" (Both); "Sempre libera" (Neither) Not on NBC's fall schedule.

is the ideal queer hero-- he's young, he's beautiful, and he's misunderstood. I mean, he saves the life of a rape victim, and she curses him. Don't we all have days like that? • "I am differently organized from other men. The world ought to give me what I need." -- R. Wagner, 1855. His friends began to refer to these statements as "Siegmundisms." • Have you seen this heldentenor? A prominent mezzo-soprano once said, "If the tenor doesn't have a hard-on by the time I finish the Habanera, I'm not doing my job right." Similarly, a good Siemgund should leave the audience, well, uneasy (as he says, "I was drawn to men and women"). Peter Hofmann's Walsung as Rock Star is but a fond memory now, but, wow, was he ever Trouble ("Wehwait")! Imagine Jim Morrison rewritten by John Rechy, and you're almost there. • A rival soprano once said of Lotte Lehmann, "She does on stage things I wouldn't do at home with my husband!" Now I know what she meant. I was at Hofmann's last NY Walkure, when he and Rysanek looked ready to devour big chunks of each other. He played the wolfboy as a cute mess who didn't live by other men's rules (he fucks his sister without a second thought; the last thing he does in this world is to smile at his murderer) A great portrayal, a dangerous portrayal, a queer portrayal in the best sense of the word. Hofmann will probably never sing in NY again, but console yourself with "House of the Rising Sun" from his "Rock Classics" LP. This man knows.

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PAR TERRE BOX

QUEER OPERA

Dmitri's box is full why bother?
A hot dog makes her lose control!



Scandal at the Royal Opera! Dame Kiri te Kanawa has withdrawn from the new Philip Glass opera *The Life and Times of Sunny von Bulow*. The diva was accused of "lip-synching" the title role to pre-recordings made by Glenn Close.

We hear that...

Renata Scotto plans a surprise return to the stage in London this summer. She will sing the role of Norma, replacing Patti LuPone, who has scheduled a well-deserved *crise de nerfs*.

Following his resounding success in the media circus *On the Town*, Thomas Hampson is going into the studio to record an all-Leonard Bernstein recital, appropriately entitled *I'm so lucky to be me*. Meanwhile, Hampson's *Ragazze, Ragazze* co-star Cecelia Bartoli will collaborate with Prince on a crossover CD to be entitled "*Se 2 m'ami*." The disc will feature "Al di la" sung as a duet with Bartoli's biological mother, Connie Francis.

Producer Mark Lamos is the proud recipient of the "Yellow Ribbon" award for his refusal to explore the "political context" of *Lombardi* (an opera about a wealthy and powerful Western nation at war with a Persian Gulf dictator for reasons of profit and offended pride). Says Lamos, "It's important to be trendy, but not at the expense of making people think."

Dmitri Hvorostovsky has signed an exclusive six-figure contract to promote designer underwear in a series of "tasteful" TV spots airing later this year. The humpy baritone will be seen in white tie and Calvin Klein briefs crooning "Karabejniki (Oh, the little box is full)" from his hit "Dark Eyes" CD.

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New York, NY 10023

... she cries out that such slaughter is surely against God's will ("No! ... giusta causa non e d'Iddio!") and accuses her father of being inspired not by Christian piety but by his desire for the Muslims' gold.



BOX

(OPPOSITE); LAMOS FEELS THAT OPERA SINGERS ARE "LARGER THAN LIFE, SOMETIMES MUCH LARGER."

MIME! QUICKLY - WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS SWORD I'M MAKING?

Join A Club Just for You!



I've come out of the closet.

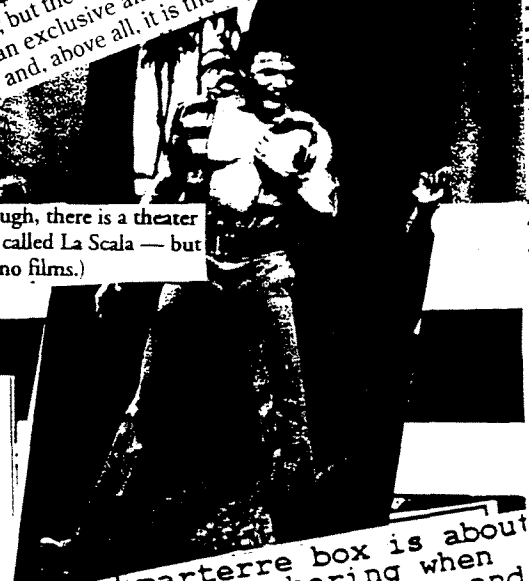
Is it a sign?

it! I have got to hold it!" I kept saying to myself, tightening every muscle as if I were actually pulling on a wire stretched between myself and the audience.



(Oddly enough, there is a theater in Helsinki called La Scala — but it is a tiny one and shows porno films.)

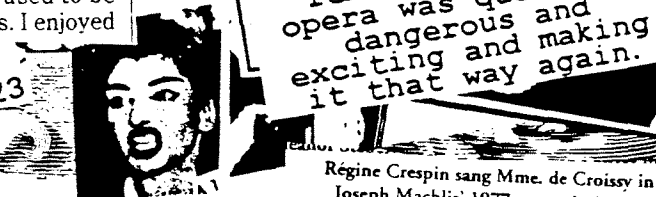
but the real charm of opera is this — it is an exclusive and extravagant recreation, and, above all, it is the fashion.



parterre box is about remembering when opera was queer and dangerous and exciting and making it that way again.

Why should Ordine's and Helmwig's horses not be stabled together?

"I think opera's fun. I used to think it was boring, just a lot of ladies singing high notes. Sometimes I heard parts of opera on TV — it was just all singing. But it's a combination of acting and singing. I listen to blues, rap, any music. If it's opera and I like it, I'll listen to it. I used to watch *Tom and Jerry* cartoons. These opera ladies used to be dressed up in metal armor suits. I enjoyed it on *Tom and Jerry*."

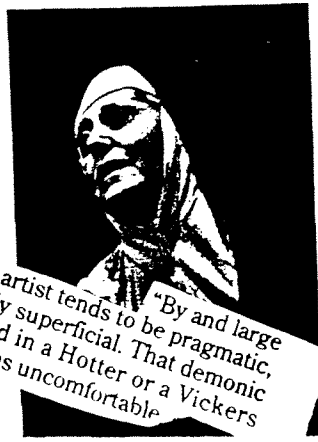


Régine Crespin sang Mme. de Croissy in Joseph Machlis' 1977 transcription of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*

Opera Highlights

These single CDs are the perfect choice for your favorite operas. Recordings chosen by our advisory committee.

TITLE	TALENT	LABEL	CD
Aida	Ricciarelli, Domingo		
The Barber of Seville	Barton, Nucci		
La Boheme	Freni, Pavarotti		
Carmen	Calas, Gedda		
Cavallieri/Pagliacci	Patane, Pavarotti		
Don Giovanni	Schwarzkopf		
Faust	Stoner, Van Dam		
La Forza del Destino	Freni, Domingo		
Lucia di Lammermoor	Calas, Cappocci		
Madama Butterfly	Freni, Pavarotti		
The Magic Flute			
The Marriage of Figaro			
The Merry Widow			
Norma			
Der Rosenkavalier			
Tales of Hoffmann			
Tannhauser	Studer, Domingo		
Tosca	te Kanawa, Aragall		
La Traviata	Sutherland, Pavarotti		
Turandot	Ricciarelli, Domingo		



"By and large the American artist tends to be pragmatic, facile, relatively superficial. That demonic quality you find in a Hotter or a Vickers makes Americans uncomfortable."

why bother?

La Fille du Regiment
8:00-10:25
Müller: Blackwell, Elias, Olsen, Praticò

La Boheme
8:00-10:50
Rizzi: TBA, Geyer, Farina, D. Croft, Lanza, Robbins, Capecci

Carlo Rizzi

Maria Guleghina

Mariella Devia

Fidelio

1:30-4:20 Last
Michael: Evans, Donath, Heppner, Schade, Hale,



Michael Sylvester



Valery Gergiev



Mariella Devia



Maria Guleghina

Have you heard any good new fairy battle stories lately? If they're really, really nasty, send them to Parterre Box. Best story gets a Parterre Box T-shirt.

2 rules:
• Stories don't have to be true.
• If you use the word "exquisite" (even once) you're disqualified.

If Kathleen Battle married Emmanuel Ar...