

On a rose-petaled journey

BY FRANK LOVECE
Special to Newsday

Former race-car driver and new “The Bachelor” star Arie Luyendyk Jr. knows about finishing second. He reached second place behind A.J. Foyt IV in the 2002 Infiniti / Indy Pro racing series — his highest year-end standing in his 2002-2010 racing career — and reached second place behind Jef Holm on the eighth season of “The Bachelorette” in 2012. Now, with season 22 of “The Bachelor” premiering Monday at 8 p.m. on ABC, the 36-year-old real estate broker is finally in the pole position — in the front row, on the inside track.

“I think I let my career get in the way a lot,” Luyendyk, son of two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Arie Luyendyk, told Newsday in a conference call with media. “[When] I’ve had [relationship] conflicts in the past, I haven’t dealt with it right away . . . I just went on another racing trip to sort of brush [problems] off, and those problems grew and they became problems that we couldn’t get through. I think communication is the biggest thing for me,” he said, citing it as the primary issue in why past relationships have failed. “I think now that I’m 36, I’ve really learned how to sort of work through that.”

He apparently was successful, saying, “I did find love and I actually fell in love with two people” in the season soon to unfold — even suggesting he found some-

one with whom to begin a family. “A lot of times, personality didn’t fit or views on marriage didn’t fit,” he told Newsday of previous relationships. “I’ve been in a relationship where someone didn’t want to have kids. I really want to have kids,” he said.

The two women with whom he fell in love were among the 29 ranging in age from 23 to 33 — none from Long Island — who on the season premiere attempt to make a first impression in the *de rigueur* wacky ways. One arrives wearing a mask, a nod to Luyendyk’s fan nickname as “the kissing bandit.” Another drives up in a miniature Formula One race car. Yet another speaks in Dutch to Luyendyk — who was born in the Netherlands and immigrated with his family to the United States at age 3.

And he is open, he said, to the idea of moving from his current home in Scottsdale, Arizona, to wherever his new beloved lives. “I think the great thing about real estate is you can do it anywhere,” he said. “You can get a license anywhere . . . I love Scottsdale. I love being in real estate. I did over \$13 million in sales this year and it’s so much fun. But it is something that I’m open to, as far as moving to another place and pursuing that same career.”

And this time, he doesn’t plan to make his significant other feel like she’s in second place.



ABC / CRAIG SIDJIN

Arie Luyendyk Jr. came in second in the eighth season of “The Bachelorette” in 2012.

today’s picks

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER (9 p.m., NBC/4) — Season premiere: George Foreman, Henry Winkler, Terry Bradshaw and William Shatner begin their second season of globe-trotting adventures. Tonight, they travel to Sweden where they taste the world’s smelliest dish and Foreman is surprised by a founding member of ABBA.



NBC / RICO TORRES

Terry Bradshaw leads a band of “Vikings” in “Better Late Than Never” on NBC.

ALLSTATE SUGAR BOWL (8:50 p.m., ESPN) No. 4 Alabama (11-1) takes on No. 1 Clemson (12-1) in a College Football Playoff semifinal from the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. **GREAT PERFORMANCES: FROM VIENNA: THE NEW YEAR’S CELEBRATION 2018** (9 p.m., WNET/13) — The Vienna Philharmonic performs Strauss family waltzes, accompanied by the Vienna City Ballet. Hugh Bonneville hosts.

offthewall

DAYTIME OLDIES Fresh vintage shows arrive with the new year. Marathons launch Craig T. Nelson’s “Coach” (5 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Antenna) and Fran Drescher’s “The Nanny” (9 a.m.-8 p.m., Cozi). Also added weekdays: Bob Cummings’ “Love That Bob” (2 p.m., 1 a.m.) and Betty White’s “Life With Elizabeth” (2:30 p.m., 1:30 a.m., both on Decades), plus the Western spy fun of Robert Conrad’s “The Wild Wild West” (5 p.m., MeTV). Moving into prime time: Jim Nabors as “Gomer Pyle” (weeknights at 9, MeTV). Antenna also has the first episodes for “Alice” (1 a.m.) and Tuesday arrivals “Head of the Class” (2:30 p.m.), “Gimme a Break” (4 p.m.), “Silver Spoons” (6 p.m.), “Growing Pains” (7 p.m.), and “Murphy Brown” (10 p.m.).



ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

Shelley Fabares and Craig T. Nelson star in “Coach.”

— DIANE WERTS

TV ON DVD

Music documentaries to tune into

Start the new year with music movies:

D.O.A.: A RIGHT OF PASSAGE Classic 1980 punk rock portrait with the Sex Pistols, the Clash, Iggy Pop, Billy Idol, many more is now on Blu-ray with uncompressed audio, making-of documentary, manager Malcolm McLaren interview, plus poster, liner notes. List price: \$40 Blu-ray+DVD, out from MVD Visual.

HYPE! Grunge scene is explored with Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Mudhoney, others, plus bonus 20-year-later interviews, commentary, more; \$17 DVD/\$22 Blu, Shout.

RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO



RESOLUTION PICTURES

Buffy Sainte-Marie is among those profiled in “Rumble.”

ROCKED THE WORLD Native talents profiled include Robbie Robertson, George Clinton, Link Wray, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Mildred Bailey, Martha Redbone, part-Cherokee Jimi Hendrix; \$20 DVD, Kino Lorber.

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL: NOS AMIS Group from 2015 Paris theater bombing revisits the city, with director Colin Hanks; \$20 DVD/\$25 Blu, Shout.

SAXOPHONE COLOSSUS Acclaimed 1986 Sonny Rollins doc gets new 4K transfer, filmmaker Robert Muggie reflections; \$20 DVD or Blu, MVD.

A TRIBUTE TO LES PAUL Guitar legend is interviewed, as disciples play: Slash, Edgar Winter, Joe Satriani, Joe Perry, Buddy Guy, Neal Schon; \$20 DVD, MVD.

THE DEFIANT ONES HBO’s multipart portrait of Beats boys Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine; \$30 DVD/\$35 Blu, HBO. — DIANE WERTS

tv talk

DAYTIME TODAY (7 a.m., NBC/4) — Bob Harper
KELLY & RYAN (9 a.m., WABC/7) — Maya Rudolph
RACHAEL RAY (10 a.m., WABC/7) — Wyclef Jean (repeat)
WENDY WILLIAMS (10 a.m., WNYW/5, 4 p.m., WWOR/9, 2 a.m., BET) — Bellamy Young (repeat)
THE REAL (11 a.m., WNYW/5, 5 p.m., WWOR/9) — Kim Zolciak-Biermann (repeat)
HARRY CONNICK JR. (2 p.m., WNYW/5) — Debra Messing (repeat)
DR. PHIL (3 p.m., WCBS/2; 8 p.m., WLNY/10/55) — Abducted twice and molested (repeat)



GETTY IMAGES FOR SONY PICTURES

Maya Rudolph visits “Kelly & Ryan.”

NIGHT CONAN (11 p.m., TBS) — Adam Sandler (repeat)
COLBERT (11:35 p.m., CBS/2) — Carol Burnett (repeat)
FALLON (11:35 p.m., NBC/4) — Jeff Bridges (repeat)
MEYERS (12:35 a.m., NBC/4) — Carey Mulligan (repeat)
CORDEN (12:35 a.m., CBS/2) — Anna Wintour (repeat)