

East Village Opera Company

**DROPS**

➔ Rock/opera hybrid group **East Village Opera Company** will release a new album of amplified and electrified opera masterpieces on *Old School* due Aug. 12 on **Decca**. Led by creators **Peter Kiesewalter** and **Tyley Ross**, East Village Opera Company takes some of the most recognizable arias by giants like **Wagner, Handel, Verdi, Bach** and **Puccini** and re-imagine them as rock epics, using a full symphony orchestra and R&B horns. Lead singer Ross and arranger/multi-instrumentalist Kiesewalter co-founded EVOG after meeting in 2001 while working on the soundtrack for a feature film in Canada. The director's request to "let me hear Italian opera in a way that hasn't been done before" was the seed that eventually led the two to form the group. For further information, contact Rebecca Shapiro at Shore Fire Media, 718-522-7171 ext. 16.

*The Next Big Thing*, a world premiere garage rock musical, is playing now through Aug. 16 at the art/works Theatre in Los Angeles. Set in 1983, the musical follows a budding garage band as they seek a new sound, much to the dismay of band leader Chip's mom, a singer/songwriter from the '60s with her own history and ideas. Music is by members of rock band **Breech**, winner of the DIY Album of the Year with its release, *Apron Strings*, and nominee for Best Indie Band by the *OC Weekly*. For tickets, call 323-960-4418 or visit [www.plays411.com/bigthing](http://www.plays411.com/bigthing).

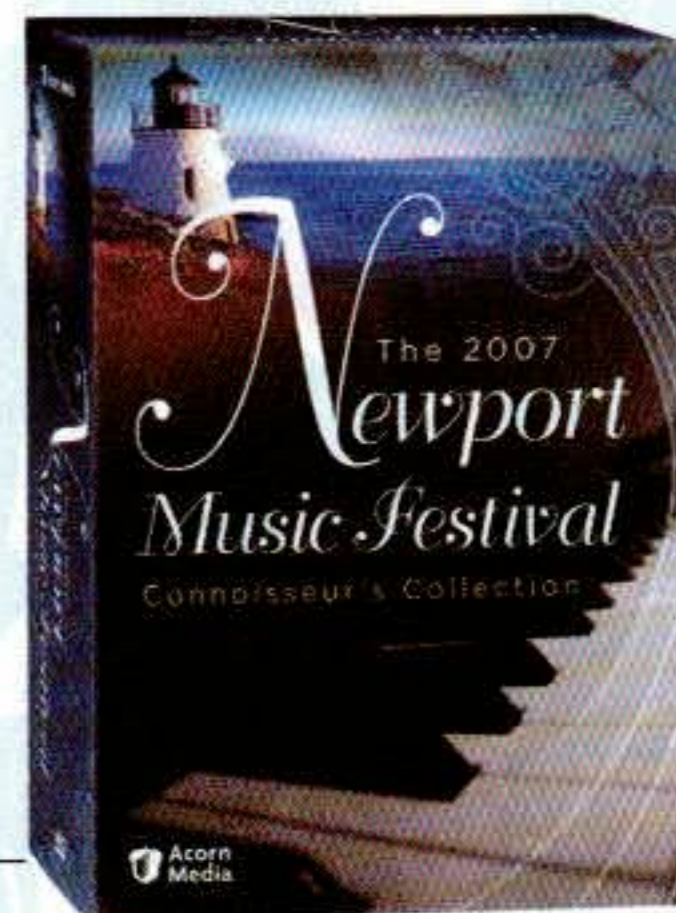
➔ **Blue13 Dance Company** is scheduled to present the world premiere of *KHEL! A Bollywood Bedtime Story*, Aug. 23 at the **Ford Amphitheatre** in Los Angeles. With a title meaning "play" in Hindi, this is a story of four children who have fallen into a vibrant Eastern phantasmagoria of games, toys, bedtime stories and fantastical creatures that collide and come to life. With choreography by **Achinta S. McDaniel** and Assistant Choreographers **Arun Mathai** and **Kory Keith**, the production features the premiere of a full original score composed by **Tej Gill**. For tickets call 323-461-3673. To buy online go to [www.fordtheatres.org](http://www.fordtheatres.org). For further information, visit [www.blue13dance.org](http://www.blue13dance.org).

➔ **Palm Pictures** has announced the theatrical release of acclaimed photographer **Steven Sebring's** directorial debut, *Patti Smith: Dream of Life*. The film is scheduled for release this September. Smith emerged in the '70s with a unique style of poetic rage, music and swagger. Sebring, who is renowned for merging raw realism with high fashion in his portraiture, first met Smith in 1996 when he photographed her for *Spin* magazine. Upon seeing

her perform, he was so moved that he asked if he might begin filming her — thus beginning an 11-year odyssey. This celebrated portrait of the legendary poet, artist, musician and activist won the Cinematography Award when it received its world premiere at the **2008 Sundance Film Festival**, where it was also nominated for the Grand Jury Prize. For more information, contact Bobbie Gale at Big Hassle Media, 310-821-6916 or visit [www.dreamoflifethemovie.com](http://www.dreamoflifethemovie.com).

➔ **Acorn Media** has just released *The 2007 Newport Music Festival Connoisseur's Collection*, the first-ever DVD compilation from one of the country's premier venues for classical music. The 10-disc Collector's Edition includes many of the best concerts from the 2007 season, featuring composers from **Mozart to Mendelssohn and Chopin to Schubert**, as well as six hours of bonus performances. The concerts allow listeners to experience chamber music in the kind of grand rooms for which it was written, among them opulent Gilded Age mansions. To order or for more information, contact Acorn Media at 888-870-8047 or visit [www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com).

**MTV** has the exclusive premiere of *The American Mall* on Aug. 11, with the movie DVD and soundtrack headed to stores the following day. From the executive producers of the hit *High School Musical*, *The American Mall* is the story of Ally, a hardworking young woman whose mother has owned a music shop that's long been the soul of the mall. Ally's singer/songwriter dreams seem to come closer to fruition when she meets Joey, a musician who's moonlighting as a janitor at the mall in order to support his own rock star ambitions. The official website is up now at [www.TheAmericanMall.com](http://www.TheAmericanMall.com). For more information, contact Anastasia Lee at MTV, 310-752-8082.



New from **Music Video Distributors** is the DVD release of *Sic F\*cks - CBGB OMFUG Master: Live October 13th, 2006, Bowery Collection*. The Sic F\*cks were one of the earliest N.Y. punk/glam bands, formed by famous scenesters/sisters **Tish** and **Snooky** — now known as purveyors of the **Manic Panic** cosmetics line — after their stint as backup singers in **Blondie**. This live set features the band running through their best songs at the world famous and much missed CBGBs. For more information or to order, contact Clint Weiler at MVD Entertainment Group, 800-888-0486 ext. 115.

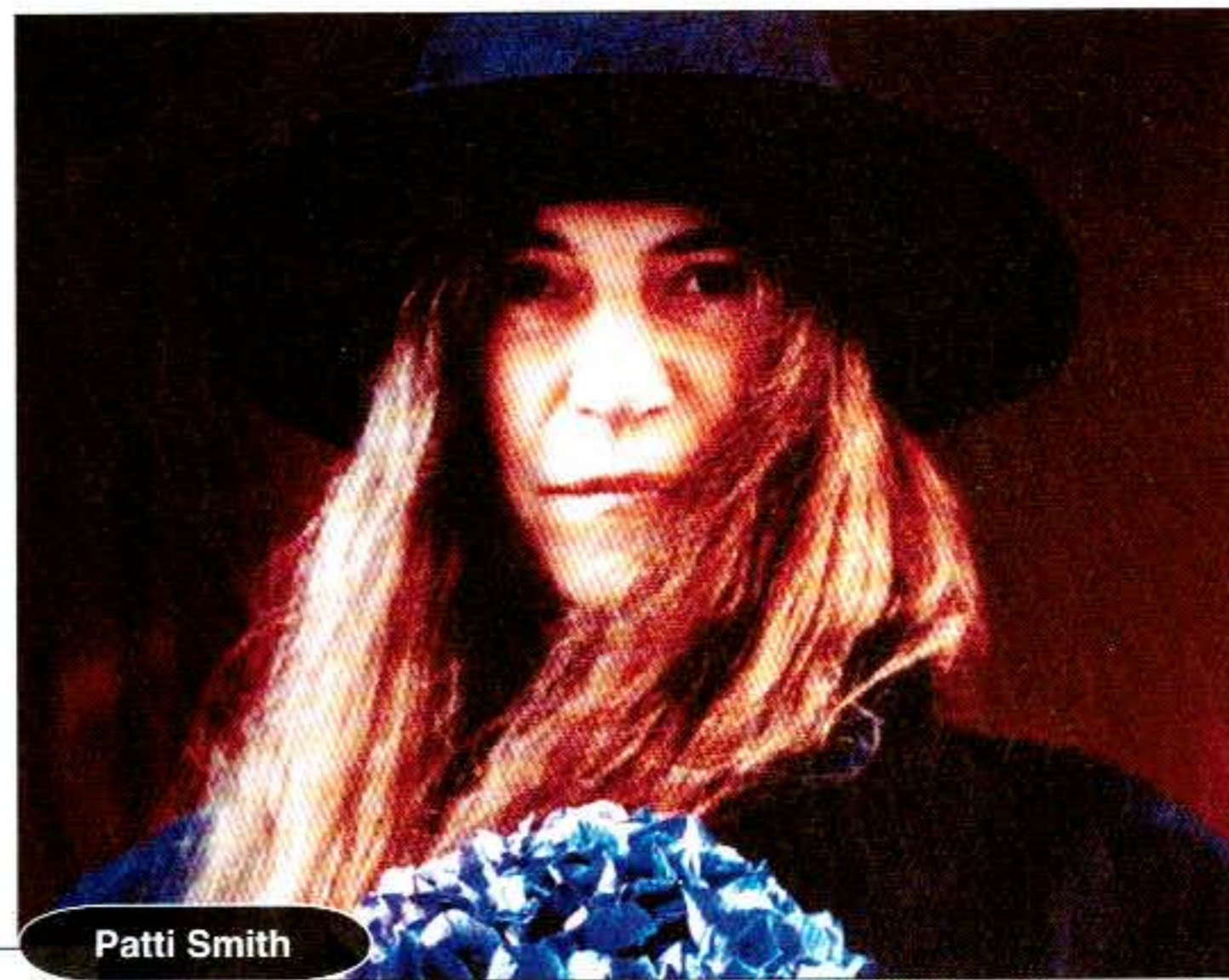
Encouraging and empowering young girls to be themselves, the new animated feature *Bratz Girlz Really Rock*, comes to DVD Sept. 2 from **Lionsgate**. Filled with eight new songs about friendship and being true to yourself, bonus extras include a chance to make your own music video.

A new line of Bratz dolls based on the new DVD debuts this fall along with a brand new video game. All songs from the DVD will be available on **iTunes**.

For further information, please contact Andrea Blain PR, 847-933-9884.



Tej Gill



Patti Smith