



The Associated Press

Taxi cabs make their way down Broadway under billboards advertising Broadway shows, Nov. 19, in New York's Times Square.

Producers, stagehands agree to resume talks on Sunday

By Michael Kuchwara
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)— Striking stagehands and theater producers agreed Saturday to return to the bargaining table, nearly a week after negotiations collapsed and kept most of Broadway dark during the lucrative Thanksgiving week — the second full week of no performances.

The plans for Sunday were announced by Charlotte St. Martin, executive director of the League of American Theatres and Producers, and was confirmed by the stagehands union.

"We are glad they accepted our invitation to negotiate," said Bruce Cohen, a spokesman for Local 1 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

More than two dozen plays and musicals have been closed since Nov. 10, when the stagehands walked off the job.

A settlement was believed to have been in the works last Sunday after a marathon weekend of negotiating, but the talks ended

abruptly with producers walking out. No negotiations were held during Thanksgiving week, traditionally one of the best weeks for Broadway business.

The complicated contract dispute has focused on how many stagehands are required to open a Broadway show and keep it running. That means moving scenery, lights, sound systems and props into the theater; installing the set and making sure it works; and keeping everything functioning well for the life of the production.

The producers want a flexible number; the union wants a set number and ample compensation for any concessions made.

The negotiations have been protracted. They began last summer, with each side preparing for the worst.

The producers set up a \$20 million strike emergency fund, taking a couple of cents out of each ticket sold over the past several years to pay for it. The money was to help struck shows struggling with the

costs of a shutdown.

The union, too, has its own fund — benefits of more than \$4.1 million for its members, as well as another \$1 million allotted for members of other unions affected by the walkout.

Meanwhile, one shut musical — "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — came back to life Friday after its reopening was ordered by state Supreme Court Justice Helen Freedman.

The judge said she believed the show's production company would be irreparably harmed if the \$6 million holiday musical wasn't permitted to resume its limited run, which ends Jan. 6.

Eight other shows, whose theaters have separate contracts with the league, remain unaffected by the walkout: "Pygmalion," "The Ritz," "Cymbeline," "Young Frankenstein," "Mary Poppins," "Xanadu," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "Mauritius," which closes Sunday as scheduled. All off-Broadway productions are open, too.

Linda Hogan files for divorce from hubby Hulk

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — Linda Hogan has filed for divorce from her wrestler husband Hulk Hogan, a newspaper reported Friday.

Hulk Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, told the St. Petersburg Times that he had no idea his wife had filed for divorce. He was informed by a reporter that Pinellas County court records showed that the paperwork was submitted Tuesday.

"Thank you for the great information," he told the reporter.

Family spokesman Adam Handelsman referred calls to another spokesman, who did not immediately respond Friday night.

"My wife has been in California for about three weeks. ... Holy smokes," Bollea later told the newspaper. "Wow, you just knocked the bottom out of me."

The couple star in the VH1 reality TV series "Hogan Knows Best," with their two children. Recent episodes show the normally close couple attending marital counseling, but they eventually reconcile.

PRETENTIOUS EARS: CD REVIEWS

Pestilence "Spheres" (MVD/Roadrunner)

I doubt very seriously there's another CD out there quite like "Spheres." Sure, Pestilence was compared to the likes of Death back in the day. And I can understand the comparison. But it's one of those Nirvana/Pearl Jam things. A couple of bands in the same ballpark genre-wise get compared simply because they both are fresh and new and different. With "Spheres," Pestilence, like Death, served up death metal with a heavy dose of progressive and jazz elements and a big inclination to experiment. Atheist and Cynic were doing the same kind of thing. But Pestilence sounds like Pestilence. Not Death. The early part of the album comes off a little less experimental than latter tracks. The band plays off-kilter math-rock rhythms with their death metal, but it's just a hint of what's to come. The

meat of "Spheres" is what comes along in the second half, which is filled with instrumental in-between tracks and lots of atmosphere and ambience surrounding some very original and groundbreaking metal. Synth guitars were added to more traditional instrumentation and the band visited deep realms indeed on an album that mingles abrasion with gorgeous musical hypnotism. [This is a limited edition re-issue with bonus tracks. Only 2,000 copies made, so hurry up and get this!]

Underclaire "Lights Out, Cairo ..." (Independent)

Arkansas' Underclaire wraps melody around emotive power and presents it in an indie/alt-rock package that reveals some flair for songwriting. There's a certain timelessness to it, in that this band — if you didn't know better — could hail from the classic alt

scene just as easily as it could today's rock scene. It doesn't back itself into a corner. It's modern without being trendy. It's unassuming — which by no means translates as weak. The band simply has nothing to prove. It's not pushy or ego-driven. It makes the music it makes, the music it feels, and lets the music speak for itself. Underclaire is softspoken without being soft. It's energetic without invoking the punk gods. It's found a happy median that conveys the feelings at the hearts of the songwriters without bubbly cheer or morbid brooding. It's reflective of the human condition in that way. And, finally, the layers of the songwriting are brought out in production that is slightly soft but allows the music to breathe without becoming excessively airy.

www.underclaire.com
—Kristofer Upjohn

THE LAST 7 DAYS

By Stewart Fuell
OF THE COMMERCIAL STAFF

Here are the news stories you might have missed from the past week one more time before the Langoliers eat them:

Blow out the candles, make a wish and put a smile on

This week marked the Nintendo Wii's first birthday, and most of us would be celebrating if only we could find one. Just in time for the occasion, Nintendo announced that a struggling young film director named George Lucas had sold his soul to the video game company and a Light Saber Wii remote attachment is on its way to the shelves of game stores and Christmas lists of nerds world-wide. The device snaps onto the Wii remote using three AA batteries to power 22 LED lights and so far only comes in blue, leaving the Dark Side of the Force sorely disappointed.

Whenever you're in Texas, look behind you

Mike Huckabee released a TV ad this week in which he sits next to martial artist and film star Chuck Norris, who is there to endorse the candidate, and recites phrases from the famous

Internet list of "Chuck Norris facts" that everyone thought was funny two years ago. Thrown in among the traditional facts we all remember — such as, "There's no chin behind Chuck Norris' beard, only another fist" — is one disturbingly confident and new line: "Chuck Norris doesn't endorse, he tells America how it's gonna be." As an effective counter-measure, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama used archival footage to piece together a posthumous endorsement from Bruce Lee, who sent Chuck Norris crying to his mother in the film "Return of the Dragon."

Psychic spies from China try to steal your mind's elation

Rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers have filed a lawsuit against cable network Showtime, alleging that the title of Showtime's new program "Californication" was ripped off from their 1999 album of the same name.

A Chili Peppers victory would have far-reaching implications in the music world, potentially resulting in Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin joining forces to sue every rock band of the last 30 years.

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ENCHANTED PG-DLP
1:10 3:35 5:55 7:25 9:45
BEOWULF 3D PG13-DLP
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:35 10:10
MR MAGORIUM G-DUP
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:35 10:00
FRED CLAUZ PG-DLP
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TONIGHT ON TELEVISION

Find listings for the entire week in Saturday's special supplement — Select TV — only in The Commercial

SUNDAY		PB-Pine Bluff CC-Classic Cable S-So. Pine Bluff/Sulphur Springs							NOVEMBER 25, 2007					
EVE	PB	CC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30
KETS 12	2	4	Celtic Woman C'mas 75212			My Music: The British Beat 982651			El Latino	Independent Lens 10651	To Contrary	Smitten		
KARK 4	4	2	(7:15) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New England Patriots. (Live) 91883212						News 88941	Ent. Tonight 12019	Cowboys	The Insider		
KATV 7	8	7	Extreme-Home 98800	Housewives 7117274	Brothers & Sisters 90212	News 88	Razorback 3067922	Clint Conque	Paid 31959	Paid 11684				
KTHV 11	11	11	Amazing Race 27380	Cold Case (N) 30800	Shark (N) 23564	Sports Extra	CSI: Miami 8363632	Law/Ord SVU 5110767	Paid Prog.					
KLRT 13	13	13	Simpsons	King of Hill	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News (N) 78038	Business	Two Men	Two Men	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Scrubs	
KKYK 9	12	-	Retro Jams By Request Radio music. 460496				Star Trek 574980	Maximum Exp. 829057	Cold Squad 459380	Entertainers (N) 730249				
KVTN 28	10	10	Coral Ridge Hour 28908	In Touch-Dr 14496	Word of God	IFCJ 38699	Believers	Joy 71816	Harris 68729	Prophecy	The Harvest Show 521591			
KASN 5	6	23	Life Is Wild "Pilot" 98458	Next Top Model 28926	Lopez 72922	Lopez 21309	Half 88106	Half 97854	One 84767	One 83274	My Wife	Will 442510		
KIPB 6	-	9	Fellowship	Win-Edge	Upon-Rock	Ground	Immanuel Bapt. 16800	Listen America 99187	CrossTalk	Master	Logan Show	MXTV		
A&E 41	29	28	The Sopranos "Marco Polo; Unidentified Black Males" 947496			The Sopranos "Cold Cuts; The Test Dream" 3473632			The Sopranos 3775090					
AMC 39	34	-	** "Santa Claus: The Movie" (1985) 509583			** "A Christmas Carol" (1984) Premiere. 2709835			(11:15) ** "Guarding Tess" (1994) (PG-13) 4555212					
BET 66	35	-	Sunday Best 88 553545	Cole 121835	Cole 133670	BET News Special 559729	BET's Weekend Inspiration 3418309							
CNN 44	25	6	Investigations 349903	Larry King Live 358651	Newsroom 345187	Investigations 348274	Larry King Live 772477	Newsroom 945539						
DIS 58	33	17	** "The Cheetah Girls 2" (2006) Raven. (NR) 2949835	So Raven	So Raven	Suite Life	Montana	Replace	Kim 351274	Emperor	Dragon			
DSC 40	41	22	Planet Earth 701729	Planet Earth 710477	Fearless Planet (N) 723941	Planet Earth 620800	Planet Earth 134293	Planet Earth 159595						
ESPN 30	27	19	College Basketball Arizona at Kansas. 589729	Football Live 165903	SportsCenter (Live) 942274		SportsCenter (Live) 979309							
FAM 33	16	5	** "Christmas Caper" (2007) Shannen Doherty. 327941	** "Christmas Caper" (2007) Shannen Doherty. 235361	Joel Osteen	Feed 676729	Zola Levitt	Paid 243862						
FXSW 28	42	-	Field Rescue 70038	Poker Superstars II 56458	Field Rescue 69922	Spotlight	BCS Ratings	Final 40309	Sport Science 759125	BCS Ratings				
HIST 43	44	-	MonsterQuest 6404583	MonsterQuest 6480903	MonsterQuest 6400767	MonsterQuest 6403854	MonsterQuest 1581274	MonsterQuest 4607046						
LIFE 36	30	29	** "More of Me" (NR) 244019	** "Beauty Shop" (2005) Queen Latifah. 249564	Medium 268699	** "Beauty Shop" (2005) Queen Latifah. 314458								
NICK 34	31	10	"SpongeBob" 700090	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
SCI FI 55	-	-	"Pitch Black" 3884800	*** "The Matrix" (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves. Premiere. (R) 2775922	*** "Watchers II" (1990) Marc Singer. (R) 8659380									
TCM 38	23	27	*** "Green for Danger" (1946, Mystery) 1255877	"The Edge of the World" (1937) 3930922	*** "The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp" (1943) 3961458									
SPIKE 50	40	29	CSI: Crime Scn 679534	"Until Death" (2007) Jean-Claude Van Damme. 307890	CSI: Crime Scn 185425	CSI: Crime Scn 468038	CSI: Crime Scn 658152							
TNT 54	24	16	*** "A Christmas Story" 6487583	(8:45) *** "A Christmas Story" (1983) 23589632	** "101 Dalmatians" (1996) Glenn Close. (G) 958496	Richie Rich								
TOON 35	36	-	Chowder	Jimmy	Jimmy	Courage	Futurama	Futurama	Family Guy	Chicken	Xavier-Angel	Venture	Stroker	Home
USA 56	19	12	(6:00) *** "E!H" 342090	*** "E!H" (2003) Will Ferrell. (PG) 354835	Law & Order: SVU 366670	Law & Order: SVU 767545	Psych 930607							
WGN 22	-	-	Idol Rewind 924019	Shocking Moments 933767	WGN News	Replay	Scrubs	Corner Gas	Cornier Gas	Becker	Home Videos 374607			
WTBS 57	21	3	* "Mr. Deeds" (2002) (PG-13) 5217632	"Deuce Bigalow: European" 9872125	(10:15) * "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler. 5787729	"Deuce Eur" 38955355								
HBO 401	18	18	(6:45) *** "Flags of Our Fathers" (2006) 95006187	24 7 436903	** "PU-239" (2006) (R) 5591729	(11:10) * "The Return" (2006) 1486106	New Jack							
MAX 410	20	20	Cleaner	** "Revenge of the Nerds" 738854	"Revenge of the Nerds II" 504903	"Revenge of the Nerds III" 4536903	"Revenge-4" 28778268							
SHOW 701	22	-	Weeds "Go"	Weeds "Go"	Dexter (ITV) (N) 2647941	Brotherhood 65660187	Dexter (ITV) 1085106	Brotherhood 53778212	"Four Brothers" 8010442					