

SMART PHONES

Three Android apps worth crowing about

WHILE MOST HIGH-PROFILE applications debut on Apple's iOS, Android offers something that iPhones can't compete with: freedom. Apple puts a lot of restrictions on what apps may and may not do. Android, on the other hand, lets programmers dream bigger and customize aspects of the phone that Apple has locked down.

If you own an Android phone, here are three apps that will make you stand out from your iPhone-toting friends.

Cover Lock Screen. This handy Android exclusive learns which apps you use the most and gives you quick access to them right from the lock screen. But more important, it adjusts the selection based on where you are. At work, it can

serve up shortcuts to your e-mail, calendar, and note-taking apps. When you hop in your car, the selection might change to maps and Internet radio. Twitter purchased Cover in 2014, promising to continue development of this free,



ANDROID MASCOT

Android-only app.

Light Flow. Some Android phones come with an alert light that flashes when there is an incoming message. Light Flow takes this nice feature – which is unavailable on iPhones – and expands it to coordinate with more than 600 different apps. You can set Light Flow to flash green for calendar reminders, blue for Facebook notifications, red for low battery, and any color you want for online dating alerts. The company recommends you try out the free version of Light Flow before buying the \$2.49 upgrade in order to make sure the app is compatible with your phone.

Locale. This award-winning Android app becomes a central command for your phone. Locale lets you set up situations – time of day, location, orientation of the phone – that trigger certain responses. For example, if your battery power falls below 20 percent, the app can automatically lower the brightness of the screen to conserve energy, or every time you place the phone face down, it will silence the ringer. Locale also lets you set priorities; if your children call during office hours, it will override silent mode. The app is a little pricey at \$9.99, but considering the thousands of five-star reviews it has gotten in the Google Play store, many agree that this fine level of control is worth the price.

– Chris Gaylord / Staff writer

1



CHILDHOOD JOURNEY

Gifted director Richard Linklater filmed **Boyhood** over 12 years, with actor Ellar Coltrane, who portrays Texas boy Mason, growing from age 6 to 18 before our eyes. Actors Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette, and Lorelei Linklater (the director's daughter) costar in the stunning film. It is now available on DVD and Blu-ray.

2

AUSTRALIAN SOUNDSCAPES

Esteemed Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe (1929-2014) accomplished something of a musical miracle. He evoked the vastness of his home country's landscape using that most intimate of ensembles, the string quartet, augmented by the addition of a didgeridoo, the trumpet played by native Australians for at least 1,000 years. Del Sol String Quartet and Stephen Kent have joined forces to present the masterly **Sculthorpe: The Complete String Quartets with Didjeridu.**

3

ACE OF BASS

Jack Bruce was the musical equivalent of a Swiss Army knife. On **The 50th Birthday Concerts** – filmed in 1993 and finally on DVD – the recently deceased musician flits between classical, jazz, blues, rock, and world music. He could sing, too.

"Theme for an Imaginary Western" is built around his yearning yowls. The concert climaxes when the bassist jams with drummer Ginger Baker and guitarist Gary Moore on Cream classics such as "White Room." See why Bruce was the cream of Cream.



ROCKPALAST

4

RETRACING THE CRIME

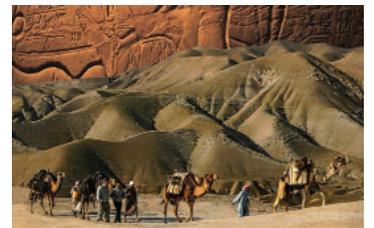
Evolution of a Criminal, part of PBS's "Independent Lens" program, is a documentary directed by Darius Clark Monroe, who also happens to be the subject. As a teen, Monroe, who was a good student, robbed a bank and was sent to prison. Years after his release, he tries to unravel what led him down that path. He interviews people ranging from his own family to a man in the bank during the robbery. It premieres Jan. 12 at 10 p.m. Check local listings for rebroadcasts.

5

OUT OF EGYPT

History, culture, and religion combine in **Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus**, as documentary filmmaker

Timothy Mahoney chronicles an in-depth archaeological investigation in Egypt attempting to answer a fundamental question: Did the Exodus story actually happen? Presented by Fathom Events and Thinking Man Films, the documentary airs in select US cinemas at 7 p.m. (local time) on Jan. 19. Check www.fathomevents.com for participating theaters.



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