

**THE DRESSER (DVD)****Anchor Bay Home Ent.**

Veteran film icons Ian McKellen and Anthony Hopkins star together for the first time ever in the captivating BBC production of the STARZ Original movie, *The Dresser*. One fateful night, in a small English regional theatre during World War II, a troupe of touring actors stage a production of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Bombs are falling, sirens are wailing, the curtain is up in an hour, but the actor/manager Sir (Hopkins) who is playing Lear is nowhere to be seen. His dresser, Norman (McKellen) must scramble to keep the production alive, but will Sir turn up in time? And, if he does, will he be able to perform that night? Meanwhile, Sir reflects on his lifelong accomplishments and seeks to reconcile his turbulent friendships with those in his employ before the final curtain. *The Dresser* is adapted from the classic 1980 West End and Broadway play by Ronald Harwood, and is a wickedly funny and deeply moving story of friendship and loyalty. The cast also includes Emily Watson and Vanessa Kirby.

KNIGHT OF CUPS (Blu-ray)**Broad Green Pictures**

Knight of Cups follows writer Rick (Christian Bale), on an odyssey through the playgrounds of Los Angeles and Las Vegas, as he undertakes a search for love and self. Even as he moves through a desire-laden landscape of mansions, resorts, beaches and clubs, Rick grapples with complicated relationships with his brother (Wes Bentley) and father (Brian Dennehy). His quest to break the spell of his disenchantment takes him on a series of adventures with six alluring women: rebellious Della (Imogen Poots); his physician ex-wife, Nancy (Cate Blanchett); a serene model, Helen (Frieda Pinto); a woman he wronged in the past, Elizabeth (Natalie Portman); a spirited, playful stripper, Karen (Teresa Palmer); and an innocent, Isabel (Isabel Lucas), who helps him see a way forward. Rick moves in a daze through a strange and overwhelming dreamscape — but can he wake up to the beauty, humanity and rhythms of life around him? The deeper he searches, the more the journey becomes his destination.

STRESSED TO KILL (DVD)**MVDvisual**

After suffering a heart attack, Bill (Bill Oberst, Jr.) is advised by his doctor to identify and eliminate the stresses from his life. Determined to live to a ripe old age, Bill takes his doctor's advice literally and begins silently killing the people who piss him off with poisonous darts. Almost immediately, Bill's blood pressure drops, and he begins to enjoy life once again. Unfortunately, the stresses closer to home are not so easily removed, and Bill struggles to keep his blood pressure levels in check. Also complicating Bill's new healthier

state of being is a psychotic cop (Armand Assante) who begins to close in on Bill after he connects him to the stress-inspired "Dartman" killings that are sweeping the city. Pursued by the cop, Bill and his half-witted friend Stan (Marshal Hilton) are forced to come up with a clever plan in order to keep themselves out of jail. The plan involves taking care of a constant source of stress for Stan, and addressing Bill's marital problems once and for all.

THE WAVE (Blu-ray)**Magnolia Home Ent.**

Geiranger is one of the most spectacular tourist draws on the planet, but also a place where disaster could strike at any moment, threatening to collapse into the fjord. After putting in several years at Geiranger's warning center, geologist Kristian Elkjor (Kristoffer Joner) is moving on to a prestigious new job with an oil company. On the very day he's about to drive his family to their new life in the city, he senses something is wrong. The substrata are shifting. No one wants to believe that this could be the big one, especially with tourist season at its peak. Knowing that a landslide from the mountain would send tons of rock and earth crashing into the water, every soul in Geiranger has ten minutes to outrace the resulting tsunami and get to higher ground.

FRANK L. RIZZO -**AMATEUR NIGHT****AT CITY HALL:****THE STORY OF****FRANK L. RIZZO (DVD)****MVDvisual**

Francis Lazarro "Frank" Rizzo first came to prominence as a tough, headline-grabbing Philadelphia cop-on-the-beat in the 1960s. His increasingly mythic persona led to a four-year stint as a crusading, law-and-order police commissioner (1967 to 1971) and then eight years (1972 to 1980) as Philadelphia's most polarizing mayor of modern times. While many working class white citizens saw Rizzo as their protector-in-chief in a threatening urban environment, minority citizens, liberal and wealthy whites, civil libertarians, and others saw Rizzo as an authoritarian bully who himself created a climate of fear and repression throughout the city. *Amateur Night at City Hall: The Story of Frank L. Rizzo*, shot throughout 1977 and released in early 1978, illustrates key events from Rizzo's colorful and controversial career and attempts to analyze both the causes and effects of his actions. Although the film was released before Rizzo's controversial assault on the radical group MOVE, it chronicles attacks he ordered on the Black Panthers and on young people lounging in Rittenhouse Square, his failed polygraph test, and his routinely tough talk. The film's primary theme is "politics as show business," and it includes many amateur musical performances from South Philadelphia's Triangle Tavern.

The time has come, the walrus said,

TO TALK OF MANY THINGS
of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

Uncle Sal has been busy lately. I was at another family get-together for a high school graduation. I have lots of nieces and nephews out there. My niece Mikayla Kindell just graduated from Woburn High School, Class of 2016. She will be attending Westfield State College in September. Check out the Grad Princess.



Mikayla Kindell of Woburn

YOU CAN SEE MORE SAL PHOTOS AT ...

Check it out! I also write and take lots of photos for the Boston City Paper. Go to: BostonCityPaper.org.

WHERE TO GET THE POST-GAZETTE IN EASTIE

Lately, many folks have been asking me where they can pick

up the *Post-Gazette*. It gets distributed all over Eastie. If you don't find it at the regular place you usually get it, you can always try either the East Boston Savings Bank or Lanzilli's in the Heights on Bennington Street, Spinelli's or the Elite Diner in Day Square, Maverick Marketplace near Maverick Square, or at the YMCA on Bremen Street. Hey, don't forget A & L Bakery in the Point, too.

RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET

Nicole English standing outside Artú recently.

The other day while walking out of the *Post-Gazette* on

Little Prince Street, I saw Nicole English standing guard outside Artú Restaurant. All around the North End you can see hosts and hostesses on the sidewalk outside their restaurants, waving menus, trying to entice customers to dine with them. Just reading all the menus makes me hungry! Another reason for taking a stroll around the neighborhood.

ARTISTS FOR FARM ANIMALS

There will be a silent auction of artistic work from over 70 artists to benefit the Citizens for Farm Animals Campaign in support of legislation up on Beacon Hill to make Massachusetts the first state in the nation to require compassionate standards for farm animals.

It will be held at the Atlantic Works Gallery at 80 Border Street in East Boston on Thursday, July 14th starting at 6:00 pm. For more information, call 617-913-1871.

BACK TO BEACH DAY IN EAST BOSTON

Once again, when summer's getting into full swing, the Department of Conservation, the YMCA of East Boston, and a host of other organizations co-hosted *Beach Day 2016* at Constitution or, as I say, Shea's Beach on Thursday, June 30th. And what a beautiful day it was! Warm, sunny, and crowded with families either counting airplanes or catching some rays.

Doing DJ duties for this great event was East Boston's best deejay, Damien, who knows how to pick great music for any kind of event. A little of this, a lot of that, and great requests from beach-goers, too.

Have an Italian Family Reunion

by Prof./Cav. Philip J. DiNovo

Who would ever think that Italian-Americans would hold family reunions? Most Italian-American families were like mine; relatives lived in the same neighborhood. In my case, almost all my family lived within a block or two of each other. We had a family gathering almost weekly and I saw most relatives daily. Who needs a reunion?

Today things are very different. While most family members still live in the area, it is miles not blocks that separate us. Part of our clan lives on the West Coast. Last year, we had a family reunion to celebrate the 100th anniversary of my grandfather's arrival in the United States. We held the reunion in Albany at a hotel. When my grandparents were alive, we would never think of having a family gathering at a hotel.

Most family gatherings were held at my grandparents' farm or their city home. The family reunion this time was a special event and we wanted everyone to enjoy the day without work and having to dress up. Past reunions consisted of picnics and everyone brought a dish to pass. It seems that people have less time today and many younger families don't fuss like their parents did. Cooking was an art with my grandmothers and aunts, but the food seems more simple today. The picnics we had were true feasts and consisted of homemade Italian foods.

Family members visit less often and family members in the same city are sometimes only seen during the year at weddings or wakes. Have you noticed that many family members want notice before a visit? When I was growing up, family

visits were without notice and most welcome. Hospitality was an art and guests were made to feel very welcome.

Today it isn't easy to hold a family reunion as family members take vacations at different times, plus all the events that take place during the summer. It is often difficult to find a date when most people are free. Many picnic areas require reservations months in advance of the event. There was a time when family members made a family gathering a top priority.

Hobbies, sporting events, etc., too often come before family. Young people get bored so easily today and would rather be with their friends. It is important to have events that young people will enjoy at a reunion. The *Reunions Magazine* is published quarterly and chock full of ideas to make reunions successful. For more information on the publication, you can write to them at: *Reunions Magazine*, P.O. Box 11727, Milwaukee, WI, 53211-0727, or visit: www.reunionsmag.com.

Our reunion was a great success. I showed slides starting with our ancestral home in Italy and featuring many events over the years. We had Italian music and food. We had an old photo exhibit and a program with a family history. We invited everyone to come up to the microphone to recall family members and events.

Since our reunion, my 94-year-old aunt and my 85-year-old aunt have both passed away. We had an opportunity to strengthen family ties at our reunion. It is a lot of work to organize a family reunion, but it is will worth the effort.

Happy Birthday Bob!!

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