



BRAD PAISLEY - LIFE AMPLIFIED WORLD TOUR: LIVE AT WVU (DVD/CD SET) MVDvisual

Country superstar Brad Paisley returned to his roots in West Virginia for a special outdoor concert at West Virginia University. Straight off his wildly successful *Life Amplified Tour*, Paisley played an electrifying two-hour show that included many of his 23 #1 singles. Songs performed included "Crushin' It," "American Saturday Night," "Water," "Online," "Perfect Storm," "Letter to Me," "This is Country Music," "I'm Still a Guy" featuring Chris Young, "She's Everything," and "Ticks." Flip side favorites have "Country Nation," "Old Alabama," "Then," "Beat this Summer," "I'm Gonna Miss Her," "River Bank," and a very special version of the John Denver song, "Take Me Home Country Roads," which has become an anthem for WVU. "Southern Comfort Zone," "Mud on the Tires," and "Alcohol." This concert, entitled *Brad Paisley - Landmarks Live in Concert: A Great Performances Special*, will air on PBS, Friday, January 27th at 9:00 pm. Paisley takes his unique skills as a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and entertainer back to his home state and viewers everywhere.

DECOMMISSIONED (DVD) Lionsgate Home Ent.

Retired CIA agent John Niles' quiet life is shattered when he's kidnapped and tortured to reveal his part in an upcoming mission. With his wife (Estella Warren) and son held captive, Niles (Johnny Messner) is forced to take part in a presidential assassination, so he turns to his old mentor, Price (Vinnie Jones), to uncover the CIA's covert role in this dark operation. Exciting from start to finish, this film takes you on an action thrill ride.

SOUTHSIDE WITH YOU (Blu-ray) Lionsgate Home Ent.

Inspired by President Barack Obama's first "date" with the First Lady, Tika Sumpter and Parker Sawyers are cast as younger versions of Michelle and Barack Obama, the President and First Lady of the United States. On a summer's day in 1989, a young law associate named Barack Obama used all his charms to woo attorney Michelle Robinson. *Southside with You* brings that magical encounter to life as it follows the pair on a day-long date that takes them from an art exhibit to a screening of *Do the Right Thing*, to an unforgettable first kiss.

RAY DONOVAN: SEASON FOUR (DVD) CBS DVD + Paramount

One of the most critically acclaimed dramas on television is back with its most exciting season yet! After the bloody Minassian shootout, Ray Donovan (Liev Schreiber) is focused on healing himself and his damaged relationship with his family. But Ray is soon pulled back into his old life by a troubled boxer and an enigmatic art dealer with ties to the Russian mafia. This compelling series also stars Paula Malcomson, Eddie Marsan, and Jon Voight

in his Golden Globe-winning role as Ray's manipulative, ex-con father.

HARLEY AND THE DAVIDSONS (Blu-ray) Lionsgate Home Ent.

Harley and the Davidson charts the birth of this iconic bike during a time of great social and technological change. Beginning at the turn of the 20th century, Walter, Arthur, and Bill risked their entire fortunes and livelihoods to launch the budding enterprise. Each of these men faced very different challenges, but it was the motorcycle that united their dreams and ambitions. Starring Michiel Huisman, Bug Hall, Robert Aramayo, and Arthur Davidson and Bill Harley.

GIRLS: THE COMPLETE FIFTH SEASON (2-Blu-ray) HBO Home Ent.

Follow the assorted humiliations and triumphs of a group of girls in their mid-20s — each facing new challenges in life and love. As Season 5 begins, Hannah (Lena Dunham) has put her writing ambitions aside and is teaching alongside Fran (Jake Lacy), her new boyfriend. Mar-nie (Allison Williams) realizes that she needs more space after her honeymoon with Desi. While working towards becoming a therapist, Jessa (Jemima Kirke) also manages a budding relationship. And Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet) is thriving at her new job in Japan, flirting with her boss despite her long-distance relationship with Scott (Jason Ritter). Honest and uproarious, with unexpected surprise turns, the fifth season of *Girls* promises to maintain the series' place as one of the most talked-about shows on television.

LITTLE MEN (DVD) Magnolia Home Ent.

When 13-year-old Jake's grandfather dies, his family moves from Manhattan back into his father's Brooklyn home. There, Jake befriends the charismatic Tony, whose single Chilean mother, Leonor, runs the dress shop downstairs. When Jake's parents Brian (Greg Kinnear) and Kathy (Jennifer Ehle) ask Leonor to pay a higher rent — and a feud ignites between the adults — the boys take an oath of silence against their parents in protest. *Little Men* is the story of a life defining friendship amid family turmoil.

STAGECOACH: THE TEXAS JACK STORY (Blu-ray) Cinedigm

After retiring from his life as an outlaw, ranch owner Nathaniel Reed (Trace Adkins) quietly leads an honest existence with his devoted wife, Laura Lee. But his gun-slinging past suddenly comes back to haunt him when he learns that Calhoun (Kim Coates), the man he once maimed during a stagecoach robbery, is now a U.S. Marshal who will stop at nothing to wreak vengeance. After a violent shootout brings tragic consequences, Nathaniel returns to his old ways and becomes Texas Jack, the most wanted outlaw in the West. Judd Nelson also stars in this action-packed quest for redemption filled with galloping getaways, a beautiful bounty hunter, and the possibility of second chances.

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

TASTE OF EASTIE

This year's 21st Annual Taste of Eastie gathering will take place on Thursday, January 26th, at 6:00 pm, at the Logan Hilton Hotel. Restaurants from Eastie and surrounding communities will gather under one roof to showcase their delicious ethnic cuisine, including South and Central American, Italian and the Mediterranean, Chinese, the Middle Eastern, and Australian. You'll never go hungry leaving the Taste of Eastie, that I can guarantee.

For more info, contact Max Gruner at East Boston Main Streets at director@ebmainstreets.com or call 857-234-4381.

THE HIGH COST OF PARKING METERS

Seems the City of Boston's Transportation Department is settling for more in this new year. Parking meters in certain areas will now have floating prices. During high-volume hours, the hourly rate could be all over the place, depending on demand. You can pretty much be sure that demand will always be high on Newbury Street, in the Back Bay, or the Seaport District.

Once again, it appears that the city, in its endless pursuit

of extracting more money from us, has found a golden goose in manipulating prices at parking meters.

You think business will improve on Newbury Street if you'll need 15 quarters to park your car at a meter for one hour? More cash for the city, but less for merchants is the tradeoff. Doesn't sound like a good thing to me, but who am I?

WHO'S COMING TO FOXWOODS SOON?

If you are a fan of great music, check out Foxwoods' line-up. On January 14th, Gladys Knight & The Whispers will take to the stage for a night of solid gold

R&B. Then on February 17th, it is time for Rascal Flatts to be in the house on their *Rhythm and Roots Tour*.

SOUTHILL CHILDREN'S FUNDRAISER

Put this on your social calendar. It will soon be time for the Southill Children's Fund fundraiser to benefit Ballagherg Pre-School in County Donegal serving special needs children. It will be held at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury, starting at 7:00 pm, featuring one of my favorite Irish bands, Erin's Melody, with Margaret Dalton. For more information, go to southillchildrensfund.com.

OOPS ... PHOTO MISIDENTIFIED



Here's a Who's Who you won't likely forget! L-R: Patti Santori, Viola Pucillo, Maria Giardina, and Sonny Celona.

(Photo by Sal Giarratani)

Three Kings Meet La Banfana - Kids Win

by Sal Giarratani

On Friday, January 6th, the Veronica Robles Cultural Center at 175 McClellan Highway in East Boston held a tremendously packed **Three King's Day** celebration, an evening of song and dance that honors the Latino community tradition. For folks like me, it was the Feast of the Magi or Little Christmas. But in the Latino culture, it is Christmas all over again as children receive their gifts from the Three Wise Men.

In past years, East Boston APAC used to hold its own



Three Kings sitting on their thrones handing out gifts to the children.

celebration for Three King's Day according to Shirley Fajardo, but this year she said APAC decided to work jointly with Veronica Robles to host the community's Three King's Day celebration at the cultural center and the place was packed with children and their parents.



Guadalupe Tellez, Madelyn Giundado, Christian Tellez, and Diego Tellez await their gifts from the Three Kings.



Italia Unita members surrounded by all the donated kids' gifts.

On Sunday, January 8th, Italia Unita held its annual **La Bafana** celebration at Jevelli's Restaurant. This celebration is once again like Three King's Day, a day in Italy when children receive gifts for being good boys and girls from La Bafana, the good witch who places gifts inside the children's shoes while they sleep. It is also held during the Feast of the Magi.

All of the gifts of clothing and toys collected at this celebration were donated to the Crossroads Women's Shelter next to the Holy Redeemer Church.

(Photos by Sal Giarratani)