

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES • GALA OF GREAT THEATRE MUSIC

SC

BON JOVI

LISTENS TO HIS HEART AND FINDS SUCCESS AGAIN

FALL OUT BOY • JETHRO TULL • CUFF THE DUKE

FREE COPY!

SCENE

LONDON'S ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS AND NEWS PAPER
NOVEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 21, 2007 / ISSUE 554

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SCENE Magazine has been
published continuously
since March 23, 1989

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Every other Thursday
25 times each year

NEXT ISSUE:

November 22, 2007

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:

November 16, 2007

EDITORIAL POLICY:

SCENE editorial includes opinions, news, music, the arts and movies, and strives to provide our readers with a variety of points of view, to entertain, from right across our community. Please note that these points of view may or may not represent the points of view of the Publisher.

LETTERS: Your letters are most appreciated. SCENE reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and language. Please provide your printed name and telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. Please either mail your letters to: SCENE Magazine, P.O. Box 2302, London ON N6A 4E3 or email to: letters@scenemagazine.com

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195 Dufferin Ave., Suite 602,
London, ON N6A 1K7



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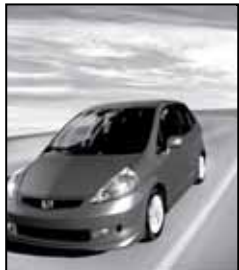
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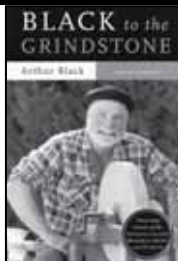
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BLACK TO THE GRINDSTONE • BY ARTHUR BLACK HARBOUR PUBLISHING, 2007 • 304 PAGES



DVD

HUMOUR

Best-selling author and comedian Arthur Black has turned out another side-splitting anthology of short stories with his latest book *Black to the Grindstone*. Most people will remember Black from his long-running CBC Radio One show, *Basic Black*. But what they may not know is that he is a three-time winner of the prestigious Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. With the turn of each page, it becomes increasingly apparent that Black possesses a rare gift for cleverly exposing the ironic, hypocritical and just plain ridiculous of the everyday. And he does it with the sort of laugh-out-loud humour that will appeal to all.

For example, Joe the tomato farmer grows the most succulently sweet, melt-in-your-mouth tomatoes in the U.S. — a far cry from the bland, grocery store variety we're used to eating. But he can't ship the majority of his crop because the Florida Tomato Committee has deemed Joe's tomatoes too ugly. Then there's Fritz the Cinema Cat, who lives at the movie house on Salt Spring Island. Nobody knows where Fritz came from, but everyone takes care of him. When Fritz is catnapped one day, the Mounties get involved immediately and Fritz is promptly returned to his regal perch on the movie house steps. Salt Spring Island sounds like a good place for a bottled water company, no?

"Pristine water, coaxed from glaciers and deep-mountain springs" is what we think we're paying for when we buy bottled water.

"Bunk," writes Black. Coca Cola-owned Dasani gets their water from Brampton, and Nestle Pure Life water comes from Guelph — two urban Ontario cities that aren't exactly known for their glaciers.

And that's just the tip of the glacier — er, iceberg. There are 94 stories in all. A fantastic and entertaining read suitable for anyone.

~Amie Ronald-Morgan

SARA FOSTER'S CASUAL COOKING: MORE FRESH SIMPLE RECIPES FROM FOSTER'S MARKET BY SARA FOSTER, WITH CAROLYNN CARREÑO CLARKSON POTTER, 2007 • 256 PAGES



COOKING

Foodies will recognize Sara Foster from her lengthy resume of culinary accomplishments. From her beginnings as a chef for Martha Stewart's catering company to her take-out business in North Carolina called Foster's Market, Sara is an institution in the food world. In another book, *Fresh Every Day*, Sara put into words her philosophy of creating fresh, easy dishes suitable for the home cook. Now, Foster brings her signature approach to food to another new book, *Sara Foster's Casual Cooking*.

The book is divided into sections featuring a variety of mealtime solutions, from supper-size salads to sandwiches, pasta and desserts. Nowhere will you find lengthy lists of esoteric ingredients, complicated procedures or highbrow attitudes. What you will find is a collection of beautifully photographed, perfectly approachable recipes — this is comfort food for the discerning palate.

Foster offers more than just recipes here. She serves up a healthy portion of tips, suggestions, substitutions and advice that make this book a truly enjoyable reading experience, even beyond the recipes themselves.

Sara Foster's *Casual Cooking* is all about simplicity and taste. And now that the cooler weather is here, it's the perfect time to get into the kitchen and create some comfort. This weekend, why not stay in, rent a movie, and whip up a batch of Italian Sausage Soup? Or, invite some friends over for cozy cocktails and a Roasted Vegetable Platter with Farmstead Cheese Fondue. Either way,

you're in for an enjoyable evening with some very tasty food as the star. ~Staci Rae

MY SOUL TO KEEP • BY MELANIE WELLS MILYNOMAH BOOKS, 2008 • 320 PAGES



FICTION

Dylan Foster has elected of her own volition to follow the wending labyrinth of mysteries and intrigues surrounding the kidnapping of a young neighbourhood child. As the police turn up no substantive clues in finding the child, Dylan relies on a constellation of unlikely sources to aid her in the quest for truth. Chilling coincidences and the unsettling dreams of a six-year-old girl, Christine Zocci, lead Dylan on an epic and shadowy journey filled with bizarre twists and feints as she unravels an even deeper mystery. As opposed to other "whodunit" books of this genre, the tale is imbued with a more intensive psychological focus, involving haunting symbols and the paranormal connection between dreams and reality.

Melanie Wells employs sinuous, rolling description in this suspenseful drama. With a natural flair for dialogue, *My Soul to Keep* is a spellbinding example of a writer at the top of her prose, and an exemplary highlight that just may outshine her other offerings such as *The Soul Hunter* and *When the Day of Evil Comes*. As in her other two previous novels, Wells truly excels in writing characters of profound depth and in providing her readers with a mystifying and sinister atmosphere that truly compels. Moments of levity occur throughout to give the story a strong sense of pace and realism, allowing readers to catch their breath

when the macabre richness of the tale becomes vertiginous. This interplay of shadow and light effectively make this book a kind of literary chiaroscuro, and will provide delight to those readers who wish to be swept up by the intriguing and sometimes shadowy details of the human mind. ~Kane X. Faucher

Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi-Rumi, or simply Rumi to Western audiences, was a Muslim mystic, poet, philosopher and musician who lived in Asia Minor during the 13th century. His passionate writings have resonated with millions of people worldwide who are drawn to the intimate spirituality and beauty of his metaphysical vision. Rumi-Turning Ecstatic traces the personal journey of filmmaker Tina Petrova as she explores the life, teachings and art of this singularly unique historical figure. In the course of the documentary, Petrova recounts her own experiences with this "Shakespeare of the soul" and offers testimony from a number of experts on the continued relevance of Rumi's legacy. Of particular interest are the sections featuring Coleman Barks, the world's most popular translator of Rumi's writings. The documentary also examines Rumi's impact on the Islamic religion, and the influence he had on followers who founded the Mevlevi Order after his death. The Mevlevi Order, better known as the "Whirling Dervishes", utilize music and dance to enter into a state of meditative ecstasy and numinous exaltation with the Divine, a practice directly inspired by the teachings of Rumi. Although the actual production on this DVD is unremarkable, Petrova's story is heartfelt and the subject matter is enthralling, encouraging viewers to embrace a wider appreciation of spiritual expression regardless of its originating tradition. In an era preoccupied with religious extremism and tension between competing systems of belief, the transcendent expanse of Rumi's edifying message is a bright light for dark times, a gift of incalculable value to the whole of humanity.

RUMI - TURNING ECSTATIC CHOICES, 2007



CD

The perception of history as linear and progressive has long stood in stark contrast to the cyclical patterns of reality evidenced in nature. The acknowledgement of these cyclical patterns, whether natural, spiritual, temporal or personal, may have been one of the ideas behind this debut CD by London choral collective, WomanSpiritSong. The recording, appropriately christened *Cycles*, is a transporting selection of original and traditional material, ethereally rendered by a fine choir of female singers from the local region. The production retains the qualities of a live performance, a mixed blessing in this case, since the pieces could have benefitted from more sonic definition. However, the upshot of the "big church" ambience is that the music is massive, augmented by the natural reverberation of the production setting and bolstered by the grand effort put forward by the choir. The lyric of the song *Kore Evohe* quite literally expresses the profound connection between our lives and nature, evoking the ancient Greek maiden of spring to "lead the way" through the seasons of the year and seasons of our souls. But it is the achingly gorgeous harmonies and melancholic delicacy of the singing, blending at last into joyful beatitude that ultimately conveys the lyrical sentiment of this disarmingly tender piece of music. Wood River has the lightness of a pop song, while *Hope of Solstice* is both celebratory and solemn, a vehicle for expressing a variety of moods associated with beginnings and endings. If the light shining off ice-covered and crystallized tree branches in deep winter had a voice, it would probably sound like *WomanSpiritSong*. This recording is a promising inaugural achievement sure to be enjoyed by any lover of choral music.



CYCLES WOMANSPIRITSONG INDEPENDENT, 2007

(Editor's note — *WomanSpiritSong* are launching their debut CD *Cycles* with an event on November 18 at Brescia University College, Mother St. James Auditorium from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Admission is free, all are invited and no R.S.V.P. is required. Organizers request attendees come fragrant free.) ~Chris Morgan