



## The New Yorker

**Updated: 11-22**  
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## Newspaper Item

### **Ariel Levy: Sports, sex, and the case of Caster Semenya.**

When people in South Africa say “Limpopo,” they mean the middle of nowhere. They are referring to the northernmost province of the country, along the border with Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, where few people have cars or running water or opportunities for greatness. The members of the Moletjie . . .

## **Sam Shepard: "Indianapolis (Highway 74)"**

I've been crisscrossing the country again, without much reason. Sometimes a place will just pop into my head and I'll take off. This time, down through Normal, Illinois, from high up in white Minnesota, dead of winter, icy roads, wind blowing sideways across the empty cornfields . . .

## **Peter Schjeldahl: "1969" at P.S. 1.**

In 1969, we were very free. I turned twenty-seven—too old to be a hippie, after having been too young to pull off being a beatnik—and was so free as to be practically useless, writing just enough to finance days abed in a tiny Sullivan Street . . .

## **Paul Goldberger: Jean Nouvel and the art of the façade.**

When you catch your first glimpse of 100 Eleventh Avenue, a new apartment tower in Chelsea designed by the French architect Jean Nouvel, its curving façade, an abstract arrangement of windows slanting in multiple directions, looks like a gimmick. The building clatters; it jangles like a bracelet. Beside . . .

## **Nancy Franklin: Fox News Channel's latest blowhard.**

If you sensed something of a quiet spell about ten days ago, a lull in the usual media storm, it may have been owing to the fact that Glenn Beck, the energetically hateful, truth-twisting radio and Fox News Channel talk-show host, was absent from the airwaves for a . . .

## **Liz Waldner: "Sad Verso of the Sunny \_\_\_\_"**

Veldt? Sounds good to me. Like melt. Back when you could eat Velveeta and call it cheese. My grandfather's macaroni and cheese featured a whole brick of Velveeta. I liked peeling away its beautiful silver wrapper, Velveeta Velveeta all over in blue. The expanses of time in which . . .

## **Lauren Collins: Metamorphosis**

Pigeons rustled in the beams of the Staten Island Ferry terminal as Rebecca Miller, the writer and director, ordered a soft pretzel. This was a Tuesday afternoon, hazy, gray, quiet. Miller was in town for a number of reasons, one of which was to talk about “The Private Lives . . .

## **Kelefa Sanneh: The Joneses**

Marco Blaze, an actor who works exclusively for TitanMen, which calls itself “a pre-eminent producer of high-end gay adult content,” couldn’t make it. Sasha Grey, the fiercely self-possessed “existentialist, pornstar, and artist” (as her MySpace page puts it), submitted a brief . . .

## **John Colapinto: Undercover with a Michelin inspector.**

One afternoon last month, a woman in her early thirties, with shoulder-length blond hair and large brown eyes, arrived at Jean Georges, on the ground floor of the Trump International Hotel, in midtown Manhattan. The restaurant, which is owned by the chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, and is one of . . .

## **Jeffrey Toobin: Not Covered**

Abortion is almost as old as childbirth. There has always been a need for some women to end their pregnancies. In modern times, the law's attitude toward that need has varied. In the United States, at the time the Constitution was adopted, abortions before "quickening" were . . .

## **James Surowiecki: The Debt Economy**

John Kenneth Galbraith wrote that all financial crises are the result of “debt that, in one fashion or another, has become dangerously out of scale.” The recent financial crisis was no exception, with everyone—homeowners, private-equity investors, our biggest banks—taking on enormous amounts of . . .

## **James Longenbach: "Exercise"**

Because the Greeks didn't bother much about plagiarism Poems by Anacreon, born in Teos around 500 B.C., Appear among the Anacreontea, Imitations made by poets who loved him. In a dream I saw Anacreon, who called to me. As he stumbled, drunk, he lifted a crown of flowers . . .

## Goings on About Town: Theatre

class=goatTitle-->MOVIE-STAR WATTAGE Empirical evidence is mounting for the case that you can't have a Broadway show these days without a marquee name attached. Scarlett Johansson, in her Broadway début, and Liev Schreiber star in Arthur Miller's 1955 classic, "A View . . .

## **Goings on About Town: The Theatre**

PageBreak --> OPENINGS AND PREVIEWS Please call the phone number listed with the theatre for timetables and ticket information.  
THE AGE OF IRON To kick off the Classic Stage Company season, Brian Kulick adapts and directs a mashup of Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida" and Thomas . . .

## **Goings on About Town: Readings and Talks**

class=goatTitle-->"LIPSTICK TRACES: LIVE" Greil Marcus celebrates the twentieth anniversary of "A Secret History of the Twentieth Century" by elevating the notion of a lecture to a live performance. (Altschul Auditorium, International Affairs Building, Columbia University, 420 W. 118th St. No tickets necessary. Nov. 19 . . .

## Goings on About Town: Night Life

SEASONAL SHOWS Arlo Guthrie makes his annual pilgrimage to Carnegie Hall on Nov. 28 to revisit the Thanksgiving misadventures of his youth. He'll be joined by his children and grandchildren. (212-247-7800.) | The "101.9 RXP Presents Matt Pinfield's Holiday Extravaganza," at the Hammerstein . . .

## Goings on About Town: Movies

class=goatTitle-->REAL LIVES The deeds of great people exert their fascination on-screen, beginning with “Me and Orson Welles” (Nov. 25), Richard Linklater’s view of the young genius (Christian McKay) in New York, as seen through the eyes of a (fictitious) teen-age actor (Zac . . .

## **Goings on About Town: L.A. States of Mind**

paragraph class="noindent">Kent Mackenzie's independent film "The Exiles," which was completed in 1961, was revealed at the time of its long-delayed theatrical release last year to be one of the glories and wonders of the American cinema. The extra material in Milestone's . . .

## Goings on About Town: Dance

NEW YORK CITY BALLET The company ushers in its “Nutcracker” season (Nov. 27-Jan. 3) with a gala evening, in a newly renovated theatre that features a greatly expanded pit, acoustical improvements, new side aisles, and a squared-off stage. In addition to a premiè . . .

## Goings on About Town: Classical Music

PageBreak --> OPERA METROPOLITAN OPERA With its uneasy mix of emotional realism and fairy-tale splendor, Puccini's Chinese fable, "Turandot," is ripe for the full Franco Zeffirelli treatment: his stage-filling designs are never less than dazzling. The regal Maria Guleghina takes the title role . . .

## Goings on About Town: Art

PageBreak --> MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES METROPOLITAN MUSEUM Fifth Ave. at 82nd St. (212-535-7710)—“The ‘Young Archer,’ Attributed to Michelangelo.” Ongoing. | “Vermeer’s Masterpiece ‘The Milkmaid.’ ” Through Nov. 29. | “Art of the Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armor, 1156-1868.&#8221 . . .

## **Goings on About Town: Above and Beyond**

class=goatTitle-->**BIG APPLE CIRCUS** Manhattan's one-ring wonder is back for the season. (Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center. For more information, visit [www.bigapplecircus.org](http://www.bigapplecircus.org). Through Jan. 18.) **THE POND AT BRYANT PARK** More than just the trees change with the seasons at Bryant Park, the midtown oasis . . .

## **Cartoons from the Issue**

A collection of cartoons from the issue, plus this week's Cartoon Caption Contest.

## **Books: "The Lacuna"**

In Kingsolver's capacious historical novel, Harrison Shepherd, the son of a Mexican flirt and a stolid American bureaucrat, has a remarkable life: cook for Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, secretary to Trotsky, and acclaimed author denounced as a Communist by HUAC. The story is narrated mostly through Shepherd . . .

## **Books: "The Chill"**

8220;The chill of suspicion and incomprehension came between me and humankind when I was sixteen," Bilenchi's spare, dark bildungsroman begins. Following an unnamed teen-ager's initiation into adulthood in Tuscany in the Fascist years, it is a series of episodes of alienation, narrated in . . .

## **Books: "Lit"**

This affecting memoir—the third in a series that includes “The Liar’s Club” and “Cherry”—documents Karr’s alcoholism, the breakdown of her marriage, and the unlikely redemption she finds in the Catholic Church. Chased out of Texas by the memories . . .

## **Books: "Dorothea Lange"**

Dorothea Lange, the photographer responsible for many of the most affecting images of poverty during the Depression, was “a bit of a social snob,” according to Gordon’s absorbing biography, and for the better. In the twenties, Lange was San Francisco’s top society photographer, and . . .

## **Anthony Lane: "Broken Embraces" and "2012."**

How many tales are told in the course of "Broken Embraces," the new film from Pedro Almodóvar? People keep interrupting themselves, or changing direction, in order to embark upon a story. People, that is, like the screenwriter Harry Caine (Lluís Homar) and his assistant . . .

## **Andrea Thompson: Quinto Quarto**

paragraph class="noindent">At Quinto Quarto, everything is taken as a sign of authenticity. There are tables full of Italian speakers; the manager sends off regular customers with a kiss on the cheek and “Buona sera!” If the lone woman in a party picks the table’s . . .

## **Adam Gopnik: Our hunger for cookbooks.**

A man and a woman lie in bed at night in the short hour between kid sleep and parent sleep, turning down page corners as they read. She is leafing through a fashion magazine, he through a cookbook. Why they read these things mystifies even the readers. The closet and . . .

## **Sasha Frere-Jones: Testing Their Metal**

So you've adjusted to the new music economy. You know the big acts have little to gain from making the album of their lives, because only a few of their fans will actually buy it, and most of them will listen to it on terrible-sounding earphones anyway . . .

## **Linda Pastan: "The Burglary"**

They stole my mother's silver, melting it down, perhaps, into pure mineral, worth only its own weight. We must eat with our hands now, grab for food in this new place of greed, our table set only with memories, tarnishing even as we speak: my mother holding a . . .

## **Joan Acocella: Doll Face**

This week, at La Mama, the Czechoslovak-American Marionette Theatre presents "Twelfth Night," for sixteen marionettes performing on three tea trays (the beach, Orsino's palace, and Olivia's house). This sounds pretty camp, but, in fact, it's an entirely respectable piece of modernism . . .

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## **Goings on About Town: Readings and Talks**

THE POWERHOUSE ARENA Paul Auster reads from and discusses his new novel, "Invisible," with John Freeman, the editor of Granta. (The PowerHouse Arena, 37 Main St., at Water St., Brooklyn. 718-666-3049. Nov. 12 at 7.) ROBERT HASS The poet reads from his work. He will then be interviewed . . .

## **Goings on About Town: On the Horizon**

MOVIES WAR AND PEACE Nov. 18-Dec. 30 Hollywood was a vigorous participant in the Second World War; in conjunction with the publication of the book "Best Years," by Charles and Mirella Jona Affron, MOMA presents a series of films of the nineteen-forties, including Lewis Milestone's...

## **Goings on About Town: Night Life**

PageBreak --> ROCK AND POP Musicians and night-club proprietors live complicated lives; it's advisable to call ahead to confirm engagements. B. B. KING BLUES CLUB & GRILL 237 W. 42nd St. (212-997-4144)—Nov. 11: Ghostface Killah. Following a long string of critically acclaimed albums as a hardcore . . .

## Goings on About Town: Movies

PageBreak --> OPENING THE END OF POVERTY Philippe Diaz directed this documentary, about the historical roots and present-day causes of economic inequality. Opening Nov. 13. (In limited release.) FANTASTIC MR. FOX Reviewed below in Now Playing. Opening Nov. 13. (In limited release.) FOUR SEASONS LODGE A documentary, directed by Andrew . . .

## **Goings on About Town: Dark Side of the Earth**

paragraph class="noindent">The rapid rise of film noir in the postwar years was due to such factors as the influence of German Expressionism, the liberating innovations of Orson Welles, the new importance of independent producers, and the probing of wartime traumas. But, as seen in the five sharp-edged . . .

## **Goings on About Town: Dance**

BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY “Serenade/The Proposition,” the first of three pieces that Jones created for the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, this year, anxiously grapples with history. In fits and starts, trying one oblique angle after another, the collage of text&#8212 . . .

## **Goings on About Town: Classical Music**

PageBreak --> OPERA METROPOLITAN OPERA "From the House of the Dead," Janáček's towering final opera, is not exactly a lovely evening at the theatre: it is a free adaptation of Dostoyevsky's novel, which chronicles the daily struggle for existence among the inmates of . . .

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## **Goings on About Town: Above and Beyond**

8220;MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED" The online magazines The Rumpus and SMITH, the literary magazine Tin House, and the child-advocacy organization Shine Global present an evening of literature, comedy, and music. The novelists Rick Moody and Jonathan Ames will appear, along with the writer Starlee Kine and the . . .

## **Dave Smith: "Fireflies"**

You see them everywhere and hardly notice the one cranking past as you pass on the sidewalk, that mewling, watery eye, partly bloodshot, partly focussed on you, or some apprehension of you, or, shrunken, one in the Giant self-checkout line, foul as a just risen pig, in slippers, and . . .

## **Anthony Lane: The Road to Ruin**

The best way to think of “Detour,” which shows at BAM on Nov. 16, is as a kind of anti-“Cleopatra.” Instead of hiring a cast of thousands and spending millions on an endless shoot, do what the director Edgar G. Ulmer did in 1945: restrict . . .



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