



THIS MONTH IN IN NEW YORK

Step inside Grammy winner **Ashanti's Oz** (p. 20). Meet Broadway's brightest and **Almost Famous** (p. 22) understudies. And learn how a hit **Off-Broadway Switches On** (p. 30). **PLUS:** Catch up on the boldest accessories in **Style Central** (p. 18). **ALSO:** *IN New York* and *Where New York* maps now include bike paths!

THIS MONTH IN WHERE® NEW YORK

Broadway Babes (p. 12) are stealing the show on the Great White Way. **Getting In on the Act** (p. 18) of New York's hottest interactive shows. **PLUS:** Plan out your June with these **Hot Dates** (p. 8) and catch all the **Travel Buzz** (p. 10).

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WHAT'S NEW IN NEW YORK THIS JUNE?

Here's a sneak peek at this month's special features, events, useful tips, latest openings, FREE deals and more—especially for you and your guests!

HOT HAPPENINGS

TASTE THE WORLD

The 16th annual **Taste of Times Square** (W. 46th St., btw Broadway & Ninth Ave.) food and entertainment festival, organized by the Times Square Alliance, will take place Jun. 8, at 5 p.m. This culinary feast features dozens of Times Square's greatest restaurants! Enjoy signature dishes and international flavors from the Crossroads of the World, everything from Spanish tapas to Indian samosas to American ribs. One of the major events of the summer, the festival attracts thousands of hungry attendees every year. Live entertainment complements the culinary festivities. Entrance is free for all! Don't forget to stop by MVP/NY's booth to say hello. timessquarenyc.org

CRAFTS AT THE CENTER

Listen up, arts and crafts lovers: The **American Crafts Festival** (Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, W. 64th St. at Columbus Ave.) is coming! Jun. 13–14 and Jun. 20–21 (noon–9 p.m. on Sat and 11 a.m.–9 p.m. on Sun), you'll get to see 400 juried craft displays selected from every region of the United States. Continuous entertainment, craft demonstrations, exotic and natural foods are guaranteed. Ample parking is available at the indoor garage (W. 62nd St. & 65th sts., btw Columbus & Amsterdam aves.). craftslincoln.org



THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL

Tell your guests about a great way to get around the city in comfort and style. **Academy's** newly arrived 2009 Mercedes Minis are now ready and available for immediate booking. With eight Mercedes Minis in the fleet, **Academy** is able to accommodate both small and large groups for airport transfers, local sightseeing, over the road and local transfers. The Mercedes Minis are equipped with separate all-leather reclining seats, 15-passenger seating, a flat-screen DVD player, individual power outlets, individual overhead lighting, surround sound and a PA system, even an optional matching trailer for extra luggage. Please contact Chris La Fauci at 212-730-1430 or clafauci@academybus.com for all bookings. academybus.com



TAKE A BREAK ON BROADWAY!

In an effort to create more open spaces and give visitors and locals some breathing room in Midtown Manhattan, New York City is instituting a pilot program shutting off all car traffic between Broadway from W. 42nd St. to W. 47th St. and W. 33rd St. to W. 35th St. All Broadway traffic between these streets is diverted to Seventh Ave.



COOL CONCIERGE OFFER

Visit the **NHL Powered by Reebok Store** (1185 Sixth Ave., at W. 47th St., 212-221-6375) for your official Stanley Cup locker room merchandise! *All Concierges receive a 20% discount when a business card and photo ID are presented during the month of June!* Located only seconds from Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall and Times Square, **NHL Powered by Reebok** features apparel and merchandise for all 30 teams, including customizable jerseys. Play the latest in NHL video games, experience a live XM radio show daily, noon–2 p.m., and visit the world's only NHL-themed Starbucks. nhl.com/store

CRY ME A RIVERS

On Jun. 25, legendary comedienne and *Celebrity Apprentice* winner **Joan Rivers** brings her live stand-up act to Off-Broadway's Gramercy Theater (127 E. 23rd St., at Lexington Ave.) for one night only, and just in time for New York City's annual Gay Pride Week. Rivers presents an evening of her newest and most outrageous riffs on *Celebrity Apprentice*, Hollywood, pop culture, celebrities, reality TV and award show fashion. For Joan's show, the historic venue had been transformed into an intimate nightclub with cabaret tables in the orchestra section, a full bar and waiter service. Rising indie drag band She-Dick will serve as Joan's opening act. Tickets are \$25–\$125 with net proceeds going to Rivers' favorite charities: God's Love We Deliver and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Tickets are available at 212-352-3101 or at www.spincyclenyc.com. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.



TOXIC LAUGHS

The Toxic Avenger is the hilarious new monster of a comedy that the *New York Post* calls "hysterically funny!" Now playing at New World Stages (340 W. 50th St., btw Eighth & Ninth aves., 212-239-6200). Call or visit telecharge.com for tickets. thetoxicavengermusical.com

FOR EVEN MORE HOT HAPPENINGS

Turn to the June calendar on p. 42 of *IN New York* and "Hot Dates" on p. 8 in *Where New York*. Plan ahead and check out the calendars for July (p. 43) and August (p. 44) in *IN New York*.

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS

Dining, Shows, Shopping and More for You and Your Guests!



GREY AREA

Broadway heats up this summer when three-time Emmy Award nominee and *Grey's Anatomy* star Chandra Wilson steps into the celebrated role of Matron "Mama" Morton, the reigning cellblock diva of the smash hit musical *Chicago*, for a four-week limited engagement, Jun. 8–Jul. 5 at the Ambassador Theatre (219 W. 49th St. btw Broadway & Eighth Ave., 212-239-6200). *Chicago* is the winner of six 1997 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Revival, and the Grammy Award for Best Musical Cast Recording. chicagothemusical.com

WHAT'S YOUR ALLURE?

Allure Day Spa (139 E. 55th St., btw Third & Lexington aves., 212-644-5500) has a couple of alluring offers for you and your guests. Book an appointment for highlights or lowlights and receive a complimentary haircut (\$100 value). Got a birthday, bachelorette party, or just taking time to be with good friends? Try the Girlfriend's Celebration Package. The celebration begins with a champagne toast and chocolate, and then it's off to the spa for some well-deserved relaxation! (For younger guests, nonalcoholic beverages are offered.) You'll revel in a 30-minute body massage, peppermint sea salt pedicure and a manicure. \$119 per person. alluredayspa.com

STOP, BIKE AND ROLL

In the past few years, New York City has become one of the best biking cities in the country. Get in on the fun with **Bike and Roll** (Pier 84, Hudson River Park, 557 12th Ave., at W. 43rd St.; South Street Seaport, Piers 16 & 17, Fulton St. & South St.; Battery Park, Pier A, Battery Park Pl. & West St.; Governors Island, 10 South St., at Whitehall St. [free ferry], 866-RENT-A-BIKE, 212-260-0400)! Enjoy car-free, easy riding along the scenic NYC Greenway. Take in a true New York experience as you ride over the famous Brooklyn Bridge. Escape from the hustle and bustle by exploring the urban oasis that is Central Park. The city is yours to discover at your own pace. **Bike and Roll's** knowledgeable guides will ensure that you will have a New York experience you'll never forget. **Bike and Roll** offers a huge selection of all-new Trek bikes, including comfort bikes and race bikes; beach cruisers and tandems; and kids' bikes and accessories. A bike rental or bike tour from **Bike and Roll** is the fun, easy and safe way to explore the Big Apple! *Save \$5 with the ad on p. 71 in the June issue of Where New York.* And check out our maps in *IN New York* and *Where New York* magazines, which now feature bike paths! bikeandroll.com/newyork



SINK YOUR TEETH INTO DAD'S DAY

This Father's Day, treat your dad to a memorable feast at **Benjamin Steakhouse** (52 E. 41st St., btw Park & Madison aves., 212-297-9177)! On Jun. 21, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., **Benjamin Steakhouse** is featuring a meaty three-course meal fit for kings: from lightly-breaded crab cakes to juicy, tender sirloin and rib eye steaks to rich and buttery Chilean sea bass. With **Benjamin's** high-end steakhouse fare and elegant Midtown setting, impressing Dad has never been so easy! For reservations, please call 212-297-9177. benjaminsteakhouse.com



MoMA MONDAYS

One Monday a month, **MoMA** (11 W. 53rd St., btw Fifth & Sixth aves., 212-708-9400) stays open until 8:45 p.m. Drop in after hours for exhibitions, films, entertainment and a cash bar (starting at 6 p.m.). This month, come in on Jun. 8 to see the galleries without the crowds! moma.org/mondays

HOLLAND HERRING HULLABALOO

For lovers of *nieuwe maatjes* herring from Holland, it's the equivalent of Opening Day of the baseball season. After a yearlong wait, the tasty delicacy from the waters of the Netherlands has arrived. On Jun. 9 at 1 p.m., the historic **Grand Central Oyster Bar** (89 E. 42nd St., Lower Concourse, Grand Central Terminal, 212-490-6650) launches its annual "Holland Herring Festival" with opening ceremonies including the "Official First Tasting" of Dutch herring, hosted by Executive Chef Sandy Ingber, General Manager Jonathan Young and dignitaries. The Herring Festival will continue thru Jun. 29. The **Oyster Bar** always receives the very first herring shipped to the USA—and the cream of the catch, too. The succulent, toothsome delicacy known as *nieuwe maatjes* herring will be available beginning Jun. 3 for about three weeks. The herring fillets are served with hard-boiled egg, sweet onion and chives. Herring fillets are \$7 and herring salad is \$7.95 per order. oysterbarny.com

ZEN DINING

Nirvana (346 Lexington Ave., btw E. 39th & E. 40th sts., 212-983-0000) offers modern Indian cuisine in a bi-level spot right off Grand Central Terminal. The entrance opens up to a sleek lounge with a full bar. On the second floor, you'll discover high-end cuisine along with great lunch specials in a blissful ambience. During Happy Hour (Mon–Fri, 5–7 p.m.), enjoy unlimited all-you-can-eat appetizers. nirvanany.com

EN ESPAÑOL

For over three decades, **Café Español** (172 Bleecker St., at Sullivan St., 212-505-0657) has been serving authentic Spanish cuisine in Greenwich Village. Enjoy a variety of specials: Monday is Lobster Night, with a variety of specials on dishes featuring whole Canadian live lobster. Every Tuesday, enjoy 50% off wine bottles. Check with the restaurant for other specials and promotions. cafeespanol.com

CONCIERGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 06.02:** Harbor Experience, South Street Seaport, Water Taxi Beach, 5:30–8:30 p.m.
- 06.04:** Eastern Mountain Sports new store opening 6–8 p.m., catering by **GustoOrganics**.
- 06.08:** Taste of Times Square, 5–8 p.m.
- 06.11:** *In the Heights*, 8 p.m., pre-event at **Smith's Bar and Restaurant**, 6 p.m.
- 06.16:** New York City Center, *The Wiz*, 7 p.m., pre-event at **Seppi's**, 5 p.m.
- 06.17:** Allen Edmonds, 6–8 p.m., catering by **BICE Ristorante**.
- 06.22:** Children's Museum of Manhattan, 6–8 p.m., caterer TBA.
- 06.23:** *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, 8 p.m. Pre-event at **Benjamin's Steakhouse**, 6 p.m.
- 06.30:** American Ballet Theatre, 8 p.m., pre-event at **Ruth's Chris Steakhouse**.

NOTE: All times and venues are subject to change. Look for your personal invitation in the mail. Please DO NOT RSVP until you have received your invitation.

NAVIGATE IN NEW YORK

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HELP END HUNGER—SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

MVP/NY will donate \$5 from each paid subscription of *IN New York* and *WHERE New York* magazines to **City Harvest**, which feeds over 260,000 needy New Yorkers every week. Each \$5 donation means 20 pounds of food for the hungry! To subscribe, call 212-557-3010, or visit mvpny.net or cityharvest.org.

WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO IN NEW YORK!

Win two nights at an NYC hotel; dinner for two at a fabulous restaurant; and two tickets to see an exciting Broadway show. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Go to quickguideny.com today and click on "Special Offers Sweepstakes" to be included in the drawing. All entries must be received by June 30, 2009. All entries subject to rules and disclaimers as displayed on Web site.



UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS (CONT'D)

Dining, Shows, Shopping and More for You and Your Guests!



Photo of the Original NY Wonderettes by Carol Rosegg

WONDERWOMEN

The Marvelous Wonderettes is a cotton candy-colored, nonstop musical blast from the past! Featuring your favorite songs from the '50s and beyond, *The Marvelous Wonderettes* takes you to the 1958 Springfield High School prom where we meet the Wonderettes, four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts and voices to match! Now playing at the Westside Theatre (407 W. 43rd St., btw

Ninth & 10th aves., 212-239-6200). marvelouswonderettes.com

CELE-BEAR-ATE WITH HUGS

Jun. 6-14, come to **Build-A-Bear Workshop**® (565 Fifth Ave., at 46th St., 212-871-7080) and get a free beach towel with a purchase of \$20 or more! buildabear.com/nyc

RESTAURANT OPENING

Acclaimed chef Govind Armstrong makes his New York City debut with **Table 8** at **The Cooper Square Hotel** (25 Cooper Sq., at E. 5th St., 212-475-3400). His approachable menu includes flatbreads, pastas, small plates such as sweet pea salad with lamb pancetta-wrapped poached prawn and main courses such as crispy seared skate with steamed cockles and *fregola sarda* (pasta) in a spicy saffron broth. A highlight of the menu is a variety of meat and fish cured in-house with rare salts and custom-blended teas. Italian designer Antonio Citterio created the restaurant's sleek interior. A 14-seat salt and charcuterie bar at the center of the restaurant is lined with an Irish-marble wall. Its sweeping black subway-tiled ceiling leads guests into the dining room, an airy and comfortable 100-seat affair, with low-lit chandeliers, a leather wall and homey bookshelves.



One wall is made entirely of glass, offering a lush view of a 40-seat dining patio and private garden just beyond. The bar features handcrafted cocktails such as the Basil 8, a mixture of muddled grapes and basil with vodka, simple syrup, lime juice and ginger ale. The accessible wine list spans the globe with a mix of Old and New World wines and an extensive selection of wines by the glass. **Table 8** is open daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner and late-night dining. thecoopersquarehotel.com

CHOCOLATE FATE

Come to **M&M's World**® (1600 Broadway, at W. 48th St., 212-295-3850) today for the new Fun Fortune Swami Dispenser and fill your future with the sweet fun of **M&M's**®. This unique addition to your collection dispenses wisdom and lets you celebrate your good fortune with delicious **M&M's**® candy. mymms.com



FATHER-WORTHY FOOTWEAR

Get your father exactly what he wants this Father's Day with great gifts from **Allen Edmonds** (24 E. 44th St., btw Madison & Fifth aves., 212-682-3144; 551 Madison Ave., btw E. 55th & E. 56th sts., 212-308-8305; 1250 Sixth Ave., btw W. 49th & W. 50th sts., 212-262-4070) at every price, now through Jun. 21. Choose from customized engraved cedar products with Father's Day messages, or fun patterned ties from Vineyard Vines. And for the classic dad, a pair of shoes from the Timeless Classics Collection is the perfect gift. allenedmonds.com



PIERCING WIT



David Hyde Pierce, the Tony® and Emmy® Award-winning actor of *Curtains*, *Spamalot* and *Frasier* returns to Broadway in **Accent on Youth**, a fresh new look at Samson Raphaelson's brilliantly clever comedy. *New York Magazine* raves, "David Hyde Pierce is perfect! Director Daniel Sullivan and his smart, classy cast remind us what a revival should be!" See it today at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre (261 W. 47th St., btw Broadway & Eighth Ave., 212-239-6200). mtc-nyc.org

OF FROGS AND STARS

Frogs are back at the **American Museum of Natural History** (Central Park West at W. 79th St., 212-769-5100)! *Frogs: A Chorus of Colors* is a delightful exhibition that introduces visitors to the colorful and richly diverse world of frogs with more than 200 live frogs, from the tiny dart poison frogs (some less than an inch long) to the enormous African bullfrog (as big as eight inches in diameter). These awesome amphibians will be shown in their recreated habitats complete with rock ledges, live plants and waterfalls. There are approximately 25 species from such countries as Argentina, Bolivia, Borneo, Brazil, China, Colombia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Russia, Sumatra, Suriname, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam. Interactive stations enhance the experience. Looking ahead, Academy Award-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg will narrate the spectacular new Hayden Planetarium Space Show, *Journey to the Stars*, which opens to the public at the Museum's Rose Center for Earth and Space on Jul. 4. See Web site for full event and exhibit schedule. amnh.org

MIDTOWN MILAN

Are you ready for an Italian meal to write home about? **Bistro Milano** (1350 Sixth Ave., at W. 55th St., 212-757-2600) strikes the perfect balance between classic and comfortable. Rediscover delicious simplicity as you sample the extensive menu. Treat your palate and leave your passport at home! **Bistro Milano's** homemade pastas and aged Angus beef burgers really bring Italy to Midtown.



HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

The top of the **Empire State Building** (350 Fifth Ave., btw 33rd & 34th sts., 212-736-3100) was originally built as a landing mast for airships. The idea was that you could board an airship in Europe and be delivered to Midtown Manhattan. While the swirling air currents prevented the possibility, one can still visit the original passenger waiting room at what is now the 102nd Floor Observatory for awe-inspiring views from 1,250 feet above the bustling metropolis below you. esbnyc.com

URBAN RENEWAL

This month, **Bloomingdale's** (E. 59th St. at Lexington Ave., 212-705-2098) continues with exciting renovations. On the main floor, you'll find a Fashion Accessories area in its new home on the Third Ave. & E. 59th St. side (costume jewelry, watches and seasonal accessories). Sunglasses are now next to Fragrances. Be on the lookout for a new Cosmetics space where Fashion Accessories used to live, opening at the end of June. Don't forget to check out the new Polo Men's shop (lower level, on the E. 59th St. & Lexington Ave. side, with its own entrance)! And stay tuned for the final phase of the men's store renovations, including men's basics, a new men's Burberry shop and a private label area (to be completed in August 2009). Jun. 16-18, enjoy a private three-day sale with the best brands and latest fashions reserved just for you at extraordinary savings in-store and online. bloomingdales.com

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY...

Located in the heart of Times Square, **Dave and Buster's** (234 W. 42nd St., btw Seventh & Eighth aves., 646-495-2015) is the ultimate summer destination to feed your fun! From the half-price cocktail happy hour, Mon-Fri, 4:30-7:30 p.m. to the half-price games every Wed, you can't beat these values! Treat yourself to an Eat & Play Combo, starting at only \$18.99! It includes your choice of eight different entrées and a \$10 Power Card for games! Don't forget to try D&B's new Double-Stacked Chicken Parm sandwich or the amazing new Island Grilled Trifecta, with steak, shrimp and chicken skewers served over a signature spicy rice medley. *And bring in the ad from p. 37 of the June issue of Where New York to get free \$10 game play!* daveandbusters.com



MINT CONDITION

A successful businessman, **Mint's** (150 E. 50th St., at Lexington Ave., 212-644-8888) owner Gary Sikka is also a chef with more than two decades of culinary experience who has created an Indian celebrating the food of the North and South, with a contemporary presentation for today's diners. The 110-seat restaurant is brightly decorated with orange, red and fuchsia, drum lights snuggled together throughout the long dining room, and painted panels of mint, yellow and green that hang over striped banquettes. mintny.com