

Edited by Sara Bonisteel

NYC PARKS DEPT. NEEDS 100S OF NEW LIFEGUARDS

While New York swimming holes can't boast the David Hasselhoff factor, the city's Parks and Recreation



Get Your Guard On: City needs lifeguards

Spencer T. Tucker/NYC Parks and Recreation

Department is looking for some summer lifeguards for 7 beaches and 53 pools throughout the 5 boroughs.

The city needs more than 1,100 lifeguards this summer. Interested swimmers must complete a qualifying exam, held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the 59th Street Recreation Center (533 W. 59th St.).

Those who qualify will be enrolled in a free lifeguard-training course. Upon completion of the training, individuals will be guaranteed a paid position in the city's Lifeguard Corps and back pay for the guarding course.

The city's beaches open May 29, and the pools open June 26. More information on lifeguarding for the city is available at nyc.gov/parks or by calling 311.

LONG ISLAND PROVIDES ROMANTIC SPA GETAWAY

Ever watch an episode of *The Bachelor* and fantasize about you and your partner lying on a beach getting twin massages as the sun is about to set? Well, those dreams of a romantic getaway aren't that far away — literally.

Only 30 minutes from Manhattan, the Village Spa (17 Main St., 516-621-7272, the-village-spa.com), a quaint bed-and-breakfast-style day spa in Roslyn, Long Island, offers couples a honeymoon-like experience without having to get on a plane.

The spa has three separate suites and specializes in sexy couple treatments such as the Chocolate Kiss Wrap, a European massage that includes a chocolate mud wrap, chocolate body balm, and yummy desserts; You Rub Too, a package that includes side-by-side rubs and massage lessons from a therapist; and the Milk and

Honey Wrap, a massage that includes a milk-and-honey salt glow.

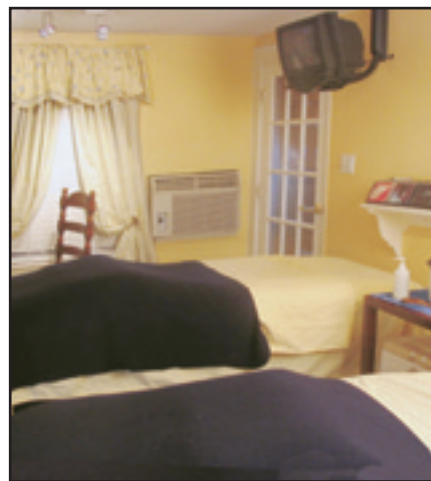
According to owner Rick Joseph, who opened the place two years ago, the most popular couples package is the Romantic Getaway, which lasts 3½ hours and includes a one-hour side-by-side European massage with hot stone teaser, gourmet dinner, bottle of wine, warm neck treatment, therapeutic oil foot soak, herbal tea, and desserts.

The getaway suite includes a private bathroom with a Jacuzzi steam shower, comfortable lounging chairs, matching cotton robes, Sensi slippers, TV and DVD, stereo, Scrabble set, and Internet access.

"You never have to leave the room," Joseph said. "We come to you. It's room service without having to spend the night."

So far, couples are traveling from all over Long Island, Manhattan, Westchester, and even Connecticut to experience the spa's one-of-a-kind services.

"Other places have a very factory-like feel and no personality — you wait in a general room, the therapist gets you, and then you leave," Joseph said.



Romantic Getaway: At Village Spa

"Here everything is private. We try to make this experience as hotel-like as possible." —Renatt Brodsky

YES BOXED 35TH ANNIVERSARY SET IS HIT-OR-MISS DEAL

The Ultimate Yes — 35th Anniversary Collection is somewhere between a boxed set and a greatest hits album. It follows the recent trend by David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen, and other older artists who've released collections aimed at the middle-ground market of fans who want just a little more.

The three discs contain tracks from the band's long inventory of releases. Because it doesn't delve too deeply into any specific period but rather provides the listener with a guide to the band's history, there are rewards as well as drawbacks.

Disc I features selections from the group's defining period, from the early to mid-1970s, including "Heart of the Sunrise," "Starship Trooper," and "And You and I," offering the dramatic and ambitious sound that established Yes as rock icons.

Disc II begins with "Siberian Khatru" from that era before shifting its focus to representing Yes's evolving sound, with such songs as "Don't Kill the Whale," "Tempus Fugit," and "Owner of a Lonely Heart." These tracks are driven by creative layering and harmonies in place of the musical jams that characterized the earlier years.

The brief 24-minute bonus disc includes an acoustic version of "Roundabout" that is nice to have, but other than that, it has little appeal. Tickets are now on sale for Yes's (yesworld.com) lone area appearance, May 13 at Madison Square Garden. —Steven Siegel

BOTANIC GARDEN HAS TIPS ON CITY'S FOLIAGE

With the temperatures now flirting with full-fledged spring, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., 718-623-7200, bbg.org) is ready to teach residents a thing or two about trees.

Its annual spring gardening day, Making Brooklyn Bloom 2004, takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 13 and is free with admission to the grounds.

This year's Bloom focuses on trees, with a keynote address by Edward S. Barnard, whose book *New York City Trees: A Field Guide for the Metropolitan Area* (Columbia University Press) is a compendium of foliage facts. Special displays, workshops, and a walking tour are also on the schedule. Those wishing to participate must arrive at 10 a.m. to register.

For those with a patch of soil in the city to call their own, the National Arbor Day Foundation will send 10 trees to people who join the foundation with a \$10 contribution.

Ten flowering trees, two each of white flowering dogwoods, flowering crabapples, Washington hawthorns, American redbuds, and Kousa dogwoods, are shipped free of charge before May 31 for



Blooming Brooklyn: At annual gardening day

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

spring planting. They will be replaced if they fail to grow.

Memberships are available by sending a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 or on the Web at arborday.org. —Sara Bonisteel

VON TRIER'S FILMS ON VIEW AT MUSEUM

The highly controversial and rather difficult work of Cannes Film Festival favorite Lars von Trier will be celebrated at the American Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria (35th Avenue



Dark Dancers: Von Trier & Bjork win at Cannes

at 36th St., 718-784-0077, movingimage.us) March 13-28.

Von Trier's films never follow conventional storytelling techniques; in fact, he started the Dogme 95 movement, which demands that filmmakers not attach any artifice to their movies, using only natural sound and lighting, handheld cameras, and improvised dialogue.

The series begins on March 13 with a preview of *The Five Obstructions*, which von Trier made with Jorgen Leth. The latter will be on hand to introduce the film, which consists of five ever-more-challenging remakes of his own 1968 short *The Perfect Human*.

On March 13 and 14, von Trier's new *Dogville* will be shown. This very different gangster picture features an all-star cast that includes Nicole Kidman, Paul Bettany, Patricia Clarkson, James Caan, Lauren Bacall, John Hurt, and many other recognizable faces.

The Element of Crime (March 14), which won the 1984 Technical Grand Prize at Cannes, is a dark and dirty detective story set in a bizarre, unnatural city. *Zentropa* (March 27) is a hypnotic World War II tale.

Palme d'Or winner *Dancer in the Dark* (March 27) is a thrilling musical that rips your heart out, as does the powerful and emotionally draining *Breaking the Waves* (March 27, 28). *The Idiots* (March 27), about a group of friends pretending to be physically and mentally challenged, is insipid and nearly unwatchable.

Also on the schedule are such rarely screened works as *Images of Relief and Nocturne* (March 14), two of von Trier's student films; the four-part miniseries *The Kingdom I* (March 20) and *The Kingdom II* (March 21); and *The Humiliated* (March 28), Jesper Jargil's documentary about the making of *The Idiots*.

—Mark Rifkin ■