

A romantic couple is shown in a vineyard. The woman, with long dark hair, is holding a glass of white wine. The man, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and a grey vest, is leaning in to kiss her on the cheek. They are sitting on a brown blanket on the grass. To the left, a wicker picnic basket contains a bottle of wine. The background features rows of grapevines with yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting.

CONNECTICUT[®] Travel

2011

**SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS • FOOD & DRINK
CONCERTS • FUN ON THE WATER
DAY TRIPS & OVERNIGHTS**

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Darien Valerie Silver (203) 656-0059

Hartford Mona Downey (860) 524-1365

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Old Saybrook David J. Glaski (860) 395-0328

Waterbury/Litchfield/Danbury

Sue Barker (860) 274-5038

Marketing

Marketing Director Jocelyn Paoletta x314

Business and Editorial Offices

35 Nutmeg Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611

(203) 380-6600 Business fax (203) 380-6610

Editorial fax (203) 380-6612

e-mail: editorial@connecticutmag.com

connecticutmag.com

Journal Register Company

CEO John Paton

President and COO William Higginson

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Showtime

Connecticut's jazz and pop festivals forecast a cool season.



.....THEATER.....

BJÖRN MEYER/ISTOCK

Seats Together, Curtains Apart

Prepare yourself for a hearty round of cutting humor and classic show tunes during 2011's summer season at two of Connecticut's esteemed regional theaters: East Haddam's **Goodspeed Opera House** (goodspeed.org) and Fairfield County's **Westport Country Playhouse** (westportplayhouse.org)

Goodspeed goes Gershwin-crazy with *My One and Only*, on the boards through June 25. Let's see—"S'Wonderful," "Funny Face," "Strike Up the Band" . . . is there any classic this score leaves out? After you come down to earth, take a ride on "Old Man River" in Jerome Kern's epic *Show Boat* (July 1 through Sept. 11).

Meanwhile, three different kinds of social comedy star at Westport: Christopher Durang's *Beyond Therapy* (through May 14), W. Somerset Maugham's *The Circle* (June 7-25) and Terrence McNally's *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* (July 12-30). After that lineup, you'll be ready for the joltingly dramatic change of pace only Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly, Last Summer* (opening Aug. 23) can provide.



Goodspeed Opera House, the belle of the Connecticut River.



LARRY BILANSKY

The Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival.

If you think Connecticut is an odd place to find the best in jazz and bluegrass, think again. Whether you like your music hot as sun or cool as a nap in the summer grass, you're bound to enjoy at least one of these four great annual Nutmeg State jams. **the strawberry park bluegrass festival**, June 2-5 in Preston, is headlined by acclaimed Nashville innovators The Grascals, Grand Ole Opry vets and onetime backing band for Dolly Parton—they do a blazing cover of "Last Train to Clarksville," too. (strawberrypark.net) **the greater hartford festival of jazz**, July 15-17 in historic Bushnell Park, will celebrate its 20th anniversary as the largest free jazz festival in New England (45,000 attended last year from all over the U.S. and Canada). Established by bassist and music educator Paul Brown, it's welcomed Arturo Sandoval, Billy Taylor and Ahmad Jamal to its stages. (hartfordjazz.com) **the podunk bluegrass music festival**, Aug. 4-7 at East Hartford's Martin Park, promises a 16th year that'll kick out the jams, with performances by heavy hitters like the Steep Canyon Rangers, The Travelin' McCourys and Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper. This has been a favorite gig in the past for bluegrass master Ricky Skaggs—dare we hope for a return? (podunkbluegrass.net) **the litchfield jazz festival**, Aug. 5-7 at the Kent School in Kent, has hosted many greats over 15 years, including Tito Puente, Diana Krall, Toots Thielemans and Brad Mehldau. This year's headliners include the Dr. Lonnie Smith Trio, the Jimmy Heath Big Band and the Roy Haynes Fountain of Youth Band. (litchfieldjazzfest.com)



Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

Timothy White: Portraits, on display at Ridgefield's Aldrich through June 5, spotlights one of the most acclaimed celebrity photographers of the last 20 years. Large-scale images of Whoopi Goldberg, Elizabeth Taylor, Brad Pitt, Harrison Ford, Aretha Franklin and Paul Newman (*below*) are just a few of the photos notable for their humor, depth of artistry and contextual relevance. White has been named one of the most important people in photography by *American Photo* magazine. (aldrichart.org)



Mattatuck Museum Arts & History Center

Follow the Civil War stories of Waterbury's Andrew McClintock, John Chatfield, Alexander McNeil (who fought at Gettysburg) and Henry Peck through letters, diaries, photographs, paintings, uniforms and flags in the Mattatuck's "*There's Nothing Here to Make a Man Love a Soldier's Life*": *An Exhibit Inspired by Soldiers' Letters from the Civil War*, on view till Sept. 10. Look for revealing letters on the day-to-day war experience from McClintock and ruminations on resisting the temptations of drinking, smoking and playing cards from Peck. (mattatuckmuseum.org)

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

His longtime love of gardening, combined with a profound admiration for Japanese prints, resulted in Claude Monet's famed water-lily series, spotlighted in *Monet's Water Lilies: An Artist's Obsession*, at Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum through June 12. Roughly 10 paintings (out of the 300 he created in Giverny)—donated by collectors all over the country—are accompanied by period photos of Monet and his watery subjects as well as contemporary images of the gardens. (wadsworthatheneum.org)

Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Once considered rather stuffy, lately portraiture has assumed a central role in modern art, becoming a dynamic avenue through which artists can address issues of identity and gender, race and class, and even the advent of the information age. New London's Lyman Allyn has great fun with the premise in *Face Off: Portraits of Contemporary Artists*, featuring works loaned by Benny Andrews, Alice Neel, David LaChapelle, Barkley L. Hendricks and William Wegman, and others from the museum's permanent collection. Look for it through Sept. 18. (lymanallyn.org)

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Adamantine

SUSAN MARSHALL & COMPANY

DANCE

Adamantine is a contemporary dance performance that dwells at the intersection of dance, sound design, visual art, and theater. Within the confines of a shifting and unpredictable stage environment, the dancers move with intensity and abandon. *Adamantine* juxtaposes light and dark, freedom and constraint, shadow and reflection, formal and informal, joy and difficulty. The lush physicality of the dance is accompanied by an original score performed live by composer Peter Whitehead.

JUNE 15-18

WED-FRI 8PM

SAT 5PM

> Frederick Iseman Theater

1156 Chapel Street

\$25 All seats general admission.

Tickets include admission to the film *Frame Dances*



U.S. TOUR

The Cripple of Inishmaan

DRUID AND ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY

THEATER

Playwright Martin McDonagh (Academy Award-winner, *Six Shooter*) sets this comic masterpiece on an isolated island off the Irish coast. A Hollywood director is coming to Inishmore to film *The Man of Aran* and locals might be hired. Cripple Billy is eager to audition if only to break away from the bitter tedium of his daily life. This production is directed by Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Garry Hynes and is part of Imagine Ireland, an initiative of Culture Ireland, celebrating a year of Irish arts in America, 2011.

JUNE 15-19
WED-FRI 8PM
SAT 3PM, 8PM
SUN 3PM
> University Theatre
222 York Street
\$40 All seats general admission

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