

March 2010

**Don't
Label
It!**
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short & tweet
with
**FRED
SCHNEIDER**
of The B-52's



Also This Issue:

The Atlanta Opera *presents* **Aida**

The comedy of **Desi Divas** mixes demographics

What would Modern Family's Cameron do?

text messages from hell

be scene



Mike Rickard (above) made his Bellissima debut on February 26 opening for Guyton Maurice (left).

ABOUT DON'T LABEL IT:

Previously published in the 1990's in Austin, Texas, this 'zine began simply as my band's newsletter and evolved into a regional Texas publication. Since the demise of Atlanta's lesbian magazine in 2009 and as its former Entertainment Editor, I've revived the concept of cross-pollinating on paper the worlds I've always lived in:

the live music scene, film happenings, and the **gay community.**

Within these pages, they coexist in harmony.

Thank for picking us up! *Xanna Don't*

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Atlanta Opera celebrates its 30 season with **Aida**



Antonello Palombi portrays Radames in Atlanta Opera's Aida

By Xanna Don't

Did you ever wonder why television's daytime dramas are called soap operas? The "soap" adjective describes their advertisers and sponsors. The opera part is derived from their storylines, similar to those of the great composers of centuries past. There is more intricately woven drama within the libretto of Verdi's **Aida** than in all of daytime television. Shown in three acts with two intermissions, Atlanta Opera's current production captures its intended intensity with stellar singing and acting.

Aida's juicy plot centers around a love triangle which unfolds early in the first act. Amneris is the daughter of the King of Egypt; she's an entitled conniver deliciously played by mezzo soprano **Elizabeth Bishop**. She fancies military hero Radames, magnificently embodied in this production by the internationally acclaimed Italian tenor, **Antonello Palombi**, an obvious coup for the Atlanta company. Amneris thinks her slave, Aida (soprano **Mary Elizabeth Williams**), is more like a sister than a servant—until she suspects that there is something between Aida and Radames. But before the two women can throw down and have a cat fight over him in the ladies' room during Act Two, there is war between Egypt and Aida's native Ethiopia to endure, with Radames leading the Egyptian army. This conflict provides occasion for some amazing all-male choral pieces



Mary Elizabeth Williams

ranging from powerhouse war cries to Gregorian chant, all amidst elaborately costumed pageantry. It also presents the ultimate dilemma for Aida; should she root for her boyfriend or her homeland? Within that turmoil, William's voice shines brightly, her timbre both soft and penetrating as she begs the gods for pity on her knees in the aria, *Ritorna Vincitor* (Return Victorious). That level of virtuosity is mirrored in a duet with Palombi in Act Three, *O Terra Adio* (Oh Earth, Farewell), proving Williams very well-suited to her debut in this iconic role.

This reviewer and her companion enjoyed the privilege of seeing this production's final dress rehearsal along with many of the cast, crew, and orchestra's family and friends. The lack of audience formality was refreshing and their responses to plot points readily known by practicing opera buffs were delightful. But there are opera rules to be familiar with before venturing out to see one. Like an overnight lock down in wild gay clubs of the past, no one is allowed to enter the theater once the curtain has gone up. Comings and goings are for intermission(s) only. If you must leave the theater during the show, you can continue viewing in the lobby on a closed circuit television until the curtain has gone down and the house lights have come back up.

All of Atlanta Opera's recent productions have been enhanced by its relatively new home venue, The Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. Because no electrical amplification is used for any of the instruments or voices in an operatic production, the design of any opera house theater is critical to enjoying its full sound. While The Cobb mimics The Fox Theatre downtown in layout and general appearance, it literally has more leg room. And like The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, all of the spaces and architecture are carefully rounded for optimal sound reflection. There are no jagged corners or sharp angles to rob resonance. It's oddly illustrated when the gentle step of an actor's slipper causes a faint yet perceptible creak on the wooden set during an interlude. That smooth, open sonic effect is what makes opera so unique and enduring. You feel it because you're in the room with it, hearing its story and emotions through the carefully calibrated force of a human body. It's not artificially delivered. The human voice is a remarkable instrument and Atlanta Opera has done a wonderful job presenting some of the finest.

Aida

In Italian with English supertitles.

February 27 and March 2, 5, and 7
Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

www.atlantaopera.org

Desi Divas' Demo Mix

by Xanna Don't

Desi Divas presented a unique comedy line-up at Andrew's Upstairs in Buckhead, ATL, for three shows on February 27. Created by promoter **Desi Chuckles** (a.k.a. Anil Vaswani) in conjunction with Georgia State University's Indian Cultural Exchange (GSU ICE), it was comprised of Indian-American comics. The demographic mix could have ended there, but its accomplished headliner, **Vidur Kapur**, is also openly gay. Toss in charity fundraising celebrity drag queen **Bubba D. Licious** as hostess, and it became a meeting of cultures.



Monrok and Vidur Kapur at Andrew's Upstairs ATL

La Bubba opened lip syncing to "It Was God Who Made You A Drag Queen" to less than thunderous applause. Elucidating his presence to the mostly Indian student audience, he bubbled, "They needed gay people here as well." Introducing the first comedian, 18-year old **Neel Nanda**, Bubba struggled with pronouncing his Indian name. But ever the professional, Miss Licious returned to the stage each time with a better feel for the audience and they warmed up affectionately, timidly reaching for breast cutlets when offered to the front row.

Judy Vincent followed with edgy material indicative of her native New York, explaining that she's "an NRI—a non recognizable Indian." Her blend of urban (she claims to attend "curry and crack nights" in Harlem) and feminist (she's not a "village virgin," she "put the ball in Boliwood") is very strong, but some of her references (Different Strokes, Brady Bunch) were outdated for the mostly under-thirty audience. Still, her delivery is punchy and promising.

Hitting a good stride, Bubba changed to a zebra print ensemble and encouraged everyone to drink as the third comic arrived on stage. **Monrok** has a great feel for her native country's regionalisms. She instantly took stock of the diverse Indian make up in the audience with an applause poll listing over twenty regions of India! But that's where her enthusiasm ended and the real show began. Monrok gives Steven Wright serious competition with her hysterically funny deadpan anecdotal musings and she no doubt looks much better in a glazed orange Punjabi suit. She sluggishly brags that yoga was invented by her country as "a scam for white people," as it's "the laziest exercise." Monrok's lethargy will propel her in the comedy biz whether she musters the energy to make that trip or not. She's definitely somebody to watch.

CONTINUED...

encounters

February 27 and March 2, 5, & 7

Atlanta Opera *presents* AIDA
@ Cobb Energy Centre, ATL
www.atlantaopera.org

Friday, March 5

Fred Schneider's
SPRING THANG BINGO DANCE PARTY
@ The Gold Room, ATL
www.goldroomatl.com

Friday & Saturday, March 5 & 6

Seasons of Love *professional Broadway cabaret*
benefiting Chris Kids
@ 14th Street Playhouse, ATL
www.chriskids.org

Saturday, March 6

Lewis Black
@ Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre
www.myspace.com/lewisblack

Heartsong Southeast *Benefit Beer Bust*
@ F.R.O.G.S. Cantina, ATL
www.heartsongsoutheast.org

Wednesday, March 10

Revenge of The Funny *with*
Matt Pharr, Dave Stone, Trey Toler, *more*
@ The Highland Ballroom, ATL
www.thehighlandinn.com

Thursday, March 11

The Eagle 8 trial begins
@ Atlanta Municipal Court
www.atlantaeagleraid.com

Saturday, March 13

Atlanta Roller Girls Roller Derby
@ Yaarab Shrine Center
www.atlantarollergirls.com

Friday, March 19

Jessi Lynn & Sarah Peacock's
"Bikinis & Scarves" Tour
@ Bellissima, ATL
www.myspace.com/bellissima_lounge

Saturday, March 20

TaTaPalooza - *a breast cancer benefit*
with Lindsey Hinckle, Jessica Dunnagan, *more*
@ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL
www.smithsoldebar.com

Tuesday, March 23

Bitch (of Bitch and Animal) *with* The State Of
@ Bellissima, ATL
www.myspace.com/bitchmusic



Thursday, March 25

Women in Film and Television Atlanta's
5th Annual WIFTI Shorts Showcase
@ Midtown Art Cinema, ATL
www.wifta.org

Thursday & Friday, March 25 & 26

The Road Leads Back *a program sung by*
The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus
@ Virginia Highlands Baptist Church
www.agmchorus.org

Friday, March 26

Jen Foster @ Bellissima, ATL
www.myspace.com/jenfoster



Thursday—Sunday, April 1—4

Jump For The Kids *skydiving event*
with live music, dj's, and camping...
benefiting Children's Miracle Network
and Children's Hospital of Atlanta
493 Airport Road, Cedartown, GA
facebook group: "Jump For The Kids"



Wednesday, April 14

Friends of Israeli Defense Forces
Inaugural Dinner @ Georgia Aquarium
www.FIDF.org

April 15—24

Atlanta Film Festival
@ Midtown Art Cinema, *more*
www.atlantafilmmfestival.com

April 16

Juan Cezar & The Sex Kittens
with Lekia Love, Xanna Don't, *more*
@ Bellissima, ATL
www.myspace.com/juancezar

April 17

Labrys Magazine's
Femmes & Fedoras Relaunch Party
@ My Sister's Room, ATL
www.labrysatl.com

April 22

Swing Out Sister
@ Variety Playhouse, ATL
www.myspace.com/sos06



encounters

Send your gigs, shows, film screenings,
and community events listings to:
dontlabelit@gmail.com

Desi Divas' Demo Mix continued...



Bubba D. Licious regales a new young fan.

on an “Axis of Evil float for the gay parade?” His sociological observations are current and astute, pointing out that for many Indians, immigrating to the United States is not necessarily the goal anymore. “The dream has changed,” he reflects. But he urges all of us, wherever we find ourselves, to “retain your identity and don’t try to blend in.” Great advice for every demographic.

www.desichuckles.com

more to be scene



Left: Culinary designer Paul Angelo sports an opera cape at The Palomar Hotel. Above: Scott, Dahshan, and Mario, and [below] Adam, Kyle and cute friend at Alex Darling’s Last Cocktail Party.



DON'T LABEL IT!

Personal Forecasts

March
2009



What would Cameron do?

What would Xanna don't?

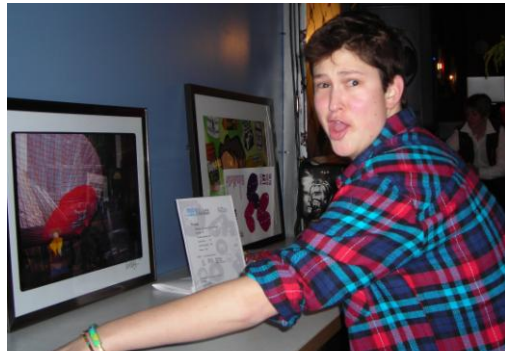
PISCES	I was thinking we might set aside a little travel fund to take Lily to Vietnam someday. Is there a place you're saving up to go?	Don't bet the farm. You can still enjoy the poker game within reason. There are always better things you could do with your money.
ARIES	Instead of fighting with your partner this month, plan some time just for the daddies to be together and rekindle the romance! Yay!	Don't allow this month's mania to distract you from what's important. Take two xanax and postpone the haters until next month.
TAURUS	Uranus is supposed to be unpredictable this month? Well isn't it always! How silly. Who makes jokes like that? We have a child now.	Don't giggle during your big dramatic scene. But allow yourself to laugh when it's done. You'll get everything completed nicely.
GEMINI	Being a stay at home dad can be a little monotonous, but I wouldn't trade it for any of my previous jobs. I'm leading a fulfilled life.	Don't miss the remaining pieces of the puzzle. They're right in front of you and you've gotten good at putting them together.
CANCER	You know how I dress Lily in the most fantastic, occasion-oriented outfits and all I usually get is a snicker? It's still worth it!	Don't waste all your energy at the first club. Learn to marathon, like you're at festival. Do you know the way to the next whiskey bar?
LEO	It's a really good time for you to throw a brunch and schmooze all the right folks. It promises to be a total lovefest, sweetie!	Don't stay home. Whatever you do, get out there and mingle. If you don't know anybody at the party, don't worry. You will very soon.
VIRGO	So you had an awkward "moon landing" with someone who makes you cringe. Apologize even if you don't feel it. Be kind, rewind.	Don't sell your scratched vinyl records. As they crackle and skip, remember you still have pennies to weigh the needle down.
LIBRA	I need a shot of your inner Botox, because you just ooze success and serenity. I can't wait to see what you do next. Fabulous!	Don't bother with people you hate, because lady, you are a tramp—but the coolest kind. Everyone will want to imitate your schtick.
SCORPIO	You could find your Mitchell this month. Look carefully because Prince Charming might be a slightly uptight, cute mopsy red head. Sigh!	Don't buy big just yet. The economy is still uncertain. The agencies that measure it have simply found crafty new ways to count.
SAGITTARIUS	You'll be multitasking like a professional homemaker by mid-month, but beware those opportunistic nannies at the playground.	Don't neglect your inner Buckhead Betty during the month of March. Attend a couple of benefits—check out DL's "encounters."
CAPRICORN	I recall fondly the strong sense of team spirit when I played college football. It's a lifelong blessing that everyone should experience.	Don't worry about saying the wrong thing this month. At least it will be honest. Express yourself freely and own every syllable.
AQUARIUS	So have you seen our show, Modern Family on ABC? It's just like your life this month! Lots of scuffles, but the love endures.	Don't let the ADD phenomenon of modern society send you into a tizzy. Methodically approach your life and visit your mechanic.

Eric Stonestreet plays Cameron Tucker
on ABC's hit comedy series, *Modern Family*. www.abc.com

still more to be scene



For The Love of Art
Artists Market & Wine Tasting



Bellissima



short & tweet

with **Fred Schneider**



Fred Schneider is best known as the inscrutable frontman of the legendary band, **The B-52's**. He's also an actor, writer, and DJ.

Xanna: The B-52s are the quintessential, quattro-essential party band, creating a path for The Black Eyed Peas. Why are 4 front people so fun?

Fred: We all share a lot of nutty, surreal humor in common and have all been friends "on the same wavelength" 4 over 30 years.

Xanna: You have the most distinctive sprechsinger in pop music. Did you develop it or is it just you?

Fred: It's natural. I started doing spoken word basement tapes with Keith before the B's. I'm more of a writer anyway.

Xanna: Inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 2000, there's now a fan-based campaign for The B-52s in the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame.

Is music history important?

Fred: Well music is very important in so many ways to most people. I'm more than happy being in the GA Music H of F. It's a bigger honor.



**FRED SCHNEIDER'S
SPRING THANG BINGO
DANCE PARTY**

friday | march 5th | 2010

**music by fred
with dj vicki powell**

TO RAISE MONEY FOR

THE GEORGIA MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MACON
PETS ARE LOVING SUPPORT, ATLANTA

FOOD, DRINK & MISC FOR SALE. ALL PROFITS GO TO THE CHARITIES.
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GOLD ROOM
(AND THE LOUNGE AT)



Fred Schneider's

SPRING THANG BINGO DANCE PARTY

*benefiting P.A.L.S. and The Georgia Music Hall of Fame
with special guests Bubba D. Licious and Vicki Powell*

Friday, March 5 @ The Gold Room, ATL

www.goldroomatl.com

text messages from hell

me (2/28, 4:51 pm): It's another historic occasion! Like that shot of tequila with Laura Gentle!

brad (02/25 12:06 pm): You have been Dragulated.

brad (02/25 3:40 pm): You are going to be moved to cleaning crew.

brad (02/25 10:01 pm): The longer you avoid up the more cleaning.

me (02/26 1:33 am): You should take up a Merry Maids collection! Once again, my involvement with gay media, but mostly gay media here itself just exploded...

brad (02/26 9:47 pm): What outfit would you like to wear tomorrow?

brad (02/27 6:23 pm): How did you like your outfit?

me (02/27 9:31 pm): I don't get it.

me (02/27, 9:37 pm): You're at Jungle, but Page Printing's David and former Page employee Chad went public with Gaydar's \$40K debt to them on Proj Q's comments today.

scott (02/27, 9:40 pm): I actually just read that before I left! I am so glad they did.

me (02/28, 4:34 pm): I am at brunch with Steve. May head to Woof's for a beer. Wanna join?

scott (02/28, 4:37 pm): Excuse me??? I'm floored. Lol. Wow. Possibly.

me (02/28, 4:39 pm): What? you know that bitch Stephen can't stay away

scott (02/28, 4:41 pm): Ha ha ha killed.

me (02/28, 4:43 pm): No, that was Steve! He grabbed my phone...!

scott (02/28, 4:50 pm): You two are retarded but I'm glad you're making nice.

me (02/28, 4:51 pm): On to Woof's. Come by! It's another historic occasion! Like that shot of tequila with Laura Gentle!

me (02/28, 6:57 pm): When can I help you with the remainder of the move? I'm supposed to interview somebody Tues @ 4 pm, but it's for April's issue, so I can move it.

me (02/28, 6:58 pm): Ann has surgical follow up Tues, too. But she can drop me off and go on her own.

me (02/28, 7:00 pm): Boxes, tissue paper, bleach wipes. Will we need anything else? Lemme know! ☺

sean (02/28, 7:02 pm): I am off all day tues and wed, I need to finish by wed, any help is appreciated. thank you.

me (02/28, 7:08 pm): You got it. I will rearrange stuff. Didn't know you still needed help. Sorry I couldn't last Wednesday.

sean (02/28, 7:41 pm): Thank you it means a lot. wed was my only day off so have not had a lot of time.

me (02/28, 8:00 pm): Ann's surgical follow up is at 12:45, so I will have her drop me off at 12:15? Ok?

sean (02/28, 8:02 pm): Perfect thank you I have wine for us ☺

me (02/28, 8:06 pm): And I bought a bottle of that Spellbound petite syrah that I enjoyed at Café Anis. I shall bring it.

sean (02/28, 8:09 pm): Cool.

me (03/02, 10:48 am): Good morning! Isn't there a saying about a happy bride if it rains on her wedding day? Is there one about a happy home if you move in the snow? Ha!

me (03/02, 10:52 am): Getting in the bathtub. Bringing boxes, a sharpie, bleach wipes, and a couple of cheddar chive muffins. See you at 12:15.

Cheers! We'll have a fun day!

me (03/02, 11:47 am): Are you awake yet...? ☺

