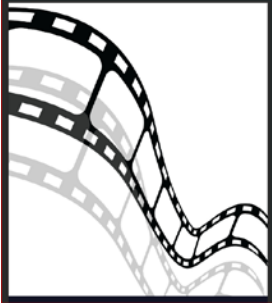


Arts and Letters

In the Spotlight



MOVIES

Theater

Best of Enemies

April 2019

Based on a true story, THE BEST OF ENEMIES centers on the unlikely relationship between Ann Atwater (Henson), an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis (Rockwell), a local Ku Klux Klan leader who reluctantly co-chaired a community summit, battling over the desegregation of schools in Durham, North Carolina during the racially-charged summer of 1971. The incredible events that unfolded would change Durham and the lives of Atwater and Ellis forever.

Theater

Little

April 2019

Regina Hall and Marsai Martin both star as Jordan Sanders — Hall as the take-no-prisoners tech mogul adult version of Jordan and Martin as the 13-year-old version of her who wakes up in her adult self's penthouse just before a do-or-die presentation. Issa Rae plays Jordan's long-suffering assistant April, the only one in on the secret that her daily tormentor is now trapped in an awkward tween body just as everything is on the line. Little is an irreverent new comedy about the price of success, the power of sisterhood and having a second chance to grow up — and glow up — right. Source: Official site, littlethemovie.com.

NETFLIX

When They See Us

May 2019

Four-part limited series about the Central Park Five, a group of teenagers from Harlem — Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana and Korey Wise — who 30 years ago were wrongly convicted of rape. The series will span 25 years, highlighting their exoneration in 2002 and the settlement reached with the city of New York in 2014.

Theater

Ma

May 2019

Everybody's welcome at Ma's. But good luck getting home safe. Oscar winner Octavia Spencer stars as Sue Ann, a loner who keeps to herself in her quiet Ohio town. One day, she is asked by Maggie, a new teenager in town (Diana Silvers, Glass), to buy some booze for her and her friends, and Sue Ann sees the chance to make some unsuspecting, if younger, friends of her own. She offers the kids the chance to avoid drinking and driving by hanging out in the basement of her home. But there are some house rules: One of the kids has to stay sober. Don't curse. Never go upstairs. And call her "Ma." But as Ma's hospitality starts to curdle into obsession, what began as a teenage dream turns into a terrorizing nightmare, and Ma's place goes from the best place in town to the worst place on earth. Source: Mamovie.com, official site.



MOVIES

Theater

Amazing Grace

April 2019

A documentary presenting the live recording of Aretha Franklin's album *Amazing Grace* at The New Bethel Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles in January 1972.

PERFORMING ARTS

NJPAC

Alvin Ailey Dance Theater Company

May 10 – 12th

Movement that'll move you" (*New York* magazine) is guaranteed as part of *Ailey Ascending*, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 60th anniversary season. The NJPAC engagement features dazzling programs that include the New Jersey premiere of the company's first two-act work, *Lazarus*, from inaugural artist-in-residence Rennie Harris. *Lazarus* was inspired by the lifework of Alvin Ailey – one of the groundbreaking greats in African-American history – and addresses the racial inequities our nation has faced since 1958, when the company was founded, and today.

Timeless Ailey, on the Mother's Day Sunday program, is composed of excerpts from rarely seen gems by Alvin Ailey, including *Love Songs*, *Cry*, *Blues Suite* and many more, plus *Revelations* in its entirety.

Ailey's signature work, *Revelations* pays tribute to African-American cultural heritage and is set to spirituals and blues. *Revelations* is classified by *The Los Angeles Times* as "the most beloved modern dance creation by anyone, anywhere ..."

MAYO Performing Arts Center

Black Violin

May 16th

Black Violin is an American [hip hop](#) duo from [Florida](#) comprising two classically trained string instrumentalists, Kevin Sylvester and Wilner Baptiste, who go by the stage names Kev Marcus and Wil B. Kev Marcus plays the [violin](#) and Wil B. plays the [viola](#). The two met in high school, went to different colleges, then later reconvened to create the musical group Black Violin. They play a variety of music (relying heavily upon classical music), but are often categorized as hip hop because of the changes to the rhythm and beats. This mingling of hip hop and classical sensibilities is what is generally thought to give them their distinctive style.^[1]

BROADWAY

Ain't Too Proud to Beg – The Life and Times of the Temptations

Ain't Too Proud follows The Temptations' journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. With their signature dance moves and unmistakable harmonies, they rose to the top of the charts creating an amazing 42 Top Ten Hits with 14 reaching number one. Through friendship and betrayal amid the civil unrest that tore America apart, their moving and personal story still resonates five decades later.



PERFORMING ARTS

NJPAC

Rev. Dr. Stefanie Minatee & Jubilation: The Road to 20

June 22nd

The powerhouse Jubilation choir debuted at NJPAC in 1998, performing with gospel minister and vocalist Shirley Caesar. That performance set the tone for what would become two decades of musical excellence, and dedication to praise and worship. Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Stefanie Minatee, Jubilation has released six albums, including *Spirit* and *Just Like Sunday Mornin'!*. Jubilation was featured with the legendary Ray Charles on his *Ray Charles Celebrates a Gospel Christmas* CD and DVD. In addition to performing with secular artists like Queen Latifah, Dionne Warwick, Kenny Loggins, and Patty Griffin, Jubilation has also stayed true to its musical roots, working with gospel icons like Bishop Walter Hawkins, Albertina Walker, Kurt Carr, and Donnie McClurkin.

Anthony Hamilton and Jazmine Sullivan

August 9th

Anthony Hamilton is known for a singular style that combines Southern-bred authenticity with a rich, raspy-edged delivery as sensitive as it is strong. Over the last decade, he has produced a series of platinum-selling albums and chart-topping R&B hits, including “Comin’ Where I’m From,” “Charlene,” “You’ve Got the Love I Need,” and “Amen,” the first single from his latest LP, *What I’m Feelin’*. “Through it all, Hamilton has stayed true and rock-steady,” says *NPR*. “(There is) passion overflowing every note he sings.” On *Fearless*, her seven-time GRAMMY-nominated debut LP, acclaimed singer-songwriter Jazmine Sullivan scored hits with “Bust Your Windows,” as well as “Need U Bad” (produced by Missy Elliott), which rose to No. 1 on the *Billboard* R&B/Hip Hop chart. Sullivan’s follow-up, *Love Me Back*, earned her an eighth GRAMMY nod, for “Holding You Down (Goin’ in Circles).” Since then, the hits have kept coming with “Forever Don’t Last” and “Mascara,” both from Sullivan’s latest studio LP, *Reality Show*.

NJPAC

Gladys Knight with special guest Will Downing

August 29th

Gladys Knight is a genuine living legend of American music. During her illustrious career, she’s earned No. 1 hits on the pop, gospel, R&B and adult contemporary charts. Knight’s singular songbook includes timeless titles like “Midnight Train to Georgia,” “Neither One of Us,” “License to Kill,” “That’s What Friends Are For,” and a lot more. Her most recent albums include *Another Journey* (her eighth solo effort), and an inspirational gospel album, *Where My Heart Belongs*. GRAMMY-nominated song stylist Will Downing is widely known as “the Prince of Sophisticated Soul.” With a career that spans over three decades and 21 albums, Downing’s repertoire moves effortlessly between R&B, jazz and gospel – from his signature interpretations of classics like “I Go Crazy” and “Wishing on a Star,” to original hits like “A Million Ways” and “Sorry I.”

BROADWAY

To Kill a Mockingbird

Inspired by Lee’s own childhood in Alabama, *To Kill a Mockingbird* features one of literature’s towering symbols of integrity and righteousness in the character of Atticus Finch, based on Lee’s own father. The character of Scout, based on Lee herself, has come to define youthful innocence—and its inevitable loss—for generation after generation of readers around the world. Starring LaTanya Richardson Jackson as Calpurnia.