



gorgeous CALENDAR picks

So many fabulous things to do in the Southland, especially at this time of year. Here are a few of our calendar picks for October and November!

For 25 years, the incomparable **Sandra Bernhard** has been challenging fans and critics with her knife-edged humor, satire and emotive performances on film, television and stage. After just completing a wildly successful extended 3 week run in Washington DC, Sandra is bringing her 20th Anniversary performance of 'Without You I'm Nothing' to Los Angeles for one night only! Sandra will be performing this classic show at the Orpheum Theatre on November 21 at 8pm and this is a show you just don't want to miss! Make it part of your holiday festivities!

Here's another extraordinary show you simply must see to believe. **Sylvia Brooks**, Pop/Jazz Diva Extraordinaire, is bringing her one woman show to M Bar in Hollywood for six shows only and you should be making your reservations now because she sells out fast. Sylvia comes from a solid musical background, having grown up with music in the house. Her father was a popular jazz pianist and her mother a nightclub performer. It was inevitable that melodies and harmonies would course rapidly through her veins from a very young age. Through the innovative arrangements, this music possesses the ability to convey complex emotions while telling a unique and vivid story through the utilization of refreshing and diverse sounds performed by Brooks and her dynamic sextet. Sylvia credits her dynamic performance to her talented musicians, but in truth, it's Sylvia who commands the stage and steals the show. If you've never heard her perform, you're missing one of the Southland's great talents.

I recently had the pleasure of reviewing two plays currently running through November 1 at the Lyric Hyperion Theater Café in Silver Lake – both produced and directed by the talented **Benjamin Pohlmeier**. The next time you're looking for something fun to do on a weekend, come see "Shopping & Fu**ing" by Mark Ravenhill followed by "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" by David Mamet. Be prepared! These plays are not for the faint of heart – especially "Shopping & Fu**ing" which explores certain aspects of the gay lifestyle in a very explicit format. They are themes we can relate to – self-actualization, ownership, childhood abuse, love.

The acting is superb and made all the more memorable by a minimalist set and intimate theater in the round concept that keeps you focused on the stage and the action, the emotions and the well, the sex. **Paul Becker**, who plays the endearing and somewhat naïve **Robbie**, is arresting and passionate in his portrayal of one of the lost souls who have lost their sense of self and can't seem to find it again. Check out his eyes – astounding. **Robbie** is in love with **Mark** (**Aaron Williams**) who is trying to fight both his past drug use and his addiction to having someone to love. **Mark** hooks up with **Gary** (**Stephen Twardokus**) an abused and fragile soul who just wants someone to sweep him away and take care of him – or kill him. I guarantee that you will be spellbound from beginning to end – disturbed, reflective and intrigued. The second play, "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" is a dark romp in the typical tradition of David Mamet plays. It's funny – in a don't-let-anyone-see-me-laughing kind of way. The same cast is equally adept at dealing with the bitterness of the singles scene – back in the "old days" of 1976 when polyester suits were de rigueur. The Lyric Hyperion Theater Café is Silver Lake's newest entertainment destination! Don't let these two plays leave town without seeing them, you won't be sorry!

The AIDS Service Center's (ASC) 16th annual Posada Candlelight AIDS Walk on December 6 continues the Pasadena tradition opening the holiday season. The Posada is held in honor of World AIDS Day and provides an opportunity to remember, celebrate and hope. Proceeds from Posada benefit ASC which provides HIV-related services to individuals and families in Los Angeles County. ASC, commemorating 21 years of service, provides housing services, transportation, comprehensive case management, mental health services and advocacy to over 1,200 clients and their families each year. In addition, ASC, located in Pasadena, reaches 7,000 community members annually through HIV prevention and education services. ASC also offers free and anonymous HIV testing. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at Pasadena City Hall and check in starts at 3:30pm. The route is approximately 2 miles throughout historic Pasadena. The goal is to raise \$200,000 to benefit AIDS Service Center through a combination of sponsorships, donations, advertisement sales and walker contributions.

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