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A-List/08

On the A-List's **FIVE-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY**,
we present our biggest
and best yet—115
winners across 8 key
categories

By Margaret Bauer, Jeannette Cooperman, Nicole Benoist Edgerton,
Selam Eyasu, Matthew Halverson, Sarah Hill, Chris Hoel,
Bryan A. Hollerbach, Dave Lowry, George Mahe, Christy Marshall,
Rose Martelli, Stefene Russell, Stephen Schenkenberg and Sarah Truckey
Photographs by Katherine Bish, Whitney Curtis and Frank Di Piazza

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Place to Be Fitted for a Bra

Most women are wearing the wrong size bra. Even the almighty Oprah has chimed in on the epidemic by devoting an entire show (“Bra Intervention”) to helping the 85 percent of American women who don bad brassieres. No need to stalk O. for undergarment tips—just head to **ANN’S BRA & LINGERIE SHOP** for a thorough fitting. This is not a fancy boutique, but rather a no-nonsense shop with a helpful staff and huge inventory (including options for nursing moms, mastectomy patients and plus-size women). 13471 Olive, 314-878-4144, brashop.com



★ Pharmacy

WILLIAMS PHARMACY is the quintessential local drugstore: part wacky dime mart (will they ever sell out of those message-emblazoned mini traffic cones?), part full-service pharmacy, part post office (in the case of the Ladue location) and even part liquor store—and one of the few places in town you can still buy a single can of Coke. The guys at Williams treat regular customers like family and pretty much define classy: They’re the Cary Grant of apothecaries. 7010 Pershing, 314-727-4854, williamspharmacy.com; three additional locations



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WHITNEY CURTIS

★ Easiest Way to Shop Green

Buying sustainably is fun when you’re talking hemp T-shirts or natural cotton duvets, less fun when you’re pondering floors of bamboo, cork or the melodic Marmoleum (flax + linseed oil + pine rosin); solar lights (that may or may not shine); zero-VOC paint (that may or may not cover). **HOME ECO’s** Terry Winkelmann and Phil Judd, founders of St. Louis’ first eco-sensitive store, do the research for you, because getting bamboozled wastes your resources. 4611 Macklind, 314-351-2000, home-eco.com

Women’s Hats

Millinery’s not entirely a lost art: Bessie Hicks and Ann Dillon of **ANN’S HAT BOUTIQUE** can beribbon a boater or wrap velvet around a cloche as deftly as Parisian hat-makers did a century ago. Want a brim that slants across your cheek like Ingrid Bergman’s in *Casablanca*? A violet Mad Hatter worthy of the Queen of England? Hicks and Dillon will measure you, follow your sketch and let you pick shape, color and trimmings—even a veil, for mystery. 625 N. Euclid, Ste. 212, 314-367-6137

Lingerie

Repeat winner **JULE** is the go-to spot for beautiful lingerie. The boutique carries undergarment staples like seamless camis, bra/panty sets and chemises from Cosabella, Hanky Panky and Commando. Soon-to-be brides can pick up unique wedding lingerie by Leigh Bantivoglio and novelty boyshorts from 2 Belles. Also find Wendy Glez pajamas, a new favorite that caters to women of all sizes. 9757 Clayton, 314-983-9282, juleonline.com

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Store for New Moms

You can pick them out of a crowd: circles under their eyes, hair slightly mussed, a look of distraction bordering on desperation clouding their faces. They are brand-new mothers, sleep-deprived and overwhelmed. But they have a haven—a maternity support center called **KANGAROO KIDS**. Also a clothing and baby equipment resale store and a coffeehouse, this is a place where new mamas can get help solving nursing problems and exchange necessary newborn information. With a helpful and nurturing staff, the place has the feel of a favorite blanket. 10090 Manchester, 314-835-9200, kangarookidsonline.com

New Clothes

PETUNIA's shelves are stocked with the likes of Knuckleheads, Hula Mula, Mischa Lulu, Tea Collection and ZAZA Couture. Translation: the hippest duds for kids. The recently opened third location will make any pint-size fashionista swoon (sizes newborn through 14 for girls and newborn through 7 for boys). Be sure to have a look (and laugh) at the message T's from Petunia's own line. 169 Carondelet Plaza, 314-721-3133, babypetunia.com; two additional locations



★ Dinner With the Kids

Once you have the little ones in tow, it is always a challenge to find a restaurant with a) good food, b) a cocktail if you so desire, c) a fun atmosphere and, most important, d) freedom for your children to speak at a kid's volume. **DEWEY'S PIZZA** meets all those needs and beyond with a relaxed, children-welcome vibe, great gourmet pizza and first-rate salads. 124 N. Kirkwood, 314-821-7474; 559 North & South, 314-726-3434; deweyspizza.com

Girls' Birthday Party

It's 2008: The idea that a girls' birthday party needs ponies, tea parties or makeup kits has been officially retired. More substantive fun awaits your girls at the **SAINT LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER**, home to hundreds of exhibits and the interactive Discovery Room. The center *does* offer officially catered, private-room events (the Flying Comets Birthday Bash is \$220 for 10 guests), but you might also just buy the number of tickets you need, then head elsewhere in the city for your ice cream and cake. 5050 Oakland, 314-289-4400, slsc.org



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHERINE BISH

★ Boys' Birthday Party

In our day, you got one birthday activity. You could go to a mall arcade, roller skate at the Palace or run around the zoo, and that was it. Boys these days, however, can wage battle in the ball pit, play pinball, visit the aquarium and navigate several stories' worth of caves, slides and jungle gyms, all in one place—the **CITY MUSEUM**—all in one day and with all-you-can-eat pizza and a cookie cake to boot. Rock on. 701 N. 15th, 314-359-4787, citymuseum.org/birthdays.html

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK DI PIAZZA



★ Boot Camp

Despite his fancy name, Brady Toliver II, the director of **BUCK'S BOOT CAMP** in Forest Park, is a pretty straightforward guy. The 29-year-old certified trainer, a former All-Conference defensive tackle for DePauw University, coaxes peak performance out of his thrice-weekly camp's constituents, regardless of their original fitness level, and guides them toward a healthy integration of "mind, body and soul." The results are incontestable: Our participating friends' silhouettes have grown sleeker, while our slacker butts have not. 314-568-0003

Gentlest Place to Learn Yoga

When you're recovering from an injury or trying to survive a corporate merger, you don't want somebody to light a fire in your chakras. You want a teacher who will meet your body where it is right now and guide it forward ever so gently. At **BIG BEND YOGA CENTER**, the instructions are clear and calm—you can even get a private tutorial, if you're nervous—and levels offered range from beginner to kundalini to a challenging high-energy workout, with massage therapists to soothe stretched muscles at every stage. 88 N. Gore, 314-918-9642, bigbendyoga.com

Hair Stylist

KRISTY HOBBS came of age in the '80s, slicing and styling the radical 'dos of her friends—skaters, punk rockers, new wavers. These days, she's one of the most sought-after stylists in town—her clients at Clayton's Dominic Michael Salon, several of whom have been with her for at least two decades, often book a year's worth of appointments at once. A two-time attendee of Aveda's London Hair Academy, Hobbs cuts and colors both genders, and she points to three keys to her success: being a good listener, knowing the client's everyday lifestyle and being able to tie a look to the season's fashions. 8220 Forsyth, 314-721-4230, dmsalon.com

Calm Retreat

Maybe you don't wanna "reach out" or "link in." Maybe you want to turn inward, away from the buzzing, blooming profusion of modern life. Head for the Ozark hills of Ava, Mo., and the blessed silence of the Trappist monks at **ASSUMPTION ABBEY**. You don't have to be Catholic, nor scintillating. Just quiet. Walk in the woods, eat the monks' simple good food, honor the peace of the place, and maybe buy a fruitcake; it's their livelihood. Route 5, Ava, Mo., 417-683-5110, assumptionabbey.org

Place to Volunteer

The old saying about teaching a man to fish? Teach him to read, and he can learn how to fish, cook, sell, start a company and teach grad students marine biology. The **YMCA LITERACY COUNCIL** has waiting lists of students (one in six Missourians can't fill out a simple form), and how you help is up to you: Sort books for babies ... read stories to toddlers ... help school-age kids realize reading matters ... or bring an adult into sync with the surrounding world, as all those squiggles start to make sense. 2635 Gravois, 314-776-7102, ymcastlouis.org/literacy

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★ Newspaper Columnist

“She was brainy and earnest, and even then, I was drawn to that type of woman.” Then, almost as an afterthought: “The attraction of opposites, I suppose.” As in that example, self-deprecation has long enlivened the newspaper columns of **BILL MCCLELLAN**—but such humor notwithstanding, he can play hardball with the best, as a recent piece on Ballpark Village attested. This year marks his 25th anniversary as a *Post-Dispatch* columnist—cause for celebration. So *sláinte*, Bill! stltoday.com

Radio Station

The tagline of **KDHF-FM 88.1** is “Your community. Your media.” And nothing could be more quintessentially St. Louis than a station that moves through ska, New Orleans klezmer, Ireland in America, Radio Rio, blues, politics, Americana, poetry, Latin music and global folk—and tops it all off with *St. Louis Brain Sandwich*. Who wants all rock all the time? The world’s too big. And KDHF is the gateway. 3504 Magnolia, office 314-664-3955, listener line 314-664-3688, kdhx.org

Vodcaster

Apolitical? Fine. Can’t stand our mayor? No worries. There’s still a good reason to visit mayorslay.com: “St. Louis Traffic,” the ongoing video series from 27-year-old **CARSON MINOW**, whom the mayor’s people hired to make and post short videos about the city’s goings-on. What she films is entirely her decision (smokers talking about smoke-free bars; behind-the-scenes at Gus’ Pretzels; remembering bluesman Bennie Smith), and while she’s expected to show the city in a positive light, she’s not charged with doing so for Francis Slay—he’s really only there in the URL. “I’ve tried to keep it pretty politically neutral,” the Webster University grad says. She has, and visitors seem to like it: There were 11,000 “screenings” of Minow’s work during the last year. mayorslay.com/stlouistrffic

Blogger

No one but urban gadfly **STEVE PATTERSON** could write 50-plus blog posts about the McDonald’s on Grand, much less make said posts so completely compelling that we’ve clicked through them for hours on end (in our spare time, of course). The real-estate guru of Urban Review STL has written volumes about everything from farmers’ markets to building permits, scooters to city politics, averaging 28 posts per month across his blog’s 56 categories—and scarcely slowing down to acknowledge his disabling stroke this February. Honestly, we’re in awe. urbanreviewstl.com



PHOTOGRAPHS BY WHITNEY CURTIS

Investigative Reporter

Investigative reporting is a “damned if you do, damned if you don’t” job: Hound a source for a scoop, and you’re liable to get your mic slapped out of your hand—or be called a “f---ing clown.” Dial down the badger tactics, and you’re branded a hack with weak reporting skills. Somehow KMOV’s **STEVE CHAMRAZ** gets the goods without going too far, whether he’s digging up dirt on escort services or how the police deal with animal abuse—and that’s the kind of reportorial hounding we like. kmov.com

★ Lifestyle Reporter

We want our morning reportage a little like we want our breakfast: light and not too filling. (Yeah, yeah, “most important meal of the day” and all of that, but an early heaping helping puts us to sleep.) KSDK’s **HEIDI GLAUS** isn’t out to expose corruption in city hall, but that’s not why we watch her. The *Show Me St. Louis* alum is the go-anywhere-do-anything foil to Art Holliday and Jennifer Blome—and for our money, a bagel goes better with a botched attempt at Irish dancing than a four-alarm fire. ksdk.com

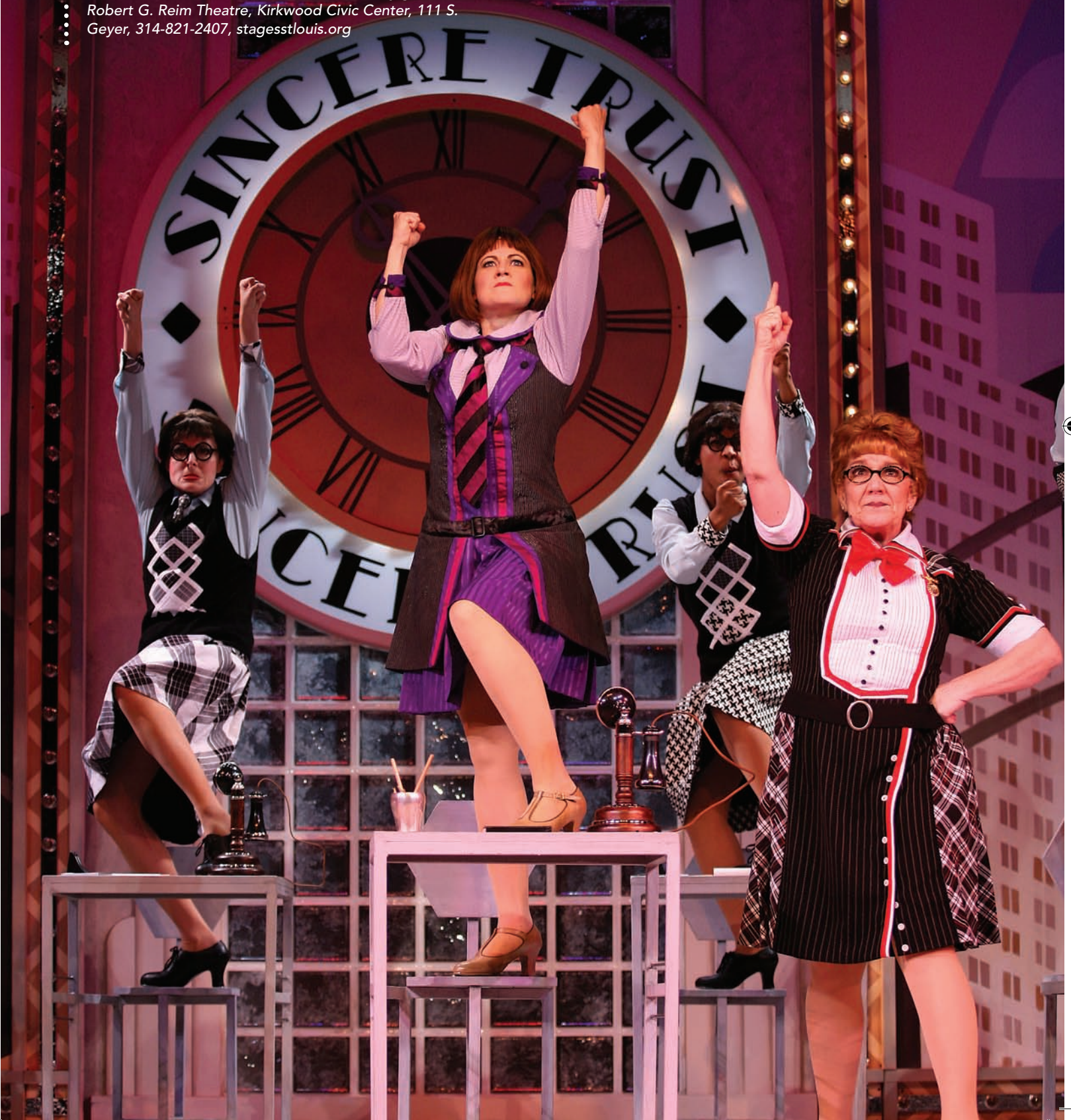
MEDIA

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Musical Theater

They're puckish and ostentatious, flashing rhinestones and glitter, and attracting out-of-town acting talent rivaling that of the city's more, ahem, *established* theatrical venues. This year, these up-and-coming darlings won twice as many Kevin Kline Awards as either of their closest competitors. Simply put, **STAGES** is busting out, Fame-style, and busting up St. Louisans' preconceptions of what musical theater in this town can and should be—and for that, we're wholly grateful. Robert G. Reim Theatre, Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 S. Geyer, 314-821-2407, stagesstlouis.org





★ Place to Be Seen

On one hand, grabbing an early evening cocktail on the patio of Clayton's **ARAKA** will have you pleasantly nodding to those walking by, perhaps en route from the Ritz to one of the boutique shops for jeans, olive oil or golf. Yes, your nod will say: *Life is good*. But on the other hand, Araka's interior is a stunner—and when it looks that good, you do, too. One of the intimate booths facing the bar—and the door—offers a choice vantage point to both view and be viewed. 131 Carondelet Plaza, 314-725-6777, araka.com

Place if You Don't Want to Be Seen

Tired of the same places where you know everyone in the room? Unless you're a regular at **RILEY'S**, you won't be noticed. And sometimes that's just fine. Although it's been open only a few years, there's nothing new-seeming about it—Riley's feels like it's been there forever. It's rustic. And smoky. And there's always a low din from the crowd and the jukebox. With low lighting; cramped, high-backed mahogany booths made from old pocket doors; an original tin ceiling; and two rooms separated by the bar, it's easy to hide away in your own little corner. 3458 Arsenal, 314-664-7474



★ Bar for Games

Sounds of releasing triggers, clacking cue balls and winners' cries are what fill **JACK PATRICK'S** on a typical day. It's got darts. And pool. Shuffleboard. Bocce ball (in the basement). Big Buck Hunter. Countless tabletop interactive touchscreens. Arcade bowling. It also has that worn-in feel, and the drinks are cheap—an incentive that only encourages full participation in the extracurricular activities. The crowd is always playful, composed of tourists, sports fans, happy hour professionals and loft dwellers, all looking to release some competitive energy. 1000 Olive, 314-436-8879

водка рай

What do you mean, you can't read that heading? Geez, have you been hitting the Putinka *again*? The above phrase translates from Russian as "vodka paradise," and no local establishment better fills that role than the CWE's **SUB ZERO VODKA BAR**. In martinis and other libations like the Leninade, patrons can enjoy more than 200 vodkas from around the globe (if not, alas, Putinka, the brand named after Russian strongman Vladimir Putin). *Za vas!* 308 N. Euclid, 314-367-1200, subzerovodkabar.com

Gay Bar

THE LOADING ZONE may be our closest equivalent to Harry Potter's Platform 9¾: Non-wizards and those otherwise uninitiated may walk right past to Tom's Bar & Grill next door, but those in the know realize that open door is a portal to the friendliest gay bar around, with a packed-to-the-rafters Tuesday show-tunes night, catchy music videos and a loft that'll remind you of your high school theater—if your theater had slamming bass, that is. 16 S. Euclid, 314-361-4119

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