

**CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK  
BOMBSHELLS**

Lisa Yuskavage is a leader in the recent development of neo-Old Masterish painting that brings subtle skills to bear on vulgar subjects. Her speciality is pulchritudinous young womanhood



winsomely aallow in narcissistic melancholy. Her nude or lightly dressed figures, alone or joined in vaguely desperate, oddly chaste embraces, are cartoonish and borderline grotesque; but delicately rounded form, unerring touch, and luminous color, augmented by bravura passages of still-life and landscape, charge them with irresistible poetry. The effect celebrates traditional painting as a divine power that can redeem pretty much anything. Two current shows display Yuskavage's range. The most absorbing, at Zwirner & Wirth, features tiny, two-figure paintings that become monumental when viewed close up. At Zwirner, large canvases sacrifice intensity for scale. Their rewards are mainly decorative, with effulgent colors that are like vaporized flavors and scents: lemon, mango, lavender. It's not easy to care about these sad sweeties, whose undeniable mystery veils secrets that we might prefer not to know, but it's also unnecessary. Paint adores them on our behalf.

—Peter Schjeldahl

**THE THEATRE  
OPENINGS AND PREVIEWS**

Please call the phone number listed with the theatre for timetables and ticket information.

**THE AMERICAN PILOT**

Manhattan Theatre Club presents the U.S. premiere of this drama by David Greig, about a pilot who crash-lands in a rural village in a war-torn country. Previews begin Nov. 2. (City Center, Stage II, 131 W. 55th St. 212-581-1212.)

**THE COAST OF UTOPIA,  
PART ONE: VOYAGE**

The first of three plays by Tom Stoppard about a group of nineteenth-century Russian intellectuals. The ensemble cast includes Ethan Hawke, Brian F. O'Byrne, Jennifer Ehle, and Billy Crudup. In previews. (Vivian Beaumont, Lincoln Center, 212-239-6200.)

**COMPANY**

John Doyle directs the Stephen Sondheim and George Furth Tony Award-winning musical from 1970, in which a bachelor observes the lives of five married couples. In previews. (Barrymore, 243 W. 47th St. 212-239-6200.)

**DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE  
CHRISTMAS!—THE MUSICAL**

A musical-theatre version of the children's story. With book and lyrics by Timothy Mason. Directed by Matt August. In previews. (Hilton, 213 W. 42nd St. 212-307-4100.)

**DURANGO**

The world premiere of a new play by Julia Cho, about a Korean father who embarks on a road trip with his teen-age sons. Previews begin Nov. 7. (Public, 425 Lafayette St. 212-967-7555.)

**EVIL DEAD THE MUSICAL**

Hinton Battle and Christopher Bond direct this campy musical adaptation of Sam Raimi's horror-film franchise. Opens Nov. 1. (New World Stages, 340 W. 50th St. 212-239-6200.)

**GREY GARDENS**

Christine Ebersole and Mary Louise Wilson star in Doug Wright's musical based on the 1975 Maysles-brothers documentary about Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter, Little Edie. In previews. Opens Nov. 2. (Walter Kerr, 219 W. 48th St. 212-239-6200.)

**HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD AND  
FIND TRUE LOVE IN 90 MINUTES**

A musical comedy directed and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli, set at the United Nations. With book and lyrics by Jonathan Karp and music by Seth Weinstein. Previews begin Nov. 4. (New World Stages, 340 W. 50th St. 212-239-6200.)

**THE INTERNATIONALIST**

Anne Washburn wrote this play about an American businessman working in a country where he does not speak the language. In previews. Opens Nov. 7. (Vineyard, 108 E. 15th St. 212-353-0303.)

**THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED**

The Off Broadway hit play by Douglas Carter Beane, about a closeted movie star and his overzealous agent, gets transferred to Broadway. Starring Julie White, Tom Everett Scott, and Johnny Galecki. Scott Ellis directs. In previews. (Cort, 138 W. 48th St. 212-239-6200.)

**MARY POPPINS**

The smash hit from London's West End comes to Broadway. Starring Ashley Brown as Mary Poppins and Gavin Lee as Bert; Richard Eyre directs. In previews. (New Amsterdam, 214 W. 42nd St. 212-307-4747.)

**MIMI LE DUCK**

Eartha Kitt is featured in a new musical, in which a Mormon housewife from Idaho leaves her successful QVC duck-painting business for Paris. In previews. Opens Nov. 6. (New World Stages, 340 W. 50th St. 212-239-6200.)

**LES MISÉRABLES**

A new production of the musical based on Victor Hugo's epic, set in nineteenth-century France. John Caird directs. In previews. (Broadhurst, 235 W. 44th St. 212-239-6200.)

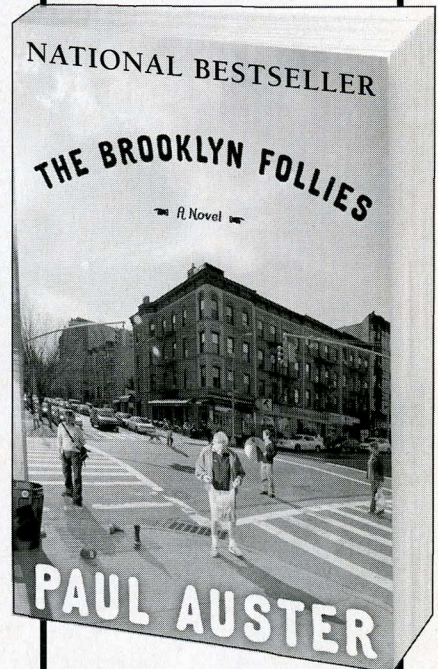
**PAUL  
AUSTER**



Photo: SIGRID ESTRADA

"Auster has written a sublime soap opera... He captures a historical moment... and he offers a message of hope."

—Boston Globe



"A big-hearted, life-affirming, tenderly comic yarn."

—The Washington Post

"Impossible to put down."

—The Philadelphia Inquirer

"A multilayered tapestry, with Dickensian depth."

—San Francisco Chronicle

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