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Chiwetel Ejiofor, center, starred in "12 Years a Slave."

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on the cover

"Iron Man 3" was the top-grossing film of the year; and Miley Cyrus was, well, Miley Cyrus.

Send suggestions, comments and questions to fanfare@newsday.com

2013

THE BEST OF

Tracking tours, books, videos, albums, movies, TV shows and plays

TOP 10 TOURS

- (in millions of dollars)
1. BON JOVI, Total gross: \$205.2
 2. MICHAEL JACKSON: THE IMMORTAL WORLD TOUR BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL, \$157.3
 3. PINK, \$147.9
 4. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND, \$147.6
 5. RIHANNA, \$138.0
 6. THE ROLLING STONES, \$126.2
 7. TAYLOR SWIFT, \$115.4
 8. BEYONCÉ, \$104.4
 9. DEPECHE MODE, \$100.0
 10. KENNY CHESNEY, \$90.9

Source: Billboard

10 MOST WATCHED MUSIC VIDEOS

- (in millions of views)
1. PSY, "Gentleman," 604.2
 2. MILEY CYRUS, "Wrecking Ball," 415.0
 3. MILEY CYRUS, "We Can't Stop," 311.0
 4. KATY PERRY, "Roar," 267.6
 5. PINK FEATURING NATE RUSS, "Just Give Me a Reason," 239.9
 6. ROBIN THICKE FEATURING T.I. AND PHARRELL, "Blurred Lines," 235.2
 7. RIHANNA FEATURING MIKKY EKKO, "Stay," 222.1
 8. NAUGHTY BOY FEATURING SAM SMITH, "La La La," 208.7
 9. AVICII, "Wake Me Up," 194.9
 10. SELENA GOMEZ, "Come and Get It," 185.9

Source: YouTube

"The 20/20 Experience" by Justin Timberlake was the fastest-selling album out of the gate in 2013.



"Despicable Me 2" was the year's second-highest-grossing movie.

10 BIGGEST OPENING-WEEK ALBUM SALES

1. JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, "The 20/20 Experience," 968,000
2. EMINEM, "The Marshall Mathers LP 2," 792,000
3. DRAKE, "Nothing Was the Same," 658,000
4. BEYONCÉ, "Beyoncé," 617,000
5. ONE DIRECTION, "Midnight

- Memories," 546,000
6. JAY Z, "Magna Carta . . . Holy Grail," 528,000
7. LUKE BRYAN, "Crash My Party," 527,000
8. JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, "The 20/20 Experience 2 of 2," 350,000
9. DAFT PUNK, "Random Access Memories," 339,000
10. KANYE WEST, "Yeezus," 327,000

Source: Nielsen SoundScan

TOP 10 TV SHOWS

(in millions of viewers; fall season)

1. SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, NBC, 21.7 million viewers
2. SUNDAY NIGHT NFL PRE-KICKOFF, NBC, 15.7 million
3. THE OT, Fox, 14.8 million
4. NCIS, 14.7 million
5. DANCING WITH THE STARS, 13.9 million
6. MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL, ESPN, 13.4 million
7. AMERICAN IDOL (WEDNESDAY), 13.4 million
8. THE BIG BANG THEORY, CBS, 13.2 million
9. AMERICAN IDOL (THURSDAY), 13.1 million
10. DWTS (RESULTS), 12.9 million

Source: Nielsen through Dec. 8, 2013



AP PHOTO

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PHOTO



CBS PHOTO

From left, Kunal Nayyar, Johnny Galecki, Jim Parsons and Simon Helberg in "The Big Bang Theory," the No. 8-rated television show in the fall season

TOP 10 GROSSING MOVIES

(North America, in millions, as of Dec. 12)

1. IRON MAN 3, \$409.0
2. DESPICABLE ME 2, \$367.2
3. THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE, \$337.8
4. MAN OF STEEL, \$291.0
5. MONSTERS UNIVERSITY, \$268.5
6. GRAVITY, \$251.6
7. FAST & FURIOUS 6, \$238.7
8. OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL, \$234.9
9. STAR TREK INTO DARKNESS, \$228.8
10. WORLD WAR Z, \$202.4

Source: boxofficemojo.com

TOP 10 BROADWAY SHOWS

(in millions, as of Dec. 8)

1. THE LION KING, \$90.1
2. WICKED, \$88.0
3. THE BOOK OF MORMON, \$84.4
4. KINKY BOOTS, \$57.2
5. SPIDER-MAN, TURN OFF THE DARK, \$52.8
6. MOTOWN: THE MUSICAL, \$52.2
7. THE PHANTOM OF THE

OPERA, \$48.6

8. MATILDA, \$45.9

9. CINDERELLA, \$42.6

10. JERSEY BOYS, \$42.5

Source: The Broadway League

TOP 10 FICTION BESTSELLERS

1. INFERNO, by Dan Brown (Doubleday, hardcover)
2. THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Scribner, paperback)
3. FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, by E.L. James (Vintage, paperback)
4. AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED, by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead, hardcover)
5. SYCAMORE ROW, by John Grisham (Doubleday, hardcover)
6. DOCTOR SLEEP, by Stephen King (Scribner, hardcover)
7. GONE GIRL, by Gillian Flynn (Crown, hardcover)
8. THE LONGEST RIDE, by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central, hardcover)
9. FIFTY SHADES DARKER, by E.L. James (Vintage, paperback)
10. JOYLAND, by Stephen King (Hard Case Crime, paperback)

Source: Nielsen

And the winners are ...

OSCARS

BEST PICTURE "Argo"

ACTOR Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln"

ACTRESS Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"

SUPPORTING ACTOR Christoph Waltz, "Django Unchained"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS Anne Hathaway, "Les Misérables"

DIRECTOR Ang Lee, "Life of Pi"

GOLDEN GLOBES

DRAMA "Argo"

COMEDY OR MUSICAL "Les Misérables"

ACTOR, DRAMA Daniel Day-Lewis, "Lincoln"

ACTRESS, DRAMA Jessica Chastain, "Zero Dark Thirty"

ACTOR, COMEDY OR MUSICAL Hugh Jackman, "Les Misérables"

ACTRESS, COMEDY OR MUSICAL Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"

ACTRESS, COMEDY OR MUSICAL Jennifer Lawrence, "Silver Linings Playbook"

EMMYS

DRAMA "Breaking Bad"

COMEDY "Modern Family"

ACTOR, DRAMA Jeff Daniels, "The Newsroom"

ACTRESS, DRAMA Claire Danes, "Homeland"

ACTOR, COMEDY Jim Parsons, "The Big Bang Theory"

ACTRESS, COMEDY Julia Louis-Dreyfus, "Veep"

GRAMMYS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR "Babel," Mumford and Sons

RECORD OF THE YEAR "Somebody That I Used to Know," Gotye

NEW ARTIST fun.

COUNTRY ALBUM "Uncaged," Zac Brown Band

R&B ALBUM "Black Radio," Robert Glasper Experiment

ROCK ALBUM "El Camino," The Black Keys

TONYS

PLAY "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike"

MUSICAL "Kinky Boots"

ACTOR, PLAY Tracy Letts, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

ACTRESS, PLAY Cicely Tyson, "The Trip to Bountiful"

ACTOR, MUSICAL Billy Porter, "Kinky Boots"

ACTRESS, MUSICAL Patina Miller, "Pippin"

Anne Hathaway got the best actress in a supporting role Oscar for "Les Misérables."



AP PHOTO

TOP 10s

THE YEAR'S

Our critics pick their favorite movies, albums, TV shows, plays and books of the past 12 months

MOVIES

1. 12 YEARS A SLAVE Steve McQueen's vivid account of a free black man kidnapped by slave traders is a work of awesome filmmaking, full of beauty and horror, artistry and insanity. It's a familiar chapter in American history, seen in a whole new light.

2. THE ACT OF KILLING

3. HER

4. CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

5. DON JON

6. BLUE JASMINE

7. FROZEN

8. DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

9. GINGER & ROSA

10. INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS

— RAFAEL GUZMÁN



Bryan Cranston was in the driver's seat, helping 'Breaking Bad' go out with a bang.

was on another level, and he delivered.

POP MUSIC

1. KANYE WEST, YEEZUS (Roc-a-Fella) It's easily the best-produced album of the year, a triumph of sound that weaves new wave and industrial dance samples with old-school R&B to create something completely new. The lyrics, which are sometimes bold and sometimes bordering on offensive, make much more sense when taken in context with the rest of West's work in concert. He set out to prove his artistry

Kanye West's "Yeezus" is 2013's best-produced album.



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

2. ARCADE FIRE, REFLEKTOR (Merge)

3. M.I.A., MATANGI (XL/Interscope)

4. FALL OUT BOY, SAVE ROCK AND ROLL (Decay-Dance/Island)

5. DAVID BOWIE, THE NEXT DAY (ISO/Columbia)

6. VALERIE JUNE, PUSHIN' AGAINST A STONE (Concord)

7. JAY Z, MAGNA CARTA . . . HOLY GRAIL (Roc-a-Fella/Roc Nation)

8. NEKO CASE, THE WORSE THINGS GET . . . (Anti-)

9. SUPERCHUNK, I HATE MUSIC (Merge)

10. WAXAHATCHEE, CERULEAN SALT (Don Giovanni)

— GLENN GAMBOA

TV

1. BREAKING BAD (AMC). Roaring to a conclusion that was foretold but hardly predictable, "Breaking Bad" ended a five-season joy ride without disappointing hardly anyone. How often can you say

that about any beloved series?

2. GAME OF THRONES (HBO)

3. MAD MEN (AMC)

4. HOUSE OF CARDS (Netflix)

5. BEHIND THE CANDELABRA (HBO)

6. THE AMERICANS (FX)



AMC PHOTO



PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

Alexandra Socha in "Fun Home," a musical based on Alison Bechdel's 2006 bestselling memoir about discovering she is gay

Chiwetel Ejiofor, center, in "12 Years a Slave" ■ Video: newsday.com/movies



PHOTO: FOX

- 7. **MASTERS OF SEX** (Showtime)
- 8. **THE AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS** (PBS)
- 9. **THE RETURNED** (Sundance)
- 10. **PARKS AND RECREATION** (NBC) / **VEEP** (HBO) — Tie!

— VERNE GAY

- MASHA AND SPIKE**
- 7. **THE ASSEMBLED PARTIES**
- 8. **LUCKY GUY**
- 9. **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**
- 10. **HERE LIES LOVE**

— LINDA WINER

THEATER

1. FUN HOME This extraordinary, disturbing and delightful chamber musical is based on Alison Bechdel's bestselling memoir about growing up in an amusing yet mysterious Pennsylvania family. After coming out as a lesbian, she learns her adored, difficult father was a closeted gay man. This treasure has music by Jeanine Tesori, book by lyricist Lisa Kron and wildly inventive direction by Sam Gold. If this doesn't transfer to Broadway, I suggest riots.

- 2. **TWELFTH NIGHT**
- 3. **THE APPLE FAMILY: SCENES FROM LIFE IN THE COUNTRY**
- 4. **WAITING FOR GODOT / NO MAN'S LAND**
- 5. **ALL THAT FALL**
- 6. **VANYA AND SONIA AND**

BOOKS

1. THE GOLDFINCH, Donna Tartt (Little, Brown). In the opening scene of Tartt's long-awaited third novel, narrator Theo Decker escapes the museum bombing that kills his mother with a 17th century painting under his coat. His account of the next 14 years of his life, plagued by his stewardship of the invaluable artwork, unfolds on Park Avenue, in Las Vegas and Amsterdam. Both a psychological thriller and a darkly funny coming-of-age story, "The Goldfinch" is about morality, beauty, addiction and love.

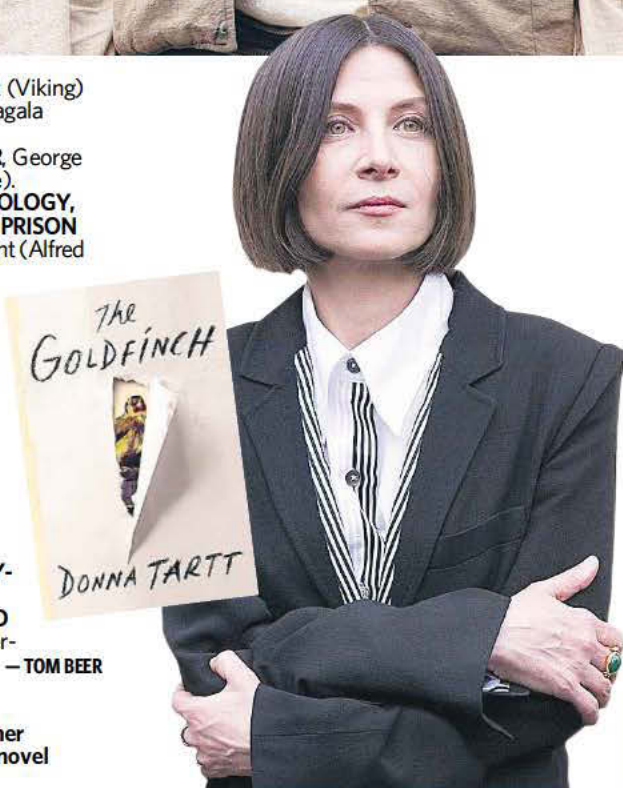
- 2. **COMMAND AND CONTROL: NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE DAMASCUS ACCIDENT, AND THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY**, Eric Schlosser (Penguin Press)
- 3. **THE SIGNATURE OF ALL**

- THINGS**, Elizabeth Gilbert (Viking)
- 4. **WAVE**, Sonali Deraniyagala (Alfred A. Knopf)
- 5. **TENTH OF DECEMBER**, George Saunders (Random House)
- 6. **GOING CLEAR: SCIENTOLOGY, HOLLYWOOD, AND THE PRISON OF BELIEF**, Lawrence Wright (Alfred A. Knopf)

- 7. **AMERICANAH**, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Alfred A. Knopf)
- 8. **FOSSE**, Sam Wasson (Eamon Dolan / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- 9. **WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY BESIDE OURSELVES**, Karen Joy Fowler (Marian Wood / G.P. Putnam's Sons)
- 10. **VANISHED: THE SIXTY-YEAR SEARCH FOR THE MISSING MEN OF WORLD WAR II**, Wil S. Hylton (Riverhead)

— TOM BEER

Donna Tartt wrote a winner with the coming-of-age novel "The Goldfinch."



newsday.com NEWSDAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013 PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

CHARACTERS

MOST MEMORABLE



Matthew McConaughey turned in a great performance in "Dallas Buyers Club." ■ Video: newsday.com/movies

Love them or hate them, these personalities from screen, stage, music and printed page are indelible

MOVIES

BY RAFAEL GUZMÁN

rafael.guzman@newsday.com

Some of the year's best movies took us to places we probably never thought we'd go, and our guides often were figures from real life. In each case, they offered new ways to bring us into stories that, initially, seemed all too familiar.

RON WOODROOF, "Dallas Buyers Club" In this movie, set against the AIDS crisis of the mid-1980s, our hero is — surprisingly — not a gay man but a virulent homophobe. His diagnosis with the "gay disease" is a bitter irony, but Woodroof (a ferociously good Matthew McConaughey, 40 pounds lighter and twice the actor he's ever been) eventually becomes a champion of the local AIDS community, even going so far as to befriend a transgender woman, Rayon (an excellent Jared Leto). Woodroof's journey toward tolerance is much like America's: slow and reluctant. That's what makes it so convincing.

RICHARD PHILLIPS AND MUSE, "Captain Phillips" Paul Greengrass' movie about a cargo vessel attacked by Somali pirates in 2009 upended a few stereotypes as well. Richard Phillips isn't a square-jawed action figure but a working-class merchant marine played by a vulnerable and deeply empathetic Tom Hanks. Likewise, his captors aren't fanatical anti-Americans — they're desperately poor fishermen (led by Barkhad Abdi as Muse) ruled by corrupt warlords. There is no ideology here, no us versus them. This is a battle between two lower classes, the have-somes and the have-nothings, and its backdrop is a troublingly skewed global economy. Both Phillips and Muse seem at the mercy of larger forces. We root for Phillips, and rightly so. But by the movie's end, it's clear there's something wrong with the larger picture.

SOLOMON NORTHUP, "12 Years a Slave" We see the insanity of the pre-Civil War South through the eyes of

FOCUS FEATURES PHOTO



Northup, who was not born into slavery but kidnapped into it. That's an important distinction. This movie doesn't just ask us to empathize with its enslaved hero; it allows us to truly identify with him. Northup (a solemn, stately Chiwetel Ejiofor) is a well-respected, middle-class family man living peaceably in a mixed-race city. In other words, he's much like any of us. The white Southerners in "12 Years a Slave" can't let Northup forget he's black — it's the reason he loses his freedom and his dignity. But viewers of any color will find themselves walking in his shoes.

POP MUSIC

BY GLENN GAMBOA
glenn.gamboa@newsday.com

MILEY CYRUS She used the oldest tricks in the pop star playbook to grab attention for her new album, "Bangerz" — shock and awe — and America fell for it all hook, line and twerker. Sex

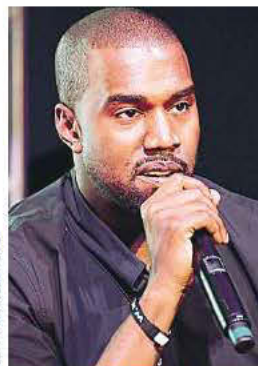
sells records! Who knew?

The overblown reaction to her sexed-up performance at the MTV Video Music Awards surprised even Cyrus, who thought the whole thing was hilarious. "How many times have we seen this play out in pop music?" she told MTV later. "It's a strategic hot mess. . . . If I wanted to do an actual sex show, I wouldn't have been dressed as a damn bear."

Throughout the year, she continued the tweaking and twerking to maintain her extraordinarily high profile — from her strategically naked video for "Wrecking Ball" to her pronouncements on the sex life (or lack thereof) of the over-40 set, to twerking with Santa. If only she put this much attention to detail to her music. . . .

KANYE WEST Praise Yeezus. Though nearly everything with West (and fiancée Kim Kardashian) makes news now, he really does remain focused on creating things — music, fashion, performance art, controversy.

West's take-no-prisoners approach to



Tried, true and new: Miley Cyrus reminded us that sex still sells, while Kanye West and Justin Timberlake tried different ways to get the word out on their new albums.



James Wolk, left, as schmoozer Bob Benson, keeps everyone guessing on "Mad Men." Tatiana Maslany, above, searches for herself while stealing others' identities on "Orphan Black."

life works well in music. His boasting, his complaining, his personal revelations — it's all captivating when done in his rhymes, especially when accompanied by the first-rate sound collages of his album "Yeezus" and in his first-rate live show. It even worked well in the performance art that accompanied the album's release, where he projected his music videos on buildings around the world so people could experience his new music together.

All of his pronouncements are not quite as effective, or entertaining, when they come in real life. But maybe he'll get to a point where that won't need to happen anymore.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE For his first album in seven years, "The 20/20 Experience," Timberlake didn't leave anything to chance. Everything about it was meticulously planned, from the collaborations with Jay Z that resulted in a pair of hits and a sold-out stadium tour to strategic partnerships with Target and Bud Light that helped maximize his exposure, along with a much-ballyhooed, though

short, reunion with 'N Sync. He augmented his plans with movie roles in "Runner, Runner" and "Inside Llewyn Davis."

It was, with apologies to Jay Z, the blueprint for how future superstars are going to roll out their projects. And he was rewarded with the biggest opening week of the year, with 968,000 copies sold and nearly 3 million in sales of both parts of "Experience."

TV

BY VERNIE GAY
vernie.gay@newsday.com

WALTER WHITE, "Breaking Bad" Even though it has become a TV classic for the ages, Bryan Cranston's portrayal of a Walter Mitty-turned-Public Enemy No. 1 didn't really turn into a cultural phenomenon until the final season. But what new fans discovered was what veteran Walter White watchers had known all along: Their man wasn't so easy to pin down. Good, bad? . . . hero, anti-hero? He seemed to pivot around some core value, but locating that core was the hard part, even if Walter liked to say that he did it "all" for his family. In fact, Cranston's was a portrait of ambiguity over 62 episodes. In his last scene with his wife, Skyler (Anna Gunn), she says, "If I have to hear one more time that you did this for the family. . . ." And then he breaks her off: "I did it for me. I liked it. I was good at it. I was alive." Finally, some truth out of Walter but — infuriatingly — not enough. By the end, he remained slightly out of reach: One of TV's greatest characters, forever after a mystery.

BOB BENSON, "Mad Men" Speaking of mysteries, "Who is Bob Benson?" became one of the favorite guessing games of "Mad Men's" sixth season. The sexual orientation of James Wolk's character was one matter, but he otherwise seemed to be anyone you wanted him to be — a spy, a journalist, perhaps an assassin. Who knew? He was good at small talk in the corridors of Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, good at blending in, good at offering a helping hand — or coffee. Wolk's terrific chameleon performance captured one of "Mad Men's" enduring themes: Some people, hollow at the core, can make them-

See MEMORABLE on C10

CHARACTERS

MOST MEMORABLE

MEMORABLE from C8

selves into anyone they choose. That, after all, has been the story of Don Draper.

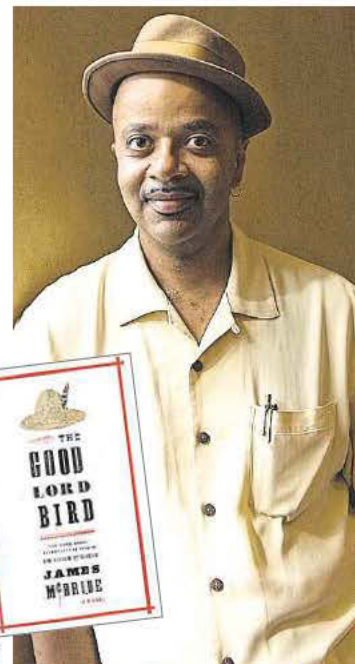
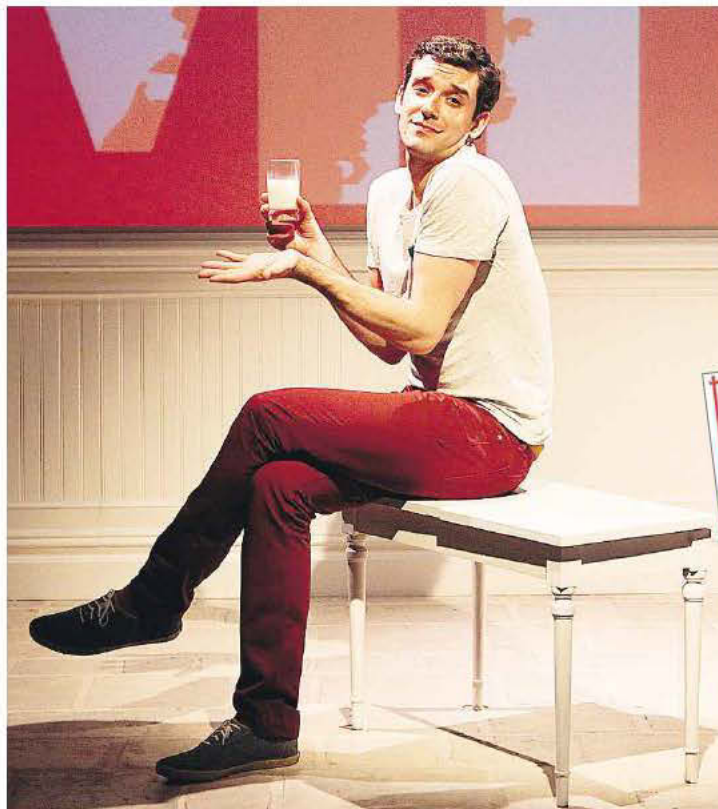
SARAH MANNING, "Orphan Black" Sarah Manning is waiting for a train, when a dead ringer for Sarah, also on the train platform, commits suicide right in front of her. Shocked at first, then the thought occurs to Sarah — why not steal the dead woman's pocket-book? A grifter and small-time con, she grabs the bag and off she goes into a brand-new life, for Sarah decides to go one step further and steal the dead woman's identity, too. There are other Sarah clones out there — 10 or so at last count — and Tatiana Maslany, in a tour de force, plays them all. But the series is essentially refracted through Manning — a multifacet of a human being herself, who is struggling to learn her own identity while (literally) on the run through life. This BBC America series is, in part, about the meaning of "self" and the search for identity but Maslany's tremendous performance brings these lofty themes fully, and vividly, to life.

THEATER

BY LINDA WINER
linda.winer@newsday.com

OLIVIA, "Twelfth Night" She appears to be floating along the floor, this Olivia from Shakespeare's Globe. She takes quick, tiny steps, unseen beneath her long, intricately structured gown with a corset that would seem to contradict both her vulnerability and her irresistible self-possession. And yes, she is played by a he — Mark Rylance — the preposterously gifted British force of nature behind Broadway's all-male double bill from Shakespeare's Globe.

UNCLE BENJAMIN, "The Apple Family Plays" Imagine playing a brilliant, aging, former leading actor whose memories grow dimmer as his hyper-articulate adoring nieces and nephew chatter around him. Then imagine that Uncle Benjamin evolves and devolves and explores all phases in between in all four evenings of Richard Nelson's intimate epic, "The Apple Family Plays: Scenes From Life in the Country" at the Public Theater. The entire six-member cast is so tuned into nuance that it is hard to



Michael Urie, left, is an original as Alex More in "Buyer & Cellar." James McBride, above, author of "The Good Lord Bird," has readers look at abolitionist John Brown through new eyes.

remember this is not a family. But Jon DeVries, as the fading star, is amazing, calibrating an infinite range of reactions, indignities and confusions with little more than a baffled, searching look in his eyes, a helpful smile and spurts of impotent outrage.

ALEX MORE, "Buyer & Cellar" Michael Urie stars as Alex, an unemployed actor hired to curate the imaginary mall in Barbra Streisand's basement in Jonathan Tolin's one-person, multicharacter play. Urie morphs between the actor and the diva with a beguiling performance that doesn't imitate. He re-creates.

BOOKS

BY MARION WINIK
Special to Newsday

JONNY, from "The Love Song of Jonny Valentine," by Teddy Wayne Told from the perspective of an 11-year-old triple-platinum pop star modeled on Justin Bieber (right down to the haircut), "The Love Song of Jonny Valentine" is a canny satire of the entertainment

industry as well as a convincing, haunting look inside child stardom. Alone in an endless series of hotel rooms playing video games and eating room service, Jonny is a branding, marketing and singing prodigy who has millions of fans and not one true friend. His heart-breaking misapprehension of his relationships with his tutor, his bodyguard, his warm-up act and even his drugged tiger of a mom are evoked in a voice so real you want to climb inside the book and save him.

BORIS, from "The Goldfinch," by Donna Tartt The greatest fun in "The Goldfinch" is provided by an unsupervised 15-year-old bad-die named Boris Pavlikovsky, Russian by way of Australia, who befriends the narrator in the surreal, sunstruck Las Vegas suburbs where they have landed in mid-adolescence. Boris will take "Potter," as he calls the bespectacled narrator, under his wing and initiate him into alcohol, drugs and the truest of friendships, founded on endless afternoons of pizza, petty crime and philosophical speculation.

Boris understands Theo as no one else does, and saves him when no one else can, chattering nonstop in a hilarious patois of Russian-flavored English.

JOHN BROWN, from "The Good Lord Bird," by James McBride James McBride's portrait of the fanatical 19th-century abolitionist John Brown is an inspired literary rehabilitation, taking a man who was very likely a dour, chilling vigilante and turning him into a crazy roisterer for Jesus, a charismatic maniac who might have stepped out of a Mark Twain novel or a Coen brothers film. The key to the portrayal is that we see Brown through the eyes of an 11-year-old slave freed in one of Brown's raids through no fault or wish of his own. "Onion," as Brown nicknames him, tells us things about Brown that history just cannot. "The Old Man was always broke and delayed in everything . . . I sometimes reckon that Old John Brown wouldn't have started no trouble at all if he didn't have to feed so many people all the time." See — he's just like us!

BREAKOUTS

THE BIGGEST

Pharrell released a 24-hour-long video of his "Despicable Me 2" music while producing big hits for others.



INVISION PHOTO

Established talents stretched, and fascinating new stars leaped to stunning heights this year

MOVIES

OSCAR ISAAC For years, this handsome Cuban-Guatemalan actor has been languishing on the sidelines in fizzlers like the Russell Crowe vehicle "Robin Hood" and the little-seen

"Agora." It took the Coen brothers to give Isaac a lead role in a major movie, "Inside Llewyn Davis," in which he plays — fittingly — an unknown folk singer struggling for recognition. Isaac has been nominated for a Golden Globe.

MILES TELLER After playing a party animal with a nonstop mouth in teen flicks like "Project X" and "21 & Over," the 26-year-old Teller won critical acclaim for a dramatic role: a party animal with a drinking problem in "The Spectacular Now." Teller may yet have a serious career ahead, even if he's returning to type in next year's "That Awkward Moment." He'll play — guess what? — a party animal with a secret girlfriend.

ADELE EXARCHOPOULOS

The 20-year-old actress with the tricky surname has become a French sensation, winning Cannes' prestigious Palme d'Or — along with co-star Léa Seydoux and director Abdellatif Kechiche — for her role as a young lesbian in the NC-17-rated "Blue Is the Warmest Color." (Only one woman, Jane Campion, had won the award previously.) Her English may be limited, but she clearly has an eye toward working in Hollywood: She recently confessed that the director she'd most like to work with is Judd Apatow.

— RAFAEL GUZMÁN

POP MUSIC

MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS The Seattle duo turned mainstream hip-hop



Oscar Isaac's performance in 'Inside Llewyn Davis' has been highly praised.

CBS FILMS PHOTO

upside down this year by challenging the genre's deeply ingrained themes and still keeping things fun.

"Thrift Shop" became an anti-bling anthem, while setting the scene for "Same Love," which eloquently advocated for equal rights for same-sex couples. They were rewarded with No. 1 hits and a boatload of major Grammy nominations.

LORDE The teenage sensation from New Zealand proudly came from nowhere to one of the year's biggest hits, "Royals," by tapping into the disconnect between the lifestyles glamorized in pop culture and teenage reality. Her debut, "Pure Heroine," continued poking holes in the illusion, declaring in her deep, warm voice, "I'm tired of putting my

hands up in the air. So there."

PHARRELL So what didn't Pharrell do this year? He was involved in the summer's two biggest hits — Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" and Daft Punk's "Get Lucky" — as well as producing and performing on albums from Jay Z, 2 Chainz and even The Lonely Island. He also put out his own work, including an impressive 24-hour-long video for "Happy," his theme from "Despicable Me 2."

— GLENN GAMBOA

TV

NETFLIX And what a breakout. Three original productions that launched last year ("Arrested Development," "Hemlock Grove" and "House of Cards") combined for a total of 14

Tom Hanks left his comfort zone to star in 'Lucky Guy' — and won a Tony nomination.

■ Video: newsday.com/theater



PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

Emmys; neither "HoC" nor "Development" won for best drama or comedy, respectively, but got Netflix a ticket to the party. Netflix also established a new viewing phenomenon — "bingeing," or the glutinous consumption of favorite shows hour after hour (after hour). Some series found new converts (and fanatics) via Netflix, most notably "Breaking Bad." **KERRY WASHINGTON AND SCANDAL** Who is this wonder-woman, Olivia Pope, who cries bitter tears in one scene and devises plots with steel-hearted resolve the next? She is hot and cold, fire and ice — always impeccably dressed. Washington's true breakout year was 2012, with "Django Unchained," and the April premiere of "Scandal," but the "breakout" kept on rolling into this one, with a best

actress Emmy nomination, a memorable "Saturday Night Live" host outing, and now, household name status. **KATE MCKINNON, CECILY STRONG AND VANESSA BAYER OF SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE** "SNL" had a historic cast turnover on the eve of its 39th season and yet managed to break out three major cast members — Sea Cliff native McKinnon, Bayer ("Jacob the Bar Mitzvah Boy") and new "Weekend Update" co-anchor Strong. These three key female players are poised to become major "SNL" stars of the future.

— VERNE GAY

THEATER

TOM HANKS He didn't need to risk his halo by making his Broadway debut in "Lucky

Guy," a daring New York journalism saga that was unproduced when his friend, playwright Nora Ephron, died. But he was terrific. **THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ALL-STARS** Jazz master Wynton Marsalis put together the ace 16-piece onstage band that makes "After Midnight" so much more than another revue. The all-stars' name may be clunky, but it's no hype. These musicians are intoxicating. **JEANINE TESORI** Not only did Tesori write the marvelous music for "Fun Home," the best musical of the year, but she also was the artistic director for the inaugural "Encores! Off-Center," the ridiculously enticing and ambitious three-play series that began this summer with important and



NETFLIX PHOTO



THE CANADIAN PRESS PHOTO

Top, Kate Mara and Kevin Spacey starred in Netflix's first original series, "House of Cards," which spawned a new phenomenon — binge watching; left, Canadian author Alice Munro won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

wonderful revivals of "The Cradle Will Rock," "I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road" and, for one day only, Sutton Foster in a look back at Tesori's first musical, "Violet." It was so delicious that Foster will star in a revival of the haunting chamber piece on Broadway this spring.

— LINDA WINER

BOOKS

DAVID RAKOFF It is sobering when an author's breakout book appears after his or her death; if only Rakoff — beloved for his essays and voice on NPR's "This American Life" — could be around to enjoy the reaction to "Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish," a series of vignettes in anapestic tetrame-

ter that takes us through more than 100 years of American life with humor, heartbreak and wonderful verbal invention. **A.S.A. HARRISON** Rakoff's fellow Canadian writer also died before her novel, "The Silent Wife," compared by many to the wildly popular "Gone Girl," hit the streets. A thriller that tells of a marriage gone lethally sour in chapters that alternate between the points of view of husband and wife, this was Harrison's first work of fiction and displays a talent we were unlucky to lose. **ALICE MUNRO** A third Canadian writer is fortunately very much alive at 82. Once adored mainly by the literati, this year Munro was a Nobel Prize winner and, for the first time, with "Dear Love," a No. 1 bestseller. — MARION WINIK

COMEBACKS

THE BIGGEST

Entertainers surprised audiences by taking big risks and coming out of the shadows

MOVIES

BRUCE DERN After 50 years of supporting roles, this familiar character actor is suddenly an A-list star. For his lead performance as an aging father in Alexander Payne's "Nebraska," Dern won best actor at Cannes and has been strolling various red carpets ever since. It's clearly an Oscar campaign, and a win would be the first for the 77-year-old. He was nominated once, for 1978's "Coming Home."

JARED LETO The actor-rockstar has recently turned down roles to focus on his band, Thirty Seconds to Mars. This year, however, he returned to the screen in a big way with "Dallas Buyers Club." Leto's portrayal of Rayon, a transgender woman living with AIDS during the mid-1980s, is rightly being hailed as one of the year's best performances. So, what about the band? As it happens, its tour schedule has a conspicuous lull around March 2, Oscar Sunday.

ROBERT REDFORD The 77-year-old didn't just carry a movie this year, he did so single-handedly: He's the only actor in "All Is Lost," a drama about a sailor stranded in the Indian Ocean. The result has been glowing reviews and strong Oscar buzz. Redford won a statue for directing 1980's "Ordinary People," but an acting nomination would be his first since 1974, when he was up for "The Sting."

— RAFAEL GUZMÁN

POP MUSIC

DAVID BOWIE Everything about Bowie's impressive year was done in secret. His album "The Next Day," his

Garth Brooks went back to his roots in his Vegas show

first in a decade, was recorded in private, hush-hush sessions and released with little warning and no fanfare. After Bowie's heart attack in 2004, it wasn't clear whether he would ever record again, much less create something so impressively forward-looking and memorable.

NILE RODGERS The legendary Chic mastermind and guitarist bounced back from a battle with prostate cancer in 2010 as funky and fine as ever. He was the driving force for Daft Punk's global smash "Get Lucky" and the stand-out track "Lose Yourself to Dance." He set up shop in the Hamptons this summer to work with the hottest EDM artists, including Avicii and David Guetta, on their songs and on some previously unreleased Chic material. This comeback is far from over.

GARTH BROOKS He is certainly a man of his word. Brooks announced in 2001 that he was going to put music on hold to raise his daughters after he divorced their mom. With his youngest daughter set to graduate from high school, Brooks is ready to return to music. He unveiled his well-crafted one-

man show, "Blame It All on My Roots," in Las Vegas and in a CBS special, as well as a new boxed set. — GLENN GAMBOA

TV

ARSENIO HALL Gone almost two decades, the late-night host who changed late-night TV — then pretty much disappeared — returned this year to try to re-order the landscape once again.

Whether he will ultimately succeed remains to be seen, but he returned with his charm intact, and even managed to put on a show that reminded



FOCUS FEATURES PHOTO

some fans why they liked him so much in the first place.

HOMELAND Hey, it didn't go anywhere, so how can it "come back"? In fact, "Homeland" crash-landed after a soaring first season. Needed (badly) was a new direction, a reason for being and a gritty new story line that returned the show to its scarily plausible roots. The third season hasn't been perfect, but there have been enough good episodes to reinforce "must-see" status.

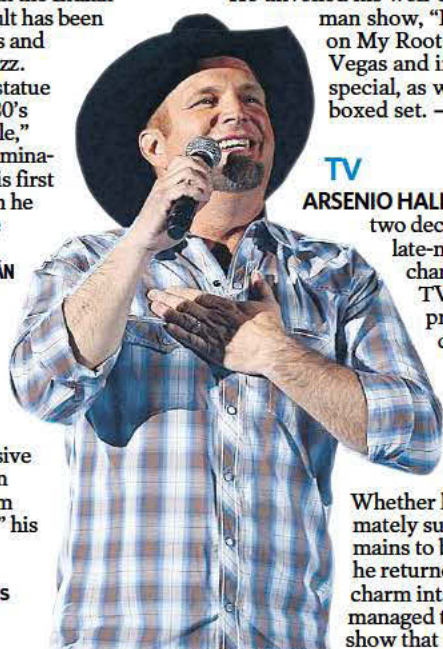
ALL MY CHILDREN AND ONE LIFE TO LIVE It's up to fans to decide whether their historic revival on Hulu was worth all the trouble, but the revival remains indisputably historic. Beloved soaps simply don't return after cancellation, but these did. Unfortunately, their first season on Hulu also may be their last. Their production company has yet to confirm reports the revival is kaput,

undone by labor disputes and other cost issues. — VERNE GAY

THEATER

JULIE TAYMOR After the horror show that became "Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark," the visionary director-designer answered with a deliriously beautiful, deeply magical staging of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the remarkable new Brooklyn home for Theatre for a New Audience. She is the real thing. **CICELY TYSON** In her first time on Broadway in 30 years, she was amazing — radiant, shrewd, utterly natural — in the revival of Horton Foote's wistful seriocomic "The Trip to Bountiful." Was she 79 or 88 when the play opened last spring? The artist isn't saying.

LAURIE METCALF OK, she wasn't exactly invisible as Roseanne Barr's



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO



Above, J.K. Rowling surprised readers when she admitted she was Robert Galbraith, author of "The Cuckoo's Calling." Jared Leto, left, morphed into the transgender Rayon in "Dallas Buyers Club." Cicely Tyson, near right, with Condola Rashad, returned to Broadway in "Trip to Bountiful."



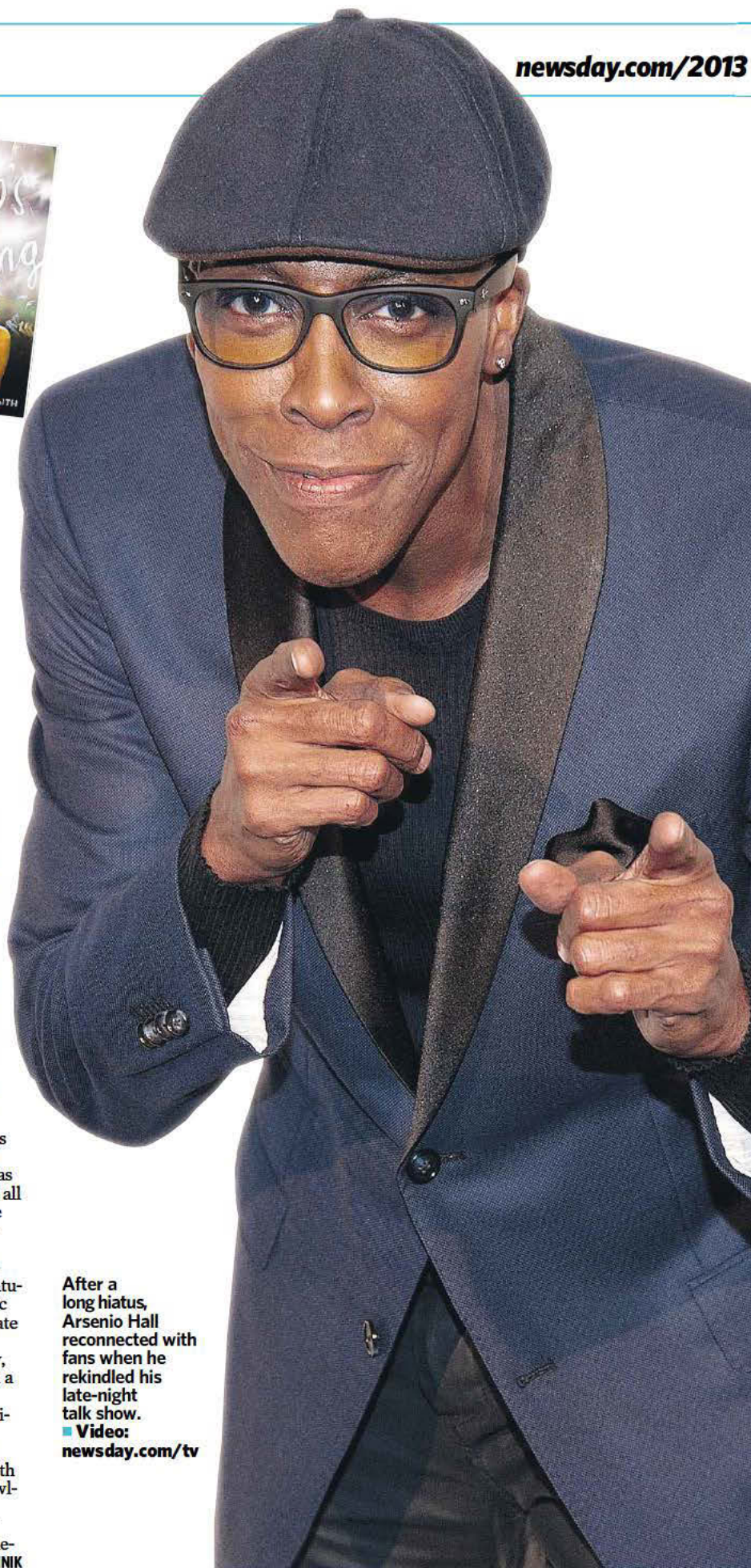
sister on TV. But this magnificent actress, a young star at Steppenwolf Theatre in the '70s, came back to New York theater — big time — as an unraveling scientist in "The Other Place" and the unpredictable wife of a politician in a sex scandal in "Domesticated." — LUNDA WINER

BOOKS

STEPHEN KING He's ba-a-ack. Well, not really King, who hasn't left for one minute, but Danny Torrance, the 5-year-old psychic in "The Shining," the 1977 novel that established his creator's career. In "Dr. Sleep," Dan has grown up tormented and been driven to drink by his telepathic abilities. Fortunately, a cult of wannabe immortals and a magical child show up to make him relevant again. Take that, child-abusing demons. **ELIZABETH GILBERT** Though Gil-

bert's "Eat Pray Love" sold millions of copies and practically started a cult, it caused her to be dismissed as a serious writer and overwhelmed all memory of her earlier books. "The Signature of All Things" reintroduced her to serious readers as a novelist with an ambitious and delightfully written saga of a 19th century female biologist whose scientific and personal explorations illuminate all the big ideas of that era. **ROBERT GALBRAITH** His mystery, "The Cuckoo's Calling," in which a washed-up cop investigates the suicide of a supermodel, was a critical success from the start, but the reading public didn't lose its head until the big reveal. . . . Mr. Galbraith was actually Ms. Rowling! J.K. Rowling, that is. From an 8,500-copy stallout to international bestseller lists overnight — now that's a comeback. — MARION WINIK

After a long hiatus, Arsenio Hall reconnected with fans when he rekindled his late-night talk show. **Video:** newsday.com/tv



GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

BUMMERS

THE BIGGEST

Michael J. Fox got a Golden Globe nomination, but his show didn't live up to the hype.

■ Video: newsday.com/tv

From Janis to Justin, 'Bling' to Benghazi, the list of disappointments was long and forgettable

MOVIES

The kids are in trouble! Or so said several supposedly edgy movies about youth on the road to ruin in 2013:

SPRING BREAKERS Director Harmony Korine leered at wild girls in bikinis (including Vanessa Hudgens and Selena Gomez) but still gave them a hard moral spanking. **THE BLING RING** Sofia Coppola's movie informed us that suburban teens are overly obsessed with wealth and fame — shocker!

THE CANYONS Paul Schrader presented Lindsay Lohan as (ahem) a failed starlet sleeping her way through an iPhone-enabled Hollywood. Sex and drugs! Guns and crime! Hookup apps!

— RAFAEL GUZMÁN

POP MUSIC

MARIAH CAREY She had a rocky start on "American Idol," passive aggressively duking it out with fellow judge Nicki Minaj, though she was always kind to the contestants. With that platform, she rolled out the excellent single "#Beautiful" with as much fanfare as anyone can really gather these days without twerking.

But then she opted not to pull the trigger on her new album, which has been pushed back indefinitely.

JUSTIN BIEBER What he should have done is taken the year off to regroup out of the spotlight, giving his fans some time to miss him and then impress them with undeniable new music. Um, he did the opposite. He traveled the world stirring up controversies — arguing with his California neighbors, scrapping with paparazzi in London, abandoning his monkey in Germany, dissing Bill Clinton, among other missteps — and then cobbled together an uneven album.

ONE DIRECTION LIVE Let's be honest, the One Direction lads actually have more musical



All we want for Christmas . . . is another album from Mariah Carey.

skill than people give them credit for, especially as they lean more toward rock and folk. However, the group's Nikon at Jones Beach concert this summer, in which the band sat through long stretches of the show while its fans stayed on their feet, just felt weak. If your fans are standing, you should be standing.

— GLENN GAMBOA

TV

60 MINUTES BOTCHED REPORT ON BENGHAZI The role of a great news organization is to clarify and illuminate, not to muddle or (worse) add fuel to an already raging political fire. But this Oct. 27 report managed both, by quoting an ex-security officer, Dylan Davies, who said he was at the compound — he was not. Meanwhile, a CBS-owned Simon & Schuster imprint was publishing his book (not mentioned, either). Two huge strikes led to correspondent Lara Logan's suspension.

NETWORK TV COMEDIES Has there been a sorrier batch of new comedies on network TV in recent seasons than the batch foisted on an innocent public this past fall? Fox's "Dads" was merely the most loathed (by critics). But what to say about NBC's "Sean Saves the World" and "Welcome to the Family," or CBS' "The Millers" and "We Are Men," or ABC's "Super Fun Night"? Lots — not a whole lot of it complimentary. The star of "The Michael J. Fox Show" may have scored a Golden Globe

NBC PHOTO

Scarlett Johansson wasn't so hot in 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.'



Fantare

PHOTO BY DAN MARCUS

nomination, but this show may be the biggest disappointment of them all. **SHOWS THAT NEVER, OR HAVE YET TO, LIVE UP TO THEIR PROMISE** "Smash," NBC's attempt to bring the thrill of the Broadway musical to the small screen, only to grapple with producer turnover and that modern spitball phenomenon known as "hate viewing"; "Under the Dome," an initially terrific CBS Stephen King adaptation that ultimately felt trapped, and smothered under that dome; Fox's "The Following," a Kevin Williamson creation that didn't quite get one; AMC's chilly, remote "Low Winter Sun," and, yes, ABC's "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," which is still waiting for that must-watch tag. — VERNE GAY

THEATER

SCARLETT JOHANSSON What went wrong? After a smashing, Tony-winning Broadway debut in "A View From the Bridge," the intelligent, heat-seeking missile made Tennessee Williams' Maggie the Cat into someone dull, ladylike and — dare we say it? — sexless.

ORLANDO BLOOM His hotly anticipated Broadway debut in "Romeo and Juliet" turned out to be a nonevent. He was sort of dashing but not riveting, and he was mismatched with a stiff of a Juliet in rising star Condola Rashad. Sad to say, she was over her head in her first Shakespeare.

A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN The

brief, raw, massively influential blues rocker who died so young has been scrubbed and domesticated into just another nice, ordinary '60s chick who idolized black female blues singers and loved her siblings — who just happen to be involved with the production.

— LUNDA WINER

BOOKS

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY, HELEN FIELDING We loved Bridget. We loved Darcy. But Darcy is dead, killed by a land mine in Darfur, and Bridget has skated too far over the parody line, looking for a man on Twitter and doing a stale single-mother act. Since we still love Helen Fielding, may we suggest she watch Elizabeth Gilbert's TED talk about creativity and the dangers of success? Second acts for British literary lives await!

INFERNO, DAN BROWN If you are a Brown fan, you are a plot person. As long as the suspense sucks you in, you'll overlook chunks of research appearing as dialogue, and the fact that every detail is repeated three times, once in italics. But will you like this fourth installment of the Robert Langdon series, in which the Harvard symbologist is deep in Renaissance art and 21st century bioterrorism? Which has run thinner — the formula or your patience?

— MARION WINIK

Dan Brown seems to be milking the formula dry in "Inferno."

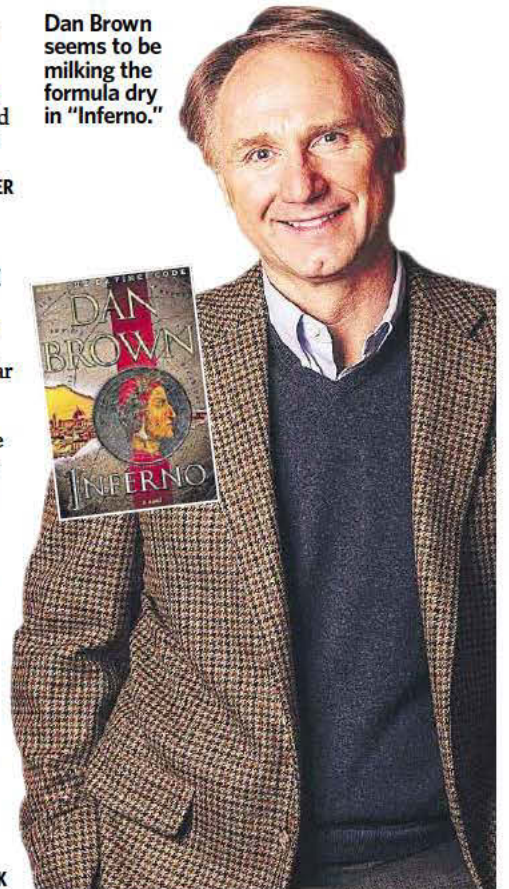


PHOTO BY DAN COURTER



Emma Watson, left, Taissa Farmiga, Katie Chang and Claire Julien are suburban teens who, like, love bling in, ya know, "The Bling Ring."

PLEASURES

THE GUILTIEST

What really turned our critics on? They dish on the year's delectably fun detours on their beats

MOVIES

THE HEAT It's about time somebody made a buddy-cop comedy starring two women, and director Paul Feig chose a couple doozies in Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock. "The Heat" made the most of its R rating with foul language, crass humor and much wounding of male groins, but the bonding between its female stars gave it heart. Too bad Bullock has publicly nixed a sequel. It might actually have been good.

DELIVERY MAN This Vince Vaughn comedy, about a slacker who learns that his anonymous sperm donations have resulted in 533 children, was way too cutesy-wutesy for most critics. But Vaughn's still-potent charm carried the day, and in the end it seems churlish to resist a movie about familial love on such a large scale. Group hug, everybody!

BULLET TO THE HEAD The best action film of 1983 just happened to come out in 2013. For fans of vintage pulp, this was a dream-team: Sylvester Stallone, playing a hit man with an honor code, plus the legendary director Walter Hill, shamelessly ripping off his own "48 Hrs." Stylish and funny, with a crackerjack climax of fisticuffs and fireaxes(!), "Bullet to the Head" was manna from B-movie heaven.

— RAFAEL GUZMÁN

POP MUSIC

REVOLT It's an exciting new concept from Diddy! Revolt is a cable channel that shows blocks of music videos and has VJs who talk about music and musicians. There's something comforting about having someone else pick the playlist for you. Maybe there could be more channels like this, something like Music Television or



UNIVERSAL PICTURES PHOTO

MTV for short. Oh. Wait. **A CAPPELLA** Between the enduring appeal of "Pitch Perfect," the return of "The Sing-Off" and the surprising sales strength of Pentatonix, a cappella has certainly become a cultural force this year. Like any genre, it has its ups and downs, but a wave of new, inventive arrangements has made it much more than a gimmick.

JIMMY FALLON & JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE, THE HISTORY OF RAP The duo returned to the series for the fourth time this year, cramming three decades of hip-hop into six or so minutes. It's jokey, especially when Timberlake goes into his Eminem impression, but it also shows their love of the genre, weaving together The Fat Boys and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, with Strong Islanders LL Cool J, Busta Rhymes and Salt 'n' Pepa.

— GLENN GAMBOA

TV

JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE! In TV, you could argue that just about anything is a "guilty pleasure," although there are certain habits probably a bit less nutritious than others. So continuing with that metaphor, a favored carb overload is "Kimmel" — consistently amusing, imaginative and (even) smart.

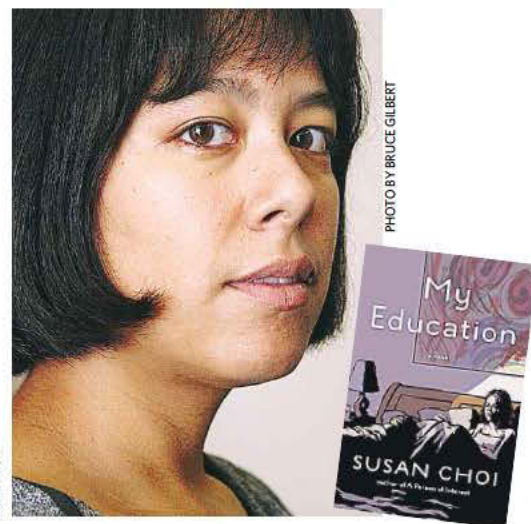
Rebel Wilson and Anna Camp found the right note in the film "Pitch Perfect," about an a cappella group

to feel guilty about watching. **DUCK DYNASTY** I really don't watch this all that much — which is pretty much what everyone says about their guilty pleasures — but whenever I do watch, I'm reminded that the Robertsons are great characters, or that no one, anywhere, could have dreamed up someone like Si Robertson, reality TV's premiere quote machine ("I am the MacGyver of cooking. If you bring me a piece of bread, cabbage, coconut, mustard greens, pigs feet, pine cones . . . and a woodpecker, I'll make you a good chicken potpie.") And that's a fact, Jack. — VERNE GAY

SONS OF ANARCHY I'm ambivalent about "SOA" for many reasons, far too many to get into in this space. Too violent . . . characters who never learn, ever. But the show's craftsmanship is superlative — excellent writing, acting, directing. A shame

Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock found box office joy with the buddy flick "The Heat." **Video:** newsday.com/movies





THEATER

ALEC BALDWIN No kidding. His return to Broadway in Lyle Kessler's "Orphans" was generally creamed, but I admired his

restraint and sly command of nuance. I think he was blamed for the failure of this revival of the 1983 play that, despite its reputation as dynamite, never was more than a minor fast-talking adrenaline jolt.

BOBBY CANNAVALE In anything, even if he wasn't perfectly cast in Clifford Odets' "The Big Knife." He is never less than fun to watch — and frequently much more.

SINGLE-GENDER SHAKESPEARE I am philosophically skeptical and a little sick of all-male productions, which, despite the historical justification, usually annoy me with camp gimmickry. But my resistance has been shaken by the Shakespeare Globe double bill of "Twelfth Night" and

Nothing can camouflage the success of A&E's "Duck Dynasty" with the Robertson family.

■ **Video:** newsday.com/tv

"Richard III," performed in repertory. Besides, this fall we also had a gripping all-woman "Julius Caesar" from London. This still doesn't make for equal opportunity for actresses, but I'm weakening. So it's a pleasure, but I feel guilty.

— LINDA WINER

BOOKS

THE YONAHLOSEE RIDING CAMP FOR GIRLS, Anton di Sclafani This debut novel, set in the Depression-era South, follows a young teenager exiled for mysterious reasons to a girls'

boarding school, where the little minx gets in even more trouble. For anyone with B-movie and Harlequin Romance tendencies. **MY EDUCATION**, Susan Choi The story of a mad lesbian affair between a grad student and a faculty wife on a Cornell-like campus weaves powerful insights about youth, loyalty and passion into its steamy scenes and delectable plot.

SISTERLAND, Curtis Sittenfeld Psychic twin sisters and earthquake predictions are the stuff of tabloids — and also of this novel. Sittenfeld gives her news of the weird a sensitive, funny and profound treatment, showing a Stephen King-like ability to mesh the paranormal with the unsettlingly real.

— MARION WINIK

Susan Choi's novel "My Education" is the story of a mad lesbian affair on a Cornell-like campus.



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PHOTO



PHOTO BY GERAIN LEWIS

Stephen Fry, left, and Mark Rylance in the all-male "Twelfth Night," part of a Shakespeare Globe double bill