

James Lane

— POST —

Fall 2024

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PATRICIA CLARKSON

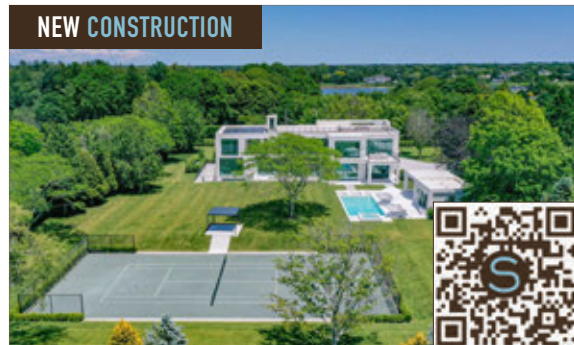
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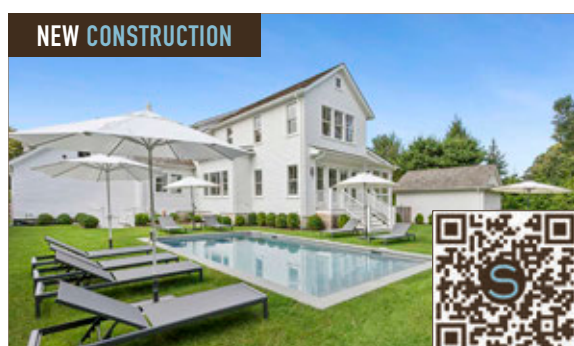
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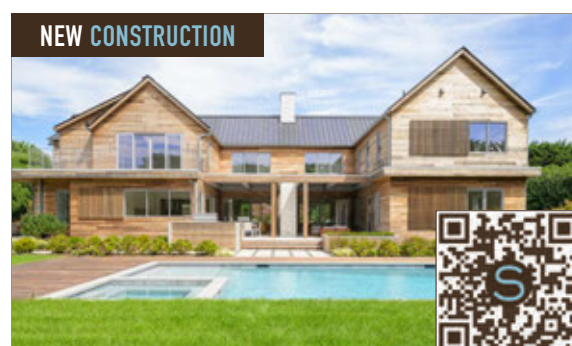
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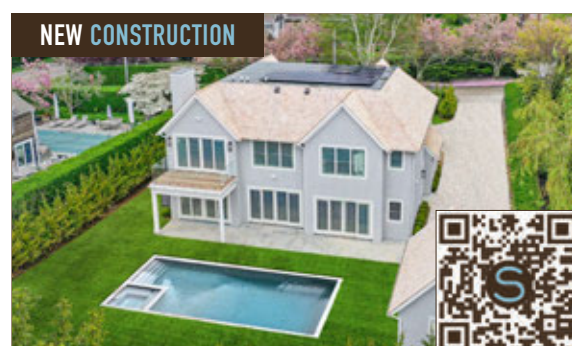
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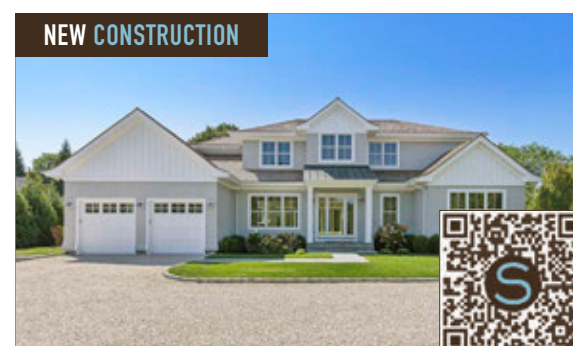
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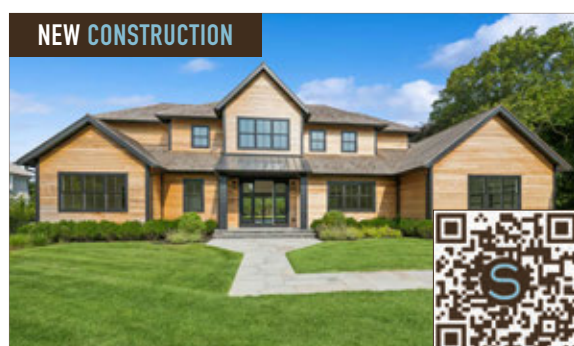
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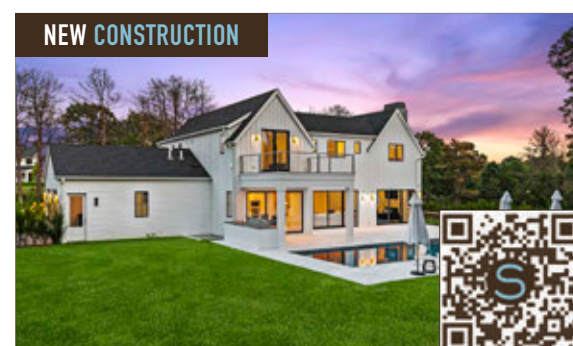
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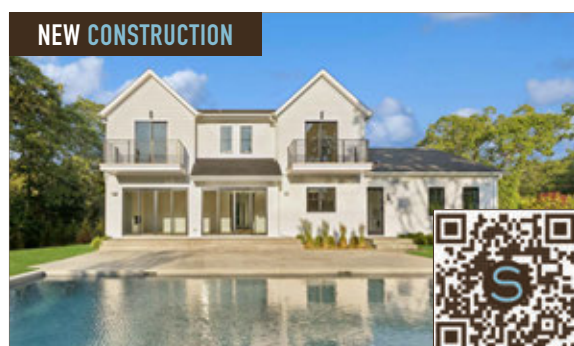
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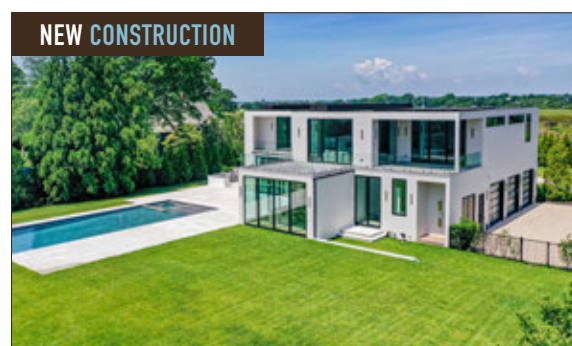
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A still from the film "Lilly."

Patricia Clarkson

The Portrayal Of Fair Pay Icon Lilly Ledbetter

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

It's the story of a woman who understands the true meaning of labor. Lilly Ledbetter fought not only for her right to fair pay but also for women's rights across the country.

In a nearly decade-long journey, Ledbetter took her fight for equal pay to the United States Supreme Court and then to the United States Congress. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 was the first legislation signed into law by President Barack Obama.

The feature film "Lilly," directed by Rachel Feldman, depicts the life of Lilly Ledbetter and will have its world premiere at the Hamptons International Film Festival on October 10. The Oscar-nominated Patricia Clarkson portrays the fair pay icon.

For Clarkson, playing one of her heroes was a dream come true. Growing up in the South, Lilly was a household name.

"I grew up with a very powerful mother... who ran the city of New Orleans as the president of the City Council. And my mother raised five daughters. So you can imagine the impact of Lilly," said Clarkson.

"I played such an array of characters in my life, in my career, but I rarely had the

chance to play a truly great American woman," Clarkson continued. "It was so easy to say yes, but it's tough to play one of your heroes. I knew it would be quite a journey. It was intriguing and thrilling and emotional for me to step into this part. To take on Lilly Ledbetter."

Clarkson, who has starred in numerous leading and supporting roles in hits like "Shutter Island," "Pieces of April," "The Green Mile," "Sharp Objects," and "The Untouchables," described the pressure of bringing someone as iconic as Lilly Ledbetter to life on screen.

"It's so much easier to play unsavory characters," Clarkson laughed. "But I wanted this challenge. I wanted to be tested. I wanted to see if I could really play her in all her glory and grit."

Ledbetter worked for 19 years as a night supervisor at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Alabama. She took the job in 1979 at age 39 to help her family, which was struggling to make ends meet. She grew up in poverty in Possum Trot, Alabama, without electricity or running water. She picked cotton for eight cents daily, striving to be part of the middle class.

"We rarely tell these stories," said Clarkson. "Think about it... We've had

Erin Brockovich, Sally Field in 'Norma Rae.' We rarely tell these stories anymore of truly great women who changed the landscape of our country."

When nearing retirement, Ledbetter received an anonymous note alerting her that the salary of her male coworkers, who held the same position, was 40 percent higher than hers. Ledbetter filed a charge with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Birmingham. The fight would be long — nine years from start to finish. The lower federal court awarded her \$3.8 million, but Goodyear appealed the verdict.

"This was a woman who was put back on the line, lugging tires at 60. With that comes a certain physicality and a certain strength that she must have still had, but yet a brutality to the body," said Clarkson.

Ledbetter's case went to the United States Supreme Court with the help of young civil rights lawyer Jon Goldfarb. She lost her case in the Supreme Court with a 5 to 4 vote. It was ruled she was not within the 180-day statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said in her dissent, in a rare occurrence reading from the bench, "The Court does not comprehend, or is indifferent to, the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination. The ball is in Congress's court to correct this Court's parsimonious reading of Title VII."

Following that outcome, she was met by the American Civil Liberties Union, The National Women's Law Center, and several other organizations that urged her to come to Washington, D.C., to continue the fight. At the time, she was also dealing with personal trauma. Her husband Charles, her high school sweetheart, was terminally ill with cancer.

"The rejections she suffered, and she still rallied with nothing. Sometimes putting her marriage and her children in jeopardy. She had a remarkable husband, but still, he was very ill at the end," said Clarkson.

The film exhibits the relationships in Ledbetter's life, from the deep love story she shared with her husband, played by

John Benjamin Hickey, to her admiration for her lawyer, Jon Goldfarb, played by Thomas Sadoski.

"The one and only John Hickey was just perfection," said Clarkson. "It was an honor. You know, John and I go way back. We're old, old friends. It was just one of the highlights of my career to finally really work with him. I get to make out with him. He is a fantastic kisser [laughs]. He's sexy and humble and perfectly cast. And then there's the great Tommy Sadoski, who is just meant for this."

Ledbetter spoke at the 2008 Democratic National Convention, and the footage is used in the film. When President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 into law, cementing Lilly's story in American history, he stated, "Lilly Ledbetter didn't set out to be a trailblazer or a household name. She was just a good hard worker who did her job — and did it well — for nearly two decades before discovering that for years, she was paid less than her male colleagues for the very same work. Over the course of her career, she lost more than \$200,000 in salary, and even more in pension and Social Security benefits — losses she still feels today."

"[Obama] knew the impact she had on so many people in this country. And it reverberated around the world," said Clarkson. "It's still shocking to me. There are young women who don't know who she is. You need to know. Equal pay is essential. We are not completely equal yet. There are still issues."

The 2009 law overturned the Supreme Court's decision in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber and amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964, making each paycheck that contains discriminatory compensation a separate violation, no matter when the discrimination began. Today, on average, women working full-time, year-round are paid 84 percent of what men are paid, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

What does Clarkson hope viewers take away from the film? "I hope that it will reawaken a fire in people," she said. "I remember back in Hollywood, I didn't get paid the same as my male counterparts

when I was first starting out in this industry. We were not paid the same in any way, shape, or form."

"This movie is for all of those really intense workers across our country," she continued. "The people who really do the hard work every day, loading and unloading in factories, working night shifts, giving up time with their children, giving up time with their families."

The Hamptons International Film Festival premiere will also mark Ledbetter and Clarkson's first in-person meeting.

"It will be emotional. She's so excited about this premiere. It's her night," said Clarkson. "I'm excited to be there. I've got a bunch of my friends coming to the Hamptons for the premiere. There'll be some illustrious people there. It will be a beautiful place to debut this film. We sold out very quickly. That, to me, is a tribute to the great Lilly Ledbetter."

"There are a lot of very strong, very powerful women who live in the Hamptons," she continued.

Her favorite scene? You'll have to watch the film. "I don't want to ruin the ending," she said. "That last scene. In the restaurant. It was amazing to shoot. It still brings tears to my eyes. It encapsulated everything that she is and the quiet, beautiful, monumental effect that she could have."

Speaking with Clarkson clearly shows how close this project is to her heart, with a beautiful admiration for Lilly and the team that brought it all together.

"I'm really thankful for Rachel, my stunning director," said Clarkson. "It was just a beautiful group of people who came together, and we had this real female crew on this movie. We have an amazing female producer, Allyn Stewart. All of us are still deeply embedded because of the journey we took on this film."

"This is a momentous time for me," Clarkson reflected. "I've done a lot of work in this industry. This is near and dear to my heart. My mother passed recently. My only sadness is that my mother will never see me as Lilly Ledbetter. But she's with me in spirit."



Sam Pezzullo.
Photo by Jessica
Dalene Photography

The Premiere

Debuts At Hamptons International Film Festival

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

Sam Pezzullo and Miles Anthony Bouckoms' "The Premiere" is a largely improvised comedy that follows Sam, a painfully narcissistic and delusional theater producer who attempts to make a musical version of his favorite movie, "Scream."

The film debuts as part of the Hamptons International Film Festival's Views From Long Island Signature Program, focusing on local filmmakers and the area's unique landscape.

It's a journey we've followed since filming began. (James Lane Post even makes an appearance in the film.)

We spoke to Sam and Miles, both co-directors, writers, and producers, to learn more about the final product.

What inspired you to create "The Premiere"? Can you detail the process and how the idea grew into a whole concept?

MB: We were working with Paramount on a viral marketing campaign for the upcoming release of "Scream 5" back in 2021 when we came up with

the concept. They loved the idea but ultimately did not want to take a comedic approach to the campaign. In every other instance, when one of our pitches has not received funding, we simply move on to the next one. This one was different. We felt we had to see this through. We created a mock trailer for our mock film utilizing nothing but local resources and talent. Paramount loved it, and we released it online. That was supposed to be that. But then we saw how people responded. The response was so overwhelmingly enthusiastic from people all over the world, we started thinking, what if we actually made this into a movie? Three years later, our personal lives have been destroyed, and we are in complete financial ruin, but we have ourselves a movie.

In the film, you aim to create the musical version of your favorite movie, "Scream." How has the film "Scream" inspired you in real life?

SP: I remember seeing "Scream" when it first came out in 1996. I was 10 years old. Everything about it resonated with me. The murder mystery element. The campiness. The characters. I knew I

wanted to make movies like that. Movies that were both plot-driven and character-driven. I memorized the entire script and I would recite scenes. It made me appreciate the importance of sharp dialogue and inspired me to write my first screenplay. And while it was a slasher film, there were elements of comedy, and the characters were all inspired by my real-life friends. Soon after, I got my first video camera and started "making movies" with the people around me. I was the director, and I always cast myself in the lead role. I guess some things never change. It's been so rewarding to make this film, which reflects my love and appreciation of "Scream" while also creating a whole universe of original characters and using that as a vehicle to make people laugh.

Talk about the mockumentary format and how the film was created through improvisation.

SP: I've always been a fan of documentaries and reality TV and believe that truth is stranger than fiction. So, it was natural that my first film would embrace that approach to storytelling. Crafting something that was based in reality felt like the easiest and funniest way to tell this absurd and outrageous story. Easiest, because the mockumentary format made it achievable from a production standpoint. It allowed us to employ a smaller crew, simpler camera work, and less sophisticated production value. And funniest, because it forced us to create the scenes and the interactions around real people playing exaggerated, characterized versions of themselves.

Our goal was to make a funny film but without relying on traditional comedic devices. There's no slapstick. There was no script. No jokes, no punchlines. We relied purely on the awkward exchanges and

spontaneity that could result from mostly non-actors improvising dialogue with very little direction. While we had an intention behind each scene and certain plot points that we needed to communicate to drive the story forward, the dialogue itself had to be unrehearsed and conversational in order for us to maintain that documentary feeling and authenticity.

Could you tell us about the world premiere coming up at the Hamptons International Film Festival? We hear it sold out quickly!

MB: The film will be premiering October 10 at 8 PM at Guild Hall, and we will have a second screening on October 12 at 2:30 PM at Sag Harbor Cinema. We sold out both shows almost instantly. It was the fastest sell-out in the history of the Hamptons International Film Festival.

We are completely making that up and have no idea if it's true. But it's the rumor we are spreading. If you still want to get tickets, there will be scalpers out front of both venues.



Creative Team: Sam Pezzullo,
Miles Anthony Bouckoms
(Co-Directors/Writers/
Producers) & Michael Candelori
(Cinematographer). Photo by
Jessica Dalene Photography

You cast local East End actors and film at local establishments like Bay Street Theater. Can you talk a little about the process of filming at some of these beloved establishments and how the film became a love letter to Sag Harbor?

SP: This film would not have been possible without the overwhelming support we received from the local community in Sag Harbor. We knew we wanted to feature as many local businesses as possible in this film for a few reasons. For starters, since the film is so character-driven and dialogue-heavy, we wanted a wide variety of locations and environments to add visual diversity to the film and make it interesting and dynamic for a viewer to watch. It also allowed us to include so many real-world individuals and businesses that inhabit Sag Harbor, which not only expands the world we are trying to create but also blurs the line between what is fact and what is fiction, which is something we really wanted to achieve to support the mockumentary approach. Most importantly, using these environments for scenes really amplified the performances and gave us interesting things and people to engage with, which, from my point of view, led to some of the funniest moments in the film. As a result, the film sort of feels like it could be repurposed as a promotional video for the Sag Harbor Chamber of Commerce, but a damn funny one at that.

What were some of the obstacles you faced during the process?

MB: We did not have enough money. We did not have enough time. Crafty was a joke. The bagels were hard. There was never enough cream cheese.

What's next following the world premiere of "The Premiere"?

MB: Moving to New Zealand and starting a bulldog farm.

SP: I'm trying not to think much about what's next. Instead, I'm making a conscious effort to live in the moment and enjoy the experience of sharing the film with local audiences at the film festival. I hope it's well received. I'd like to be a one-hit wonder. And then do it again with a sequel.

James Lane[®]

POST

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the pages of our fall issue. As the weather turns colder, it's the perfect opportunity to cozy up on the couch with a good read. We hope the articles that line these pages provide just that.

The Hamptons International Film Festival is in full swing, and we have features on a few standout world premieres, including "Lilly," "The Premiere," and "A Man With Sole: The Impact of Kenneth Cole."

We are also thrilled to present the first James Lane Fest at Sound View Greenport, a weekend with programming that includes art, fashion, wellness, and dining. See the following pages for all of the wonderful details.

Jessica Mackin-Cipro
Editor-in-Chief,
James Lane Post



Jenny Cipoletti

Celebrates Launch Of Namesake Jewelry Collection

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry celebrated the launch of its highly anticipated inaugural collection. The exclusive end-of-summer event was held at the picturesque LDV at The Maidstone in East Hampton, where industry influencers and tastemakers gathered.

The event was enchanting, with the charming surroundings providing the perfect backdrop for guests to preview the new collection. Attendees were treated to an afternoon filled with elegance and sophistication as they mingled with Jenny Cipoletti, the visionary behind the brand. She is a celebrated figure in the fashion industry known for her timeless style, impeccable eye for detail, and now, her foray into the world of fine jewelry.

We spoke to Cipoletti to learn more.

Tell us about your namesake jewelry line and what inspired you to create it.

Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry was born from my deep love for timeless elegance and the meaningful role that jewelry plays in personal storytelling. I've always been captivated by the way a piece of jewelry can carry history, evoke emotions, and connect us to moments and people we cherish. Growing up, I was surrounded by the women in my family — my mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother — who all had incredible jewelry collections. Each piece they wore had a story behind it, and those stories inspired me to create pieces that reflect the beauty of nostalgia while still feeling modern and versatile. Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry is my way of offering women the opportunity to carry their own stories through carefully crafted pieces designed to become future heirlooms.

Can you discuss the launch celebration at The Maidstone

in East Hampton? What were a few of the highlights from the event?

The launch celebration at The Maidstone in East Hampton was a magical gathering of incredible women who came together to celebrate not just the launch of my collection but the stories and meaning behind each piece. The intimate setting of the garden provided the perfect backdrop for the afternoon, with summer cocktails and great conversations filling the air. One of the highlights was seeing so many women — friends, family, and industry icons — adorning themselves with pieces from the collection, truly bringing them to life. It was a moment that truly captured the essence of Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry: creating pieces that forge meaningful connections while embodying the timeless elegance that defines the brand.

Is there a piece in your collection that is most meaningful to you?

The Antoinette Necklace holds a particularly special place in my heart. It's designed to be the centerpiece of the collection, and I love that it will always be available as part of Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry. It's a piece that embodies the collection's versatility, as it can be worn on its own or layered with interchangeable pendants. I plan to introduce new pendants each season, allowing women to continue personalizing and evolving their style with this one piece. It's a nod to my love for timeless, multi-functional jewelry and the way it can evolve with the wearer over time.

Can you talk about how the pieces are meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and wonder?

The pieces in my collection are crafted



Photos by Xin Wang



to evoke a deep sense of nostalgia and wonder by blending timeless designs with modern sensibilities. I've always been inspired by how jewelry can transport us — whether it's a piece that belonged to a loved one or something that marks a meaningful moment. I wanted to create that same experience for others, using vintage and baroque influences that carry an inherent sense of history and romance. Every piece is designed to feel like it could be passed down, becoming part of a personal story that evolves over time. Whether worn as a simple accent for everyday elegance or as a statement piece for a special occasion, the goal is for each piece to evoke a sense of timelessness, allowing women to express their own histories while creating new ones.

What are a few of the lessons in fashion that were passed down from your mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother?

The most important lesson I've learned from the women in my family is that fashion should always be about making you feel good, not about impressing others. My grandmother, in particular, used to tell me, "You dress for yourself first." She believed that when you wear something that makes you feel confident and beautiful, it shines through in everything you do. It's never about following trends or dressing to meet someone else's expectations — it's about expressing who you are and feeling comfortable in your own skin.

That lesson has stuck with me and shapes the way I approach design. Fashion, to me, is a form of self-expression that should empower the person wearing it. Whether it's a simple piece you put on for every day or a bold statement for a special occasion, what matters most is how it makes you feel. Each piece I create is designed with that in mind — meant to be worn in a way that feels personal, comfortable, and true to who you are.

What does the perfect day visiting the East End look like to you?

A perfect day in the East End starts with a peaceful morning walk on the beach in Sagaponack, where the ocean's calm and beauty always spark creativity. From there, I love exploring the quaint streets of Sag Harbor, admiring the charming architecture, and gathering inspiration for my own home. A visit to Amber Waves Farm is always on the itinerary, where we pick up fresh produce for a cozy family dinner. For relaxation, a stop at the gardens at Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack is a must — the blend of art and nature is so inspiring. And, of course, no day is complete without a delicious meal — perhaps at Duryea's, where seafood towers and rosé at sunset are the perfect way to end a perfect day.

What are your upcoming plans for Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry? What can we expect this holiday season and heading into winter?

This holiday season, we have some really exciting plans for Jenny Cipoletti Jewelry. We'll be launching Chapter 2 of the collection in a special drop format starting on November 1. Each week, a new piece will be introduced, with a total of seven pieces in the collection. I love this approach because it creates anticipation and allows each piece to have its own special moment.

The pieces are inspired by the warmth and nostalgia of the season, featuring rich stones, materials, and intricate details like rope twist. I'm particularly excited about the new pendants we'll be introducing for the Antoinette Necklace, which has been one of our top sellers. These will allow even more customization and layering options for the holiday season.

How would you describe your aesthetic?

My aesthetic is rooted in romance and effortless sophistication. I'm deeply inspired by the past, drawing on vintage and things that feel nostalgic to me but always finding ways to weave them into a modern, elegant narrative. The result is jewelry that feels personal and timeless, blending the softness of femininity with a refined, sophisticated edge. Above all, my goal is to create pieces that resonate with memories, evoke emotions, and become cherished heirlooms worn and loved for years to come.



Courtesy photo

Who's The Boss?

It's Hank Azaria

By Bridget LeRoy

Say the name “Hank Azaria,” and some people might cock their heads and look at you quizzically, like when you say the word “cheese” in front of a dog.

But say “Chief Wiggum” or “Moe the bartender” or “Superintendent Chalmers” (all characters from “The Simpsons” voiced by Azaria) or mention the Guatemalan houseboy Agador Spartacus from “The Birdcage,” or Phoebe’s boyfriend David the Scientist Guy from “Friends,” or the alcoholic baseball announcer Jim Brockmire from the brilliant IFC series “Brockmire” and that cheese/dog look turns into a big smile and a nod.

“Oh yeah,” they say. “I love that guy!”

That’s Hank Azaria for you, even though he’s won eight Emmys and been in front of the camera — and the microphone — for nearly four decades.

And “that guy” has a new gig — he’s touring with a Bruce Springsteen tribute band he formed called Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band — and they kicked off their current tour at the Stephen Talkhouse in Amansett.

Azaria is not a stranger to live theater — he was the original Sir Lancelot the Homicidally Brave in the Broadway production of “Spamalot” — but this is different.

“It started as just a way to cheer myself up for my 60th birthday,” said Azaria when we spoke pre-show at the Talkhouse on August 23, “and then it grew from

there. And then I realized I had to tell everybody for my birthday, no gifts, but donate to the foundation if you want.”

The foundation in question is Azaria’s passion. “It’s called the Four Through Nine Foundation, and I started a few years ago. We give mostly to educational causes, recovery causes, and social justice. And then we raised like \$30,000 the night on my birthday and we sounded pretty good. And I loved it, so I was like, ‘Why don’t we keep doing this and raise money for charity?’”

When Azaria takes the stage as Springsteen, he steps inside a Bruce suit. His clothing, singing voice, movements, and even his face all seem to embody The Boss. Looking around the standing-room-only crowd in Amansett that night, it was clear that most of the fairly youngish crowd wanted to hear Springsteen songs delivered by a good rock group that sounded like Bruce and the E Street Band. And they got what they wanted.

Azaria and the EZ Street Band continue the tour in Philly on Halloween at the Brooklyn Bowl, with dates following on November 8 at the Brooklyn Bowl in New York and November 15 at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park, NJ — a pretty ballsy move for a Springsteen tribute band, setting up shop in The Boss’s backyard.

“Well, I know he’ll be in LA that weekend, so we’ll be safe,” said Azaria with a laugh.

He recounted the time he came face to face with Springsteen way before he

started to talk and sing like him.

“It was during ‘Spamalot,’” Azaria recalled. “He was really sweet. He came in, and he gave me his review of the show. He said,” — and here Azaria almost eerily becomes Springsteen — “Man, I loved that show. It started out just kind of silly and funny, then became this like celebration of comedy itself, you know. And then the music was kind of silly but it became this celebration of musicals. And then, by the end, I was really moved, man. Like, it was a celebration of life and love.”

“Now,” Azaria continued, “I heard that because I remembered it and just repeated it to you. But all that was going through my mind was, ‘Bruce is talking to me! Bruce is talking to me! Bruce is talking to me!’”

Azaria said that he got up the nerve to tell Bruce how he felt about him, about how his music was so important to him. “Especially when I was growing up. It encouraged me to be a creative person. I had some tough times in my teenage years when nobody else encouraged me. So, if not for you, I wouldn’t be standing here, backstage in this Shubert Theater, talking to you, really.”

Azaria paused. “That’s what I wanted to say, but it came out like this.” He starts panting and jumping up and down. “Bruce! Bruce! I love your music and I wouldn’t be here today and and and...”

“Bruce looked at me not unkindly, and he went, ‘Yeah, right. Thanks a lot, thanks a lot.’ Gave me a kind of fatherly pat on the shoulder, and within like 20 seconds, he was gone. And I don’t blame him. He walks the earth as a god. He doesn’t like that kind of fanboy energy. It embarrasses him.”

But that wasn’t the end of it.

“So, years later, I’m at Bruce’s Broadway show. It was amazing. At intermission, a guy comes up. ‘Hey, you want to come up and say hi to Bruce after the show?’ So, I’m with my wife Katie. I say to Kate, ‘Kate, I’m not going to blow it this time. I’m going to be calm, I’m going to be cool.’”

“So we go in down this receiving line and I’m holding Kate’s hand, I’m doing deep breathing exercises. And, it gets down to us, and before he can even say hello —” and here Azaria goes right back into extreme fanboy mode — “Bruce, Bruce! I love ‘Growin’ Up,’ I know all the lyrics to ‘Growin’ Up!’ My high school yearbook page! I swear to God! I swear to God!” And he looked at me as if to say, ‘Aren’t you the nut that f*cked this up the last time?’ I got the same fatherly shoulder pat, and he was gone.”

Azaria’s interest in forming Four Through Nine is due to his own journey through sobriety, which began 18 years ago or so, but also stemmed, in part, from the controversy over Azaria providing the voice of Apu on “The Simpsons,” which he has since publicly apologized for. “When that Apu controversy hit almost 10 years ago now, I got much more educated in social justice and awareness of institutionalized racism in America. I decided I wanted to give back, so I formalized it by forming a foundation. I call it Four Through Nine because that’s the steps in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Four is how you become accountable, and Nine is how you give back. Because it’s recovery-based, there’s a lot of health and wellness that we deal with, and education, that I’ve always been involved with, and social justice, because that’s lately what I’ve been focusing on.”

About his own road to recovery, Azaria offered this. “I was what they call a ‘high-bottom alcoholic.’ I was first in the Al-Anon program, which is friends and families and loved ones of alcoholics. And I think because I had so much experience in dealing with other people’s addiction issues, I came to recognize my own problem, kind of maybe earlier than others might have. And so I was able to pull out of it. The way it showed up for me was, ‘Well, do I want to wait a year or two until I’m really sure, and I have a DUI, or I get fired, or I have some kind of public meltdown, or whatever the horrible things that come along with using are? Or have I seen enough?’ And fortunately for me, I had felt like I had seen enough.”

Along with singing like Springsteen, Azaria offers up the same downhome

showtime patter that makes The Boss a hero to the Everyman. During the show, Azaria, adopting Springsteen’s cadence and voice, offered up this story of how he met his wife at a party.

“So, in walks this woman, and to say that it was love at first sight for me would be a tremendous understatement, right? As Buddy Holly once said, ‘When Cupid shot his dart, he shot it at my heart.’”

He was standing with Paul Rudd when she walked by. “So I start gesturing wildly to Paul. ‘Oh my God, look at her. I’m freaking out,’ and he starts gesturing back. ‘She’s cute, but get a hold of yourself, right now!’ Normally, when I’m that love-struck, I know better than to actually try to talk to the girl because I’m going to make an idiot out of myself.”

“But then I realized, ‘Wait a second. That’s Paul Rudd over there. He played Mike on ‘Friends,’ okay? I played David the Scientist Guy. I lost Phoebe to him. They kept sending me to Minsk. I couldn’t get with her. I was genuinely bummed about it. It’s like in a soap opera when they kill your character and don’t warn you. So I said to myself, ‘No way. No way, I’m not losing another cute blonde to Ant-Man over there. I mean, I’m Gargamel, God damn it. Smurf pride.’ Anyway, so I got up the nerve and I talked to the girl. She became my wife and the mother of my child.”

He gestured to his wife. And the Talkhouse crowd went wild. They didn’t care if it was Azaria, or Springsteen, or some lovechild of them both. They were hooked.

So, what’s in the works for Azaria these days? “I turn down a lot now, just because I have that luxury, thanks to my day job with ‘The Simpsons,’” he acknowledged. “Most things that come across my desk. I say, ‘Well, do I want to do this job that I’ve done some version of 10 times? Or would I like to keep raising money through this band and releasing this joy bomb in my life?’ And so far, the latter keeps winning out.”

For tour dates, visit ezstreetnyc.com. For more information about Azaria’s foundation, visit 4thru9.org.

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Alan Bull, "North Ferry Nocturne."



Kara Hoblin. Photo by Jess Paul



Chef Nathan Hitchcock. Courtesy photo



RGNY Wine. Courtesy photo



Ultimate Provence. Photo by YesMore Drinks Marketing

Palette To Palate Artist Dinner

Curated By Kara Hoblin Of North Fork Art Collective

The Palette to Palate dinner series is back, curated by Kara Hoblin of the North Fork Art Collective, following a long hiatus since the pandemic. The first one will kick off on Friday, October 18, as part of the James Lane Fest.

This inventive and educational multi-course pairing dinner features farm-to-table dishes inspired by the artworks in

one-to-one matchups created by Nathan Hitchcock, Executive Chef of The Halyard, with wine pairings by RGNY. This series allows the chef to create a dish based on the art, then the winemaker/vineyard/mixologist will be inspired by the dish and choose which wine/drink to pair with it. It's a continuous connection of inspiration and creativity.

The title of the art show is "The Essence

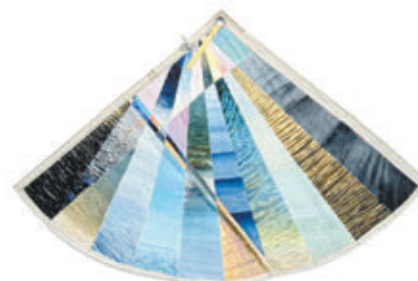
of Water," inspired by the water surrounding us from the Long Island Sound, the bay, and the ocean enveloping the East End on three sides.

"As inhabitants of this coastal haven, water is not just a physical presence but an integral essence woven into our very beings and the fabric of our planet. It symbolizes connectivity and unity with nature," said Hoblin. "This show delves into the diverse perspectives and interpretations of water that inspire us as artists residing and creating on the East End. From tranquil oil paintings to dynamic alternative process photography, the artwork showcased embodies a range of mediums and expressions, reflecting the profound influence of water on our lives and creative endeavors."

The show features a mix of original North Fork Art Collective members and new artists. All of these artists call the East End home or have spent a significant amount of time on the forks. Many of the artists have also participated in Sound View's Uncommon Artist residency program or have taught, partnered, or exhibited at the hotel. The Uncommon Artist residency and art programming aims to connect guests to the thriving local art community of the East End. Artists include Scott Bluedorn, Dalton Portella, Kerry Sharkey Miller, Alan Bull, Cindy Pease Roe, Carol Young, and Jeremy Garretson.

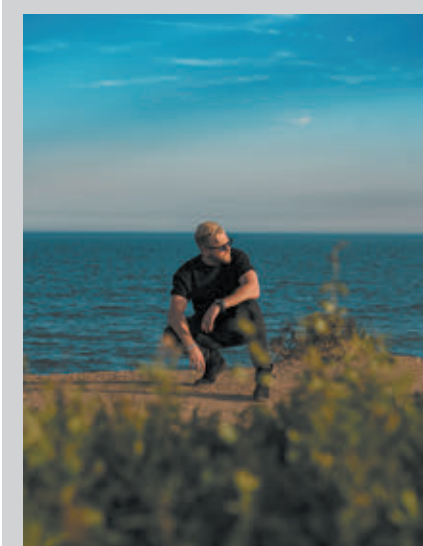
"Here, we strive to use as many local ingredients as possible. Doing this helped to cultivate many close relationships with our farmers," said Executive Chef Nathan Hitchcock. "We change our menu seasonally to ensure the freshest ingredients and to always have something new for our guests to try."

Cocktail hour starts at 5 PM. Enjoy a Simple Vodka espresso martini made with Aldo's Coffee, cocktails from Dillon's Small Batch Distillers, and rosé wine from Ultimate Provence. Dinner starts at 6 PM. Ursula XVII, the founder of Disset Chocolate, will create a special chocolate for the dinner. There will also be oysters from Oysterponds Shellfish Co. Tickets are \$200.



Scott Bluedorn, "Prismatic Skies."

Music By GR1FN



On Saturday, October 19, cocktail hour at James Lane Fest at Sound View Greenport will start at 5:30 PM with music from East End-based DJ and producer Bryan Griffin, also known as GR1FN. Guests can enjoy music from his debut album, "Chasing." Enjoy Simple Vodka cocktails, including a signature espresso martini made with Aldo's Coffee, and cocktails from Dillon's Small Batch Distillers.

GR1FN is the resident DJ at East Hampton's Si Si. This summer, he's also popped up at Ketchy Beach, Southampton Social Club, Common Ground East, and Gurney's Montauk.

"Chasing' to me is short for chasing sunsets, but it is really representative of whatever you pursue in life," said Griffin.

Meadowlark North Fork By Macari Vineyards Wine Dinner

Led By Gabriella Macari

Meadowlark North Fork by Macari Vineyards will host a wine dinner at The Halyard on Saturday, October 19, at 6 PM, led by Gabriella Macari, as part of James Lane Fest.

Gabriella has worked with her family at Macari Vineyards since its inception in 1995. As director of operations, she manages education, distribution, and

marketing and spearheads cellar and vineyard decisions and development. In 2021, Gabriella opened Meadowlark North Fork, a wine bar and private event space in Cutchogue.

Formally an account manager at a boutique PR firm in Brooklyn, she closely worked with Ribera del Duero, Rioja, Wines from Spain, and Moët Hennessy's Estates & Wine. Gabriella has also

spent time working in Champagne and Bordeaux, as an educator for Chateau d'Esclans, and continues to consult for wineries and regions across the globe.

Gabriella is a Certified Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers, holds the WSET Diploma, and completed the Wine Executive Program at the UC Davis Graduate School of Management. She currently sits on the all-volunteer board of Slow Food East End. Gabriella recently passed the rigorous Master of Wine exam, joining a group of just over 400 people worldwide who have earned the credential. She is currently working on a research paper to complete the qualification.

Menu items include Bibb lettuce with quinoa, feta, mint, avocado, and green goddess dressing; roasted striped bass with mushrooms, wild rice, and butter sauce; grilled strip steak with potato puree, seasonal vegetables, and beef jus; and cavatelli pasta with butternut squash, sage, and hazelnut created by Executive Chef Nathan Hitchcock, paired with Meadowlark North Fork's wines. For dessert, enjoy an assortment of chocolate cake, strawberry shortcake cups, and cookie bites. Cocktail hour canapes will include tuna poke tacos and chicken satay.

Tickets to this event are \$200. Cocktail hour with music by GR1FN starts at 6 PM, and dinner begins at 7 PM. Stay after dinner for Piano Bar karaoke.



Gabriella Macari. Photos by Connor Harrigan



Dennis Prescott. Photo by Al Douglas



Lidia Matticchio Bastianich. Photo by Amanda Raffele



Claudia Fleming. Photo by Johnny Miller



Palak Patel. Photo by Ksenia Pedersen

Cookbook Authors Lunch & Book Signing

Featuring Chefs Lidia Bastianich, Claudia Fleming, Palak Patel, & Dennis Prescott

Three-course cookbook authors lunch and book signing featuring renowned chefs Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, Claudia Fleming, Dennis Prescott, and Palak Patel will be held on Saturday, October 19, at 12:30 PM, at Sound View Greenport.

Lidia Bastianich is a television host, best-selling cookbook author, successful restaurateur, and the owner of a flourishing food and entertainment business. Her most recent book “Lidia’s From Our Family Table to Yours,” which was released in October 2023, is a companion to her new 26-part public television series, “Lidia’s Kitchen.” Lidia is a celebrated chef and restaurateur and a founder of Eataly. Among the numerous awards and accolades she has earned are seven James Beard Awards and two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Culinary Host.

In 2020, Dennis Prescott’s reach literally and figuratively went global with the hit original Netflix series “Restaurants on the Edge,” in which three food and design ex-

perts travel to failing restaurants around the world to transform and place them on the road to success. Next up for chef Dennis Prescott is his second book — “Cook With Confidence. Over 100 Inspiring Recipes To Cook & Eat Together” (HarperCollins).

Claudia Fleming is a pastry chef, restaurateur, and author. She has worked in New York restaurants such as Union Square Cafe, Montrachet, TriBeCa Grill, and Gramercy Tavern, and at Fauchon in Paris. Fleming and her husband, chef Gerry Hayden, opened The North Fork Table & Inn in Southold. Fleming has been named “Outstanding Pastry Chef” by the James Beard Foundation, and is the author of “The Last Course” and “Delectable.” She is currently the Culinary Director of Daily Provisions for Union Square Hospitality Group.

“Food Is Love: Plant-Based Indian-Inspired Recipes to Feel Joy and Connection” is the inaugural cookbook by Palak Patel, an acclaimed chef and Food Network champion. Chef Patel is the owner of Dash & Chutney restaurant and

two-time winner of Food Network’s famous shows “Chopped” and “Beat Bobby Flay.”

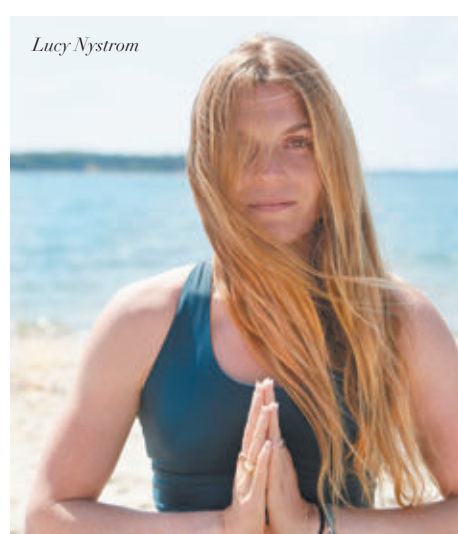
James Lane Post’s editor at large, Bridget LeRoy, will introduce the chefs during lunch. Following the lunch, guests will have the opportunity to purchase books supplied by Burton’s Books in Greenport and have them signed by the authors.

Menu items include Ira’s biodynamic green salad, a North Fork lobster roll with French fries, and swordfish tacos with cumin cabbage slaw, avocado crema, and salsa verde created by Executive Chef Nathan Hitchcock. Enjoy rosé wine from Ultimate Provence, cocktails from Dillon’s Small Batch Distillers, and Buena Vida coffee. Bedside Reading will provide gift bags. Tickets to lunch are \$175.

Following the lunch and signing, attendees are invited to explore the beauty of Sound View and capture perfect beach photos during a guided walk by content creator Kelly Alvarez Siry of @kellys_weekend_plans and enjoy a curator’s talk with Kara Hoblin of the North Fork Art Collective.



Meredith Shumway. Photo by Kristin Gray Photography



Lucy Nystrom



Katelyn Hissong



Erica Velasquez



Vanessa Steil. Photo by Diana Davis Creative

Elevate With Kate Pilates + Wellness Talk

James Lane Fest at Sound View Greenport will include wellness programming on the morning of Saturday, October 19. It will start with an “Elevate with Kate” Pilates class led by Katelyn Hissong, a wellness advocate and well-known content creator. The class will be followed by a wellness talk featuring Hissong, Lucy Nystrom of New Moon Health & Wellness, Meredith Shumway, the founder of The Formula X Meredith, and Erica Velasquez, the founder of Evolveast Yoga, moderated by wellness advocate and digital media entrepreneur Vanessa Steil.

For the past four years, Hissong has been

sharing the practices, people, and places that inspire her to live a healthy lifestyle. In 2023, she launched two passion projects: Elevate with Kate, a mental health app that transforms lives through a comprehensive well-being approach, and Love Over Fear, a collection of journals and mugs designed to cultivate gratitude, peace, joy, and love.

Meredith Shumway is a professional ballerina who studied under Ballet Master Maggie Black and later continued her training with The Kirov Academy of Ballet and the American Ballet Theater. She was born and raised in Southampton and has made a significant impact on the

fitness communities of the Hamptons and New York City. With over 16 years of experience training clients privately and in the group fitness industry, Meredith has created her high-intensity, full-body workout method called The Formula X Meredith. Her method emphasizes injury prevention and is driven by beats.

Erica Velasquez of Evolveast Yoga is a Yoga Alliance-certified yoga teacher based in the Hamptons. Her latest teacher training was at the International Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Center in the Bahamas. The title Yoga Siromani was awarded to Erica in January 2019 for training rendered and meritorious services rendered in the field of propagation of yoga. She aims to make yoga, health, strength, and happy living accessible to everyone. She also runs the Yoga in the Vines program at Wölffer Estate Vineyard, offers yoga classes at Main Beach in East Hampton, and reformer Pilates classes at New York Pilates in East Hampton, Bridgehampton, and Montauk.

Lucy Nystrom launched New Moon

Health & Wellness in 2022, a one-stop shop for all your health and wellness needs on the North Fork and Shelter Island. The mission is to create a resource for the community by supporting the practitioners and businesses in the community. Lucy is also a certified IIN Health Coach and Yoga Teacher. She teaches classes at venues and studios all over the North Fork and Shelter Island along with offering private yoga sessions as well.

Vanessa Steil is a digital media entrepreneur, thyroid cancer survivor, and former millennial caregiver. Following her 2013 diagnosis, she launched Living in Steil (pronounced “style”), a successful lifestyle blog, and developed a thriving community on Instagram. Her story has been featured in prominent media outlets and the book “Tough: Women Who Survived Cancer.” Vanessa is the founder and CEO of In Steil Creative, a boutique consulting agency where she leverages her expertise in social media, public relations, and content creation to help individuals and brands tell their stories, advance their missions, and engage meaningfully

with their audiences. In 2024, she was selected as a Caring Across Generations Care Fellow, furthering her commitment to improving the lives of caregivers by changing the way care is seen, valued, and supported in the United States. An avid equestrian, Vanessa can often be found at the barn, attending a workout class in the Hamptons, or taking her daily sanity stroll at her favorite beach.

Dr. Stephenie Pisacano, N.D., and Tulsi Naturopathics will be providing a refreshing post-workout hydration experience. Enjoy an assortment of adaptogenic alcohol alternatives and electrolyte sparkling beverages. To complement your wellness routine, biodegradable shower sheets infused with 100 percent natural aromas will be available, offering a quick and sustainable way to freshen up.

The event starts at 10 AM. There will also be coffee from Buena Vida. Tickets to this event are \$40. For guests staying at Sound View, Lucy Nystrom will also lead yoga classes on Saturday, October 19, and Sunday, October 20, at 8 AM.

James Lane Fest

Friday, October 18 - Sunday, October 20

A weekend of art, wellness, fashion, and dining with James Lane Post at Sound View Greenport



Lidia Bastianich



Palak Patel



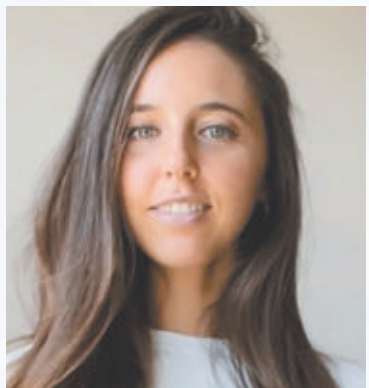
Dennis Prescott



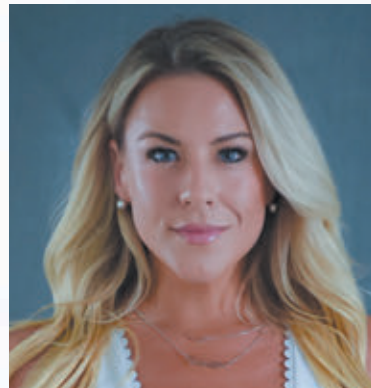
Claudia Fleming



Gabriella Macari



Katelyn Hissong



Meredith Shumway



GRIFN



Ursula XVII



Nathan Hitchcock



Erica Velasquez



Kara Hoblin



Kelly Alvarez Siry



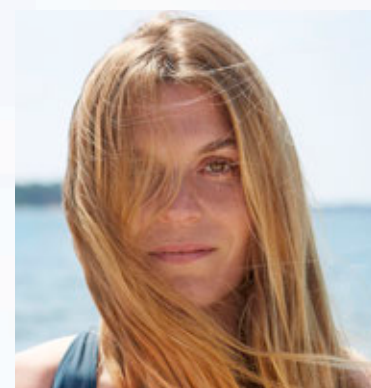
Vanessa Steil



Madison Fender



Bridget LeRoy



Lucy Nystrom



Dr. Stephenie Pisacano

Join us for a weekend that includes: Palette to Palate artist dinner & exhibit curated by Kara Hoblin of North Fork Art Collective • “Elevate with Kate” Pilates class by Katelyn Hissong • Wellness discussion featuring Katelyn Hissong, Lucy Nystrom, Erica Velasquez, Vanessa Steil, and Meredith Shumway • Lunch and book signing with chefs Lidia Bastianich, Palak Patel, Dennis Prescott, & Claudia Fleming, hosted by Bridget LeRoy • Meadowlark North Fork by Macari Vineyards wine dinner at The Halyard • Yoga with Lucy Nystrom of New Moon Health & Wellness • Beach walk guided by Kelly Alvarez Siry • Offsite seasonal wine tasting at Macari • Trunk show by Unsubscribed • Music by GRIFN

James Lane Fest

TICKETED EVENTS

Friday, October 18

6 pm: PALETTE TO PALATE ARTIST DINNER

Palette to Palate artist dinner, curated by Kara Hoblin of North Fork Art Collective. This multi-course pairing dinner features farm-to-table dishes inspired by the artworks in one-to-one matchups created by Chef Nathan Hitchcock, with wine pairings by RGNV.

Tickets: \$200

Saturday, October 19

10 am: PILATES + TALK

“Elevate with Kate” Pilates class by Katelyn Hissong followed by discussion featuring Hissong, Erica Velasquez, Lucy Nystrom, and Meredith Shumway, moderated by Vanessa Steil.

Tickets: \$40

12:30 pm: COOKBOOK AUTHORS LUNCH & SIGNING

3-course lunch & cookbook signing with chefs Lidia Bastianich, Dennis Prescott, Palak Patel, Claudia Fleming, hosted by James Lane Post Editor At Large Bridget LeRoy. Books can be purchased at the event from Burton’s Bookstore.

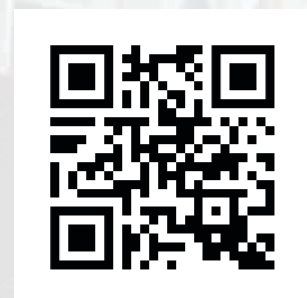
Tickets: \$175

7 PM: MEADOWLARK WINE DINNER

Meadowlark North Fork by Macari Vineyards 3-course wine dinner at The Halyard led by Gabriella Macari.

Tickets: \$200

To book & for more ticket options:



Claude's Restaurant

A New Look & Specials At The Southampton Inn



Known for its location and hospitality, the Southampton Inn offers a unique dining experience with Claude's Restaurant. Claude's Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, weekend brunch, and dinner and recently underwent renovations last spring to reinvent the space with a new, vibrant design.

Start your morning with smoked salmon scramble, brioche French toast, eggs Benedict, and avocado toast. Brunch highlights include the lobster roll, crispy fried calamari, or a pesto and garlic chicken panini. For dinner, try the roasted cauliflower bites or calamari fritti, followed by Claude's steak frites, the North Atlantic salmon, or the roasted Long Island duck.

Guests have the option to dine at Claude's cafe or outside in the courtyard, weather permitting, providing a lovely setting to enjoy a meal.

Weekly specials include Jazz Night, every Thursday, when musicians take the stage during dinner, and Claude's "Sunday Funday," which offers bottles of wine at a 50 percent discount.

Monday is pasta night. For \$25, you can enjoy garlic bread, a salad, and endless pasta. Plus, \$8 house wine and \$5 Stella Artois. Kids under 12 eat free. Friday is burger night. Get a smash burger and a beer or a glass of wine for \$18 while enjoying live music. The weekday three-course lunch special includes a soup or salad, entrée, and dessert for \$18.95.



FALL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



VISUAL ARTS
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OPERA
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LIVE IN HD



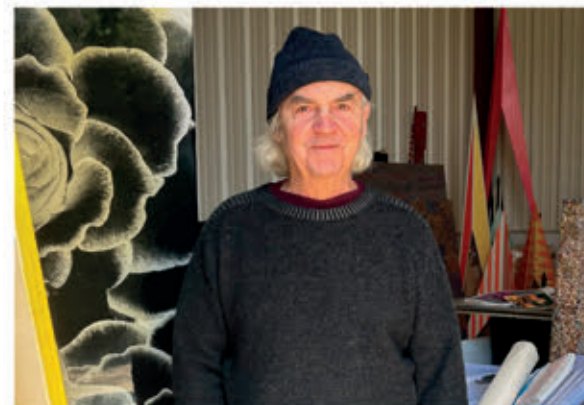
BOOK TALK
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2 PM
ARTIST TALK:
ROBERT MCCURDY



THEATER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 AND FRIDAYS,
NOVEMBER 15 & DECEMBER 20, 7 PM
NATIONAL
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COMMUNITY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7-10 PM
HALLOWEEN
SILENT DISCO
DANCE PARTY



TALK
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2 PM
ARTIST TALK:
PETER DAYTON



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Julian Schnabel: Selected Works from Home
Artwork: Julian Schnabel, 2004. Oil on canvas, 60 x 60 inches. Photo: Peter Dayton
The Met: Live in HD
The Met Opera House, New York City. Photo: The Metropolitan Opera House
Robert McCurdy
Book: The Book of David, Robert McCurdy, 2019. Photo: Robert McCurdy
Peter Dayton
Artwork: Peter Dayton, 2019. Photo: Peter Dayton

GUILDHALL

A Man With Sole

The Impact Of Kenneth Cole

By Jessica Mackin-Cipro

Kenneth Cole, the renowned footwear designer, has prioritized social causes over profits for 40 years. The documentary “A Man With Sole: The Impact of Kenneth Cole,” directed by Dori Berinstein, makes its world premiere at the Hamptons International Film Festival this year.

Throughout his career, Cole has pioneered corporate social action, advocating for causes such as HIV/AIDS, homelessness, LGBTQIA+ rights, and mental health. The film celebrates Cole’s legacy, featuring archival footage and interviews with fashion leaders and longtime collaborators. We spoke to both Cole and Berinstein to learn more.

How did the documentary “A Man With Sole: The Impact of Kenneth Cole” come about? How did you become connected to work on this project?

DB: I have been keenly aware of Kenneth’s commitment to “cause” for decades, but frankly, I had no idea of the magnitude of his impact. In 2017, I had the opportunity to observe Kenneth’s fierce and unflinching advocacy and impact firsthand when I partnered with Kenneth Cole Productions on “The Prom,” a Broadway musical I produced

celebrating LGBTQIA+ acceptance and tolerance. During our collaboration, I saw the depth of passion, the unstoppable commitment to social justice, and the hands-all-over engagement behind Kenneth’s advocacy.

During our collaboration, I became aware of Kenneth’s focus on mental health. He was determined to figure out how to use the blueprint from his epic work on HIV-AIDS over the past four decades to take on the stigma around mental health. It was then that I started to contemplate a documentary that would drive focus to his deeply impactful and little-known activism with the goal of inspiring others.

KC: I was approached by the filmmaker Dori Berinstein, who I had worked with previously when she produced the Broadway musical “The Prom.” I was a bit hesitant at first, but when she explained her vision of the film and how the intention was to spotlight my advocacy work, especially with the Mental Health Coalition, I thought it would be a great opportunity to tell an important story.

Is there a moment in the documentary that stands out most to you?

KC: I have not seen the film in its entirety yet, but the short clips that I have been



able to see are impressive (and I expected nothing less from Dori as the producer!).

DB: There are many... but I love when Kenneth attributes his great success in business and social impact to having “unrealistic expectations.” Whether it’s taking on HIV/AIDS or mental health, Kenneth sets extremely ambitious goals and doesn’t look up until solid impact is achieved. And then, of course, he dives right back in because there’s so much more to do... always.

Tell us about this decision to bring the film to the Hamptons International Film Festival and what you look forward to most at the festival.

KC: As a New Yorker, it’s exciting to have the film screen at this festival, and they

have created such a wonderful, supportive community there. I’m looking forward to seeing the film in a theater, and assuming I’m not lost for words, being able to speak to the audience afterward.

DB: HIFF is exceptional. The audience is deeply discerning and diverse. Its profound commitment to cutting-edge programming, intimate community engagement, and fierce social impact makes HIFF an ideal place to launch our film into the world. I can’t wait!

What do you hope viewers will take away from the film?

DB: Kenneth and the work of Kenneth Cole Productions is deeply inspiring. Their commitment to “cause” is profound, fierce, and authentic. In the film, Kenneth talks about the “gift” of having “purpose”

in your life. How it elevates everything. I so hope our film audiences will leave inspired... eager to find deeper “purpose” in their own lives.

KC: Since the beginning of my career, I have had this passion for social impact and a determination to make a difference. I want viewers to be inspired to spark social awareness and change in their own lives and to help others. I am also hopeful that audiences will want to learn more about the Mental Health Coalition and how to get involved. I am really proud of the amazing work that we are doing at MHC, and there are so many meaningful ways to engage with our resources and initiatives. Early in my career, I didn’t believe that philanthropy and business could co-exist. However, I have come to believe that they are mutually dependent and the proverbial hand that feeds each other.

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Verona Peñalba

Vibrant, Creative Art At VEME Studio

By Kelly Alvarez Siry

There's something truly special about the North Fork that continues to draw in artists from all corners of the world, and Verona Peñalba is a shining example. I've had the pleasure of meeting Verona, an incredible talent who co-owns VEME, a vibrant art studio in Greenport, with her partner Melissa Gabrielsen. From the moment we connected, I was captivated by her creative energy and warm spirit, which radiates through both her art and the incredible classes she offers at VEME. Verona's journey as an immigrant from Nicaragua to becoming an established artist here on the North Fork is as inspiring as the pieces she creates.

What makes Verona truly remarkable is not only her undeniable artistic talent but also her genuine passion for sharing that creativity with others. VEME is more than just a studio; it's a welcoming space where art, community, and culture come together. Whether you're attending one of their immersive workshops or simply admiring her work and the work of other local artists curated throughout the space, you can feel the love and thoughtfulness Verona puts into everything she touches. In this interview, I had the chance to sit down with her and discuss her artistic journey, the inspiration behind her work, and what life on the

North Fork means to her as both an artist and a business owner.

How would you describe yourself as an artist/creator?

Wow, that's a loaded question. I would start with being curious, excited about what something could become. I engage with that emotion and take the ride of the moment, being in flow as much as possible — flexible and transparent. That can translate into work with different materials, mediums, and methods but always creating and expanding. In a few words: a multimedia explorer.

Your artistic journey is deeply personal and unique — what has been the most transformative moment in your career so far, and how has it shaped the direction of your work today?

After the birth of my daughter, who is now 8 years old. During that first year, I felt myself disappear to be in full awe of her existence. I had to slowly rebuild who I am, and in that transformation, lots of things started to blossom, like my confidence to create abstract work, which is one of my favorite ways to express myself now.



How has your experience of moving to and living on the North Fork shaped your identity as an artist, and what unique perspectives do you feel it has given your work?

I do believe the setting and energy of a place deeply informs your work. I have previously lived in the Dominican Republic and my home country, Nicaragua, and my work was very colorful and vibrant there. Since living on the North Fork, my palette has been very blue, and there are many ways to interpret that, but mainly is my desire to live in peace, which I often find in the deep blue colors of the water that surrounds us.

You co-founded VEME Studios in Greenport, which has become a creative hub for local art lovers. Can you tell us more about the workshops you offer and the vision behind the space?

Yes! We offer workshops and the ability to come and use the studio freely with the ART BAR at any time. We are open to discover and practice different mediums like painting and pottery, to name a few. We want to share with everyone the joy and benefits of creating, reminding everyone that they do have a creative spark in them, even though they haven't done it since pre-school. And most importantly, an alternative way to share with friends and family, and create together. It is powerful.

You collaborate with fellow local artist Melissa Gabrielsen. How did your partnership come about, and how do you both inspire each other's work in the studio?

Melissa was one of the first friends I met when I moved here almost 10 years ago. When we both started offering workshops, we daydreamed of how cool it would be to have a mutual space to

offer our workshops and work. Now that we have VEME together, it is truly a partnership. We complement each other, and at this point, we are at the same brain wave where we think of ideas at the same time and are excited to keep developing new offers for the studio. It is truly really fun and I hope people feel it.

Greenport has such a vibrant, creative community. What do you love most about living and operating your business in this charming town?

I love how we have regulars who come and explore a different medium every time or people who come to a workshop and unlock something in themselves to keep creating. Being able to hear the creative journey of those who visit us is truly the most rewarding. Being a part of the bursting creative offering in Greenport and the North Fork is truly an honor.

How do the changing seasons on the North Fork, particularly the fall, inspire your creative process? Do you find yourself creating differently as the atmosphere and landscape shift?

One hundred percent, fall and spring are very productive for me. There are a lot of factors but I am able to work outside, get lost in a project, and put in action all the ideas. The light, and the air is so crisp. I am so excited for everything that I am doing this fall.

What upcoming workshops or events at VEME are you most excited about this fall, and how do you plan to celebrate the season with your art?

I am planning a very requested pour painting and resin class for November. This is a very involved class, so guests will have to come twice with a week difference. The first day, we will pour acrylic paint, which is one of the most satisfying ways

of moving paint but also a rollercoaster because you have very little control of the end result. In the second class, I will teach how to use resin to give a glass-like effect to the paintings. So much fun! And to be honest, every day in the studio is a celebration. If I'm not planning a new workshop, I will be starting a new painting or sharing stories with guests.

What role do you see art playing in bringing together the local North Fork community, and how does your studio contribute to that sense of connection?

Art, for me, is a way of expressing yourself. When we like and connect with a piece of art, music, theater, we are connecting with the creator as well. We might share the same perspective, feeling, or understanding. It makes both parties feel seen and connected beyond the surface. Our studio is a safe haven. There is no judgment, and we encourage people to express themselves freely. We see people creating friendships during workshops, ideas sparking, and celebrating each other.

Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of your studio, your collaboration with Melissa Gabrielsen, and the North Fork art scene in general?

The fall and winter are really a good time to ground ourselves and focus on our personal practice as well. So excited to see what comes out. For VEME, we are creating a lot of to-go kits for those who want to keep creating at home. Which is a great activity for the winter months. We are planning to release a second "Painting Vintage" book next spring, where we encourage you to use multimedia and color outside the lines of vintage photos. And we are also planting the seed of creating our own pieces of clothing for VEME. You are the first to know, shhhh! We are aiming to launch next summer.



Photos by Kelly Alvarez Siry



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Kiss & Tell

By Heather Buchanan

The Bridge VIII: When A Car Is So Much More Than A Car

As you walk along the fairways of The Bridge, a fantastic water-view golf course with a spoke-shaped modern clubhouse, you may hear the ghostly roar of engines and wheels speeding around curves. Invited guests treated to The Bridge VIII, presented by Richard Mille, had the opportunity to see a carefully curated display of cutting-edge, rare, and classic automobiles displayed on the greens, some of which actually raced on this property when the Bridgehampton track was a preeminent circuit in the '50s and '60s. As Paul Newman said on his first ride of the track with Mario Andretti, "I thought I'd have a better chance of surviving Custer's last stand than this." Luckily at the event the biggest danger was to women with stiletto heels who didn't get the flats memo.

Mostly on this beautiful day, among a sophisticated crowd with music playing and champagne flowing, there was a sense of automotive reverence, of past, present, and future playing out where a car is so much more than a car.

Around the Hamptons, I too often see what looks to me like silver Lego trucks that seem to be a boyhood fantasy. But hey, I have to admit that if I could find me a tricked-out Barbie Camper I could drive to a witch's circle in the woods, I probably wouldn't say no. (It is a reminder the same

way when I object to the smell of cigars to think of all the men who have been subjected to Opium perfume in elevators over the ages.)

At this haute event for men and women enthusiasts, it is rarified air for the four-wheeled specimens, and those in the know appreciate the provenance. One of the great features of this afternoon soiree is that the enthusiasts are willing to share knowledge. My neophyte shows when I ask how does it drive in the snow.

I was drawn to the KARMA Kaveya Electric Souper Coupe made in California, not only for its long range and #CantYouSeeMyTiara red carpet arrival potential but its literal wings which come up depending on the speed you travel. Like a fine Hermès saddle, each of the limited editions is numbered.

For the "car-nnoisseurs," straight from Italy is the newly designed Eccentrica. Think Lamborghini Diablo meets La Dolce Vita, and you have a sexy homage where a classic design past meets modern comfort and drive. Instead of folding yourself into the chassis, the driver's side can be customized to his or her height for ease of entrance and exit. The name in Italian means both non-linear and sparkling, and such is the probable owner who is lucky enough to get one of the sleek 19, V12 editions. As one handsome



gentleman explained of the refinement, "As Italians, it is in our DNA of design. When your ancestors are Michelangelo and Da Vinci, how can you make a mistake?"

My own past came up as I swooned over the Revology Cars navy blue '60s-style Mustang convertible with cream interiors. I explained that this was exactly the car I dreamed of instead of the Kelly green,

therapy-inducing Pinto (a lesser horse) I was forced to drive. It was actually someone who worked at Ford Motor Companies, Founder Tom Scarpello, who came up with the idea of bringing to life the classic model with cutting-edge engineering. "Restomod" is where older designs are being given new life and hardware. (This is now my new self-description.) You can custom-create your interiors and wheels in an order which

takes about six months. I am convinced this car will make me a better person, one of whom Nancy Drew would be proud.

While it is ultimately metal, rubber, and pistons, it is often not the car but the life that comes with the car that fulfills the dream. The Bridge event is literally the field of dreams connecting our past, present, and future. Gentlemen, start your engines.

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