

City Highlights for the week of May 22 – 26, 2004

Theatre Highlights (excerpts from theatres' show descriptions)

Arena Stage – 1101 6th Street, SW, 202/488-3300

Senor Discretion Himself – In a sleepy Mexican hamlet, life is listless and routine. But when a colorful stranger arrives, things take an improbably miraculous and delightful turn – and nothing will ever be the same in this little town.; Ticket prices range from \$47 - \$61.

Orpheus Descending – Tennessee Williams' language illuminates the tempestuous story of Lady, a passionate but forgotten woman longing for a rebirth.; Ticket prices range from \$40 - \$59.

Ford's Theatre – 511 10th Street, NW, 202/347-4833

Children of Eden – *In the beginning...*" and so begins *Children of Eden*, an exuberant musical about family relationships. From Adam and Eve to Noah and the Ark, this show will have the entire family dancing in the aisles.; Ticket prices range from \$29 - \$45.

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – 2700 F Street, NW, 202/467-4600

Shear Madness – The audience plays detective in this long-running whodunit comedy. Ticket prices range from \$34 - \$45.

Tennessee Williams Explored: A Streetcar Named Desire – Set against the steamy backdrop of New Orleans' gritty French Quarter, Tennessee Williams's 1947 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama tells the story of Blanche Dubois, a faded Southern belle driven to madness by her animalistic brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski.; Ticket prices range from \$25 - \$75.

NOTE: Half price, day-of show tickets are sold at the TICKETplace, located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (at 12th Street), Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 6pm.

Museum Highlights

Smithsonian

Freer Gallery (Jefferson Dr. and 12th Street, SW) – Perspectives: Do-Ho Suh: “My works start from a reflection of space, especially personal space. The space I’m interested in is not only a physical one, but an intangible, metaphorical and psychological one.”; Whistler in Paris: Lithographs from the Belle Epoch: The Paris lithographs function as a kind of family album—documenting the Whistlers’ friends and family and the daily pleasures of their contented life together.

National Museum of Natural History (14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW) – The Beatles! Backstage and Behind the Scenes: features more than 80 never-before-published black-and-white photographs of the “Fab Four” that chronicle their 1964 appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in New York and Miami and the band’s train journey from New York to Washington, DC. Photographs from CBS Archives and archives of photographer Bill Eppridge.; Separate is Not Equal: Brown v. Board of Education will mark the 50-year anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision that helped to end segregation in public schools, and marked a turning point in the history of race relations in the United States.

Renwick Gallery of the American Art Museum (17th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., NW) – Right at Home: American Studio Furniture: Drawn from the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s collection of studio furniture, this exhibition highlights works that are for the most part functional, although in some cases the idea of utility is stretched considerably. These custom-designed pieces range in conception and style from the elegant furniture of Sam Maloof to the bold, garishly colorful works of Richard Ford, who is influenced by cartoons.

National Gallery of Art/East Building (Constitution Ave., NW between 3rd & 4th Streets) – Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya: the first exhibition ever devoted to this subject in the United States, will demonstrate the visual magnificence of ancient Maya art with over 130 masterworks drawn from the some 30 public and private lenders. The exhibition will present stone sculptures, ceramics, masks, and other precious works commissioned by ancient Maya kings and queens.

City Museum (801 K Street, NW – across the street from the Renaissance Hotel) – The never-ending story of Washington starts here! The only museum dedicated to telling the stories of the capitol city.

Woodrow Wilson House Museum (2340 S Street, NW) – Washington, DC’s only presidential museum. The former home of President Woodrow Wilson and Edith Wilson following their White House years features original furnishings, presidential memorabilia and changing special exhibits. Admission: Adults \$5.

International Spy Museum (800 F Street, NW) – The first U.S. museum solely dedicated to the craft, practice and history of espionage displays items like the WWII German cipher machine Enigma, a Soviet shoe transmitter and an East German camera capable of photographing through walls. Tickets are \$13. Tickets can be ordered in advance for timed entry. Expect lines on weekends.

Monuments (located throughout the National Mall) – Including Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Washington Monument, etc.

Tour Options

Gray Line Tours - Variety of tours of Washington, DC and surrounding areas. Tours vary in length and price. Pickups available at the Renaissance Hotel. Contact the Renaissance concierge for assistance in booking a tour.

DC Ducks – Climb aboard an authentically fully restored WWII amphibious vessel for a whole new sightseeing adventure. From Union Station through DC, enjoy a fully narrated 90-minute land and water tour. Tickets \$28. Contact the Renaissance concierge for more information on these tours.

Old Town Trolley Tours – Narrated two-hour tours of D.C. entertain with historical facts and anecdotes. Passengers can get off and re-board at any of 19 stops (can board at the Grand Hyatt which is 2 blocks from the Renaissance). Tours run 9am – 4:30pm. Tickets \$26. Contact the Renaissance concierge for assistance in booking a tour.

Shopping Areas

Georgetown – oldest section of Washington, DC, founded in 1751. Shops, restaurants, antiques and crafts. Historic homes which can be visited include Taylor Place and Dumbarten Oaks.

Dupont Circle – eclectic area of shopping, restaurants and galleries. Historic homes include the Phillips Collection and the Woodrow Wilson House.

Union Station – (located at 50 Massachusetts Ave., NE) shopping promenade and restaurants housed in Washington, DC's historic (and still in use) train station.

AMSA Spouse & Guest Lounge

The Spouse & Guest Lounge will be located in the Renaissance Washington DC (AMSA's Conference hotel) and will be open from 8:00 am – 10:00 am on Sunday, May 23rd – Tuesday, May 25th. Come enjoy a continental breakfast, meet other AMSA spouses and guests, and make plans to enjoy all that the nation's capitol has to offer!!