

Rock had his own youthful brushes with the law and is a big booster of the program, but this documentary injects notes of skepticism in with the uplifting personal stories. M.Z.S.

POP

8. See Let's Eat Grandma

Strange art-pop prodigies.

Rough Trade, March 23.

Precocious British teenage multi-instrumentalists Jenny Hollingworth and Rosa Walton are childhood friends who have already released a genre-bending debut album stuffed with everything from eerie music-box lullabies to self-aware saxophone solos. See them now so one day you can say you saw them when.

CLASSICAL

9. Hear Tan Dun

Iridescent panels of percussion.

Metropolitan Museum, March 31.

The composer has spent much of his career stirring together the Chinese and Western halves of his life into grand sonic pictures full of whispers. Here, he conducts the Juilliard Orchestra in his *Symphony of Colors: Terracotta*, performed on the ceramic drums he had built especially for the piece.

JUSTIN DAVIDSON

BOOKS

10. Read The Idiot

Expanding Elif Batuman's fan circle.

Penguin Press.

Anyone who's relished Batuman's essays—so witty, humane, and passionate about literature—will fall for her first novel, a coming-of-age story with an unusually high IQ. Her heroine/stand-in, Selin, is a Turkish-American Harvard freshman corresponding with a math-major Hungarian crush and traveling in search of her future life. B.K.

MOVIES

11. See Terence Davies

Under the influence.

Metrograph, March 29.

In anticipation of the April 14 opening of *A Quiet Passion*, Terence Davies's film about Emily Dickinson, the much-loved British director will appear to present two films: *The Long Day Closes*, his sublime 1992 portrait of a lonely boy who haunts the cinema, and the Debbie Reynolds romance *Tammy and the Bachelor*. D.E.

THEATER

12. & 13. See Gently Down the Stream and Daniel's Husband

Unequal affections.

Public Theater, through May 14; Cherry Lane Theatre, through April 28.

An older gay man who expects little from romance meets a younger gay man who expects everything. That's the knotty setup of *Gently Down the Stream*, by Martin Sherman (*Bent*), starring Harvey Fierstein and Gabriel Ebert. In *Daniel's Husband*, by Michael McKeever, another gay couple has only marriage to argue about—until tragedy intervenes. JESSE GREEN

THE 60-SECOND BOOK EXCERPT

'The Gargoyle Hunters'

By John Freeman Gill (Knopf)



"You can choose your husband, which I suppose means you can unchoose him. But you can't choose your dad. Whether you like it or not, whether you like him or not, you are fused together. Like that time when I was four and dozing on his shoulder at daybreak as he carried me through the majestic ruins of New York's old Penn Station, the felled granite column strewn like giant pick-up sticks across the marshy junkyard of New Jersey's Meadowlands. I was part of him, my small body lifting and subsiding with his every breath."

CLASSICAL

14. Hear St. John Passion

From quiet terror to explosions of glory.

German Lutheran Church of St. Paul, March 23 and 25. New York's stalwart early-music cohorts Tenet and the Sebastians perform Bach's intimate, harrowing chronicle of Christ's last days. Like the later St. Matthew Passion, the St. John version sweeps across an emotional panorama. J.D.

POP

15. See Weyes Blood

Operatic future-folk.

Music Hall of Williamsburg, March 30.

Natalie Mering's beautiful *Front Row Seat to Earth* is a grand, folky rumination on love, technology, and the tragedy of watching life go by on a retina display. Here's a chance to experience the singer outside the land of ones and zeros.

BOOKS

16. Read Conviction

A murder mystery for our tumultuous times.

Minotaur Books, March 28.

Julia Dahl has written two previous crime novels starring the intrepid (and feisty) reporter Rebekah Roberts, but with *Conviction* she goes broader and deeper, exploring a thorny unsolved crime that stretches back to the early '90s, post-riot world of Crown Heights. Dahl writes deftly about race, religion, and politics in NYC, both then and now.

ART

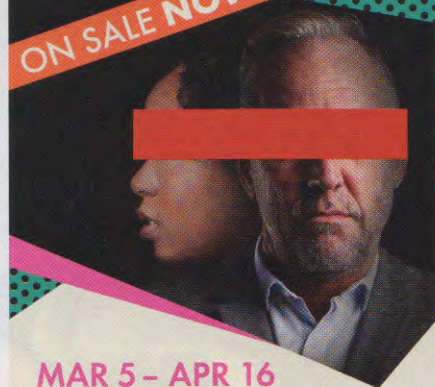
17. See Leonhard Hurlzmeier: All New Women

The depth of shape.

Rachel Uffner, 170 Suffolk Street, through April 23.

For his first New York solo show, 34-year-old German painter Leonhard Hurlzmeier gives us a master class in simple shapes taking on erotic and pictorial depth. Almost all his subjects appear to be women. Whether they're riding a bike or waving a flag, the women exude psychological inner light. J.S.

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