

"It's All In the Timing"

By **Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros** - 10/21/2022



"Mere Mortals" (L-R): Bill Butts, Talon Warburton Patrick Warburton

[[NoHo Arts District, CA](#)] – A NoHo Arts [theatre review](#) of "It's All in the Timing," written by David Ives, directed by Michael Yavnieli, produced by Western Warburton in association with MY | Acting Studios at The Zephyr Theatre running through November 20.

The brilliant David Ives's truly iconic "It's All in the Timing" has been one of the most widely produced comedic plays...ever, apart from everything by Shakespeare of course, and maybe "Cats," which isn't exactly a comedy, but is, in its own way, very very funny.



"Sure Thing" – (L – R): Taylor Behrens and Meadow Clare

There is an excellent reason why everything David Ives has ever written is so incredibly good. This new production of his much halo'd sextet of short plays is a perfect example of why, in point of fact. It really is all about the timing, the words, the precision, the tonality of the extraordinary silky satire, and the glorious ebb and flow of the incessantly clever and poignant comedy. All of this and much much more make this play a joy to watch and, given by the sublime salubriousness of these fine fine actors, I imagine a deep joy to perform.

Let's be clear, these really are short and beautifully written plays. Not sketches. In the very few minutes of their existence, they cover an ingeniously wide range of subjects. A couple meeting by chance in a coffee house and every time they converse and get it 'wrong' a bell goes off and they get a do-over. This all culminates in perfection, love and the beginning of the rest of their lives together. How easy it would be for us all if we all did exactly the right thing with another person. We could be perfect for anyone? The other plays are equally brilliant. Monkeys trying to write "Hamlet," high rise construction workers comparing previous life existences, a sad woman with a stutter learning an alternate language from a man who is making it up as he goes along, a man grasping the notion of bad luck being not a state of mind, but an infectious anomalous pocket of reality called "Philadelphia." What really happened when Trotsky's head was impaled on an axe in the hours before he died?

"Words, Words, Words" – (L-R): Melodie Shih, Maram Kamal and Meadow Clare

All of these astonishingly brilliant plays could fall flat, as brilliant as they are, without the talents of a group of fearless actors. This particular group of actors is utterly perfect. Clever, emotional, brave and very very funny.

"The Universal Language" – (L-R): Mark Haan and Tania Gonzalez (Photo by Maram Kamal)

They give the words room to do their exquisite work, and yet they still manage to inject their own unique perspective on each and every character. They are flawless, to a person. An especially lovely treat to have Patrick Warburton acting with his hilarious son Talon. But all these wonderful actors are truly equals. They clearly love the material, and who couldn't?



David Ives is a genius, although a modest one. All his work focuses on language and wordplay, existentialist perspectives on life and meaning...but with jokes...lots of jokes.

"The Philadelphia" – (L-R): Melodie Shih, Patrick Warburton and Talon Warburton

This collection of plays feels a bit like standing in a subway car with strangers and turning your head to listen in on all their disparate worlds. With every story, however extreme, we are all unified somehow with the ridiculousness of our universe and our intrinsic connections to each other no matter what. It's a revelation of relief to know, now more than ever, just how much we are all the same. Seeking love, yearning for peace and meaning and safety and laughs.

Having the opportunity to see "All in the Timing" with such stellar actors as these is a real treat and one I implore you not to miss. It's running till November 20, but as you know, time is fickle and it will evaporate between now and then...so get your tickets now and bath in the glory of this existential, enigmatic and timeless comedy. It soothed my soul!



"Variations on the Death of Trotsky" – (L-R): Maram Kamal, Mark Haan and Talon Warburton

CAST

Featuring a stellar cast, including Patrick Warburton ("Puddy" on Seinfeld), Taylor Behrens, Bill Butts, Meadow Clare, Tania Gonzalez, Mark Haan, Maram Kamal, Melodie Shih, and Talon Warburton.

Taylor Behrens (*Sure Thing*)

Bill Butts (*Mere Mortals*)

Meadow Clare (*Sure Thing* and *Words Words Words*)

Tania Gonzalez (*The Universal Language*)

Mark Haan (*The Universal Language* and *Variations On The Death Of Trotsky*)

Maram Kamal (*Word Words Words* and *Variations On The Death Of Trotsky*)

Melodie Shih (*Words Words Words* and *The Philadelphia*)

Patrick Warburton (*The Philadelphia* and *Mere Mortals*)

Talon Warburton (*The Philadelphia* and *Mere Mortals*)

PRODUCTION TEAM

Written by David Ives

Directed by Michael Yavnieli

Produced by Western Warburton in association with MY | Acting Studios

Produced by Patrick Warburton, Tania Gonzalez, and Michael Yavnieli

Production Design, Lighting and Technical Design by Nick Foran

Production Stage Managing by Angelica Diaz Estavez

Publicity by SANDRA KUKER PR

When:

Running through November 20

Where:

[Zephyr On Melrose](#)

7456 Melrose Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90046

Tickets:

https://www.onstage411.com/newsite/show/play_info.asp?show_id=6243

Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4303729/?ref_=nv_sr_srsq_0

Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros is a writer and Filmmaker living in Los Angeles.



All in the Timing Review – Words Are Funny Things



Taylor Behrens and Meadow Clare in "Sure Thing" from ALL IN THE TIMING - Photo by Chris Devlin

The latest production at the Zephyr Theatre is clearly an homage to playwright/screenwriter/ novelist David Ives, best known for his comic one-act plays. In 1997, the New York Times deemed him "the maestro of the short form." Ives' short plays focus on language, wordplay, and an absurdist existential look at meaning in life, especially as it relates to romantic relationships. Ives' most famous comic foray into theater is ALL IN THE TIMING, six one act plays – a piece which became the most performed play in the country in 1995-1996 after Shakespeare's plays. ALL IN THE TIMING premiered in 1993 and was described at the time as "pure entertainment," winning the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award for Playwriting.

"Sure Thing" tells the tale of Bill (Taylor Behrens) and Betty (Meadow Clare) who meet for the first time in a café. A bell rings every time either one says the wrong thing – until finally they get it right and fall in love.



Mark Haan and Tania Gonzalez in “The Universal Language” from ALL IN THE TIMING – Photo by Maram Kamal

“The Universal Language” follows Dawn (Tania Gonzalez), who falls prey to a fraudulent language learning course specializing in Unamunda, a universal language closely resembling nonsense, until Don (Mark Haan), the founder of Unamunda, confesses as they fall in love. A Man (Bill Butts) hovers about.



Melodie Shih, Maram Kamal, and Meadow Clare in “Words Words Words” from ALL IN THE TIMING – Photo by Chris Devlin

“Words Words Words” is about the traditional three chimps who are tasked with writing “Hamlet;” but they persist in pointless banter, or do they? The production features Milton (Melodie Shih), Swift (Meadow Clare), and Kafka (Maram Kamal).



Melodie Shih, Patrick Warburton, and Talon Warburton in “The Philadelphia” from ALL IN THE TIMING – Photo by Chris Devlin

In “The Philadelphia,” Al (Patrick Warburton) enters a restaurant – only to find that he must ask for the opposite of what he wants if he hopes to have dinner. The play also features Mark (Talon Warburton) and the Waitress (Melodie Shih).



Bill Butts, Talon Warburton, and Patrick Warburton in "Mere Mortals" from ALL IN THE TIMING – Photo by Chris Devlin

"Mere Mortals" recounts the story of three construction workers, Joe (Bill Butts), Frank (Talon Warburton), and Charlie (Patrick Warburton), who share their alter egos. One is the Lindbergh baby. One is the son of Czar Nicholas of Russia. One is the reincarnated Marie Antoinette.



Maram Kamal, Mark Haan, and Talon Warburton in “Variations on the Death of Trotsky” from ALL IN THE TIMING – Photo by Chris Devlin

“Variations on the Death of Trotsky” finds Trotsky (Talon Warburton) dying over and over again – with a mountain climber’s axe protruding from his skull. When he locates the assassin Ramon (Mark Haan), masquerading as a gardener, things become very philosophical. Trotsky’s wife is played by Maram Kamal.

ALL IN THE TIMING is an interesting example of David Ives’ short and precise comic writing style. It is in the absurdist quality of the tales that his humor lies as he weaves the idiosyncratic use of language into the lives of his characters. Skillfully directed by Michael Yavnieli, ALL IN THE TIMING is just about perfect for today’s attention-challenged audience accustomed to quick comic bites between TV commercials. It is also a fascinating bit of theater history which will appeal to theater buffs. The nine actors in the six plays do a creditable job of demonstrating the strength of Ives’ “short and sweet” approach to theater comedy. The entire show lasts 86 minutes. Audiences Alert: Ives’ humor is subtle and sometimes even obscure. The existential nature of his situations may be an acquired taste – but a taste worth developing.

ALL IN THE TIMING runs through November 20, 2022, with performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 3 p.m. on Sundays. The Zephyr Theatre is located at 7456 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046. Tickets are \$35. For information and reservations, go [online](#).

Author



Elaine Mura

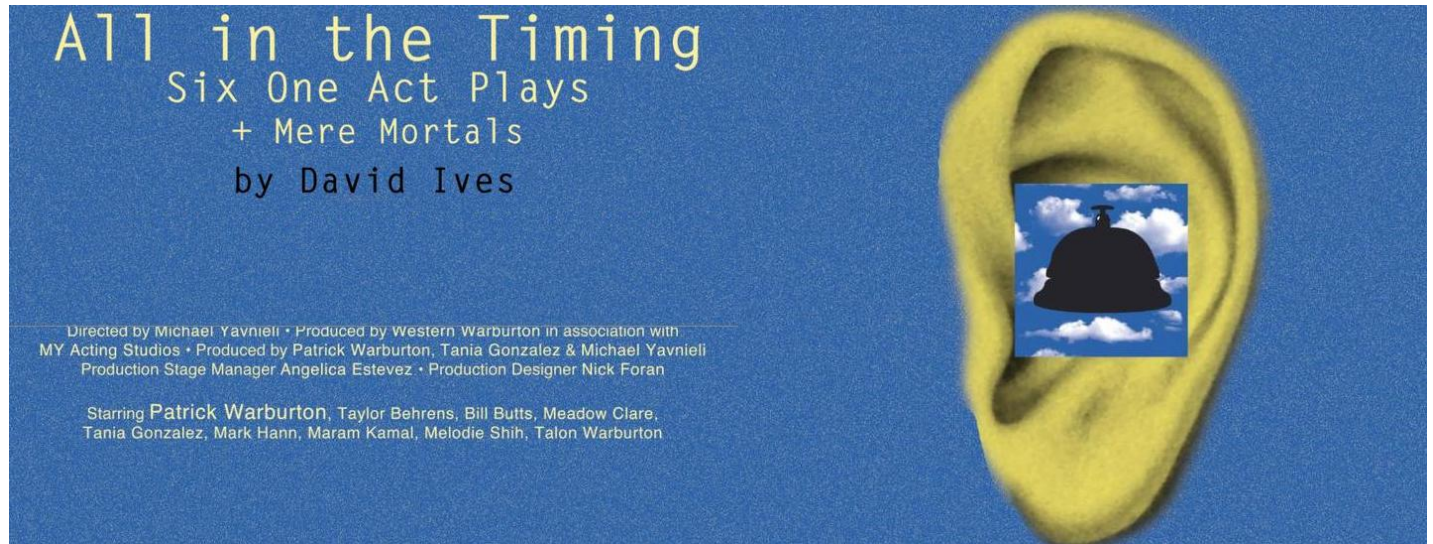
[View all posts](#)



LARCHMONT VILLAGE LOCAL NEWS. ONLINE. EVERY DAY. LARCHMONT, NY

Theater Review: All in the Timing

By **Laura Foti Cohen** October 31, 2022



Having a successful career in Hollywood is in large part about timing and being in the right place at the right time. Students at **MY Acting Studios** are getting a little bit of both at the Zephyr Theatre in a production of *All in the Timing: Six One-Act Plays*. Patrick Warburton (*Seinfeld*'s Puddy) executive produced and performs in two of the pieces with his son Talon.

All six short plays were written by David Ives, acclaimed as a master of the one-act. And indeed, Ives' wordplay and time-shifting gives the young cast lots to work with. Michael Yavnieli, who heads MY Acting Studios, directs.

In the first piece, "Sure Thing," Betty (Meadow Clare) and Bill (Taylor Behrens) show their agility with difficult material. The two appealing and attractive (assumed) singles meet in a bar and run through multiple iterations of a conversation that may or may not end well. It's clever and compelling.

Next up is "Mere Mortals," in which construction workers Joe (Behrens), Frank (Talon Warburton) and Charlie (Patrick Warburton) take a lunch break on the 50th floor of a Manhattan building they're working on. Charlie, not the brightest but the most entertaining, says he feels sorry for the "more mortals" who have to eat their lunches at street level. The talk spins out of control as Charlie reveals he is, in fact the Lindbergh baby.

"Words, Words, Words" takes literally the **infinite monkey theorem** that postulates if monkeys type long enough, they could come up with Hamlet. Milton (Melodie Shih), Swift (Clare) and Kafka (Maram Kamal) employ stellar physical comedy in their portrayals of monkeys typing.

Dawn (Tania Gonzalez, wife of Michael Yavnieli) and Don Finninneganegan (Mark Haan) stun in “The Universal Language,” in which they spew lengthy and hilarious word salads. Don claims to be teaching a language called [Unamunda](#) and Dawn goes all in.

Talon and Patrick Warburton return in “The Philadelphia,” where it’s opposite day and impossible to get what you want from the waitress (Shih) unless you don’t ask for it. The wordplay is again excellent and the father and son play off each other well.

In “Variations on the Death of Trotsky,” Trotsky (Talon Warburton, gamely wearing a pickaxe in the neck), interacts with Kamal and Haan in multiple scenarios, oddly separated by vintage TV show themes.

All in all, it’s an engaging evening with up-and-comers who give their all.

All in the Timing runs through Nov. 20 at the Zephyr Theatre, 7456 Melrose Ave. on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm, Sundays at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$35 and are available [here](#).

 **Print**  **PDF**  **Email**



IT'S NOT ABOUT ME.tv

(But it really is!)

HOME

ABOUT

ARTS ▾

FOOD ▾

GIFTS ▾

GOSSIP/CELEBS ▾

HOLIDAY/SPECIAL DAY ▾

KAREN'S THOUGHTS ▾

LIFESTYLE ▾

OUT & ABOUT ▾

SPORTS ▾

TELEVISION ▾

TRAVEL ▾

TRIBUTE ▾

WHATEVERS ▾

YOU ARE AT: Home » THEATRE » THEATRE: ALL IN THE TIMING



THEATRE: ALL IN THE TIMING

0

BY KAREN SALKIN ON OCTOBER 21, 2022 ·

THEATRE

ALL IN THE TIMING

My friend, Laura, and I recently saw *All In the Timing*, a program of six one-act plays. That's the show's *official* billing, but it's actually *scenes* of around ten minutes each. And the half dozen of them are done in just ninety minutes, which is always a good thing.

As you may have noticed, I haven't accepted invitations to shows in smaller theaters since the pandemic began over two and a half years ago, because unlike many other people who seem to think life is normal again, I know that Covid-19 is still around, and I don't want to be in confined spaces with strangers. So why did I accept this one, you may ask? Because a couple of the vignettes star the hilarious-on-television Patrick Warburton. Mr. X and I were big fans of his late sitcom, *Rules of Engagement*, and Laura and I had recently met him at a pre-Emmys luncheon. (He was there with his son, who joins him in this presentation. More on junior later.) So seeing him work in person was of particular interest to us.

Search ...

Search

RECENT POSTS

HOLIDAY: HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH 2025

GIFTING SUITE: WOW CREATIONS EMMYS
GIFTING SUITE 2025GIFTING LOUNGE: GBK'S LUXURY LOUNGE
CELEBRATING THE 2025 EMMYS

THEATRE: EUREKA DAY

GIFTING LOUNGE: THE TRAVEL LOUNGE

RECENT COMMENTS

Art on GIFTING SUITE: WOW CREATIONS
EMMYS GIFTING SUITE 2025

Karen Salkin on R.I.P.: DAN TANA, R.I.P.

curtis on R.I.P.: DAN TANA, R.I.P.

Caroline Crisp (CC) on TENNIS: US OPEN
2025 CONTROVERSIES (SO FAR)Todd Rezor on TENNIS: THE 2025 US OPEN
BEGAN YESTERDAY!

ARCHIVES

September 2025

August 2025

July 2025



(L-R) Maram Kamal, Mark Haan, and Talon Warburton in the last scene of the sextet. Photo by Chris Devlin, as is the one at the top of this review featuring (L-R) Bill Butts, Talon Warburton, and Patrick Warburton.

Although written by just one guy, David Ives, the half dozen scenes are all very different from each other, the diversity of which I totally applaud. (I'm talking diversity in his *writing*, not casting, which is all anyone seems to use that word for anymore.)

But I was not a fan of his apparent obsession with "service" bells. They are part of at least four of the scenes. (It may actually be *all* of them and I just blocked the other two out.) The bell usage may have something to do with the title, but neither Laura nor I got the connection. It worked in the first act, but it became enough already pretty quickly. (The note I wrote at the end of the third vignette was, "Why do they need someone to sit on the floor of the audience with the bell in two of the sections? It's distracting. They should just ring it off stage. It's not that important in those scenes.")



Taylor Behrens and Meadow Clare doing the first scene. Notice the service bell in front of Taylor. Photo by Karen Salkin.

June 2025

May 2025

April 2025

March 2025

February 2025

January 2025

December 2024

November 2024

October 2024

September 2024

August 2024

July 2024

June 2024

May 2024

April 2024

March 2024

February 2024

January 2024

December 2023

November 2023

October 2023

September 2023

August 2023

July 2023

June 2023

May 2023

April 2023

March 2023

February 2023

January 2023

December 2022

November 2022

October 2022

September 2022

August 2022

July 2022

June 2022

That being said, the writing is all clever and the performances are good. But, somehow, I never laughed, although Laura, who enjoyed the show more than I did, chuckled from time to time, as did the rest of the audience. Laura said, "I liked that the show was made up of *several* storylines, so if I wasn't into one, I didn't have to invest the full ninety minutes into it." And she did pretty much like them all.

The first scene, of a couple meeting at a bar or coffee shop or someplace like that, took me a second to get into, but by the end, I thought it was very cute.

The fourth segment, entitled *The Universal Language*, presented a conundrum for me. The poor actor, Mark Haan, had to speak in a made-up language the whole time, which I found really annoying on one hand, (the *dominant* one!), while on the other I so admired that he had to not only *memorize* all that gibberish, but *present* it! And even though we would have no idea if he messed-up his lines, his scene partner, Tania Gonzalez, had to repeat some of it in rapid succession, so Mark had to stick to the scripted "words." Crazy. Laura liked that one, but it just hurt my head.



Mark Haan and Tania Gonzalez. Photo by Maram Kamal.

No matter what, let's face it, the attraction for *everyone*, I'm sure, is Patrick Warburton. Even in LA, it's not every day that you get to see an accomplished actor, whom you probably know from series television, so very up-close. (The theatre has only three wrap-around rows. I liked that there are enough seats that you don't need to be near others, even though a makeshift front row that night looked a tad too close to the actors at times.)

Patrick is his usual talented self in this show, but on the night we saw it, he was talking way too low, like he was still doing TV. That wonderful low-key delivery of his works perfectly in *that* medium, but I feel he needs just a bit more volume and energy in a stage production, even in an intimate arena.

May 2022

April 2022

March 2022

February 2022

January 2022

December 2021

November 2021

October 2021

September 2021

August 2021

July 2021

June 2021

May 2021

April 2021

March 2021

February 2021

January 2021

December 2020

November 2020

October 2020

September 2020

August 2020

July 2020

June 2020

May 2020

April 2020

March 2020

February 2020

January 2020

December 2019

November 2019

October 2019

September 2019

August 2019

July 2019

June 2019

May 2019



(L-R) Melodie Shih, Patrick Warburton, and Talon Warburton. Photo by Chris Devlin.

The great news is that he's passed his talent down to his son, Talon, who's in a trio of the segments; he's spot-on in all three of them. I'm surprised that he hasn't gotten a series himself. (Maybe father and son can get one together.) Talon shone as Trotsky in the last scene, about the Russian's assassination, which neither Laura nor I knew about in real life. (I was absent that day; I don't know Laura's excuse.) But she said she was glad to get "a history lesson" along with the entertainment.

She also could not stop lauding Melodie Shih, who was featured in two of the scenes, and held her own against the Warburton men.

I found the set-up of parts of the stage to be interesting; all the props are laid out on tables at the back. I actually enjoy seeing props, especially from smaller theatres, so I liked that presentation. And the projections on a big screen back there change for each scene. I loved *all* the featured artwork and animation, which was done by Ron Yavnielli.

One personal note on the second story: While the topic of alleged Lindbergh baby kidnapper, Bruno Hauptmann, is never amusing to me, that rare reference, which they make in the second scene, always brings back a great memory for me. Very many years ago, after my first television acting job, which was with Lynn Redgrave, she invited me to a party at her house. And who did I meet there but my favorite actor, Anthony Hopkins! I was shocked, but recovered enough to tell him that I love his work. To my surprise, after he thanked me, he asked me what I had seen him in and loved! (This was before *Silence of the Lambs*.) And the very first thing that came into my mind was his portrayal of Bruno Hauptmann in *The Lindbergh Kidnapping Case* years earlier! He loved that I chose that one, which he had done before he was super-famous. So I thank *All In the Timing* for giving me the opportunity to remember that.

I hope it will bring something equally special to those of you who see the show during the next month.

April 2019

March 2019

February 2019

January 2019

December 2018

November 2018

October 2018

September 2018

August 2018

July 2018

June 2018

May 2018

April 2018

March 2018

February 2018

January 2018

December 2017

November 2017

October 2017

September 2017

August 2017

July 2017

June 2017

May 2017

April 2017

March 2017

February 2017

January 2017

December 2016

November 2016

October 2016

September 2016

August 2016

July 2016

June 2016

May 2016

April 2016



The prop table and projection screen at the back of the stage. Photo by Karen Salkin.

All In the Timing running through November 20, 2022

Zephyr Theatre

7456 Melrose Ave.

www.onstage411/aitt

SHARE.



RELATED POSTS



SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 0

THEATRE: EUREKA DAY



SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 0

**THEATRE: ONE MAN, TWO
GUVNORS**



AUGUST 22, 2025 0

**THEATRE: ACHILLES IN
ARCADIA**

LEAVE A REPLY

Your Name

Your Email

Your Website

March 2016

February 2016

January 2016

December 2015

November 2015

October 2015

September 2015

August 2015

July 2015

June 2015

May 2015

April 2015

March 2015

February 2015

January 2015

December 2014

November 2014

October 2014

September 2014

August 2014

July 2014

June 2014

May 2014

April 2014

March 2014

February 2014

January 2014

December 2013

November 2013

October 2013

September 2013

August 2013

July 2013

June 2013

May 2013

April 2013

March 2013

Your Comment

POST COMMENT

February 2013

January 2013

December 2012

November 2012

October 2012

September 2012

August 2012

July 2012

June 2012

May 2012

April 2012

March 2012

February 2012

January 2012

December 2011

November 2011

October 2011

September 2011

August 2011

July 2011

June 2011

May 2011

April 2011

March 2011

February 2011

January 2011

December 2010

November 2010

October 2010

September 2010

August 2010

July 2010

June 2010

May 2010

April 2010

March 2010

February 2010

January 2010

December 2009

November 2009

October 2009

September 2009

CATEGORIES

ART

AWARDS SHOWS

BASEBALL

BASKETBALL

BEAUTY

BOOKS

BOOKS

BREAKING NEWS

BUSINESS

CELEB SIGHTINGS

CHARITY

CHILDREN

COMEDY

DANCE

DINING

ENTERTAINMENTS

EVENTS

FASHION

FIGURE SKATING

FOOD

FOOTBALL

GIFT BAGS

GIFT GUIDES

GIFT GUIDES

GIFT IDEAS

GIFTING SUITES/LOUNGES

GIVE-AWAYS

GOSSIP

GOSSIP/CELEBS

HEALTH

HOLIDAY/SPECIAL DAY
HOLIDAYS
JUICY GOSSIP
KAREN'S LESSONS
KAREN'S MEMORIES
KAREN'S MUSINGS
KAREN'S RANTS
KAREN'S THANKS
KAREN'S THOUGHTS
KAREN'S TIPS
LAS VEGAS
LISTS
LIVE PRODUCTIONS
LIVING TRIBUTE
MAGIC
MINI REVIEWS
MISCELLANEOUS
MOVIE REVIEWS
MUSIC
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
NEW YORK
NEWS
NIGHTLIFE
OLYMPICS
PARTIES
PLACES UNKNOWN
PRODUCTS
QUICKIES
R.I.P.
RECIPES
SPECIAL DAYS
SPORTS
SPORTS THOUGHTS
SURVEY
TELEVISION
TENNIS
THEATRE

TRAVEL	
TRIBUTE	
TV REVIEWS	
Uncategorized	
UPCOMING	
UPDATES	
WHATEVERS	