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FEB. 11-14



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all ages welcome • free admission

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EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT - 7:30PM
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Show a college ID (valid or not) for:
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Food Specials • Free Pool

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

INDUSTRY NIGHT — 9pm / 18+ welcome
LIVE MUSIC — 2nd floor / 9pm

TUESDAY

LIVE MUSIC — 2nd floor / 9pm

WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAYS AFTER DARK — 2nd floor
live music, no cover, food & drink specials

THURSDAY

MUG CLUB — Monkey Bar / 6:30pm
JAZZ NIGHT — Gill's Blue Crab Lounge / 6:30pm
DESIGN 1 LADIES NIGHT — 6:30pm
• hundreds in giveaways
• \$1.99 Happy Hour all night for ladies
LIVE MUSIC — 2nd floor / 9pm
COMEDY — Dr. Grins / 9pm / tickets: \$5
CRUSH THURSDAYS ROCK — no cover
18+ welcome / drink specials

FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE — only \$19.95 pp
Includes 3 course dinner, comedy show, & live entertainment
DJ AND DANCING — ladies get in free 9-11pm
Crush Nightclub 9pm / eve 11pm
COMEDY — Dr. Grins / 8pm and 10:30pm
LIVE MUSIC — 2nd floor / 9pm

SATURDAY

LIVE MUSIC — 2nd floor / 9pm
COMEDY — Dr. Grins / 8pm and 10:30pm
DJ AND DANCING —
Crush Nightclub / 9pm and eve / 11pm
20 Monroe Ave / Downtown GR / 356.2000
For full list of events, visit www.thebob.com

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The Love Issue

WHEN IT COMES TO Valentine's Day, women — and men — have expectations, and the pressure to fulfill them can be crushing. That's why REVUE created its first-ever Love Issue, which is chock full of date nights, tips, and a look into the love life of a unique Grand Rapids couple whose job is to make you laugh. Want to find the best place for a sexy date in West Michigan? Had that ring in your pockets since August? Now's the time, buddy, and we've got ideas for you. Or if it's your 28th Valentine's Day together and you've exhausted everything, we've got plans to keep your day fresh and exciting. So grab your schnookums and read on.

Date Nights

Cheap Date

Bimbo's Pizza (338 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo) is "a treat in Michigan smuggled out of Italy," as the sweatshirts and t-shirts for sale read. A local treasure, Bimbo's celebrated its 50th anniversary in December. Its thin crust pizza is made up front and sliced into squares, a Bimbo's signature. Renovations on the brick building began in 2002, resulting in a warm, inviting interior that matches the "Historic Kalamazoo" style that much of downtown is adopting. The menu is simple: pizza, though you may order a ham, turkey or roast beef sandwich or a hot dog. Split a medium pizza with two toppings for \$13.40 and add a drink with complimentary refills for a cheap date that supports a Kalamazoo institution.

When asked about Bimbo's success, owner Ron Smilanich attributes it to the strength of the pizza. "We've been consistent and haven't changed a thing."

Conveniently located about five minutes away is the **Little Theatre** (WMU campus, Kalamazoo) on the corner of Oakland Dr. and Oliver. A part of Western Michigan University's East Campus, the Little Theatre is a refurbished movie theater that hosts the Kalamazoo and Western Film Societies in addition to other groups. The Japan Foundation is holding its Japanese Film Festival at the Little Theatre and is screening four movies there, starting with a film in January and one in March. For February, *Always - Sunset on Third Street*, a multi-Japanese Academy Award winning film based on a beloved Japanese comic book series about a residential area in Tokyo in 1958, will show on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. The next Wednesday, *Memories of Matsuko* will show. Based on a bestselling novel, this film is a fantasy musical blending realism with computer animation. Both films are open to the public and are free. *Joanna Dykhuis*

First Date

First dates create lasting impressions. Worrying about the height of your hair, the freshness of your breath and what kind of chewing gum to chomp can be overwhelming. But selecting an exciting date itinerary can be downright daunting.

If you're thinking of a mid-day rendezvous or a casual, afternoon meet-up, mosey over to **Bell's Brewery and Eccentric Café** (355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo). Push your chairs close together and blush over the quirky, but alluring menu. Sample a Wild Game Sandwich, which features either ostrich or bison. Even the Garden Salad has special touches. Veggies and mixed greens with a little slab of luxurious goat cheese and grilled portabella slices provide plenty of bite sharing opportunities. Come for lunch and stay for the bustle of the night crowd.



Sometimes, first dates immediately reveal potential compatibility, or crush any hope for a second date. Maybe your date is a self-professed literary genius. Or, during a moment of late night, instant messenger pomposity, you swear you've memorized the dictionary. Lay it all bare at Open Scrabble at **Schuler Books & Music** (2660 28th St., Grand Rapids) every Thursday at 6 p.m. Grab a snack from the Chapbook Café, save your letter "Q" for maximum points, and don't let on that you're using an iPhone app to cheat.

If you are going for an unforgettable experience, hop over to **Crazy Bounce** (12255 Felch St, Holland). This inflatable emporium of fun features 14 enormous, inflatable structures. Slide down a replica of the Titanic (yes, it's sinking) or bound around a giant cage. If whiplash sets in, wander over to the arcade room and get nostalgic. Avoid embarrassment and don't forget, clean socks are required. *Audria Larsen*



Outdoor Dates

Sledding has long been one of the most romantic outdoor events. For those who don't want to seek out, and continuously scale, a mammoth neighborhood hill, **Pando Park** (8076 Belding Rd, Rockford) has you covered. The park features Michigan's first hill exclusively for snow tubing. It also rents out snow tubes so you and your honey can take a piece of your childhood back together by careening down its towering slope. One of the best features to the park is a lift that attaches to each tube and drags riders back to the top. No more spending three quarters of the afternoon climbing uphill. Aerobics is not very romantic.



offers horse-drawn carriage rides through downtown Grand Rapids and the greater West Michigan. For rate information, visit classiccarriagellc.com. *Jayson Bussa*

If sledding isn't enough to get the adrenaline pumping, Pando offers hills for snowboarding, skiing and snurfing, which is a crossbreed of snowboarding and surfing. Check out pandopark.com for details on rates and rental options.

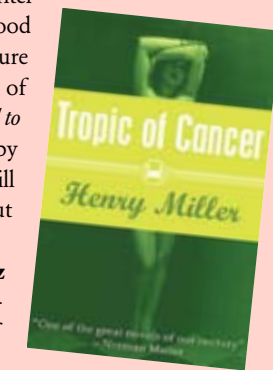
Savvy snowbirds can make their way to **Bittersweet Ski Resort** in Otsego (600 River Rd) for some large-scale skiing and snowboarding. Lift tickets are \$28, or \$36 dollars on the weekend. If you want to learn the ropes of skiing and snowboarding as a couple, stick to the beginner hill for the day, as passes cost \$24 and \$31. Visit skibittersweet.com for full information. Or try **Cannonsburg Ski Area** (cannonsburg.com). Lift tickets are \$28 and \$35 and they also offer snow tubing.

Cap that date off by either recovering from hypothermia in your big toe, or nighttime outdoor ice skating at a number of locations, including **Rosa Parks Circle** (Grand Rapids) and **Millennium Park** (Kalamazoo). Or, grab a thermos of hot chocolate and give **Classic Carriage LLC** a holler. The company

Sexy Date

Regardless of the reason, all types of lovers deserve a "sexy date" every once in a blue moon (which *actually* just occurred this past New Year's Eve). According to the Farmer's Almanac, the stars have aligned, and it's time to heat things up.

Head to **Book Village 2** (214 College Ave, Holland), and pick up (almost) any book by Henry Miller, like *Tropic of Cancer*. Banned in innumerable countries, the lurid accounts of his affairs, including lyric tales of his long-term relationship with famed writer Anias Nin will get you in an amorous mood when read aloud. If reading saucy literature makes you feel silly, then opt for a copy of the classic, 1969 tome, *All You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex* But Were Afraid to Ask*, by Dr. David Reuben. This hilarious how-to will make you laugh and then want to try out your new, outdated findings.



Sharing is sexy, which makes **San Chez Bistro**, (38 Fulton St. Grand Rapids), a perfect dinner choice. Featuring a full menu of delectable tapas, the small, gourmet dishes are designed for sharing. If you're on a modest budget, a few choice dishes will satisfy, like the Esparragos en Salsa

Romescos, with roasted asparagus, romesco, garlic, Marcona almonds and lemon. If the evening is an extravagant one, treat your date to a wide range of tapas to sample. It is well known that ginger is an aphrodisiac. Whet your kissing lips and sip on stimulating aperitifs, like a Jengibre Espumoso, concocted from Cordoniu Cava, ginger infused, simple syrup, star anise, and Chinese five-spice.

After dinner, get adventurous and check out **Cirilla's** boutique, (3525 Plainfield Ave NE, Grand Rapids). Featuring everything from neon-pink corsets and rubber shorts, to adult toys and videos, the shop can provide for most all of your sexy needs, like edible, flavored undies (in case you scrimped on dessert at dinner). *Audria Larsen*



MOOD MUSIC

Whether your date has been sexy, cheap or outdoors (which could be interesting if it weren't February in Michigan), the mood should be set when you head back to the love shack. Be prepared with a well-stocked playlist featuring some of these classics (and soon-to-be classics). **COMPILED BY KIM KIBBY**

Al Green

"Love and Happiness"
"I'm Still in Love with You"

Andrew Bird

"Masterswarm"
"Noble Beast"

Arcade Fire

"Crown of Love"
"Funeral"

Aretha Franklin

"Rock Steady"
"Young, Gifted and Black"

Barry White

"Never, Never Gonna Give You Up"
"Stone Gon"

The Beatles

"I Want You (She's So Heavy)"
"Abbey Road"

Beck

"Debra"
"Midnite Vultures"

Bill Withers

"Use Me"
"Still Bill"

Bon Iver

"For Emma"
"For Emma, Forever Ago"

Bows

"Luftsang"
"Cassidy"

Cat Power

"Lost Someone"
"Jukebox"
"Sea of Love"
"The Covers Record"

Curtis Mayfield

"Give Me Your Love"
"Superfly"

Daft Punk

"Something About Us"
"Discovery"

Damien Rice

"The Blower's Daughter"
"O"

Devendra Banhart

"Lover"
"Smokey Rolls Down Thunder Canyon"

Elliott Smith

"Say Yes"
"Either/Or"

Explosions in the Sky

"Your Hand In Mine"
"The Earth Is Not a Cold Dead Place"

Feist

"Secret Heart"
"Let It Die"
"Brandy Alexander"
"The Reminder"

Fleet Foxes

"Your Protector"
"Fleet Foxes"

Flight of the Conchords

"Business Time"
"The Distant Future EP"

Flying Lotus

"Melt!"
"Los Angeles"

Hope Sandoval & The Warm Inventions

"Drop"
"Bavarian Fruit Bread"

Interpol

"Take You on a Cruise"
"Antics"

Lamb

"Gabriel"
"What Sound"

Led Zeppelin

"I Can't Quit You Baby"
"Coda"

Lovage

"Stroker Ace"
"Book of the Month"
"Music to Make Love to Your Old Lady By"

Magnetic Fields

"It's Only Time"
"i"

Marvin Gaye

"I Want You"
"I Want You"

Massive Attack

"Angel"
"Mezzanine"

Mazzy Star

"Fade Into You"
"So Tonight That I Might See"

Miles Davis

"It Never Entered My Mind"
"Miles Davis Quintet"

Nina Simone

"I Want a Little Sugar in My Bowl"
"Sings the Blues"

Otis Redding

"Try a Little Tenderness"
"Remember Me"

PJ Harvey

"Ecstasy"
"Rid of Me"
"C'mon Billy"
"To Bring You My Love"

Portishead

"Glory Box"
"Dummy"

Prince

"Kiss"
"Parade"

Radiohead

"All I Need"
"In Rainbows"

The Rolling Stones

"Beast of Burden"
"Some Girls"

The Roots

"Break You Off"
"Phrenology"

Sigur Rós

Anything, really.

Sufjan Stevens

"To Be Alone With You"
"Seven Swans"

The Walkmen

"Red Moon"
"You & Me"

The White Stripes

"Ball & Biscuit"
"Elephant"

Wilco

"I'm the Man Who Loves You"
"Yankee Hotel Foxtrot"
"On and On and On"
"Sky Blue Sky"

ICELANDIC MAGIC

When she's not busy pummeling paparazzi, Björk is generally making intriguing music. Vespertine is quite possibly her best, and its gorgeous soundscapes combined with her laid-bare vocals create the perfect atmosphere for intimacy. Plus, she's hot.



Björk. *Vespertine*
Key tracks: "Hidden Place," "Frosti," "Pagan Poetry," "Unison"

Escape from the Ordinary

ALLMARK REMINDS US this month that it's time to display affection to the one you love. What better way to do so than a luxurious dinner? Before you begin bickering about bills and become lost in each other's eye-rolling, venture to someplace new for a memorable experience. Use a little gas and make an outing for a proper romantic escape: suburbanites should head downtown, urbanites to the country and lakeshore residents should head inland.

Gun Lake may not be on your winter "to visit" list, but the **Terrace Grille** located at the Bay Pointe Inn (11456 Marsh Rd., Shelbyville) is a secluded getaway off most West Michigan's beaten paths. Floor-to-ceiling windows overlook the lake and its barren beauty only enhances the quiet coziness. Executive Chef Matt Fowler has brought his flair from the 1913 Room, and his delicate touch to each dish may entice your date to the kitchen instead of your bedroom.

Highlights of the menu include the Original Bay Pointe Beef Wellington and Salmon Ratatouille, but the Baked Brie steals the show. Imported and wrapped in a pastry puff with cranberry chutney, this dessert disguised as appetizer is served with a baked granny smith apple, candied pecans and cinnamon and sugar dusted pita chips — in essence, the sophisticate's elephant ear. If you are looking for a little more than a polite dinner, The Bay Pointe Inn also offers the Inn-Love Package where your huckleberry may enjoy a chilled bottle of Champagne, fresh rose petals scattered on your bed and dinner for two with a \$50 dining voucher. And if the hearth hasn't enough warmth for you, the full bar will.

The Blue Dolphin Restaurant (502 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo) located next to Papa Pete's is the perfect post-show, pre-cuddle dinner stop. Between the Greek specialties on the menu and the vivid décor, you'll have plenty to discuss. Prior to your glut on Pork Tenderloin Souvlaki, Mousaka, Pastichio, Dolmades, Leg of Lamb, or Spanakotiropita, you must sample the trademark Opahs flamed at your table. This delicacy will have you smile and possibly cower as your waitress ignites a cast

iron plate of Saganaki (pan-seared cheese), Vegetarian Dolmades (grape leaves stuffed with mixed veggies), or Shrimp and Feta.

If flaming food does not appeal to you, try **The Original Vitale's Restaurant** (834 Leonard St. NW, Grand Rapids) for copious servings of premium Italian in intimate, dimly lit, high-backed booth bliss. Family owned and operated for more than 40 years, Salvatore Vitale's operation now encompasses several bar and grills, but the best is this Northwest side staple. The Spitini is a family secret, the Calimari is tender (unlike the breaded rubber at chain restaurants), and if you doubt their treatment of pasta, the Vitale family may paint your house.

Anti-pasta? Head to Holland and hole up at **The Alpenrose Restaurant and Café** (4 E. 8th St.).

Terrace Grille at the Bay Pointe Inn
11456 Marsh Rd., Shelbyville
baypointeinnc.com/dining, (269) 672-5202

The Blue Dolphin Restaurant
502 South Burdick St., Kalamazoo
thebluedolphinrestaurant.com, (269) 343-4993

The Original Vitale's Restaurant
834 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids
theoriginalvitaleres.com, (616) 458-8368

The Alpenrose Restaurant and Café
4 East 8th St., Holland
alpenrosere.com, (616) 393-2111

The Grand Seafood and Oyster Bar
24 Washington Ave., Grand Haven
harborrestaurants.com/thegrand,
(616) 847-8944

A German lodge in appearance, separate dining areas are accented with abundant woodwork, large tables and gorgeous glass work, as well as an attentive wait staff that will grant romantic solitude. With the best West Michigan German and Austrian cuisine since the Schnitzelbank shut its doors, there are many hard-to-resist plates. The Pretzel Crusted Walleye or Jaeger Schnitzel (not a licorice shot but a sautéed pork cutlet) is worthwhile for the side of braised red cabbage alone. The remainder of the menu reads like a German conqueror's to-do list of Central and Western Europe and has something for any finicky palate.

The Grand Seafood and Oyster Bar (22 Washington

Ave.) is located inside the lobby of the landmark Grand Theatre in downtown Grand Haven. Between the underwater aphrodisiacs on special, the relaxed lighting, 120-gallon saltwater aquarium, intimate seating area and music every night, you'll be hard pressed to find a more appropriate romantic interlude manifesting elsewhere. Sushi-wise, Futomaki (Crab, prawn, cucumber, avocado, sesame seeds), Seared Scallops (Sesame scallops, shitake, cucumber, soy glaze) and Tidal Wave (Smoked salmon, cream cheese, green bean) are excellent, and the fresh fish menu offers a Sam Adams battered Fish-n-Chips or BBQ Wild Salmon. My suggestion for avoiding chaos that may derail romance would be to avoid Mondays — open mic night — unless you are two vaudevillian slam poets or a Carpenters cover band looking to publicly proclaim your love for each other. ■



The Blue Dolphin



PHOTOS // Jon Clay

grbc.interactive.

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GRAND RAPIDS BALLET COMPANY



Strange Love

Philip and Sarah Jean Anderson



WEST MICHIGAN ENTERTAINERS Philip and Sarah Jean Anderson love the stage so much that they scripted their April 2009 wedding to resemble a theatrical comedy.

The ceremony, which was held at **Wealthy Theatre**, resembled a movie, and included opening credits that introduced the wedding party and the couple as the stars in *The Best Wedding Ever*. Local film director **Daniel Falicki**, who was a groomsman, had a swordfight with Phil for Sarah's love. Falicki lost the fight.

"Dan was in character the entire time," Phil said. "Even after the ceremony, he pretended he was dead."

After the swordfight, and right as the two were about to tie the knot, noted cross-dresser **Jasinya Sanchez** objected to the marriage. She tried to seduce Phil, but Sarah attempted to convince her otherwise.

"I traded her a piece of pizza for Phil," Sarah said.

The theatrics didn't end there. **Cassie Truskowski** – aka Miss Pussykatt – did an aerial performance, and entertainment entrepreneur **Corey Ruffin** did a roast of the Anderson's wedding party.

The wedding is an example of the perpetually happy couple's need to entertain each other and everyone around them. Every word, sentence, question or statement that comes out of Sarah's mouth is an exclamation. And Phil is more than willing to perform magic tricks when prompted, especially when Sarah says things like, "Put a cigarette through your face!"

Interviewing them was an act of audience participation. I was shown three magic tricks, learned the secret to a certain "street" magician's levitation trick, discovered we all have a fascination with Lady GaGa, and felt similarities to Paul Rudd and Jason Segel's characters in *I Love You, Man*. That's the way the couple makes someone feel: happy, welcome, and like they've discovered their new best friends.

"Everything [they do] is entertaining. I can't keep my eyes off of them," said Jonathan Payne, who works at **Diversions**, the night club where the Andersons host an amateur cabaret night.

Entertaining is the couple's primary source of income. On top of their weekly gig at **Diversions**, they are actors for **The Murder Mystery Company** and performers in the **Super Happy Funtime Burlesque** (SHFT) show, which provides them with their "fun money." They also work the door at **Dr. Sketchy's Anti Art School** and are in the band **The Chinese People**.

PHOTO: TERRY JOHNSTON

One of the first things I noticed was that instead of wedding rings, Philip and Sarah Jean have matching tattoos on their ring fingers, which they had done after the wedding. The tattoos depict a Claddagh – a bright red heart, with a yellow crown floating above it – in honor of Phil's Irish heritage.

The reason for the "rings" didn't come strictly from originality, it came from necessity. They're poor. They chose the tattoos because they cost \$60 each, and they could never lose them.

Sarah has a plan for additional marital tattoos.

"I want Phil to get 'Sarah' tattooed on his hand in case [it] ever gets too close to another woman's breast," she said. But she adds, "my name backwards is 'haras'!"

Like the tattoos, Phil went the nontraditional route and took Sarah's last name. He says he has never met his Japanese father and has no connection to his Irish mother. Plus, he says, "my name is 'Baba.' I wouldn't subject her to that. Sarah Jean *Baba*?"

The Andersons are just like any other newlyweds: they can't stay away from – or off of – each other ("We're not co-dependent, we just prefer to be together," says Sarah). Unlike most newlyweds, they are an entertainment tour de force.

Phil got into entertainment in college because he found out he could amuse people at parties. From that revelation, Phil took his childhood interest of magic and built on it more seriously. He learned all the secrets of brand-name magicians such as David Blaine and Criss Angel, and that the magic community has a distaste for magicians-turned-celebrities. When he's learning a new magic routine, it's Sarah who helps him perfect it.

Phil calls her his "magic guinea pig."

"We'll be together forever, so I'm sure magic will be ruined for me," Sarah said.

Sarah got accustomed to the stage when she started doing poetry open mic nights five years ago.

"All the poetry was stupid and I hated it," she said.

As a result, she created her own style of poetry that she called "Faux-etry," which Sarah describes as "acting really serious while performing poems that mean nothing."

From there, Sarah played bass in a band. Being onstage helped her to get comfortable performing in front of people. She then started crafting stage characters and soon became an original cast member of the **Super Happy Funtime Burlesque** show in 2005, where her role was to strip and tell jokes onstage.

GO SEE THE ANDERSONS

Amateur Cabaret
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24
Diversions, Grand Rapids

For other upcoming shows, visit themurdermysterycompany.com and superhappyfuntimeburlesque.com.

SARAH JEAN AND PHILIP ANDERSON'S GUIDE TO ETERNAL MARITAL BLISS

- ♥ Limit drunk-dialing your ex-boyfriends and former professors to nights and weekends, when it's free and you can't afford not to do it.
- ♥ Savor the moments immediately following your Big Day, when everything is fresh and exciting. For instance, when opening your piles of wedding gifts together, remember that you will never be that excited about a new toilet brush ever again (hopefully).
- ♥ Once a week, choose a new drug and do it together! Variety is the ... I forgot where I was going with that.
- ♥ Include your spouse in everything you do so that he/she/it feels important in your life. Also, offer lots of encouragement, even if it is fake (i.e. Great job with this one, Philly-Bear! You are just so smart!).
- ♥ Weekly showering can really spice up your sex life!
- ♥ Making a good impression on your in-laws is important. Try not reminding your father-in-law that you are "so gonna hit that" after dinner (unless he asks).
- ♥ Laugh together all of the time, no matter what. If nothing's funny, try tripping old people outside the library. A classic never dies!
- ♥ Doing the dishes is never not sexy.

by Lindsay Patton-Carson | lindsay@revuewm.com

The two performers met a little more than three years ago when Phil joined the SHFT cast as its magician. His skits showcased him swallowing razor blades and improvising with Sarah.

"I knew about [Sarah] before I met her," Phil recalls. "I saw her on YouTube dressed as a dude and thought she was hilarious."

At the time, Phil was in a nine-year relationship and Sarah was in a nine-month relationship, but the two soon found out they had serious chemistry on and off stage. Phil started writing make-out scenes into his skit so he could get touchy-feely with Sarah.

"All I knew was that I wanted to swallow razor blades, and I wanted to make out with Sarah," he said of his magic act.

A few make-out skits later, Phil broke up with his girlfriend, Sarah broke up with her boyfriend, and the two performers were making out onstage as well as onstage.

The pair continued to perform together as their relationship grew. They played the title characters in Falicki's indie film *Rita and Velvet Dan Save the World*, continued to perform in the burlesque show, as well as improv shows at **Dog Story Theatre** and one-woman shows by Sarah – where Phil proposed. Kind of.

"I actually had two false proposals," Phil said. "The first was at our improv show. It looked like I was going to...[and instead of proposing], I started playing with her boobs and making noises."

The second one was at Sarah's first one-woman show. Phil brought a bottle of champagne and gave a speech, to which he says, "people started welling up." Then he ended the speech with a pop of the champagne, and no proposal. Sarah did the same show two weeks later and Phil did the same thing.

"She cut me off because she wanted a drink, and I said, 'Wait...'" Phil said.

That time the proposal was the real deal. Not only did Phil and Sarah get hitched last year, but the couple had their biggest year to date, with 183 shows. They are looking to break that record in 2010.

"We had the highest year ever, [because of] them," said Scott Cramton, who hired the Andersons for his multi-state **Murder Mystery Company**. "I don't let a show go by where they're not in it. They have the fastest turnaround for [customer] reviews."

Cramton met the couple in March 2009 when they came in for auditions. Sarah and Phil have done 40 shows with the company since then.

"They don't take themselves seriously," Cramton said. "They're incredibly confident."

Sarah also holds a part-time job at T.J. Maxx, so she has something to fall back on in case the gigs stop coming in. Her hours away



Wedding swordfight!
PHOTO: STEVEN DE POLO

from home – about four per week – are difficult for Phil, as that is the most time the couple spends away from each other each week.

"I sit and pine while Sarah's working," Phil said in a manner that was cheesy, but sincere.

That's how the Andersons operate. Their actions are over-the-top and bit cheesy, but underneath the theatrics, they are just your average lovey-dovey married couple.

When talking about their life as husband and wife, the two agree their relationship hasn't changed since they got hitched.

"Nothing should change except a name and legality," Phil said.

Their marriage works because "we're totally enthralled with each other, we're very happy people, we have the same sense of humor, we laugh at the same stupid jokes," Phil said. "And I'm hopelessly devoted to her."

And that time, he was completely sincere. ■



Henderson Castle, Kalamazoo

Pop the Question

So the time has finally come; you've found The One, you've bought the rock and you're about to (gasp!) propose. Since most likely your better half has been planning this moment since she was able to drape her pillowcase down her head, you need a plan. And, while a proposal on the Greek Islands or atop the Eiffel Tower might be ideal, it's probably not in the budget, so get your speech ready, open a bottle of bubbly and try popping the question...

...at a setting meant for royalty.

If you're planning on proposing to your own queen, why not do it at the 115-year-old Henderson Castle in Kalamazoo? "It's a dream come true for certain," said Owner Laura Livingstone-McNelis of the setting for an engagement. The historic landmark offers a Murder Mystery Dinner "Not Just For Lovers" Feb. 13 and 14, a traditional romantic dinner on Valentine's Day, as well as overnight accommodations.



any available carriages last minute. Tours are between \$40 and \$90 and will be running starting at 7 p.m. Fri and Sat. evening as well as on Sun. Reservations can be made by phone. *Classic Carriage, LLC, Southwest corner of Pearl and Monroe, Grand Rapids. Starting 7p.m. Fri and Sat evening and Valentine's Day. \$40-\$90. classiccarriage.com, (616) 498-6090*

... while on a horse-drawn carriage tour.

Classic Carriage, LLC will pick you and your future "to be" up at any hotel, restaurant or nightlife spot downtown Grand Rapids. "We do a lot of proposals," said owner Linda Dochod. "This is a busy time of year for that sort of thing."

Dochod suggests it would be best not to take your chances and call in advance for reservations. If this year's Valentine's weekend is anything like last year, there may not be

... after a 5k.

If you're an athletic and competitive couple, dropping down on one knee after a few sweaty miles may be the way to get her to say yes. There are many outdoor road races throughout the month of February including the **Snowmelt Shuffle** in Holland, **The Frostbite** in Fremont and the **Winter Blast** in Grandville. Entry fees are around \$25 and typically start in the a.m. More information on these races as well as others in West Michigan can be found at gazellesports.com. *5k Road Races. \$20-\$25. gazellesports.com*

by Jamie Linari | jlinari@revuewm.com

...with a little monkey business.

If an animal lover has you weak in the knees, try popping the question while on bended knee with the whole animal kingdom as a witness. **Binder Park Zoo** in Battle Creek offers a behind the scenes tour on Feb. 13 and 14 exploring the sexual lives of animals called Zoorotica. "We talk about the reproductive lives of animals and we can honestly and accurately answer any and all questions," Greg Geise, Binder Park Zoo president and CEO said of the tour. "It's fun, but not what I would call racy ... we just talk biology."

The tour runs from 2-5 p.m. and will be followed by a DVD presentation on animal reproduction and hors d'oeuvres. The tour is 21 and up only and reservations must be made in advance. *Binder Park Zoo, Zoorotica, 7400 Division Drive, Battle Creek. \$65 per couple \$35 single. binderparkzoo.org, (269) 979-1351*

...with a view of the city.

If a public proposal gets your nerves going, present the ring in the privacy of your own room overlooking Grand Rapids with a weekend stay at the Amway Grand. Afterward, continue the view and have dinner among the stars at **Cygnus 27** on the 27th floor of the hotel, or try out brunch on Sunday starting at 10:30 a.m. until 4 or 5 p.m. Also running at the Amway Grand Valentine's weekend is the Big Bands n' Romance package including overnight accommodations, access to the Big Bands n' Romance gala, an hors d'oeuvres and cash bar reception and a dinner in the **Ambassador Ballroom**. *Amway Grand Hotel, 227 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids. amwaygrand.com, (616) 774-2000*

... while channeling your inner child.

Spend a day at the Grand Rapids Public Museum discovering the descendants and habitats of West Michigan and wondering through the Streets of Old Grand Rapids. Complete the day by getting down on bending knee while taking a spin on the 1928 Spillman Engineering Co. Carousel overlooking the Grand River. General admission is \$8 for adults and \$1 for a ride on the carousel. *Grand Rapids Public Museum, 272 Pearl St. NW, Grand Rapids. grmuseum.org, (616) 456-3977*

JAMMIES!

25 bands on 2 stages!

Remember to wear your jammies to West Michigan's biggest night in music! Please bring a non-perishable food item or a clothing donation to benefit Feeding America West Michigan & In The Image. No cover, smoke free, all ages. Doors @ 5pm. Celebrate LOCAL music!



COMMUNITY media center



JAMMIES XI INTERSECTION

FEBRUARY 16, 2010



- An Dro
- Bowery
- Chance Jones
- Chris Crown
- Conklin Ceili Band
- Drew Nelson
- The Fainting Generals
- Frontier Ruckus
- Funktion
- GR & District Pipe Band
- Greg Nagy
- Groove Merchant
- Java Jive
- Jen Sygit
- Lazy Genius
- Michael Riley
- Nathan Kalish & The Wildfire
- Paucity
- Peter Madcat Ruth
- The Ragbirds
- Ritsu Katsumata
- Sam Corbin
- Seth Bernard & May Erlewine
- Spencer Mulder
- Valentiger
- Who Hit John?

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Re-igniting

Consider yourself lucky if you're married on Valentine's Day. Yes, it's easy to let the day become less than romantic when you and your spouse are busy trying to maintain a household, but just because you've witnessed each other before your morning coffee doesn't mean Valentine's Day is a bust. Use the day as an excuse to re-ignite those spousal sparks. Married couples can achieve twinkling eyes and belly butterflies too. The best way to prevent your relationship from becoming stale is to try fresh, new things with your partner. From testing out a new restaurant to donning a new bedroom wardrobe, sharing the excitement of new experiences keeps married couples' romance burning.

The Heritage

This culinary arts college class turned gourmet restaurant is a fun way for married couples to share a new palatal experience. Stimulate your tongues together with a gourmet menu including mouth-watering amuse bouches, one-of-a-kind appetizers, epicurean entrees and sinful desserts. The hosts, servers and chefs are all culinary students at Grand Rapids Community College, so they pine for any feedback on their first-class tableside manner or edible class projects. Suddenly little 'ol you and your spouse become food connoisseurs whose opinions and tastes become as vital as Sam Sifton's. Each course served is of utmost quality, so if anything from the kitchen looks even a pinch less than perfect, the head chef orders it redone. But you don't wait empty-handed for the redo. The students serve you another yummy appetizer or a tableside-prepared goody on the house. Dinner, including appetizers average \$18-\$26, but making a profit is not the point of this restaurant, so free dishes and service fit for a celebrity is the norm. 151 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids. grcc.edu/heritage, (616) 234-3700

Tempo Vino Winery

You and your honey have done the wine tasting thing so take it a step further and experience a new adventure making your own wine. Perfect for wine novices to hardcore oenophiles, this romance-inducing outing starts with sampling wine at the tasting bar. With the help of 25 wines to taste, you and your vintner valentine hone your individual tastes before heading to the winemaking and bottling room. Whatever your palatal preferences, you are guided by a wine expert mixing juice, yeast and the provided ingredients to obtain your desired unique flavor. You should allow about an hour for tasting and an additional half hour for winemaking. Owner Irene Kokkinos suggests, "Make a night of it in downtown Kalamazoo. There are a lot of restaurants around

the winery making it a fun date night with dinner, then winemaking at Tempo Vino." Bonus, a second date night in two to eight months is guaranteed because your new recipe needs time to ferment. Upon returning you and your sweetie bottle your libation creation, using a personalized label complete with a photo and name of your choice. For \$155-\$310 you leave the winery with 25 to 30 bottles of your wine. Serve it at your next anniversary party. 260 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. tempovinowinery.com, (269) 342-0393

Salsalogy Dance Academy / The Kopper Top

If trying something new together spices up a relationship, learning Latin dance together sets that marriage on fire! Co-owners of Salsalogy Dance Academy, Edward Oliveira and Casey Reed make learning the sensual steps comfortable and fun for beginners every other Friday at The Kopper Top Banquet Hall. A cover charge of \$10 includes a group dance lesson starting at 8:30 p.m. and lasting about an hour. Once you and your partner have learned some sassy steps of sultry salsa meringue, cha cha, bachata and raguetton, the night club atmosphere begins so you can practice your new moves. A live band, deejay and full bar with a bar food menu, make it a "full night, packed until 1 a.m.," says Oliveira. He describes the crowd as diverse, "from college students in their 20s to people in their 60s and older," and calls the featured 11-piece band Grupo Aye, "probably the best salsa band around!" Go casual or dress in your sexy Latin getup and dancing shoes. The new experience is sure to inspire some fresh moves between you and your spouse. Salsalogy, 2228 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids. salsalogydance.com, (616) 514-1400 / Kopper Top, 638 Stocking Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. (616) 459-2001

Outrageously You

This tiny shop has big potential for heating it up with your honey. Granted, the proverbial cow has been bought, so making the effort with sexy lingerie sometimes feels pointless. It comes right off anyway, right? The enticing nightwear available at Outrageously You will make it come off that much faster. Owner Wendy Wolgamott promises the goodies in her shop get married couples, "out of your rut by spicing it up and putting the spark back into your relationship with sensuous lingerie for him and her." Besides luscious bedroom attire in all sizes from tiny to voluptuous, you and your spouse will share a mutual blush when perusing the oils, adult novelty items, marital aids, games and toys. 1038 Bridge St. NW, Grand Rapids. (616) 235-1355 ■



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