

FIREWORKS

A guide
to things
that go boom
in the GTA



LIVING & ENTERTAINMENT



OLYMPIAN EFFORT
Canadian basketball
coach Leo Rautins
PAGE L2

THEATRE

CanStage is on Fire with 7 Doras

RICHARD OUZOUNIAN
THEATRE CRITIC

Only 12 days after the beleaguered Martin Bragg resigned as artistic producer of the Canadian Stage Company, his organization raked in the lion's share of the Dora Mavor Moore Awards in the General Theatre category last night.

Bragg's company took home seven of the important honours: Outstanding New Play (Judith Thompson, *Palace of the End*); Production of a Play (*The December Man*); Production of a Musical (*Fire*); Direction of a Musical (James MacDonald, *Fire*); Best Performance by a Male in a Musical (Ted Dykstra, *Fire*); Female in a Musical (Nicole Underhay, *Fire*) and Musical Direction (Ted Dykstra, *Fire*).

Fire tells the story of Cale and Hershel Blackwell, two brothers torn apart by differing lifestyles and their pursuit of the same woman.

DORAS continued on L6

ENTERTAINMENT

Superbad hero a new twist for Smith

Hancock

★★½ (out of 4)

Starring Will Smith, Jason Bateman and Charlize Theron. Directed by Peter Berg. 92 minutes. At major theatres. **PG**

PETER HOWELL
MOVIE CRITIC

John Hancock (Will Smith) takes the crab cake in this summer of grumpy supermen. He's more corrosive than *Iron Man* and flintier than *Hellboy*.

As he demonstrates in the open-

ing frames of *Hancock*, a movie that is two-thirds of a great idea, he's the kind of hero who makes you think villains aren't so bad after all.

Roused from his alcoholic stupor to stop a high-speed chase on a Los Angeles freeway, Hancock causes nearly \$10 million in property damage. The city's gratitude is muted by complaints that his cure for crime could push L.A. into penury. Thanks for nothing, man!

All of which makes *Hancock* one of the most realistic and stimulating superhero movies in a long while, until it

slams into a brick wall about an hour into its 92-minute run.

Director Peter Berg (*The Kingdom*) and screenwriters Vy Vincent Ngo (BMW's *The Hire* ads) and Vince Gilligan (TV's *The X Files*) have cottoned to a reality that most action films ignore: the high cost of being saved. How many times have we watched guys like Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk stop bad guys by stomping a few

HANCOCK continued
on L5



Will Smith is a
grumpy
superhero in
Hancock.

OUR GOOD LOOKS



A stylish new Group of Seven is challenging the long-time icons of Canadian fashion. These designs and brands are a fresh take on what we have come to know as being quintessentially Canuck. Derick Chetty explains on Page L3.

ICONS

Ooh, Canada

The chic set's Group of Seven are truly northern, strong and stylish

DERICK CHETTY

STARSTYLIST

When you think of iconic Canadian style, the Hudson's Bay blanket, toque, mukluks and plaid shirt come to mind. As classic and enduring as they are, this Canada Day we propose a stylish new Group of Seven, consisting of brands and items that have the hallmark of quintessential Canadiana.

ROOTS BAG

There is a bag boom in the fashion world. And with the multitude of designer bags, there is one you are sure to encounter on any urban street in Canada — the Roots Village bag. This flat bag is a bestseller, and Roots reissues it each season in different colours. Its sturdy, long straps make it perfect to sling across your chest and go about your business hands-free. It's low-maintenance, practical and yet stylish — so just how Canadian is that, eh?

Village bag in super lux leather, \$158, Roots



FIDELITY DENIM

Canada is not exactly a birthplace of cool jeans. That would be Denmark, Japan and Los Angeles. But we have one label that has the makings of an inductee into a denim hall of fame. Jeans by Fidelity, founded by Vancouver-based designer Jason Trotsuk, have gained a reputation for not only the quality of their fabric but that elusive characteristic of denim — superior fit. And the credit for that goes to their "bra for the butt" technology, which gives your rear a boost. And since Halle Berry, Eva Longoria, Demi Moore and Jessica Alba have all been seen sporting Fidelity jeans, there just might be something to that uplifting claim.

Fidelity's Tiger Lily, \$165, fidelitydenim.com



CANADA GOOSE EXPEDITION PARKA

Canada Goose has been quietly manufacturing its outerwear in Canada for more than 50 years and selling it in over 30 countries. The iconic Expedition Parka has been used at the McMurdo Station in Antarctica for 20 years and is also used at the U.S. National Science Foundation division of Polar Research. But while the name has been synonymous for years with the warmest, most durable down-filled parkas, it recently crossed over to fashion territory. Stylish hipsters have been snapping up the coats and jackets, which can now be found in some of Toronto's fashionable boutiques. Yes, you can feel warm and look cool at the same time.

Expedition Parka, \$610, canada-goose.com



POLAR BEAR DIAMOND

If you were not aware there is a thriving diamond industry in Canada, well, that could be because it's relatively young.

Polar Bear was one of the first diamond companies in Canada, founded after the first diamond mine opened, in 1998.

Each Polar Bear diamond comes with a government-issued certificate of authenticity, which guarantees your diamond is 100 per cent Canadian, conflict-free and was mined in accordance with strict environmental policies and labour laws.

Polar Bear 0.75 carat diamond necklace, \$3,999, at fine jewellery retailers

LA CANADIENNE BOOT

While mukluks will always be part of our heritage, wet and slushy city streets call for something more waterproof. And patent. These can easily be wiped clean. La Canadienne is the rare shoemaking company that still manufactures here. Located in Montreal, the 47-year-old, family-owned company prides itself on its eco-friendly workplace. Known for insulated, waterproof boots and materials like shearling, waterproof suede and leather, the line also features insoles anatomically engineered to support the foot and soles that provide traction against icy sidewalks. This quality Canadian brand can be also found in luxury U.S. department stores such as Bloomingdale's and Neiman Marcus.

La Canadienne Pulley Patent boot, \$245, at Ron White



DANDI MAESTRE JEWELLERY

When Dandi Maestre moved here from Colombia five years ago, like most immigrants, the graphic artist faced the prospect of starting over. But she used the opportunity to switch gears and design jewellery with natural materials such as wood, bull horn, bone, amber, driftwood and antlers, all abundant in her new homeland.

"I always liked natural, raw things," she says. "Things that

you can take and show the beauty of how they really are in their most natural form."

And then there is the eco-friendly aspect, such as the antlers she uses, from Alberta. "The animal is not harmed. They shed their antlers and each piece is different and unique."

2 shed antler necklace, \$345, dandimaestre.com



SMYTHE JACKET

Not all Canadian jackets are puffy. Some, like Smythe jackets, are chic and tailored. This

Toronto label, designed by Andrea Lenczner and Christie Smythe, focuses on jackets. The classic silhouettes, like the pea coat and equestrian blazer, are recognizable for tailoring, bright colours and nostalgic heritage fabrics, such as buffalo checks, frontier plaids, large-scale herringbones and ticking stripes. The duo say their designs suit all aspects of Canadian lifestyles — in the city, a trip to the mountains or coast, or to wear to work followed by an evening out.

Smythe worsted wool red Pierre jacket, \$595, at Holt Renfrew, TNT The New Trend



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