
June 1, 2008

Datebook

By HILARY HOWARD

LOS ANGELES

The action thriller “Wanted,” based on Mark Millar’s graphic novel series and starring James McAvoy, [Morgan Freeman](#) and [Angelina Jolie](#), will be the opening-night feature at the Los Angeles Film Festival, which runs June 19 to 29 in Westwood Village. Independent films making premieres at the festival include “The Poker House,” by Lori Petty, about a teenage girl who escapes her disappointing life through basketball; Sean Baker’s “Prince of Broadway,” about a [New York City](#) hustler who must deal with a toddler; and the documentary “Finishing Heaven” by Mark Mann, about the director Robert Feinberg’s attempt to finish a film he began making in 1970. Single tickets: \$12. More information: www.lafilmfest.com.

NEW ORLEANS

The annual Essence Music Festival, celebrating African-American music and culture, returns to the Crescent City from July 4 to 6. Headliners include [Chris Rock](#), [Kanye West](#), Rihanna, Jill Scott, Chris Brown and [Mary J. Blige](#), all scheduled to perform at the Louisiana Superdome. There will also be free exhibitions and panel discussions at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, and a keynote address on education by [Bill Cosby](#) and Dr. [Alvin F. Poussaint](#). Visit www.essence.com for updates on performers and on accommodations and promotions. Tickets: \$56 to \$110.

PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS AND CAICOS

Some old-school musicians (Lionel Richie, Anita Baker) will join the new guard ([LL Cool J](#), Ne-Yo, T-Pain) for the fifth annual Turks and Caicos Music and Cultural Festival, July 28 through Aug. 4 (www.musicfestival.tc). There will also be a “Night of Comedy” on Aug. 3; scheduled comedians include Bruce Bruce and Rickey Smiley, both former hosts of “Comic View” on Black Entertainment Television, and Tony Hendricks, the writer, producer and star of the “Laugh Jamaica” revue. Tickets start at about \$75 a show.

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Travel

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