

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Advertisement for 'GUIDE TO THE MOVIES' featuring a grid of movie listings and theater information across various locations like Downtown, Star Theatres, and Star Great Lakes Crossing.

BOOKS

Author pieces together literary collage of 'Extraordinary People'

The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters With Extraordinary People

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VICTORIA DIAZ

Once upon a time — in the closing days of the 20th century, to be exact — there lived in the Bronx, New York, a king who drove a taxi for a living.

Lively profiles Oppong is only one of Orlean's 'Extraordinary People' in this collection of lively profiles.

Through the University of Michigan alum says she can't remember a time when she didn't want to be a writer.

Instead, she wanted to focus on people and places, although not on 'famous people simply because they were famous.'

The matador of the title piece is Cristina Sanchez, the first woman to have trayed her debut

bows as a full matador in Spain. Here, in a dozen pages or so, we not only meet the former bullfighting champion who still lives with her parents in a dusty little town south of Madrid, but we get a behind-the-scenes look at the world of bullfighting.

Here are the torero's pink stockings, lying in a heap of home laundry, alongside her white undershirt. Here is an assistant scrubbing blood from the fabulously expensive 'suit of lights' — with some soap and a toothbrush.

Usually, part of Orlean's modus operandi involves 'hanging out' with a subject for weeks or even months. Sometimes, this means a kind of fly-on-the-wall approach; at other times, it can mean intense, one-on-one sessions with the subject.

What has resulted here are not sketchy profiles, but pieces that are more like sharply focused word-photographs, offering depth and true colors, punctuated by light, shadow and endlessly fascinating, revealing details.

Victoria Diaz is a Lincoln resident who writes about books, movies and theater for the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper.

Discover your family history

Stamp collecting is taking a licking as genealogy is fast becoming one of the most popular hobbies in the United States. More than 14 million users have gone online to research family genealogy within the past 30 days.

In traditional bookstores, and on the Internet, family history enthusiasts and professional genealogists alike are seeking resources to uncover those missing links in heritage.

Time-tested methods of family history research are invaluable. Ancestry.com wants to help each person uncover more family history, more accurately and in a shorter amount of time than has ever been possible before.

Brummer recommends these current book releases from the Ancestry catalog: Ellis Island: Tracing Your Family History Through America's Gateway.

The Graveyard Shift: New York City Cemeteries, by Carolee Inskip. Trying to find some peace in the 'City that Never Sleeps' has always been difficult.

Development, health concerns, and government regulation have moved the dead from one graveyard to the next. The names and locations of each new burial ground are provided.

Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places, by Laura Szucs Pfeiffer. Tips are given on such often-overlooked sources as bankruptcy records, special censuses, employment information, and coroner's records.

A Preservation Guide: Saving the Past and the Present for Future Generations, by Barbara Sargrave. Expert advice is offered on how to properly safeguard your keepsakes, including vulnerable documents, fading photographs, worn books, and more modern media such as videotapes and computer disks.

These titles help round out an already-strong collection of genealogy how-to, record source, and historical background publications, adds Brummer.

Bridging worlds Bridging both the virtual and real worlds through its vast array of offerings, Ancestry.com offers many choices. The Ancestry catalog sets the pace for publishing family information with high-quality books that help novice and expert researchers learn where and how to look for lost ancestors.

Along with its library of family history book titles, Ancestry publishes a bi-monthly magazine and a quarterly journal to enrich, educate and excite its readers about family history. Free email newsletters are also available from Ancestry.com, highlighting the latest search techniques.

To view the index of books available through Ancestry.com, please visit http://shop.ancestry.com or call 800-ANCESTRY (282-3787) to inquire about resource books to match your family history research needs.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

WaldenBooks Writers Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month at the store, 30200 Plymouth Road, Livonia. All writers are welcome.

Public TV's popular Antiques Roadshow: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, for a special lecture and signing of their book Hidden Treasures: Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture.

Farmington Hills store, 30995 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 737-0110 — Write My Drop-In Workshop, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20. Informal workshop led by Iris Underwood. Share your writing samples, or current projects.