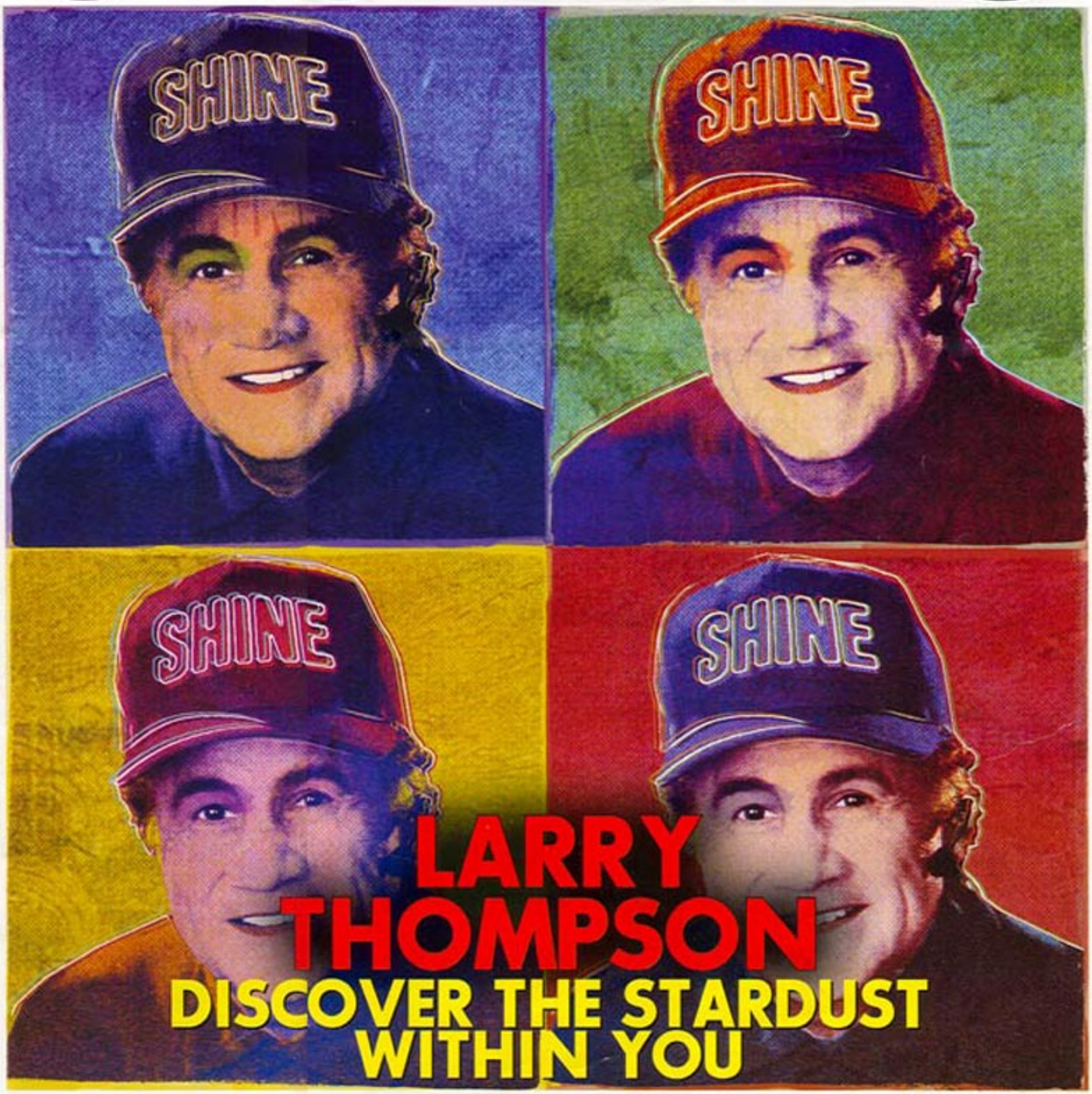


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BEVERLY HILLS



LARRY THOMPSON
DISCOVER THE STARDUST WITHIN YOU

AROUND TOWN

with Bonnie Carroll



HAPPY HOLIDAYS ON RODEO

It was a night of fun and celebration as hotelier Efram Harkham greeted guests at the Luxe Rodeo Hotel penthouse party, overlooking the 19th annual Beverly Hills lighting ceremony of 20 Baccarat crystal chandeliers to benefit UNICEF, and also the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, where Santa arrived.

Photo: Rodeo Drive Baccarat chandeliers brighten up the holidays.

WINTER WONDERLAND IS MAGICAL

On January 23 from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m. the Department of Recreation



and Parks will present my favorite city event, the magical holiday Winter Wonderland, where children between 3 and 12 and their parents can make snowballs, go sledding or tobogganing in a playground of snow at Roxbury Park, 471 S. Roxbury Drive. Food, winter games and live entertainment will be featured, and the recommended dress is snow gear. Advance registrations are required and are available at all BH park facilities. \$10 admission tickets must be bought in advance; children two and under admitted free with a paying adult. To purchase tickets contact Roxbury Community Center at 310-550-4761 or 310-550-4796 or www.beverlyhills.org.

Photo: Snow babies enjoy the City of Beverly Hills Winter Wonderland

LLADRO HOST ETTIE LEE FUNDRAISER

Friends and guests of the Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services enjoyed



their annual fundraiser at Lladro on Rodeo Drive, where Svend Ingerslev, general manager of Lladro, and his staff hosted a second annual holiday fundraiser to benefit the 53-year-old organization dedicated to helping children. Ronald J. Bateman, CEO, and Clayton L. Downey, president, both addressed the audience, and Svend Ingerslev unveiled an exquisite new Lladro work depicting a mother teaching her daughters the love of dance. For information see www.ettielee.org.

Photo: Svend Ingerslev, GM of Lladro, Rodeo Drive; Marty and Suzanne Geimer; Fran Pierce Jackson; and Clayton L. Downey, president of Ettie Lee Youth & Family Services, enjoy the festivities at holiday fundraiser.

A NEW BOOK TO ENJOY IN THE NEW YEAR

Rolf Gompertz, author of the great new book *The Messiah of Midtown Park*, a contemporary comedy-drama (screenplay), has a B.A. and an M.A. in English from UCLA, was a publicist and publicity director with NBC for 30 years, and has been teaching public-relations courses at UCLA Extension for 30 years. He produced, wrote and hosted a local monthly cable TV series, "ADAT ARI EL PRESENTS: *Journeys into Judaism*" which ran four years, and I find it hard to believe that this refugee from Nazi Germany has also found time to write four incredibly inspiring books, including his latest offering. Gompertz' other books include *Abraham, The Dreamer—An Erotic and Sacred Love Story*, *A Jewish Novel about Jesus*, and a spiritual self-help book, *Sparks of Spirit: How to Find Love & Meaning in Your Life 34 Hours a Day*. The Gompertz books may be browsed or ordered at <http://www.amazon.com>.

Photo: Author Rolf Gompertz, The Messiah of Midtown Park

A TREAT FOR THE SENSES AT LACMA

The LACMA special showing of *The Eye of Duncan Phillips, Renoir to Matisse*, featuring the personal art collection of Phillips, will be on display until January 9, and is a magnificent visual display that fills the soul with joy. However, there is an additional treat for the senses outside in the LACMA courtyard during the Friday free jazz performances, where diners in the Patina Group restaurant patio, museum visitors and people on their way home from work take a beat to enjoy a cappuccino as cool jazz tones float through the courtyard. I highly recommend this renewal of the senses on a Friday night! For information go to www.LACMA.org.

TOASTING A TASTEFUL NEW YEAR IN BEVERLY HILLS

January 31 will herald the beginning of a new year in the dining rooms of our world-renowned Beverly Hills hotels, and "three kings" of sublime cuisine will offer guests a sampling of signature menu specialties to kick off 2005.

Eric Sculler, executive chef, Beverly Hills Hotel Polo Lounge, will present guests a New Year's feast including Scottish Smoked Salmon Tartare on "Georges Blanc" Potato Pancake Petrossian Sevruga Caviar on Buckwheat Dill Blinis; Sauternes Poached Foie Gras and American Kobe-style Steak Tartare. For reservations call 310-276-2251.

Bill Bracken, executive chef, Peninsula Hotel will offer an early New Year's seating that will include a different version of his Macaroni and Cheese, Baby Lolla Rosa with Medjool Dates, Almonds and Humboldt Goat Cheese; Herb-Roasted Loin of Veal with Butternut Squash, Sun chokes and Fingerling Potatoes and Peeky Toe Crab Froth. Friday, December 31 early seating 6 - 8:30; Grand Dinner 9 - midnight. Dancing in the Living Room to big-band dance jazz. Reservations 310-551-2888.

Executive chef Bruno Lopez, Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel's New Year's Eve feast in The Dining Room includes Malpeque Oyster, Osetera Caviar, Melted Leeks and Sweet Vermouth; Butternut Squash

Cappuccino Porcini Biscotti and Spicy Lobster & Santa Barbara Prawn "Lasagna" with asparagus emulsion, saffron & winter truffles. Reservations: call 310-274-8179.

FRANCE WITHOUT THE HASSLE

If you adore everything French, especially crêpes or escargot de Bourgogne, do stop by to meet Jon, the charming French owner of Café Marly, located on Little Santa Monica near Roxbury. The Pierre Deux fabric, Paris posters, enticing aromas from the kitchen, and authentic French entertainers, Nicole Martel and Betsy Bogart, will take you to St. Tropez without the cost or hassle of an airplane flight. The café also serves a selection of fine French wines that can be enjoyed with imported cheese. This is a crème-de-la-crème café without the fancy prices, where people share great food and fun conversation.

Photo: Philippe Dray, Nicole Martel and Jon Gabin, chef/founder of Café Marly

MUSIC IN THE MANSION

Our popular concert series will return for a 5th season in the liv-



ing room of the historic Greystone Mansion, and each performance will be followed with a post-concert receptions and a first-floor tour of the mansion. January 9 will mark the opening with the Kadima String Quartet, featuring violin, cello and viola in a unique and intimate setting that provides a perfect environment to experience the lush sound of the group. Additional performance dates are February 13, March 13 and April 10. Advance ticket purchases are required; please call 310-550-4750.

Photo: Performers create music in mansion

Bonnie Carroll is a public-relations consultant, journalist and radio host. Contact her at writebc@aol.com