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From the Dead
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About Last Season
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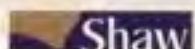
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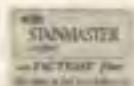
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Best of Philly: FUN

only cost a buck before 11 p.m. *56 South 2nd Street, 215-238-5888; thehyber.com*

Theater talent

● **MADI DISTEFANO** Since founding Brat Productions a decade ago, Distefano has presented Shakespeare in a Queen Village apartment courtyard, an all-girl version of *Grease* at a city rec center, works by Irish playwright Conor McPherson at Fergie's Pub, and a 24-hour marathon performance of Eugène Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano*. This may not sound like the snooty theater you're used to, but that's exactly what we like about it: It's fresh and weird, yet totally accessible. *215-627-2577; bratproductions.org*

Theater company

NEW PARADISE LABORATORIES Each year, NPL sets out to create one completely original—and distinctive—work, such as 2004's *Don Juan in Nirvana*. That alone makes the company interesting. It's won scads of awards for its visually stunning and intellectually challenging plays, including an OBIE and a Barrymore. But what's best about NPL is that it's not an esoteric enterprise; it manages to be funny and, most important, wildly entertaining. *215-923-0354; newparadiselaboratories.org*

Guilty pleasure

CONTINENTAL MIDTOWN'S ROOFTOP DECK As a rule, the only time it's worth waiting in line for a bar is if said bar is in South Beach, and if Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan are inside and brawling. Even then, lines suck. Yet when it comes to the Continental's rooftop deck, we continue to put up with it. Maybe it's the moonlight, or all those mixed drinks in the heat, but Philly always looks pretty damn good from up here. *1801 Chestnut Street, 215-567-1800; continentalmidtown.com*

Best of Philly: STYLE & SHOPPING

(continued from page 146)

Medical facial

● **BRANDOW CLINIC** Svetlana Taggart at the Ritz-Carlton-esque Brandow Clinic and Medical Day Spa customizes the right mix of microdermabrasion and glycolic peel to delicately lay waste to fine lines and clogged

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Facialist

● **ALI TEPPER** Follow her anywhere, like we did when she moved to the spa at the Phoenix last year. Groupies are loyal because of her honesty about *your* best skin treatments, even if it means a cheaper service. Her dermatologist-like understanding of products and services is impressive, and she completely pampers along the way. From \$80; Phoenix Salon & Spa, 1600 Arch Street, 267-514-8000; phoenixsalonspa.com.

Soft massage

● **AROMATHERAPY MASSAGE AT LOUIS CHRISTIAN WAYNE ROBERT** Steps below the commotion of the upstairs salon is one of our favorite oases, the spaceship-like underground den of pampering that is LCWR's spa. Dark and cozy, it's the perfect place to decompress before indulging in an aromatic treatment that will heal what ails you or, for at least an hour, let you escape from it completely. 1990 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, 856-751-2233; lcwrsalonandspa.com.

Ladies-who-lunch salon

● **OMG** Its plummy party vibe and close-to-mansions location make OMG the ultimate salon where BFFs in the private-jet crowd meet up. 351 Righters Mill Road, Gladwyne, 610-896-0240.

Spray tan

● **PIERRE & CARLO** The crew at Center City's Pierre & Carlo are the best to escort you through this humbling nudie experience. They pamper before and after you drop your robe, and the result is a perfect streak-free glow that lasts about a week. Ask for Nina; she'll give you the straight skinny on the whole process, plus tips on when *not* to do it. \$50; 200 South Broad Street, 215-790-9910; pierreandcarlo.com.

Hard massage

● **CITY: MICHELLE IRIZARRY** We were hooked even before we found out that (sshh!) A.I. is a client. But now that we know, come on: If she can soothe his overworked muscles, think what she can do for your sissy kinks. Not that this energetic and intuitive masseuse makes you feel like anything but her top priority. After discussing your lower back issues in the Zen-like

confines of one of our favorite city spas, she expertly targets the trouble spots with a well-trained, calibrated touch that goes as deep as you need. From \$90; Rescue Rittenhouse Spa Lounge, 255 South 17th Street, mezzanine, 215-772-2766; rescuerittenhousespa.com.

● SUBURBS: DARRYL

● **SCHAFFER** Hate wussy massages? Take a trip to the tough-love world of Darryl at Body Serene in Skippack, who will unknit your neck (and all else) in 50 minutes of sweet, sweet agony. \$75; Body Serene, 4007 Skippack Pike, Skippack Village, 610-584-7284; thebodyserene.com.

Yoga instructor

● **JOAN WHITE** This isn't the first or even the second time Powelton Village's Joan White has won this award. A guru among local instructors, she's strict, with dry humor and a deep anatomical knowledge that informs her form-driven teaching. But why *again*? Last August, the now-63-year-old White suffered a horseback-riding accident that made Madonna's look like a boo-boo. Eight broken ribs, a broken vertebra and a partially collapsed lung could have

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