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NAMES

The Boston Globe

SNL's Meyers hopes for 'Hot' time

By Carol Beggy & Mark Shanahan, Globe Staff | July 18, 2007

"Saturday Night Live" head writer **Seth Meyers** promises that if he's on the East Coast he will try to make it to this year's "Hot Stove, Cool Music" show next month at Fenway Park. The Manchester, N.H., native is an alum of the event and a dedicated Red Sox fan. In Los Angeles this week to chat up TV critics at their annual convention, Meyers says he's pleased with the team's nine-game lead. When a fellow fan laments that it used to be 10, he quipped, "Only a Red Sox fan would start complaining that it used to be 10. I'm very content. I always said if they won a World Series I would try to amp it way down," said the "Weekend Update" anchor. "There are two things you want: You want to win a World Series, and if that doesn't happen, you want the Yankees to miss the playoffs. So, so far, so good." Meyers is looking forward to the new season of "SNL" and thinks the cast, slimmed down at the start of last season for budgetary reasons, is hitting its stride. "I think we were getting accustomed to how much responsibility that put on all of our shoulders." One of his favorite hosts last year? Indianapolis Colts quarterback **Peyton Manning**. "He showed up and right off the bat wanted to do something where he was mean to kids. That's free comedy right there, so we were happy to oblige."

JoJo calls Beyoncé her role model

As eager as she is to turn 18, **Joanna "JoJo" Levesque** promises she won't become a big mess like celebs **Paris Hilton** and **Lindsay Lohan**. "There's no room for discussion. You won't see me drunk in a club," the 16-year-old singing sensation from Foxborough told us. "I've seen people be very drunk and high, and that's not very appealing to me. It's not going to take me where I want to be." JoJo, who performs tonight at the South Shore Music Circus in Cohasset and at the Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis on Sunday, said her first priority is school. "I'm not going to give up singing, but I'd like to go to college." Asked whose career she admires most, JoJo replied without hesitation. "**Beyoncé**," she said. "She's my role model. I'm going to see her at the TD Banknorth Garden, and I'm so excited."

Diet book debuts No. 3

We hear "21 Pounds in 21 Days," the Martha's Vineyard Diet Detox book by **Roni DeLuz** and **James Hester**, is debuting at No. 3 on the New York Times bestseller list in the advice and how-to category.

New book deal for Ryan

Just about a month after WHDH-TV investigative reporter **Hank Phillippi Ryan** released her debut novel, "Prime Time," comes word she's signed a deal with her publisher, Harlequin Next, to write two more books. Ryan has already delivered the second book in the Charlie McNally series, "Face Time," to the publisher and it will be released in the fall. The third and fourth installments -- "Air Time" and "Drive Time" -- will be released in 2008.

Ahmir back on home turf

Its song "Welcome to My Party" hit Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop charts last year, but Ahmir just released its debut CD Monday night. The unsigned R&B group -- **Leon Jones**, **Michael McDonald**, **Mark E. Robertson Jr.**, and **K.C. Washington** -- performed at Harpers Ferry, where fans seemed happy to have the guys back in town. The group was recently eliminated from NBC's "America's Got Talent."

Actor Garson returns to camp

It's a long way from his fussy-yet-adorable character on "Sex and the City" to being a counselor at Joslin Summer Camp in Charlton, but actor **Willie Garson** seems to be enjoying his week in the wilds of Central Massachusetts. "[Celebrities] get asked to do things all the time, and we get to dress up and stay in nice hotels, but here we're part of the gang," said Garson, who's overseeing a cabin of campers from Boston's

Joslin Diabetes Center . "I've been waiting 24 years to get back to my days of going to summer camp in Maine." The rest of us have been waiting for the movie follow-up to the famed HBO series. "[The movie's] going to get made. . . . That's for sure," said Garson, who just finished shooting 10 episodes for **David Milch's** new HBO series "John From Cincinnati." "We're wondering how things turn out like everybody else."

New son for chef Klein

OM Restaurant & Lounge's executive chef **Rachel Klein** and her husband, drummer **Lee Weber**, welcomed their son, **Ethan Bonham Weber**, who was born Monday night. The new addition weighed in at 7.5 pounds.

Tragedy hits Cape stage

In some circles, Chappaquiddick is a dirty word, a piece of history too painful to talk about, even all these years later. So it's worth noting that the Cape Cod Theatre Project is presenting a staged reading of a new play whose backdrop is the tragic 1969 car accident that claimed the life of Mary Jo Kopechne and all but ruined **Ted Kennedy** politically. Written by Northwestern grad and Juilliard playwright-in-residence **Jessica Provenz**, "A Wake on Chappaquiddick" is at Falmouth Academy this weekend, and the Cape's already abuzz. (Today is the 38th anniversary of the accident.) "It's really exciting for me, thrilling actually, to have this performed on the Cape," said Provenz . "I had a theater in Boston say it couldn't do it because the title itself is so inflammatory. They didn't even want the subject brought up." Described as a "haunting trio of stories woven together by shared tragedy," the play doesn't identify Kennedy as the driver that fateful night, referring to him instead as "the senator." "Personally, I'm a fan of Ted Kennedy's politics, but, like **Bill Clinton**, he has flaws," says Provenz.

Rebecca Eaton of WGBH logged a little face time with the heavenly **Anne Hathaway** at a Jane Austen-themed affair in New York the other night. As it turned out, Eaton, the executive producer of Masterpiece Theatre, had a lot to talk about with Hathaway. The actress is starring in the new film "Becoming Jane," while Masterpiece Theatre is about to air "The Complete Jane Austen."

Police tickets available

A block of tickets for the July 28 and July 29 Police concerts at Fenway Park have been released, and go on sale today at 10 a.m. at ticketmaster.com and at 617-228-2000. Tickets are \$95 and \$225.

NORDSTROM CELEBRATES IN STYLE

Vogue editor-at-large **André Leon Talley** added a dash of celebrity to Nordstrom's pre-opening bash held at the State Room downtown last night. The swanky store is opening its first Massachusetts outpost in Natick later this summer.

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