

- 10. Mumford & Sons Sigh No More (literate rock)
- 11. Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings I Learned The Hard Way (soul -- not retro, just timeless)
- 12. **Sufjan Stevens** *All Delighted People EP* (nutty rock)
- 13. **Robert Plant** Band Of Joy (folk-rock, Fairport Convention via Nashville)
- 14. Various Artists Afrocubism (Buena Vista Social Club spliced with Malian pop)
- 15. My Chemical Romance Danger Days (anthemic rock)
- 16. Tracey Thorn Love and Its Opposite (adult pop)
- 17. Preservation Hall Jazz Band -- Preservation (an all-star album that actually works)
- 18. Bruno Mars Doo-Wops & Hooligans/ Robyn Body Talk (irresistible pop)
- 19. Gorillaz Plastic Beach (genre-jumping rock)
- 20. Neil Young Le Noise (stomping folk)
- 21. Carolina Chocolate Drops Genuine Negro Jigs (trad, modern, country, folk, blues, unclassifiable)
- 22. **Elizabeth and the Catapult** *Other Side Of Zero* (promising debut)
- 23. Beach House Teen Dreams (alterna-pop)
- 24. Jamey Johnson The Guitar Song (no fuss country)
- 25. Best Coast Crazy For You (lo-fi Beach Boys pop)
- 26. Brendan James Brendan James (a career peak)
- 27. The Black Keys Brothers (smart rock)
- 28. Hole Nobody's Daughter (Courtney Love doesn't get any but deserves it)
- 29. Cyrus Chesnutt Journeys (trad jazz done with class)
- 30. Sade Soldier Of Love (smooth pop, never misses a beat)
- 31. Various Artists Classic Appalachian Blues (a rich vein of folk blues)
- 32. The National High Violet (moody rock sounds more like the Swans every day)
- 33. The Roots How I Got Over (hip-hop for adults)
- 34. **Suzanne Vega** Close Up Vol 1: Love Songs (folk-pop)
- 35. **Elton John/Leon Russell** $\mathit{The\ Union}$ (old friends, strong new music)
- 36. **She & Him** $Volume\ 2$ (girl group pop)
- 37. Foxes In Fiction Swung From The Branches (swirly, headphone rock)
- 38. Lil Band O' Gold Lil Band O' Gold (New Orleans gem)
- 39. Elizabeth Mitchell Sunny Day (infectious kids' music)
- 40. **Lionel Lueke** -- *Mwaliko* (sophisticated jazz)
- 41. Tom Jones Praise & Blame (joyful gospel)
- 42. William Tyler Behold The Spirit (terrific instrumental a la Fahey)
- 43. Various Artists The Sound of Siam (eye-opening Asian pop)
- 44. **Vampire Weekend** (world pop) *Contra* and **Two Door Cinema Club** *Tourist History* (if Vampire Weekend had a kid brother)
- 45. **Elvis Costello** *National Ransom* (rootsy rock from the genre-hopping savant)
- 46. **3 Fervent Travelers** *Time For Three* (bluegrass taken out of the museum)
- 47. Corinne Bailey Rae The Sea (dark, vulnerable pop)
- 48. Meaghan Smith The Cricket's Orchestra (refined pop)
- 49. **Dennis Brown** *The Crown Prince Of Reggae: Singles 1972-1985* (incomplete but still great anthology)
- 50. **Cassandra Wilson** *Silver Pony* (jazz vocals, classy) **Brian Eno** *Small Craft On A Milk Sea* (electronic noodling)

TOP SINGLES OF 2010 (usually, I don't include songs from the CDs on my Top Albums List)

Josh Ritter - "The Curse"
Lady Antebellum - "Need You Know"
Darren Criss and Glee - "Teenage Dream"
Cee-Lo Green - "F--- You"
MGMT - "Brian Eno"



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Royal Wedding Guest List

Duran Duran - "Blame The Machines" Fitz and the Tantrums - "Breakin' The Chains Of Love" Mavis Staples - "You Are Not Alone" Laurie Anderson - "Another Day In America"

EARLY FAVORITES FOR 2011

I've heard advances or streaming of all these albums (or the vast majority of the tracks on the albums). Some are already out. Others you can look forward to in the months ahead.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band & Del McCoury Band - American Legacies

Teddy Thompson - Bella

Charlie Haden Quartet West - Sophisticated Ladies

Rumer - Seasons Of My Soul

Ron Sexsmith - Long Player, Late Bloomer

The Poison Tree - The Poison Tree

Vinicius Cantuaria & Bill Frisell - Lagrimas Mexicanas

Elie Goulding - Lights Ray Davies - See My Friends

Rural Alberta Advantage - Departing

Anthony David - As Above So Below David Wax Museum - Everything Is Saved

Lee MacDougall - If Walls Could Talk (available at his shows)

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NOTE: Michael Giltz is provided with free copies of CDs by numerous labels to consider for review and feature coverage. He typically does not guarantee any coverage in exchange for these CDs and indeed receives far more albums than he ever comes close to covering in his various outlets.

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Lady Gaga's Grammys 2011 Looks (PHOTOS, POLL)

Lady Gaga kept it pretty tame at Sunday night's Grammy Awards. After arriving to the Grammys in an egg, the songstress took to the stage...



Grammys 2011: Rihanna Goes Sheer (PHOTOS, POLL)

Rihanna stepped out to Sunday night's Grammy Awards in a sheer, Jean Paul Gaultier dress that was, in fact, first donned by male model Andrej...



Grammy Red Carpet 2011: Best-Dressed (PHOTOS, POLL)

Musicians and their admirers cleaned up on Sunday night to rock the red carpet at the Grammy Awards. Of note -- Florence Welch debuting Givenchy...

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Josh Kear's music inspires us, so we asked him to share his inspiration for living life. We're honored to share it with you here.



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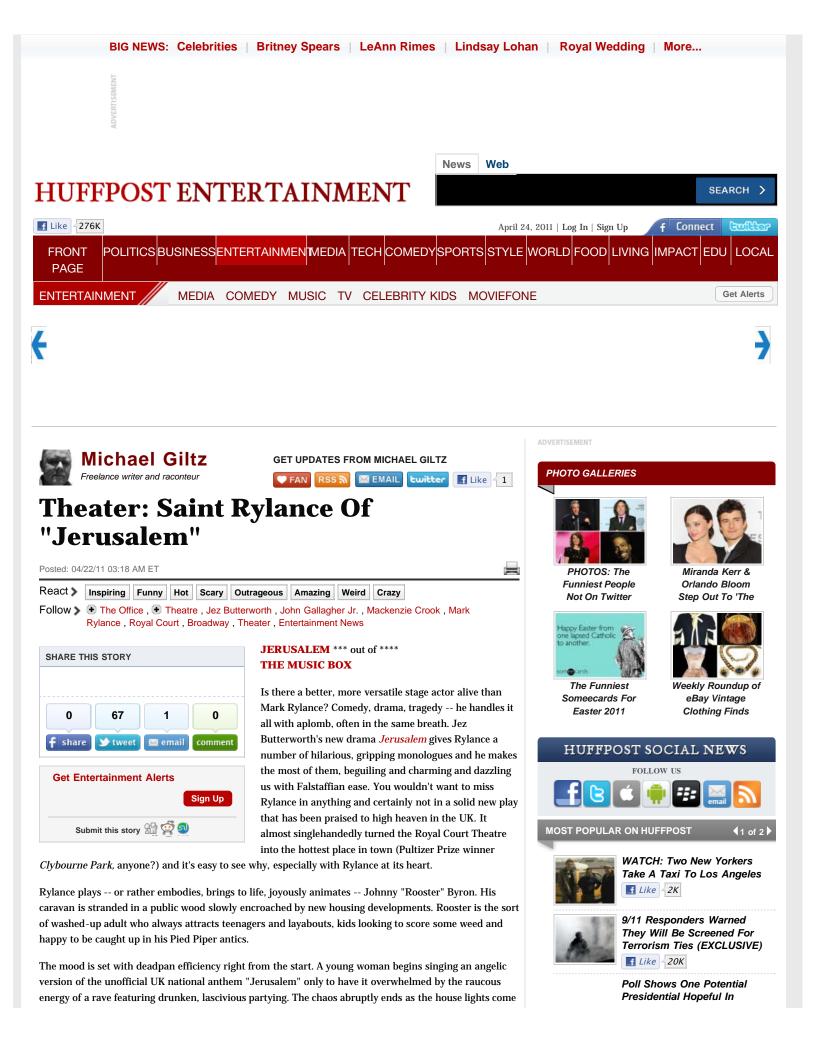
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up on two city officials standing among the rubble of the event, unsuccessfully trying to serve Rooster with a notice that he must pack up and go by the end of the day or they'll do it for him.

It also happens to be fair day, which is like a county fair in the US but far more important since everyone in town takes part in one way or another it seems, whether it's the local barkeep dressing up for a Morris dance or Rooster once upon a time entertaining crowds with his Evil Knievel style daredevil stunts. Rooster has sired a little boy and has promised the lad to take him to fair day though by now even a six year old child knows not to depend on him. Rooster is far more likely to be caught up in the drama of his current favorite Lee (John Gallagher Jr.), a Lost Boy who is leaving for Australia the next day and wants one final hurrah. Mackenzie Crook (of the UK Office) plays Ginger, the butt of everyone's jokes and Alan David is the Professor, a classics-quoting old fellow who trips on acid while observing the inevitable decline of Rooster as modern society closes in.

For Rooster is not just a gypsy-like wanderer who embraces life. He's also England personified, the wild animalistic raw England that has been tamed but still burns at the heart of this once world-conquering Empire. Rooster will spellbind you with a story that begins with the casual comment that he met the guy who built Stonehenge and slowly, deliriously has you listening with open-mouthed pleasure at being taken for a ride while he mentions 80 foot tall giants (who can't always be trusted) and the golden drum they gave him that he can pound on and call for their aid whenever he's in trouble. When Ginger tries yet again to call Rooster on his whopping lies and wonders where exactly this golden drum he's bragging about might be, Rooster trumps him by casually saying he's sitting on it, only to have Ginger leap up and everyone gasp when a rug is removed and there indeed is a drum of impressive size. Yes, it will be pounded on and yes, you'll wonder if maybe Rooster was telling the truth after all.

Jerusalem is a solid work and no, it's not too English. An untrammeled romantic past versus a dull, middle class present is hardly a tension you can't grasp if you don't live in Yorkshire. It didn't cut too deeply for me, however. When it seems like Lee has betrayed Rooster by growing up a la Prince Hal, I felt no pain or sadness. It's clear from the start that Rooster is the sort of figure who can amaze you at 15 and seem a bit sad when you're 30. Watching Rooster be so hapless with his little son takes care of that rather quickly. Even more confusing is the "missing" girl who has been hiding out from her step-father, the same girl who sang "Jerusalem" at the top of the show. That step-dad may be molesting her, but it's not clear how we're supposed to feel when her fate is resolved after a tug of war between Rooster and the bastard.

Gallagher, an excellent actor, does well by Lee, though he has yet to find the rhythm of Lee's funniest scene. Director Ian Rickson seamlessly melds the new Americans with the remaining UK cast. The sound design by Ian Dickinson for Autograph combined with the original music by Stephen Warbeck captures nicely the tension between a dwindling nature and modern life. And the scenic design by Ultz (who also did the costumes) is a marvel of giant trees stretching up to the sky.

Besides, you can't go far wrong with Rylance on hand. Mix in Sandy Denny and you can't miss. She was



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one of the great pop singers of them all and this show uses her classic tune "Who Knows Where The Time Goes" to heart-wrenching effect in a scene where Rooster is finally quiet for a change. And at the very end of *Jerusalem*, when Rylance as Rooster is calling a curse down on all the bourgeoisie who want to see him run out of town, when the earth literally shakes with his fury, you know it's just a con but you can't help it and you glimpse up in the air, wondering if the giants are about to arrive.

THE 2010-2011 THEATER SEASON (ratings on a four star system)

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Angels in America revival at Signature *** out of ****
Anything Goes ** 1/2
Arcadia with Billy Crudup *** 1/2
Being Harold Pinter ** 1/2
Bengal Tiger At The Baghdad Zoo **
Between Worlds/Entre Mundos * 1/2
Beautiful Burnout at St. Ann's Warehouse **
Blood From A Stone ** 1/2
The Broadway Musicals Of 1921 at Town Hall ***
Cactus Flower *
Catch Me If You Can *** 1/2
Devil Boys From Beyond **
The Diary Of A Madman with Geoffrey Rush at BAM ***
The Divine Sister *** 1/2
Double Falsehood **
The Dream Of The Burning Boy ** 1/2
Driving Miss Daisy **
Elf*
Elling **
A Free Man Of Color ** 1/2
Gatz ***
Ghetto Klown ***
Good People with Frances McDormand **
The Grand Manner **
The Great Game ***
Gruesome Playground Injuries ***
The Hallway Trilogy: Nursing **
The Hallway Trilogy: Paraffin ***
The Hallway Trilogy: Rose ***
How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying ***
The Importance Of Being Earnest ** 1/2
The Interminable Suicide Of Gregory Church *** 1/2
John Gabriel Borkman * 1/2
La Bete ** 1/2
Les Miserables ***
Lombardi **
Macbeth with John Douglas Thompson **
The Merchant Of Venice *** 1/2
Middletown ***
Mike Birbiglia's My Girlfriend's Boyfriend ***
The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore *
Mistakes Were Made ** 1/2
The Motherf**ker With The Hat ***
Nixon In China *** 1/2
The New York Idea **
The Nightingale and Other Short Fables at BAM ***
Other Desert Cities **
Our Town with Helen Hunt ***
The Pee-wee Herman Show ***
Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert: The Musical * 1/2
The Road To Qatar *
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Room ***

The Scottsboro Boys ****



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Sleep No More *** 1/2

Small Craft Warnings zero stars

Three Sisters (w Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard) *** 1/2

Timon Of Athens at Public with Richard Thomas ***

War Horse ***

We're Gonna Die ***

The Whipping Man **

Wings **

Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown **

Wonderland *

AT THE NEW YORK MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Blood Ties ***

Fellowship * 1/2

Fingers and Toes ** 1/2

Frog Kiss *** 1/2

The Great Unknown ** 1/2

Nighttime Traffic **

Our Country *

PopArt *

Shine! The Horatio Alger Musical ** 1/2

Show Choir **

Tess: The New Musical **

Trav'lin' ***

Without You *** 1/2

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Note: Michael Giltz was provided with tickets to this show with the understanding that he would be writing a review.

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