

DAYBREAK

‘Never Have I Ever’: Mindy Kaling’s spot-on take on teens **Page D2**



< Dwight Yoakam weds
Country star Dwight Yoakam married fiancée Emily Joyce in a small wedding in March that had fewer than 10 attendees seated at least 6 feet apart.



SCOTT RITTER/THE DAY

At Misquamicut Drive-In, movies are selling out fast as people search for entertainment options

By KRISTINA DORSEY
Day Arts Editor

WITH CINEMAS, THEATERS and concert halls shuttered due to the pandemic, one entertainment stalwart remains: the drive-in. Over the decades, the popularity of cineplexes soared and drive-ins waned. But drive-ins are now having a moment. With social distancing still a consideration, people are flocking to these venues around the country — including one in Westerly. The Misquamicut Drive-In Theater has been running each summer for the past eight years and returns next weekend at Wuskenau Town Beach in Westerly. Organizers have only announced the lineup for the first two

weekends — and the screenings are already sold out. The drive-in, which is run by the Misquamicut Business Association, will offer up “Jaws” on May 15 and 16 and “Jaws 2” on the following weekend. Caswell Cooke, executive director of the Misquamicut Business Association, said, “We pre-sold our opening night. ... We sold out in about an hour-and-a-half. So we added Saturday night, and we sold that out in, like, 45 minutes. Then the next week was scheduled for ‘Jaws 2’ — that’s a fan favorite also. We sold out the first night instantly and then added a second night and sold that out instantly as well. So the first four shows are already ticketed and already sold out.” Cooke said they usually fit 100 cars

into the parking lot for movies, but, under current state rules, they now can’t be at more than half-capacity. More movies are to come and will run into the fall. **Parking distance, bathroom limits** Cooke says the MBA Board of Directors had been discussing over the past few months what to do about the drive-in in 2020. “We’d be reading things like how the drive-in is being revived in other parts of the country because it’s a safer activity. My board was split (a month ago) on whether or not we should even open this year. ... After a few weeks went by and we’d seen other drive-ins open, I directly asked the governor’s office, ‘Can we open, and if so, how?’” Cooke says.

The office sent him specific guidelines on what was allowed. There can’t be more than five people in the restrooms at one time, for instance. (There will probably be attendants to ensure it’s five at a time.) And wherever possible, organizers should limit the exchange of cash. While people used to be able to show up on the night of the screening and pay with cash, they now have to buy tickets ahead of time online via Eventbrite. “The main point is that you can’t just drive up and go to the drive-in — for now, and that’s a huge change,” Cooke says. The concession stand won’t be open for the first two weekends. They are hoping to figure out how to add that to **SEE FLICKS PAGE D3**

Val Kilmer’s scatterbrained journey into his idiosyncratic head space

By THOMAS FLOYD
The Washington Post

Val Kilmer acknowledges early in “I’m Your Huckleberry,” his absorbing but uneven memoir, that speak-

That doesn’t mean Kilmer, 60, is at a loss for words. When he asserts that picking up “I’m Your Huckleberry” is like slotting a couple of quarters into the “pinball machine of my mind,” he is not overselling the experience. What follows is a zig-zagging ride through Kilmer’s distinctive life and career, penned by a spiritual storyteller with no qualms about indulging in his eccentricities. At one point, Kilmer claims to have foreseen the future in his dreams. Later, he says an angel appeared on his 24th birthday, pulled the actor’s heart from his chest and replaced it with a bigger one. Kilmer’s tone is raw and reflective as he weaves poems into his expressive prose. (He is a literary obsessive who admires Mark Twain, Walt Whitman and Samuel Beckett,

after all.) Crucially, he shows a willingness to analyze his own image. As far as Hollywood case studies go, Kilmer’s career proves plenty worthy of deconstruction. “Just as I am a composite of all my characters,” he writes, “each character I’ve played is a composite of me.” As a theater prodigy, Kilmer was accepted to Juilliard’s drama department when he was 16, making him the youngest student admitted up to that point. Then came his Hollywood emergence as the baby-faced star of 1980s movies such as “Top Secret!” “Real Genius” and “Top Gun.” The 1990s brought an eclectic mix of hit films, including “Batman Forever,” “Heat” and “Tombstone” (the movie whose script lends “I’m Your Huckleberry” its title). But the 2000s were less

kind to Kilmer, as money woes and fading career prospects steered him toward the direct-to-video circuit. For Hollywood fanatics, Kilmer drops plenty of names and behind-the-scenes tidbits. He concedes he had no interest in the testosterone-fueled spectacle of “Top Gun” until he reluctantly met with Tony Scott and was won over by the director’s jubilation. Kilmer also describes the emotionally taxing experience of inhabiting Jim Morrison for 1991’s “The Doors.” Then there is the “unholy mess” that was “Tombstone’s” production, as he and co-star Kurt Russell reworked the script after the dismissal of original director Kevin Jarre. The most striking anecdotes come as Kilmer opens up on his connec- **SEE KILMER’S PAGE D3**

VAL KILMER



I’m Your Huckleberry
A MEMOIR

BOOK REVIEW

I’M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY

By Val Kilmer
Simon & Schuster. 320 pp. \$28

ing doesn’t come easily to him nowadays. After the movie star’s 2015 throat cancer diagnosis and surgery, he writes that he sounds like “Marlon Brando after a couple of bottles of tequila.” Kilmer adds: “It isn’t a frog in my throat. More like a buffalo.”

tipping point

our pick & pans

Downhill

This film didn’t get a fair shake by critics because they compared it to the Swedish film that inspired **disctip** it. And it didn’t get a fair shake by audiences, who, understandably, expected it to be more of a comedy, considering it stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell. But if you don’t set your expectations along either of those lines, you’ll likely enjoy this movie. Louis-Dreyfus and Ferrell play a husband and wife on a luxe ski vacation

with their two boys in Austria. When an avalanche seems about to bury them while they are lunching on the ski lodge deck, she covers the boys and he grabs his cell phone and runs away. The rest of the film documents how they argue bitterly over “the event” and their marriage and about how they try to escape. It’ll keep your interest, it’s a quick-moving hour-and-a-half, and it’s peppered with just enough dark comedy to balance the marital angst. — Kristina Dorsey

The Southern Book Club’s Guide to Slaying Vampires

Grady Hendrix
In much the way screenwriter

Kevin Williamson introduced black comedy and pop culture into the slasher film canon (the “Scream” franchise, “I Know What You Did Last Summer”), novelist Grady Hendrix is doing a fine job of reinventing horror fiction. In his latest, a group of upper-class Charleston soccer moms battle boredom with wine-and-cheese discussions of the latest lurid true-crime bestsellers at their monthly book club gatherings. But distraction comes in the form of a younger, handsome bachelor who’s moved into a house in the neighborhood that belonged to a recently deceased spinster. Is he as kind and sort of sexy as they want and hope? Well, no. He’s got a bit of history. And he

only comes out at night. And why are children suddenly missing in the poorer parts of town? Hendrix is brilliant at taking absolutely done-to-death stereotypes and turning them into something witty and frightening. It’s not completely new — he wants you to luxuriate a bit in those old comfortable genres — but part of the fun is how he drives a wooden stake right through the heart of those old tropes. — Rick Koster

Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee

Netflix
This isn’t a new series, but, boy, is it welcome-relief viewing during the

pandemic. A different comic each episode gets into a sports car with Jerry Seinfeld, and while grabbing **streamtip** some coffee, the duo just talk. Considering these are world-class funny people, the talk is endlessly entertaining. Seinfeld is as good as an appreciative audience to his guests as he is a performer. And while most of the visitors have worked the standup stage (from Eddie Murphy to Ellen DeGeneres), some are witty actors (Sarah Jessica Parker’s banter with Seinfeld is a riot). “Comedians in Cars” has become my happy place. — Kristina Dorsey