

Life & Arts

THEATER: A PLAY IN A DAY | 5D

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT | 6D

Peace, love and punch lines

Local comedian John "Hippieman" Novosad has spent his life making Boulder laugh

By Dale Bridges
For the Camera

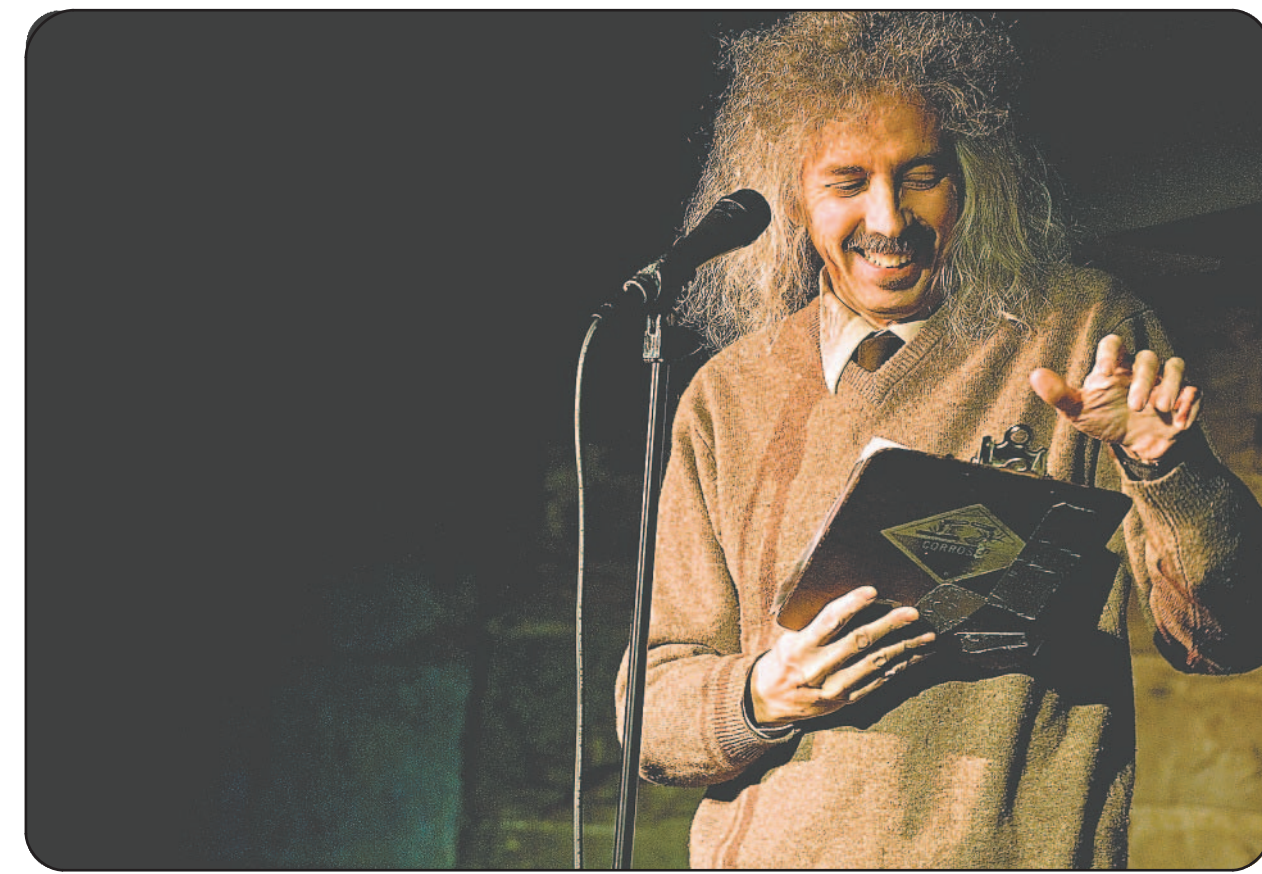
John Novosad was born and raised right here in Boulder, and he has been performing stand-up comedy on the Front Range for almost 30 years under the stage name of Hippieman. In 2006, he finally broke onto the national scene as a guest on "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson."

It's no small accomplishment. Some comedians work the road their whole lives without getting a shot at a television appearance. Others move to Hollywood and try to make it in the movie business. But John has never left the People's Republic.

As an entertainer, you need something that sets you apart from the crowd, something that makes you unique. There's an old saying in comedy: You've gotta have a look and a hook. For John "Hippieman" Novosad, the look and the hook were inspired by his life in Boulder.

Long before John appeared on national TV, he performed for a very different type of audience here in town.

"When we were kids, John used to put on a show for the family every



John "Hippieman" Novosad, of Boulder, plays off of the crowd at Comedy Works in Denver.

Adrian DiUbaldo | For the Camera

night at the dinner table," said John's brother, Joe Jr. "He told jokes and stories to make us laugh. He was always entertaining people, even when he was little. I think he wanted to make sure everyone was happy.

Especially Mom. It was hard for her after Dad died."

In the 1950s, John's parents, Joe Sr. and Lucille, owned a grocery store in Boulder called The Prep Basket at 17th and Pearl. Joe Sr. was

the butcher, and Lucille was in charge of pretty much everything else. It was literally a mom-and-pop establishment. The kids would usually stop by after school to man the cash register or stock shelves.

"I was very young," John said. "But I remember everyone working in the store. It was a family business. We all pitched in."

In 1961, Joe Sr. passed away from complications related to emphysema and lung cancer. His death came as a shock, and the Novosads were devastated by the loss.

John is the youngest member of the family. He was just 6 years old when his father died.

With three kids to raise on her own, Lucille hired another butcher and attempted to keep the store open. But it was too much. After a few years, she was forced to sell it and begin a new career as a bookkeeper for various local businesses.

The Boulder community rallied around the Novosads during this time. Friends, neighbors and family members all chipped in and lent a hand.

"We never felt neglected," said John's sister, Jennie Anderson. "There were always aunts and uncles and neighbors at the dinner table. We always had a full house."

"That's where I first learned to make people laugh," said John. "My first audience was in our dining room. Of course, as the little brother, my main goal was to make milk shoot out of my sister's nose. There's no better feeling than that."

"I don't know if milk ever shot out of my nose," said Jennie, laughing. "But I did think my little brother was

See HIPPIEMAN, 3D



Courtesy photo

Bahman Saless formed the Boulder Chamber Orchestra six years ago.

A classical way of life

Boulder Chamber Orchestra launches season

By Wes Blomster
Camera Classical Music Critic

Bahman Saless is the musical soul brother of the legendary Little Engine that could.

Eyebrows in the community arched six years ago when Iranian-born Saless, a physicist by training, but an impassioned musician at heart, announced the formation of the Boulder Chamber Orchestra.

"Do we need this?" sighed some, while others asked: "Don't we have too many orchestras already?"

The cynics seemed to have a point, for the city's major orchestras — the Boulder Philharmonic and the Colorado Music Festival — have often faced problems keeping their shows on the road.

Saless, however, knew what he was doing, and has done it with astonishing success for five seasons.

And when he took the BCO to Broomfield two years ago, he tapped into a totally new market.

See CHAMBER, 3D

If you go

What: Boulder Chamber Orchestra opens season
When & where: 7:30 p.m. Friday at First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St. in Boulder, and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Broomfield Auditorium 3 Community Park Rd. in Broomfield
Tickets: \$20; \$15 for students and seniors; free for children under 12
More info: 303-583-1278 or www.boulderchamberorchestra.org

The What we're into this week

Hot

5

MUSIC

P2K. Love it, hate it or never heard of it, Pitchfork.com has released its list of the top 200 albums from the last decade. These aren't your top-40 records — for the most part, it's the best under-the-radar music of the last nine and a half years. But the part we like best is that the site teamed up with Lala.com to offer most of those albums at steep discounts. If you're behind on your Ted Leo & the Pharmacists (or 198 other albums), now's your chance to get a bunch of critically-acclaimed albums for a little money.

TV

"Dexter." Everyone's favorite serial killer-cum-moral-crusader, Miami forensic

investigator (blood spatters are his thing) is back for a fourth season. The season premiere is online at www.sho.com/dexter, but here's a word of advice: If you have not followed David C. Hall's mindblowingly funny, edgy, subtle performance or experienced the canny writing (slightly down in Season 3), do yourself a favor and catch up with Dex before tuning in to Season 4. Trust us.



BOOK

That Old Cape Magic, by Richard Russo. Like the best of his work ("Empire Falls"),

Russo's new novel is a meditation on aging, the past and family. The central visual this time around is the urn (soon to be urns) of ashes New England college prof Jack Griffin is hauling around in his trunk. By novel's end, he's hauling three generations of worries around in his brain. Despite the sometimes-mournful subject matter, Russo can be a pretty damned funny, dry, writer.

CIVICS

Registering to vote. It's not too late — you can still register to vote, quite easily, in person or by fax or mail, in time for this November's elections. The very last day to register for this year is tomorrow. Check out www.voteboulder.org for details, or walk into a County Clerk & Recorder's Office: 1750 33rd Street, Boulder; 529 Coffman Street, Longmont; or 722 Main Street,

Louisville.

COMICS

"Unknown Soldier," Vertigo. We were more than a little surprised when we picked up the tenth issue of this series at a friend's recommendation to find characters tormented over the right approach to aid in Africa, dealing head-on with some pretty current real-world criticisms — along with more typical comic-booky things.



— Camera staff

Reaching us: Editor: Dave Burdick, 303-473-1342 burdickd@dailycamera.com | Online: www.dailycamera.com/news/lifestyles | To subscribe: 303-444-3444 or at www.dailycamera.com

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