



PHOTO BY PAVELA SPRINGSTEEN

Sitar star Anoushka Shankar

music

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

WHAT Daughter of Ravi, half-sister of Norah Jones, sitar prodigy Anoushka Shankar takes over the City Winery this weekend.

WHEN | WHERE Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 8 p.m. City Winery, 155 Varick St.

INFO \$45-\$65, 212-608-0555, citywinery.com

— KEVIN AMORIM

food

BRASILINA

WHAT Many of the ethnic restaurants in Hell's Kitchen are just so-so, but this Brazilian place brings an elevated touch to its menu, like the sizzling *picanha* steak platter with delicately chiffonaded collard greens. Order a Cupid's julep from the inventive cocktail list.

WHEN | WHERE Lunch and dinner. 836 Ninth Ave.

INFO \$28 average entree, 212-969-9970, brasilinany.com

— TED LOOS

nightlife

THE FREEDOM PARTY

WHAT The party gets moving with a number of DJs and various styles — funk, classic R&B, house, '80s pop and more. Bonus: The Roots' ?uestlove is tonight's special guest.

WHEN | WHERE Tonight at 11. Le Poisson Rouge, 158 Bleecker St.

INFO \$20, 212-505-3474, lepoissonrouge.com

— KEVIN AMORIM

book talks

Toast the authors

BY MARIE ELENA MARTINEZ

Special to *Newsday*

There are literary happenings in New York City on a nightly basis, but the look and feel of the traditional book event is changing. Luxury hotels are hosting conversations with authors over cocktails, live music events are being catered by celebrity New York chefs launching cookbooks, and poetry is being paired with film. Bars like Joe's Pub and Pete's Candy Store are replacing the local Barnes & Noble as choice reading venues. Here are some alternative author events taking place this month.

Alexander McCall Smith

WHAT The premier forum for compelling conversations between writers is the New York Public Library, and this month's Talks at the Schomburg spotlights Alexander McCall Smith, author of the bestselling "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" series. Novelist Akhil Sharma will moderate a comprehensive discussion about McCall Smith's life, writing and beloved series, which is set in Botswana.

WHEN | WHERE April 15 at 7 p.m., New York Public Library, Schomburg Center. Langston Hughes Auditorium. 515 Malcolm X Blvd.

INFO \$15, 212-491-2200, nysl.org.

Beth Gutcheon

WHAT Beth Gutcheon's latest novel, "Gossip," is a tale of friendship and betrayal set on the Upper East Side's Madison Avenue. So, where better to host a reading than the 130-year-old Villard Mansion, home to The New York Palace Hotel? Gutcheon is the featured author in the Palace's Monthly Book Series, a swank meeting of book lovers, with wine and appetizers.

WHEN | WHERE April 17 at 6:30 p.m. Library Room, New York Palace Hotel, 455 Madison Ave.

INFO Free; books available for purchase. 212-888-7000, newyorkpalace.com



AP PHOTO



PHOTO BY TARA MURPHY

Powerhouse Arena hosts chef Zak Pelaccio's cookbook launch, above. Left, "Ladies' " man Alexander McCall Smith, and, right, Bowery Poetry Club.

Zak Pelaccio

WHAT The chef-owner of New York's indulgent Fatty Crab and Fatty 'Cue restaurants will launch his new cookbook, "Eat With Your Hands," at the Powerhouse Arena in Brooklyn's DUMBO neighborhood. Featuring live music by Woods, drinks by Tiger Beer and tastes of the Asian-influenced, carnivore-friendly recipes that made Pelaccio an NYC hit.

WHEN | WHERE April 17 at 7 p.m. Powerhouse Arena. 37 Main St., Brooklyn

INFO \$10, tickets sold at door. 718-666-3049, powerhousearena.com

Daniel Wolff / Jonathan Demme

WHAT Bowery Poetry Club's ongoing series, It Begins with a Poem, will host an evening highlighting Wolff's poems, and showcase his forthcoming documentary with director Demme,



"I'm Carolyn Parker." It's a portrait of a New Orleans woman in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

WHEN | WHERE April 22 at 7 p.m. Bowery Poetry Club Bar, 308 Bowery
INFO Free, 212-614-0505, bowerypoetry.com

Zadie Smith/Colm Tóibín

WHAT Selected Shorts, a popular literary program at the Upper West Side's Symphony Space, pairs writers with stage and film actors in a presentation of spoken-word short stories. At the end of the month, Smith ("White Teeth") and Tóibín ("Brooklyn") will present their favorite stories to be performed by actress Lois Smith and others.

WHEN | WHERE April 25 at 7 p.m. Peter Jay Sharp Theatre, 2537 Broadway
INFO \$27 (\$15 for ages 30 and younger), 212-864-5400; symphonyspace.org