

What's hot around the Bay this week

By Mercury News

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Theater

'The Kite Runner' opens

After a week of previews to get the kinks out, the San Jose Rep's production of "The Kite Runner" — Khaled Hosseini's international bestseller — finally gets its official world premiere Friday. The production runs through April 19; tickets are \$33-\$62; (408) 367-7255; www.sjrep.com. Karen D'Souza's review of the show (adapted for the stage by Matthew Spangler) will appear in the local section of Sunday's Mercury News.

To add context to the play, the Rep is mounting an exhibition of 50 black and white images taken by photographer Joseph Hoyt in Afghanistan during the 1970s. The photos depict portraits, landscapes and ancient ruins in the poor but culturally and historically rich nation before the start of conflict and turmoil. Hoyt's photos also have been reproduced in a book that will be available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting the Rep and several Afghan relief organizations.

— Charlie McCollum, Mercury News

Classical

Cleve leads the symphony

Brahms is meat and potatoes for conductor George Cleve, who will lead Symphony Silicon Valley three times this week in — guess what? — Brahms' matchless Violin Concerto, featuring the award-winning Korean violinist Ju-Young Baek. Cleve has a real rapport with this orchestra — not a surprise, as many of its players were members of the old San Jose Symphony, which Cleve led for two decades. That helps make this program a good bet.

It also includes Berlioz's ever-tasty "Le carnaval romain" and Dvorak's ever-familiar Symphony No. 9, "From The New World," a crowd-pleaser with soul. 7:30 tonight, 8 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, California Theatre, 345 S. First St., San Jose. Tickets: \$39-\$75; (408) 286-2600, extension 23; www.symphonysiliconvalley.org.

— Richard Scheinin, Mercury News

Club dates

Tom Morello rocks with some friends

Tom Morello, former guitarist for Rage Against the Machine, takes on his solo persona as the Nightwatchman and brings his Justice Tour tonight to Slim's in San Francisco. Special guests for the benefit date include singer-songwriter Steve Earle, political rockers Anti-Flag, Wayne (MC-5), Coup front man Boots Riley and Slipknot lead vocalist Corey Taylor. It will raise money for Axis of Justice, a nonprofit organization co-founded by

System of a Down's Serj Tankian to bring together musicians, fans of music and grass-roots political organizations to fight for social justice. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8. Tickets are \$15, www.slimstickets.com.

— Charlie McCollum, Mercury News

Classes

Making the most of weeds

Turns out, weeds aren't all bad — they just get a bad rap. Horticulture experts say that weeds can tell us a lot about our soil and can even be useful players in the garden by attracting beneficial insects. Some even have medicinal properties. Learn more when Sarah Wiederkehr presents a workshop on weed ecology from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Hidden Villa. \$15-\$20. 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. To register: (650) 949-8653; www.hiddenvilla.org.

— Holly Hayes, Mercury News