

TOP OF THE NEWS

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► Afghanistan: Violence up nearly as much as last week, U.S. report says. B2
► Syria: 6th. A new list of donors is named as the U.N. Security Council votes. A9

Bay Area

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► Franchise: The San Francisco-based company that sells and franchises its own food trucks is looking for investors. Page 4

Business Report

► Shipping: The industry's top executives are looking for ways to boost demand, including by the U.S. Datedbook
► Getting the message: How to get your company's message across in a crowded market. B2

Question

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► 96 Hours: The production company's new show is a hit. Page 4



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San Francisco Chronicle
California's Best Large Newspaper as ranked by the California Newspaper Publishers Association

Traffic tragedies claim 2 lives



Herrera donors got city contracts

Candidate for S.F. mayor might have violated law

Ovation

Your Bay Area arts guide and companion to Sunday Datebook

96Hours
4-DAY WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Pullout section with weekend event listings begins after Page F4

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFGATE.COM | September 29–October 2, 2011 | Section F

DON'T MISS

“California ... To Be Continued”: On Friday the Oakland Museum of California's Gallery of California History unveils additions from the past 50 years, under headings that include “The Border,” “The Innovator's Garage” and “The Hot Tub.” Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. \$6-\$12. (510) 318-8400 www.museumca.org.

Why We Have a Body: Magic Theatre's revival of Claire Chafee's 1993 hit enters the last weekend of a brightly performed chamber piece for four quirky women. 8 p.m. today-Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Magic Theatre, Building D, Fort Mason Center, S.F. \$30-\$75. (415) 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org.

TV Noir: The Roxie kicks off a week of TV movies and series episodes with two-for-one admission. Opening night on Friday includes “The Lie” (1955) starring Dan Duryea, “The Haunted Clown” (1960) and an unsold pilot episode of “Mike Hammer.” 3117 16th St., S.F. (415) 863-1087. www.roxie.com.

Coming in Sunday Datebook

SFJazz tunes up for a smokin' fall season



PHOTOGRAPHY

Sweet life for Cuba's privileged

By Jonathan Curriel
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Everyone knows that Cuba is one of the Western Hemisphere's poorest countries. Its economic indices lag in nearly every category, including gross domestic product and household income. Yet the stereotype of Cuba as a strict post-Communist backwater — a kind of Shangri-la of egalitarianism — has taken a beating in the past year.

First, there was an article in the Economist that quoted Ada Fuen-

“Michael Dweck: Habana Libre”: The photo exhibit runs through Oct. 29. Modernism, 685 Market St., Suite 290, Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Information: (415) 541-0461 or www.modernisminc.com.

tes, a woman who returned to Havana after living in New Jersey for five decades. “If you have money,” Fuentes said, “life's good here.”

Now there is Michael Dweck's photo project that shows Cuba's privileged side — a side of beautiful models, late-night partiers, daytime surfers, hard-working guitar players and other people who make up Cuba's “creative

“Rachel Going for a Surf,” a photograph by Michael Dweck taken at Playa del Este in Cuba, is part of his work focusing on the privileged lives of those in the island nation's “creative class.”

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 • 96 Hours: The producer creates a unique blend of hip-hop and jazz, Page 8



Sporting Greats
 • Will you ever see the stars? A look at the careers of some of the most famous athletes who ever stepped on the field, mostly by 400 40

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FROM THE COVER

A sweet life for Cuba's upper crust

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class," as Dweck calls them. Two of Fidel Castro's sons (Alex and Alejandro) are on the periphery of this strata. So is the son of Che Guevara, Camilo Guevara, who's a photographer.

The revolution that Fidel Castro and Che Guevara brought to the island nation five decades ago has evolved into something unexpected: Guilty pleasure. As Dweck notes in his new book, "Michael Dweck: Habana Libre," some of the people he photographed are "embarrassed" about their relatively elite standing; others, he says, "are afraid to draw attention to it for fear the socialist government will punish them for having a good life." An exhibit of photos from "Habana Libre" continues at San Francisco's Modernism gallery through Oct. 29.

"Artists, writers, filmmakers, dancers — they live this secretive life under the radar in Cuba that is really cool and lends itself well to a narrative," says Dweck. "I'm playing on the theme of privilege in a classless society."

Not surprisingly, some Cubans didn't want to cooperate with Dweck. One woman he met there told him, "I think this project is going to get a lot of people in trouble, and you're on your own." But Dweck, based in New York City, was never really on his own. Within hours of first flying to Havana, he befriended a well-connected British expat who

told him about a private party at an old 20,000-square-foot oceanside residence, where Dweck met Cubans he would photograph for "Habana Libre."

From then on, Dweck was invited to other private parties, then — eventually — to his subjects' homes and sanctuaries. Painters Rene Francisco and Carlos Quintana took Dweck to their studios. Camilo Guevara is in his house. Rachel Valdes, an accomplished model and painter, is among those photographed with little on as she goes about her business.

"I got lucky, and they were nice to trust me," says Dweck, who visited Cuba eight times from 2009-2010.

People who know Dweck's earlier photographic work will recognize a pattern with "Habana Libre": Water and nubile women (and men). In 2004, Dweck published "The End: Montauk, N.Y.," which featured topless beachgoers posing, cavorting and rushing to their destination — a scenic tapestry that evoked, Dweck said, "the paradise of summer, youth, and erotic possibility." Dweck says his photos — whether he's in Havana, Montauk or New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range (shooting shiny weapons of mass destruction for his next project) — are often about things that hint or intimate at a compelling story.

"My work is very much about being suggestive," Dweck says. "For me, photography is not so much about capturing 'the moment.' My



Michael Dweck / Modernism Gallery

Michael Dweck's photographs, like "Dancing to Kelvis' Music at Don Congrejo Habana," are a jarring update of a Cuban society that underwent revolution a couple of generations before.

work is more about time and place and how we got there and where we're going next."

Dweck came to photography in a circuitous way. Until 2002, he was head of his own advertising firm, whose best-known TV spot, "Arctic Ground Squirrel," featured a

caustic man dressed as a squirrel getting a mattress delivered to his winter house in Brooklyn. (The man wants to "hibernate" to get away from his nagging wife.) The ad still makes the rounds on YouTube and other video sites, and the Museum of Modern Art owns

a copy.

Dweck garnered scores of awards for his advertising and did work for "The Daily Show" and "South Park," but he left it all behind ("at the peak of my career") to pursue photography full time, drawn soon

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San Francisco Chronicle

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THIS WEEKEND

MUSIC

Baroque Project: Counter-tenor Brian Asawa and mezzo-soprano Diana Tash perform operatic excerpts by Handel, Purcell and Monteverdi, accompanied by cellist Josephine van Lier and harpsichordist Gilbert Martinez.

7 p.m. Thurs. Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, 555 Portola Drive, San Francisco. \$35. (323) 868-1364. www.diana.tash.com.

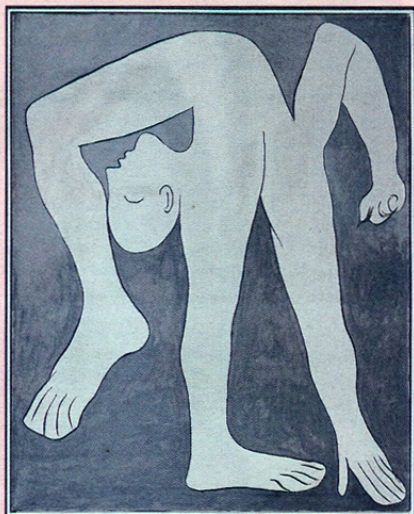
San Francisco Symphony: Michael Tilson Thomas leads the West Coast premiere of Thomas Adès' "Polaris," an orchestra co-commission that features visual contributions from video artist Tal Rosner. Music by Mozart and Stravinsky completes the program.

8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. \$15-\$140. (415) 864-6000. www.sfsymphony.org.

Marin Symphony: The orchestra begins its season under Music Director Alasdair Neale with an all-Tchaikovsky concert featuring pianist Ori- on Weiss as soloist.

3 p.m. Sun. Marin Center, San Rafael. \$29-\$70. (415) 499-6800. www.marinsymphony.org.

ART



Rene Gabriel Ojeda / Musee National Picasso, Paris

"The Acrobat" (1930), part of an exhibition of more than 100 masterpieces by Pablo Picasso.

Picasso: Masterpieces From the Musée National Picasso, Paris: Pablo Picasso may cast a longer shadow over the modern art landscape than even he thought possible. This selection of works he withheld from the market touches several turning points of his career, permitting a panoramic view of his restless inventiveness in a range of media. Through Oct. 9. \$15-\$25. De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. (415) 750-3600. www.famsf.org.

DANCE

Dancers' Group: Katie Faulkner's little seismic dance company featuring 20 Bay Area dancers and multimedia artist Michael Trigilio will do a new public performance project titled "We Don't Belong Here."

Free. 8 p.m. today-Fri., Sun. Union Square, San Francisco. (Oct. 6-9 will be at Yerba Buena Center Lane.) www.dancersgroup.org

THEATER

Gypsy: Broadway by the Bay opens its 46th season in its new home with the Gypsy Rose Lee musical, with a classic stage-mother book by Arthur Laurents and "Everything's Coming Up Roses" music and lyrics by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim. Amanda Folea directs with choreography by Robyn Tribuzi.

8 p.m. today-Sat., 2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Through Oct. 9. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. \$22-\$48. (650) 579-5565. www.broadwaybythebay.org.

THEATER



Robin Jackson

Tavis Kammet and Marianne Shine star in "Don't Dress for Dinner."

Don't Dress for Dinner: Ross Valley Players perform Marc Camoletti's follow-up to his international hit French farce "Boeing Boeing," in which a man's plans to spend a gourmet weekend with his Parisian mistress, while his wife is out of town, run up against his wife's decision to stay home and other complications, including her affair with his best friend and the introduction of another woman into the mix.

7:30 p.m. today, 8 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Through Oct. 16. Ross Valley Players Barn Theater, Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross. \$15-\$25. (415) 456-9555. www.rossvalleyplayers.com.

The sweet life for Cuba's upper crust

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after by capturing Montauk life while the Long Island community was unchanged from his teen years there. Dweck's Montauk photos were initially shown on the sixth floor of Sotheby's — the first time the New York auction house had devoted an exhibition to a living photographer.

Since then, Dweck has garnered a portfolio that any photographer would dream of: Images in publications like Vanity Fair and Esquire; a series of well-reviewed books;

and gallery shows around the world, including Tokyo, Belgium and Hamburg.

For Dweck, Cuba was the embodiment of everything he lives for. "I'm always attracted to subject matter that has seduction in it, and Cuba, to me, has all the elements of a seductive subject," Dweck says. "It's dangerous, it's mysterious, it's playful, it's subtle, it's sensual."

It also has name recognition. For an older generation, the name "Cuba" instills immediate associations with Castro, the 1962 missile crisis, and a long-standing American em-

bargo that has helped keep the island isolated economically.

Dweck's photos are a jarring update of Cuban society. The Cubans in "Habana Libre" are able to express themselves through their art and the way they live. Young in spirit if not in age, they wanted Dweck to know that Cubans on the island can transcend their economic limitations. For these Cubans, "the good life" is never far away.

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Michael Dweck / Modernism Gallery

Photographer Camilo Guevara, the son of Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara, is interviewed in Havana.