

on weekends, open Christmas Day; 155 Browns Valley Parkway, Vacaville. 455-7827.

Cloud Nine Karaoke, Friday and Saturday, closed Christmas Day; 4519 Walters Road, Fairfield. 425-9365.

Ding's Cocktail Lounge Buzz Time trivia, blackjack and cards daily, all day; free Wi-Fi, closed Christmas Day; 1712 Texas St., Fairfield. 425-2529.

The Elmira Cabin Open Christmas Day, 6081 California Pacific Road, Elmira. 447-3230.

Harry's Sportsman's Lounge Full sports bar, 833 Texas St., opens at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day; Fairfield. 422-2940.

Huey's Pub Karaoke and live music, Thursday to Saturday, opens at 6 p.m. on Christmas Day; 519 Main St Vacaville. 451-9015.

Legends and Heroes Sports Grill Closed on Christmas Day; 3990 Paradise Valley Drive, Fairfield. 421-2234.

Lighthouse Restaurant and Bar 21 and older, 151 Brannan Island Road, Isleton. Free. 916-777-4030.

The Limelight Dance to disc jockey, 9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, opens at 5 p.m. on Christmas Day; 558 Parker Road, Fairfield. 437-5551.

Miss Darla's Karaoke, every night except Wednesday and Sunday, closed Christmas Day; 110 Peabody Road, Vacaville. 446-4131.

Oasis Strict dress code, open Christmas Day; 1626 N. Texas St., Fairfield. 814-1432.

Point Waterfront Restaurant Live bands on weekends, closed Christmas Day; 120 Marina Drive, Rio Vista. 374-5400.

The Suite Karaoke, 9 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, open Christmas Day; 1721 N. Texas St., Fairfield, 425-8352.

Places to go

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Walking and wheelchair-accessible guided tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, beer samples for those 21 and older, closed today, Christmas Day and Dec. 31, 2011; Busch Drive, Fairfield. Free. 429-7595, <http://www.budweisertours.com/toursFAIR.htm>.

GV Cellars Wine tasting, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends, weekdays by appointment only, closed Christmas Day; 1635 Mason Road, Fairfield. 864-2089.

Jelly Belly Free tours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, closed Christmas Day; One Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. 428-2838, <http://www.jellybelly.com>.

Ledgewood Creek Winery Tasting room open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Christmas Day; 4589 Abernathy Road, Fairfield. 426-4424, <http://www.legdewoodcreek.com>.

Mankas Potters @ The Clay Station Re-opens Jan. 20, 2011; open noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday; 2529 Mankas Corner Road, Fairfield. Free. 422-4942.

Sepay Groves Taste olive oils, vinegars, jams and jellies, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; closed Christmas Day; 370 Chadbourne Road, Fairfield. 434-8222, <http://www.sepayoliveoil.com>.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom Holiday In the Park, through Jan. 2, 2011; open Sunday through Thursday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2, 2011, closed today and Christmas Day; 1001 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. 643-6722. <http://www.sixflags.com/discoverykingdom>.

Suisun Valley Wine Cooperative Tasting room open noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, closed Christmas Day; 4495 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 864-3135.

Wooden Valley Winery Tasting room open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; closed Christmas Day; 4756 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield. 864-0730, <http://www.woodenvalley.com>.

Western Railway Museum Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday to Sunday; closed today, Christmas Day and Dec. 31; 5848 Highway 12, Suisun City. 374-2978, <http://www.wrm.org>.

OTHER AREAS

Fairytale Town Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, closed Christmas Day; 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. 916-264-5233, <http://www.fairytaletown.org>.

Sacramento Zoo Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, closed Christmas Day; 3930 W. Land Park Drive (in William Land Park), Sacramento. 916-264-5888, <http://www.saczoo.com>.

San Francisco Zoo Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, Sloat Boulevard and 47th Avenue, San Francisco. 415-753-7080, <http://www.sfbayzoo.org>.

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Christmas Day; 2701 L. St., Sacramento. 916-445-4422, <http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort>.

Winchester Mystery House Opens 9 a.m. daily with last tour leaving at 5 p.m., closed Christmas Day; 525 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose. 408-247-2000, <http://www.winchestermysteryhouse.com>.

Ebert: 'Gulliver's Travels' strays from Swift's classic story

From Page B1

He has a crush on Darcy the travel editor (Amanda Peet), who is a good sport and gives him an assignment to write a piece from Bermuda. Jack falls asleep on board his speedboat and enters the Bermuda Triangle, which, come to think of it, of course is where Lilliput must be. In the land of these 6-inch people, he awakens to find himself tied down with ropes staked to the ground, which is also what happened in Jonathan Swift's classic, but boy, would Swift ever not recognize the rest of this story.

Jack, or Lemuel Gulliver, soon finds himself not a captive but more like a hero, god, adviser and warrior for the Lilliputians, whose society resembles an Arthurian, not a Swiftian, fantasy. On an island centered on a seaside castle, they wear the costumes and play the roles of medieval romantic swashbucklery. And they talk the talk. To paraphrase one Lilliputian, "Whyeth musteth we always speaketh with all these E'THS?"

The kingdom centers on the beloved and beautiful Princess Mary (Emily Blunt), and the rivals for her affection: King Theodore (Billy Connolly) and Gen. Edward (Chris O'Dowd). Lemuel is able to participate in these intrigues by peering over ramparts or taking a seat on battlements. He is about 12 times as tall as they are. I wonder how he can so easily hear their little voices; if he said, "Speak up!" they'd be blown away. No matter. Darcy, of course, turns up in search of Lemuel, battles are waged, tables are turned, romances blossom, and so on.



The Associated Press/20th Century Fox

Jason Segel, left, portrays Horatio and Emily Blunt portrays Princess Mary in "Gulliver's Travels."

It just occurred to me that you may be imagining this is an animated film, and that Jack Black is voicing Lemuel Gulliver. Not at all. This is live action, and despite the 3D, it's sorta old-fashioned, not that that's a bad thing. The problem is to contain Lemuel and the Lilliputians in the same frame when he towers over them. Makes for (1) long shots, or (2) shots of Black's enormous face peering at the little

folks from over the edge of something. As he stood on the beach with the little fellas, I was immediately reminded of the genie in Michael Powell's masterpiece "The Thief of Bagdad" (1939).

I wouldn't describe the special effects as seamless. Far from it. But that brings us back around to our grandmother, Gloria DeMent. Do you think her great-grandchildren are going to be sitting there saying, "You can see that's done

with green screen"? I don't think so. They're gonna be saying, "Thanks, Grandma Glo! This is ever so much better than that scary Nutcracker movie! There isn't a single Holocaust anywhere in it!"

(Well, in all fairness, the entire Earth is ripped to pieces in a brilliant cartoon that plays before the feature. "Scrat's Continental Crack-Up" stars the manic creature from the first "Ice Age," who would destroy the globe to save a nut.)

Ring: Urban Bushmen ushers in new year at Dimitri's

From Page B1

sure about the group's name.

"Kenny got the idea for the name when he remembered, as a kid, seeing an old man in silhouette who looked like someone from the Kalahari but in the 'hood," Houston said. "When I first heard the name I was worried that it would get in the way of us booking corporate gigs."

Houston's fears turned out to be unfounded as the group has developed a strong following and has performed everywhere from the Flamingo Resort in Santa Rosa to San Francisco's AT&T Park.

The Urban Bushmen Band's forte is mainly old school R&B and its live show features crowd-pleasing hits by groups such as Cameo,

EVENT
Preview
New Year's Eve Celebration
8 p.m. Dec. 31
Featuring the Urban Bushmen Band
Band & DJ, hors d'oeuvres, balloon drop, champagne toast, party favors, live countdown
Dimitri's Lounge, 700 Main St., Suite 106, Suisun City
419-5204
<http://www.dimitrislounge.com>

The Time, Prince and Earth, Wind & Fire. When Wilson isn't busy helping his daughter Gabi's career take flight, the group often goes

back to its pre-R&B roots and breaks out some blues as well.

"We also throw in some rock like the Rolling Stones and even Van Halen," Houston said. "We do a little salsa -- some Santana stuff and songs by Jaheim, The Isley Brothers, The Gap Band and Michael Jackson among others. If you listen to KMEL it's like our set list. We're like the KMEL live band."

According to Dimitri's owner, Demetrius Mance, the Urban Bushmen Band is the honorary house band of his club. The band first played there in April and has returned every month since. Mance is eager to celebrate a successful year in Suisun City.

"We have been blessed this first year. We honestly really didn't have

any time to do a lot of advertising, but we are booked really solid," Mance said. "Word of mouth about the club has spread like wildfire. We get e-mails from Sacramento, San Jose, Fremont, Richmond -- all over the Bay Area."

Mance's club features a variety of live entertainment including rock 'n' roll, country, comedy and karaoke, and recently hosted its first gospel event. He said the club is moving in the right direction, and in 2011 plans to continue to bring in quality headliners from numerous genres to entertain the party people of Solano County.

Reach Fairfield freelance writer Tony Wade at getthelowdown@sbcglobal.net.

Names: Fundraiser benefits cancer-stricken bandmate

From Page B1

Streak," "Rescue Me" and "Don't Stop Running," among others.

While the guitar-heavy power pop/melodic rock sound the band pioneered had its heyday in the 1980s, the group has always been a strong audience draw and released a new album earlier this year titled "Facemelter."

Lead guitarist/vocalist and founding Y&T member Dave Meniketti recently answered a few questions via telephone:

Q: First off, how is Phil doing?
DM: Right now they are just trying to get some weight back on him. He's definitely still fighting the cancer and with the chemo it's been a rough go for the last five months.

Q: You guys have been together for a long time. It must be very difficult.

DM: The band has been together 37 years and I've known Phil longer than anybody in my life besides my parents and my sister. It was a major thing for me first to find out what was going on with him, but secondly that he is not sharing the stage with me.

Q: How did the benefit idea develop?

EVENT
Preview
Phil Kennemore Benefit Concert
Featuring Y&T, Geoff Tate, Don Dokken, Vinny Appice, Greg Kihn and many others
8 p.m. Dec. 31
21 and over
Avalon Ballroom, 777 Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara
<http://www.yandtrocks.com>
<http://www.avalonsantaclara.com>



DM: The first thing I did was set up a fund where people could give PayPal donations and that worked well, but we knew we needed to do a big event. The Avalon called and said they had New Year's Eve open and could give us 100 percent of the door. We wanted a place that could hold at least 1,000 people so it worked out perfectly.

Q: What has the response been from other musicians wanting to help?

DM: Right off the bat we had many people step up and say anything you want me to do I'll do it.

Geoff Tate (Queensryche), Don Dokken (Dokken), Bobby Blotz (Ratt), Vinny Appice (Dio, Black Sabbath), Chuck Billy (Testament), Greg Kihn, the original members of Y&T and many others are going to be there.

In addition, tons of people have sent us something to auction off on our website to raise money including our Twisted Sister friend, Eric Martin, David Coverdale of Whitesnake and many others. It's been fantastic and there are some fairly significant items.

Q: So what is the plan for

the show?

DM: We are going to do about a set's worth of material as the current band and then we will do a lot of Y&T songs with guest artists joining in. We'll also play some of their songs and Don Dokken is going to have an acoustic set to open the whole show. It's going to be very cool. There's going to be a lot of love going up on that stage.

Q: It must be nice to get that love and respect.

DM: We have a lot of good friends in the industry and this is the time when those friendships mean the most -- when it's a difficult time and they come to bat for us. There are people flying in from all over the world and that really means a lot to Phil and to me.

Q: How can fans connect with Phil?

DM: They can send him a personal message on the forum page of our website (<http://www.yandtrocks.com>). When you are fighting a disease that is so tough on the body, every little bit of inspiration that lifts the spirit really means so much.

Reach Fairfield freelance writer Tony Wade at over40rocker@sbcglobal.net.

DeCicco: Aronofsky explores the troubled soul in his films

From Page B1

and someone who has found some deep pockets of dissatisfaction therein.

Lee, Weiner and Aronofsky are examples of artists who use their medium as a means to explore what we can surmise might be going on inside them. Inspiration comes in many forms, so it's not easy to point and say definitively that any one of these individuals is doing this.

In Aronofsky's films, the charac-

ters often get lost in the funhouse.

The four primary characters of his harrowing "Requiem for the Dream" all battle drug addictions and self-delusions. Given the way things turned out for The Ram and the Swan Queen, you can probably surmise what's in store for the quartet of players in "Requiem." Let's say it is not for the faint of heart.

But it is a statement of what Aronofsky thinks of addiction or overindulgence at the least.

We can see the wheels turning as we watch his movies.

Aronofsky's deft ability with tone shines in "Black Swan," released earlier this month and already touted as a possible Oscar candidate, despite the decision earlier this week that its score was ineligible.

In the film, hand-held cameras whip around Portman as she performs the black swan's signature fouettés.

The choice leaves you with the woozy feeling of being a part of the performance, but also helps you feel what it's like to be in Nina's unsettled mind.

And possibly what it's like to be inside Aronofsky's mind.

Multiple films exposing a character's concerns about not being able to outrun their demons gives the impression that there's some sickly beast Aronofsky himself is trying to outrun.

If they're of the caliber of his work so far, let's hope he continues that exploration.

Read more of Nick DeCicco's blogs at <http://dailyrepublic.typepad.com/forthoseabouttorock>.