

FROM THE SOUTH FRASER TO THE PEACE ARCH

the now

- LOCAL NEWS 3-9
- VIEWPOINT 10
- LETTERS 11
- LIVING 12
- SPORTS 33
- CLASSIFIEDS 36



The fifth floor at Hotel Max, an ultra-hip hangout in downtown Seattle.

Seattle to the max

IGETAWAYS/Hotel Max really rocks — as does the city's fall arts calendar

Seattle is a fine place for a little R&R and at Hotel Max, there's a double spin on the phrase.

TOM ZILICH
Staff reporter

The hip downtown hotel is all rock 'n' roll — at least on the fifth floor, where Charles Peterson's celebrated photographs capture Grunge-era stars Nirvana, Hole, Pearl Jam and more, in concert and in breathtaking door-length images on all room entrances.

Strikingly, the entire Stewart Street boutique inn is covered in original art created by Seattle-based artists, with some 350 works on its nine renovated floors. Its room doors are reserved for photographs (one photog per floor), ranging from intimate portraits of hand-clasped couples to stage-diving Soundgarden fans.

All that art is catalogued in the great little book *Maximalism: Art at the Hotel Max*, listed for \$20 on the honour-bar menu. Here, the hotel is revealed as something of an adults-only experience, with the metal box-housed "intimacy kit" positioned next to the Pringles chips and priced at \$30.

Hotel Max is a fine place to start a rock 'n' roll adventure, Seattle style. Plenty of touring bands stay in the hotel, and the lobby swims with cool music; I heard Nick Cave and the Pogues while lounging with the aged copy of *Touch Me, I'm Sick*, a collection of Peterson's Grunge-y photos. It was like my dream library in there, with copies of *Crossroads: The Experience Music Project Collection* and Brian Cogan's *The Encyclopedia of Punk* also for the reading

Emerald City is experiencing a bit of a Grunge revival, with girls' flannel shirts flying off shelves at Costco and Kurt Cobain T-shirts hogging wall space at shops near Pike market. Not only that, the boy from Aberdeen is also about to be given serious space at Surrey Art Museum. The simply titled *Kurt* exhibition, which opens next May and runs until September, will celebrate Cobain's life and work in a broad range of media by artists including Rodney Graham, Douglas Gordon and Elizabeth Peyton. "This exhibition," says the blurb on the museum's website, "will cause viewers to question why and how Kurt's visage and his gestures came to mean so much to a generation."

Right now, though, the focus at SAM is squarely on *Michelangelo Public and Private*, an eye-popping collection of drawings by the chap responsible for the Sistine Chapel ceiling (among many other revolutionary things). It's a rare glimpse of treasures from the Casa Buonarroti in Italy, and it's all on view until Jan. 31.

Seattle's fall arts calendar is rife with live events, such as Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* play, which closed Nov. 8 at ACT Theatre. Next on the boards there is the company's 34th annual (!) production of *A Christmas Carol*, starting Thursday, Nov. 12.

In fact, Christmas is huge in Seattle theatres: Pacific Northwest Ballet's version of *Nutcracker* is staged for an entire month; *Sister's Christmas Catechism* enjoys a similar run at ACT; Seattle Men's Chorus returns
see page 13 >



Male torso created by Michelangelo circa 1540, on view this fall in an exhibition at Seattle Art Museum.

IGETAWAYS: Seattle

'Pillow Menu' at fingertips

◀ continued from page 12

with its popular *Santa Baby* concerts starting Nov. 28; a day later, *White Christmas* opens at 5th Avenue Theatre; the Radio City Rockettes kick off a three-week run with *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* at the Paramount on Dec. 12, and *Black Nativity* goes full-on gospel at the Intiman Theatre for much of December.

Concerts are also creating a buzz in Seattle this fall, with dates for Kelly Clarkson (Nov. 24 at WaMu Theater, near the stadiums), KISS (with Buckcherry Nov. 15 at KeyArena), Bon Jovi (Feb. 19, also at KeyArena) and Brazilian jazz singer Bebel Gilberto (Dec. 13 at the Showbox, near Pike market).

After dinner on a recent weekend getaway, we cabbied it to the 88 Keys dueling piano bar in Pioneer Square for a rockin' good time. It's a wonder that more venues on this side of the border don't embrace this concept, because it's a total blast — especially for groups of friends.

Sports fans would be smart to make a weekend of it in Seattle by taking in a Seahawks football game at boisterous Qwest Field, with remaining home dates on the Sundays of Dec. 6 (versus San Francisco 49ers), Dec. 20 (Tampa Bay Buccaneers) and Jan. 3 (Tennessee Titans).

With all that action, it might be tough to escape for some real R&R (that is, rest and relaxation) in Seattle. But Hotel Max might be on to something: Dial "0" on the hotel phone to access its infamous Pillow Menu, offering everything from "soft" to "reading" and five types in between.

Now that's maximum R&R.

■ For a quick link to these and other Seattle attractions, click on visitseattle.org.