

Have Fun Frugally

Must you sometimes pay a lot to be entertained? Absolutely. Must you always? Absolutely not. A week's worth of high-end entertainment, and low-cost alternatives.

MONDAY

11/10

"Van Gogh and the Colors of Night" at MoMA (11. W. 53rd St., nr. Sixth Ave.; 212-708-9400), **\$20**. A bonanza of the Dutch master's swirling pathos.

vs.

"Picasso's Marie-Thérèse" at Acquavella Galleries (18 E. 79th St., nr. Madison Ave.; 212-734-6300), **free**. Art inspired by Picasso's curvy, underage, marriage-upsetting muse.

TUESDAY

11/11

"Governor Howard Dean: Reflections, Projections, and New Directions for the Democratic Party" at the 92nd St. Y (1395 Lexington Ave.; 212-415-5500), **\$27**.

vs.

"Night Shift" at KGB Bar, 85 E. 4th St., second fl. (212-505-3360), **free**. Two nonfiction writers illuminate the lives of night-shift workers.

WEDNESDAY

11/12

AC/DC at Madison Square Garden (Seventh Ave. at 33rd St.; 212-465-6741), **\$94**. For those about to rock ... they salute you.

vs.

Mark Kozelek at Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. 6th St., nr. Wythe Ave., Williamsburg; 718-486-5400), **\$25**. The underappreciated American troubadour, still in his achingly pretty prime.

THURSDAY

11/13

Russell Brand at Teatro del Museo del Barrio (1230 Fifth Ave., nr. 104th St.; 866-448-7849), **\$39.50**. If you liked him in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, you'll love him in person.

vs.

Big Terrific at Sound Fix (110 Bedford Ave., nr. N. 11th St., Williamsburg; 718-388-8090), **free**. A peek at the city's comedy underbelly.

FRIDAY

11/14

All My Sons at Schoenfeld Theatre (236 W. 45th St., nr. Eighth Ave.; 212-239-6200), from **\$66.50**. The most star-packed show of the season.

vs.

Taking Over at the Public Theater (425 Lafayette St., nr. Astor Pl.; 212-539-8500), **\$20 rush tickets**. Danny Hoch's one-man show again flies under the radar.

SATURDAY

11/15

Rangers vs. Bruins at Madison Square Garden, from **\$58.50** at Ticketmaster. The hockey version of Yankees-Red Sox.

vs.

Islanders at Senators at Nassau Coliseum (1255 Hempstead Tpke., Uniondale, N.Y.; 516-794-9300), from **\$19**. Did you know there's an NHL team just down the LIRR?



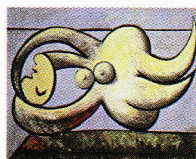
SUNDAY

11/16

Smashing Pumpkins at Mohegan Sun (1 Mohegan Sun Blvd., Uncasville, Conn.; 888-226-7711), **\$40**. Grunge, back for another round.

vs.

Sam Champion at Bowery Ballroom (6 Delancey St., nr. Bowery; 212-260-4700), **\$15**. Underexposed local band with a great name rocks the Bowery.



PABLO PICASSO, RECLINING FEMALE NUDE (FEMME NUE COUCHÉE), APRIL 1932

(assuming you'll be going out every night this year.)

ANNUAL SAVINGS.....**\$14,118**

QUICK SAVERS!

Go to Museums Only on Friday Nights

MoMA, free 4 to 8; Bronx Museum of the Arts, free all day; Guggenheim, pay what you wish 5:45 to 7:45; Morgan Library, free 7 to 9; American Folk Art Museum, free 5:30 to 7:30; New-York Historical Society, free 6 to 8.

ANNUAL SAVINGS.....**\$79** (assuming you'd go to each once.)

Rent a Dress

Ilus (248 Elizabeth St., nr. Prince St.; 646-454-1678) is a new "luxury for lease" boutique in Nolita that offers three-day dress rentals—and nice dresses at that—for \$60 to \$400. One customer, JaKissa Taylor (a.k.a. D.J. Kiss) drops in weekly. "I work a lot of gigs, and it's bad to be photographed in the same dress twice," she says. "But who wants to spend \$500 on a one-hit dress?" Her recent Ilus rentals: a strapless Abaeté minidress for a Russell Simmons launch at Room Service (\$80 to rent; retails for \$505), a Nicole Miller purple-and-gold maxidress for a Sean John party at the Empire Hotel (\$130 to rent; retails for \$770), and a black Nicole Miller frock for an event at 1 Oak (\$90 to rent; retails for \$420).



(Based on one dress per month at an average savings of \$465 per dress.)

ANNUAL SAVINGS.....**\$5,580**



(If you were to follow all of the preceding advice, including buying an average discounted apartment, sending your kid to public school, and trading your dog for a fish.)

GRAND-TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS.....**\$488,180**

CONTRIBUTORS: Amos Barshad, Sarah Bernard, Mark Byrne, Katie Goldsmith, David Haskell, Anne Kadet, Adina Klein, Aja Mangum, Lauren Murrow, Rob Patronite, Emma Pearse, Robin Raisfeld, S. Jhoanna Robledo, David Sax, Beth Shapouri, and Kat Ward.



Trade In Your Dog for a Fish

The goldfish is often thought to be the ultimate cheap pet, but that title actually belongs to the Betta fish. All it requires is a bowl and thrice-weekly feedings (half as many as a goldfish), so how does a Betta stack up against a Labrador retriever, New York's most popular dog? We ran the numbers.

BETTA FISH

ACTUAL FISH: \$4
FISH BOWL: \$4
(or just reuse a bowl you already own)
Two months of food: \$3
ANNUAL TOTAL: \$26

LABRADOR RETRIEVER

ACTUAL DOG: Adopt free from New York Animal Care & Control
BED: \$60
FOOD: \$35 a month
DOUBLE BOWL: \$12
LEASH: \$15
COLLAR: \$11
TOYS: \$20
ANNUAL VET EXAM: Up to \$300
GROOMING: \$55 (four times a year)
ANNUAL TOTAL: \$1,058

(All prices from Petco, 860 Broadway, nr. 17th St.; 212-358-0692)

Fine, Keep the Dog...

But at least lower your canine costs.

1. Sign up for a dog-training camp put on by ABC's of Dog Training in Astoria Park and Juniper Park (abcsofdogtraining.com).
2. Save an average of \$30 on grooming by having your dog washed and trimmed by groomers-in-training at the New York School of Dog Grooming (212-685-3776).
3. Order bulk food from discount Website drsfostersmith.com (also saves you the trouble of lugging a huge bag of kibble on the subway).
4. Spaying or neutering your dog can cost \$550 at a private vet. Have it done for about \$75 at the Humane Society of New York (212-752-4840).

(Assuming the Betta fish doesn't have to be replaced a few times.)

ANNUAL SAVINGS.....**\$1,032**