

Ohana



TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

- >> Actor-director Peter Bonerz is 79.
- >> Actress **Michelle Yeoh** ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") is 55.
- >> Writer-director M. Night Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense") is 47.
- >> Actress Soleil Moon Frye is 41.
- >> Actor Leslie Odom Jr. is 36.

ON THE SCENE WITH JOHN BERGER

Destin Daniel Cretton

Maui born and raised, Destin Daniel Cretton, 38, started making short films as a hobby after he graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. His next stop was film school at San Diego State, where his senior project was a short film inspired by his experiences working at a group home for troubled teens. That film became the basis of an award-winning short, "Short Term 12," that he later expanded into a well-received feature-length film starring Brie Larson.

Larson stars with Woody Harrelson and Naomi Watts in Cretton's new movie, "The Glass Castle," a beautifully filmed adaptation of Jeannette Walls' best-selling memoir about growing up in a dangerously unstable and highly dysfunctional family. It opens nationwide Friday.

"The Glass Castle" and "Short Term 12" are about people who don't fit into conventional society. Are these the types of people you find interesting as a filmmaker?

The theme that I feel very attracted to with the stories I'm telling — at least right now — have to do with family. I think that in a lot of ways comes from being raised in Hawaii where every one of your friends' parents you call "Auntie" and "Uncle," and the idea of family extends beyond the typical nuclear family. In "Short Term 12" it's this unconventional family that's created out of necessity. In this movie it's another version of a very unconventional family. As soon as I opened the book and started seeing the relationships between Jeannette and her siblings, so much of it just felt like home to me and the experience of ohana in Hawaii.

Where did you find Ella Anderson and Chandler Head, who play Jeannette at ages 10 and 6? They are amazing!

They both auditioned, and just before Ella came in I'd kind of start panicking wondering if there was any 11-year-old girl in the country who would be able to do those scenes. And the first scene we did — I'd never seen an actor tackle a scene like that, I didn't know if it was even going to work — and 11-year-old Ella brought so many layers to it. It just blew us all away. There were all these things that just naturally came out of her, that weren't on the page, and I wasn't expecting any of it.

What would you do if you encountered a family like the Walls?

Hopefully I would get to know them and try to understand the context of everything that they're going through. Everything that those kids were going through could easily have been labeled abuse and neglect, but I know for a fact that Jeannette would 100 percent say that she has no regrets and would choose a thousand times over to have stayed with her family and be raised in the way that she was.

This is your second film with Brie Larson. Will she become your muse in future projects?

If I had my choice I'd keep working with her forever. I'm obviously a huge fan of her as an actor and a performer and also a director herself. Aside from that, I'm a big fan of her as a person. If we don't work together again, we'll continue to be friends.

What advice do you have for teenagers in Hawaii interested in filmmaking?

Do it because you love it, not because you want to make money or become famous. If you love the process of doing it, then do it. There are feature films being shot on iPhones now, so anybody can get into the craft and practice doing it. You can start right now. Write something, get your friends together and just go shoot something and try to have fun doing it.

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COURTESY PHOTO

CALABASH



By Jon Murakami

ETC., ETC., ETC.



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Dry cleaning via lockers comes to Honolulu

If you live or work downtown, one of your weekly errands just got easier.

Hakuyosha Clean Living has installed lockers in the lobby of the First Hawaiian Center for 24/7 laundry and dry cleaning drop-off and delivery. Similar services are available in many major cities, but this is the first time it's been offered in Hawaii, according to company President Yoshiaki Komura.

Here's how it works: Create an account by downloading the Hakuyosha mobile app or text "CREATE" to 808-201-2122, or sign up via hakuyosha.com.

Leave your dirty clothes in an empty locker, then text the locker number to 808-201-2122 or place the order via the app or website. When your clothes are ready to pick up, Hakuyosha will text and/or email you with the locker number and four-digit access code.

A personal ID bag and tag for use with future drop-offs is provided with the first delivery. Prices and turnaround time are the same as at Hakuyosha outlets. First Hawaiian Center is at 999 Bishop St.

Hakuyosha Clean Living's Brandon Ibara collects a laundry drop-off from the company's lockers in First Hawaiian Center's lobby.

Biki users get food, drink deals throughout August

Bikeshare Hawaii has joined with close to 20 establishments to offer Biki riders discounts on food and drink near its bicycle rental stations throughout August.

The Biki Bites promotion includes a 15 percent discount at Kokua Market, a free iced coffee with food or drink purchase at Stage Cafe, and a free peach iced tea with entree purchase at the Honolulu Museum of Art Cafe. Other participating businesses include Flour & Barley, J.J. Dolan's, Honolulu BeerWorks, Grondin and Bevy Market.

To get a discount, Biki users simply show their Biki pass or same-day receipt. The discounts cannot be combined with other offers or promotions.

Biki, launched in June, has about 1,000 bikes at 100 self-service Biki stations stretching from Chinatown to Diamond Head. To check out the deals, visit gobiki.org/biki-bites.

Star-Advertiser staff



SHE SPEAKS



KRISTEN CONSILLIO

Downtime's wonderful, until you've got too much

More than 20 weeks, ago while volunteering at a wetland taro farm in Waialua, I fell into the loi and broke my first bone in 40 years.

Trying to impress my family and friends by working unusually hard (they were quite surprised since hard labor is not in my character), I was oblivious to my surroundings. As I was hauling a wheelbarrow full of weeds, my right leg slipped deep into the muddy pond while my left leg was still standing on the bank, snapping my ankle outward and breaking it in two places.

In an instant my normal life — consumed with shuttling kids to school, activities and events — came to a screeching halt. I was suddenly disabled and forced to be still — contrary to my daily rat-race routine.

Completely out of commission from work, play and even basic daily activity for the next three months, I found myself utterly restless — almost lost — without the constant hustle and bustle.

Of course, there were benefits. My family and friends waited on me. I didn't have to do chores. I had a ready excuse for why I couldn't get anything done right away. I could occupy handicap seating.

But I was so used to being on the move nonstop, never having enough hours in the day to accomplish everything and always wishing I had a little more downtime. Now I had too much time ... and too little mobility.

I never realized the hardship of not having full use of a limb until I found myself struggling to find a plate of food while walking with crutches, trying to bathe while balancing on one foot in the shower and hobbling up and down stairs — things I had taken for granted.

The situation got worse when multiple X-rays showed my ankle was displaced, and three doctors advised surgery to fix it — making the recovery time even longer. If left untreated, they warned, I could get post-traumatic arthritis, a painful condition that can rob you of normal function. But the thought of my first surgery and going under general anesthesia really scared me. I shuddered at the idea of having metal plates and pins in my leg.

On the day of the procedure, just before being wheeled into the operating room, the surgeon ordered a final X-ray to measure the gap he was going to close. Miraculously — thank God! — it fell just under the threshold that required surgery, and at the last minute the operation was canceled.

Cleared to return to normal activities while my ankle healed on its own, I anxiously jumped (OK, crutched) back into my daily routine. Although I am still limping, I gained new perspective while being forced to slow down: Appreciate the simple things in life and be careful about wishing for downtime. Also, hard labor is not my forte.

"She Speaks" is a weekly column by women writers of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. Reach Kristen Consillio at kconsillio@staradvertiser.com.