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Arts, Briefly

Compiled by Robin Pogrebin

Pulitzer Fountain Gets a Sculpture

The fountain outside the Plaza hotel will be home to 12 monumental bronze animal heads by the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, from May 2 through July 15. "It's a busy area, so it can be seen by ordinary people, but also it's not exactly an art center," Mr. Ai said in a telephone interview from China. "I like that people can notice it and at the same time, not to bother them too much." The work, "Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads," was inspired by the fountain-clock of the Yuanmingyuan, an 18th-century retreat outside Beijing. Designed by two European Jesuits, the clock featured each animal of the Chinese zodiac, spouting water at two-hour intervals. In 1860, French and British troops pillaged the heads. Seven of them have since been located. The new exhibition is the first at what is formally known as the Pulitzer Fountain and the first major outdoor show by a contemporary Chinese artist in the city, according to its organizers, AW Asia, a Chinese art organization, and New York City. "One point of good public art is to make you re-think environments you may have taken for granted in the past," said Kate D. Levin, the city's commissioner of cultural affairs. "Pulitzer Fountain is a beautiful place. People tend to pass it by without really engaging with it." Above, one of the heads from Mr. Ai's exhibition.



DING MUSA/AW ASIA

Donmar Warehouse Names Artistic Director

The Donmar Warehouse, the well-known London theater, has a new artistic director. **Josie Rourke** will start in the position on Jan. 1, taking over for **Michael Grandage**, who will step down at the end of this year after a decade in the role. Ms. Rourke's appointment will be a return to the Donmar, where she trained in 2000, working alongside Mr. Grandage, **Nicholas Hytner**, **Phyllida Lloyd** and **Sam Mendes**. Her directing for the Donmar has included "Frame 312," "World Music" and "The Cryptogram." "Nothing could make me more proud than to return to the place where I began," she said in a statement, adding that she would inherit her predecessors' "legacy of 20 years of wonderful productions, extraordinary performances and great nights out at the theater." Ms.

50 Cent Makes Donation In Response to Qaddafi Show

The rap artist **50 Cent** has made a donation to charity after revelations that he performed for the clan of the Libyan leader **Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi**, Reuters reported on Thursday. "In light of the ongoing events in Libya, 50 Cent will be making a donation to Unicef, which is providing vital relief supplies to meet the needs of women and children at risk during this crisis," a spokesman for 50 Cent told E! News. The rapper, whose real name is **Curtis Jackson**, joined what one entertainment Web site called the "Qaddafi performance regret club" — pop stars who sometimes earned seven-figure sums performing for members of Colonel Qaddafi's family at exclusive parties around the world. These include **Beyoncé**, **Nelly Furtado**, **Mariah Carey** and **Usher**, all of whom have issued statements saying they would donate or had already given their performance money to charities. The appearances have become a source of embarrassment since Colonel Qaddafi's brutal response to a popular uprising against him in Libya. 50 Cent earned an undisclosed amount from a private concert during the 2005 Venice film festival.

Eric Clanton Raises Money

alcohol treatment center in the Caribbean. The auction — the proceeds of which totaled around \$1.8 million without the buyer's premium — also included instruments donated by **Jeff Beck**, **J. J. Cale** and **Joe Bonamassa**. Among the top lots was a 1948 Gibson L-5P, which was expected to bring \$20,000 to \$30,000 but raised \$82,960; a 2005 Zemaitis S22BP 3S, estimated at \$12,000 to \$18,000, which sold for \$75,640; and a pair of 1997 Fender Twin Amps, estimated at \$9,000 to \$12,000, which sold for \$42,700.

'American Idiot' to Close

The critically acclaimed Broadway musical "American Idiot," which features songs by the punk-rock band **Green Day**, will close on April 24 after 27 preview performances and 421 regular shows, the producers said on Thursday. The final weeks of the production will feature an encore performance by **Billie Joe Armstrong**, **Green Day's** lead singer and guitarist, as the character **St. Jimmy**, an impish but malevolent specter who enables the main character **Johnny** in his drug addiction. He will play April 5 through 24. This will be Mr. Armstrong's third tour in "American Idiot," after a string of performances last fall and again this winter, as he has deployed his star power to bring in audiences. The musical cost between \$8 million and \$10 million to mount on Broadway, and it has earned far more money — sometimes upward of 50 percent more a week — when Mr. Armstrong has performed. The show has grossed more than \$34 million, and has been seen by 440,000 people. A spokeswoman for "American Idiot" said the producers were not sure if the show would ultimately recoup its investment on Broadway before closing; only 30 percent of shows do.

PATRICK HEALY

'Idol' Wins Again

With 24.2 million viewers, Fox's "American Idol" topped the ratings in prime time on Wednesday, according to Nielsen's estimates, as the 13 singers remaining in the competition vied for the next round. No other program came close to matching the ratings for the two-hour installment of "Idol." CBS's "Survivor: Redemption Island" was runner-up with 10.9 million viewers at 8 p.m. CBS ranked second for the night over all, broadcasting a rerun of "Criminal Minds" at 9 (8.2 million) and a new episode of "Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior" at 10 (9.1 million). ABC was third with reruns early in the night until 9:30, when "Mr. Sunshine" at-