

Zinno—A pretty Italian restaurant with a tiny piano on its awning, Zinno is more dining spot than jazz club, though its musical guests are often pleasant surprises. 2/17–2/22: Mulgrew Miller and Richie Goods. 2/24–3/1: Roni Ben Hur, Chris Anderson, and Lisle Atkinson. Sundays in February: Leslie Pinchick, Scott Hardy, and Rich DeRosa. 126 W. 13th St. (924-5182).

Comedy

Caroline's Comedy Club—In Times Square just down the street from the *Letterman* show, this upscale joint recently jumped on a new-ish bandwagon by adding a restaurant to its attractions. 2/20–2/23: Michael Colyar. 1626 Broadway, bet. 49th and 50th Sts. (757-4100). \$12.50–\$18.50, two-drink minimum.

Catch a Rising Star—After a brief flirtation with cabaret and the like, this high-class variety show-place has shifted its focus back to yucks (though crooners do still make the occasional appearance). Visitors to the Catch Bar & Grill can view "The Loft," a stage set as a NYC apartment, where stand-up, sketch, and alternative comedians perform. Mondays, "Monday Night Fool's Ball," a stand-up, sketch, and music revue. Tuesdays are new talent nights. Show Mon.–Tues. at 8:30 P.M.; Wed.–Thurs. at 9 P.M. Fri. and Sat. at 9 and 11 P.M. 253 West 28th St., bet. Seventh and Eighth Aves. (244-3005).

Comedy Cellar—A physical throwback to sixties Village coffeehouses, this is the late-night subterranean haunt of many of the city's top comics. 2/16–2/23: Jeff Ross; Gregg Rogell; Greer Barnes; William Stephenson; Jim David. Shows Fri. 9 P.M. and 11 P.M.; Sat. 9 P.M., 10:45 P.M., and 12:30 A.M.; and Sun.–Thurs. at 9 P.M. 117 MacDougal St. (254-3480).

Dangerfield's—Founded by the respect-deprived comedian two decades ago, this Vegas-style lounge is one of the city's oldest comedy establishments. 2/17–2/23: Nancy Redman; Jerry Diner; Lenny Varnedoe; Jim Norton; Quentin Heggs; Rock Scotti; Richie Byrne. 2/24–3/2:

Gregory Carey; Rich Ramirez; Ben Creed; Nancy Redman; Quentin Heggs; Lenny Varnedoe. Fri. at 9 and 11:15 P.M.; Sat. at 8 P.M., 10:30 P.M., and 12:30 P.M.; Sun.–Thurs., continuous from 8:45 P.M. Cover is \$15 Fri.–Sat.; \$12.50 on weeknights; no minimum. 1118 First Ave., bet. 61st and 62nd Sts. (593-1650).

Gotham—An elegant, trendy, and, at 3300-square-foot, palatial comedy spot in the Flatiron district. 2/21–2/22 Sam Greenfield; Tony Powell; Billy Jaye; Sue Costello. Shows Sun., Mon., and Tues. at 8:30 P.M.; Thurs. at 8:30 and 11 P.M.; Fri. and Sat. at 9 and 11:30 P.M. Cover is \$12 plus two-drink minimum Fri.–Sat., \$8 on weeknights. 34 West 22nd St. (367-9000).

Stand-up New York—Robin Williams is known to drop by here unannounced to warm up for his *Letterman* appearances. 2/19: "This Ain't No Pre-Show," with Ric Crome, Mike Burton, Tony Woods, Greg Carey, Rod Reyes, Passion, and Sherry Davies. 2/21–2/22: Susie Essman; Rick Crome; Kevin Brennan; Eddie Brill. Mondays, it's Sunda Croonquist and the Femmes Fatales. Sun.–Thurs. at 7; Fri. at 7, 9, and 11 P.M.; Sat. at 7, 9:30, and 11:30 P.M. 236 W. 78th St. (595-0850). \$7–\$12.

Cabaret

Algonquin Hotel—John Pizzarelli, the Harry Connick Jr. of the acoustic guitar. Tues.–Sat. at 9 (dinner at 7); Fri.–Sat. also at 11:30 (supper at 10:30). \$30; \$15 minimum. 59 W. 44th St. (840-6800).

Anthology Film Archives—The East Village's premier revival movie house isn't where you'd expect to find cabaret, but Amy Greenfield's "Raw-Edged Women" (2/21–2/23) isn't exactly what you'd expect cabaret to be like, either. Call it what you will ("performance art," "multimedia experimentation," and "exhibitionism" all come to mind), screenwriter–dancer–Harvard alum Greenfield refers to her revue as "erotic cabaret." Shows nightly at 8 and 10 P.M. \$10. 32 Second Ave., at 2nd St. (505-5181).

Asti—Singing-waiter frolics, with an emphasis on opera and operetta (frequently shoulder to shoul-

der and bolder to bolder), is the keynote of this Village landmark. 13 E. 12th St. (741-9105).

Cafe Carlyle—The fabulous Eartha Kitt. Tues.–Sat. at 8:45 and 10:45 P.M. \$45; no minimum. *Carlyle Hotel*, Madison Ave. at 76th St. (741-1600).

Danny's Skylight Room—2/10, 2/17, 3/3: Earl Fries. \$6–\$15, plus \$10 minimum. 346 W. 46th St. (265-8130).

Don't Tell Mama—2/19 and 2/26: Heidi Hoppenfeld's "Definitely Not an Ingenue." \$6–\$12; two-drink minimum. 343 W. 46th St. (757-0788).

Duplex Cabaret—2/21: Group Therapy. 2/22: "Fairy Tales"; Dressing Room Divas. 61 Christopher St. (255-5438).

Dutch Weisman's Winter Follies—A spectacularly un-p.c., quaintly anti-family values revue, complete with showgirls, high living, and low comedy. Wednesday and Thursday at 9 P.M.; Friday and Saturday at 11, with live music and dancing after the show. 108 W. 18th St. (645-7045). \$30.

Michael's Pub—As always, Woody Allen and the New Orleans Funeral & Ragtime Orchestra on Mon. at 8:45 and 11. \$35 minimum. *Bar Montparnasse*, *Parker Meridien Hotel*, 118 W. 57th St. (758-2272).

Rainbow and Stars—2/14–3/1: Vic Damone. 3/4–3/22: Karen Mason, an understudy for the role of Norma Desmond in *Sunset Strip*. \$40 cover Tues.–Sat. at 8:30 and Fri.–Sat. at 11; dinner required at early shows. 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 65th floor (632-5000).

Ed Sullivan's—Despite its name and location (it's tucked practically inside the Ed Sullivan Theater), the old-man bar turned chichi dining spot should not be confused for one of the odious theme restaurants that surround it. Swin-jazz (some cutesy, some serious) nightly at waiter who looks just like the place's namesake. 2/12: Full Swing. 2/15: the Blues Jump. 2/22: Nick Palumbo and the Flipped Fed Big Band. 2/26: Full Swing. Every Friday, Sullivan's is home to a band whose players their teeth during the actual swing era Harlem All-Stars. No cover; two-drink minimum Fri. and Sat. 1697 Broadway, bet. 53rd and 54th Sts. (541-1697).

Bars

Howard Johnson's—The last vestige of the real Times Square has the perfect seedy cocktail lounge secreted away in the back. The biggest surprise about the clientele isn't its touristy makeup; it's how small it is. Shouldn't this, the archetype for simu-diners like Ellen's Stardust be the neighborhood's biggest attraction? Well fewer of them means more room for us, so complaints aren't really in order. 1551 Broadway, 46th St. (354-1445).

Orchard—The futuristic-terrarium theme of the spacious but unaustere new lounge is novel without being just another irksome novelty. Occasional trees, branches, rock outcroppings, and moss-draped dioramas adorn the rear of the room, while the front section is lit by large specimen jars converted into lamps. Dig the nature flicks on the countersunk, rear projection TV. 200 Orchard St., nr. Houston. (673-5350).

Riverrun—A hybrid beer hall–subway tunnel whose most architecturally significant objects are the phone-booth-size pissoirs. Have a beer with Danny, the best bartender in town. And have a boiled egg—they're free. While you're at it, drop a dime in the cheapest jukebox this side of 1940. 176 Franklin St., nr. Hudson St. (966-3894).

The Room—This candlelit SoHo joint suffers from a perpetual, if mild, identity crisis—it can't decide whether it's a lounge, an indie-rock hang, a reclaimed industrial space, or just a regular neighborhood bar. But the unintimidating crowd, generally good music, and truly eclectic beer selection make the Room an oasis of normalcy. 144 Sullivan St., bet. Prince and Houston Sts. (477-2102).

Von—Understated, cozy décor; a choice selection of Belgian and English beers; slammin' DJ's; and a Sunday afternoon antiques fair give Von an intimacy that appeals to quasi-boho publishing types and citizens of the hip-hop nation alike. 3 Bleecker St. (473-3039).



Performance Jazz Odyssey

Wynton Marsalis brings his jazz opera, *Blood on the Fields*, to Avery Fisher Hall February 24. With a powerhouse vocal lineup—Cassandra Wilson, Jon Hendricks, and Miles Griffith—and a score that draws on virtually the entire jazz canon for inspiration, the three-hour epic is a stark meditation on captivity, enslavement, and the redemptive power of love.