ON THE WEB: www.northjersey.com

Blogging from Potter land

Author J.K. Rowling's much-loved novels spring — like magic — to 3-D (and possibly 4-D?) life Friday when The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, the newest addition at Universal Orlando Resort, makes its official debut.

She'll be interviewing the new park's creative team, getting the

lay of the Wizarding World land

and experiencing the park's

newest features first hand.



To read visit BLOG blogs.northjersey.com /blogs/openroad

CONTACT US

Do you have a comment, story idea or suggestion? Let us know. Call us at 973-569-7079 or e-mail us at features@northjersey.com.

Features editor: Barbara Jaeger Jaeger@northjersey.com

Assistant features editor: Marc Schwarz Schwarz@northjersey.com

Pitcher@northjersey.com

Food editor:

Bill Pitcher

Calendar and listings editor: **Raymond A. Edel** Edel@northjersey.com

Entertainment editor:

Marlaina Cockcroft

Cockcroft@northjersey.com

TRIVIA

Which of these is the name not of a real psychedelic rock band, but of a book by Tom Wolfe about Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters?

A) Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test

B) Moby Grape C) Strawberry Alarm Clock

D) Vanilla Fudge

Previous answer: Punta Arenas is in Chile

Send the trivia questions you've always wanted answered, or original TriviaBits ideas of your own, with your full name and hometown, to Paul Paquet at paul@triviahalloffame.com or visit him online at triviahalloffame.com. COPYRIGHT 2010 PAUL PAQUET

15 MINUTE CHEF[©]

Between a spice rub and a finishing glaze, lamb is elevated to the next level in this grilled dinner, which also features figs. Grilling eggplant and serving it with orzo and Greek yogurt rounds out the meal. - Bill Pitcher

■ Grilled lamb and fig skewers with mint-pepper glaze

For mint-pepper glaze:

- ²/₃ cup apricot preserves
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon red pepper flakes 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest (from about 1 lemon)

1/4 cup fresh mint, chopped

For lamb:

1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds

- 1 tablespoon whole coriander seeds 3 pounds boneless leg of lamb, fat trimmed,
- cut into 1-inch cubes
- 12 fresh figs, halved vertically
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 medium cloves garlic, minced (about 2 tablespoons)
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper
- To make the glaze, in a small saucepan over moderate heat (use the side burner for your grill, if you can), stir together preserves, vinegar, red pepper flakes and lemon zest. Bring to boil, then lower heat to low and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until slightly thickened, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool 5 minutes. Stir in mint and set aside.

While the glaze is boiling, in electric

spice mill or clean coffee grinder, combine cumin and coriander seeds. Pulse several times to coarsely grind. In large bowl, toss together lamb, figs, and olive oil. Add garlic, ground cumin and coriander, salt, and pepper, and toss gently to combine. Thread lamb cubes and figs onto skewers.

Arrange skewers over a medium-hot grill. Cook lamb to slightly less than desired doneness (cubes will continue to cook after being removed from grill), turning once and brushing with glaze during last 30 seconds of grilling on each side, about 4 minutes per side for medium-rare.

Servings: 8.

Per serving: 361 calories, 12 grams fat, 4 grams saturated fat, 109 milligrams cholesterol, 27 grams carbohydrates,

Its appeal is clear to see

FASHION

Lucite returns as season's go-to material for accent pieces

By ELIZABETH WELLINGTON

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

From Prada heels to Chanel bags, it's time to welcome Lucite back as a see-through sensation. Whether you go designer or costume, the transparent accessories are clearly the statement pieces of the season.

R.J. Graziano, of Home Shopping Network fame, tinted his pearl-shaped earrings with soft blues and peach for a lovely, icy effect. And then there's Brooklyn-based jewelry designer Alexis Bittar, jewelry's modern-day Lucite king. His elegantly carved bangles are available in pastels as well as primary shades.

But the ultimate stamp of approval comes from our best girlfriends: Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte, and Samantha, who are wearing the clear jewels - as well as clothes by Prada, Venexiana, and of course, Oscar de la Renta - in "Sex and the City 2."

"It can be worn with anything, with any color, and any time of year," said New York-based jewelry designer Kenneth J. Lane, whose Lucite pieces are sold at stores including Anthropologie. "It can be worn in the winter on black and in the summer on white. I just love mixing it with Right, the see-through plasbaroque pearls and chains. The tic is known for its durability, beauty is you can wear a lot of it and not look overdone."

So how did the pretty plastic take over the jewelry world?

Known scientifically as polymethyl methacrylate, the synthetic polymer was developed in which became the more popular the late 1920s and marketed by name in the 1950s. (Since then, Rohm & Haas in 1933 as Plexi- it's been sold under many trade



MAY WE SUGGEST

This listing is part of North Jersey's biggest events calendar. Go to calendar.northjersey.com to search or to submit your event for online and print calendar consideration.

MUSIC

■ JOHN BUTLER TRIO – 5:30 tonight, Central Park SummerStage, Central Park West and West 72nd Street, New York. The trio is from Australia. \$30. 212-360-2777 or summerstage.com.

■ THE GASLIGHT ANTHEM - 7 tonight, Fillmore at Irving Plaza, 17 Irving Place, **New York**. \$26.50. 212-777-6800 or lyenation.com

■ THE QUICK & EASY BOYS - 7:30 tonight, The Saint, 601 Main St., Asburv Park. The Quick & Easy Boys are a trio from Portland, Ore. \$10. 732-776-8913 or thesaintni.com

■ JAMES TAYLOR & CAROLE KING

- 8 tonight and Wednesday, Madison Square Garden, 4 Penn Plaza, **New York**. \$39.50 to \$154.50. 212-465-6000 or thegarden.com

■ JEFF BECK — 8 tonight, Paramount Theatre, Asbury Park. \$75 to \$175.732-502-4581 or apboardwalk.com.

■ COCO MONTOYA - 8 tonight, B.B. King's Blues Club & Grill, 237 W. 42nd St., New York. Montoya, former side man for blues performers Albert Collins and John Mayall, leads his own guitarbased blues band. \$25. 212-997-4144 or bbkingblues.com.

■ THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON: THE OPERA - 8 tonight, Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, New York. John Eaton and the Pocket Opera Players with the Center for Contemporary Opera present Eaton's new work. \$32; seniors and students \$20. 212-864-5400 or symphonyspace.org.

BOBBY LONG - 8 tonight, Highline Ballroom, 431 W. 16th St., New York. Long is a solo singer from the Seattle area. \$15. 212-414-5994 o rhighlineballroom.com

■ KASHMIR — 8 tonight, Bowery Ball-room, 6 Delancey St., New York. Kashmir is a Led Zeppelin tribute band. \$15. 212-533-2111 or boweryballroom.com. ■ FRED HERSCH TRIO - 9 and 11

tonight to Friday, Village Vanguard, 178 Seventh Ave. south., New York. \$35. 212-255-4037 or villagevanguard.com. THINGS TO DO

■ READERS ROUNDTABLE BOOK

Lucite was developed in the 1920s by DuPont. Here it is used in high heels, bangle bracelets and a necklace. shine and ability to accent other colors. It enjoyed a memorable fashion run in the bauble-loving 1970s.

PHOTOS BY AKIRA SUWA/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

36 grams protein, 629 milligrams sodium, 2 grams fiber.

Adapted from: Epicurious.com.

SHOPPING LIST:

- Apricot preserves
- Fresh mint
- Boneless leg of lamb
- Figs

FROM YOUR PANTRY:

- Red wine vinegar
- Red pepper flakes
- Lemon
- Cumin seeds
- Coriander seeds
- Olive oil
- Garlic cloves
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

MEAL SUGGESTIONS:

Grilled lamb and fig skewers with mint-pepper glaze

- Grilled eggplant
- Orzo
- Greek yogurt with honey



alas; around the same time names including Polycast and DuPont developed a similar Oroglass, but people often refer product that it named Lucite, to any clear plastic as Lucite.)

The clear polymer made for a wonderful ingredient in car hood ornaments and was also used in furniture and china.

But it is Lucite's appearance and durability that make it perfect in the jewelry world. After designers such as Cartier started mixing glass with diamonds in sion of the 1970s, when use of oversize beaded necklace for his the 1920s for particularly richlooking brooches and chains, artists picked up on Lucite, and its opaque cousin Bakelite, because it had the same effect but was shatterproof, Lane said.

Gloria Swanson used to wear streets of New York in the ear-"those stretch Cartier bracelets, ly '90s, gave the transparent acand I did a version that was cessory its modern comeback. much bigger and used Lucite," Lane said of the early-1960s pieces that helped start his career.

Lucite bangle bracelets can Then Lucite and Bakelite became part of fashion's big-big-ger-and-biggest bauble obses- Michael K be made in different shades

cursor to early-'90s minimalism and then early-millennium bling.

Bittar, who started selling Actress and fashion icon hand-carved Lucite on the Once he started selling to Barneys, the collection grew as fashionistas and fashion direc-

added oomph to their maga-

costume jewelry was at its spring 2010 collection in Februheight. The 1980s became more ary. And R.J. Graziano's icy Luabout the real thing - the pre- cite grouping does well on HSN.

Gary Rose, chief executive officer of Robert Rose jewelry. worked with department stores this year to develop a private-label clear-jewelry collection. Now Macy's is marketing it as its Lucite collection, part of the store's must-have looks for spring

"I think it's a great palette tors noticed how the pieces cleanser," Rose said. "It mixes well with chains and metals, and it's the perfect accessory for a

Michael Kors showed an strong pastel color story.'

GROUP - 2 p.m. today, Maurice M. Pine Library, 10-01 Fair Lawn Ave., Fair Lawn. Discuss the selected title with other group members. New members are welcome. 201-796-3400 or Fairlawn.bccls.org

CROSS PARK PROMENADE WALK-ING TOUR - 2 p.m. today, Central Park, between 59th and 110th streets, New York. Discover hidden treasures in this east-to-west walk through the park. Meet inside the park at Fifth Avenue and East 72nd Street, in front of the statue of Samuel F.B. Morse. 212-794-6564 or

centralparknyc.org. ■ MEADOWLANDS DISCOVERY ECO-CRUISE - 6 tonight, Hackensack Riverkeeper, 231 Main St., Hackensack. These trips take participants on an excursion through the tidal reaches of the Hackensack River and its wildlife-rich estuary. Call for availability and launch location. \$25; children 4-12 \$10 201-968-0808 or Hackensackriverkeeper.org.

■ PET HAZARDS — 6:30 tonight, Hillsdale Library, 509 Hillsdale Ave., Hillsdale. Companion Animal Advocates, Borst Landscape & Design and the Hillsdale Animal Hospital are hosting a pet hazards lecture. 201-358-5072 or Hillsdale.bccls.org.

Dads: Gadgets, gizmos and other cool stuff for your guy



J Fit total upper body workout bar: This one's for the fitness-savvy dad who's looking to tone up his arms. \$27.99; csnstores.com/ selections.

and shapes.

Limited-edition MLB collectible cookie tins: Baseball-loving fathers can continue the rivalry with either a Yankee Stadium Gift Tower or a Fenway Park Gift Tower, both by Dancing Deer Baking Co. Each includes 12 baseball shortbread cookies and nine chocolate chunk brownies. \$29.95; dancingdeer.com, 888-699-3337.



SONA pillow: Having a hard time sleeping next to the world's loudest snorer? The folks behind this FDA-cleared pillow say this will reduce his snoring by up to 70 percent, thanks to an airway-clearing butterfly design. \$69.99; sonapillow.com, bedbathandbeyond.com and select Bed Bath & Beyond stores.

MSI Wind U160 Netbook: If you share your husband's heart with his love for technology, here's a gadget for him. Features include 15-hour battery life, Windows 7, an Intel Atom N450 processor with a small 10-inch widescreen display. Available in black and gold. \$379.99 on Amazon.com. Also available at MSImobile.com, Buy.com and Frys.com.



Cable turtle: Does your dad prefer to keep things organized? This handy tool will help him manage electrical wires and cables. Available in mini, small and large in various colors. \$4.99 to \$8.99; CableOrganizer.com.

garciaa@northjersey.com



Chef's Choice





E-mail: