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# BEYOND SEX & THE CITY

**CANDACE BUSHNELL'S** DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; THE AUTHOR  
ON NEW YORK WOMEN, MAKING IT AS A WRITER AND NOT TAKING ANY CRAP

BY GEORGE GURLEY

# RISING *stars* of SUMMER

*The short list of names to know now.*

By Robert J. Hughes

**S**ome people check their brains at the door when they head out East in the summer (and if you've overheard any random conversation on the Jitney, you won't disagree). But there's much more to these beaches than bronzer. There's Brahms. Really. While no one would confuse New York in July with fin-de-siècle Vienna, there's much to appreciate, from music to art to theater to fine dining.

Here's a selection of some rising stars, as well as seasoned pros trying out something new.

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## *Jose Franch-Ballester*

Clarinetist Jose Franch-Ballester is among the artists at the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival (July 28-Aug. 21). He'll be playing in three concerts—"Historical Firsts," Aug. 4, "From Bohemia With Love," Aug. 6, and "Schubert and Beyond," Aug. 7. Franch-Ballester, who was born in Moncofa, Spain, received the 2010 MIDEM Classique Outstanding Young Artist Award, and in 2008 he won an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Critics have praised his sure sound and his artistic taste. His repertoire ranges from modern to classical, and these concerts include Mozart and Schubert as well as contemporary composers Kenji Bunch and Paul Moravec. [www.bcmf.org](http://www.bcmf.org)

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## *Richie Notar*

Is eating sushi by the sea just gloating? Richie Notar, a nightlife fixture (a busboy at Studio 54 in its salad days, then manager of 44 Restaurant in the Royalton when Anna Wintour was eating salads there), has turned restaurateur in recent years, with success; this summer he and partners open Nobu Hamptons. So why attempt to replicate black cod with miso on the backyard grill when you can let someone else prepare fish better than you can? That renowned dish is on the menu at this eatery at the Capri Hotel in Southampton, N.Y., and promises a poolside—read: way, way relaxed—version of the original Nobu New York, with indoor and outdoor seating and some new dishes that will be exclusive to this Hamptons hotspot. The local striped bass is sensational, so expect the chef to create something spectacular. [www.noburestaurants.com](http://www.noburestaurants.com)

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## *Dorothea Rockburne*

This Canada-born abstract painter, a 1970's superstar, is only now getting her first career retrospective, thanks to the Parrish Art Museum, in Southampton. "In My Mind's Eye," which runs through Aug. 14, features 50 works ranging from installation pieces such as *Scalar*, from 1971, to newer ones, such as *Geometry of Stardust*. Rockburne's works often explore the nature of geometrical perception—in ways both rigorous and playful. (She studied with mathematician Max Dehn, an expert in geom-

etry). You can see the influence of Franz Kline and Philip Guston, and even the collaborations of John Cage and Merce Cunningham, in her work, but she really looks like no one else. This perspective should bring her a new generation of viewers. [www.parrishart.org](http://www.parrishart.org)

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## *Darius de Haas*

Singer Darius de Haas—whom pianist and vocal coach Steven Blier praises for "his musical imagination and stunningly flexible voice"—recently released *Quiet Please*, a recording of American musical theater and jazz standards ranging from Ellington and Gershwin to Stevie Wonder and Adam Guettel. The two will perform selections from the album on Aug. 13 at Poquatuck Hall in Orient, N.Y. On Aug. 27, also at Poquatuck, Mr. Blier offers a program of Spanish and American song with a cast of young artists including Corinne Winters and John Brancy, who are emerging as tomorrow's stars in opera and in concert. [www.nyfos.org](http://www.nyfos.org)

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## *Elias Hansen*

The artist Elias Hansen might be called a glass clown. He works in glass, creating flasks, beakers and vessels that play with our perceptions of them as scientific instruments, hippie smoking apparatuses and craft-fair detritus. His are sculptural installations, quite beautiful—in Murano, Italy-inspired colors of deep orange and yellow and dark violet. Though a few reviewers have criticized his shows for lacking narrative



Grapefruit Givré made by Ghaya Oliveira, far right.



B. MILNE

(whatever that's supposed to mean), Mr. Hansen doesn't stint on "lovely." Think Donald Judd minus the electric current, and with more natural light. He's at the Fireplace Project in East Hampton, June 24 through July 18.

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*Sophie Shao*

Cellists make you listen. Unlike a pyrotechnics-prone tenor, or a show-off violinist, a cello virtuoso's biggest asset is the ability to draw you in



Sophie Shao.

CHRISTIAN STEINER

rather than make your jaw drop. Cellist Sophie Shao has that quality to spare. She was a finalist at the prestigious Rostropovich and Tchaikovsky competitions, and this year opened the season at Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society. Next season she's premiering a new concerto written for her by Howard Shore (his first was for pianist Lang Lang). But this summer, Ms. Shao is giving a recital at East Hampton's Guild Hall on July 24. She plays a Derazay cello once owned by the Pablo Casals. [www.sophieshao.com](http://www.sophieshao.com).

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*Mitchell Kriegman*

At Nickelodeon, Mr. Kriegman helped create *The Ren and Stimpy Show* and *Rugrats*. This summer, he turns teacher, as the veteran and venerable Stony Brook/Southampton Writers Conference, running from July 13 through 24, adds a concentration on digital filmmaking. (He runs his own production facility out in Wainscott.) The July conference is better known for its more traditional disciplines—Melissa Bank of *A Girl's Guide to Hunting and Fishing* coaches fiction writers, for example, and U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins teaches both poetry and, we hear, partying. Last summer, playwright/professor Roger Rosenblatt cast his plays with Sigourney Weaver and Alan Alda. But whatever the bells, whistles and star-power in attendance, the formula still works: it's surfside study. [www.stonybrook.edu/writers/writers/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/writers/writers/)

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*Judith Hudson*

Dealer James Salomon, a Mary Boone veteran, opened his own namesake Hamptons gallery a few years ago and immediately juiced the quality of the region's art—and of its parties. The gallery's Summer Project (opening reception is July 23) features Judith Hudson's "Playboy Advisor," an exhibition of watercolors with texts that parody that magazine's famed sex-column. The danger is they may be taken seriously by the rutting, roving animals looking to mate during a weekend in the Hamptons. But these are humorous works, drawn with panache. [www.salomoncontemporary.com](http://www.salomoncontemporary.com)

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*Ghaya Oliveira*

Americans make great layer cakes. But when it comes to subtlety and the wow factor, nothing beats a French baker. Or a pastry chef from a former French colony. Ghaya Oliveira, who grew up in Tunisia, began her career as a stock trader, then moved to the U.S. to pursue a culinary career. She impressed none other than Daniel Boulud, with whom she's been working for a decade. She now oversees the desserts for the Upper West Side's Bar Boulud as well as the just-opened Épicerie Boulud and Boulud Sud next door. Like Chef Boulud, she'll be demonstrating her prowess at the Chefs & Champagne event July 27, the James Beard Foundation's annual summer fund-raiser, in Sagaponack. This year's honoree is Emeril Lagasse, and Ms. Oliveira will be creating cherry chocolate sandwich cake and an apricot pistachio religieuse (a kind of cream puff). Bam! [www.jamesbeard.org/chefsandchampagne](http://www.jamesbeard.org/chefsandchampagne)

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*Jerry Seinfeld*



MIKE COPPOLA/GETTY IMAGES

Millions in syndication residuals, but all he wanted to do was direct. The annoyingly mutli-talented Jerry Seinfeld opted to do something other than collect expensive cars with his free time. In a stretch, he directed Colin Quinn in *Colin Quinn Long Story Short* on Broadway last year. To general surprise, this show—a satirical history of the world in about 75 minutes—worked. Hamptonites can catch the show through June 26 at Guild Hall and see for themselves how Jerry's doing in a new career. ●

Jerry Seinfeld.