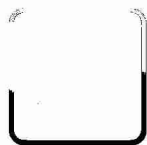


Our critics' Saturday picks



Greg Kot recommends Heartsfield

The long-running country-rock outfit (its 11th album, "Here I Am," was released a few months ago) plays a benefit for guitarist Perry

Jordan, who recently suffered a heart attack. One of the band's original guitarists, Freddie Dobbs, will fill in for his old bandmate (for more information on how to donate to Jordan's recovery fund, see heartsfield.com/donate).

When: 9 p.m.

Where: FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Road, Berwyn

Price: \$20 (21+); 866-468-3401, ticketweb.com



Chris Jones recommends "Speed-the-Plow"

The stupid studio suits who populate David Mamet's nasty satire "Speed-the-Plow" (★★★★) don't like to read books or

scripts. Who has the time? They read the coverage. And since Bobby Gould and Charlie Fox provide such rich and juicy entertainment at American Theater Company, even 22 years after being armed with the playwright's righteous venom, I'll do them the honor of cutting directly to the chase. The two-play Mamet repertory that shares a director in Rick Snyder and most of a cast reveals fascinating connections between "Speed-the-Plow" and "Oleanna." But you can skip "Oleanna." You can't skip "Speed-the-Plow," which is blisteringly fine. As Charlie, Lance Baker nails a character smart enough to know that the gods of showbiz usually offer only one shot and that no pain in life is more acute than seeing that opportunity slip out of your fingers.

When: 8 p.m. (also 3 p.m. Sunday) through Oct. 24 in rotating repertory

Where: American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St.

Price: \$35-\$40; 773-409-4125, atcweb.org



Howard Reich recommends World Music Festival Chicago 2010

When was the last time you danced to Ethiopian pop music? Or hummed

along with an Australian didgeridoo? Or savored the hypnotic bachata guitars of the Dominican Republic? Those otherworldly

sounds — from roughly 80 international bands — will test our expectations during World Music Festival Chicago 2010 (continues to Sept. 30). From Romanian gypsy players to North Indian sitarists, from Corsican a cappella singers to Hebraic cantorial rockers (yes, you read that right), the festival covers the kind of fare you don't encoun-



ter on radio or TV very much, which is precisely the idea for the event: to present music we rarely hear but need to know. Saturday performances include superb salsa from La Excelencia; Ethiopian pop by Debo Band with Fendika; and 3 Leg Torso, a quintet that embraces Latin, gypsy, tango and other populist fare.

When: Events begin at noon (also Sunday)

Where: Locations vary; go to worldmusicfestivalchicago.org for schedule

Price: Most events are free; 312-744-6630

Films 4 you



For a tense, moody adaptation of a wonderful novel: "Never Let Me Go," starring the luminous Carey Mulligan

For a mixed bag, but an entertaining one: "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps," bailed out by a cast including Michael Douglas, Shia LaBeouf and, yes, the luminous Carey Mulligan

For a gripping documentary about artistic endeavors going very, very wrong: "Henri-Georges Clouzot's Inferno," built from the dazzling, incomplete fragments of



Clouzot's 1964 psychological mind-bender,
one week only at the Siskel Film Center

**For a tight squeeze, filmed with inspired
creativity:** "Buried," set in a wooden box,
starring Ryan Reynolds as the man trying to
get out

— *Michael Phillips*