

ARTS IN REVIEW

ART REVIEW

Envisioning Dutch America

An exhibition uses paintings from the Dutch Golden Age to imagine life in New Amsterdam during the 17th century

By DIANE COLE

As part of its celebration of America's 250th anniversary, the New York Historical travels even further back in time to highlight the city's Dutch origins—going back to 1626, when the colonial outpost of New Amsterdam, now known as New York City, became the colonial capital of New Netherland.

"Old Masters, New Amsterdam" brings together evocative canvases of the Dutch Golden Age by Rembrandt van Rijn, Frans Hals, Jan Steen and their Netherlandish contemporaries. Although none of these artists visited New Amsterdam, the overlap between the years in which they were active and the decades of the colony's existence, which ended with Britain's takeover in 1664, provides the rationale for viewing these exquisitely detailed scenes of life in the Old World as a historical mirror of the settlers' new homeland in New Amsterdam.

The exhibit is curated by Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., senior adviser to the privately owned Leiden Collection, which lent 45 of its paintings to the show, and historian Russell Shorto, author of "Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America." Other of the exhibition's 107 objects come from private collections and from such institutions as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the National Gallery of Art, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Historic maps remind us of the area's enduring place names with which the Dutch left their mark, in Brooklyn (originally called Breukelen), Harlem (Haarlem), Bushwick (Boswijk) and Sandy Hook (Sant Hoek). The exhibit fur-



ther posits that the Dutch brought with them the business-friendly entrepreneurial attitudes that helped make New York the center of commerce and capitalism it remains today.

In addition, having cast off the rule of Spain's Catholic monarchy, the newly formed Dutch Republic espoused a greater, though still incomplete, sense of religious tolerance. That helped foster a baseline of acceptance that suited a prosperous port city where even in the 1640s up to 18 languages were spoken by inhabitants from around the world.

Witness the fire-damaged copy of the 1657 "Flushing Remonstrance," on loan from the New York State Archives, which some regard as the first statement of religious freedom in America. In response to the decision of Peter Stuyvesant, New Amsterdam's director-general, to bar Quakers

from the colony, Flushing community leaders appealed, describing religious liberty as "the glory of the outward State of Holland" and petitioning him to ensure its extension to all colonists, including "Jews, Turkes and Egyptians."

Even so, in addition to trading furs, spices and textiles, the Dutch West India Company, which had founded the colony, also brought to the New World enslaved Africans, exploiting their labor as well as that of indigenous Americans.

Paintings by Rembrandt and from his studio are sprinkled throughout. Most notable is his "Self-Portrait With Shaded Eyes" (1634), in which he wears a jaunty beret and the whisper of a smile. Contrasting shadows and ruddy cheeks characterize the Frans Hals portrait of Lutheran preacher Conradus Viëtor (1664), seen with a tightly clasped Bible.

Most eye-catching is Jan

'Peasants Merrymaking Outside an Inn' (c. 1676), by Jan Steen. The painting is on loan from the Leiden Collection.

Steen's exuberant, large-scale oil painting "Peasants Merrymaking Outside an Inn" (c. 1676), which despite its title captures townspeople of all social classes and ages, many participating with raucous delight, others observing with polite reserve. Among other vignettes of village life, Steen shows a mother nursing her baby; a child stuffing himself with picnic treats; and numerous flagons and steins of beer fueling the good time being had by all.

Perhaps too good a time. Several paintings underline Stuyvesant's complaint that "brandy shops, tobacco or beer houses" occupy nearly a quarter of New Amsterdam's buildings. "Card Players"

(1625), by Jan Lievens, depicts a dimly lighted, tightly grouped band of gamblers reacting to a hand's denouement. The dangers of tippling are intimated in the genre scenes "Encouragement to Drink" (1648-50) by Gerard ter Borch and "Young Man Smoking and a Woman Pouring Beer" (c. 1656-58) by Gabriel Metsu.

The era's hearty appetite for food is suggested in one of Metsu's largest canvases (approximately 62 by 49 inches), "Woman Selling Game From a Stall" (c. 1653-54). The buxom stall-owner lifts a furry, giant hare, its dead eyes glazed, as a primly dressed female customer offers coins in payment. Strewn about the messy stand are a freshly killed rooster, duck and goose.

Live dogs, birds and other pets make themselves known in a variety of domestic scenes, as in the sweetly appealing "Young Woman Feeding a Parrot" (1663) by Frans van Mieris.

A final gallery provides a glimpse of Wall Street, named for the boundary wall built by the Dutch between 1653 and 1663, in Francis Guv's 1797 painting of the Tontine Coffee House, famous as a stockbrokers' meeting place. An American flag flutters above the red brick building, while merchants cluster and converse outside its entrance. They, like the workmen loading barrels on the street, are all attending to the business of the once Dutch, now fully American port city we call New York.

Old Masters, New Amsterdam
New York Historical, through Aug. 30

Ms. Cole, the author of the memoir "After Great Pain: A New Life Emerges," writes on books and arts for the Journal.

ARTS CALENDAR

HAPPENINGS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 4

By WSJ ARTS IN REVIEW STAFF

Film

"Late Fame" (Aug. 7)

Willem Dafoe plays a forgotten New York poet working in a post office who is rediscovered by a circle of young artists. Kent Jones directs Samy Burch's ("May December") screen adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's posthumously published novella, which also features Greta Lee and Edmund Donovan.

"Super Troopers 3" (Aug. 7)

The third installation of the comedy saga sees the Vermont state troopers plotting to stop a drug ring and dealing with an extra-

environment, spirituality and black history.

TV

"The Shards"

(FX/Hulu, Aug. 5)

Ryan Murphy and Bret Easton Ellis adapt Mr. Ellis's 2023 autofiction novel, which is set at an elite Los Angeles prep school in 1981 and follows a group of privileged seniors whose lives begin to unravel with the arrival of a new student and the emergence of a serial killer targeting teenagers.

"Ted Lasso," Season 4

(Apple TV, Aug. 5)

Jason Sudeikis's comedy returns three years after its

Hersh Ellis, features John David Washington, Conrad Ricamora and Elizabeth Stanley.

Music

Dionne Warwick, "DWuets"

(Aug. 7)

Poised to be the final release of the singer's 64-year career, the album is a set of duets written by songwriter Diane Warren ("I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," "Blame It on the Rain")—the pair's first collaboration. Ms. Warwick's singing partners on the new record include Cynthia Erivo, John Legend, Kehlani and Saweetie.

Exhibitions

"The Making of a Medieval Manuscript"

(Getty Center, Los Angeles, Aug. 4-March 14, 2027)

The painstaking process behind the creation of pre-modern books is the focus of this exhibition that uses the museum's collection to show visitors what was required—from the turning of animal skins into parchment through writing, painting and binding.

Videogames

"Beast of Reincarnation"

(PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X/S, PC, Aug. 4)

A woman with the power to control plants teams up with a stray dog to free a post-apocalyptic Japan from the evil powers that corrupt it in this single-player RPG set in the year 4026.

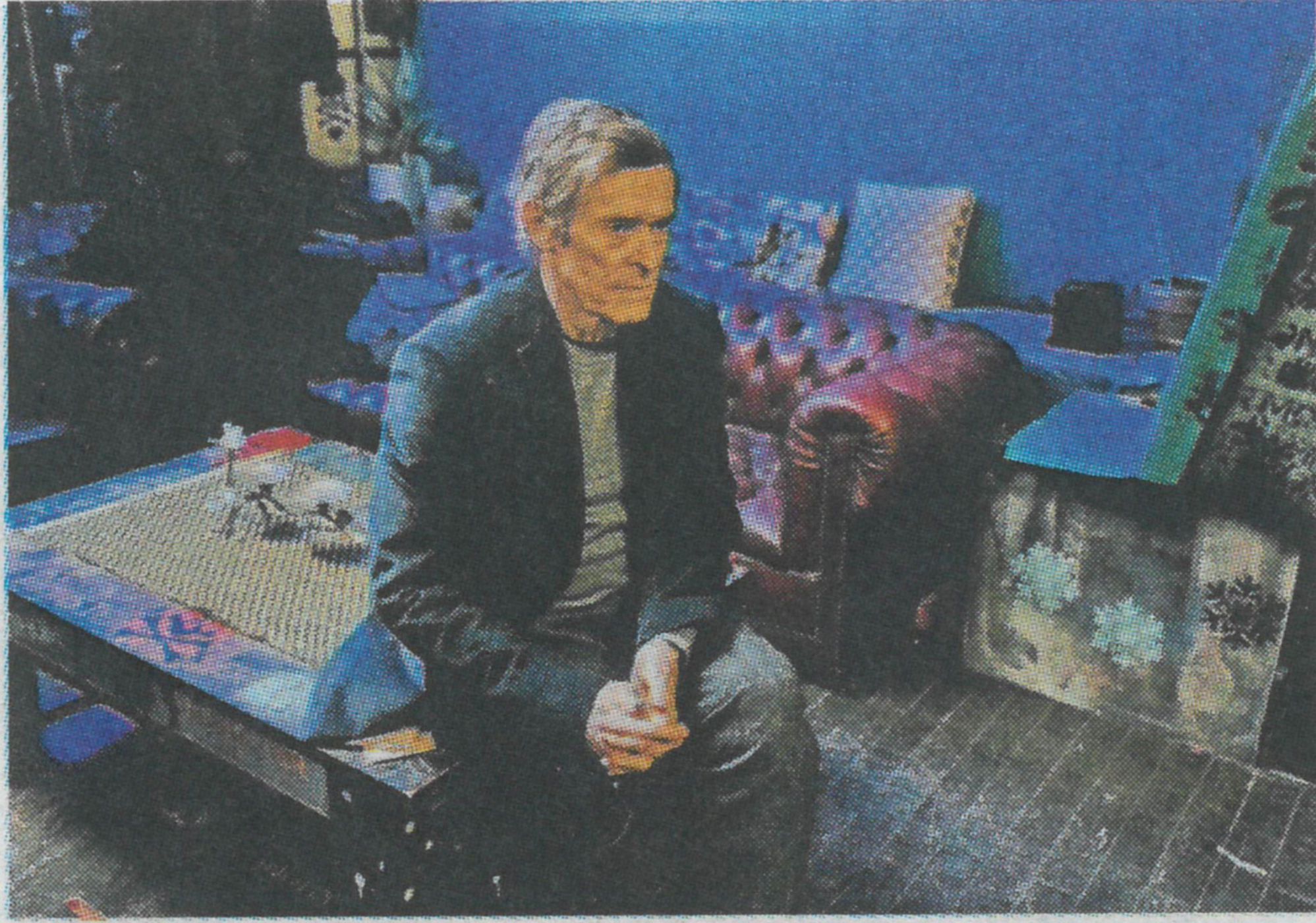
Last Call

"Death of a Salesman"

(Winter Garden Theatre, New York, through Aug. 9)

Nathan Lane and Laurie Metcalf star in an outstanding version of Arthur Miller's classic American drama. Our critic raved that "There's no such thing as a definitive staging of 'Death of a Salesman,' but this version ranks as the finest Broadway production of any classic play in many years."

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Willem Dafoe in Kent Jones's 'Late Fame.'

gant wedding. Agan directed by Jay Chandrasekhar, the cast includes Brian Cox, Marisa Coughlan, Nat Faxon, Chace Crawford and Hannah Simone.

Art

"Olalekan Jeyifous: Hydricosmic Litanies"

(Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Aug. 6-Jan. 3, 2027)

The artist, architect and designer, born in Nigeria and now based in Brooklyn, N.Y., receives his first solo museum exhibition. Framed as a display of artifacts from a fictional river enclave, the presentation features sculptures, videos, soundscapes and more that are inspired by traditional African art and explore themes related to the

presumed finale. Ted comes back to Richmond to coach a second-division women's football team, with Hannah Waddingham, Juno Temple, Brett Goldstein, Brendan Hunt and Jeremy Swift returning and episodes releasing weekly.

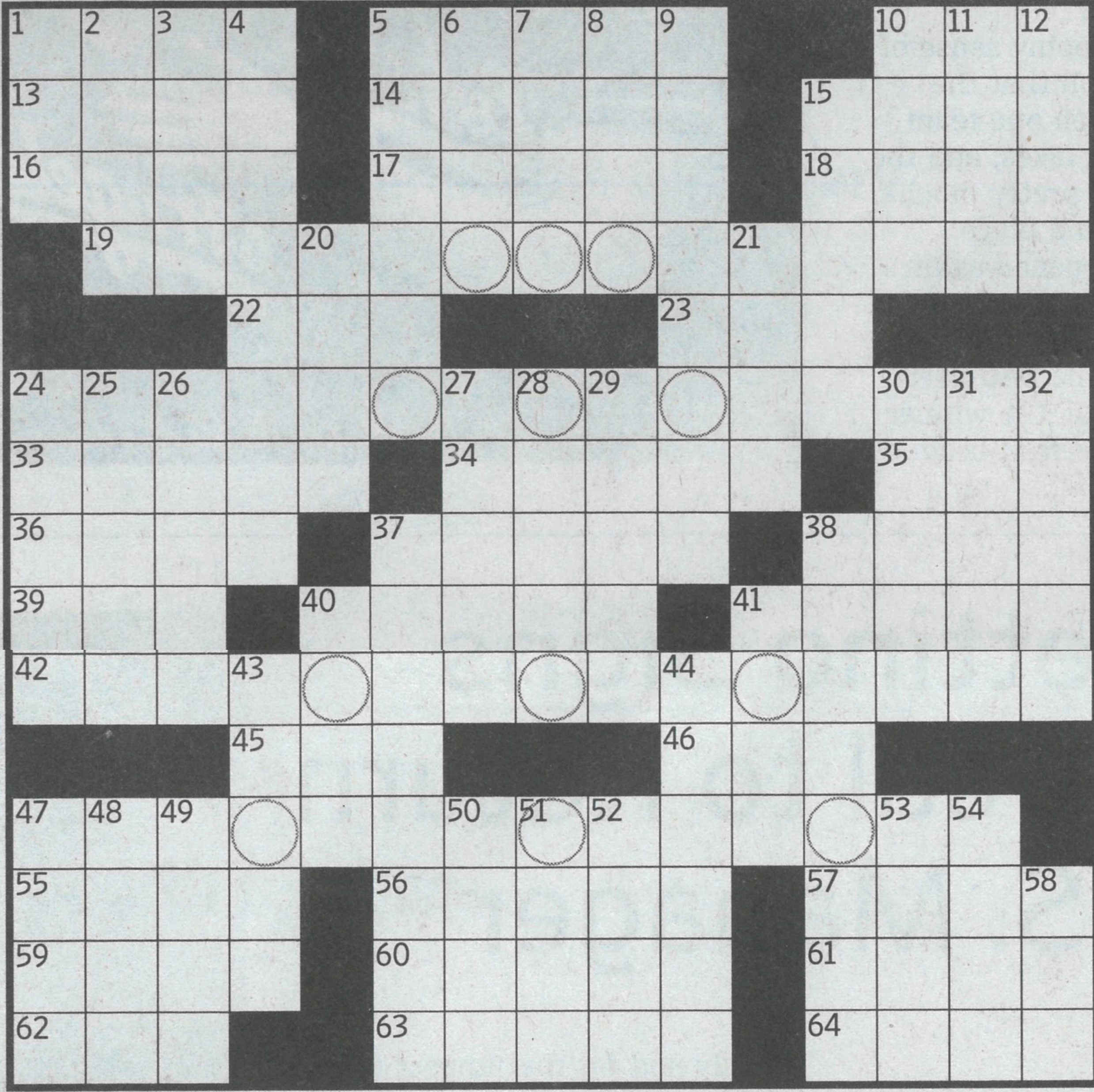
Theater

"Disruption"

(Romulus Linney Courtyard Theatre at Pershing Square Signature Center, New York, through Oct. 4)

After a lucrative exit from Silicon Valley, a tech entrepreneur pitches his three closest friends an algorithm he says can make their biggest life decisions better than they can. Andrew Stein's thriller, directed by

The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk



- 25 Classical calculators
- 26 Playfully attack, puppy-style
- 27 Rose garden pest
- 28 Tehran native
- 29 Like Batman or Darth Vader
- 30 Type of kitchen
- 31 Justice since 2006
- 32 Colorful parrot
- 37 Place to diagnose apnea
- 38 Some fronded forest plants
- 40 Grocery chain begun in Germany

SPREADING A WHOPPER | By Alan Siegel

Across

- 1 The Beehive State
- 5 Derby and dash, e.g.
- 10 Travel guide feature
- 13 Crazy Taxi maker
- 14 Put on a pedestal
- 15 Fly without an instructor
- 16 Number between zwei and vier
- 17 Reese in the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame
- 18 Start of "Jabberwocky"
- 19 Where Hebrew is spoken in Ottawa or Washington
- 22 Aunt, in Aguadulce
- 23 Luau staple
- 24 Peach Melba ingredient

- 33 Prizes awarded by the American Theatre Wing
- 34 Milan-based fashion house
- 35 Copying
- 36 Some ballpark souvenirs
- 37 Give form to
- 38 Ear-related
- 39 Signature Obama healthcare law: Abbr.
- 40 Flared skirt type
- 41 "___ second!"
- 42 Start of a shocking revelation
- 45 Gator follower?
- 46 Playboy founder, familiarly
- 47 Coin featuring a portrait of national hero José Rizal
- 55 Cruise ship deck

- 56 Jousting's weapon
- 57 Box score column
- 59 Decrease?
- 60 Microsoft font based on Helvetica
- 61 Egypt divider
- 62 Sushi bar selection
- 63 Releases that often have bugs
- 64 River of myth

- 6 Skater's leap
- 7 The Golden State, familiarly
- 8 French fashion magazine
- 9 Stock panic?
- 10 Does a lawn chore
- 11 "Sadly..."
- 12 Small bouquet
- 15 Flight segment
- 20 Isn't well
- 21 Posh Florida city, casually
- 24 Not taciturn

- 41 Turn on the faucets
- 43 Raptor's gripper
- 44 Rotelle pasta, essentially
- 47 Ballet bend
- 48 Bring on board
- 49 Fanzine focus
- 50 Trim
- 51 Still competitive
- 52 Nittany Lions' org.
- 53 Diamonds, e.g.
- 54 Just
- 58 Kama Sutra subject

Previous Puzzle's Solution



► Solve this puzzle online and discuss it at [WSJ.com/Puzzles](https://www.wsj.com/puzzles).