

Something for the Weekend

FILMS MUSIC DVDs
GAMES BOOKS THEATRE

HOT GIGS
SHERYL CROW — tonight, Glasgow's Carling Academy, 0141 418 3000.
DOLLY PARTON — tonight, SECC, Glasgow, 0141 248 3000.
GEORGE BENSON — Sunday, Edinburgh Playhouse, 0131 524 3333.

WWW

www.we7.com

WHAT IS IT?: A new-ish download service with an impressive back catalogue which offers many tracks for free. Or you can access a more extensive collection to stream at your leisure.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?: It sounds almost too good to be true but many of the tracks on here are yours for the taking.

The only catch is you have to sit through an advert plonked on the beginning of each download.

You can choose to remove the ads after a month, but, frankly, it is



a small price to pay. If it is too much to bear, you can buy tracks without the ad for 70p.

The artists get paid either way so everyone's a winner.

The service, backed by Peter

Gabriel, really took off recently when music giant Sony BMG came on board, adding a vast choice of tunes.

This means you could get hold of classic recordings by, say, The Kinks for nothing.

The other option is to play back an entire album with the streaming function, so if there is a release you have always wanted to hear, such as Horses by Patti Smith or even the first offering from The Ting Tings, you can do so whenever you want.

WORTH A CLICK? Cor baby, it's really free.

ANTHONY BARNES



BY BILL HAGERTY

FERTILE GROUND IN CHALK GARDEN

THE CHALK GARDEN (Donmar Warehouse, London)
CHALKY soil means nothing much thrives in Mrs St Maugham's garden. And inside her home, old squabbles and new tensions mean that, instead of flowering, granddaughter Laurel (*Felicity Jones*, below with co-star *Jamie Glover*) has become a drama princess who likes setting fire to things.

Enter a governess/companion with a quiet but steely personality, green fingers — "Even your garden is demented," she tells her eccentric employer — and a dark secret.

All of which adds up to an intriguing comedy. Written more than half a century ago by Enid Bagnold, the play's construction is as old-fashioned as pre-rock music.

But director Michael Grandage's impeccable revival shows that, in her observations on female family relationships and people's capacity to learn from even the most traumatic events,

Miss Bagnold was a wise old bird — almost 66 when the play premiered. I doubt it has ever been better acted. The veteran Margaret Tzack and Penelope Wilton — as, respectively, Mrs St Maugham and mysterious hired help Miss Madrigal — thrust and parry like two Olympic fencers. It's a hot ticket but, should you get the chance, don't resist visiting The Chalk Garden. It grows on you.

2,000 FEET AWAY (Bush Theatre, London)
THE starry cast in Anthony Weigh's story of paedophiles, and the problems faced when they are released into society, promised much.

But only Joseph Fiennes emerges with much credit in his role as the brooding Iowa deputy sheriff who has to make sure sex offenders are kept at least 2,000ft from kids.

Ian Hart, as a piano teacher with illegal urges, and Phyllis Logan as his ma, fare less well in their bid to make a fanciful scenario plausible.



THEATRE



BY NATASHA HARDING

THE LOLLIPOP SHOES by Joanne Harris (*Black Swan*, £7.99. Offer price £7.59). For fans of *Chocolat*, Vianne Rocher is back, although she is now called Yanne and living peacefully in Montmartre.

She has won the affections of a man who is rich enough so that money will never be a concern again. "Yanne" is determined to live quietly and doesn't want to draw attention to herself or her children. That is all about to change the day flamboyant Zozie de l'Alba breezes into their lives.

But she has a sinister motive and what follows is a struggle between the two women with Yanne set to lose everything she holds dear.

I loved this book as much as *Chocolat*, one of my all-time favourites.

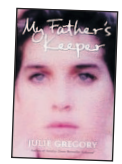


MY FATHER'S KEEPER by Julie Gregory (*Harper Element*, £12.99. Offer price £11.69). Julie Gregory's dad was more like a friend than a father when she was growing up.

He could be an embarrassment but he always made her laugh. Julie wasn't aware, though, that the highs and lows that he experienced were because he suffered from schizophrenia. By the time Julie reached 13, her dad had a full-blown breakdown.

Then he showed a more sinister and paranoid side to his personality which was to affect Julie forever. Poignant and thought-provoking, it is a sad but powerful tale.

● All books are available via The Sun's bookshop at a reduced cost. Go to dearidrebookshop.co.uk or call 08700 715517.



BY BRIAN MOORE

RAID HIGH ST FOR BARGAIN BOTTLES

WITH everyone watching their wallets at the moment, this week I've picked out the High Street's best offers.

There's never been a better time to buy your wine.

Supermarkets are under pressure to keep costs to a minimum because of the credit squeeze. They desperately want to pass on the costs to us but at this time, they know they can't.

Because wine is not an essential — well, it is to some of us — it is price sensitive.

Price hikes would result in a big drop in sales and supermarkets do not want to be seen as suffering a downturn in fortunes right now.

Do we feel the slightest bit sorry? Not at all, but we are happy to grab bargains. So this weekend, take advantage of one, or more, of the following discounts.

An old favourite — the 2006 Georges Dubouef Beaujolais Villages, France — is

at Majestic for £6.24, or buy two for £4.99 each. It's also at Thrashers — buy three for £4.99 each.

This is a lovely, light Beaujolais, perfect for long summer evenings. A bargain basement price is the *House White, Vin de Table, France*, at Marks & Spencer, for just £3.79.

It's full of citrus fruit and is fresh and light. The 2007 *Cono Sur Vision Gewürztraminer, Block Las Colmenas, Casablanca Valley, Chile*, is at Majestic, £7.49, or buy two for £5.99 each until July 28.

This floral wine depends on your taste, but it's better than anything I know with Chinese or Thai food.

If you like sweet wines, the *Moscato de Valencia Sweet Dessert Wine, Spain*, at Asda, for £3.28, is really good with puddings.

At that price, you usually get rubbish but not here — it's a lovely little sweetie.



WINE



BY CHRIS SWEENEY



CRIMEA WAR

Pathfinders go it alone

ALT.ROCKERS The Crimea have been up and down like a busy department store lift — but now they know exactly where they're heading.

And the band's upcoming album is even better than Snow Patrol's, according to Crimea frontman Davey MacManus.

The 31-year-old Irishman also runs the band's label Free, 2, 1 and played the album to Snow Patrol singer Gary Lightbody.

Davey said: "I'm working like mad right now organising tours and the release of our new single — there's a million things to do. "I've written these amazing new songs which are going to take over the world."

"I played them to Gary Lightbody and he said he's spent four months making the new Snow Patrol album and he's going to have to start again now."

The Crimea hit the headlines last year as the first act to give away their music for free, before Radiohead and Prince.

Davey explained: "We did it first and got an amazing response."

"We spent four and a half years on Warner Brothers and only released one album, which I'd recorded before we signed the deal."

"So we decided to do it ourselves and put our stuff online for free. "We were out in China and the story went worldwide and was in every paper from The Hindustan Times to the Wall Street Journal."

"I ended up doing a live interview on BBC News — it was mad. "But if we did it now, no one would care — it was just really good timing."

The band do everything themselves but aren't sure how the future will pan out. Davey —

whose sister is Radio 1 DJ Annie Mac — said: "People have a pre-determined opinion that if you're giving it away for free then it must be terrible."

"I spent seven months making that album, I almost killed myself."

"But we got rid of our management as they were pushing this image that wasn't us. We're mellow but labels are always looking for that big hit."

"We're not sure whether to keep doing it free, so far we've been lucky to make enough money to survive."

"But if we could get a major label to back us then we'd go for it — the greatest example you could possibly give of that is Coldplay."

The Crimea are about to embark on a UK tour — which hits Glasgow's Barfly on July 5 — before jetting Stateside for another string of dates.

Unique

Davey said: "At these gigs the crowd is to sit quietly and clap politely at the end of each song. It will be all candlelit, the idea is to make it really atmospheric."

"I think the Scots are a lot less cynical and our lyrics are very heart-felt."

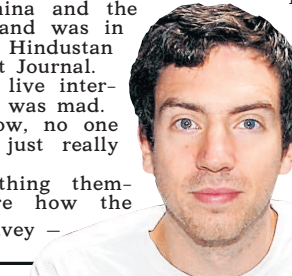
"We'll do some new songs as I haven't left the house since Christmas — I would sit awake for three days trying to come up with something totally unique."

"I always wanted to push myself like that."

Davey's dedication has paid off and he's been getting plaudits from all corners.

He said: "Kelly Jones from the Stereophonics said he would have much rather written the songs I've done that his own — but he's the one with 15 houses and I'm renting a s*** box in Camden."

● To download The Crimea's new single *The 48a Waiting Steps* log onto: www.thecrimea.net



ONES 2 WATCH

ONE 2 SEE



POP trio Edgar Prais, from Aberdeen — named after a well known QC from the Grampian area — have just released their debut single *Pop Song No 93*.

And they're well worth seeing live. Catch them at Cabaret Voltaire in Edinburgh on June 29, Aberdeen's Cafe Drummond on July 2 and at Mad Hatters in Inverness on July 5.

Check out: www.myspace.com/edgarprais

ONE 2 HEAR

BAD boy Detroit singer Kid Rock is finally making headlines just for his music. New single *All Summer Long* is a peach — it's a catchy country number and samples the tune of classic *Sweet Home Alabama*.

It's also his first international hit — and it's off his US chart-topping *Rock'n'Roll Jesus* album which comes out over here on July 28.

CWH PROMOTIONS

Proudly Presents
An Evening with former
World Heavyweight Boxing Champion
'Smokin Joe Frazier'
Compere: former WBC Super-Middleweight Champion
'Richie Woodhall'



Wednesday 3rd September 2008
Hilton Aberdeen Tree Tops Hotel
Thursday 4th September 2008
Hilton Dundee
Friday 5th September 2008
Hilton Grosvenor Hotel, Edinburgh
Sunday 7th September 2008
Hilton Glasgow

Comedian & Compere
Four Course Meal plus Coffee/Mints
Fundraising Auction and Raffle with
Donations to the Hilton Foundation and
Local Children's Charity.
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Dress code: Black Tie/Evening Dress
Tickets: £90 Per Person or £800
for a Table of Ten
VIP Packages £120 Per Person
or £1000 for Table of Ten
VIP Package Includes:
Premium Table Seating
Champagne Reception
Complimentary Wine and Water on your
table, plus an opportunity for pre-show
Signed Photographs with Smokin Joe

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Available to new approved customers registering on a Broadband price plan, subject to a minimum term contract. Device charges apply depending on minimum contract term selected and whether you are an existing 3 customer. Charges of 10p per MB apply if inclusive allowance is exceeded. Compatible with Windows 2000, XP and Vista operating systems and Mac OS (may require additional drivers). Maximum speeds of up to 2.8Mbps on 3's turbo network in the UK. 3 reserves the right to limit excessive roaming. If necessary. Coverage based on % UK population for 3G. Service limitations and terms apply.