

pssst!

EDITED BY JOE D'AMODIO / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Jennifer Hudson breaks down during murder trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Oscar-winner **Jennifer Hudson** struggled to hold back tears yesterday while testifying at the trial of the man accused of killing her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in a jealous rage four years ago.

Hudson was the first witness called after prosecutors

and attorneys for **William Balfour** finished their opening statements.

The singer and actress, who wore a subdued black dress and whose hair was wrapped in a bun, responded to prosecutors' questions softly but confidently and when asked to identify the defendant, poked her head around the judge's bench and pointed at Balfour.

"He's sitting right there," she said.

Her voice broke, though, as she started to describe her reaction when her sister, **Julia Hudson**, told her she was going to marry Balfour.



HUDSON: She began crying when a prosecutor asked her about the last time she saw her family.

"None of us wanted her to marry him," she said, her voice cracking and struggling to hold back tears. "We did not like how he treated her," she said.

Balfour has pleaded not guilty to three counts of first-degree murder in the October 2008 slayings. He showed little emotion during opening statements.

4 Islanders cash in on Lottery games

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Four lucky Staten Islanders recently won \$10,000 or more from the New York Lottery.

Patricia Pugliese won \$17,643 from the Take Five drawing conducted April 14. Her winning ticket was purchased at Ray Grocery in Great Kills.

David Batista won \$10,000 from a Quick Draw

drawing on April 14. Batista's ticket was purchased at Hetal Groceries, Dongan Hills.

Robert Cefoli won \$10,000 from the Mega Millions drawing on April 13. His winning ticket was purchased at the 7-Eleven in Grant City.

Kartier Contino won \$10,000 on the Lottery's \$5,000,000 CASH! scratch-off game. The ticket was purchased at Bolla Operating Corp., Mariners Harbor.



FIRST AND FOREMOST

LiLo to play Liz Taylor in Lifetime film

Lindsay Lohan will portray Elizabeth Taylor in a Lifetime film about her love affair with actor Richard Burton.

Lifetime yesterday made official a casting decision rumored for months. The network says Lohan will star in "Liz & Dick," with production set to begin in early June.

There was no mention of who will play Burton or when the film will air.

Taylor and Burton met as co-stars of the 1963 epic "Cleopatra."

Wagner's 'Goddess Wheel' a Galt-y pleasure, sans sex

Athenians let their 'Hair' down as comedy breaks into hip hop at production in Snug Harbor Music Hall

MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Good news: "Goddess Wheel," a new **Galt MacDermot** show with book/lyrics by **Matty Selmán**, has another week to go, tomorrow through Sunday.

Try to catch this gleaming Wagner College production, off campus at the Music Hall, Snug Harbor Cultural Center. It's a work in progress, rough and young, beautiful and innocent, a little long and a little short, simultaneously. It's an opera masquerading as a musical, and an embarrassment of riches.

The first act alone has 15 songs, performed by a cast of 45 actor/singer/dancers aged 18 to 21. **James Higgins** directs a terrific bass/drums/brass/sax band in the pit and director/choreographer **Rusty Curcio** not only moves things along, he fills the earthly plane — a wide, white cantilevered disc with wings (designed by **Phil Hickox** and **Vicki Neal**) — with movement, shenanigans and action.

There are engaging effects and projections, deft lighting and mildly risqué costumes that play peek-a-bow with clear vinyl panels a la "Barbarella." It's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," not "Spartacus."

The material is ancient but evergreen, as **Matty Selmán** points out in the program. His crazy-complicated book is drawn from the foolproof sex-strike premise devised by Aristophanes in his 431 B.C. comedy "Lysistrata."

The title character, a wily madam who runs a popular Athenian bordello, is fed up with the 30-year Peloponnesian War. All the other wives and inamoratas in Athens are liked-minded, although they don't really get organized until nearly the end of the first act.

Their best allies turn out to be the mischievous goddesses of Olympus, who spend much of the show kibitzing high above the stage.

A strategy develops: If the men can't be reasoned with, then maybe deprivation and cold nights will move them. The women whip out their best weapon. They declare a boycott on lovemaking until peace breaks out.

ROCK, FUNK, AFRO-CARIBBEAN

Like MacDermot's "Hair" and "The Human Comedy," the "Goddess Wheel" has a war in the wings, only this time, it generates far more hilarity than tears.

Fans of the composer, who



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN O'DONNELL

DANIELLE DALLACCO and **MATT SYDNEY** are shown in a scene from "Goddess Wheel," a Wagner College production, playing at the Music Hall, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Livingston.

has lived in Silver Lake for many years, will recognize his signature, rhythm-driven rock/funk style in "Goddess Wheel," punctuated now and again with African and Caribbean motifs.

MacDermot imposes beautiful (and tricky-to-sing) songlines against the instrumentation. Everyone in the gifted cast hit their marks on Saturday afternoon.

Danielle Dallacco's steely and beautiful Lysistrata was riveting, whether she was on the ramparts or baring her soul. It's a pleasure to see a well-equipped young singer take such good care of the music.

Similarly, her comrade in arms, **Kalonike (Danielle Jones)**, rocks the Acropolis when she wraps her full-bodied contralto around a hot number called "Weather." Afrodite, played by the excellent **Heather Kirschenbauer** (in a honey-colored Afro) fronted an equally lush shakedown called "Land for Peace."

The show jumps, marches, dashes and shimmies. The roots of hip-hop dance are in ancient Athens, it turns out. The choreographer found them there and excavated

them for his witty "Alpha-Beta" dance number.

SMART CHOICES

He made smart choices throughout the production. The book begins clearly but grows complicated and murky. A ghoulish oracle, played by **John Jamiel**, surfaces a couple times; it's not exactly clear why.

Rumbustious Spartans (suavely impersonated by Wagner athletes) arrive and make chumps out of the puny Athenians. They were funny, but it was odd.

Male characters are scanty and they don't have much to do. When **Matt Sydney** (Maximus) finally gets to use his big voice well into the second act, it's a revelation.

And when the terrifically admirable Lysistrata threatens to go to pieces in "Without You" a musical goodbye to Maximus, whom she loves, you don't buy it. A canny entrepreneur who chilled out every bed in ancient Greece doesn't disintegrate so readily. Of course, the bottom line here is no surprise: Even love (or the lack thereof) can't end war.

(For tix, times and other info, consult wagner.edu.)

Just Search, Select and Save.



MOVIE TIMES

These movie schedules are provided by the theaters and are subject to change.

UA HYLAN PLAZA,
107 Mill Rd.,
New Dorp

The Lucky One (PG-13) — 3:20, 5:45, 8:30. The Three Stooges (PG) — 3:40, 5:55, 8:20. American Reunion (R) — 3:10, 5:35, 8:10. Titanic 3D (PG-13) — 3, 7:30. The Hunger Games (PG-13) — 4, 8.

ATRIUM STADIUM CINEMAS,
680 Arthur Kill Rd.,

Stooges (PG) — 12:10, 2:15, 4:20, 6:25, 8:30. Lockout (PG-13) — 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25. Titanic 3D (PG-13) — 12:35, 4:25, 8:15. American Reunion (R) — 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7, 9:25. Mirror Mirror (PG) — 11:45, 2, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45. 21 Jump Street (R) — 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15. The Hunger Games (PG-13) — 11:25, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15.

UA STADIUM 16
2474 Forest Ave.,
Mariners Harbor

Think Like A Man (PG-13) — 2:15, 3:15, 5, 6, 7:45, 8:45, 10:30. Chimpanzee (G) — 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. The Lucky One (PG-13) — 2:30, 5:10, 7:35, 10. The Three Stooges (PG) — 1, 2:40, 3:40, 5:15, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30, 9:34, 10:45. Lockout

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