

■ Derek Gripper will perform in private homes and small venues.



Derek Gripper concert series

STAFF REPORTER

Guitarist Derek Gripper will be hosting a series of small, socially distanced events in commemoration of his last international concert tour in 2020 and one year of musical lockdown.

Derek will play in private homes and in various intimate venues such as the Sangha Spot in Muizenberg, The Cottage Club in Fish Hoek, The Forge in Kalk Bay and The Ladder in Cape Town from Sunday March 28 to Friday May 7.

Derek's last tour of Australia a year ago saw him play 16 sold-out concerts in as many towns and cities. He returned to the Mother City the week before lockdown and has since been running an online subscription service teach-

ing group music lessons.

His notable experiences include a solo concert at Carnegie Hall, multiple collaborations with classical guitar legend John Williams and classical Indian virtuoso Debashish Battacharya; a performance in Bamako with kora star Toumani Diabate and a host of award-winning albums including 2016's *Libraries on Fire*, which won the Songlines Music Award for Best African Album.

Derek's recent album, *A Year of Swimming*, had a million streams in its first few months of release, and his latest record with Silk Road Ensemble's cellist Mike Block is set to follow suit.

Tickets are available from R150 through Quicket. Visit <https://www.derekgripper.com/tour-dates/> for more information.



Foto Emanuela Scarpa

■ The 21st edition of the Italian Film Focus will take place from tomorrow, Thursday March 25 to Tuesday March 30 online. The event is promoted by Controluce, the Italian Institute of Culture in Pretoria, the Embassy of Italy in South Africa, the Consulate of Italy in Johannesburg, the Consulate of Cape Town, the Embassy of Italy in Zambia, and the Embassy of Italy in Zimbabwe. Pictured is an image from the movie *Miss Marx*, directed by Susanna Nicchiarelli.

Italian film festival

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The event is promoted by Controluce, the Italian Institute of Culture in Pretoria, the Embassy of Italy in South Africa, the Consulate of Italy in Johannesburg, the Consulate of Cape Town, the Embassy of Italy in Zambia, and the Embassy of Italy in Zimbabwe.

The festival will open with the award-winning film *Hidden Away* (Volevo Nascondermi) by Giorgio Diritti about an Italian self-taught painter, Ligabue. The director will present the film with a live introduction and participate in a Q&A.

The festival programme includes live interactions with a director every day and a film event to celebrate the three-time Oscar winner Federico Fellini on the centenary of his birth with the movie, *Juliet*

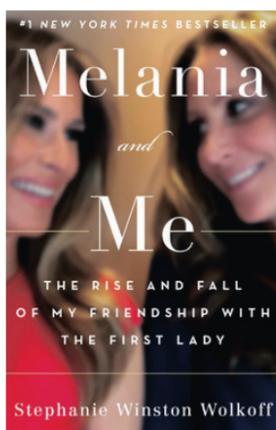
of the Spirits (Giulietta degli Spiriti).

Visit [cinekit.it/italian-film-focus-in-southern-africa](https://www.cinekit.it/italian-film-focus-in-southern-africa) to book and for the full programme.

Bookings open online on Thursday March 25, at 10am. Tickets cost US\$3.50 (R51.90 on Monday March 22) but the first 1 000 tickets are free. Tickets include access to the 12 films and participation in the live events. Search for <https://www.facebook.com/italianfilmfocus> on Facebook.

Read of the week

Melania and Me
The rise and fall of my friendship with the First Lady
Stephanie Winston Wolkoff
Simon & Schuster UK
— Jonathan Ball (South Africa)
Review: Lauren O'Connor-May

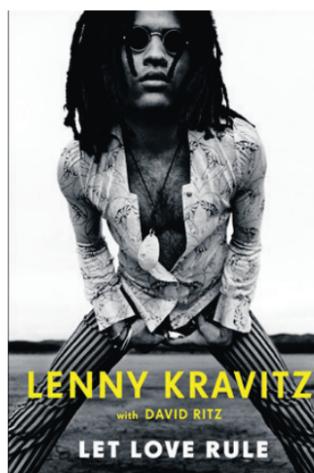


her beck and call and she willingly shares her trials and struggles with an apathetic Melania. Later, as Wolkoff, at great cost to herself, rallies for Melania in a way that can only be called obsessive — all in the name of patriotism — she comes across as someone desperately trying to justify her misplaced loyalties. Eventually, Wolkoff ends up the same as most people who tangled with the Trumps do — ruined. Only

then she admits, what any sane reader could have seen all along and what all her friends had been warning her about, that she was being used and it would not end well. I found parts of this book very dull, especially when Wolkoff goes into a painful, day-by-day, blow-by-blow account of the presidential inauguration planning. Wolkoff claims she was the scapegoat for the irregularities in the inauguration spending and whether this is true or not remains to be seen as the investigation is still ongoing. Other parts are morbidly fascinating. How does Melania deal with all the scandal that is constantly swirling around the Trumps? It appears that she just doesn't care. As long as her private life is not too greatly disturbed, her expensive shoes matches her

designer bag and she looks good, Melania doesn't care what is happening outside her bubble and least of all whom it affects. That is how she has been painted under Wolkoff's pen at least. Wolkoff admits to having had a grudging admiration for this head-in-a-bubble attitude and even sometimes justifies it. Later, it comes back to bite her. At its essence, this book is a PR attempt to salvage a Trump-ruined life.

Let Love Rule
Lenny Kravitz with David Ritz
Sphere — Jonathan Ball (South Africa)
Review: Lauren O'Connor-May



Fans of Lenny Kravitz will know that *Let Love Rule* is the name of the song that ignited his fame in the rock genre. Fans will probably know a lot about Lenny already but the most well-known tidbit of his life, his failed marriage with *The Cosby Show* actress, Lisa Bonet, and the mysterious reasons behind it, is not discussed in this book. The story stops just after their daughter Zoe is born and before they separate. The book starts before Lenny is born, with the romance between his parents, well-known actress Roxie Roker and journalist Sy Kravitz. It goes on to talk about his extremely colourful childhood, which was full of well-known musicians and actors and an immersion in arts, almost from birth, which clearly shaped his musical aspirations. The book goes into great detail about his grandparents, his family life, his family history

and his childhood and carries on until he leaves school and tries to launch a career as the pop musician Romeo Blue.

The essence of the story, told in Lenny's own words, is his musical and spiritual development. He talks a lot about his spirituality and how his musical style was influenced and nearly everything he talks about in the book links back to those two themes.

The book is very lyrically written and, based on the ending, hints at being part of a series. I've watched many documentaries about Lenny Kravitz, being somewhat of a fan myself, and knew a lot about the musician already but this book gives the unique view of telling his story in his own words, through only his perspective, which is sometimes somewhat rose-tinted.

Sudoku solution

No 107; Level: Hard

2	5	9	3	7	8	1	6	4
1	6	8	5	4	9	3	7	2
7	4	3	1	2	6	5	8	9
8	9	4	7	6	1	2	5	3
6	1	2	8	3	5	9	4	7
5	3	7	2	9	4	8	1	6
9	7	5	4	1	2	6	3	8
4	2	1	6	8	3	7	9	5
3	8	6	9	5	7	4	2	1

Puzzle on page 2

Anagram puzzle solution

Encourage, acrogen, courage, aerugo, congee, conger, cougar, enrage, genera, onager, orange, agree, anger, argon, argue, auger, cargo, conga, conge, eager, eagre, genre, genro, genua, goner, goura, grace, green, groan, guaco, guano, organ, ragee, range, renga, rogue, rouge, rugae, ague, areg, cage, crag, ergo, gaur, gean, gear, gene, genu, gone, gore, guan, guar, ogee, ogre, rage, rang, ruga, rung and urge.

Puzzle on page 2

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