Independents Day



After five albums, indie music darlings O.A.R. (short for Of a Revolution) have scored a major record deal. But fear not, the music hasn't changed-and the guys are bringing their folk-rock-reggae fusion to Wolf Trap (www.wolftrap.org) on August 10 for a live show with Howie Day, one of Beantown's brightest singer-songwriters. Tickets, \$32 in-house, \$25 lawn.

PICTURE IMPERFEC

Passion united—and, at times, divided—Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. But love ultimately kept them together until Kahlo's death in 1954. Through August 27, the Mexican Embassy will host Diego y Frida: A Smile in the Middle of the Road, rare photographs taken by the couple and their friends. While the pair are best known for their colorful and symbolic paintings, these mostly black-andwhite images offer an intimate look into their lives as lovers, artists and revolutionaries. José Clemente Orozco Gallery (2829 16th St. NW, www.instituteofmexicodc.org).

Eye of the Beholder

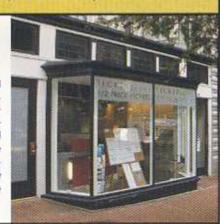
Years before Barnum and the Elephant Man came Saartje, a 20-year-old South African woman enticed by hucksters to tour London as a sideshow freak. Venus, written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Suzan-Lori Parks, follows Saartje on a journey to unexpected fame and adoration-followed by an astonishing twist of fate. The play runs from August 25 to September 26 at the Olney Theatre (2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd., 301-924-3400, www.olneytheatre.org).

IDOL CHATTER

We won't judge you for watching "American Idol." But you're free to judge the contestants at Washington's own talent search when Live! On Woodrow Wilson Place hosts "Star Spotlight" every Thursday in August, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Just gather outside the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center to catch the show. And check the Web site (www.itcdc.com) for a list of other weekday events, including stand-up comedy, courtesy of the Improv. 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Tickets, Please

Go ahead, be a cheapster. Introducing D.C.'s new TICKETplace (407 7th St. NW, ticketplace.org), the region's only halfprice, day-of-show ticket booth. Score discounted tickets to more than 60 arts and culture venues, including Wolf Trap, the Kennedy Center, Washington Ballet, Shakespeare Theatre and more. Bonus: The new storefront location sits in the heart of the very "happening" Seventh Street corridor.



MEINVASION

The Washington area is becoming a hotbed of haute home décor showrooms. New on the scene: Vesta Home (3101 Wilson Blvd., #120, Arlington, Va., www.vestahome.com), which offers a comfortable take on modern furniture. (They call it "accessible luxury." We call it divine.) Another major coup for Washingtonians is the addition of Design Within

Reach studios (www.dwr.com) in both Georgetown (3307 Cady's

Alley NW) and Bethesda (4828 Norfolk Ave.), carrying items by such icons of design as Angela Adams and Isamu Noguchi.

