

# catch this

NOT TO BE MISSED IN JULY/AUGUST

BY JENNIFER VISHNEVSKY

## 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](http://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.



## 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](http://www.itcdc.com)) for a list of other weekday events, including stand-up comedy, courtesy of the Improv, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

## PICTURE IMPERFECT

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-and-white images offer an intimate look into their lives as lovers, artists and revolutionaries. José Clemente Orozco Gallery (2829 16th St. NW, [www.instituteofmexicodc.org](http://www.instituteofmexicodc.org)).

## Tickets, Please

Go ahead, be a cheapster. Introducing D.C.'s new **TICKETplace** (407 7th St. NW, [ticketplace.org](http://ticketplace.org)), the region's only half-price, 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.



## 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](http://www.olneytheatre.org)).

## HOME INVASION

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](http://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](http://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.

