

WITH: NEW ENGLAND DESTINATIONS

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BUYER & CELLAR stars Michael Urie at the Barrow Street Theatre.

SANDRA COURDERT (ABOVE), JENNY ANDERSON © BROADWAY.COM (BELOW LEFT), KEVIN SPRAGUE © 2012 (BELOW RIGHT)

Off-Broadway | On their mark

Productions muster their professional all on a wide variety of stages — with some economy

BY CHRISTOPHER MUTHER | GLOBE STAFF

I couldn't believe my good fortune.

I scored tickets — and good tickets at that — to one of the final performances of Bette Midler's one-woman Broadway show "I'll Eat You Last." I was so excited that I purchased a new ensemble for the evening and my entourage posed for pictures in front of the Booth Theatre mar-

quee. Facebook friends expressed just the right amount of jealousy when they spotted the picture.

But star power and Facebook bragging rights come with a price, and the final tally for this Friday night of entertainment was \$250 (plus those pesky "service charges"). I'm certain the cost of the ticket was more than my new outfit. Playing Hollywood agent Sue Mengers, Midler was both brassy and occasionally vulnerable, particularly as her character waited for a call from star client Barbra Streisand. It was worth both the cultural and sartorial investment,

I told myself. This was Midler's first time on Broadway in 40 years.

Because I was in New York for the weekend, I decided to buy a ticket for a show the following night as well. Midler tested the limits of my credit card, so I decided to go for something a bit more low-key (that's

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PETER AND THE STARCATCHER Nicole Lowrance (left), Jon Patrick Walker, and Evan Harrington at New World Stages.



BECOMING DR. RUTH stars Debra Jo Rupp at the Westside Theatre.



6 MUSEUMS IN 3 DAYS ON 2 FEET

By Karen Campbell
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Having rare opportunities to venture to Manhattan for a few days, I try to make the most of every trip. Nights are usually reserved for concerts and theater, with daytime hours up for grabs. For this whirlwind trip of three days, I wanted to visit six museums within walking distance of our Midtown hotel. The challenge was to craft

an itinerary that offered a satisfying experience without burnout. Truth be told, I tend to feel quite full after a relatively short visit at most any museum, needing time to absorb and process before taking in more. So the idea of tackling six museums, each separated by lunch and mind-clearing walks, actually seemed doable and relatively balanced. I ended up with a rewarding schedule that left me feel-

ing stimulated and fulfilled, but not exhausted — though my feet told a slightly different tale.

DAY ONE

The **Museum of Modern Art** is one of my first stops almost every New York visit. My eye is self-educated and my tastes are eclectic, but there's always something at MOMA that catches the visual imagination and pro-

voke the brain. I tend to wander through the museum until something draws me in — a collage here, a sculpture there. One of the big draws is "American Modern: Hopper to O'Keeffe" (through Jan. 26), which provides fresh context for more than 100 of the museum's most celebrated American masterworks created between 1915 and 1950, from sculp-

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FROM LEFT: REUTERS/JOSHUA LOTT; PABLO ESTEVA; JOE MCDONALD; CLYDE PEELING'S REPTILAND; KARSTEN MORAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; LIBRADO ROMERO/THE NEW YORK TIMES; THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART showing Rene Magritte through Jan. 12.

MUSEUM OF ART AND DESIGN shows Iradj Moini's silver-plated brooch.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY exhibits "Frogs" through Jan. 5.

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM show "Robert Motherwell" is on through Jan. 5.

NEUE GALERIE specializes in German Expressionists such as Gustave Klimt.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART's Rockefeller show: a Mesoamerican ceramic.

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