

Cinematic 'Survivor'

Think you could handle the pressure of being a big-shot movie director, helming multi-million dollar projects, or an indie auteur maxing out his credit cards to realize his vision?

For the aspiring directors now participating in the **NYC Midnight Movie Making Madness** competition, the pressure's half the fun.

In the first round, teams of filmmakers are given a randomly selected subject and genre for each movie, concepts like "a musical about baseball" or "comedy about shoes."

The finalists from the first round must then complete a film from scratch in 24 hours to vie for "Best Film" by winning over the audience at the final round screening held at the **Anthology Film Archives** tomorrow.

The winner receives \$2,400 and a production package to create his next masterpiece. Could you be a closet Capra or Kurosawa?

\$10, *NYC Midnight Movie Making Madness Finals*, tomorrow, 1 p.m., *Anthology Film Archives*, 32 Second Ave. at Second Street. Details at www.nycmidnight.com.

FREE FOR ALL

By JOE CUNNINGHAM

Knit pick

If you visit Union Square Park tomorrow, you'll find hundreds of needles. Wait, don't call your congressman. It's only the **Knit-out and Crochet 2002** festival, a free event featuring knitting competitions, fashion shows and lessons for folks who can't tell the difference between a cross-stitch and a crawfish. Noon to 5 p.m., 17th Street, between Union Square West and Park Avenue. South.

Medieval-doers

Prepare yourself, because the Cloisters are about to get medieval. Tomorrow, the area surrounding the Cloisters' castle-shaped museum becomes a Middle Ages-era market with jesters, craftsmen and food vendors. Perfect for people too cheap to spring for Sterling Forest. Free, Noon to 6 p.m., Fort Tryon Park, Washington Heights, (212) 795-1600.

Wiener scene

Those lovable low-riding Dachshunds sure have a loyal fan base. The Dachshund Friendship Club (we're not making that up) takes its affection for wiener dogs a few steps further — straight into Creepsville. Today, they present their free biannual **Dachshund Fall Fiesta**, for fellow passionate pooch-owners. Noon, Washington Square Park, Fifth Avenue at Waverly Place.



Serving up some steins at Zum Stammtisch

Block-toberfest

Photos: M. Sofronski

Enjoy the best of the wurst in one Queens neighborhood

By KRISTA GARCIA

If you think the closest you can get to Oktoberfest in New York is clinking steins with Zum Schneider's Avenue C crowd or grabbing a currywurst courtesy of Hallo Berlin, you might want to consider hightailing it out of Manhattan.

For the full St. Pauli Girl and proudly displayed taxidermy experience, you need to head to the hinterlands of Glendale, Queens. Sure, there's a handful of Alpine holdouts scattered throughout the city. But where else can you find four old-school German joints within seven blocks? With the restaurants all walking distance from each other, getting your drink on, Spaten-style, has never been more convenient.

Purists know the official Munich Oktoberfest only runs from the end of September through the first week of October. But that's partially due to Germany's colder climate. Glendale residents pay little attention to the calendar: Any given month you can party like it's nineteen ninety-nine.

Working your way east on Myrtle Avenue's brat belt, you'll hit **Hans' Gasthaus** at 64-04, first. Upon entering the woody, rec room-esque space, it's almost as if you've crashed a party, especially when a band is playing next to the door.

It's like you're at someone's house, we marveled. That is, if you have friends with beer gardens out back.

You won't feel like an outsider though, everyone's *willkommen*. Join in with a Paulaner Hefe-

Weizen and after a round you might even get a freebie (we were told the buy-back ratio is 1:4).

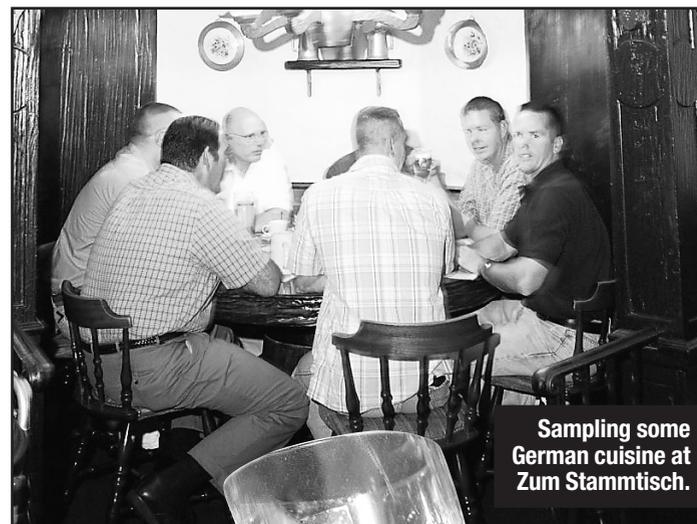
One of the only late-night options in this sleepy neighborhood, the kitchen's blessedly open till 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Choose from traditional pub grub like *weisswurst*, veal sausage, or uber-American *scharfe hühner flugel* (that's hot wings to the uninitiated).

On the next block you'll find **Gebhardt's**, a respectable establishment, quaintly decorated and restrained, with a lone mounted moose head. Nearly 70 years old, this old-timer still has a following. Lest you forget this is a Bavarian hangout, German newspapers are stacked near the entrance.

For the month of October Gebhardt's is featuring a special Oktoberfest menu in addition to their usual fare. And on Oct. 18, a four-course beer dinner is slated. Patrons have gotten "pretty rowdy" at similar past events.

"No woman may refuse her man at least one weekly venture to the Stammtisch" reads the lore in **Zum Stammtisch's** foyer, at 69-46 Myrtle Ave. Fraulines would be crazy not to tag along. Brimming with chalet-style wood beams and stucco, ceramic steins and cuckoo clocks, this place dishes up a hearty dose of kitsch with its schnitzel.

Mammoth portions of *leberkase*, literally "liver cheese," *hausgemachte suleze*, headcheese with vinaigrette, and their signature *jaegerschnitzel*, a veal cutlet smothered in a mushroomy hunter sauce, will satisfy the



Sampling some German cuisine at Zum Stammtisch.

carnivore in anyone. Forgoing filling beer in lieu of lighter liqueurs may be a wise after-dinner move. Venture beyond ordinary schnapps and sample their bittersweet, pale green Escorial Grun or bilberry-infused Stonsdorfer.

Just one block off the main drag, **Von Westernhagen's** quietly sits on the corner at 71-28 Cooper Ave., nearly oblivious to the outside world. The vibe is more Forest Hills than Black Forest, but after a few glasses of Spaten Oktoberfest you just might forget you're in Queens. If you've had your fill of sausages and sauerkraut, belly up to the bar on Tuesdays when its steak tartare night.

Even if you don't make it to Glendale in the next few weeks, you're still likely to get a taste of Oktoberfest. As they'll tell you at Zum Stammtisch: "It's a celebration all year-round here."

That's no lie, this neighborhood is always *wunderbar*.



Hans Gasthaus barkeep Lisa can satisfy any thirst.