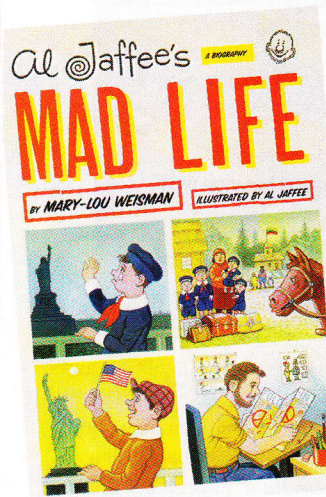


Local Offerings



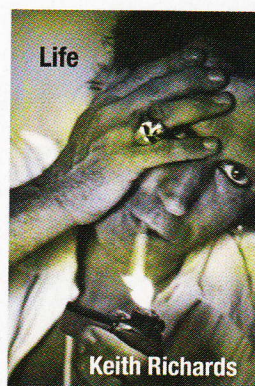
Look for the following pop-cultural offerings, all by Connecticut authors, in bookstores everywhere:

Holocaust drama! Childhood trauma! Comedic vision! Art-life collision! They're all part of *Al Jaffee's Mad Life* by award-winning

author Mary-Lou Weisman (HarperCollins; \$27.99), a riveting journey through the often dark past of one of *MAD* Magazine's seminal satirists (the inventor of the magazine's beloved back-page "fold-ins," Jaffee, 89, has been a *MAD* contributor for 55 years). Based on more than 100 90-minute taped conversations between Weisman and Jaffee—they've been summer neighbors in Provincetown, Mass., for 30 years—and intensive historical research, the book also features nearly 70 custom four-color illustrations by the artist himself. "I'm very analytical; he's very anecdotal," Weisman says, "as well as sophisticated and verging on brilliant."

The two will appear at Fairfield Public Library (at noon) and Westport Public Library (7:30 p.m.) on Oct. 13; meanwhile, you can enjoy a video chat at marylouweisman.com. (Sept. 28)

Stephen Sondheim aficionados will eat up *Finishing the Hat* (Knopf; \$39.95) with a spoon, chockablock as it is with all the lyrics from his musicals spanning 1954 to '81 (from *Saturday Night* to *Merrily We Roll Along*) along with "attendant comments, principles, heresies, grudges, whines and anecdotes." Prime dish includes his belief that many of his lyrics in *West Side Story* "suffer from a self-conscious effort to be poetic" and that he wanted Judge Turpin's rendition of "Johanna" in 1979's



Sweeney Todd to mark "the first time a character reached orgasm in the middle of a song." Yes, it was cut from the show. (Oct. 26)

We're pretty sure *Life* (Hachette; \$29.99), the much-anticipated autobiography of that

most "satanic" Rolling Stone Keith Richards, will be dishier still. Aided by co-writer James

Fox, "Keef" reportedly spills all about his childhood, his love of music, fame, addiction, drug busts, the women in his life—Anita Pallenberg, Patti Hansen, Mick Jagger (oh, snap!)—and confesses he's a shy boy with the ladies. "Every woman I've been with, they've had to put the make on me," he reports. Hmm. Right. What we really wanna know: Is it true he played dress up with Johnny Depp as prep for *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*? (Oct. 26)

It's not a memoir—but the third edition of *Connecticut Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities and Other Offbeat Stuff* (Globe Pequot; \$15.95) offers a thoroughly compelling profile of the Nutmeg State. Written by Susan Campbell, Bill Heald and *Connecticut Magazine* Associate Editor Ray Bendici, the book travels from the eccentric (East Haddam's Gillette Castle) and the head-scratching (Waterbury's giant tiki head) to the inexplicable: think Willimantic's annual Boom Box Parade. (Nov. 9)



PETER TEPFER

public service

Responding to Rape

This month's convention of some 25,000 law-enforcement officials in Orlando, Fla., will have something new to look at, ponder and perhaps learn from thanks to a Connecticut group dedicated to shifting society's awareness in cases of rape and other types of sexual assault.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, representing all 50 states and 89 countries, will view the premiere of "Duty Trumps Doubt," a training video designed to improve the response of police to sexual assaults. The film is the product of Jane Doe No More, an organization founded by Woodbury resident Donna Palomba, at left, after her 1993 assault was mishandled by Waterbury police—and she decided to do something about it.

"First responders at the crime scene have one shot to get it right," says Palomba. "In my case, they failed to follow protocols and detectives even dismissed my account of the crime. We hope the video will serve as a powerful reminder to police of the importance of first responders to keep an open mind. Sexual assault victims are in a state of shock, and no one can or should expect them to look or act in a certain way."

"Duty Trumps Doubt" was put together by volunteers at Quinnipiac University and Mom & Pop Films in Easton, along with Connecticut police, sexual-assault survivors, teachers and medical experts.

"I think it's fair to say that every single one of us involved in the filmmaking has been profoundly impacted by the experience," says Palomba. The video will be made available to police departments nationwide and around the world.

For more information, visit janedoenomore.com.

—C.A.M.