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STUFF

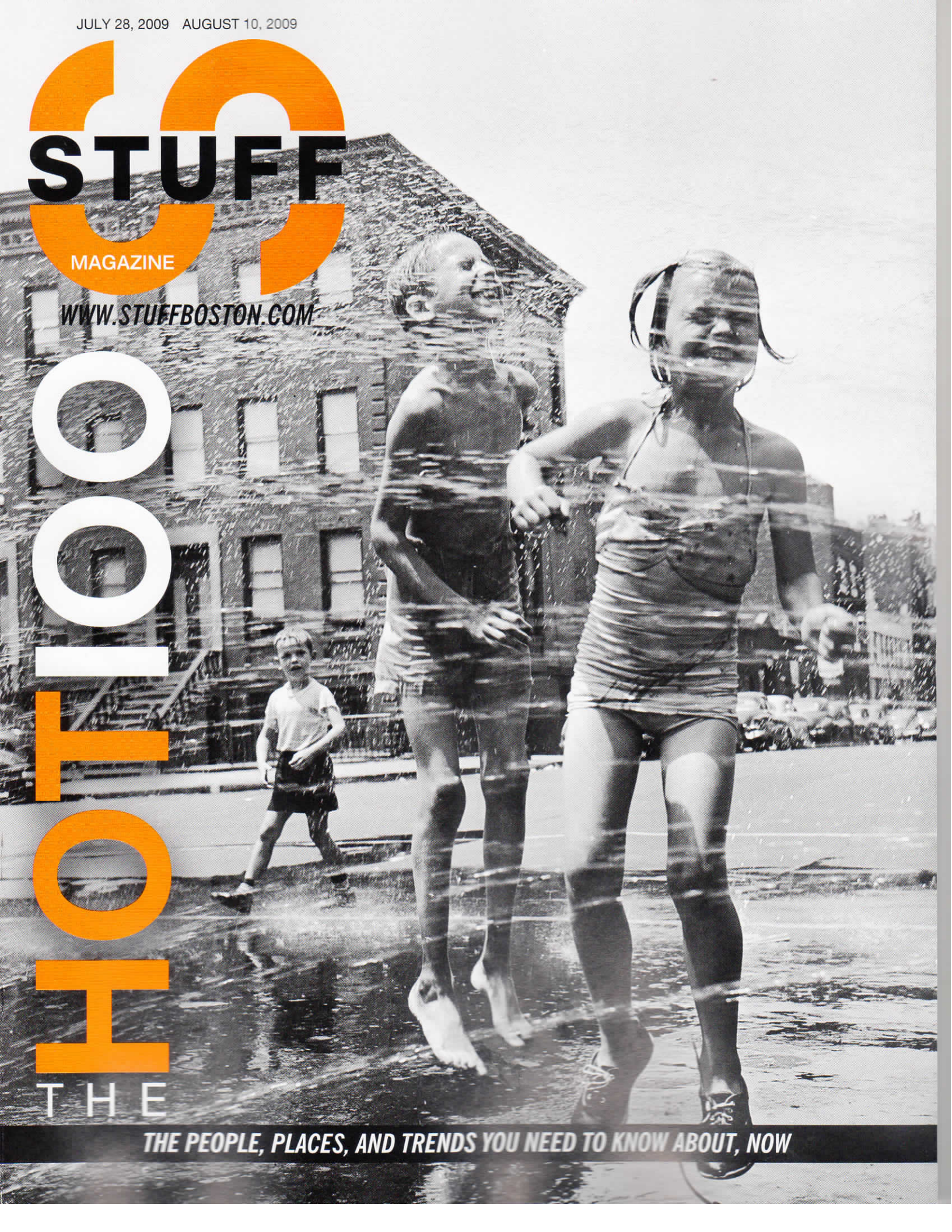
MAGAZINE

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THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND TRENDS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT, NOW



elements and original house parts. If a simple paint job is all you're up for, **Johnson Paint** (355 Newbury Street, Boston, 617.266.5210) recommends Benjamin Moore's new zero-VOC formulation, Natura Interior Waterborne Paint (\$48/gallon).

HOT SOUTH

Southern food in the Bean Calories be damned, we've got to confess: **Southern food** makes us salivate. But with Bob's Southern Bistro and Magnolias gone to that big mint julep in the sky, we felt resigned to Britney-style runs to Popeye's. Then, to our delight, up sprouted new spots like Inman Square's **Tupelo** (1193 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, 617.868.0004) and Kendall Square's gem, **Hungry Mother** (233 Cardinal Medeiros Avenue, Cambridge, 617.499.0090). Both have brought refined Dixie cuisine to the forefront of the local culinary scene. But don't call us food snobs — we're also scarfing the fried chicken at **Poppa B's** (1100 Blue Hill Avenue, Dorchester, 617.825.0700). This place offers up soul-food specialties for eaters on a recession-era budget. We'll save money on dinner and spend it on a gym membership, thanks.

HOT POLITICAL TREND

young city council hopefuls Whether they were inspired by a wide-eyed, baby-faced President Obama — or just by the fact that Boston clearly needs some young blood at City Hall — a significant number of Generation X and Y delegates are competing for the four city-councilor-at-large seats. At a recent Ward 5 Democratic Committee forum, such gunners as council legacy **Felix G. Arroyo**, Roxbury resident **Scotland Willis**, and Mr. I'm-going-to-knock-on-100,000-doors-before-election-day **Doug Bennett** clearly separated themselves from such older establishment pols as current councilor-at-large Stephen Murphy, who seems to be more comfortable with the status quo than his challengers. Of course, some props must also be given to incumbent councilor-at-large **John Connelly**, who was just 34 years old when he won his seat in 2007.

HOT GASTRO PUB

Tory Row Matthew Curtis and Chris Lutes have waved their magic wands again. The wizards who brought you *Miracle of Science*, Cambridge 1, Audubon Circle, and Middlesex

Lounge present **Tory Row** (3 Brattle Street, Cambridge, 617.876.8769), a minimalist hideaway in Harvard Square. A far cry from the prepster dens and divey dumps of the Crimson playground, Tory Row welcomes the scenester set — witness the Shepard Fairey artwork and modish "Pan-Atlantic" menu. The dishes skip from France to Italy to Britain for inspiration, a quirky idea realized with very solid food. (We're liking the duck confit salad and the mammoth croque monsieur.) The beer list is thoughtfully assembled too, featuring Finland's Sinebrychoff porter standing side by side with England's Tetley cream ale, plus hometown pours like Harpoon and Fisherman's IPA.

HOT AIRWAVE INVASION

the Swedes Never mind ABBA. Even with the sweeping success of the Broadway-hit-turned-blockbuster-film *Mamma Mia*, the bubblegum pop of yesteryear has lost its minty freshness. That's OK, because today Sweden, that Scandinavian nation of impossibly beautiful people and easy-to-assemble furniture, is turning out musicians faster than Manchester, England did

in the 1980s. From chart-toppers to indie darlings, the nation's tunesmiths and troubadours cover a lot of ground — from exuberant to pensive to dark and moody. More literally speaking, Boston and Cambridge have regularly been included in the grounds they cover on tour. **Lykke Li** gave the Paradise an electronic jolt to dance to in October, and **Peter, Bjorn and John** delivered their irresistible whistling at the club in April. **Love Is All**, with its punk-fueled pixie front-woman, rocked Great Scott in December, and in June, **The Tallest Man on Earth** appeared at the Middle East, his second Cambridge gig after showing off his endearing Dylan-esque crooning in April at the Brattle Theatre. Looks like these young folks inherited their roaming genes from their Viking ancestors.

HOT BODS

the return of curves When Salma Hayek unleashed her breast to nurse an African infant, she sent a message loud and clear: femininity is hot. At awards shows and on magazine covers, curvaceous dames like Kate Winslet, Scarlett Johansson, Beyonce, and Jennifer Hudson are center stage. Even former Barbie lookalike Jessica Simpson has been trotting across the country with a few extra pounds (no comment on those high-waisted jeans though). Wafer-thin waifs like Lindsay Lohan and Nicole Richie have returned to human proportions; meanwhile, skeletal stylists like Rachel Zoe have been lambasted for perpetuating the size-00 myth, and human X-rays like Samantha Ronson have drawn jeers for their bony bods. Closer to home, we're applauding the efforts of boutiques like **Cibeline** (120 Charles Street, Boston, 617.742.0244) and **Intimacy of Boston** (100 Huntington Avenue, Boston, 857.277.7887), which stock apparel for women built like women, not stick figures.

HOT EXPANSION

The Friendly Toast Bostonians take a mostly dim view of the world outside our fair city. Just because your Portsmouth, New Hampshire restaurant inspires cult-like fervor up the coast doesn't mean it will impress us here in

FRIED CHICKEN AT POPPA B'S

