

# Go! Sunday

Your guide to getting out, brought to you by the staff of SouthFlorida.com

## ON SCREEN

### Walt, Walt, don't tell me



"WALT BEFORE MICKEY"/COURTESY

Thomas Ian Nicholas, left, plays Walt Disney and Jodie Sweetin is his aunt in "Walt Before Mickey," co-written by South Floridian Arthur L. Bernstein.

#### 'Walt Before Mickey' explores the early, cash-strapped days of Disney.

By NICK SORTAL | Staff writer

You would never know it by seeing the tens of thousands of people entering Disney theme parks every day, but decades ago, the man behind the mouse was devoid of cash and easily could have given up.

The struggles of Walt Disney are chronicled in "Walt Before Mickey," an independent film co-written by Arthur L. Bernstein, a Palm Beach Gardens resident and University of Miami class of 2000 film school graduate.

From 1919 to 1928, Disney faced mounting expenses, bill collectors and process servers before his brother, Roy, stepped in to handle his finances. Timothy S. Susann's 2011 book "Walt Before Mickey" documented those travails, and

Bernstein and Armando Gutierrez Jr., of Miami, wrote a 95-page script based on the book. The movie is playing in South Florida theaters.

Disney's first company was named Newman Laugh-O-Grams and based in Kansas City, Mo., Disney was unable to pay his animators, and the company went bankrupt. Two other of his animation companies also went belly up.

"But Walt just never stopped believing," Bernstein says.

The Walt Disney Studios has never made a movie chronicling Disney's entire life, says Bernstein, who speculates they fear showing his imperfections.

"They like to portray him as a magical figure," Bernstein says. "We thought one should have been created 30 years ago. Our minds are

still boggled as to why they haven't. I think it's a story everyone can relate to."

Bernstein says Jon Heder ("Napoleon Dynamite") auditioned to play Walt, but ended up portraying Roy Disney. Heder had wanted the lead, but Bernstein and Gutierrez thought Heder made a better Roy. Thomas Ian Nicholas ("American Pie") plays Walt, and Jodie Sweetin ("Full House") portrays Charlotte Disney, Walt's encouraging aunt. They shot the film in Deland from 2013 to 2014, and it debuted last month at Downtown Disney in Orlando.

"Walt Before Mickey" is playing at the AMC Aventura 24 and Downtown at the Gardens 16 in Palm Beach Gardens and Cobb Dolphin 19 in Miami. Go to [WaltBeforeMickey.com](http://WaltBeforeMickey.com)

## Miami Archbishop Wenski heads to 'The Late Show'

By JOHNNY DIAZ  
Staff writer

Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski is brushing up on his jokes.

That's because on Sept. 24, he is scheduled to appear on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

"What car does Jesus drive?" he told a group of South Florida reporters last week during a presentation advancing Pope Francis' U.S. visit.

"A Chrysler!" he continued, with a smile.

Cue the chuckles. Wenski's appearance corresponds with the pope's visit to New York City, one of three stops in the United States during the week of Sept. 23-27.

Wenski was invited to the show after he appeared in a June article on the front page of The New York Times, said Mary Ross Agosta, communications director for the Archdiocese of Miami.

"We got a call the next day," she



Wenski

said of the story, which focused on climate change and the pope's release of his encyclical or teaching document on global warming.

"The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" made its debut Sept. 8 on CBS. Colbert succeeds longtime CBS late-night host David Letterman.

Agosta joked that when she told Wenski about the invitation, he asked, "Who?"

She said he has been taping the show to get a better handle on the

comedian, who is best known for his longtime Comedy Central political satire talk show, "The Colbert Report."

Father Richard Vigoa, of the Archdiocese of Miami, said Wenski will do well on late-night TV. "He is quick on his feet and he is very sharp," said Vigoa.

Wenski has appeared on national news programs on channels including CNN and Fox News.

"It is a win-win and unique opportunity for [Stephen] Colbert and the archbishop," she said. "It will be a good show."

## TICKETS

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Polynesian Village Resort. The lounge has a capacity of only 50 patrons, who are entertained by special effects triggered by certain adult beverages. Think Enchanted Tiki Room on the rocks.

■ The heat should not have kept you away from the new Crayola Experience attraction because it's out of the sun, inside climate-controlled Florida Mall. This place is more than coloring inside the lines. It features high-tech, creative, hands-on experiences and a pinch of educational activities — plus the ability to create and wrap a personalized crayon.

■ Some guests are lingering in Orlando, specifically at Madame Tussauds, the wax attraction on International Drive. Currently on a limited stay are the Beatles, who have their own dedicated room at Tussauds, and the members of One Direction, who are set up in a spot in the music room where folks can get photographed with one or all of the Brits. Also new at Tussauds: pop singer Austin Mahone, who is sharing a hallway with Taylor Swift.

■ Orlando Science Center is playing host to "Mummies of the World: The Exhibition," which has the remains of humans that were intentionally or accidentally preserved.

■ The "Long Way to the Top: Hard Rock in Orlando" exhibition rocks on at the Orange County Regional History Center. Memorabilia from the 1970s dot the displays, which cover topics such as concert venues, recording studios and the album-oriented radio of the time. Bonus: As of Saturday, the history center is decreasing its price of admission by a third.

■ The Ripley's "oddtorium" on I-Drive has displayed a new set of fertility statues. Their predecessors gained worldwide fame after many women touched them ... and later got pregnant.

You've been warned, y'all.

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## RUSHDIE

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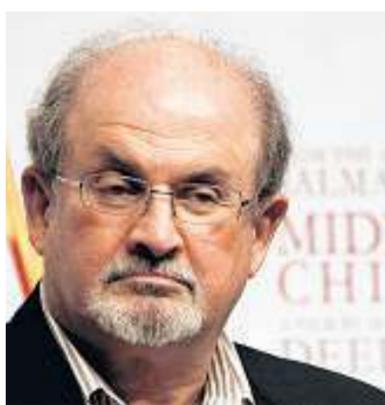
on which side of this debate the author falls, and readers of the new novel will find him having great fun with the subject matter. But this being a Rushdie novel, "Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-eight Nights" is far from a simplistic, anti-religion polemic. Rushdie, 68, is concerned not with rehashing a debate that's nearly as old as humanity itself, but with what a world free of irrational belief — free of storytelling — would look like, and whether or not we should desire to live in it. He'll read from and sign the book Sept. 18 on the Wolfson Campus of Miami Dade College.

"I wanted to make it clear that the opposition between the rational and the irrational was not just a simple good-bad thing," he says, "that the irrational contains many elements, such as imagination, make-believe, fancy, dreams, nightmares, which are actually very valuable to human beings. So you can't simply say that a world of pure reason would be a better world. ... I didn't want it to be a simply dualistic opposition. I wanted to suggest that it's messier than that."

"[A] world of pure reason would be the Planet Vulcan, wouldn't it?" he adds. "You would be stuck with a bunch of people like Spock's family, and that would not be exactly perfect."

Published on Sept. 8, "Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-eight Nights" arrives three years after "Joseph Anton," a 600-page page memoir about the near decade Rushdie spent fighting a death sentence issued by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The Iranian leader claimed Rushdie's 1988 novel, "The Satanic Verses," blasphemed Islam, the Prophet Muhammad and the Koran. He reportedly never even saw a copy of the book.

Rushdie, who has lived in New York for 16 years, says publishing "Joseph Anton" relieved him of a great pressure and left him with an urgent need to return to the world of fiction. "It did feel like putting



RAJANISH KAKADE/AP

### "I do think Miami has its share of national craziness."

Salman Rushdie

down a large weight that I'd been carrying around," he recalls. "I thought, 'Oh, good, that's done at last. Thank goodness I don't have to think about that anymore.' So there's that. And then, I had a real emotional reaction in wanting to do the very opposite to that. I spent three years or so trying as hard as I could to tell the truth. And I just got to the point where I thought, 'You know, to hell with the truth,' and it made me swing emotionally to the other end of the literary spectrum. I think the very highly fabricated nature of this book in some degree is a reaction to having written that very long piece of non-fiction."

The mischievous, fablelike approach of "Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-eight Nights" was also inspired by two of Rushdie's shorter works, "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" and "Luka and the Fire of Life," which he wrote for his sons Zafar and Milan, respectively. "I had so much fun writing those two books," he says.

## Today

### Music

#### 5 Seconds of Summer:

The Aussie boy-toy quartet stared as an opening act for One Direction, but appears to be eclipsing their mentors with a harder pop-punk-rock sound. Opening is Hey Violet. 7:30 p.m., Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach, \$25-\$69.50, 561-795-8883, [livenation.com](http://livenation.com).

### Comedy

**D.L. Hughley:** The first host of BET's "Comic View," is having the last laugh on stage. The comedian is known for his nice, next-door-neighbor persona, which he popularized on his regular-guy family sitcom, "The Hughleys." The veteran TV sitcom star got his start in stand-up but HBO's "Def Comedy Jan" was his big breakthrough. 7 p.m., Fort Lauderdale Improv, 5700 Seminole Way, Hollywood, \$30, 954-981-5653, [ftl.improv.com](http://ftl.improv.com).

### Other

**Jewish Walking Tour:** The Miami Design Preservation League is sponsoring two-hour walking tours of Jewish Miami Beach. The tour focuses on Miami Beach Jewish history, select key people and institutions in Miami Beach Jewish life, and an overview of architecture in Miami Beach. 11 a.m., Art Deco Welcome Center, 1001 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach, \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors and students, 305-672-1044.

**Huge Season Opener Block Party:** Watch the Miami Dolphins' season opener on Southwest Second Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The block party will offer up games, food, beer, giveaways and, of course, football on a giant 16-foot LED screen. 10 a.m., Himmarshee Public House, 201 SW 2nd Street, Fort Lauderdale, free, 954-616-5275, [publichouseftl.com](http://publichouseftl.com).

### Festival

**Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Craft Festival:** Come visit with more than 100 crafters in photography, paintings, sculpture and jewelry. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Athena By the Sea, 4400 Ocean Drive, free, 561-746-6615, [ArtFestival.com](http://ArtFestival.com).

"They had been so enjoyable to do. Many people — many people — over the years have said to me about 'Haroun' that it was their favorite of my books. And truthfully, because those two books were written for my children, I have a very soft spot for them. They're books that are very close to me. But also I felt that these kind of Eastern wonder tales out of which those two books [derived], they weren't originally written as children's stories. They were written as grown-up stories. Those classical stories, the traditional stories — they're not children's stories. They're grown-up stories. So I thought it made sense to try and use that language of fable to tell an adult story."

One result of having spent the majority of his life concocting such stories, of spending the daylight hours ripping holes in the fabric that separates the world we know exists from the one many of us hope exists is that Rushdie — whose imagination has produced telepathic children, a man who transforms into a goat-devil and a gardener whose feet can't touch the ground — is a lousy dreamer.

"Something has happened to me since I became a writer, which is that my dreams have become incredibly tedious," Rushdie admits. "I think what happens is I use up all my imaginary material sitting at my desk during the day. And when I go to sleep, my dreams are, you know, I go to the corner store and buy a newspaper. I go for a walk. My dreams are banal and everyday. And I think it's because my waking life is not. I have the world's most boring dreams. It's really true."

Salman Rushdie will appear 7 p.m. Friday at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus Auditorium, 300 NE Second Ave., in Miami. Admission requires the purchase of "Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-eight Nights" at Books and Books stores. Every purchase will include a voucher good for two entries to the reading and book signing. Call 305-442-4408 or go to [BooksAndBooks.com](http://BooksAndBooks.com) [jcline@southflorida.com](mailto:jcline@southflorida.com) [Twitter.com/jakeflorida](http://Twitter.com/jakeflorida)