

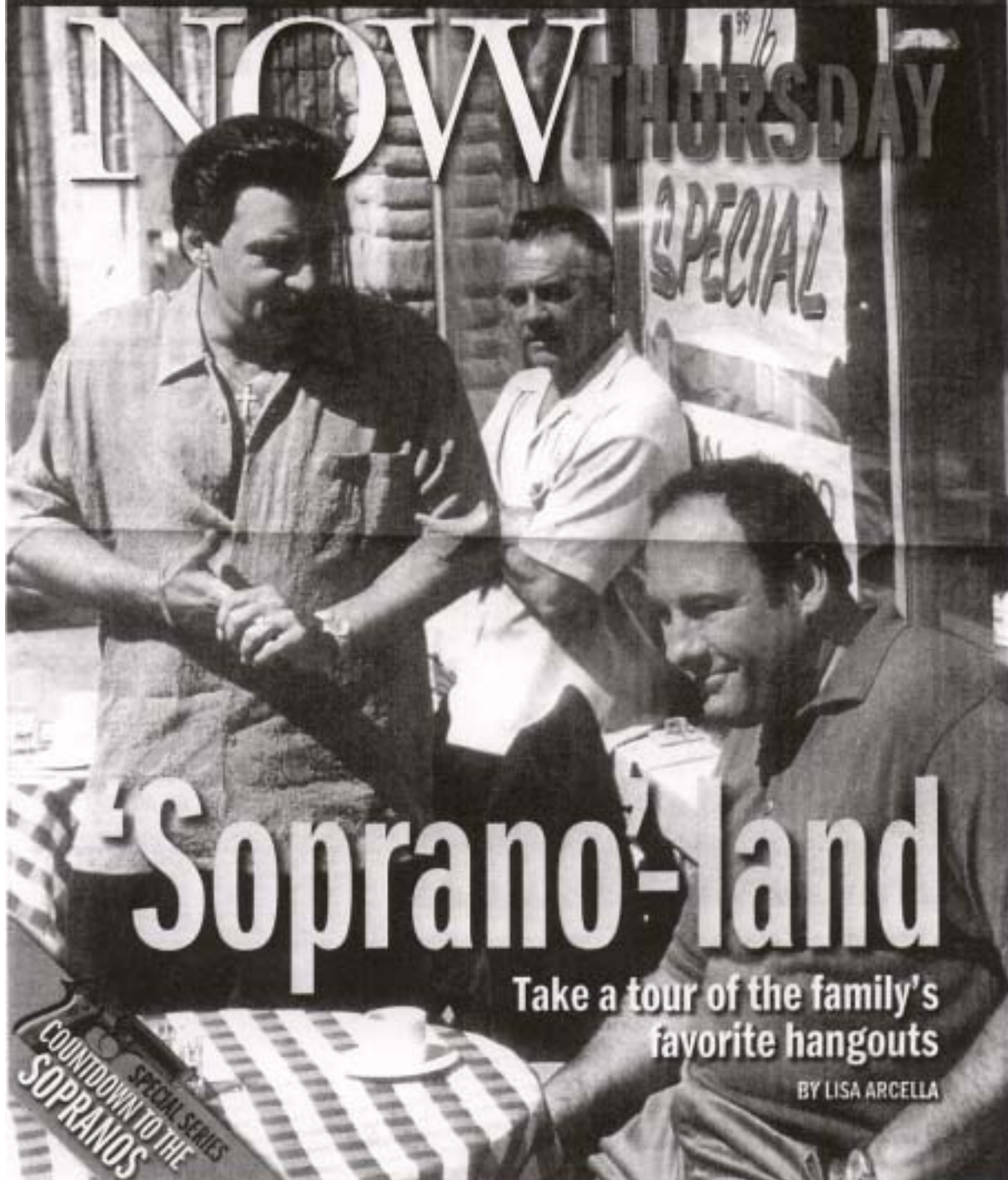


Sting brings new tunes to town

BY JIM FARBER

37

NOW THURSDAY



'Soprano-land

Take a tour of the family's favorite hangouts

BY LISA ARCELLA

COUNTDOWN TO THE SPECIAL SERIES SOPRANOS

DAILY NEWS Thursday, March 4, 2004



Tony's turf, from Lodi



PHOTOS BY NANA DAILY NEWS

STRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: A dancer poses modestly at Seth Dolls in Lodi, aka the Bada Bing! Club.

BY LISA ARCELLA

PHOTO: J. F. HARRIS

New Jersey is the Garden State, but in the neighborhoods around Newark, Harrison and Jersey City, it's Sopranos Country.

While most of the interior shots of the hit HBO show are filmed at the Silvercup Studios in Queens, nearly all of the exterior scenes are filmed in the shadow of the Pulaski Skyway.

"Sopranos" assistant production manager Mark Kamins tells the Daily News people are constantly asking him to feature their businesses in the show.

"They'll say things like, 'You can come here and kill someone,'" he says.

The series pays anywhere from \$200 to \$4,000 a day for the use of a location, depending on how long the shoot takes, and how much the business would have made that day.

Loyal viewers mob the sites where crews are rumored to be setting up for the chance to get a glimpse of Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) and his not-so-good-fellas.

"Fans always seem to know where we are," Kamins says. "It used to surprise me, but now we're used to it. We even recognize some of them," he says, adding that a day of exterior filming can include 125 cast and crew members and up to 200 extras.

Marc Baron, an actor who has appeared on the show several times, takes tourists — from as far away as Japan and New Zealand — on bus and limo tours of "Sopranos" hotspots (see www.sopranos.com), complete with a cannoli pit stop.

Here are 10 locations for you and your "associates" to check out the next time you are in the neighborhood:

THE BADA BING!

Drive south down Route 17 in Lodi and you can't miss Seth Dolls, the stand-in strip joint for the Bada Bing! Club. Tony's "gentleman's club" is a favorite with fans who snap up more than 500 T-shirts a week.

"We have had women bring their elderly mothers inside for a peek," manager Nick D'Urso tells The News. "Asheleys or anything else that says Bada Bing! on it and isn't glued down is taken by people. It's always exciting when the cast comes in. They are a very nice group of people and there have been some funny moments

with them. Once, James Gandolfini was filming a scene and there was a loud pop. At first we weren't sure what was happening. But a sprinkler broke and he had to go running out of there soaking wet."

THE SOPRANO MANSION

Hard to believe a mob boss really risks his life walking to the end of his driveway to fetch his newspaper, but a bathrobe-clad Tony often was seen doing just that in front of a private home in North Caldwell (until Carmela kicked him to the curb). Tours won't take you to the \$3.3 million house — which is owned by



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to Lyndhurst



A TONY RESIDENCE: This faux-Mediterranean mansion in North Caldwell is the "Sopranos" home base.

an architect — and visitors are generally discouraged in this upscale neighborhood (a replica of the interior has been rebuilt on the Queens soundstage). Other homes in the gated community also have been used.

"Filming can be obtrusive, and we have had people who weren't happy," says assistant production manager Ramirez. "We invite the neighbors to a party at the end of the year. At the Soprano house, we will pay for damage, and a few times the mailbox got knocked over and was gone. [One time] the police department pulled someone over and found the mailbox in the trunk. It turned out to be some sort of fraternity prank."

SATRIALE'S PORK STORE

Kearny residents know it as a former auto body store, but the smiling pig on top of the building makes Satriale's — which is seen in the opening credits — one of the most recognizable of all "Sopranos" locations. It's also where Christopher and Paulie (Dominic Castelluccio) "disposed" of Richie (David Proval), leading Christopher to give up pork.

The building, on Kearny Ave., is actually an empty store leased by the show. The pig doesn't make an appearance until the night before filming, because he's been stolen before.

THE IRISH-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Next door to Satriale's is a bright green building housing the Irish-American Association. For \$250, the organization hangs

a red, white and green flag on the day of filming and presto — it's the Italian-American Association.

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH

Just across the street from Satriale's in Kearny, St. Cecilia's is where Tony's long-suffering wife, Carmela (Edie Falco), spent a great deal of time confessing to and discussing over sensitive, intemperate priest Father Phil. But Carmela tossed her gift of baked ziti into the trash when she caught the clergyman using

his charisma on Rosalie Aprile (Simone Angiola).

YESUVID RESTAURANT

Artie Bucco's (John Ventimiglia) red-sauce mecca, where all the made guys mangia marbala and garlic Chiari, is actually a Spanish restaurant — La Onda's on Hedge Road in Lyndhurst. This is the "new" Vesuvio, which made its debut after Tony burned the first one down. The original location was Manolo's, another Spanish restaurant in Elizabeth.

And while you are on the res-



PIG HEAVEN: This Kourmy shop was the end of the line for two folks.



NO FRONT: Parasius is home to this actual sporting-goods store.

taurant tour, check out Sederus Rodino on McCarter Highway in Newark. That's where Big Pussy (Vincent Pastore) was seen pretending to be an FBI agent and spying on Christopher (Michael Imperioli) in the parking lot.

LA PIZZA/HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL

The show has shot at La Pizza in Harrison. Down the street from that location, Harrison High School doubles as AJ's (Robert Iler) school. When he and his friends trashed the

school, all they left behind was a pizza box. "When police went in for photos to investigate, the pizza-ox owner said, 'My pizza never hurt nobody.'"

THE NEW SKYWAY DINER

You can still get a cup of soap for \$1.80 at the New Skyway Diner in South Kearny, but more important than the food for "Sopranos" fans is the parking lot. It's the location where Christopher was shot in the back in the "Full Leather Jacket" episode in the second season. In real life, the diner (open only on weekdays) on Central Ave. at Second St. looks up at the Pulaski Skyway (seen in the show's opening and closing credits). It's a favorite of truckers and rumored to be near Jersey Hoffa's final resting.

RAMSEY OUTDOOR STORE

The sporting goods store on Route 17 in Paramus is a real business, but on the show it was owned by Davey Scatino. Heavily into debt because of gambling, he lost the store in the Soprano crew. Production closed the store for about three days and paid the owner about what he would have earned in sales for that period.

CLEVELAND AUTO BODY

Big Pussy owned this auto body shop as a front for his real business as a mobster, but AJ still brought the family car here when he cracked it up. It is a real business on Passaic Ave. in Harrison — and will be seen again this season.



WHERE EVERY DAY IS PULASKI DAY: Guide Marc Baron (c) at a diner in South Kearny, under the skyway