

TOPLESS EFRON OWNS 'NEIGHBORS'

WHO KNEW HE WAS ACTUALLY FUNNY? PAGE 22



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SUMMER MUSIC PREVIEW

starring...
St. Vincent

Marching in. Annie Clark discusses her definitive statement, playing the festival circuit and concert memories from her youth. **Going live.**

Metro looks at the hottest festivals of the season.

Will you buy a plane ticket to Bonnaroo? Or are you content checking out the festivals here?

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De Blasio highlights proposed \$74B budget

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Showtime: 'Penny' for your thoughts?

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Nets slide deeper into hole against Miami

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Activism through art

China. Ai Weiwei's exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum blends philosophy with protestation.

Chinese artist Ai Weiwei has perfected the craft of activist art. With over 40 works spanning 20 years, "Ai Weiwei: According to What?" shows the artist's interdisciplinary career.

Raised during the Cultural Revolution (1966-75), Weiwei appropriates China's historical past and present to create large installations that bring attention to its future.

Weiwei utilizes wood-working techniques of the Han Dynasty — when engineering was used, rather than screws, to fasten furniture — in pieces such as "Moon Chest" (2008). Seven chests built from huali — the wood of the Chinese quince tree — are placed in a row. Each has four cir-



"Colored Vases" is a display of artifacts destroyed in the name of political activism. The exhibit is on display at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway) through Aug. 10. Visit www.brooklynmuseum.org for more information. / PROVIDED

cular openings, fashioned after a waning moon.

Other notable pieces are "Colored Vases" (2007-10) and "Dropping a Han Dynasty Urn" (1995). Each work involves defaming historical artifacts through

industrial paint or literal destruction.

Weiwei's peaceful yet political demonstrations have repercussions: In 2011, he was arrested for alleged economic crimes. His time behind bars is

memorialized in "Selfie" (2011), which he took in police elevators en route to his 81-day detention.

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Comedy. Seth Rogen pulls Zac Efron into his comedy orbit

Inside every Judd Apatow and Apatow-related product, buried under a metric ton of dirty jokes and weed talk, lies deep-seated anxiety about aging, mediocrity and mortality. Apatow's "This Is 40" was billed as a "semi-sequel" to "Knocked Up," but the real spiritual follow-up is "Neighbors." Here, Seth Rogen's Mac not only has an infant but a suburban home, a soul-sucking desk job and no energy for nightlife. He's living the nightmare Rogen's character likely had in "Knocked Up," and when a raucous frat, led by a terminally shirtless Zac Efron, moves next door, Mac can only seem like the boring, uptight enemy: the bleak future of hangovers and Container Stores that awaits them.

A call to the cops during a late weeknight

kegger leads to an all-out war between the two factions. Mac isn't in it alone; he's joined, every step, by his wife Kelly (Rose Byrne), who refuses to fill the stereotype of the nagging wife. They're both giant children and not very smart.

Kelly is still a guy's invention — the wife who joins in on the fun and is just as freaked out as the guy is when the breast pump breaks and she requires milking. But for a female to have fun without being a ball-breaker is big in the expanded Apatow universe, and Byrne — a serious actress who revealed surprising comic powers in "Bridesmaids" — frequently steals the picture.

Efron does some scene-stealing, too, if only because he's in the role he was born to play. Efron's Teddy is the kind of guy who went to college only to extend the partying he did in high school. He's not intelligent, though some of his "brothers" — including his bestie, played by Dave Franco — are, and he knows that his days are numbered. It's a natural fit for Efron, who oozes a classic Rob Lowe vibe, meaning he'll be even funnier when he winds up on an NBC sitcom in his 40s. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Neighbors'

Director: Nicholas Stoller

Stars: Seth Rogen, Zac Efron

Rating: R



A bare-chested Zac Efron plays nice with Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne in "Neighbors." / GLEN WILSON

How Does God Describe True Spirituality?

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