



SAN FRANCISCO + SEA BISCUIT 2003 SEPTEMBER

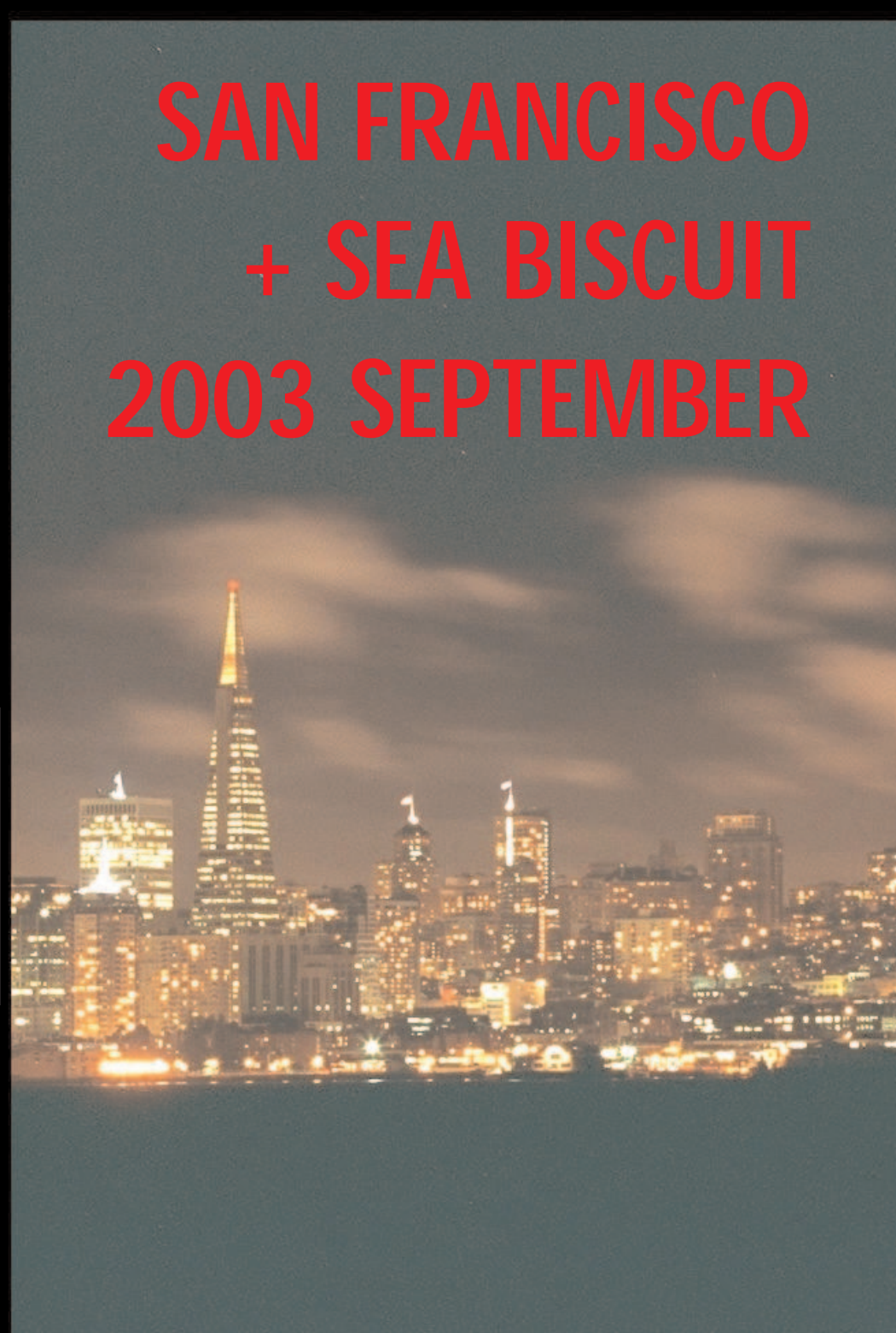
AND
BACK
TO
WORK.

SUCH A HAPPY
MARKETING
DIRECTOR!



THE END

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SAN FRANCISCO 2003 SEPTEMBER — WHAT WE DID (WE DID A LOT!)



Sea Biscuit!

aka Jonathan Campbell, our generous host who'd moved to SF to go to culinary school



Russ Williams

Long-time friend & traveling buddy



Wendy Wheeler

It was my idea to go to San Francisco to see "SeaBiscuit" with the Sea Biscuit

SEPTEMBER 4 • THURSDAY

- American Airlines from Austin to San Jose, then the CalTrain to San Francisco, then a taxi to Sea Biscuit's at the corner of O'Farrell & Hyde
- Sea Biscuit arrives late still in chef's clothes & smelling sugary
- Check out SB's cute apartment (it's small, so that takes 2 seconds)
- Dinner at the Stinking Rose (all garlic all the time)
- Book buying at the famous City Lights bookstore

SEPTEMBER 5 • FRIDAY

- Breakfast for R&W at Cafe Mason
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (cool!)
- Rendezvous with SB and his friend Andy to visit Comic Art Museum
- The movie "Seabiscuit" with our pal, Sea Biscuit!
- Calamari, risotto, zucchini and dessert at P&P, a nice Italian restaurant

SEPTEMBER 6 • SATURDAY

- Breakfast at Absinthe, very upscale & tasty
- BART to Golden Gate Park; Russ to Esperanto Club
- W&SB at the California Academy of Sciences (reptiles!)
- R drove off to Santa Clara; W&SB ate red meat at Max's

SEPTEMBER 7 • SUNDAY

- Breakfast for all at Cafe Mason
- SB drove across Golden Gate bridge (foggy on the way back!)
- Visited Muir Beach & Muir Woods (lofty redwoods!)
- SB & R play Cathedral (gamers, sheesh!)
- Dinner down O'Farrell at Mela Tandoori restaurant (got free desserts to make up for slow service)

SEPTEMBER 8 • MONDAY

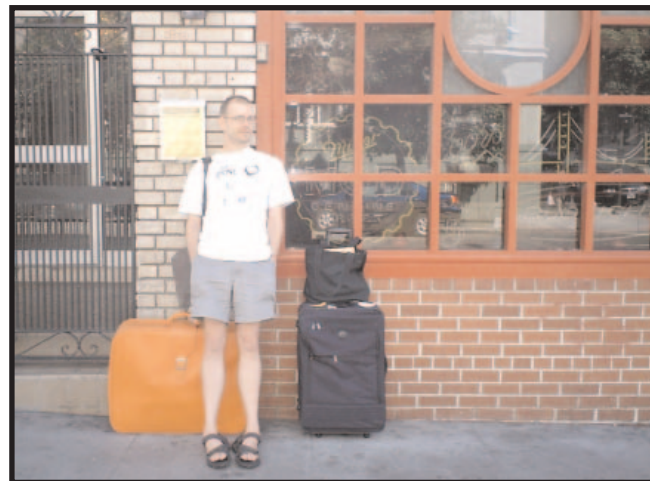
- Oh no, museums closed on Mondays! Forced to do touristy things down on the bay, starting with Ghirardelli Square, but ...
- ...Luckily, no crowds. Serendipity: cool galleries and shops! Saw Dr. Seuss prints for sale, lots of Salvador Dali, Picasso, Whistler, and more
- The Cannery shops; Lark in the Morning music store; Mexican lunch
- SB arrives at Maritime Museum; we do Hyde St Pier historical boats
- Polk Street for book stores (Acorn Books, Fields Books) & pizza
- Cool espresso shakes at Quetzal; Guatemalan hats too!
- Watch THE CROW on DVD; then R&SB have a boy's talk (without me)

SEPTEMBER 9 • TUESDAY

- Up early to get to the League of Extraordinary Art (aka the California Palace of the Legion of Honor); lots of Rodin, beautiful paintings
- Back to CalTrain, back to San Jose Airport, back to Austin by 10pm

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1 - Waiting on Sea Biscuit to get home from cooking class to let us in his apartment. Yep, that's Russ's bright orange suitcase alright. SB lives one street over from the Tenderloin (!). Very odd street people and grimy bars, like The Nightcap (those windows to the right). But the Hilton is just 2 blocks east.



2 - Sea Biscuit has to wear black-checked chef pants, a chef jacket with his name embroidered, a green kerchief, and this cool white cap. When he realized I'd taken the photo, he ripped it off! Each class day he'd shower and change into the normal SB we knew, though.



3 - Russ enjoys the comfy new sofa SB bought just because we were coming. His cute apartment was mostly an Ikea showplace. It's a 1915-era building but his unit had just been refurbished. Small, but sufficiently spacious for the 3 of us! We learned the meaning of urban living, however. Sirens and car alarms all night, but you can walk to all kinds of places.





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4 - More of the SB apartment. Note the tasteful use of blue throughout... And the funky windows each with their own quirks for opening, closing, and letting air through. But with a corner apartment, he gets good circulation.



5 - Our first meal all together, and Russ & I wanted to return to the Stinking Rose in North Beach. We'd found it in 1998 when we were in SF for Mikey's wedding. Everything on the menu is made with garlic. A vampire icon marks the things that can be made garlic free. This is where we learned that SB eats dessert at every meal!



6 - Me at the Stinking Rose. Something my table mates told me set me off. Not like I need much to get me to laugh like an idiot, but that's about as good as pictures of me get. (sigh) Neat how you can see my blonde curls in the mirror, though. The new hair cut worked out well for the trip.

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7 - The sign says Stinking Rose. I'm saying, "Get the sign in the picture, Russ. Stinking Rose." Only later did I see the bigger sign above had lost lighting on part of the name so it said: KING ROSE.



8 - On the balcony at the SF Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). It's in downtown SF so the city view is awesome! I'm in shadow, but my picture isn't the point here. We were smart to walk down just as SFMOMA opened. The line when we came out later was 3x as long.



9 - On the same balcony was this work of art. Tall rusted oval and rocks with a protective net over them. You weren't supposed to take photos of the art, but it was outside and I, I, I didn't realize. Officer. Really! Russ's 'O'Reilly Youth' political T-shirt was admired by a docent.





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10 - Two things I bought from the SFMOMA. The book has all kinds of cartoon advertising characters; really good resource for graphics. The doll is a Mexican child with a mono-brow. Get it? It's a Frida Kahlo doll!



11 - SB and I did all kinds of fun things at the California Academy of Science in GG park. He likes reptiles, for some reason. Me, I'm a mammal person. This is a large-scale 3D representation of seaweed on an ocean shore. That fly is big as SB's head! (Russ, meanwhile, was at the SF Esperanto Club somewhere else in GG park.)



12 - Russ found us at the Science Museum and we walked to the bus stop. Along the way, Mr. Russ Go Fanatic just happened to amble by the SF Go Club headquarters. He had to have a photo! He also just happened to have on a Go t-shirt that day. Serendipity!

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13 - Sunday we headed out of town in SB's hybrid electric/gas car that he spends \$200/month to store in a garage. This is me checking out my digital camera on Russ. It's also a prime example of why I don't like short hair. You can see his scalp all shining through!



14 - My only shot of the Golden Gate bridge from a distance, and it's from the backseat of SB's car. We were going to stop for a photo op, but the roads conspired against us.



15 - Now we're on the Golden Gate bridge. Me shooting from the backseat. We're on our way to Muir Woods.

Cost to leave town = \$0.
Cost to return = \$5.
Memories of San Francisco = priceless. For everything else, there's Mastercard.





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16 - Russ's shot of Golden Gate Bridge, only he's in the front seat.

17 - Russ's shot of GG bridge coming back, with the fog rolling in. I'm glad we got to experience the classic SF fog. I read somewhere that the GG bridge is that color of orange because it's the color easiest to see in fog.

18 - We took the (wrong) long route to Muir Woods, but it was fine because we got to see Muir Beach that way. People were swimming, sunning, and a dog kept jumping for a kite!

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19 - The dark sand was so slippery that I could barely walk in with my good Danish walking shoes. I kept sliding and almost falling. So here I'm standing on a rocky place and holding onto SB. He is taller than me, but not really that much taller than me.

20 - I'm sliding as I use Russ's camera too, which is making him laugh.

21 - Now SB takes a photo of me & Russ. A very windy day, as you can tell. Just look how Russ's hair is blowing around!





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22 - We took a nice long hike in Muir Woods and enjoyed it. The redwoods are amazing. It was a popular place that Sunday; tons of people, most of whom spoke English as a 2nd language. I think I heard on the trail: German, Dutch, Farsi, Italian, Spanish, French, Swedish, Thai, and Chinese.



23 - This was taken at the Mexican restaurant on the 2nd floor of the Cannery, a renovated shopping spot just down the road from Ghirardelli Square. I'm so impressed their flower pots can stay so lush and colorful. Here, they'd burn up from the sun by May... Russ is thinking, "flowers, ehhehh."



24 - When our plans for Monday didn't work out, Russ and I went down to the touristy part of SF, on the bay. I wanted to climb around on the historical boats on the Hyde St. Pier. Very cool! This was a c. 1860 schooner. Lower right you can see the schoolkids who were pretending to be scuts while college kids in officer's costumes yelled at them.

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25 - SB and me on the schooner with the skyline of SF behind us. Neat! The ships were cramped and smelly, though. It would've been yucky to be a seafarer.



28 - Okay, the joke here is that I've said for years that Sea Biscuit has a face like a pirate. He'll even accommodate me by talking like a pirate sometimes. And Russ & RussCon observe "Talk Like a Pirate Day" like a religion. That's why it was fun to see a cardboard pirate in front of a sandwich shop. You may recall SF was known as the "Barbary Coast" back in the day.



27 - Russ took this photo of the mermaid fountain in Ghirardelli Square because of the metal titties. Heh. Supposedly it's one of the most-photographed places in the city, so I guess lots of people want to see metal titties.





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28 - Russ & SB position themselves to better observe the metal titties on the fountain. SB is also rudely showing me his blueberry Ghirardelli chocolate.

29 - This is the face I got when I told him to "straighten up and take a good photo." I myself am not able to use my eyebrows to indicate attitude like these two guys.

30 - Me outside The League of Extraordinary Art*. It's so early the place isn't even open yet! It was worth the visit. Lots of Rodin. After, we had to finish packing, and leave SF for our long trip back to Austin by taxi, Caltrain, shuttle, and American airlines. **The real name for this place is awkward: The California Palace of the Legion of Honor. I like my name better.*

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**STORE FLYERS,
PAMPHLETS, TICKET
STUBS, ETC.
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