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# The battle for Best in Show

### New breed debuts for Westminster

BY CASEY FELDMAN Special to amNewYork

There's a new dog in town.

The canine breed Dogue de Bordeaux is making its debut this year in the 133rd Westminster Dog Show, kicking off today at Madison Square Garden.

"They're amazingly loyal, very dedicated to their family," said Kara Hammond, of Media, Pa., who will be showing her Dogue de Bordeaux, Draco. "They're good guard dogs, but not overly aggressive.'



#### **UNLEASHED**

The Westminster Dog Show is today and tomorrow.

- **Time:** 8 a.m.
- **Tickets:** \$40-\$145
- Seventh Ave., btwn 31st and 33rd sts. 212-465-6741
- The show is aired on USA from 8 to 9 p.m. tonight and then on CNBC from 9 to 11 p.m. It is on USA from 8 to 11 p.m. tomorrow.

The newly recognized Dogue de Bordeaux, the only new breed added to the competition this year, is related to the bulldog, and is fawn-colored and stocky.

About 2,500 dogs of more than 170 breeds will vie to take the Best

in Show title from last year's champ, 3-year-old Uno, the most talkedabout beagle since Snoopy.

Famed heiress Patty Hearst is set to make an early appearance, with a favorite French bulldog. Other notables bringing their pooches: the creator of "The Bachelor" television show and the parents of the brothers

Darco is a who founded

the Taser company.

fact, the monkey-faced affenpinscher called Taser is among the favorites for the champion silver bowl.

So is a smooth-coated Brussels griffon originally from England, along with a Pembroke Welsh corgi.

A giant schnauzer is ranked No. 1 over the last year, but dog insiders fanciers, they're called

Dogue de Bordeaux who will make his debut in the Westminster Dog Show this year.

predict she won't become America's top dog.

Best in Show judge Sari Tietjen has spent a half-century working with Japanese chins and likes toy dogs, and both Taser and the Brussels griffon called Lincoln come from that group.

#### MONDAY

#### WILLIE NELSON AND WYNTON MARSALIS: Rose

Theater at Lincoln Center, 8 p.m., \$30-\$150. Through Tuesday. You want eclectic? The country and jazz giants join forces for their "Two Men With the Blues" program. With Norah Jones. Fifth floor of the Time Warner Center at Broadway and 60th St. (A, B, C, D, 1 to 59th St.-Columbus Circle), 212-LINCOLN

NOUS NON PLUS: Mercury Lounge, 7 p.m., \$10. Let there be (indie) rock. The headlining band is from New York but they sound like Frenchmen. C'est bi-zarre, non? With Hotel Lights. 217 E. Houston St., at Essex St. (F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave.; J, M, Z to Delancey-Essex sts.), 212-260-4700

#### Comedy **CAROLINES NEW TALENT:**

Carolines on Broadway, 7 p.m., \$16.25. Another week, another group of hopefuls. Sit down to dinner and enjoy the efforts of young comedians in this Monday night tradition. 1626 Broadway, btwn 49th and 50th sts. (1 to 50th St.; C, E to 50th St.; N, R to 49th St.), 212-757-4100

#### FREE SINGLES COMEDY

NIGHT: Lolita, 8 p.m., FREE. Laugh off being single on Valentine's Day at this free show featuring "Daily Show" correspondent Wyatt Cenac. Get someone's number while you're there. 266 Broome St., at Allen St. (F to Delancey St.; J, M, Z to Delancey-Essex sts.), 212-966-7223

Talks & Readings **LEONARD JACOBS:** Barnes & Noble Lincoln Triangle, 6 p.m., FREE. Author and Tony vote

Jacobs signs his retrospective "Historic Photos of Broadway: New York Theater 1850-1970." 1966 Broadway, at 66th St. (1 to 66th St.-Lincoln Center), 212-595-6859

#### **Special Events**

#### **ROCK 'N' ROLL KARAOKE**:

Arlene's Grocery, 10 p.m., FREE. Wherein the hordes assemble each week to butcher "Bohemian Rhapsody." 95 Stanton St., at Orchard St. (F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave.), 212-358-1633

#### **TUESDAY**

Music

CASSANDRA WILSON: Blue Note Jazz Club, 8 and 10:30 p.m.,



\$40-55, through Sunday, Wilson, a Grammy winner and Time magazine's pick for America's best singer, begins a weeklong residency at the

Blue Note, 131 W. 3rd St., at Sixth Ave. (A, C, E, B, D, F, V to W. 4th

#### **RONALD K. BROWN AND**

**EVIDENCE**: Joyce Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$19-\$45. Through Sunday. The culture-fusing dance master and his troupe return to the Joyce with his new work, "Two-Year-Old Gentlemen." 175 Eighth Ave., at 19th St. (1 to 18th St.; C, E to 23rd St.), 212-242-0800

#### Talks & Readings

**GORDON RAMSAY:** Borders Columbus Circle, 1 p.m., FREE. The combustible "Hell's Kitchen" host signs his book "Healthy Appetite." The profanity will be minimal. 10 Columbus Circle, at W. 58th St. (1, A, C, B, D to 59th St.-Columbus Circle), 212-823-9775

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