

Dates with a pulse

You've found your fling—now what? Keep the romance (and lust) alive with these plans for every personality.

For foodies: A taste of Tokyo

Let your fingers mingle in an order of *takoyaki*, fried balls of dough stuffed with octopus, ginger and scallions, from **Otafuku** (236 E 9th St between Second and Third Aves, 212-353-8503; six pieces \$5). Digest during a walk through tiny urban art gallery and store **Giant Robot** (437 E 9th St between First Ave and Ave A, 212-674-4769), where pop fiends and graphic kids can delight in designs straight from Tokyo. After the art, it's time for more munchies. At **Oh! Taisho** (9 St. Marks Pl between Second and Third Aves, 212-673-1300), Japanese college kids slam down sake, and punkish waiters straight out of anime serve classic Japanese pub fare. —Justine Sterling



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For moonlight romantics: Outdoor movies and amazing views

Ditch the stilettos for sneakers before stopping at Italian grocery **Barbarini Alimentari** (225 Front St between Beekman St and Peck Slip; 212-227-8890, barbarini.net) and grabbing *ciabatta* sandwiches stuffed with tomato, mozzarella and basil (\$7.50) to go. Cart your bounty over the Brooklyn Bridge to **Brooklyn Bridge Park** (Main St at Plymouth St, Dumbo, Brooklyn; 718-802-0603, brooklynbridgepark.org) for a waterfront picnic. Arrive on a Thursday beginning July 9 and you'll not only catch a free flick at sunset, but you'll also have the chance to spot the moon—and its supporting cast of stars and planets—through an Orion telescope located in the park. Once the credits roll, duck out to **Five Front** (5 Front St between Dock and Old Fulton Sts, Dumbo, Brooklyn; 718-625-5559, fivefrontrestaurant.com) for an Orange Moon cocktail (\$10) made with Aperol and orange Stoli, which you can sip in the restaurant's bamboo garden. —Cristina Velocci



two people \$100, if you mention TONY \$65), whose instructors will come to the location of your choice for a one-hour, semiprivate skate- or longboard lesson. At Hudson River Park's **Skate Park** (30th St at the Hudson River, hudsonriverpark.org; daily 11am–7pm), you can practice what you've learned on the bowl, street course and mini half-pipe for free—you just need to sign your life away in a waiver. (How romantic!) Afterward, take some of the edge off with \$2 cans of Schlitz and PBR at badass dive **Blue Ruin** (538 Ninth Ave between 39th and 40th Sts, no phone), where shots like the Cherry Bomb are served aflame. —CV



For naughty natures: Orgy lite

This is a summer fling, goddamn it, so start acting like it. Sign up for a **OneLegUp Take-Out Soiree** (various locations; onelegupnyc.com; couples \$100, single females \$20), erotic parties for beginners where hard-core playing is forbidden but topless tongue action is heartily encouraged. To get you in the mood, slurp some aphrodisiacs at **Pearl Oyster Bar** (18 Cornelia St between Bleecker and W 4th Sts; 212-691-8211, pearloysterbar.com), then prepare for any postparty shenanigans at sex-paraphernalia boutique **The Pleasure Chest** (156 Seventh Ave South between Charles and Perry Sts; 212-242-2158, thepleasurechest.com). —Jonathan Shannon



For the indier-than-thou: Get inked

Up your cred at divey **Buttermilk Bar** (577 Fifth Ave at 16th St, Park Slope, Brooklyn; 718-788-6297) with your skinny-jeaned genie, knocking back \$3 beers and well drinks during happy hour (weekdays 6–9pm). Numbered to the impending pain (but be sure not to get too numbered—drunks get turned away), head to **Hand of Glory Tattoo** (429 Seventh Ave between 14th and 15th Sts, Park Slope, Brooklyn; 718-832-5020, handofglorytattoo.com) for the \$30 walk-in Script special—it takes only 20 minutes. If you're not ready to commit your date's name to skin just yet, make do with a crazy animal-head T-shirt (\$20) designed by the shop's tattoo artists. Sport your new tat (or tee) at **The Bell House** (149 7th St between Second and Third Aves, Gowanus, Brooklyn; 718-643-6510, thebellhousesny.com). The joint serves beer from independent and local breweries (you drink nothing else, right?),

which you can quaff while enjoying a gig by that night's indie darlings. —Jonathan Shannon

For intellectuals: Nerd out

Test the relative strengths of the Sicilian Defense and the Latvian Gambit in a match at the **Village Chess Shop** (230 Thompson St between Bleecker and W 3rd Sts; 212-475-9580, chess-shop.com; \$2.50–\$3 per hour). If you're still feeling competitive, find an outlet at **Social's** Monday night trivia (795 Eighth Ave between 48th and 49th Sts; 212-459-0643, socialbarnyc.com; 7–9pm) or the East Village History Project Trivia Night every first Friday at **Bowery Poetry Club** (308 Bowery between Bleecker and E Houston Sts; 212-614-0505, bowerypoetry.com; \$6). Then it's time to really blow minds. **The Hayden Planetarium's** new space show, "Journey to the Stars" (American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St; 212-769-5200, amnh.org; \$24, premieres Sat 4), will help prepare your honey for the supernova of love that awaits him or her after the program. —Drew Toal

For thrill seekers: Skate date

Get things rolling with the aid of **Uptown Skate School** (646-852-6397, uptownskateschool.com;



SKEPTICAL?
Want proof that TONY dating really works? Turn to page 118 for three real-life success stories.