

SOCIALISE

APARNA KHOPKAR *send event information to akhopkar@fairfax.com.au*



Tuesday 7.30pm

Every little girl who wanted to be a ballerina dreamed of being Clara, the original heroine from one of the world's most-loved ballets, *The Nutcracker*. Choreographer Graeme Murphy created *Nutcracker: The Story of Clara* in 1992 and the Australian Ballet is bringing it back to the stage. The production is still set to Tchaikovsky's classic score but Murphy's interpretation of the ballet favourite will take you further into Clara's story; this time it's set in 1950s Melbourne on a steaming-hot day and Clara is a former ballerina reliving her once-exciting life through her dreams. It runs until May 18. Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House. \$30-\$155. Phone (02) 9250 7777 or see sydneyoperahouse.com.au.

CHECKLIST

Going up... and



Monday 7.30pm Dress up in your swankiest high-roller outfit and mess with the opposition at a new weekly poker night. Green felt tables, the clink of poker chips and a sweet cocktail list are on the menu for card sharks in the making. Make nice and meet new people or freak them out with your staunchest poker face. Do your research first or get tips by perusing on make-believe poker hunks like Brad Pitt in *Ocean's Eleven* and Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale*. Goldfish, 111 Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross. Phone (02) 8354 6630 or see thegoldfish.com.au.

From Friday Embrace your secret, geeky love of board games for a good cause. Drawtism is the annual event organised as a fund-raiser for autism charities across the country. All you have to do is organise a game of Pictionary and hit up the people who play for a bit of money towards a good cause (suggestions: charge an entry fee, fine cheaters or start a swear jar for people who don't cope so well with losing). Pictionary is the game of choice because it helps show the communication struggles people with autism face. Register at drawtism.com.au.



MY PICK

Saturday 10am Take your pooch out on a doggie date. Bark in the Park is a festival all about four-legged friends and their owners - take your beloved furball to the on-site dog spa for a massage (you can get one, too) and pick up washing and grooming techniques; get a professional happy snap of you and your bestie; or enter them in the Best Mate Parade. Plus you can pick up free behaviour advice. There'll be competitions, food, drinks and live music. Organisers are expecting more than 5000 dogs and their owners. Until 3pm. Victoria Park, cnr City and Parramatta roads, Camperdown. Entry is free.



Got something you love? Send it to socialise@sm