

 /nightspots

 @nightspotschicago



nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Mama's Boy

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Mama's Boy Peasant Italian (445 N. Dearborn St.; RosebudRestaurants.com/restaurant/mamas-boy-peasant-italian/) is in an interesting spot.

The eatery is located in River North—and at a location that would seem to invite many patrons. However, there has been substantial restaurant turnover over the years—including with Rosebud venue Joe Fish. (Mama's Boy is also a Rosebud restaurant.)

Hopefully, Mama's Boy will be around for a bit



Corporate chef Fabio Capparelli (left) and grilled seafood (above) at Mama's Boy.

Photos by Andrew Davis

longer than the others.

At a social-media event there a little while back, Corporate Chef Fabio Capparelli explained that the food reflects what he had growing up; now, Executive Chef Massimo Gaffo has taken over the reins, and he seems to know his stuff as

well.

For the appetizer, our attentive server, Lisa, sold my friend and I on the grigliatto misto (grilled seafood). The jumbo shrimp were definitely large, and the calamari and octopus were both very good. My friend (eating especially

healthfully before her wedding) also ordered the baby spinach-and-kale salad, which she thoroughly enjoyed—although Lisa forgot the grilled chicken my friend wanted with her salad. (The mistake was quickly remedied, though.)

My entree consisted of pasta—but with a presentation. Gaffo brought the spaghetti out in a huge parmigiano reggiano wheel, and then scooped out the dish after pretty much immersing it in the cheese; then, the chef slowly pours olive oil on the dish. It's attention-grabbing—although I'm not sure the portion warranted the \$24 price tag. Also, although the dish was tasty, I thought it would benefit from the addition of meat (something my small amount of leftovers confirmed when I combined it with lamb a day later); my friend added that putting an egg (sunny-side up) with the dish might help it as well.

We concluded with dessert, getting a slice of coconut take that was as big as my friend's and my head combined. It was well-baked, with just the right amount of coconut.

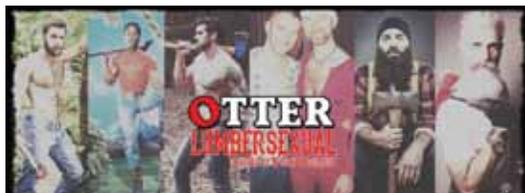
So I'd recommend checking out Mama's Boy. Here's hoping it'll be in that spot for a while.



SIDETRACK

Open wide for Sync It!: Dudes, Wed., Jan. 11

Photos by Jed Dulanias



In its third year, **The Sofo Tap's Otter** gets hotter than ever as Chicago's ultimate otter mascot, Woody Woodruff, hosts this year's **Lumbersexual, Saturday, January 21**. Lumbersexual, much like Chicago winters, brings out the rugged side in all of us. Join fellow Chicago otters in sporting your sexiest flannel, plaid or whatever gets you in the mood to tackle some wood ... and some Woody! Beats by Moose the DJ.



Sidetrack is throwing a **Love is Love Party** all day and night, **Friday, January 20**. Sidetrack, along with partners Lambda Legal and Absolut, want to "Make J20 Great Again!" with a bevy of ways for people to come together and to remind all of us that love is still love, resistance goes better with slushies and the LGBTQ community has powerful lawyers that are ready for the fight of our lives.

Sidetrack has a long history of being an epicenter of LGBT activism. Sidetrack co-owner and founder of Equality Illinois Art Johnston often speaks to the importance of bars and their impact on the gay community as places to gather to commiserate, celebrate and, most importantly, activate.

Lambda Legal knows how to fight against a hostile government and will be on hand to help our community engage in the resistance work ahead. Absolut will have a Love is Love photo-booth so that people can celebrate their love, along with a special on their signature Sidetrack Krush from 5-9 pm. iCandee will also be on hand, selling exclusive Love is Love hats and T-shirts, with proceeds from these sales going to support the work of Lambda Legal. There will be inspiring performances from RuPaul's Drag Race star DiDa Ritz and Chicago favorite The Vixen.

"We all need to come together in solidarity on January 20. Public opinion is on our side and we will not ignore this major shift that is taking place in our country with the inauguration; however, we are determined to remain positive and motivated to create change together," says Sidetrack general manager Brad Balof.

Sidetrack will open at 3 pm on Friday, January 20. Show Tunes play 5-9 pm, culminating with a collection of uplifting dance and party music with performances and surprises from 9 pm to 2am.

—Press release



BILLY Masters

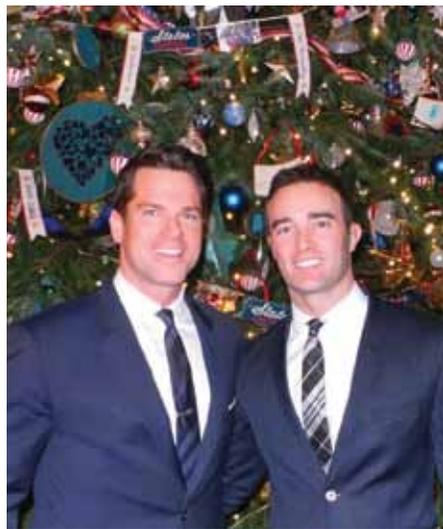
"I'm going to give America a happy ending."—**The newest Bachelor, Nick Viall**, discusses his hopes for love the fourth time around. I'm gonna hold him to that.

I'm disappointed in **Jennifer Holliday**. For those of you who may be out of the loop, Donald Trump is having a devil of a time booking performers for the inauguration. An inquiry went out to the Dreamgirls star. While she was considering it, people on the internet immediately went on the attack. "They were calling me coon, calling me house n-----, calling me Aunt Jemima, calling me all kinds of names and asking me to kill myself," she said. I personally saw dozens of vile posts, specifically from members of the LGBT community. People were saying things like she'll never work in our community again, that the gays made her career and they will destroy it. One memorable post said, "Remember what we did to Donna Summer." Ominous indeed.

I assume people who would perform at this inauguration fall into two categories: 1) people who support and voted for Trump, and 2) people who need the money and/or exposure. Holliday went out of her way to say she did not fall into either category. She publicly stated that she voted for Hillary. She said she wanted to sing for America. She wanted to help heal the divide. Her fee would be donated to LGBT charities. Her inspiration was Marian Anderson, the Black opera singer who gave a concert in 1939 at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial to more than 75,000 on the National Mall after being denied the opportunity to sing in an auditorium because of her race. Anderson didn't buckle down under hate—she went forward. But despite Holliday's best intentions, she was met with vitriolic hate from all sides and was essentially bullied to not perform. She apologized specifically to the LGBT community for even considering to perform "for America," and ended her address with this: "Thank you for your posted comments, both the good supportive ones as well as the ugly hurtful ones." When we went low, she went high.

Thomas Roberts' show at MSNBC has come to an end. The show was taken off the air with little fanfare on Dec. 16. The show was a replacement for **Ronan Farrow's** short-lived endeavor. Interestingly enough, Farrow filled in on the Today show over the holidays, so who knows what's ahead for Roberts. In the meantime, the athletic anchor shows off his exercise regime in Muscle & Fitness magazine—a periodical I don't believe ever featured the physiques of Tom Brokaw or Dan Rather. See the sizzling centerfold on BillyMasters.com.

A law was just passed in France making it illegal for parents to spank their children. Now, I'm not advocating spanking in general—but sometimes a kid needs a good whack. Apparently the French Parliament disagrees with me and has issued a nationwide ban on all forms of "corporal punishment." Instead of hitting, parents should try "positive reinforcement." Yeah, and we should



Out journalist Thomas Roberts (left, with husband Patrick Abner) is showing off his fit bod, Billy says.

Facebook photo

also give a trophy to everyone for just showing up!

Do you know who **Nico Tortorella** is? He's a kinda hot actor who appears on Younger and has come out as sexually fluid—so I guess we now have to add an F to the already cumbersome LG-BTQIA; he also has a podcast called "The Love Bomb." A recent guest was someone who knows a thing or two about sexual fluids—gay-porn actor **Colby Keller**. Colby shared his coming-out story with Nico. As a kid, Keller had a box of gay porn under his bathroom sink. Let's stop right there—did Colby grow up having his own bathroom—or was he stupid enough to hide gay porn in the family bathroom? Anyway, one day his parents discovered the box. Colby barricaded himself in his bedroom—shades of "Les Miz." Through the door, his father expressed support for his son and said "everything he could in the language that he possessed to try and comfort me and make it okay for me." Then it was time for his mother. She said, "I wish I had a gun so I could kill you and then blow my own brains out all over this sofa." Colby says his mom had very strong Christian beliefs. After that incident, Keller stopped calling her "mother." Perhaps she would have answered to the term "defendant."

Gay-porn star **Tyce Jax** (legal name Jared Louis Valazquez) was recently arrested for beating, choking and biting his boyfriend. What caused the fight? Tyce caught his boyfriend watching—wait for it—gay porn! I'm speechless. This is the FIFTH domestic violence charge for Jax/Valazquez. As Judge Judy would say, "He's a real winner!"

You know how they say that when you sleep with someone, you're sleeping with everyone they ever slept with? Last week, I went to bed with one number and by the time I woke up, poof, it went up by 500!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Henry in Florida. "I was binge-watching Girls and saw this hot scruffy actor, **Evan Jonigkeit**. He did a sex scene, but you couldn't see anything. I think you wrote about him before."

Yes, I wrote about Jonigkeit several times in 2012 when he was touring the country with **Kathleen Turner** in Matthew Lombardo's play High. At the time, I was quite taken with his range of acting. I wasn't the only one. When I interviewed Turner (who played a nun), all she wanted to do was talk about him. She said, "I think Evan's one of the most exciting young actors around. I equate him with Jude Law, who I worked with on Broadway in Indiscretions. Evan is quite extraordinary. He's got it." He also appeared nude in the play and was quite hot. And then, as if a gift from the Lord, video of his nude scene appeared in my inbox. You may not have seen all of him on Girls, but you can on BillyMasters.com.

When heaven is a place on Earth, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And don't forget to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that features a wide assortment of heavenly bodies. If you've got a question for me on any topic, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Trump appoints Jennifer Holliday as secretary of pancakes! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.