

 /nightspots

 @nightspotschicago



# nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



# PrideFest Milwaukee 2017 sets historic attendance record

With over 37,000 guests, PrideFest Milwaukee's 30th anniversary celebration was officially the largest LGBTQ pride event in Wisconsin history.

Featured artists included Steve Grand, Betty Who, Randy Rainbow, 10,000 Maniacs, Todrick Hall, Crystal Bowerson and more.

Photos provided by PrideFest Milwaukee



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Arun's

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Arun's Thai Restaurant (4156 N. Kedzie Ave.; ArunsThai.com) has a storied history—and this writer has wanted to go to the three-decade-old spot for the longest time.

Of course, this anticipation came with its own set of problems, including the possibility of the cuisine and service not living up to its reputation.

However, I shouldn't have worried. The word "amazing" is used a lot, but it definitely described my time at Arun's.

Even the experience with cocktails is different than just about any other place I've tried. The craft cocktails (\$14-\$18 each), such as the Phuket Pickled Mule and my incredible Spa Thyme, not only have the ingredients spelled out on the menu—but the garnishes have their own separate listing as well. For example, with Spa Thyme the garnish assortment included a "Spa Thyme" ice cube (naturally), fresh mint, a cucumber ribbon, pickled cherry blossoms and St.



Photos from Arun's. Above left: Siamese noodles. Above right: Trio basket. Below: The Phuket pickled mule.

Photos by Andrew Davis



Germain float.

The cuisine was simply incredible. For example, things started off with a trio platter consisting of a golden basket, golden pouches with dungeness crab and steamed chicken dumplings. Partner Paul Schermerhorn even advised my dining companion and myself regarding what order to consume the items—resulting in a gustatory experience that was almost beyond words. As for the artistry involved in the presentation, I defy to not take a photo of the dish; it's awe-inspiring.

And then the hits kept coming: Thai spring rolls were followed by (pink) Siamese noodles and savory massaman curried beef. However, the Beyond the Sea was the apex—red snapper sur-

rounded by pastry and accompanied by a goldfish carved out of carrot. (The server even asked if I wanted the fish in a "bowl," which consisted of a plastic cup with lid.) The dinner concluded with mango with sticky rice crepe and coconut ice cream—light, refreshing and delicious.

Arun's is a singular experience—and the place (which had a brief renovation earlier this year, but with most of the "artistic integrity" preserved, according to Schermerhorn) provided one of the best restaurant experiences I've had this year.

**Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.**

**freedom**  
The Ultimate Wham! and George Michael Tribute Band

SATURDAY  
JUNE 24TH  
\$20 | 17+  
8PM DOORS

**REGGIES**  
2109 S. STATE ST.

**FREE PARTY BUSES FROM BOYSTOWN TO REGGIES AND BACK!!!**

Email [info@reggieslive.com](mailto:info@reggieslive.com) for more information and to reserve your spot!  
Buy Tickets online at: <https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/event/1489877>

**NASTY PIG**  
AVAILABLE AT  
**FULL KIT GEAR**

**FK** Full Kit Gear  
Your favorite gear. Everyday low prices. **FULLKIT.COM**

5021 N. CLARK ST. CHICAGO, IL 60640 | OPEN 12-9 DAILY

# Drag rock climbing event benefits The Transformative Justice Law Project

BY VERNON HESTER

On June 13, Brooklyn Boulders Chicago and D0312 presented Out to Climb: Pride Edition at 100 S. Morgan St. The event, which boasted the first drag rock climbing competition ever also featured a host of personalities and entertainers from Chicago's vibrant nightlife community and benefited The Transformative Justice Law Project.

Among the celebrities in attendance were em-

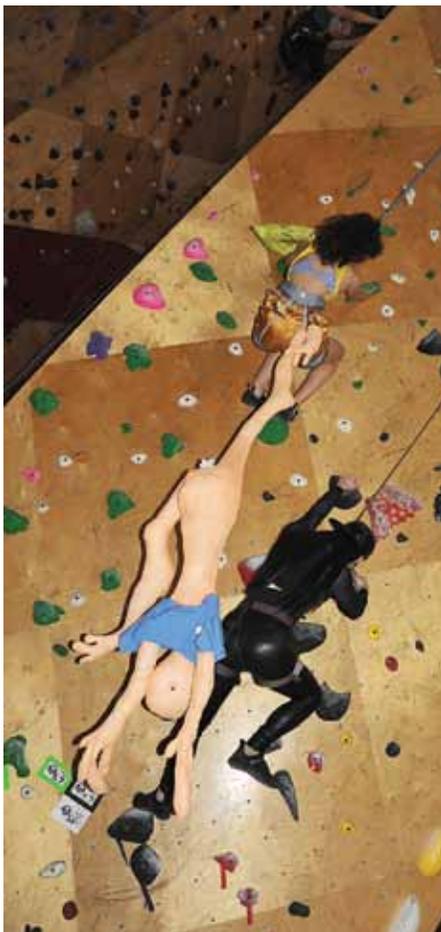
cees Lucy Stolee and Trannika Rex, with hosts Imp Queen, Tenderoni, Hannah Vitti, An Authentic Skid Mark, Scott Cramer and guest bartenders Debbie Fox and Ryan Willing of TaTuesday. Competing drag climbers included Abhijeet, Alex Kay, and designer Eda Yorulmazglu with music provided by Teen Witch Fan Club.

This edition of Out to Climb took place at Brooklyn Boulders Chicago, a high tech climbing gym. For the event, attendees placed cash bets

on which drag queen they thought would reach the summit with Brooklyn Bridges donating an additional amount for each winner. In addition to the climbing Bambi Banks performed a musical number.

The festivities began with Abhijeet facing off with Kay with Abhijeet emerging as the victor. For the second go round Abhijeet challenged Yorulmazglu and just barely won a second time. Amidst the merriment attendees were encouraged to climb with Brooklyn Boulders Chicago making an encouraging donation for those who made it to the top.

All proceeds from the event were donated to The Transformative Justice Law Project. The Project, which is a collective of radical activists, social workers, and organizers provides support, advocacy, and free holistic advocacy and criminal legal services to poor and street based transgender people in Illinois.



**OPEN MIC**  
 ★  
**mondays 7pm**

HAMBURGER  
**MARY'S**  
 OAK PARK  
 EAT, DRINK, AND BE...MARY!

contact: [Kat@WindyCityOpenMic.com](mailto:Kat@WindyCityOpenMic.com)  
 155 S. Oak Park Ave • [HamburgerMarys.com/OakPark](http://HamburgerMarys.com/OakPark)



Photos by Vern Hester





# more from **Pride Fest '17**

Photos by Ed Negron



**COCKSOX**  
AVAILABLE AT  
**FULL KIT GEAR**

**FK** Full Kit Gear  
Your favorite gear. Everyday low prices.  
5021 N. CLARK ST. CHICAGO, IL 60640 OPEN 12-9 DAILY

**FULLKIT.COM**

**CELEBRATE YOUR PRIDE AT LEATHER64TEN**  
SWIMWEAR | T-SHIRTS | UNDERWEAR | & MORE  
WE HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR PRIDE!

**LEATHER64TEN**  
CHICAGO

6410 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60626  
773.508.0900 | @leather64ten  
Visit us online: www.leather64ten.com

# PRIDE FEST SUNDAY FUNDAY AT SIDETRACK

Photos by Jerry Nunn





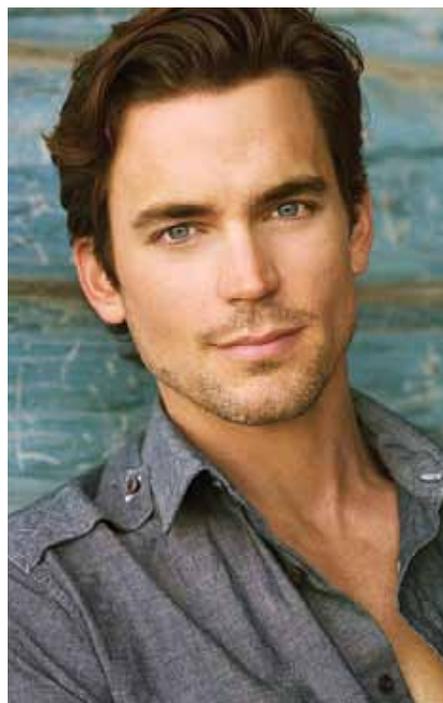
## BILLY Masters

"Well, I hope he doesn't, because I won't perform if he does. Because I hate the motherfucker. How's that?"—**Patti LuPone**, when asked on the Tony Awards' red carpet why President Trump should come see the show she's in, *War Paint*. She was then asked why she wouldn't perform for him. You don't ask LuPone a question if you ain't ready for the answer!

With Gay Pride Month swiftly drawing to a close, some people are still irked that President Trump has not even mentioned it. But one gay man did something about it. **Nikos Giannopoulos** was named Rhode Island's "Teacher of the Year" and as part of that honor, he got to visit the White House and meet Donald and Melania. For the visit, Nikos accessorized with a fan—an actual fan ... you know, in case he got the vapors! When asked what the president thought, Nikos told NPR, "Oh, he loved it! I popped it open when I walked into the office because I'm a very sassy person. And Trump complimented it right away. He said, 'I love the fan!' And he told me I had great style. Then, when I was ushered in for my private photo with the president and Melania, I was told I should put it away. So I just folded it up and held it at my side. But when it came time for the photo, I just asked the president, 'Do you mind if I use the fan for the photo?' He said, 'Absolutely! Go for it.' So I popped my fan and did my pose." To recap, he asked the president, "Do you mind if I use the fan?," and the president said, "Absolutely." Geez, you'd think a teacher would have caught that! But it is a pretty fabulous photo, which we'll post on our website.

I know many of my readers love **Colton Haynes**. And, sure, he's cute. But I am kinda over him. Perhaps I expect too much, but I really don't enjoy someone using the coming out process for publicity. And crying about how hard he had it. Please. Not that successful, beautiful people don't have problems. It really is such a burden! Colton's latest stop on the whining tour was on **Andy Cohen** (so to speak). Haynes said, "I was literally told from the day that I moved to Los Angeles that I could not be gay because I wouldn't work. Then I was with my management team and team of people that just literally told me I couldn't be this way." They told him—perhaps at gunpoint—that he had to do it their way. Mind you, Haynes wasn't a child. By the time he got to Hollywood at 19, he had been a successful model for several years. So it's not like he didn't have a say in his own life. It's just creating more of this "victim drama." I would have much more respect for him if he said, "I was afraid to come out," or "I didn't want to jeopardize my career," or "I was fucked up." But to put the blame on others and present yourself as a spineless puppet—well, it doesn't make him very attractive in my book.

Time for a rare mid-column blind item. Could it be that someone in our community who is recently engaged is going down a familiar path? It's certainly not a path which worked out any better for him the last few times. From what I hear, this



**Matt Bomer isn't getting much love for his latest project, Billy says.**

PR photo

foxy fella has once again handed over the reigns to his business, career and life to yet another individual—who will inevitably screw him over, and he'll then cry about it. It's like the opposite of Pavlov's Dog—which is ironic because sexually, he's quite adept at doing it doggy style.

**Steve Grand** has released a new single, just in time for the summer. "Walking" is a fun, poppy song. According to Steve, "I am donating 100 percent of the net proceeds of my new song 'Walking' to Rainbow Railroad—a charity with the mission to 'help lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans individuals find a safe haven from state-sponsored violence, murder and persecution.'" Needless to say, the promotional video includes a fair number of skin shots you've come to expect from Grand, which led one gay website to take an interesting poll: Do you think Steve Grand is successful because he has real talent or because he's so sexy? I don't need to tell you the answer, do I? But, do catch Steve in what I'd call "minute 12" of his career all summer long at the Provincetown Art House; see PTownArtHouse.com.

Golden boy **Matt Bomer** isn't getting much love regarding his latest project. In the film *Anything*, he plays a transgender woman who is a sex worker. Not surprisingly, the trans community took umbrage at the role being played by a non-trans actor. GLAAD even came out against the project, saying, "Yet another painful reminder that, in the eyes of so many people, transgender women are really just men. That message is toxic and dangerous." The film's executive producer, **Mark Ruffalo**, says the casting was inspired after he worked with Bomer on *The Normal Heart*. In the film, a widower moves to LA to be near his sister and meets a neighbor (Bomer). According to reports, "They must confront their complicated pasts before embarking on a future together." And, I'm sure, hilarity ensues! You can see an

**LOVE WINS!**  
**SIDETRACK**  
**CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF PRIDE!**

**MONDAY JUNE 19**  
MUSICAL MONDAY  
SPECIAL ANIMATED EDITION

**TUESDAY JUNE 20**  
FIELD MUSEUM  
LGBTQ OUT IN THE FIELD 6PM

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 21**  
PROUD DIVAS SYNC IT!  
WITH DIXIE BYNN  
CARTWRIGHT 9PM-2AM

**THURSDAY JUNE 22**  
PROFESSIONALS DO PRIDE  
PRIDE BOWL X OPENING PARTY

**FRIDAY JUNE 23**  
OPEN 1PM  
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE FINALE 7PM  
GLOW PARTY AFTERTIL 2AM

**SATURDAY JUNE 24**  
OPEN 1PM  
STOLT BIG DECK PARTY AT CAMP SIDETRACK

**SUNDAY JUNE 25**  
OPEN 11AM  
WATCH THE PARADE ON OVER 35 SCREENS INCLUDING THE BIG ONE!

KINKY Tito's Absolut. EFFEN BACARDI Lite  
3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM @SIDETRACKBAR NOCOVER!

advance clip on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Steven in Los Angeles: "I've been hooked on American Gods ever since you ran that nude clip. I heard there's a sex tape of **Ricky Whittle** floating around. Have you seen it? Do you have it?"

I have, and I do. But it isn't exactly a sex tape. It's yet another one of those jerk-off videos of a celebrity that routinely gets leaked. In this case, Ricky was communicating with someone via Skype and decides to pleasure him monstrously large appendage. It's pretty hot, and he's in incredible shape—as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When we're featuring both gods and monsters, it's definitely time to end yet another column. I hope you all had a happy Father's Day. If there's one thing I enjoy, it's a hot daddy! And you can find both dads and lads on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that's fun for the whole family! If you have a question, feel free to send it along to me at [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before someone casts Colton Haynes as Pinocchio! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

**LEATHER64TEN**  
CHICAGO

**CONGRATS TJ HOWARD**

6410 N. CLARK, CHICAGO, IL | 773.508.0900  
[WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM](http://WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM)