

# Agencies feel IL budget pinch

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

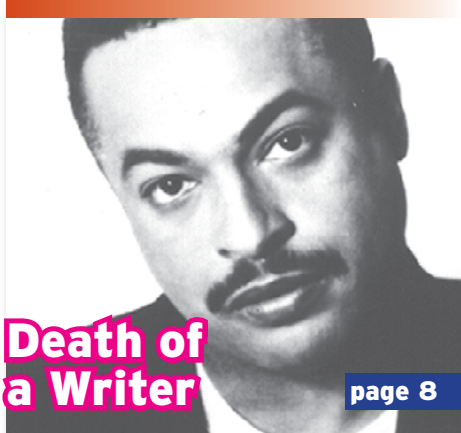
As indicators point to the beginning of the end of the economic recession, local agencies that offer social services to the LGBT community continue to struggle with funding.

Although the state of the national economy has dominated headlines over the past year, many in the Chicago nonprofit community say that constant struggle over funding and budgetary issues is nothing new. Most have experienced a slowdown in private fundraising and donations from foundations since the beginning of the recession—but political intransigence on the part of the crisis-laden state government did not begin with the recession, and in some important ways occurs quite independently of it.

What's different from the seemingly routine state government crises of years past, said John Peller, Director of Government Relations for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), is the size of the deficit—\$9 billion. "One-third of the state's budget has simply evaporated," he said. Peller and the AFC led a fight last month aimed at averting massive social service cuts threatened by Governor Pat Quinn.

Though the crisis some feared was averted with Quinn's signing of a new state budget, lawmakers continue to seek strategies that will enable the state to pay its bills—some of which

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Death of a Writer

page 8



The Outgames Begin

page 22



Sam Bezanis Dies

page 8



Looking For A New Love?

Jody Watley (here at Indonesia's Java Jazz Fest last year) is one of the musicians scheduled to perform at this weekend's Northalsted Market Days. Read an interview with this accomplished star on page 16.

# HIV report sheds light on race

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

A new report from the Chicago Public Health Department (CDPH) reveals—not for the first time—stark disparities in HIV-infection rates between different racial and ethnic groups. The report finds much higher rates of infection in communities of Black men who have sex with men (MSM) than in communities of white and Latino MSM—though Black MSM do not appear to engage in significantly riskier sexual practices.

Co-authored by CDPH epidemiologists Nikhil Prachand and Britt Skaathun Livak, the report is the result of a survey conducted last fall among various communities of men who have sex with men. Men were asked to participate in the sur-

vey at places where MSM congregate; the 57 locations, dispersed geographically throughout the city of Chicago, included gay bars and clubs; bathhouses and other public-sex venues; and social organizations such as athletic leagues.

Survey participants—who, in the results, were broken down primarily into demographics of race and age—were tested for HIV antibodies and asked questions about their sexual practices. According to Christopher Brown, Assistant Commissioner in CDPH's STI/HIV/AIDS Division, similar surveys occur regularly, for MSM as well as other high-risk demographics such as injection drug users. Though past surveys have been limited to questions about sexual behavior and HIV status, this is the first in which participants were actually tested for HIV.

The report, Brown told Windy City Times, "shows that the epidemic in Chicago continues to grow and spread." And MSM continue to have infection rates higher than other at-risk groups. In similar surveys over the past several years, CDPH found that HIV prevalence among injection-drug users was 8-10%; rates among heterosexual men and women from at-risk neighborhoods was 1.8%.

By contrast, the prevalence rate among MSM was 17.4%, or 91 positives among 524 men tested. The rate of HIV prevalence among Black survey participants was nearly three times higher than that of white participants, and two and a half times higher than Latino participants.

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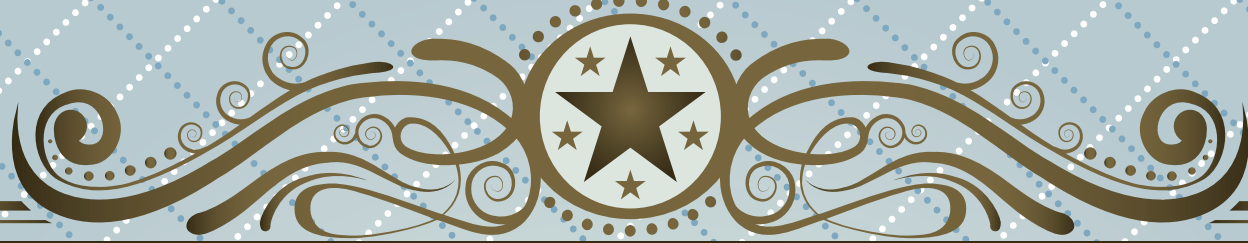
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Food and fashion were both on the menu at Vital Bridges' Chefs and the City event at the Peninsula Hotel, 108 E. Superior. See page 18.

Photo by Andrew Davis

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The Cousins Grimm is one of the theatrical productions being reviewed this week. See page 12.

Photo courtesy of Bailiwick Repertory

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Cover photos and credits (from top): E. Lynn Harris photo taken by unknown photographer; photo from the 2009 Outgames by Ross Forman; photo of Sam Bezanis by Hal Baim

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**ONLINE INDEX**

**BRIAN'S SONG**

Among the scheduled performers at this year's Market Days is Brian Kent; read an interview with him. Also, find out about John Legend's (right) show at Ravinia.



Photo by Jerry Nunn

**DISC AND THAT**



Find out about some recent and upcoming DVD releases, including Dollhouse: Season One, Finding Me and Gods of Football (left).

**SERVIN' IT UP**

Some top LGBT tennis players will be in Chicago July 31-Aug. 2 for the Second City Tennis Tournament. Read more online.



Photo of the '06 Second City tourney by Mel Ferrand

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Judge Sonia Sotomayor at her confirmation hearing. Photo by Patsy Lynch

## Race to equality: Fed marriage lawsuits

*This is the third in a series looking at the suddenly crowded field of federal lawsuits seeking to make history by being the first to secure equal marriage rights in the United States.*

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

In law, a dead horse can beat a stallion at the finish line. And that's just the kind of scenario one U.S. senator was envisioning with his questioning of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor in July.

The dead horse is *Baker v. Nelson*, a case brought by a gay male couple denied a marriage license in Minneapolis during the toddlerhood of the gay civil rights movement, less than a year after the Stonewall Rebellion.

The stallion is *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, a case brought by two same-sex couples denied marriage licenses in San Francisco just this year, a time of enormous advances in equality for LGBT people, particularly with regards to marriage licensing.

### The surprise stallion

If not for one thing, Perry might be just another four-legged, Triple Crown wannabe. But this entry into the field of federal lawsuits seeking equal marriage rights has a superstar legal team in the saddle.

Famous conservative Theodore Olson and well-known liberal David Boies announced in May they were joining forces to file the lawsuit to challenge California's ban on same-sex marriage. They knew there would be gasps of surprise—particularly given Olson's very strong connections, past and present, with conservative politics. They knew there would be critics—particularly from the established LGBT legal community that has been immersed in the marriage equality fight since its most sincere origins in Hawaii in 1993. But they promised they were committed to run the track all the way to the Supreme Court.

Olson and Boies, with the support of a newly formed group called American Foundation for Equal Rights, filed in a federal district court in San Francisco, one of the most liberal districts in one of the more progressive circuits, the 9th.

Olson has argued at least 50 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court already and won most of them. He was solicitor general—a position sometimes dubbed as “the 10th justice”—from 2001 to 2004 and had an 82 percent win rate before the Supreme Court.

Though Boies' numbers are not as impressive, he has been seen successful enough to be dubbed the “Tiger Woods of the legal profession” and “the Wall Street Lawyer Everyone Wants.”

“We acted together because of our mutual commitment to the importance of this cause,” wrote Boies in a July 20 essay in the Wall Street Journal, “and to emphasize that this is not a

Republican or Democratic issue, not a liberal or conservative issue, but an issue of enforcing our Constitution's guarantee of equal protection and due process to all citizens.”

The part that captured the imagination of many people in and out of the LGBT community was Olson's very strong ties to conservative politics. He helped found the ultraconservative Federalist Society and held high positions in the administrations of some of the most anti-gay presidents in history. Suddenly, for the first time, he was talking publicly about “gay men and lesbians” as “our neighbors, co-workers, teachers, friends and family.”

Olson's involvement was such a surprise, it prompted some bloggers to speculate he was trying to sabotage momentum for same-sex marriage by bringing a premature lawsuit. But it prompted others to praise him for waging a fight for equality that a gay-friendly President Obama seemed reticent to take on.

As knowledgeable, strategic and committed as the LGBT legal community is, it is hard to imagine a more powerful and prominent legal team as Olson-Boies for a same-sex marriage case. But gay legal and political groups were instantly critical. In a joint statement issued just days after the Olson-Boies lawsuit was announced, nine of the country's biggest, oldest, and best-known gay legal and political groups issued the unprecedented warning that “premature lawsuits based on the federal Constitution” could be “ill-timed.”

Signing onto the statement are Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the national Freedom to Marry organization, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Equality Federation and the American Civil Liberties Union.

“[W]ithout more groundwork,” according to the statement, “the U.S. Supreme Court likely is not yet ready to rule that same-sex couples cannot be barred from marriage.”

“You must be able to identify at least five justices ready and willing to rule for equality,” said Freedom to Marry's Evan Wolfson, in an interview. “And given who sits on the Court today, we'd better create as much progress before then to help solidify a possible five.”

“The key to winning any lawsuit is not just being right,” said Wolfson, “and it's not just having good lawyers and writing good briefs. It's creating the climate of receptivity that enables and emboldens good judges to do the right thing.”

Olson, in an e-mail exchange with this reporter, said he tends to agree “that an appropriately favorable environment is certainly helpful.” But, he says, “no one can chart these things with any degree of precision or certainty,” and that his legal team feels the case “can and should be brought at this time.”

“And, of course, our clients are anxious for their constitutional rights to be honored, and believe that the federal courts should be ready to honor them,” adds Olson.

To those questioning his motives, Olson, at the news conference announcing the lawsuit, said he hopes people “don't suspect my motives.”

“We all have friends and family—I don't have a family member who's gay, but we all have friends and co-workers and neighbors [who are gay],” said Olson in an interview with Karen O'camb of *Frontiers* in L.A. magazine. “And they are citizens and they are our friends and they should be treated equally. And we have an obligation to stand up for them.”

Olson noted that he has never supported any anti-gay marriage efforts and said he feels “very strongly that [marriage equality for same-sex couples] is the right position for America.”

“I hope people will believe me.”

He said he also believes there are five justices on the Supreme Court ready to vote the right way because there were six votes for overturning sodomy laws, via *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003.

There is one handicap on this powerful fed-

eral lawsuit; however, though hardly a dark one. Should voters in California have the opportunity and impetus to overturn Proposition 8 at the ballot box, Olson acknowledges the Perry lawsuit will become moot—out of the race.

### Has the race has been run?

Senator Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, does not think the federal courts are ready to honor the constitutional rights of gay couples; he thinks the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled on same-sex marriage and created a precedent that is binding.

During the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor July 15, Grassley asked questions about Sotomayor's commitment to precedents—previous rulings of the high court—both generally and specifically as regarding “marriage law.”

Specifically, he brought up the 1972 case, *Baker v. Nelson*, in which a gay couple sought a marriage license in Minnesota and, when denied one, sued in state court. The Minnesota Supreme Court dismissed the couple's appeal and they then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court also dismissed the couple's appeal. Dismissing an appeal is an action that has more significance than simply refusing to hear the appeal. The latter means almost nothing: The high court receives thousands of appeals every year and can spend time on only about 150 at best. Only about 80 or 90 produce actual opinions on matters of law; the other 50 or 60 are “disposed of” in some other fashion.

That's what happened with Baker; the supreme court dismissed the gay couple's appeal, explaining it was doing so because there was no “substantial federal question” presented by the case.

There is dispute within legal circles as to whether that dismissal in 1972 means anything today, but Grassley made clear he thinks it does. He said it means “the federal courts lack jurisdiction to hear due process and equal protection challenges to state marriage laws.”

“Do you agree that marriage is a question reserved for the states to decide on *Baker v. Nelson*?” asked Grassley.

Sotomayor said that “is a question pending and impending in many courts,” and she declined to offer her opinion at the confirmation hearing.

Grassley tried to push her on the issue, interrupting her and contradicting himself, saying he was asking “a very simple question based upon a precedent that *Baker v. Nelson* is based on.”

“Are you saying to me that *Baker v. Nelson* is not a precedent?” asked Grassley.

Sotomayor again sought to deflect the question, saying she had not reviewed the case in some time and, “I actually don't know what the status is.”

“If it is the court's precedent,” she said, “...I will apply that precedent to the facts of any new situation that implicates it.” She said she expects that, whenever a marriage case comes to the high court, one side will argue that Baker is precedent and the other side will argue the opposite.”

The debate over the meaning of Baker is already playing out in Smelt, where the Obama Justice Department has argued that the Supreme Court's dismissal of Baker in 1972 benefits those who seek to uphold DOMA and “has precedential effect and is binding.”

But DOJ is not likely to have the last word on that. Attorneys for plaintiffs challenging marriage bans will almost certainly seek to argue that Baker did no more than dispense with an appeal whose time, 37 years ago, had not yet come and whose place, at that time, was one state court.

The time and place have changed in 2009. Advancements in the LGBT civil rights movement have created a better track upon which to test the mettle of equal protection when it comes to marriage licensing. Lawsuits are coming from not just one state but from several. And the federal government has, through the Defense of Marriage Act, turned what used to be a state

matter into a federal issue. In fact, some may argue DOMA has exacerbated a disparity among the states on how to treat same-sex marriage. And that disparity is just the sort of issue that attracts Supreme Court attention.

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## NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Thio Li-ann, a law professor from Singapore and a foe of gay rights, has canceled plans to teach at the New York University School of Law this fall.** Chronicle.com reported. Students and graduates apparently protested Thio's appointment after finding out that she had condemned homosexuality and had opposed the repeal of a law that made same-sex activities a crime. She was scheduled to teach a course on human rights in Asia and a seminar on Asian constitutional law.

In Miami, Fla., **Charles Perez, a gay TV anchor, has been demoted after he allegedly said unflattering things about his co-anchor, Laurie Jennings,** during a dispute with his partner, according to Sun-Sentinel.com. Perez—who, as an aside, was on the first Real World—has been taken from weekday anchor duty and reassigned to weekend anchor/reporter.

**Lesbian parents have received more rights thanks to a Washington, D.C., law,** according to PinkNews.co.uk. The measure allows lesbians to become the legal parents of a partner's artificially inseminated child without having to adopt. Nancy Polikoff, a law professor at the American University and one of the drafters the bill, said: “A mother should not have to adopt her own child.”

In California, **the LGBT community honored the life of murdered sailor August Provost July 10 at Camp Pendleton,** according to Gay & Lesbian Times. On June 30, Provost was found dead at the camp's Assault Craft Unit Five compound; he was the victim of several gunshot wounds. Several gay-rights groups, including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, have called the killing of the out serviceman a hate crime and want an investigation.

**Florida Gov. Charlie Crist recently flip-flopped on the issue of gay adoption,** Advocate.com reported. On July 22, Crist said in Tallahassee that he'd “have to think about it” when reporters asked him if he would support a law that would repeal the state's gay-adoption ban. However, three hours later, Crist said in Jacksonville that the ban is “right.”

In Texas, **the El Paso City Council unanimously approved a resolution** that supports an ordinance that bans sexual-orientation discrimination in places of public accommodation, according to KVIA.com. The development occurred weeks after a group of men claimed they were the victims of such discrimination at Chico's Tacos, a restaurant in El Paso.

Speaking of Chico's Tacos, **police officers have released the 911 tapes of the night security guards allegedly threw five gay men out of the restaurant** because two of them kissed, the El Paso Times reported. During one call, guard Marco Nava reportedly said in Spanish, “There are two men eating here, and they're kissing. They are homosexuals. I approached them and told them that they couldn't be kissing here because there are children here. They were kissing on the lips.” One of the five men, Carlos Diaz de Leon, made two calls to complain about the alleged discrimination.

**T-shirts that promote the legalization of same-sex marriage motivated vandalism and violent threats** at two American Apparel stores in the Washington, D.C., area, according to WashingtonExaminer.com. In Silver Spring, Md., a manager found a shattered window in front of a “Legalize Gay” T-shirt. Other stores have received angry calls and threats. Police officers are investigating the matter.



## State Rep. Harris endorses Steans

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times has learned that State Rep. Greg Harris, who is openly gay, has endorsed incumbent State Sen. Heather Steans over challenger Jim Madigan in the 7th District race.

Harris told the blog Your Two Cents that Steans "has been a strong advocate for lesbian, gay and trans[gender] issues in Springfield, worked hard behind the scenes in the last few months to preserve funding for HIV/AIDS services in Illinois and is well thought of in the district as well."

Steans said in a statement that "Greg has been a true mentor and guiding force for me in Springfield. He is a voice for progressive policy change, most notably in human rights and health care reform. And I look forward to our continued fight for marriage equality."

Madigan—who will be the first openly gay individual in the state senate if elected—e-mailed Windy City Times, "An incumbent Democratic legislator will have the endorsement of the organizations who rely on Springfield for funding, as well as other elected officials within the party. I expect, understand and respect that."

"While I appreciate Rep. Harris' opinions on this race, I would think he, more than many, would realize how vital it is for all communities to be directly represented. I have worked hard all my life to put myself through college and law school, stand up for women's equality, and be an advocate for underserved populations. I look forward to working hard during this election and winning the endorsement of the people of the 7th District." Madigan added that he "did not ask for or seek [Harris'] endorsement."

The primary election will take place February 2010.

## Maldonado is 26th Ward alderman

Mayor Richard Daley has appointed Cook County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado as the new alderman of Chicago's 26th Ward, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Maldonado, 57, replaces former alderman Billy Ocasio, who now works for Gov. Pat Quinn.

The entire selection process was initially a source of concern for the LGBT community because one of the people who was reportedly under consideration was Rev. Wilfredo de Jesus, whose background seemed to indicate that he was anti-gay. However, he recently withdrew, allegedly because he did not reside in the 26th Ward. Ocasio subsequently recommended his wife, Veronica, for the position.

Daley indicated that he interviewed approximately five candidates, the Tribune reported. When asked why he did not select Veronica Ocasio, he responded, "Why did I pick Maldonado. That's the question," citing the commissioner's knowledge of the district and his experience.

In his acceptance speech, Maldonado said, in part, "As a Cook County Commissioner I have fought hard to bring fairness and equality to all the people of Cook County, regardless of race, sexual orientation, immigration status, or income. I will bring that same passion and progressive thinking to my new role as Alderman."

In 2003, Windy City Times reported that Maldonado was among the commissioners who helped pass a domestic-partner registry. "If the gay and lesbian community feels that this is just one little step in reducing discrimination against that community, I support this ordinance," Maldonado said at the time.

## Affinity: All that jazz



The 8th Jazz n July was themed "Change: Community, Healing, Advancing, Nurturing, Growing, and Evolving," and was accurately titled as Affinity marked the beginning of a new era with the addition of its first executive director (Kim L. Hunt) as well as a youth program coordinator and administrative intern on staff.

Supporters enjoyed an evening of music and dance at the DuSable Museum and Washington Park Refectory with performances by the Drum Divas and Grammy-nominated all female jazz trio Straight Ahead featuring guest vocalist Kimmie Horne, the great-niece of the legendary Lena Horne. Text and photos by Mel Ferrand

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IML 2009. Photo by Steve Starr

## IML bans barebacking

In a letter to vendors, International Mr. Leather (IML) President Chuck Renslow has said that the event "will no longer allow participation in the IML Leather Market by any entity which promotes barebacking or distributes/sells any merchandise tending to promote or advocate barebacking" starting next year.

The letter also stated that "while we have had some success developing medications that might make infection more manageable, that accomplishment comes at a price. Not having experienced the deaths—the loss of loved ones—which preceded these medications, we have an entire generation who may not fully appreciate or comprehend the severity of the situation.

"Too many in our community believe HIV/AIDS is curable or manageable. Too few understand that HIV/AIDS infections dominate life."

Next year's IML will take place May 27-31 at the Hyatt Regency, 151 E. Wacker.

## Men charged in pageant case

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Two men were ordered held on bond after committing felonies at a July 6 drag beauty pageant on the West Side of Chicago.

Leroy Tinch, 28, of Evanston and Anthony Johnson, 23, of Skokie were both charged with aggravated battery, a class one felony, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Johnson, a contestant, allegedly became angry with judge Sebastian Latta after he voted for another contestant at 3350 W. Jackson. Tinch, who was another judge, reportedly jumped in and attacked Latta with a sharp object, cutting him in the face.

Circuit Court Judge Maria Kuriakos Ciesil ordered the men held on \$75,000 bond.

## AGENCIES from cover

are owed to Chicago's nonprofit agencies. According to Chicago Public Radio, Illinois ended the last fiscal year with a record number of unpaid bills to organizations it funds—including many small nonprofits and social service agencies. With a new budget that relies largely on borrowing, Quinn has said that the state is unlikely to catch up on that backlog.

Windy City Times caught up with representatives from a number of the city's LGBT- and/or HIV-oriented non-profits to see how they are faring under trying economic conditions.

### Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV)

"They've always been behind, but they've never been this far behind," said BEHIV's Executive Director Eric Nelson said about his organization's difficulties with state funding. BEHIV, which provides testing, education and access to medical services, is funded largely through government contracts—including, significantly, with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Nelson said that a contract that began on October 1, 2008, and for which BEHIV has been providing services on the assumption that the organization would be reimbursed, has yet to be paid.

As of the end of June, Nelson said, his organization was owed \$66,500 from the state government. In terms of the overall state economy, he said, "It's not only looking ahead, it's looking back"—to unpaid bills.

Nelson said that BEHIV, which recently closed its Evanston office and consolidated all services into one Chicago location, has taken steps to shore up its finances including staff furlough days, unfilled staff positions, and a minimal amount of service cuts to programs like art and massage therapy.

"Unfortunately," said Nelson, "I don't see a quick resolution to the budget impasse. I think there is a huge amount of mistrust on all parties and lack of belief in the impact that the budget shortfall is having on agencies like BEHIV. As we begin our new fiscal year, we are still mandating furlough days for staff. I don't know when we will be able to stop that practice."

### Howard Brown Health Services

Paul Fairchild, chief development officer for Howard Brown Health Services, said that his organization's budget is composed of about 55% grants from federal, state and local government agencies—and admitted that IDPH funding is "slow." (He declined to comment on the current budget crisis.)

Nonetheless, Fairchild said, Howard Brown expected to end the fiscal year even. Crediting the "excellence in care" provided to the LGBT community as a chief reason for Howard Brown's financial stability, he said that donors with whom Howard Brown has an ongoing relationship have continued to provide a strong level of financial support.

He also credited a half-million dollars in cuts Howard Brown made last November as helpful: "By doing a course correction early," Fairchild said, "we were able to weather the storm a little better." He said that the cuts were all administrative—there were no funding cuts, in other words, to direct services themselves or to direct service staffing.

### Paul Fairchild of Howard Brown Health Center.



Howard Brown has, however, felt the impact of the economic slowdown—foundation endowments are down about thirty-five percent, for instance. And though Fairchild described Howard Brown's corporate support as "fairly loyal," he said that organization has had difficulty in identifying new sources of revenue.

The health center has also experienced an "across the board" increase in the demand for its services, including, said Fairchild, a sixty percent increase over the past year in patients who are uninsured. By refusing to cut services, he said, the condition of Howard Brown currently is akin to what it was "in the beginning": "We've had to take care of our own because nobody else would."

### Task Force Prevention and Community Services

Though Task Force, which does HIV testing and prevention services in Chicago's West and South Side communities, does not currently receive funding from the state—most of the organization's funding comes through city and federal grants—Executive Director Alicia Ozier said that the failure of the state government to fund social services is a "civil-rights issue."

Working within a coalition of primarily African-American organizations called the Minority Intervention Network for Chicago Communities of Color (MINC-3), Ozier and others have participated in budget-cut protests.

Indeed, Ozier said that the broader financial slowdown of the past year, coupled with troubles within Illinois' state government, make it imperative for organizations to think strategically in terms of alliances and co-programming. Though it might be painful, she said, "some of our organizations are going to have to merge together" in order to continue to provide service to the community: "We have to be very creative with how we sustain ourselves."

Task Force is faced with the threat of staffing and service cuts—within the next 30 days, said Ozier—unless more sources of revenue can be tapped. Already, she said, "we can no longer afford to send as many outreach team members into the community."

Although she described the economic climate

as "scary," Ozier said that Task Force's work is "necessary." "You cannot walk into the Black culture without knowing the nuances of that community," she said.

### Center on Halsted

Modesto "Tico" Valle, the Center on Halsted's executive director, said that when confronted with a worsening economic situation, an agreement was made among the staff and board: "We will not cut programming."

Instead, the Center trimmed \$600,000 from its \$5 million budget, reducing staff hours, training volunteers and cutting administrative costs. Valle said that the Center "refined" its programming to respond to what it identified as increasing demands: as more and more people became unemployed, for instance, the Center offered more in the way of job search training, interview skills, and resume writing.

The center, which recently celebrated two years in its new building, also has experienced an increase in the number of homeless clients that access its services. "When I pull into the garage here in the morning," Valle said, "there [are] 10 homeless kids waiting. We just work with them where they're at, to get them through the day and hopefully find them permanent housing, doing some case management [and] harm reduction. They spend practically the day here, and then they sleep on the streets, and we start the day over again."

He also noted an increase in the number of adult homeless clients. "We're seeing a lot of members of our community homeless now from this economy," Valle said.

In the private sector—and similar to Howard Brown—areas where the center has had the most difficulty maintaining past funding levels have been with corporate and foundation sources. Individual support has remained an important source of funding for the Center, however, and Valle said that since the beginning of the year the organization has signed up 60 major donors (major donors are people who donate more than \$600). "That's pretty powerful," said Valle, "that people are saying yes, we need to support our center."

Though operating within the context of general economic threat, Valle is optimistic about the support that the Center has received from the community, and optimistic about its ability to successfully weather both the economic recession and the recurring threat of state government meltdown.

Overall, said Valle, "we've had some successes, we've tightened our belt, we're going to continue tightening it into next year. Do I see a rebound? Not right now."

"I have to wake up every day and hope that tomorrow's going to be a better day because so many people who come through our door come here for that purpose. They're in therapy, or they come for that meal, or they come to learn how to brush up their resume. And we have to remain positive for them. You've got to hope that tomorrow's going to be a better day."

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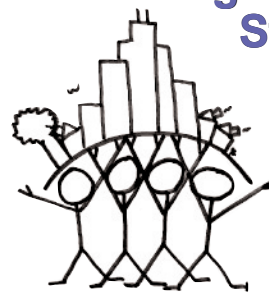
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## Gender JUST meets with CDPH

Members of Gender JUST's Committee on Urban Resource Sustainability and Equity (COURSE) met with officials from the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) July 23 about concerns related to funding for HIV/AIDS prevention services, according to an organizational press release.

"Our primary concern," said Gender JUST member Ivan Gallardo, "is that those of us living on the South and West sides of the city have to take the bus to the Northside in order to receive services."

Other concerns brought up in the meeting included the difficulty of attaining information about how to get involved in the planning process, a shortage of services for young people and transgender communities, and the lack of broad community involvement in these important funding decisions.

Gender JUST (Gender Justice United for Societal Transformation) is a grassroots organization of LGBTQA individuals developing leadership and building power through organizing.



Ron Huberman. Photo by Steve Starr

## Huberman, DeJong new fathers

Chicago Public Schools Chief Ron Huberman and his partner, Daren DeJong, had their first child, Alden DeJong Huberman, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Earlier this year, Huberman came out publicly in a Sun-Times article. In the piece, Huberman

discussed what it meant to grow up gay: "It has given me a great sensitivity for the need to be inclusive. If I didn't grow up being part of a group that was viewed differently, I may not have that sensitivity."

## Patti's induction Aug. 3

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Sebastian Patti will become the first openly gay individual to be a member of the Illinois Appellate Court when he is installed Monday, Aug. 3, at 160 N. LaSalle.

Patti, who will serve on the 1st District bench, will replace Leslie South.

There will be a post-event reception at The Midtown Kitchen, 203 N. LaSalle, 3-5 p.m. RSVP for the reception at 312-603-4532 or 312-603-4416 by July 30.

### Local events:

**Having a ball: The fifth annual Printers' Ball** is set to take place Friday, July 31, at Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S. Wabash, 5-11 p.m. The event is free; see [www.printersball.org](http://www.printersball.org).

**The Shaw must go on: Olivia and Center on Halsted** will present "An Evening with Olivia Travel & the Comedy of Vickie Shaw" at the Center, 3656 N. Halsted, on Monday, Aug. 3, at 6:30 p.m. There is a \$20 suggested donation; see [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

**He's a maniac: The inaugural Lincoln Park Arts & Music Festival** will take place Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 8-9, on Racine between Fullerton and Webster. Among the musical acts scheduled is 10,000 Maniacs. The fee is \$7; see [www.chicagoevents.com](http://www.chicagoevents.com).



Vickie Shaw.

### REPORT from cover

The prevalence rate was especially pronounced among Black MSM under the age of 35, who were found to have a 30% prevalence rate—a statistic that Brown called "staggering." In comparison, white MSM in the same age group had a rate of 4%, and Latino men a rate of 11.6%.

At the same time, the CDPH report found that Black MSM do not engage in riskier sexual behavior than their white or Latino counterparts, and in some cases engage less frequently in risky sexual behaviors than other survey participants: for instance, Black MSM reported less drug and alcohol use before or during sex than others.

A theory put forth in the report to explain higher infection rates among Black MSM is that simply HIV prevalence is higher in all Chicago's Black communities. While Black people make up 35% of Chicago's population, they make up 54% of known HIV cases. The report posits an idea of infection based on "assortative mixing"—the notion that when people are more likely to have sex within their own communities, a higher prevalence of HIV within a community will express itself through high, or increasing, rates of infection.

Brown also expressed concern about the number of people who, previous to taking the survey, had not known their HIV-positive status: fully half of people who tested positive when taking the survey had been unaware of their status. This finding, too, broke down along racial lines: 66% of Black MSM who test-

ed positive were unaware of their status, as compared to 50% of Latino MSM and 23% of white MSM. Though testing habits seemed to be consistent across groups, the survey found that 66% of Black MSM who tested positive had acquired the infection within the past 12 months—as opposed to 33% of white MSM.

Alicia Ozier, executive director of Task Force Prevention and Community Services, said that public-health workers and service agencies need to take a holistic approach to HIV infection, identifying broad risk factors that go beyond sexual behavior. She cited economic status, education levels and overall access to healthcare as correlates to HIV infection.

Intervention, she said, needs to happen far beyond basic HIV testing and education, starting with: "How are they getting their basic needs fulfilled?"

Brown echoed her comments. Though there are some things "we know are working," he said—such as widespread condom distribution and accessible HIV testing—a more "multi-pronged approach" is needed. Brown said that researchers have begun to analyze how root causes of behaviors function: "adverse childhood experiences," he said, have been correlated to higher sexual risk behaviors.

Ozier, too, acknowledged the successes in terms of testing, but said the same thing demonstrated by the new report: it's not nearly enough. "It's like sticking pieces of gum in a wall that has many leaky spots," said Ozier. "[We have to] resurface the wall."

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Sam Bezanis. Photo by Hal Baim

## Sam Bezanis passes

BY TRACY BAIM

Sam Bezanis, a longtime Chicago businessman and volunteer for numerous groups, died July 18 from complications after shoulder surgery. He was 70.

Bezanis and his partner Mark Jacobs moved to Michigan City, Ind., in 2007 to save on the cost of living, but they were still frequent visitors to Bezanis' hometown, Chicago. Jacobs and Bezanis owned Sam Bezanis, Ltd. Bezanis was a proud member of the American Institute of Floral Designers.

Among the numerous non-profits Bezanis supported through fundraising and volunteer work were the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois; the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the 1980s; IMPACT of the 1990s; the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network; and the Illinois Federation/Equality Illinois. The ACLU was a particular favorite, and Bezanis chaired several galas for the group. He received the ACLU Annetta Dieckmann Award 1997. In 1996, he was also part of the team that pulled together a huge LGBT event at the MCA to coincide with the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. More recently, he pulled strings to get cash donations and donated materials for the Center on Halsted.

Bezanis and his late partner Jerry Stephens opened Floral Designs in 1967, at 2355 N. Clark, with Bezanis working there full time. The company quickly took off, providing floral arrangements for top Chicago socialites and later using those friendships to help LGBT and AIDS causes. In a 2007 interview with the Chicago Gay History Project, Bezanis emphasized that Chicago "society" people played an important role in raising funds for gay and AIDS groups.

Bezanis also did a large percentage of society parties as a party planner and florist, and also parties at museums, auto shows and more. Mainstream groups he helped included the Museum of Broadcast Communications, Prevent Child Abuse America, Passavant Cotillion and the Children's Home and Aid Society.

"He loved being in the flower business," Jacobs said. "He enjoyed sharing his talents with others. He could only be happy with an event that was as perfect as humanly possible."

While Jerry Stephens had been quiet about living with AIDS, he eventually allowed the ACLU to take up a case on his behalf to fight against a dentist who refused him care because of his illness. Former ACLU gay and AIDS project director John Hammell took up the cause and helped win the case—a case initially decided around the time Hammell himself died. The case still took years to complete, and Stephens, too, died before that day came. A judge allowed Bezanis to continue the case in his late partner's name, also a precedent-setting ruling, and Bezanis eventually won, but even as of 2007, no money had been collected in the victory. But the precedent stands, making sure that medical offices are viewed by the law as places of "public accommodation," said Colleen Connell of the ACLU of Illinois.

"Sam believed in the promise of civil liberties and equality for all guaranteed in the Bill of Rights," said ACLU of Illinois Board President Jill Metz. "He acted on these beliefs with a generosity of spirit, time, talent and financial support for the ACLU. He will be missed."

Bezanis overcame great odds. He had his first heart attack in his early 20s, and suffered numerous complications from further heart and medical problems throughout his life.

"He was also a long-time season ticket holder at the Civic Opera," Jacobs said. "He loved to dance swing and jazz, Sam was recognized as a genius in an industry full of talented people."

Bezanis and Stephens had been together almost 36 years. Two years after Stephens died, Bezanis met Mark Jacobs, and the two men were together for 12 years, until Bezanis died. Bezanis was the brother of Rini Green, the late Steve and the late Nick (Della), uncle of Aires (Joe) Lawlor, Brian (Debra), Greg (Ame), Stephanie, George and Petra Bezanis, great-uncle of Joe Jr., Jennifer, Nicholas, Mallory, Danica, Beth and William, son of the late Alex and Sophia Bezanis Oakley. Funeral services were July 22.

See Bezanis' 2007 interview with Tracy Baim for the Chicago Gay History Project at [www.chicagogayhistory.org/biography.html?id=583](http://www.chicagogayhistory.org/biography.html?id=583).



E. Lynn Harris.

## E. Lynn Harris dies

BY TRACY BAIM AND ANDREW DAVIS

E. Lynn Harris, a former Chicagoan and author of best-selling books about Black gay life, has died at age 54, according to his publicist. He was on a tour for his new novel, *Basketball Jones*.

Laura Gilmore said he died July 24 at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills. The cause of death is still unknown.

Harris was a pioneer in Black gay fiction, once selling his books out of the back of his car when no one would pick up his works for mainstream distribution. Born in Flint, Mich., and raised in Little Rock, Ark., Harris spent some time in Chicago before hitting it big as an author.

In 1991, he self-published *Invisible Life*, which three years later found a new life through Anchor Books. He eventually published 10 more novels and a memoir, *What Becomes of the Brokenhearted*. His books had not just a gay following, but also many straight women could relate to the emotions Harris wrote about.

On his blog for *TheDailyVoice.com*, activist Keith Boykin wrote that he has been friends with Harris for 17 years, and that he owes his own literary career to Harris. "Lynn was also one of the most prolific writers I've ever met. I think he was the most prolific popular African American male writer in America the past 15 years," he wrote. "As someone who takes years to write a single book, I always envied Lynn's ability to produce on deadline."

"He was also a man of the world," Boykin wrote. "When I first met him, he lived in Chicago, but he had lived in many places since then. He had a beautiful home in Atlanta, loved going to his alma mater at the University of Arkansas to teach and work with the cheerleaders, and loved to visit New York City, where he once lived in a beautiful apartment in the Trump Tower building in Columbus Circle."

Patrick Henry Bass wrote on *Essence.com* that Harris "single-handedly carved out a space for contemporary African-American male novelists such as Eric Jerome Dickey, Colin Channer, RM Johnson, Carl Weber, Van Whitfield, and Omar Tyree. He was a tireless champion for the Hurston/Wright Foundation and had his own foundation. Harris was known in the literary community for his generosity to his fans (often remembering birthdays and holidays); his love of the Arkansas Razorbacks (he was the first Black male cheerleader for the school), and his support for burgeoning writers."

In *The Life Media (ITLM)*—producer of the only national public television program documenting the people and issues shaping the gay experience—issued a statement about Harris' passing. (Harris was profiled in the ninth season of *In the Life* and was a guest host of the April episode of its 11th season.) ITLM Executive Director Michelle Kristel reflected on meeting the author: "I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Harris on the set of *Stealing Home*, filmed during a blizzard in February of 2003. Although we faced several weather-related delays, Mr. Harris remained in good spirits, regaling the crew with tales of his early 'beauty parlor' days selling his books from the trunk of his car."

Local activist Marc Loveless e-mailed *Windy City Times* that "E. Lynn's watershed work gave voice to African-American same-gender-loving [SGL] Black men who had never been heard before. His work was a gentle bridge between African-American Black women and African-American [SGL] Black men. The grace that he exhibited extended to anyone and any where he was called."

Chicago educator/writer Kennette Crocker e-mailed about meeting Harris: "On Aug. 6, 1994, I was covering a book-signing at a small Black-owned bookstore in the Rogers Park neighborhood for an up-and-coming author. This author's story was unique in that he had self-published his own novel, *Invisible Life*. He had gone on to sell enough copies to secure a publishing deal with Doubleday."

"E. Lynn Harris' fiction, his rise to literary fame and his down-to-earth assessable personality—and now his untimely death at the age of 54—made him an anomaly in the publishing world. Like his stories, he existed between the gay and the straight worlds."

"His stories of gay and bisexual men hiding their feelings and orientation captured the Black readers. Yet it wasn't just the readers' curiosity about the down-low brothers that kept his work on the top sellers' lists. It was really his tales of love, redemption and forgiveness; those universal themes that resonate with readers. What I remember the most about Harris is a talented story teller who believed in the healing and life affirming power of love, the big love, love for family and friends, the kind that makes one's heart soar to the stars."

## Alan Biggerstaff dies

BY ANDREW DAVIS

East Carondelet, Ill., Police Chief Alan Biggerstaff was found dead in a Chicago hotel room July 24, according to a Chicago Tribune item. He was 56 and died of natural causes.

Biggerstaff, who was a registered nurse, was also deputy director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Activist Marc Loveless of the Coalition of Justice and Respect (CJR) e-mailed *Windy City Times* that "[i]n the short time I worked with him I learned from his sincerity. ... On behalf of CJR's members, supporters and sponsors, I extend our appreciation ... and simply say thank you."

The funeral service was slated for Wed., July 29, at the Paynic Home for Funerals, 8 E. Airline, East Alton, Ill.. The interment will be at Rose Lawn Memory Gardens, 10 Erwin Plegge, Bethalto, Ill.

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# WORLD ROUNDUP

BY REX WOCKNER

## Swedish lesbians more like to marry than gay men

Statistics Sweden reported July 21 that 37 lesbian couples and 11 gay male couples have married since same-sex marriage became legal on May 1.

The agency also reported that in the past 10 years, the number of children being raised by couples who took advantage of the nation's civil-union law has increased from about 70 to 749.

Forty-three of the kids have two dads and 706 have two moms.

"It's easier for female same-sex couples to have children," a spokesperson for the national gay group RFSL told Svenska Dagbladet newspaper. RFSL's former initials are now its full name.

## ILGA-Europe maps Euro equality

The European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (aka ILGA-Europe) has created a map of the legal situation for European LGBs.

"The Rainbow Europe map reflects legal advances such as protection from discrimination, recognition of LGB families and parenting rights, inclusion of sexual orientation in hate speech/crime legislation," the group said. "The map also highlights the 'darker' corners of Rainbow Europe, where there is still criminalization of consenting same-sex acts, unequal age of consent and where Pride events have been banned during last 10 years."

Among the findings:

—Two countries ban anti-gay discrimination in their constitutions—Portugal and Sweden;

—Thirteen countries and one territory have laws banning anti-gay discrimination in employment only, while 25 countries and five territories ban such discrimination in both employment and access to goods and services;

—Fifteen countries have hate-crime/speech laws that cover sexual orientation;

—Same-sex couples can marry in five nations (Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden) and can enter into civil unions in 13 nations and two territories;

—Nine countries let gay couples adopt children together, 11 allow second-parent adoption, and 10 provide insemination services to lesbian couples;

—Two countries (Greece and Cyprus) and two territories (Gibraltar and Guernsey) have unequal age-of-consent laws for male-male sex, one territory (North Cyprus) still bans gay-male sex, and eight nations banned gay pride or other public gay events over the past 10 years—Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

JPEGs of the two-sided map can be downloaded at [tinyurl.com/ilga-m-1](http://tinyurl.com/ilga-m-1) and [tinyurl.com/ilga-m-2](http://tinyurl.com/ilga-m-2).

## U.S. gay magazine intercepted by Belarus customs

Pride, the annual magazine of the U.S.-based InterPride organization, has been intercepted by customs officials in Minsk, GayBelarus.by reported July 22.

Officials said the magazines, sent to the organization GayBelarus, were taken into custody because GayBelarus is not legally registered and the magazines were not intended for the personal use of the final recipient, Sergey Androsenko.

GayBelarus said the "rigid" process for registering is "complicated" and that numerous entities have been thwarted, including political parties, trade unions and activist groups.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko reportedly said last year, "The weapon of the most destructive forces is in the hands of mass media, so they should be supervised by the government," according to GayBelarus' translation.

## Outer Hebrides see 1st gay union

Scotland's Outer Hebrides islands saw their first gay civil union July 20 when children's TV host Andrew Robertson tied the knot with partner Craig Atkins at a registry office in Stornoway.

The couple then slipped out a back entrance to avoid reporters.

The civil-partnership law has been in effect since 2003.

Robertson works for the BBC and Atkins is the marketing manager for Stornoway's An Lanntair art center.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

# QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

"I DO BELIEVE THAT IN HIS HEART HE (OBAMA) WILL FIGHT HIS TAIL OFF until we've achieved full equality in the gay community. ... I've been around a lot of very important politicians in my lifetime and I think this guy is different and I do trust him to do what is right. I also believe that he knows how to get things done, and that he will make a significant difference in a positive way in the lives of gay and lesbian Americans." — *Openly gay Steve Hildebrand, who was Barack Obama's deputy national campaign director and recently spoke with the president one-on-one at the White House about gay issues, to this column, July 5.*

"GIVEN OUR WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITH YOU, AND YOUR EFFORTS to undercut this case, we were surprised and disappointed when we became aware of your desire to intervene. You have unrelentingly and unequivocally acted to undermine this case even before it was filed. ... (W)e will vigorously oppose any motion to intervene. In public and private, you have made it

unmistakably clear that you strongly disagree with our legal strategy to challenge Prop. 8 as a violation of the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the United States Constitution. Your strident criticism of our suit has been constant." — *Chad Griffin, board chair of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, in a July 8 letter demanding that the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights cease efforts to intervene in AFER's federal same-sex marriage case seeking to overturn California's Proposition 8. AFER and its clients are represented by superstar attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies.*

"YOUR INTERVENTION WOULD CREATE A COMPLEX, multi-party proceeding that would inevitably be hampered by procedural inefficiencies that are directly at odds with our goal—and the goal of Chief Judge Walker—of securing an expeditious, efficient, and inexpensive resolution to the district court proceedings. As a result of your intervention, we could be mired in procedurally convoluted pre-trial maneuvering for years—while gay and lesbian individuals in California continue to suffer the daily indignity of being denied their federal constitutional right to marry the person of their choosing. ... Delaying equal marriage rights in California serves none of our interests." — *Chad Griffin, board chair of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, in a July 8 letter demanding that the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights cease efforts to intervene in AFER's federal same-sex marriage case seeking to overturn California's Proposition 8. AFER and its clients are represented by superstar attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies.*

"ODDLY ENOUGH, I'VE STARTED TWITTERING. IT'S REALLY EASY TO DO. I use it as a little mini-platform for my thoughts and introspection. The MySpace and all that I couldn't figure out how to navigate, but Twitter is really easy so I'm enjoying it. I just want to get out my philosophies and thoughts. I don't think I care much about following anybody. I'm not even looking for a dialogue with anybody necessarily. I only want to be followed. Is that so

wrong?" — *Lesbian comedian Sandra Bernhard to Windy City Times, June 10.*

"WE HAVE THE LAW. WE SAY IT WON'T BE ENFORCED. Is it totally clear? We, sometimes in these things, have to accept a bit of messiness. And the way the society is going, we don't think it's fair for us to prosecute people who say that they are homosexual. ... It's not for the government to say we are going to force something against the wishes of the people. We won't change the law, but how that is interpreted is up to the courts. It is not our position to tell the courts what to do." — *Singapore's law minister, K. Shanmugam, explaining July 6 that gay sex is illegal, but no one will*



Oddly enough, I've started Twittering.

—Sandra Bernhard

be arrested for having gay sex, but the government won't repeal the ban, but the courts are free to strike it down if they want, and maybe they should. Seems to be some kind of "Do Ask, Do Tell, Don't Repeal, Do Sue" policy.

"NOW THAT YOU'VE UP AND QUIT AS AMERICA'S FAVORITE HOTTIE milf ditzball politico moose-slashin' anti-choice anti-feminist destroyer of linear grammar, we feel adrift and lost, a nation without its favorite squeaky purple balloon." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford writing to Sarah Palin, July 10.*

"(W)E TAKE IT ALL BACK. I KNOW, IT'S A BIT HUMILIATING TO ADMIT, but the nation needs you, Sarah. Or, more specifically, liberals and Democrats need you, given the simply spectacular job you've done of helping drag the Republican party, if not further to the extremist nutball right, certainly much further down the ladder of intelligence, respect and viability, than even Bush could've dreamed. As long as you're serving as the GOP's hood ornament, and as long as Rush and O'Reilly and Glenn Beck are behind the wheel, the Republican party has not a single prayer of relevance and capability in the next two decades." — *San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Morford writing to Sarah Palin, July 10.*

"ANY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 2008—TO OPENLY DECLARE that he's in favor of same-sex marriage ... I think that it would give people on the right a sort of handy club to wield and use gay marriage as a wedge issue. And so I accept it (that Obama didn't). I mean, I hate that we live in a world where this is the case, but I'm perfectly willing to accept that this may be a necessary compromise to make. I wish people didn't have to say, 'I believe marriage is between a man and a woman' when I think they obviously don't believe that. But ya know, if that's what it takes to get elected." — *Playwright Tony Kushner to CNN, June 15.*

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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**LZ  
GRANDERSON**

## Gay is not the new Black

Far from flowing rainbow flags, the sound of Lady Gaga and, quite honestly, white people, stands a nightclub just outside of Wicker Park in Chicago by the name of The Prop House.

The line to get in usually stretches down the block and, unlike many of the clubs in Boystown and Andersonville, this one plays hip-hop and caters to men who may or may not openly identify as gay, but without question are Black and proud.

And a good number of them are tired of hearing how the gay community is disappointed in President Obama, because they are not.

In recent weeks, one would have thought the nation's first Black president was also the nation's biggest homophobe. Everyone from Oscar winner Dustin Lance Black and radio personality Rachel Maddow to Joe Solmonese, the president of Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest gay <topics.cnn.com/topics/Gay\_and\_Lesbian\_Relationships> advocacy group, seem to be blasting Obama for everything from "don't ask don't tell" to Adam Lambert not winning American Idol.

In their minds, Obama is not moving fast enough on behalf of the LGBT community. The outcry is not completely without merit—the Justice Department's unnerving brief on the Defense of Marriage Act immediately comes to mind. I was upset by some of the statements, but not surprised. (After the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, President Ronald Reagan's initial handling of AIDS and, more recently, Katrina, there is little that surprises me when it comes to the government and the treatment of its people.)

Still, rarely has criticism regarding Obama and the LGBT <http://topics.cnn.com/topics/

LGBT\_Issues> community come from the kind of person you would find standing in line at a spot like The Prop House, and there's a reason for that.

Despite the catchiness of the slogan, gay is not the new Black.

Black is still Black.

And if any group should know this, it's the gay community.

Bars such as The Prop House, or Bulldogs in Atlanta, Ga., exist because a large number of gay Blacks—particularly those who date other Blacks, and live in the Black community—do not feel a part of the larger gay movement. There are Gay Pride celebrations, and then there are Black Gay Prides.

There's a popular bar in the heart of the nation's capital that might as well rename itself Antebellum, because all of the white patrons tend to stay upstairs and the Black patrons are on the first floor. Last year at the annual Human Rights Campaign national fundraiser in Washington, D.C.—an event that lasted more than three hours—the only Black person to make it on stage was the entertainment.

When Proposition 8 passed in California, white gays were quick to blame the black community despite Blacks making up less than 10 percent of total voters and whites being close to 60 percent. At protest rallies that followed, some gay Blacks reported they were even hit with racial epithets by angry white participants. Not to split hairs, but for most Blacks, the n-word trumps the f-word.

So while the white mouthpiece of the gay community shakes an angry finger at intolerance and bigotry in their blogs and on television, Blacks and other minorities see the dirty laundry. They see the hypocrisy of publicly rallying in the name of unity but then privately living in segregated pockets. And then there is the history.

The 40th anniversary of Stonewall dominated Gay Pride celebrations around the country, and while that is certainly a significant moment that should be recognized, 40 years is nothing compared with the 400 blood-soaked years Black people have been through in this country. There are stories some Blacks lived through, stories others were told by their parents and stories that never had a chance to be told.

While those who were at Stonewall talk about the fear of being arrested by police, 40 years ago, Blacks talked about the fear of dying at the hands of police and not having their bodies found or murder investigated. The 13th Amendment was signed in 1865, and it wasn't until 1948 that President Harry S Truman desegregated the military. That's more than an 80-year gap.

Not to be flip, but Miley Cyrus is older than Bill Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell." That doesn't mean that the safety of gay people should be trivialized or that Obama should not be held accountable for the promises he made on the campaign trail. But to call this month's first-ever White House reception for LGBT leaders "too little too late" is akin to a petulant child throwing a tantrum because he wants to eat his dessert before dinner. This is one of the main reasons why so many Blacks bristle at the comparison of the two movements—everybody wants to sing the blues, nobody wants to live them.

This lack of perspective is only going to alienate a black community that is still very proud of Obama and is hypersensitive about any criticism of him, especially given he's been in office barely six months.

If Blacks are less accepting of gays than other racial groups—and that is certainly debatable—then the parade of gay people calling Obama a "disappointment" on television is counterproductive in gaining acceptance, to say the least. And the fact that the loudest critics are mostly white doesn't help matters either.

Hearing that race matters in the gay community may not be comforting to hear, but that doesn't make it any less true.

**LZ Granderson is a senior writer and columnist for ESPN The Magazine and ESPN.com, and has contributed to ESPN's Sports Center, Outside the Lines and First Take. He is the 2009 Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) award winner for online journalism and the 2008 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) winner for column writing.**

**This article originally appeared on CNN.com and is reprinted with permission from the author.**

## LETTER

### The real deal

Dear Editor:

On June 28, my son and I attended the Pride Parade. He's 15 now, old enough to understand what's going on, and it sounded like a nice way to spend some time with him. I haven't been to a Pride Parade since the birth of my first child (more years ago than I would care to admit) and, seeing it with "fresh eyes" after so many years, I came away with some troubling questions about what the parade is and what it ought to be.

—Is this parade about our community or about commerce? At first I was annoyed by floats entered by business that have nothing in particular to do with the LGBT community but, then, when a car from a Chevy dealership drove by (Just a car! No float, no marchers, no signs of support for the LGBT community, no transvestite in the sun roof—just a Chevy with a magnetic sign with the dealer's name on the door!), it really pissed me off. It is, frankly, a waste of my time to watch a flatbed truck full of Commonwealth Edison employees (none of whom looked at all gay to me) drive by. I want a parade that reflects the LGBT community, not a parade of commercials from vendors eager to sell something to my community!

—Is this an LGBT event or not? Is it really appropriate to have contingents with agendas that have nothing whatsoever to do with LGBT pride marching in the parade? I really have no use for

animal-rights activists and I don't see why they should be pushing their beliefs in our parade. An ostensibly straight South Side drum-and-twirling corps in a LGBT parade is also rather gratuitous. The parade is long and slow-moving enough without a lot of irrelevant contingents cluttering it up. Yesterday was balmy, but June days are often blisteringly hot, and seeing a lot of contingents that mean nothing to me go by in the hot sun is not my idea of fun.

—Should absentee politicians be allowed to have contingents? I know that it's politically important to see which politicians will march with us, but if they can't bother to actually show up and march, then why should their contingent be taking up space in an over-long parade? I would guess that about half the politicians "represented" yesterday were not there, and I wasn't really interested in watching their largely straight contingents go by in matching T-shirts.

—Is this a family event or an adult carnival? Look, I'm not a prude—far from it: I'm a bisexual leather top—but I am a family man, and I do think that certain things are not appropriate for children. I'm not talking about couples being affectionate or over-the-top drag queens or even a float sponsored by a sex-toy shop; I'm talking about nudity and dry-humping. I kept my kids away from the parade when they were little, but if other parents want to expose their kids to that kind of lewdness, well that's their business. I guess what I'm wondering about here is the kids in the parade. I felt quite uncomfortable seeing

very young children marching in the same parade as exhibitionists. This mixed message cannot reflect well upon the LGBT community and I think we need to decide if this event is going to be family friendly or raunchy.

In closing, let me say that there was a whole lot to like about the parade. It's fun to see just how diverse the LGBT community is, with contingents of lesbian bikers, gay rodeo riders, leathermen, every conceivable flavor of drag queen, a broad spectrum of faith communities and truly fabulous Brazilian showgirls. But I think that a shorter parade, composed of more genuinely LGBT elements, would be more fun and give a better picture of our community.

Yours for a better world,  
R.M. Schultz  
Chicago

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## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
Ross Forman

Members of the Chicago Rowing Union (CRU) were at the Outgames in Copenhagen, Denmark. See page 22.

## MOVIES

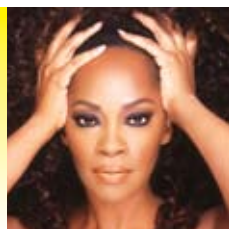
Madam, I'm 'Adam.'  
Page 15.



## MUSIC

Real Love.  
Page 16.

Photo by Mike Ruiz



## THEATER

Grimm and bear it.  
Page 12.

Photo courtesy of  
Bailiwick Repertory

## Scottish Play Scott

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Broadway in Chicago presented an extra special guest to announce that **Billy Elliot—The Musical** would launch its U.S. tour in March 2010 at Chicago's Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre.

None other than Sir Elton John was on hand for the Wrigley Field press conference on Tuesday, July 21 (just hours before his second duo summer concert there with Billy Joel). John is not only Billy Elliot's composer, but it was he who became the driving force into transforming the film into a stage musical. John isn't ashamed to say that he wept openly at the film's 2000 screening at the Cannes Film Festival, since he saw so much of Billy's story in his own upbringing.

This Billy Elliot announcement should fill Chicagoans with a certain amount of civic pride, since the musical's producers picked the Windy City over other likely candidate cities like Toronto, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Of course, Billy Elliot's designation as a "tour" is questionable, since many prognosticators are already predicting that the musical will become a long-running sit down engagement in Chicago just like *Wicked's* three-and-a-half-year stint and *Jersey Boys'* current long-running gig at the Bank of America Theatre.

Plus, there is already news that Billy Elliot's upcoming arrival at the Oriental has pushed out other shows that were originally booked there. *Shrek The Musical*, which is originating its North American tour in June 2010 in Chicago, is switching from the Oriental to the Cadillac Palace Theatre. The two-week February stint of Tracy Letts' Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning drama, *August: Osage County*, has also been bumped to the Cadillac Palace (probably to allow for extra load-in time for Billy Elliot's



Kiril Kulish as Billy Elliot, with ballet girls. Photo by David Scheinmann

complex set).

Many of the creative talents who worked on the award-winning 2000 film were taken on board to adapt their work for the stage. The distinguished list includes Academy Award-nominated director Stephen Daldry, screenplay author Lee Hall and choreographer Peter Darling (each one recently won a Tony Award for their efforts).

Having seen Billy Elliot not long after it opened in 2005 in London (where it is still playing) and just after it opened on Broadway in 2008 (before it would go on to win 10 Tony Awards), I can attest that the show is quite an emotional wallop.

The musical expands the film's main focus on the North English lad who discovers a passion for dancing to also encompass more of the whole village in the midst of a bitter coal miners' strike in the 1980s.

Now many pundits worried that American audiences wouldn't get Billy Elliot because it was so very British. The North English accents are thick, the kids swear up a storm and the show deals with recent British history under former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that most Americans aren't familiar with.

But in transferring the show to Broadway, the creators did include more background informa-

tion in the prologue and even have a glossary in the program for certain words (for example, a Cornish pasty is a meat and potato-filled pastry). Besides, most Americans don't take the same offense at (or even know about) expressions the kids use like "bugger off" or "wanker."

Now Billy Elliot might not offer audiences the instant familiarity with *The Wizard of Oz* back story like in *Wicked*, or the hit parade of jukebox tunes in *Jersey Boys*. But Billy Elliot's tale of a boy who sticks to his guns to pursue his dream against very unlikely odds is one that should resonate with most Americans.

Billy Elliot should also resonate with gay audiences, in particular. In the film and the musical, Billy has a cross-dressing childhood friend named Michael who does his small part to encourage Billy to follow his dancing dreams. (The musical uses this one moment to go with tacky Las-Vegas-glitz for the production number *Express Yourself*.)

But the whole plot point of Billy concealing his desire to dance (not to mention the dance classes he's substituting for the boxing classes his dad thinks he's paying for) is not unlike many gay youths concealing their same-sex feelings. Billy knows he'll catch hell if anyone (friends, family or a disapproving society) discovers his dancing secret. But dancing ultimately makes Billy happy (as he sings in the song *Electricity*), so he's willing to brave the consequences to "be true to thine own self."

So far, there is no word about Billy Elliot's Chicago casting, but expect at least three boys to be cast in the title role. The role is so demanding (and child-labor laws are so stringent) that it would be virtually impossible for one kid to do the show eight times a week.

So pat yourself on your backs Chicago for getting Billy Elliot over other cities. Here's hoping for another long Chicago run (with plenty of work for Chicago actors, too).





The Cousins Grimm. Photo courtesy of Bailiwick Repertory

## THEATER REVIEWS

### The Cousins Grimm

Playwright: Ted Sod;

Lyrics: Michael Biello; Music: Dan Martin

At: Bailiwick Repertory at

Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted

Contact: 773-883-1090; \$20-\$25

Runs through Aug. 23

### Two Spoons

Playwright: Peter Mercurio

At: Bailiwick Repertory at

Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted

Contact: 773-883-1090; \$20-\$25

Runs through Aug. 23

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Can you get any more self-reflectively meta than in the new LGBTQ musical *The Cousins Grimm*? And surely syndicated sex columnist Dan Savage would wholeheartedly approve of the message in the new gay marriage comedy *Two Spoons*, right?

The answer to both questions is “probably, yes.” Yet that’s not exactly a ringing endorsement for these two shows in Bailiwick Repertory’s summer Pride Series.

The scripts of both shows aren’t perfect, nor do they arrive in productions that would encourage critics to use superlatives on the “must-see” scale.

But as entertaining summer trifles with interesting talking points, both *The Cousins Grimm* and *Two Spoons* ultimately succeed.

*The Cousins Grimm* is a fun, but odd creature of a show. It’s about theater-obsessed gay New Yorker Leon (the singularly named actor Chad) and his lesbian performance artist cousin Jackie (Danni Smith).

Leon and Jackie attempt to write a musical that queers up Grimm Brothers fairytales, initially as a way to appropriately expose kids to LGBT characters. But instead of offering clever queer slants on tales like *Cinderella* or *Sleeping Beauty*, authors Ted Sod (book), Dan Martin (score) and Michael Biello (lyrics) opt for more obscure stories.

Then the show takes a not-entirely convincing turn toward questions of artistic posterity and death as Jackie falls in love with one of her creations, Leon reveals a shocking secret and the characters come to life.

If the navel-gazing topics of *The Cousins Grimm* don’t entirely progress naturally, at least the show receives a peppy production by director/choreographer Scott Ferguson with strong musical direction by Robert Ollis. The cast, which includes Harmony France, Christopher Slavik and Kate Andrulis, all also look like they’re having a ball (particularly Chad).

Also enlivening the production is a series of projection designs by Frank Mares on Rebecca Hamlin’s platform set. Mares’ projections also amusingly punctuate Peter Mercurio’s very talky and sometimes meandering comedy *Two Spoons*.

*Two Spoons* concerns Steve (Kevin M. Grubb) and Larry (Kevin Bishop), a gay couple raising a three-year-old (one of many roles played by Evan Absher). Steve and Larry are planning to get married soon, but a vacation they share in Philadelphia throws them for a loop when they get involved in a three-way with a guy they call “Butt Boy” (Maxwell Burnham).

*Two Spoons* ultimately questions whether or not gay men have to duplicate heterosexual marriages or opt for more sexual freedom. For Steve and Larry, it’s all about second thoughts and lots and lots of negotiation about their commitment to each other.

Unfortunately, Mercurio doesn’t raise the stakes enough to create a really compelling drama, nor does he edit out some really superfluous dialogue (anything involving actress Susie Griffith’s characters could be trimmed).

*Two Spoons’* cast does well enough under Patrick Walsh’s steady direction, though they don’t always make Mercurio’s self-analyzing dialogue flow convincingly.

While Bailiwick’s *The Cousins Grimm* and *Two Spoons* are far from perfect, these new-to-Chicago LGBTQ works should to inspire some thought and dialogue among audiences. (And yes, there is some typical Bailiwick full-frontal male nudity involved in one of the shows, but I won’t divulge which one because that would spoil the surprise).

## THEATER REVIEW

### Cyrano de Bergerac

Playwright: Edmond Rostand,

translated by Brian Hooker

At: Oak Park Festival Theatre at

Austin Gardens, 150 Forest, Oak Park

Phone: 708-445-4440; \$27

Runs through: August 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Why Edmond Rostand chose a deformed nose as the visual embodiment of his hero’s tragic flaw is for the cultural anthropologists to argue. Whatever its inspiration, the plot for this 1898 romantic tragedy has proven one of the most reliable in 20th-century American playwrighting, recycled countless times into a variety of ethnic, geographical and social milieus. The universality of its appeal is hardly a mystery—who cannot admire the dashing *Cyrano de Bergerac*, a cavalier-soldier possessed of all the manly virtues, but so conscious of his ugly face that he courts the object of his affections on behalf of his handsome rival?

Indeed, so rigidly selfless are the deeds performed by this paragon that it’s easy to overlook the darker aspects of the character. His acquaintances constantly remind us that he tolerates no slight to his honor—a duty extending to the protection of his supporters—and recklessly embarks on imprudent risks to avenge himself upon those he feels deserving of comeuppance. (In the first scene alone, he composes a poem

while engaging in a duel, and follows this up by vowing to take on the hundred hired thugs who threaten a weaker comrade’s safety.) And as long as nobody dies, we enjoy the swaggering of this bully boy champion who fears only a lady’s scorn. But when war looms on the horizon, the stakes escalate in this game of flirting and fighting.

Director Kevin Theis’ decision to cast an actor more often associated with comedic roles to play this complex nonpareil might initially seem an odd choice. Festival Theatre regular Jack Hickey proves himself adroit in his interpretation of Brian Hooker’s florid translation, however, his textual sensitivity assuring our equal awareness of both *Cyrano’s* sardonic humor and the pride that fuels it, the better to heighten the tragedy when he must finally confront the defeat that ultimately undoes all such self-styled invincibles.

Hickey can’t do it all alone, of course. Katherine Keberlein moves effortlessly from Disney-princess girlishness to womanly wisdom in the role of the beautiful Lady Roxane, as does Wesley Scott as the likewise dumb-but-pretty Christian de Neuvillette, and a uniformly agile ensemble of players who sprint through their paces—including triple Jeff-winner Geoff Coates’ intricate swordplay—with an alacrity and enthusiasm to overcome the unseasonable chill in Oak Park’s Austin Gardens, making every minute of this outdoor production an event to remember.

## THEATER REVIEW

### El Grito del Bronx

Playwright: Migdalia Cruz

At: Collaboration and Teatro

Vista at the Goodman Theatre,

170 N. Dearborn

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

www.GoodmanTheatre.org; \$18-\$30

Runs through: Aug. 9

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

On her wedding day Lulu gazes at herself in her white dress. “It erases everything you are,” she tells herself as she looks back over the previous 23 years. Jumping back in time, we see little girl Lulu sharing stories with her older brother, who protected her from their abusive father. Eventually, he killed the old man—somehow getting away with the crime—and then murdered 18 other men before ending up on Death Row and dying of AIDS. Consistently, Jesus (later called Papo) battered his victims’ faces to a bloody pulp and then—like a Harry Potter dementor—sucked their dying breaths with a kiss. By contrast, Lulu’s upwardly mobile path embraced an education and a loving man who is able to weather Lulu’s occasional eruptions of rage, a residual of her early life.

The “grito” of the title means “cry” and—to mix languages if not metaphors—*El Grito del Bronx* is a *cri du coeur*—a cry from the heart—from Latina playwright Migdalia Cruz who applies the most poetic sensibilities and language to this tale of emotional and physical violence. The scenes of Jesus/Papo in prison are beautiful and tender as Cruz extends the story-telling motif—established between brother and sister as children—throughout the play.



El Grito del Bronx. Photo by Saverio Truglia

## CRITICS' PICS

**The Hollow Lands**, Steep Theatre, through Aug. 1. Howard Korder’s poetic dark epic looks at the hucksterism, violence, ambition, racism, patriarchy and occasional reason that opened America’s Frontier, 1815-1857. There’s little scenic glory but a fine, large cast. JA

**Never the Sinner**, Project 891 Theatre at Chemically Imbalanced Theater, through Aug. 2. This first full-fledged production by Project 891 is an intelligent, involving, and intimate look at the infamous 1924 Leopold and Loeb murder case in Chicago. SCM

**Pill Hill**, eta Creative Arts Foundation, through Aug. 9. Pill Hill is the swanky neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side where six African-American blue-collar buddies look to find their reward in this intense parable of male-bonding and dreams deferred. Bring your hankies, all you tough guys. MSB

**Poseidon: An Upside Down Musical**, Hell in a Handbag Productions at Chopin Theatre, now through Aug. 16. This hilarious camp comedy does capsize when shifting from movie spoof to the film’s obsessive fans. Yet those moments are rare in this silly musical revised revival that both edifies and eviscerates the classic 1972 disaster flick *The Poseidon Adventure*. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

This world-premiere production is a creative partnership between Collaboraction and Teatro Vista theater companies in which Collaboraction’s intensely physical style and Teatro Vista’s poetic bent blend powerfully under Anthony Moseley’s direction. As the adult siblings, Sandra Delgado and Juan Villa are charismatic and intense, Villa barely concealing the threat of his physical power (both as actor and character) and Delgado never quite suppressing Lulu’s sublimated pain. They are supported by a fine ensemble, and an impressive design team which has provided a two-level scenic design that is literal yet suggestive, and large but never overwhelming.

All that good stuff having been said, this is a new play in its first production and Cruz still has some work to do on the script. The play is about Jesus/Papo and what makes him tick—Lulu wants to know how her gentle brother could kill 18 men—but the crucial piece is missing. The leap from killing one’s abusive father to turning mass murderer is *not* automatic or obvious. Cruz hints at racial aspects—Papo kills only white men, Lulu is subjected to stereotyping—but she doesn’t fully explore this (which is just as well) nor make the racial connection for Papo. Several key characters—Lulu’s sympathetic Jewish lover and Papo’s cellmate—are not fully formed and so lack dimension (even as effectively performed by Josh Odor and Warren Levon), while several minor characters might be cut completely.

*El Grito del Bronx* is complex and theatrically rich—a work of rough poetry well worth continued attention and work.





The Ruby Sunrise. Photo by Kenny Mihlfried

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Ruby Sunrise

Playwright: Rinne Groff

At: Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee

Phone: 773-283-7071; \$20-\$25

Runs through: Aug. 30

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The story with which we are confronted may, at first, seem slightly fuzzy around the edges, impeding our comprehension of the circumstances in 1927 leading a teenage runaway to take refuge in an Indiana neighbor's barn, as well as the nature of the electronic gizmo she proceeds to build therein. That's because the heroic saga of the visionary *The Ruby Sunrise* is just that—a story, in the process of being shaped into a coherent narrative, and the McGuffin for the real play, Rinne Groff's intricately plotted social drama like *They Used To*.

Our actual period is 1952, and our milieu, the fledgling branch of entertainment called broadcast television, where an ambitious script supervisor aspires to adapt her mother's recollections—Mom being the barnyard tinker of the title whose undocumented experiments contributed to the birth of wireless pictures—into a project for an anthology series of the kind that dominated the early days of that medium. Her quest finds itself an ally in a screenwriter who shares her belief that this new mode of communication has the power to make the world a better place. (No more wars, for example, because “who would want to watch a war right in their living rooms?”)

In less idealistic hands, this premise could have emerged another smartass comedy sketch, reveling in the quaint spectacle of Dior dresses, cigarette culture (Can you remember when tobacco and alcohol were advertised on the networks?) and poker-faced irony. But though Groff's manifesto is not without its conspicuous hindsight, smug superiority plays no part in its observations. The compromises engendered by commercial interests, government blacklisting and civil censorship are presented with no more authorial commentary than are the images in the remarkably comprehensive montage of *Great Moments In Broadcasting* (assembled by Liviu Pasare and projected onto a video monitor during the intermission).

John Gawlik directs an intensely focused cast, led by Brenda Barrie and Michael Patrick Thornton as the romantic crusaders, with noteworthy performances by Alexandra Main and John Kelly Connolly as their savvy elders. Erin Fast's costumes locate us with pinpoint accuracy and never a hint of caricature, as does scenic artist Hang Thuy Le, assisted by Ian Zywica's clever concept for mobilization of the elements associated therewith. It is at this time in the yearly season when glimmers of hidden treasure make their appearance on the storefront circuit, and this inspirational tale of small, imperfect victories won in the fight to defend American democracy shines brightly enough to justify the expedition to Gift Theatre's humble corner in Jefferson Park.

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Mistress Cycle

Playwright: music by

Jenny Giering, lyrics by Beth Blatt

At: Apple Tree Theatre at

the Auditorium, 50 E. Congress

Phone: 1-800-982-2787; \$49

Runs through: Aug. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's such a clever idea, you wonder why it's not implemented more often: you've got this huge downtown theater, see, sitting empty most of the year waiting for the kind of extravaganzas that will justify its full-operation expenses. And you've got a sellout show playing in a remote neighborhood at a shoebox-sized playhouse no bigger than the stage of the aforementioned Loop arena. So you move the entire production, audience seats and all, onto the space behind the footlights in the big room—a win-win solution for all involved and a boon to automobile-challenged city theatergoers curious about a musical revue titled *The Mistress Cycle*.

For “mistress” is not a precise label, and the characters whose social status is nowadays defined by that term vary according to their time and place. Cultures the world over have long acknowledged the benefits of more than one person fulfilling the duties (often including reproductive responsibilities) associated with maintaining a household, and with few other employment options open to women, a daughter fair of face and small of prospects could do worse than to settle for the not-insubstantial security and material comforts—room and board, an allowance and severance pay—of being the “number two” wife.

Those whom we meet are a medieval Chinese concubine barely out of her teens, a court lady of the early French renaissance twenty years older than her royal protector, a turn-of-the-century Storyville madam, and a *belle-époque* artist-journalist. They have come to instruct a modern career photographer contemplating an affair with a married man in the ways of their sorority. Over a sleek 90 minutes, Jenny Giering's lush melodies and Beth Blatt's poignant lyrics acquaint us with the risks and the rewards encountered by those who accept the opportunity to forge their own destinies independent of official recognition.

Whether you agree with every tenet of Giering and Blatt's manifesto (they claim, for example, that there is “no male equivalent” to “mistress”), there's no denying the appeal of five cheerful songbirds—Susie McMonagle, Angela Ingersoll, Charissa Armon, Karen Marie Richardson and newcomer Christine Bunuan—warbling sweet/sassy serenades, accompanied by the likewise decorative Diana Lawrence at the grand piano, while they lounge sensuously in Amy Jackson's rosy-textured boudoir, clad in Erin Fast's cleavage-accentuating gowns. Summer is a lazy season, but this intimate and insightful confection only plays until Aug. 8, so don't wait too long before getting your tickets.



The Mistress Cycle. Photo by Michael Brosilow

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(you have never seen this before)

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written and  
directed  
by ensemble  
member  
Eric Simonson

### *Sex with Strangers*

by Laura Eason  
directed by  
associate artist  
Jessica Thebus

### *Ski Dubai*

by Laura Jacqmin  
directed by  
Lisa Portes

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Anthony Pulford and Eden Baim at Cavalia. Photo by Marcy Baim

## Cavalia captivates

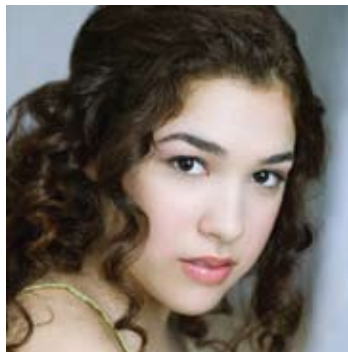
BY EDEN BAIM (AGE 10)  
AND ANTHONY PULFORD (AGE 12)

Two young roving reviewers recently went to see Cavalia for Windy City Times. Cavalia is a spectacular equine pageant—imagine Cirque du Soleil with 60 horses, and you're on the right track. This is no coincidence, because Normand Latourelle, the artistic director of Cavalia, was also a pioneer of the Cirque du Soleil.

We were just two of the more than 2.5 million people to enjoy the show in 27 cities during the past six years. We were most impressed by the freedom of the horses and the relationship between horse and humans. The horses, which come from 13 different breeds—are listed in the program as 'four-legged artists,' and that should give you an idea of how much respect is given

to them. We were amazed and delighted by the talents of Amaretto, Pirata, Tonner, Gracioso and many of their equine colleagues. Oh, and there are also 35 human artists, too, and they come from 10 countries, making for a very international feel to the program.

This is a show of many moods and many varied types of performance. In *La Decouverte*, the first piece, for example, Carey Hackett dances in a pool of water and moves into a lovely dance of meeting with a beautiful, dappled grey gelding. The horse canters around her and she dances with him and gently brings him to the water to drink. It is pure poetry in motion—what dreams are made of. There are other acts where there are thrilling jumps, and trick riding, acrobatics on horseback and lasso rope work. In another favorite, *Poste Hongroise*, which completely amazed us, the riders stand on the backs of the horses as they canter and do jumps. If you have ever ridden horses in the normal, sitting-in-the-saddle way, imagine the level of skill and difficulty do-



Gabrielle Garza.

## Gabrielle Garza: The Spring's the thing

BY JERRY NUNN

Wake up to summer with eight-time Tony Award winner Spring Awakening! Gabrielle Garza, a Naperville, Ill., native, stars as Anna. She talked about her hometown and touring around the country.

**Windy City Times: So you are from Naperville?**

Gabrielle Garza: Yes, I grew up there. I went to college in Boston after that.

**WCT: Well, you don't have the Boston accent.**

GG: No, I escaped that. [Laughs]

**WCT: What was your audition like for Spring Awakening?**

GG: It was pretty standard. Afterwards I didn't think I did very well. When they called me and I had gotten the part I was surprised. I guess I am not a very good judge of how I do sometimes.

**WCT: The show was originally banned from the stage because its depiction of teenagers, correct?**

GG: Yes, it was. They did not change the script very much from the original version. It is still very relevant today.

**WCT: And there's a gay aspect also?**

GG: Yes. The two gay characters are not added.

They were written into the show back in 1891. It's an important issue that we are still struggling with teens coming out today.

**WCT: What do you want to tell people about the show?**

GG: I think it's very groundbreaking in the way that they use the classical play plus the rock music. The piece uses young people to tell the story. Parents and kids can start an open dialogue with each other after watching it.

**WCT: I have seen shows like Xanadu or The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, where the audience sits on the stage similar to Spring Awakening. How does that affect the show?**

GG: There's a row of risers on either side of the stage; we as actors have to sit there when we are not in a scene. It can be entertaining. People try to talk to you, and you are not allowed to talk to them. They totally influence how the show is going to go because if they are into it or loud and rowdy that can affect the show. It can give us more stuff to play with during the show.

**WCT: Tell me about the character you play.**

GG: She's the oldest girl so she serves as the big sister; [she's a] motherly type. She thinks she knows the most so she mothers the rest of the girls and takes care of them.

**WCT: How has the tour been?**

GG: It has been so much fun, we have been doing it a little over a year by the time I arrive in Chicago. It's a great job. I have gone to all these places that I normally would have never gone to and I get paid to do it.

**WCT: What is your favorite musical?**

GG: I am partial to West Side Story.

**WCT: Did you see the recent revival in New York City?**

GG: I did. We had a vacation and I went to New York to see it. It was so great.

**WCT: Well, we are all looking forward to seeing you in this Broadway show!**

**Spring Awakening makes its Chicago premiere Aug. 4-16 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph. Tickets are \$25-\$95; visit [www.BroadwayInChicago.com](http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com) or any Ticketmaster location.**

## SPOTLIGHT



It wouldn't seem possible to adapt The 9/11 Report into a play, let alone a musical. But that's just what La Red Music Theatre has done with **The 9/11 Report: A Bipartisan Musical Fantasia**, a folk-rock show looking at that horrific day in modern U.S. history. La Red Music Theatre's *The 9/11 Report: A Bipartisan Musical Fantasia* runs at 8 p.m. July 31, and 2 and 8 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Karger Center Theatre, 1850 Green Bay, Highland Park. Tickets are \$25; see [www.laredmusictheatre.org](http://www.laredmusictheatre.org). Photo courtesy of La Red Music Theatre

ing the same while standing up straddling the backs of two horses at the same time and doing amazing jumps.

The horses also do some very fancy footwork, which is always a delight. In *Pieds Percussion*, Estelle Delgado rides Gracioso in a crowd of people while her mount dances in a fancy circular trot. *Haute Ecole* was possibly the most beautiful sequence, where Geraldine Boutet rides Pirata through a mystical forest with peaceful and enchanting music.

The show is greatly enhanced by very beautiful live and recorded music. Guitars, keyboards, drums, violin, cello and a singer all make the

event more special and moving. The scenic designs and lighting are just as impressive as they are in any Cirque du Soleil production. The sense of teamwork and commitment to this beautiful vision of humans and their 'complicite' with horses results in a show not to be missed. Drop everything, and see it while you can.

—With contributions from Clark Baim

**Cavalia's run in Chicago has been extended to Aug. 9. It plays in a white, big-top tent ("the largest touring tent in North America") at Jackson and Racine. There are matinee and evening performances. Call 866-999-8111 or visit [www.cavalia.net](http://www.cavalia.net) for tickets.**



Rupert Everett.

## Entertainment news

**Avant-garde choreographer Merce Cunningham passed away July 26 at the age of 90**, according to the Washington Post. With his Merce Cunningham Dance Company—founded in New York in 1953—Cunningham collaborated with composer John Cage (with whom he was also romantically involved) and painters Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns and Andy Warhol, among others. The father of "site-specific" events, Cunningham was an advocate of film, motion-capture and 3-D software as choreographic tools, the Seattle Times reported.

**Gay actor Rupert Everett has told British media that Michael Jackson is better off dead**, according to DailyMail.co.uk. The star of *My Best Friend's Wedding* said, "I think it was fortuitous that he died. He was supposed to be doing 50 concerts in London. It wouldn't have mattered how good or bad he was." Also, Everett—who had a role in *Shrek*—told the Daily Mirror, "He was a freak. He looked like a character from *Shrek*. He was a black to white minstrel." In addition, Everett joked, "I would have leapt at the chance of sleeping with Michael Jackson when I was 14."

**The LGBT film festival Philadelphia QFest 09 ended with a bang as organizers named**

**various award winners.** Patrik 1, 5 won the Jury Award for Best Feature while Hannah Free, a movie filmed in Chicago that stars Sharon Gless, took the Audience Award for Best Feature. Among the celebrities present at the festival were Gless, actress Mink Stole and skater Johnny Weir, who stars in *Pop Star on Ice* (which won the Audience Award for Best Documentary). Also, Training Rules director Dee Mosebacher received the first-ever Barbara Gittings Award.

**Actor Terrell Carter, who has starred in several Tyler Perry stage productions, has been ousted after ex-boyfriend Alex Cortez posted photos of the two of them on the Internet**, according to Advocate.com. Cortez started posting the pictures on various Web sites, including his MySpace and Twitter accounts, and then writing, "Hell yeah i'm angry!...there are fucked up ppl out there no matter how nice they seem to be & it's their fault, ppl they harm are bitter!"

**Angelina Jolie recently spent time at a Veteran's hospital—quietly and without publicity**, according to CrazyDaysAndNights.net. Jolie spent time with several patients and left them all gift bags that included a \$1,000 gift certificate from Best Buy.

**Members of Kansas' notoriously anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church picketed outside the American Idol finalists' concert** in San Jose, Calif., July 12, targeting singer Adam Lambert, who recently officially came out in Rolling Stone magazine, Examiner.com reported. Fellow finalist Michael Sarver wrote on Twitter, "Funny how people think it's a good idea to mess with a big Texan and his AI [American Idol] family. Adam is just fine, shakes it off and so should we."

Speaking of Lambert, **Gene Simmons of the band Kiss feels that Lambert made a mistake by coming out of the closet**, according to SFGate.com. Simmons told AOL, "He killed his career because now the conversation is not about his talent but about his sexual preference. He's done." Simmons added that he hopes he is "completely wrong" about that conclusion.





## Adam; The Ugly Truth; Orphan; film notes

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

When faced with the task of reviewing three new films—none particularly memorable—the phrase “The Good, The Bad & The Ugly” finally came to mind. **Adam**, a relationship drama opening this Friday, July 31, is the first; **Orphan**, a horror film already in theatres, is easily the second; and the Katherine Heigl-Gerard Butler romantic comedy **The Ugly Truth**, also in theatres, is the third and certainly lives up to its namesake.

Adam, the best of the lot, is the tender story of two lonely souls roaming the stone jungle of Manhattan who, by chance, have the good luck to find each other. The likeable Hugh Dancy, who played the heartthrob in *Confessions of a Shopaholic* and the troubled gay blueblood in the overlooked *Evening*, plays the title role. Adam is an amateur astronomer who works for a toy company at a job secured for him by his recently deceased father. He is afflicted with Asperger’s syndrome, the disorder that causes its sufferers to have difficulty understanding social interaction, and he only has one friend, social worker Harlan (the always-welcome expert character actor Frankie Faison).

Adam describes his affliction to his new neighbor Beth (Rose Byrne), with whom he is smitten, as “mind blindness.” Beth is on the rebound and in the process of writing a children’s book and, though wary, she and Adam slowly begin dating as Harlan acts as cheerleader on the sidelines. A series of awkward yet charming scenes track the course of the relationship, which reaches an emotional turning point when Beth attempts to incorporate friends and family into the mix. Beth’s father (Peter Gallagher), after meeting Adam, is dead-set against the match although her mother (Amy Irving) is more cautious.

Dancy and Byrne (who battles wits with Glenn Close in the TV series *Damages*) give emotionally involving performances in the film—which was written and directed by Max Mayer—and Asperger’s syndrome is certainly an interesting character trait to hang a romantic dramedy on. But there’s really nothing extraordinary to praise about this affecting but not particularly memorable little movie other than to point out that audiences hungry for cinematic fare outside the usual summer blockbusters will find much to like in it.

And Adam, with its small intentions, is certainly preferable to the dispiriting Katherine Heigl-Gerard Butler battles of the sexes romcom *The Ugly Truth*, which is filled with one strident, by-the-numbers scene after another. This lackluster, stereotypical movie attempts to update its shopworn formula with a stream of four-letter words and sexually crude phrases in Judd Apatow fashion but ends up turning off everyone in the process. Most of the “comedy” hinges on the leading lady—a morning-news show producer played by Heigl without a shred of complexity—who is involved in an increasingly unfunny series of sexually tinged misunderstandings that

culminate in her having an uncontrollable orgasm while wearing a pair of vibrating panties during a restaurant sequence. The scene—surely added to the script to call to mind the infamous Meg Ryan-Billy Crystal “I’ll have what she’s having” moment in *When Harry Met Sally*—instead has the unintended effect of pointing out that, unlike Ryan and Crystal, there is not a hint of chemistry between Heigl and Butler. When Heigl (who executive-produced the movie) queries to her beefy intended, Butler, at one point, “You’re in love with me—why?” and he responds, “Beats the shit out of me,” I felt that he was actually answering my question: “Why did you make this movie?”

Now it’s on to the bad, which in some ways is the most entertaining of the bunch—though not, I’m sure, for reasons producers of the movie anticipated. That’s because *Orphan*, the latest entry in the killer-kid genre, is the unintentional camp film of the year. By the time little bad seed Esther (Isabelle Fuhrman)—with her hair ribbons, velvet choker and perfect manners—is done wreaking havoc on CCH Pounder as a kindly nun and Esther’s adopted family, which includes Peter Sarsgaard as daddy and Vera Farmiga as

mommy (in her second bad-seed movie after the equally camp *Joshua*), you will have laughed so long and so hard with unintended pleasure you may feel as if you’d been wearing a pair of vibrating panties.

### Film notes:

—Chicago will welcome an honest-to-goodness legend this week when **Harry Belafonte** makes a rare personal appearance in support of the Noir Film Foundation and Music Box Theatre’s **Noir City: Chicago Film Festival**. Nine classics of the genre in sparkling 35-millimeter prints will be screened July 31-Aug. 6 as part of the festival beginning Friday, July 31, with a double feature featuring lethal dames, the 1948 Orson Welles film *Lady from Shanghai* and 1947’s *Framed*. Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray star in what is often considered as the ultimate in film noir, 1944’s *Double Indemnity*; this and the lesser-known Joseph Losey film, 1951’s *The Prowler*, both shown Saturday, Aug. 1. A 7:30 p.m. screening of the little-seen Robert Wise 1959 noir *Odds Against Tomorrow*, which stars Belafonte (who also co-produced), will follow. Belafonte will be interviewed on the Music Box

stage following the screening.

The festival continues Sunday-Wed., Aug. 2-6, with repeat screenings of these and other noir classics, including *The Killers* and *Call Northside 777*. Noted film historians and noir experts Foster Hirsch and Eddie Muller will introduce the screenings over the weekend. Complete schedule and show times are at [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com).

—A screening of 1962’s **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?**, the onscreen acting cage match between divas (and gay icons) Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, is always a pleasure to anticipate. And a Friday, July 31, screening at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark—part of the monthly Reeling series—is of particular interest to admirers of these battling titans. Fans of the film are encouraged to dress as either Davis or Crawford for a lookalike contest. A 7 p.m. social hour precedes the 8 p.m. screening. Admission is \$10 (\$8 for Reeling members). See [www.chicagofilm-makers.org](http://www.chicagofilm-makers.org).

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

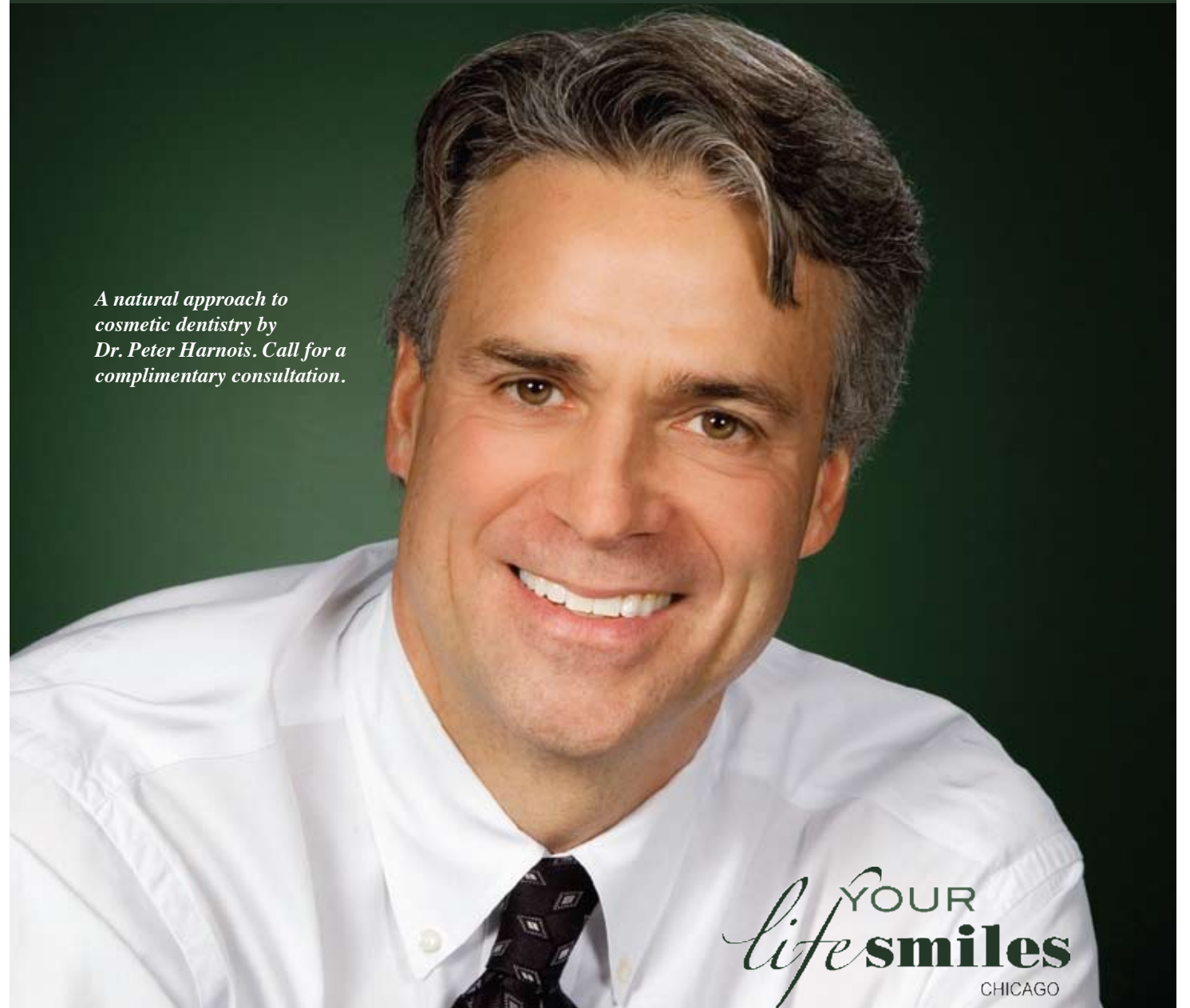
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## Market Days' eclectic line-up

Thousands of people are expected to attend the 28th annual Northalsted Market Days® will take place Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 1-2, on North Halsted between Belmont and Addison.

The event is the largest two-day street fair in the Midwest.

Among the performers on Market Days' four music stages (which includes one devoted to jazz) will be R&B icons En Vogue, Jody Watley, Kristine W, Cece Peniston and Kathy Sledge at the new "VIP Stage" near Addison. Other performers include Berlin, Brian Kent, Levi Kreis and American Idol's Syesha Mercado.

There will also be 400 food and unique arts & crafts vendors.

The music line-up is as follows:

### LOGO Belmont

#### Stage Entertainment presented by Comcast

Saturday  
12:15 p.m.—Kimi Hayes  
2 p.m.—The Handcuffs  
3 p.m.—Chicago Spirit Brigade  
3:30 p.m.—My Dear Disco  
4:45 p.m.—LOGO Lip Sync Contest  
5:15 p.m.—Dot Dot Dot  
7:45 p.m.—Rock Candy

#### Sunday

12:30 p.m.—Suzy Brack & The New Jack Lords  
2 p.m.—BPM  
3 p.m.—Windy City Cowboys  
3:30 p.m.—Hag  
4:45 p.m.—Chicago Spirit Brigade  
5:15 p.m.—Candy Kane  
7 p.m.—Cat Fight

### Horseshoe Casino VIP Stage @ Addison Entertainment

Saturday  
3:30 p.m.—American Idol's Syesha Mercado  
5:20 p.m.—Lucas Prata  
7 p.m.—Kristine W  
9 p.m.—En Vogue  
Sunday  
3:30 p.m.—CeCe Peniston  
4:30 p.m.—Kathy Sledge  
6:30 p.m.—Berlin  
8:30 p.m.—Jody Watley

### Roscoe Stage Entertainment

Saturday  
12 p.m.—Everelle  
1:15 p.m.—Jason Antone  
2 p.m.—Brian Kent  
2:45 p.m.—Kelly King  
4:15 p.m.—Levi Kreis  
6 p.m.—Eric Himan  
8 p.m.—16 Candles  
Sunday  
12:30 p.m.—Project Ultra  
2:15 p.m.—The Hat Guys  
5 p.m.—Abba Band  
6:45 p.m.—Linda Clifford  
8:30 p.m.—Village People

### The Jazz Oasis

Saturday  
12:30 p.m.—The Flat Cats  
3:00 pm—International Academy of Design and Technology Fashion Show  
3:30 p.m.—Liz Mandeville & the Blues Points  
5:45 p.m.—ROTC Squad  
6:30 p.m.—Chicago Cabaret Project  
Sunday  
12:30 p.m.—Petra  
3:30 p.m.—Soullo  
6:30 p.m.—BMR4

For more info, see [www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=124](http://www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=124).



Jody Watley. Photo by Mike Ruiz

## MUSIC

# Real love for Jody Watley

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Ask Grammy Award winner Jody Watley to describe herself and she will tell you the following: "I am a singer. A writer. A performer. A producer and an entrepreneur. I'm also a mother, daughter, sister, auntie, and one-time wife. I'm a friend. I'm a chameleon, known for musical change and great style. I am continuing to evolve." Watley, whose 10th studio album, *Chameleon*, will be out sometime next year, has consistently broken new ground in music, video and fashion with an amazing 32 Top 10 singles and 13 Number One singles across the genres of R&B, pop and dance music—a chameleon, indeed. Running a tad late for our interview (dropping her son off at basketball practice), Watley pulled over by the side of a Los Angeles highway to discuss her new album, her secret to aging gracefully (olives and red wine!) and her upcoming performance at Northalsted Market Days.

**Windy City Times: Explain the love affair between gay men and Jody Watley!**

Jody Watley: For me, it goes back to when I was a dancer on Soul Train. I learned a lot of my attitude and my ability to own the spotlight and the moment from the gay men working on that show. Soul Train had a strong gay community, and I always say I learned from the best! It wasn't like learning a dance routine, you know, "Okay ... 5-6-7-8." I just observed them and tried to pick up their confidence and how they just ... ruled, and I took it and made it my own. In my solo career, I have been very aware of my gay fans and it is one of the reasons why I usually do Pride events. And it's not something I do for marketing purposes, either. I've seen artists try to do that but, for me, it's just always been part of my life. Growing up, my mom had two gay best friends. I didn't know it until I was much older, but I loved them from childhood on. Gay, straight—everybody needs to feel loved.

**WCT: What can fans expect from your performance at this year's Northalsted Market Days?**

JW: I'm calling the performance an odyssey—an odyssey of classic hits and modern grooves that really work beautifully together. It's an opportunity for me to expose the fans who may not be familiar with my more current work and bring them up to date, as well as give them stuff I know they are waiting to hear! I believe this is my first full concert in Chicago since I played the Riviera Theatre in 1989. It's been a long time—too long. [Laughs]

**WCT: Speaking of Chicago, you were born here and you went to school here for a short while. What are some of your favorite memories of The Windy City?**

JW: When President Obama mentioned Harold's Chicken Shack, it brought back a lot of memories for me. [Laughs] I remember that place from when I was kid! When I come to Chicago for the

show in Aug., I'll have some extra time and I am going to drive around the South Side—with a video camera—and visit some of the places I lived. I've never had the opportunity to do that. Just the other day I asked my mom for the exact address of where we lived when I was six or seven so that I could drive by and see it.

**WCT: Do you get recognized on the street?**

JW: With these cheekbones?! Actually, it's not as crazy as it used to be. I get the "Has anyone ever told you look like Jody Watley?" thing a lot. I think a lot of famous people get that. Even in dark sunglasses, though, people will recognize me because of my cheekbones and my smile.

**WCT: When Windy City Times last spoke with you, [WCT Managing Editor Andrew Davis] asked you about the concept behind The Makeover album and you had a fabulous response: "Throughout the years, I've always tried to stay outside of the boxes that people have sometimes tried to put me in. That journey is not always an easy one, but it's a rewarding one. The people who get what I do really appreciate that I'm an artist who tries to put out quality work and not anything that's ... un-Jody. [Laughs] It's Jody Watley 2006—and better than ever." So I am going to ask you now, in 2009, how would you describe the concept and the vibe for Chameleon, your 10th studio album, scheduled to drop next year?**

JW: I said all of that?! [Laughs] Amen to all that!! I mean, I probably would say the same thing about this new album. I always try to do quality work; I try to continue to have fun with it, and to have something to say. *Chameleon* is a continuation of that philosophy. The album is going to feel more uptempo than *The Makeover*, but no less warm, no less soulful. I am really happy with the way it is coming along. Being an artist is not about looking to see how you are going to make your next hit. You want to do something that touches people and that you can be proud of.

**WCT: You looked like you were having such an amazing time during your cameo in the "When We Get Together" video by The Ones. The video features Deborah Harry, Jake Shears of the Scissor Sisters, Ultra Nate, Colton Ford, Cazwell and many others. How did you get involved with that project?**

JW: They asked me! Their manager is kind of an industry person—a multitasker, like me. He does a lot of consulting on remixes, and we've collaborated in the past and I often bounce ideas for remixes off of him. Anyway, I know The Ones, and when they asked me to do it and I heard about all the people in it, I was all for it! I confess—the big draw for me was to meet Pat Cleveland. When I was younger—you know, I have always been interested in style and fashion—I had pictures of her taped to my wall. It was amazing meeting her—it was the icing on the cake.

**WCT: Speaking of fashion, you were responsible for bringing over-sized hoop earrings to the mainstream! More recently, you appeared in a 2008 fashion spread alongside Iman, Naomi Campbell and Tina Turner for Vogue Italia. That issue—which featured only Black models—was the first to sell out in the magazine's history. What is your secret for aging gracefully?**

JW: Well, I haven't had plastic surgery, and I haven't even tried Botox. I'm afraid of Botox! I try to surround myself with as much joy as I can, and I try not to let toxic people and toxic situations be a part of my life. I don't tolerate negativity very well. I think beauty exudes from the inside out. I also work out and eat well. I like a Mediterranean diet with lots of olives and lots of red wine. [Laughs]

**Read the entire interview with Jody Watley online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com). Also, be sure to visit the Web site to find an exclusive interview with another of the Market Days' slated performers—Brian Kent.**

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## SPORTS/RECREATION

## Gay Games just a year away

BY ROSS FORMAN

The countdown to Cologne is at the one-year mark ... and Team Chicago is ready to celebrate

On Wed., Aug. 5, Team Chicago is co-sponsoring a party, highlighted by on-site registration at a discounted prize.

There already are about 1,500 registrants, including about 800 from the United States, with as many as 10,000 expected, said Ingo Schneider of Games Cologne.

"Each of the past four Gay Games have had around 11,000 to 12,000 registrants. Because of the economy, we are planning for 10,000, but budgeting for 8,000. We can scale up as required," Schneider said.

**Windy City Times: The Games are a year away. Thoughts?**

Ingo Schneider: It is amazing how quickly time passes. Six years ago we started planning for the 2010 Gay Games and today we have less than 400 days until our Opening Ceremony. Fortunately, our planning is all on-target and several sub-projects are ahead of schedule. We are therefore confident that Gay Games VIII in 2010 will be a great event.

**WCT: At this point, what pleases you and what worries you?**

IS: The connections we have made with LGBT sports people worldwide have been inspiring. Everyone has been so supportive and helpful. There are many Chicago 2006 organizers who have been very active and this has made our job much easier.

The global economic crisis has impacted us, of course. The advertising budgets of many well-known companies have been reduced, so with less sponsorship money our initial marketing strategies have had to change. We have also changed our fundraising focus from pure sponsorship to also now ask for donations from the public. This change is being successful and so



Volleyball players at the 2006 Gay Games. Photo by Ryan Kolodziej

we are confident that we will achieve our overall budget.

**WCT: What's the marketing plan for the next year?**

IS: We will continue to do outreach to sports and culture organizers throughout the world. In North America, we are beginning to focus more strongly on the city teams, especially larger cities, where the city teams will require more support. Several cities are holding "one year to go" parties the first week of August, including Chicago.

**WCT: Where can you register?**

IS: Registration is available exclusively at [www.games-cologne.com](http://www.games-cologne.com)

**WCT: Are there any registration goals of note? For instance, by Sept. 1, you want to have [a certain] number registered?**

IS: By the end of 2009, we hope to have 3,000 registered participants.

**WCT: What are you doing to encourage participation during a tough economic period?**

IS: We have identified lower-cost housing and encourage people to reserve hotels soon to save money. We also have done some registration discounts at events and with city teams to encourage earlier registration.

**WCT: What are some different things planned that did not happen or were not done in Chicago in 2006?**

IS: One example of a change is a new volunteer communications system. Modern-communications technology is progressing rapidly, so

even just four years later this Internet-based system will create many benefits. Details about this communication system will be published in the autumn of 2009.

**WCT: What are your plans for the Outgames in Copenhagen?**

IS: We have had a friendly relationship with the Copenhagen organizers of the Outgames from the very beginning. We will have a strong presence on behalf of Cologne in 2010 in Copenhagen, of course. We will have an information booth in their [Outgames] Village and will distribute our flyers at each sport venue.

**WCT: Do you foresee the Outgames and Gay Games ever merging?**

IS: This is a question for the organizers of the Federation of Gay Games. Our mission is to present a successful Gay Games VIII in Cologne next year.

**WCT: Please talk about the Eastern European scholarship program.**

IS: Our goal is to support those artists and athletes who cannot live their life as freely in their native countries as they can in Germany. We will concentrate primarily on the eastern neighbors of Germany. Around 20 applications have already been received by us, but we know there will be many other applications before the deadline, which is Oct. 1, 2009. A jury will then review the applications and allocate the available funds among the candidates. Information is online at [www.games-cologne.com](http://www.games-cologne.com). Select "Gay Games" and then "Outreach."

**WCT: Is there a scholarship program for potential participants from the U.S.?**

IS: Each Gay Games host is asked to set its own outreach zone. Chicago's was Latin America, and Sydney 2002 focused on Asia, for example. We will prioritize our Eastern European neighbors for scholarships, but Americans are welcome to apply as well as there may be further funds available.

**WCT: Are there any sports planned for Cologne that were not offered in Chicago?**

IS: The Federation of Gay Games requires core sports be offered, and we have added 12 sports. For the first time ever, we offer sport shooting in the Gay Games, as it is very popular in Eu-

rope, especially in Germany. Other Cologne 2010 sports not offered in Chicago include table tennis, field hockey, handball, inline speed skating, and sport climbing. We also offer chess, something that allows for mixed-gender competition. The full list of sports is at [www.games-cologne.com](http://www.games-cologne.com), and then select 'Sports.'

**WCT: What do you predict will be the No. 1 draw sports-wise?**

IS: Gay Games sports that typically draw the most athletes are the running sports (track & field, road races and marathon), aquatics (swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming), tennis and volleyball. Some sports will see significant increases over Chicago's numbers because of their popularity in Europe, especially dance sport, soccer and badminton. Team handball and table tennis also will be very popular.

**WCT: The Gay Games had a very strong presence at NAGVA, the North American Gay Volleyball Association Championship, held in Chicago in May. What other U.S. events will the Games be represented at?**

IS: We've had some kind of a presence at 100 sports and pride events in the USA and Canada over the past year, primarily by sending materials to sports organizers. We had an active presence at championships for bowling (IGBO), soccer (IGLFA), volleyball (NAGVA in Chicago), NAGAAA Softball World Series (Seattle in 2008 and Milwaukee in 2009) and aquatics (IGLA). Cologne representatives will be coming to the USA later in the year to a few events, and I'm sure we'll make a stop in Chicago.

**WCT: Anything else about the Gay Games that you'd like to add—anything else I have not asked that you thought I would?**

IS: Simply put, now is the time to register. As many from Chicago will no doubt remember, having early registrations helps the organizing committee tremendously. It gives us a boost psychologically to see people register, and it also helps us with cash flow—always a challenge for an event this large and far away.

**The Cologne 2010 Gay Games: One Year To Go Countdown Party will take place Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.**



**2010 Gay Games Registration and Chicago 2006 Reunion Party**  
August 5, 2009 – 7 to 9 pm – Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted – Chicago

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WINDY CITY TIMES



# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, July 29

**3160 Birthday celebration** for Jim Flint, featuring Paul Marinaro and Rose Colella, 9 p.m., 3160 N. Clark St., Myspace.com/chicago3160

**Uncommon Ground 4 Women Only series**- four female performers showcase their talents

## Thursday, July 30

**Atomic Sketch Event** This monthly event that brings together established and emerging artists celebrates its first anniversary, artists welcome to stop in to create and sell work, space is limited, 6-10 p.m., evilOlive, 1551 W. Division, atomicsketch@gmail.com

**Lakeview Bike Ride** Join Lakeview residents, Alderman Tom Tunney, 19th and 23rd District officers, Lake View Citizens' Council, and Chicago Bicycle Ambassadors for a leisurely 6-mile ride through Lakeview. 6:15 p.m. (leave 6:30) 1100 W. Waveland. Info 312-744-5574 or 312-744-0064 or -23ehotline@chicagopolice.org

## Friday, July 31

**3+3=6 opening**, 5th annual exhibition highlights six established Iberoamerican artists, many first time showings for the first time. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Aldo Castillo Gallery, 675 N. Franklin; www.artaldo.com

**Celtic Muse** starring Gillian Kelly, Claire Bigley 8 p.m. \$20adv/\$25 door. Skokie Theatre 7924 N. Lincoln Ave. Skokie 847-677-7761 www.skokietheatre.org

**Intergalactic Sex Rodeo** comedians, burlesque dancers, and new comedy with Big Dog Eat Child. 11:55 p.m. The Lakeshore Theatre, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492 or visit www.lakeshoretheater.com

**Milwaukee Ave. Arts Festival** through Sunday Aug. 2 Over 150 artists in over 25 venues. Noon-11p.m. each day. www.milwaukeevenueartsfestival.org

**Touché's annual cowboy** makeover contest. The winning leatherman will be made over into a cowboy that night with Alcalá's Western Wear duds and two tickets to the 2009 Windy City Gay Rodeo. Context 11 p.m., meet the new cowboy at midnight. www.touchechicago.com

"Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?"

Dress up for a Bette Davis and Joan Crawford lookalike contest. Part of Reeling Monthly Screening Series, in support of Reeling: Lesbian Gay International Film Festival, coming November 5-14. \$10, \$8 for members Chicago Filmmakers at 5243 N. Clark St. 773-293-9113

## Saturday, Aug. 1

**Northalsted Market Days** 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. through Sunday Aug. 2. www.northalsted.com/market\_days.php

**Market Days Weekend BLOWOFF party**, DJs: Richard Morel & Bob Mould, 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. \$15. The Metro, 3730 N. Clark St www.etix.com, www.blow-off.us

**Women & Children First used book sale** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. through Sunday, Aug. 2. Benefits Women's Voices Fund. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

**Word Across Generations**, Quraysh Ali Lansana (They Shall Run-Harriet Tubman Poems and southside rain); Adrian Matejka (Mixology); Angela Jackson, poet, playwright, and fictionist; and FM Supreme, Louder Than A Bomb poetry slam champion. Free. 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Spon: The Public Square. Perry Mansion Cultural Center, 7042 S. Perry Ave., Englewood. Reserve www.prairie.org/publicsquare, events@prairie.org or 312-422-5580

## Sunday, Aug. 2

I'll Stop the World and BELT with You, a John Hughes-inspired music revue where teen angst collides with some of the raddest tunes from the '80s. \$13. Also Aug. 9, & 16. 7 p.m. Davenport's Piano Bar, 1383 N. Milwaukee www.davenportspianbar.com 773-278-1830

## Monday, Aug. 3

Center on Halsted /Olivia Travel present: **Comedy of Vickie Shaw night 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.** Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted Tix \$20 at www.centeronhalsted.org

**Men on Mondays**, monthly social networking night for men to meet other men in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Preview this week of Center on Halsted partnership with CircEsteem for CENTERCircus, classes in circus

art. \$10. RSVP Tom Ballentine, Director of Community/Cultural Programs, culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-661-0763. www.centeronhalsted.org

**Queeraoke!** hosted by Bear and Bunny Bono, every first Monday. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m., The Subterranean, 1st Floor, 2011 W North Ave www.lathamzearfoss.com

## Tuesday, Aug. 4

**Hannah Free sneak preview**, starring Sharon Gless (Cagney and Lacey, Burn Notice), part of First Tuesdays with The Midwest Independent Film Festival. Pre-Show Cocktail Reception 6 p.m., Producers Panel at 6:30 p.m. in the theater, screening 7:30 p.m Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark. Post-screening reception follows at Forno Diablo, 433 West Diversey

**Homolatte: Queer Words and Music** hosted by Scott Free. Craig Seymour, Chris Schutz & The Tourists. Free. 7:30 p.m. Big Chicks Tweet, 5024 N Sheridan 773-728-5511 www.homolatte.com

**Michigan Womyn's Music Festival through Sunday Aug. 9** www.michfest.com

**Spring Awakening** Ford Oriental Theatre, Aug. 4 through Aug. 16. www.broadwayinchicago.com

## Wednesday, Aug. 5

**Salute to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans by the City of Chicago**, "With Liberty and Justice for All." Noon, Daley Plaza at Washington and Dearborn streets. Hosted by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Councils on Veterans Affairs (ACVA) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues (ACLBGTI) and the Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER). Music, keynote speaker and mayoral proclamation

**One Year to Cologne!**, 2010 Gay Games Registration and Chicago 2006 Reunion Party 7 - 9 p.m. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted

**Women on Wednesdays** is a monthly social networking night for women to meet other women in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. This time a preview of Center on Halsted partnership with CircEsteem for CENTERCircus, an upcoming series of classes in circus

arts. \$10. Info and RSVP Tom Ballentine, Director of Community and Cultural Programs, culture@centeronhalsted.org or 773-661-0763. www.centeronhalsted.org

**Women & Children First Bookstore**, Bich Minh Nguyen, Short Girls, Author of an acclaimed memoir Stealing Buddha's Dinner. 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., 773-769-9299 www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

## Friday, Aug. 7

**15th Annual Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video** through Sept. 3. Midwest's largest of Black experience on film, with premieres of 21 features and documentaries and 22 short films. Screening tix \$10/general/\$7 student/\$5 members at Box Office, 800-982-2787, or www.ticketmaster.com. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State

**Equality Illinois** First Friday Networking Event 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Sidetrack, Glass Bar, 3347 N. Halsted; www.equalityillinois.org

**The Flesh Hungry Dog Show** live rock and variety for queers and friends, 9 p.m., Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St. \$10 door/\$8 advance at www.flesh-hungrydog.com

**WSGA Annual Camp-Out**, Campit Gay Resort in Saugatuck, MI. Through Aug. 9. Reservations by July 15. west\_burbs\_gay@yahoo.com, 630-512-0100 or www.wsga.com

## Friday, Aug. 14

**2009 National LGBT Health Summit** Through Tuesday Aug. 18. Chicago Hilton and Towers., 720 South Michigan Ave www.2009lgbthealth.org

## Friday, Aug. 21

**Glamorama 2009**, Jadyn Maria, Ne-Yo and The New Standards. Benefits Ronald McDonald House Charities. \$50-\$1,000. 800-982-2787 or ticketmaster.com or Chicago Theatre box office. 8 p.m. The Chicago Theatre 175 North State St. Post-party to follow at Macy's on State St.

## Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 1-2



## FUNNY YOU SHOULD MASK

Northalsted Market Days will be on Halsted between Belmont and Addison.

Photo from the 2008 Market Days by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

## Tuesday, Aug. 4



## SPRING FEVER

Spring Awakening will run through Aug. 16 at the Ford Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph.

Photo by Joan Marcus

See our online calendar: [www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/calendar)

## What's cooking?



Everything from models (for the fashion-oriented auction) to meatballs were present July 24 at the fifth annual Chefs and the City, Vital Bridges' dining extravaganza that took place at the Peninsula Hotel, 108 E. Superior. Carrie and Michael Nahabedian (Naha), Stephanie Izard (The Drunken Goat representing Allen Brothers), Shawn McClain (Spring/Green Zebra), Ryan Pitts (RL Restaurant), Gene Kato (Japonais) and Arun Sampanthavivat (Arun's Thai Restaurant) were among the 20-plus chefs offering treats to hundreds of attendees. Debbie Hinde, president/CEO of the HIV/AIDS-service organization Vital Bridges, told Windy City Times that "fundraising is much more difficult now than it was one or two years ago, so we have to constrain what we're doing. We were cognizant of the fact that it might be hard to get people to pay \$250 a ticket ... but we were able to bring in the people. It's actually better than last year." Among the highlights was the presentation of the Robert S. Mayo Extra Helping Award (named after a Vital Bridges board member and key leader who passed away Jan. 8) to Season of Concern; Stephen Rader accepted on the latter organization's behalf. Text by Andrew Davis; photos by Davis and Jerry Nunn. See more photos at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).



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### LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File no. D09118245 on the JUN 30 2009 under the assumed name of Ferry Acupuncture, Ltd. with the business located at 1032 N. Ashland Ave. Chicago, IL 60622. The true name and residence address of the owner is: Michelle Ferry 2251 W. Farragut Ave. #2 Chicago, IL 60625. (7/29/09-3)

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# BILLY MASTERS

"I grew up around gay people my entire life, basically. That's possibly why I'm quite camp, and some people think I'm gay when I meet them, which I think is awesome. It's always good to keep them guessing." —Daniel Radcliffe shows his metrosexual side...and then some.

Do you people listen to me? Well, some of you do, and the rest of you should. Months ago, I told you about a conversation I had with Jorja Fox when she left "CSI." At the time, she told me that she'd be coming back to the show the next season, but many of you scoffed—it couldn't happen, I was told. And now, poof, she's back. Foxy returns in the season premiere on September 24th, and will be back for additional episodes. Ha!

Another one of our favorites is returning to the small screen. Eric McCormack turns up on Law & Order: SVU (the second episode of the new season). Then he'll transition to familiar sitcom territory in The New Adventures of Old Christine. Although his role is currently listed as a one-off guest spot as therapist to Julia Louis-Dreyfus' character, rumor has it he could recur as a love interest.



Finally, you'll be able to catch a glimpse of Cheyenne Jackson's "Woody" on Broadway. Promotional photo.

is selling tickets through the end of the year, is based on the Encores! limited run earlier this season.

A musical version of The Addams Family will have its world premiere at Chicago's Ford Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 13. Look for our very own Nathan Lane to take on the role of "Gomez" opposite the handsome Bebe Neuwirth as "Morticia." If all goes well, the musical will bow on Bway next March.

TR Knight has gone on record stating that he broke his lucrative contract and left Grey's Anatomy because of a "breakdown in communication" with creator Shonda Rhimes. He alleges that Rhimes was "concerned" about him coming out shortly after the fracas with Isaiah Washington. Rhimes fires back, "I said, 'If you want to come out, that's awesome.'" Knight also claims, "No other series regular's character has ever disappeared like mine did this past season." It should be added that his screen time was significantly less prior to his "notoriety."

I know this next item will sound like I'm bashing Rupert Everett. But, truth be told, I'm a big fan of his body of work...to say nothing of his body in general. And yet, I don't believe I've ever come across a performer who whines as much as him (and that includes TR). He spends so much time in victim mode, he should have the Samaritans on speed dial! What I constantly hear from him is that he's not had the career he deserves because he's gay; he should have been a bigger star, but he was too outspoken; he's suffered discrimination because of his sordid sexual past. It's never because he's difficult, temperamental or went through a period of poor personal hygiene (despite, admittedly, being a brilliant stage and screen actor). Now, he claims he actually lost work because of some photos that allegedly showed the results of some extensive facial surgery... a claim he vehemently denies. "Those images went all the way round the world, and at one point I lost a job from a great Australian director because of him seeing the before-and-after images in a newspaper. You can protest as much as you like, but they just doctor the photos." While that is true, take it from me—no director of any note is making a decision based on tabloid pics. Especially in these days of the Internet where you can see exactly how someone looks via Skype. But, Rupert, you keep telling yourself it's all because of the pictures (which I'll run on BillyMasters.com).

You know who always takes good pictures? Christopher Meloni. The stud was recently snapped in NYC showing off biceps that won't quit. There's no gossip or story to go with this. Just a mega-hot pic, which we'll post on our Web site.

Turn to page 21

Sometimes intriguing casting happens behind the scenes. For instance, getting chosen to sing a song in a film can be quite a coup. And we can tell you *exclusively* that Adam Lambert has signed such a deal. Roland Emmerich has produced and directed such blockbusters as Independence Day and Godzilla. His latest project, 2012, is due out Nov. 13 and is one of those star-studded end-of-the-world flicks—with a Mayan or two thrown in for good measure. Lambert just went into the studio to record a track for the flick—and Emmerich was impressed enough to consider using it for the closing credits. Bravo!

Speaking of casting, Cheyenne Jackson has just nabbed the role of "Woody" in the upcoming Broadway revival of Finian's Rainbow. The production, which begins previews Oct. 8 and

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**BILLY from page 20**

Elsewhere in NYC, a gaggle of hot boys have been spotted working at the new Hollister store in New York. What they call "the coolest store to open in NYC" is situated on Broadway in SoHo. The sexy barely legal shop boys posed in their board shorts and flip flops on the sidewalk in front of A&F's baby brother. We'll post the pic on our Web site.

This week's brief "Ask Billy" question comes from Frankie in Baltimore: "Did you see John Barrowman's nude scene on 'Torchwood'? What an ass! Do you have any close up pics of it? And did I see his dick briefly?"

Starting with the dick, yes and no. When the surveillance camera showed him lying face up naked on the table, the letter "X" was strategically placed over his privates. You see something there, but not anything that's discern-

able. As to his ass, it was front and center (to say nothing of plump and perky) and in full view. We'll be happy to share the stills and footage on BillyMasters.com.

When Broadway is anticipating Cheyenne's woody, it's definitely time to end yet another column. This is almost like the summer rerun of columns. Sure, all the gossip is fresh squeezed, but the same people seem to be popping up. Barrowman was sunbathing in the nude last week. This week, he's nude on the set. And nude on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that never sleeps. For all your personal needs, drop a note to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you when I'm done shopping at Hollister (buying a gift for a much younger man, of course). So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**Check, please**



Chicago Cubs Charities announced a \$50,000 grant to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) in connection with the concerts at Wrigley Field this month. Representatives from Chicago Cubs Charities and AFC took part in a check-presentation ceremony on Wrigley Field July 27 before the Cubs game against the Houston Astros. Photo courtesy of Vijay Tekchandani

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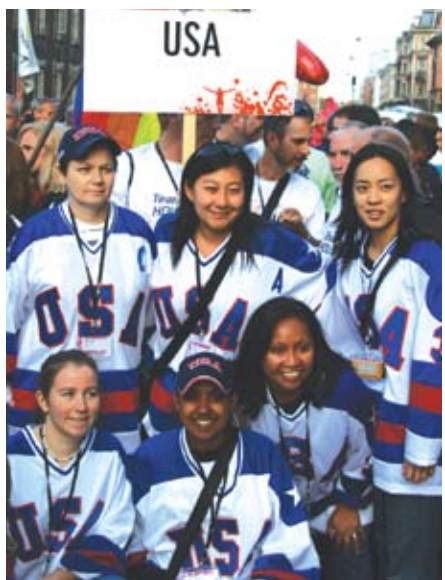
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Left. Members of the women's hockey squad Team USA 2009 in Copenhagen. Right: Members of the LGBT swimming club Paris Aquatique. Photos by Ross Forman

SPORTS/RECREATION

# Live from Denmark: It's the Outgames!

BY ROSS FORMAN

Copenhagen, Denmark—The second World Outgames featured an energetic, artistic, uplifting 90-minute Opening Ceremony here July 25—a long with a visit from Mother Nature.

Thousands attended the outdoor opening, including three members of the Chicago Rowers Union (CRU), each dressed in their competitive attire. The CRU members—John Saunders, Brando Mataya and Mike Check—started their competition on Sunday. But they and the thousands who attended the Opening Ceremony, held in the center of downtown, braved a heavy rain, which started about an hour into the Opening.

"Copenhagen is really going queer the next

eight days," 2009 World Outgames president Uffe Elbaek said July 25, hours before the Opening Ceremony.

There are 5,500 people registered for the Outgames and more than 7,500 LGBT tourists expected in town, Elbaek said. The Outgames offers 34 sports disciplines, with about 1,800 competitions and more than 1,700 volunteers.

Plus, the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights, an integral portion of the Outgames and one of the major differences from the Gay Games, opened July 27.

Chicagoan Bill Barrett finished the 26.2-mile marathon in 3:45, which was 15 minutes under his pre-race goal time. This writer finished the half-marathon in 2:19.

"I did well; I was pleased with my run," Barrett said. "It was a good course and the event was well organized. The course was very flat; I think that helped. Plus, the day was cool, which helped. It was a nice day [to run]. It was better run than I expected."

Hans Martin, 44, from Berlin, Germany, was the winner of the marathon, which had 90 par-

ticipants. He finished in 2:40.

"It was a good marathon, but not an easy course," Martin said. "I prepared quite good [for this race]. This was an important race for me."

But Martin didn't get much time to celebrate; he had to be working back in Berlin at 7 a.m., and the race finished here at about 1 p.m.

Sunday's running events (marathon, half marathon, 5K and 10K) were the Outgames events with the most local, straight participants—and that was planned, "an example of trying to bridge the gap between the LGBT community and the City of Copenhagen," Elbaek said.

Sports such as fencing, flag football and rugby had demonstrations Sunday.

The sports with the most participants are swimming, tennis, badminton, dance sport and running. The fewest participants will be in mar-

tial arts, with fewer than 30 registered. Organizers contacted participants in sports with low registration to see if they wanted to continue with their sport or cancel the sport. All said the show must go on.

"I just feel sorry for those people who are not here to experience the Outgames; it's an amazing event," said Julia Applegate, the co-president of GLISA, which is the governing body of the World Outgames.

Added GLISA co-president Wessel Van Kampen, "Maybe we wanted a little more [attending], but with the economic situation, 5,500 people invested in being here is really beautiful. The [local] organizing committee has put on a very interesting and attractive week of sports, culture and the human rights conference."

## Red Stars host LCCP benefit



The Chicago Red Stars pro women's soccer team hosted a benefit for Lesbian Community Care Project after last Sunday's game against the Washington Freedom. The tough game was won by Washington, and players from both sides joined LCCP for autographs and photos. The loss means Chicago won't make the playoffs, and their last home game will be this Sunday, Aug. 2, against Marta and the Los Angeles Sol. In the July 26 game, played in front of 5,226 fans at Toyota Park, Abby Wambach scored two of the Freedom's goals, while Megan Rapinoe and Karen Carney each scored for Chicago. Pictured from left: Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times (sponsor of the event), Cat Jefcoat of LCCP, Wambach from the Freedom team and Rapinoe and goalie Caroline Jonsson from the Red Stars. Also pictured: Young fans with Rapinoe and Jonsson. See [www.chicagoredstars.com](http://www.chicagoredstars.com) and more photos at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com). Photos by Hal Baim



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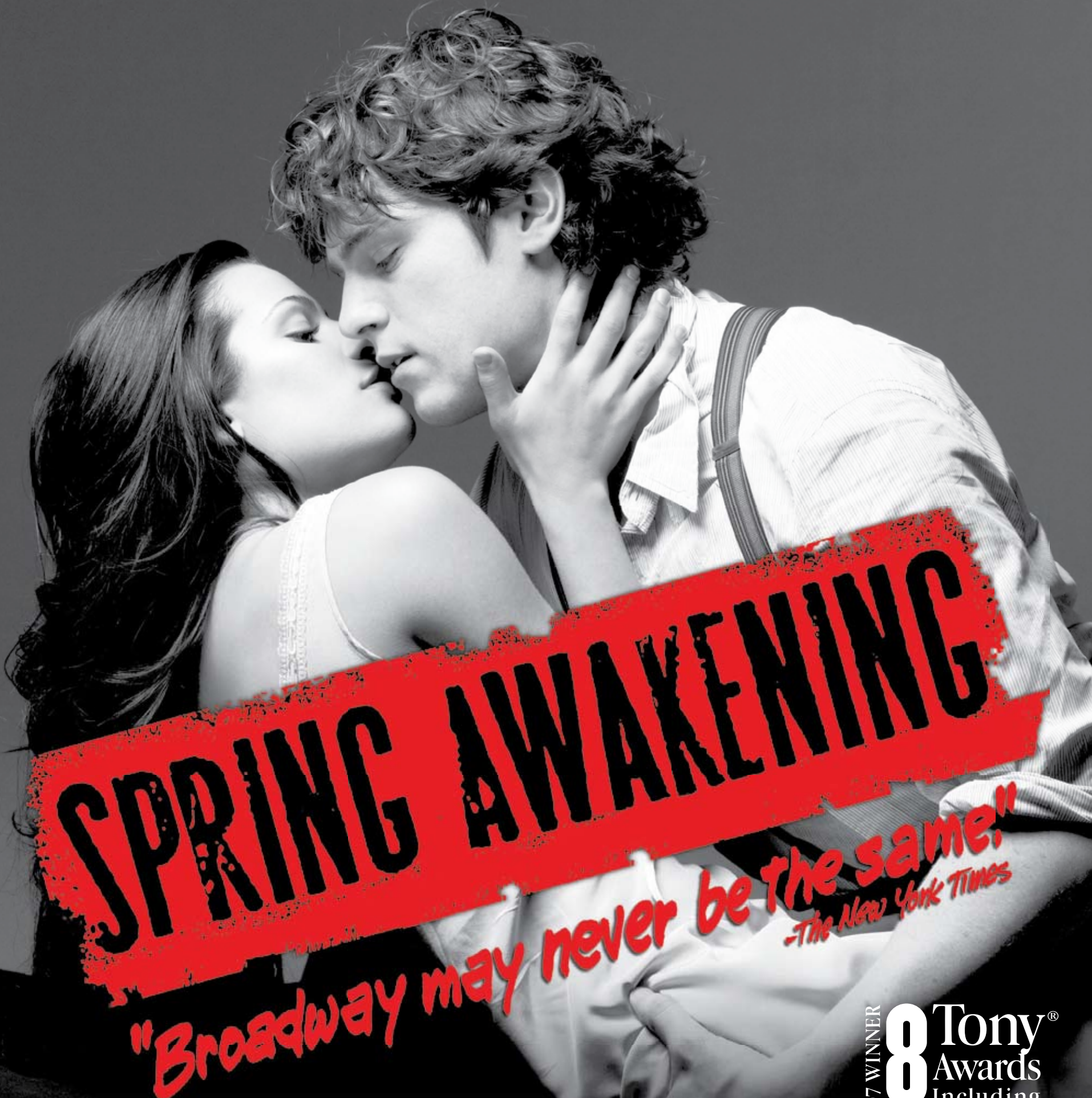
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