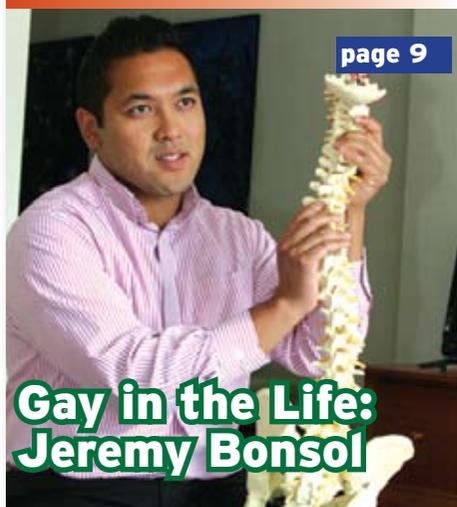




page 8

**Lola
Lai Jong**



page 9

**Gay in the Life:
Jeremy Bonsol**



page 15

**Mich. Womyn's
Music Festival**

nightspots

pick it up
take it home



Lesbian U.S. rep talks Obama, ENDA

BY ROSS FORMAN

Her volleyball team was getting ready for the bronze-medal game at Gay Games IV, held in New York City in 1994, yet Tammy Baldwin was needed back home. She was, you see, in the Wisconsin legislature at the time.

"We got called back into special session in Wisconsin. Of course I could not miss my day job by playing in a sports festival, as important as that sports festival was," Baldwin recalled, just a few weeks after Gay Games VIII wrapped up in Germany in 2010.

"I was able to secure, at great personal [financial] expense, an [airline] ticket from New York to Madison, so I could cast my vote, and then got on a plane heading back to New York and made it back in time to still be the [team's]



U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.

setter in the last game of the tournament, which we unfortunately lost."

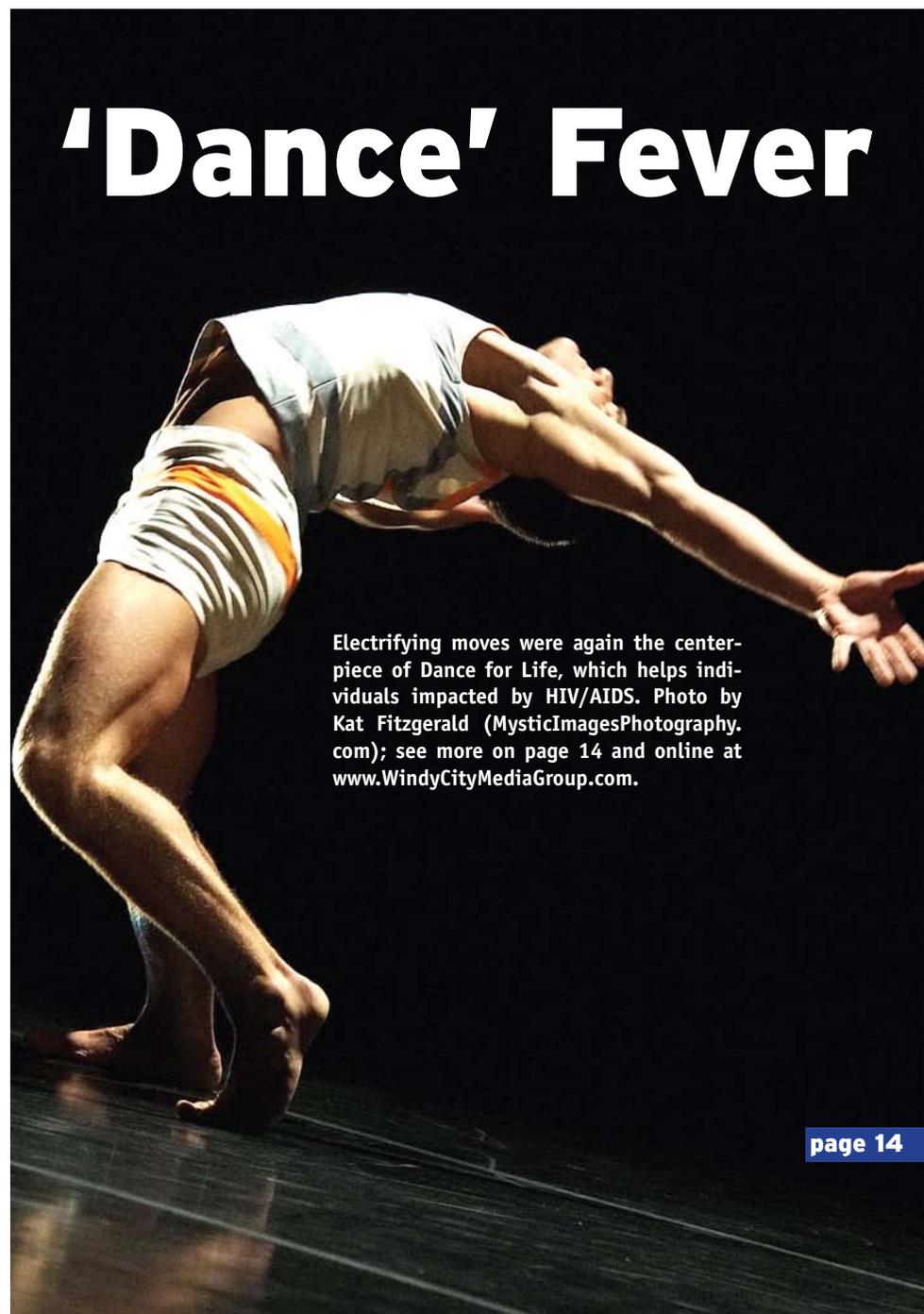
Her team finished in fourth place, but her Gay Games memories still resonate some 16 years later.

"I remember a lot of things about the Gay Games in New York," she said. "I remember it being [held] at the same time as Stonewall anniversary, so it made it so much fuller."

Gay Games IX returns to U.S. soil in 2014, but don't expect Baldwin to participate in Cleveland—her day job is a bit time-consuming, not to mention high-profile and, well, pioneering.

Baldwin, a Democrat, has been a member of U.S. House of Representatives since 1999, representing Wisconsin's 2nd congressional district.

Turn to page 4



'Dance' Fever

Electrifying moves were again the centerpiece of Dance for Life, which helps individuals impacted by HIV/AIDS. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); see more on page 14 and online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

page 14

Aldo Castillo prepares to say goodbye

BY KRISTIN KOWALSKI

After 17 years leading the Midwest in Latin American art, Aldo Castillo will be closing the award-winning gallery bearing his name on Aug. 28. He is moving to Miami to become the associate director of the Miami International Art Fair. Windy City Times talked with Castillo about his big move to a warmer climate and his decision to close the Aldo Castillo Gallery.

Windy City Times: Why did you decide to move to Miami?

Aldo Castillo: I realized that the job I was offered is the same job I have, except it is on a global scale. Chicago was an amazing place that allowed me to connect with people from all over the world. I was working with all of these connections, but just on behalf of Latin American art. This job in Miami allows me to [do] that and more on a global scale. Miami is becoming an establishment for collectors to go and buy.

WCT: The art fair you're becoming director of takes place in January?

AC: Yes, Jan. 14-17. That's the one I'm directing, but I'm helping, shaping the fair so it becomes competitive. Because the gallery behavior has totally changed—you don't see that many customers walking by into galleries anymore. We are facing new challenges and they have nothing to do with the economy, they have to do with technology. Galleries now depend on their websites for people to know where they are or what they do. Many people who like art like to go to art fairs because it's like a little museum coming to you for three days or four days. When it comes to the business of people looking at art, art fairs are the only people now doing the selling.

WCT: Why did you decide to keep your gallery here online?

Turn to page 8

No surprise that the real estate company with the most Firsts is the one that lasts.

The first real estate brokerage.
 Groundbreakers in interactive marketing.
 Pioneers for equal housing.
 And the list goes on.

Are we more proud of our history of innovation,
 or our unparalleled longevity?
 Truth is, they go hand in hand.



Opportunity is Knocking.



735 N Jackson \$970,000
 Stately exterior, attached garage & gracious flr plan perfect for entrtnng
 ID#05705145
 Sally Grossman 708-697-5900



1721 N Winchester \$699,000
 Classic Bucktown brk 2-flat on full-size lot.
 ID#02305685
 Robert John Anderson 773-697-5555



1449 N Sedgwick \$574,900
 3 unit bldg in the heart of Old Town!
 ID#92300377
 Leila Keene 773-697-5555



1660 N LaSalle 2701-3 \$550,000
 Breathtaking 3br/2bth corner unit-2 condos combined.
 27th flr, s,e,city&lake views w/killer sunrises.3rdbr is fam rm.
 ID#02307149
 Thomas Bredemann 773-697-5555



1430 N LaSalle C1 \$539,000
 Beautiful Gold Coast/Old Town lovely 2br/2.5ba condo.
 Garage parking!
 ID#02305923
 Connie Grunwaldt 773-697-5555



616 Iowa \$450,000
 7 room stately residence. 1st floor Family Room. Blend of yesteryear & today, generous sized rooms. Be a part of the big picture.
 ID#95709521
 Lloyd Behrenbruch 708-697-5900



635 N Dearborn 1906 \$425,000
 Gorgeous corner unit at The Caravel! Split 2br/2ba. Wrap-around balc, great master suite w/beaut, bath, granite kitc, italian cabs
 ID#02155740
 Thomas Sillitti 312-640-7010



2801 N Seminary 2S \$385,000
 Lincoln Park 2br/2ba with open floor plan in large living/dining combo. Master bed retreat w/marble/granite bath. In-unit laundry.
 ID#02055337
 Mark Jak 773-549-1855



3642 N Artesian \$335,000
 Charming bungalow w/ 2.5 car garage in fabulous bell school dist. Roof (tear-off) & gutters in 2006, newer windows (except porch).
 ID#04405334
 Lynn Pufpaf 773-775-1855



4553 N Magnolia 204 \$329,000
 Great 2br/2ba corner unit w/balcony. Beautifully appointed open kitchen, in-unit W/D, fireplace.Heated gar incl. Near Red line.
 ID#02055336
 Michael Parish 773-549-1855



4920 N Winthrop 1S \$229,500
 Beautiful greystone 2br/2ba w/pkg space. Spacious layout hardwood floors thru-out, gas f/p, w/d, huge deck & great closet space.
 ID#02155315
 Helen Sobel 312-640-7010



3558 W Belle Plaine 3 \$174,000
 Contemporary decor in this spacious 2 bedroom unit in the west walker neighborhood. The building was gut rehabbed in 2003
 ID#04405349
 Catherine Byrne 773-775-1855



4757 N Paulina 2 \$165,000
 Great location! Beautiful 1br/1ba 2005 conversion located in Ravenswood. Hdwd flrs, ss appl, granite ctrs, marble ba w/Jacuzzi.
 ID#02055218
 Michael Canaan 773-549-1855



6300 N Sheridan #308 \$99,000
 Affordable & well-managed bldg.Lrg living space,new laminate flrs, new stove & a/c.Monthly asmts incld heat. Assigned prkng space.
 ID#03105038
 Terry Tonon 847-491-1855



2456 W Estes #3 \$95,000
 Charming 1 Br vintage co-op at Park Gables. Very spacious! LR w/high beam ceilings, sep. Din, pool, Storage, exercise + party rm
 ID#03105204
 Delia Joyce 847-491-1855



bairdwarner.com

Enter the ID number in the **FAST FIND** box on our homepage to find complete details on these Chicagoland homes for sale.



this week in
WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin	4
Obama appoints another gay man	5
More Target drama	5
Slur-based appeal; ALMA's reception	6
Mary Ann Smith; PFLAG in 'burbs	7
i2i gala coming up	8
Aldo Castillo says goodbye	8
Gay in the Life: Jeremy Bonsol	9
View by Strathman; letters	10

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	11
Theater reviews	12
Dance for Life; Felder on Bernstein	14
Michigan Womyn's Music Festival	15
Knight: DVDs; Denis O'Hare talks	16
Bent Nights: Joan Armatrading	17
Autos: Kia, futuristic car, more	19
Billy Masters	21

OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	18
Calendar Q	20
Chicagoans shine during Games	22

Photos on cover (left): Photo of Lola Lai Jong by Hal Baim; picture of Jeremy Bonsol by Ross Forman; photo of singer Ubaka Hill at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival by Con Buckley

DOWNLOAD THIS!
Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



HAT'S LIFE

Lady Gaga (left) is among the artists covered in this week's Pop Making Sense column.

PR photo



Ladies took over the local sports world with a tennis social (above) and softball playoffs.

Photo by Mel Ferrand



Find out how local teams fared in the Gay Softball World Series in Columbus, Ohio.

Photo by Danny Tag

ROPIN' IT IN

Find photos from last weekend's Windy City Rodeo online.

NOTHING BUT THE 'TOOTH'

Amuse Bouche makes someone's night with eggplant while Sugar & Spice reviews the eatery Sawtooth.

MORE GAMES, DANCE

Read more Gay Games profiles online as locals made a splash in Cologne. Also, take a look at many more photos from this year's Dance for Life.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

'WORLD' VIEW



Superheroes, villains and even former Gov. Rod Blagojevich made appearances at this year's Wizard World Comic Con.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

Nightcaps at Berlin Market Days pics
Porn/reality star Steven Daigle
Thursdays at Sayat Nova

Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

Stephen and Amy take you to the Emmys
Show #380

WINDY CITY QUEERCAS
queer and now

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

Attend this awesome '80s event!
For information and reservations, please visit TPAN online at www.tpan.com.



TEST POSITIVE AWARE NETWORK

TOTALLY 80'S ULTRA LOUNGE AWAREAFFAIR

September 11, 2010
Ravenswood
Billboard Factory
4011 N. Ravenswood Ave.

PROUD SPONSORS

BALDWIN from cover

She is the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Wisconsin, and is currently serving her fifth term. She was the first openly gay non-incumbent to be elected to the House of Representatives, her election having won the backing of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

Baldwin is one of three openly gay members of Congress, along with fellow Democrats Barney Frank (Massachusetts) and Jared Polis (Colorado).

Her domestic partner was Lauren Azar for about 15 years; they separated in early 2010.

"I'm not sure I have a sport where I would now qualify," for the 2014 Games, Baldwin said, laughing. "Before [being] elected to Congress, I was quite an avid volleyball player. I played in NAGVA [the North American Gay Volleyball Association], and they had a big Chicago connection because there often was a really fabulous tournament in Chicago at an armory that I attended on a regular basis with my Madison-based team.

"I've had [the Gay Games] in my history, but not in my future. I know that I will be cheering on many others who will be playing [in Cleveland]. The practice time that is required of an athlete in fine form eludes me right now."

Still, Baldwin knew of a governmental tie to the Cologne Games—Kei Koizumi, who handles budgetary and policy issues in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Koizumi, 41, won a gold medal in men's age 40-44 110-meter hurdles and a silver medal in the triple jump. And Koizumi's husband, Commerce Dept. employee Jeff Dutton, won the silver in the marathon in the men's 35 age-group.

The White House issued its first-ever Gay Games-related press release in August, discussing Koizumi.

Baldwin's sporting blood also includes ice hockey—well, sort of.

She grew up and still lives and works in Madison, home of, arguably, the largest LGBT hockey league in the world, the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA), and the University of Wisconsin's men's and women's teams are perennial powers.

"Madison is really a hockey community," Baldwin said. "Our great university teams, both men and women, have won the NCAA Championship in recent years. And the fact they won them in the same year was a thrill.

"We have a thriving LGBT community [in Madison]. They did an amazing job [forming that gay hockey league.] but I'm more of a summer sports fan. I'm just a fan and admirer [of the MGHA] at a distance."

Baldwin spoke with Windy City Times in an exclusive interview Aug. 18—ironically, the rumored day marriages were going to resume in California. Baldwin, 48, spoke at length about multiple serious LGBT-related issues, not just her sporting side.

"I'm of two minds because, as an out lesbian/activist/organizer, the pace of change is slow. I'm frustrated that more has not been achieved; I'm frustrated that full equality has not yet been achieved," she said. "At the same time, I am awed by how much is moving all at once right now; I feel lucky to be serving at a time when so much is happening, when so much is within our reach, though just not there yet."

Just consider what's on the LGBT slate these days, as she highlighted:

—Repealing of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

—The litigation around the constitutionality of Proposition 8 in California.

—The litigation around the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.

—Continual political organizing on such important measures as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

So what's first?

"If you just look at the way things are lined up right now, the next major accomplishment, I believe, will be [the] statutory repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and replacement with a policy



U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (right) with gay-rights activist Judy Shepard.

that allows out members of the military to serve openly," said Baldwin, who expects major developments in the fall of 2010 on the military's ban on out servicemen and women.

Baldwin has worked with other members of Congress who needed persuasion to get to the point where they were willing to vote to repeal DADT. And she even introduced a Wisconsin native personally impacted by DADT.

Baldwin tells the story of a member of the U.S. military who grew up in her district and went to college on an ROTC scholarship. During college, she came out and then eventually came out to people in the ROTC. Upon her graduation, she has received extensive mainstream media coverage for negative issues she's endured since coming out.

"When I first joined Congress, we did not have majority support [to repeal DADT]," said Baldwin, who knows many men and women who are out, or been have been outed, and has introduced them to her colleagues, so they can tell their own stories and, "my colleagues' minds will expand because of their stories."

Baldwin speaks openly and knowledgeably about gay servicemembers Victor Fehrenbach and Dan Choi—and has met both.

"These people have proudly served our country, and now are willing to be public face of why Don't Ask, Don't Tell is such an abhorrent and un-American policy," Baldwin said.

Proposition 8

When asked if she would get married, Baldwin said, "I believe so, but, much more important is wanting that right. I yearn for a true equality."

Baldwin would have to drive to Iowa as it's the closest state with marriage rights.

California appears on the road back to marriage rights, though.

"I certainly have been encouraged by Judge Vaughn Walker's very strong ruling, finding Prop 8 unconstitutional," Baldwin said. "It's heartening to see the decision that Prop 8 is unconsti-

tutional, but also heartening to see the gradual, but steady, opinion change that is leading to greater and greater support for marriage equality for gay and lesbian Americans. And we can all be a part of that education. Getting into why marriage equality is most important is what is most persuasive to the American people, not arguing around the edges of this.

"I was certainly disappointed that the stay on the ruling of the judge was not lifted. But, hand in hand with that came a commitment to review the case on a quicker pace, which I think is encouraging. I think that, the more people who are married, the easier time we will have of changing hearts and minds. If you see a same-sex married couple living in your neighborhood, shopping at the same grocery store, worshipping in the same church, all of those things change hearts and minds. So, the disappointment for me is that people who very much want equal protection under the law are denied it for an additional length of time.

"I think we certainly will win marriage equality rights. [It's] just a matter of time."

In 2006, Wisconsin had a constitutional amendment on the ballot, and the majority voted to define marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman, and to ban any substantially similar institution from legal recognition.

"Our country has always marched towards equality, just not necessarily at the pace that those who are denied full equality would be satisfied with, but it's always been the direction that we're headed," Baldwin said.

"Obviously we have a number of states that are recognizing same-sex marriage at the state level. We have an active challenge [in Massachusetts] to the Defense of Marriage Act at the federal level that is denying those married couples the federal benefits of marriage. We are seeing the case in California, in all likelihood, working its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court."

President Obama



Baldwin with openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (far left) and Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese (in purple tie) talking with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office.

Baldwin said President Obama is, arguably, the most pro-equality chief executive that the United States has ever seen—and is a stark contrast to President George W. Bush.

"Once someone becomes president, they have a megaphone unlike any others," Baldwin said. "There have been times when the president has used that voice to do very important things for the LGBT community. I am proud of those, but I would push him further because I think it makes a difference. I would push him further with regard to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, with regard to finishing the job of repealing DADT, with regard to calling for domestic-partner benefits and obligations for federal employees. His partnership is welcome and every time he speaks out for equality, it helps our efforts in the legislative branch."

But is President Obama moving slow on LGBT causes?

"As a member of Congress, I certainly feel frustration with the pace that some things take," she said. "I will not restrict myself to LGBT issues here [in this answer], but, the number of times that the House has acted on measures and sent them over to the Senate, only to see them languish because the Senate's rules that require 60 votes rather than a simple majority for legislation to move forward. An additional layer of my frustration is because I am an out lesbian and I yearn for the day when I have full equality, and it cannot come soon enough."

Still, she stands firmly behind Obama.

"I am a strong supporter of our President, and my job is to continue to communicate with him and urge him to be bolder and louder on these issues," she said.

More Tammy Baldwin:

—On ENDA: "One of the things I've worked on very, very hard in regard to ENDA is, talking with my colleagues one on one, trying to make sure that we will have the votes to pass ENDA in its inclusive form, meaning, covering both sexual orientation and gender identity at such time that the leadership schedules it for a floor vote. I have felt very proud of the efforts that I've undertaken, with the help of others, to get a good, strong vote count. I think we are there; we're at the time where the majority of the House of Representatives is willing to vote for an inclusive, strong non-discrimination act. It's my job to be prepared for the day when this gets its day of debate, so we can move it forward."

—She graduated from Madison West High School in 1980 as the class valedictorian—and was scheduled to attend her 30th high school reunion days after this interview. "I'm blessed to have tremendous friends, local friends and long-distance friends," she said.

—Baldwin has a wide range of hobbies and non-political interests, especially cooking, with items from her garden, such as zucchini, squash, eggplant and tomatoes.

—So would she appear on a TV cooking show, such as, Top Chef? "I'm not that good," she said.

—On Chicago: "It's a destination that a lot of Madisonians like, and there are a large amount of Chicagoans who come to Madison for recreation and to just get away, especially on a [big, local] sports weekend. There are good ties between Chicago and Madison."

—It's a fact: She enjoys Ann Sather's restaurant in Chicago for Sunday brunch. "One [cinnamon roll] is my limit," she said, laughing.

—Quote: "I think our equality is still achieved with each individual who comes out and with each ally who stands up for their gay friend, or lesbian sister, or whatever. All of those individuals and small group acts of visibility are really what changes things, and we can never forget that.

—As the lone out lesbian in Congress: "It's a lonely sorority, and sororities require sorority sisters," she said.

Obama uses recess appointment for gay man

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The White House announced Thursday, Aug. 19, that President Barack Obama was using the recess appointment to install openly gay nominee Richard Sorian as assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services.

This is the second time the president has used the provision to enable an openly gay appointee to take office. In March, he used the recess appointment to put lesbian law professor and activist Chai Feldblum on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Presidents have, in recent years, used the recess appointment when confirmation votes were being held up in the Senate for political reasons. According to the Constitution, the president can make the temporary appointment when the Senate is in recess, as it is now, but the appointments expire at the end of the next Congressional session unless the Senate later votes to confirm the appointee.

The Senate Committee on Finance approved Sorian's nomination June 30. While any senator can hold up a full Senate vote on any nominee, Senate rules require that the senator identify himself within a few days. But Republican senators have been putting most Senate floor votes for nominees on indefinite holds without identifying themselves by taking turns putting holds on the nominees. The Senate calendar does not indicate any senator as having put a hold on any nominee.

"At a time when our nation faces so many pressing challenges, I urge members of the Senate to stop playing politics with our highly qualified nominees, and fulfill their responsibilities of advice and consent," said Obama in

a written statement issued by the White House. "Until they do, I reserve the right to act within my authority to do what is best for the American people."

Interestingly, another openly gay nominee at HHS, Kathy Greenlee, was confirmed by the full Senate in June 2009, less than two months after she was nominated. Greenlee serves as assistant secretary for aging.

Obama nominated Sorian on October 5, 2009.

Sorian served for five years as a senior advisor for Health Policy Communications in the Office of Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, during the Clinton administration. He currently serves as a senior advisor to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

©2010 Keen News Service

Target feeling backlash

In the wake of Target's \$150,000 donation to Minnesota Forward—which is supporting GOP gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer, who is against same-sex marriage—the corporate giant is continuing to feel the heat.

Before, external forces were applying the pressure, as gay-rights groups asked Target to correct what it had done. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) had even tried to negotiate with the company to get it to donate to a pro-gay candidate; however, Target ultimately refused to do so.

Now, things are happening internally, as shareholders are demanding that the company alter its donation policies to prevent future flare-ups, according to the L.A. Times. Calvert Asset Management, Trillium Asset Management and Walden Asset Management—which hold \$57.5 million of stock in Target—have sponsored a resolution that would have Target substantially revamp its policies regarding donations. Others, including the New York state pension fund (which owns almost 4 million shares), are considering co-signing said resolution.

There have been other developments as well.

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS



—Mary Cheney (left) donates to anti-gay politician

—Rachel Maddow to receive Interfaith award

—Utah Pride Center vandalized

HRC announced that it is dropping Target and Best Buy from its annual buyer's guide, according to On Top Magazine. The guide is based on ranking from the organization's Corporate Equality Index; both companies had scored 100 (the top score) in last year's index. (Best Buy has also donated to Minnesota Forward and has received the same shareholder resolution, according to the L.A. Times.)

In addition, MoveOn.org has released a television ad urging people to boycott Target, the Huffington Post reported. MoveOn Executive Director Justin Ruben said in a statement, "Target's refusal to acknowledge its customers' outrage at their attempt to buy elections is scandalous. Americans have spoken: we don't want corporations meddling in our democracy. Corporate money in elections is nothing more than political bribery and we're not going to stop targeting Target until they stop trying to buy our elections." The ad has run on most local and national channels where it has been submitted; however, Advocate.com reported that MSNBC re-

jected the ad because it violates the network's policy concerning attacks on individual companies.

Even companies associating with Target are not safe. Gilt Groupe, a designer website, has been criticized for partnering with Target after the company's contribution was revealed, according to Advocate.com. Gilt CEO Susan Lyne said, "We consider ourselves lucky to work in an industry that flourishes precisely because it embraces diversity and change."

Gilt's Facebook page, however, has exploded with comments from people who are disgusted with the luxury brand's association with Target. One person, Jess Raven Gordon, posted, "I'm going to spend my money elsewhere and remain Gilt-free."

—Andrew Davis



An anti-Target logo used by pro-gay activists.





ALCC
AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL OF CHICAGO

PRESERVING, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING
THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH HIV

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

3349 N. HALSTED STREET, CHICAGO
6:00PM - 8:30PM



club tango

BUENOS AIRES • CHICAGO

TICKETS ARE \$50 - CALL (312) 427-8990 OR PURCHASE ONLINE AT AIDSLEGAL.COM

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS









Court appeal based on anti-gay slur

BY SAMUEL WORLEY

Sidney Foster, convicted for murder in 1975, is appealing his sentence on the grounds that the judge in the case violated Foster's right to due process when he used a homophobic slur at the sentencing hearing. Following its dismissal by the First District Appellate Court, the case is being appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court.

This is the fifth post-conviction appeal in state court for Foster, who is represented by the Cook County public defender's office. The petition was initially filed in 2003, with Foster representing himself. The public defender's office was appointed to the case in 2004.

Foster was found guilty of the 1973 killing of Vivian Patterson, with whom he had lived for more than two years. According to the appellate court's recent decision, Patterson's 12-year-old son, Solomon Hudson, testified during the murder trial that Foster had "forced him to engage in homosexual behavior."

In December 1973, after expressing concerns to an acquaintance that Patterson was planning on moving away and taking Hudson with her, Foster allegedly borrowed a friend's gun and murdered Patterson. He then allegedly paid two men to dispose of her body, which was discovered, dismembered, in the trunk of a car outside Foster's apartment in January 1974.

During and since the trial, Foster maintained his innocence. The latest appeal, however, does not contest the facts of the case. Rather, it centers on language used by Judge Frank Barbaro in the sentencing phase of Foster's trial.

After a jury found Foster guilty, Barbaro sentenced him to a term of between 125 and 250 years in prison. In explaining his sentence, Barbaro called Foster's actions "one of the most heinous and vicious crimes" he had seen.

The judge said, "The evidence showed that the defendant willfully concealed and calculated for his desire and lust for a young man, Solomon Hudson, did commit the crime of murder when he felt the victim, the mother might take away this boy, the defendant committed the violation of the law. He then, under his direction, became a fagot [sic] in the sense that he led two young men down the path of crime to do his bidding, not for a monetary reward to him, the defendant, but so that he may continue his desire and lust, and under his control and direction had two young men dismember the body of Vivian Patterson."

In the decision recently published by the appellate court, Foster is referred to as "openly homosexual." And the court said, "Throughout the period [of the murder and trial], the defendant considered himself to be a transsexual; that is, he felt psychologically that he was a woman in a man's body." Windy City Times' attempts, through the Public Defender's office, to learn how Foster currently self-identifies were unsuccessful. Given this uncertainty, this article follows Foster's attorneys in referring to Foster with "he" and "him."

Foster and his lawyers claim that anti-gay bias was a motivation behind the sentence given by Barbaro, who was notoriously tough: after his death in 1997, a Chicago Tribune obituary noted that the judge had earned the nickname "Bar B-Q Barbaro" for his harsh sentencing practices. Foster is asking the Illinois Supreme Court to reverse the appellate court's decision and remand the case for a new sentencing hearing.

"We want them to take a stand," said Lester Finkle, a lawyer with the public defender's office. Finkle oversees the legal resources division, which represents indigent clients in post-conviction and appellate cases. "If a sentence is imposed out of bias, out of ignorance," he said, "you have to revisit [it]."

The appellate court decision, which was hand-



Mark Wojcik.

ed down in June, focused on the number of petitions Foster has already made to both state and federal courts. "[T]he state's interest in finality," the decision read, "trumps the defendant's desire to litigate an issue that, despite his cognizance of it for more than three decades, neither he nor his prior counsel raised until 2003.

"The Act [that allows for post-conviction appeals] does not create a hit-or-miss process for defendants to repeatedly file post-conviction petitions raising new issues until, by a combination of luck and the process of elimination, a potentially meritorious one is argued."

Finkle said that there could have been any number of reasons for Foster to wait so long to appeal a sentence based on the claim of bias. That it took 35 years and four exhausted post-conviction appeals to raise these specific concerns "may not have been Mr. Foster's fault," he said. For instance, "he may not have had access to transcripts."

Mark Wojcik, a professor at the John Marshall Law School, echoed Finkle's observations when he talked with Windy City Times. "The decision" by the appellate court, said Wojcik, "showed a lot of problems constructing a complete record."

One such problem was that an earlier record of the trial was incomplete: it lacked the testimony of Solomon Hudson, the boy with whom Foster is alleged to have had a forcible sexual relationship.

The appellate court's decision said that after Foster's lawyers "discovered an original copy of the record of proceedings in the circuit court warehouse," the trial record was completed. It disputes the notion, though, that Foster didn't have access to his record sufficient to file an appeal, writing, "[T]here is no denying that his counsel had the record necessary to formulate a postconviction petition."

Wojcik said that he doubted the Illinois Supreme Court would reverse the lower court's ruling. "If he was challenging the evidence," Wojcik said, "there would be more to the argument."

But he said that the case is a good example of the rapid evolution of the judiciary over the past 35 years: The appellate court wrote that it "does not question the outrage expressed" by Foster's petition, and characterized the slur as "offensive and derogatory."

Wojcik pointed out that Barbaro used the term "faggot" only two years after homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the guide used by medical practitioners to classify and diagnose mental illness.

"The courts then were not really used to dealing with homosexuals and transsexuals," said Wojcik. "The judiciary [today] is simple much more sensitive to the power of language." Words like "faggot," for instance, "simply would not be heard in the courtroom today."

Finkle said that he expects the Supreme Court to decide on whether or not to hear the case by September or October. Foster, who is 67, is currently incarcerated at Big Muddy Correctional Center in Ina, Ill.

Two indicted on hate-crime charge

Two southwest suburban men have each been indicted on armed robbery, robbery and hate-crime charges in connection with an attack on a woman in June, according to the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Mohammad Shaban, 35, of Hickory Hills and Oak Lawn resident Akram Alshoweat, 22, could each receive seven years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutors said that on June 28, the victim entered a Hickory Hills restaurant when the suspects shouted at her in Arabic. Translations revealed the shouted statements to be anti-gay slurs and other disparaging remarks.

When the victim left the restaurant, the defendants allegedly punched and kicked her. In addition, they reportedly took her keys, wallet and cell phone.

Initially, Hickory Hills Police charged Shaban and Alshoweat with misdemeanor battery. However, the state's attorney's office upgraded the charges after reviewing the incident.

They are scheduled to be arraigned on their cases Sept. 3 in Bridgeview.



Scholarship recipients Ignacio Maldonado (left) and Jose "Che Che" Turrubiardez. Photo by Chasse Rehwinkel

ALMA awards scholarships at reception

BY CHASSE REHWINKEL

The Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA) hosted its annual scholarship awards reception and fundraiser Aug. 19 at Lakeview's Rehab Night Lounge.

For the past seven years ALMA has hosted a scholarship reception, with the goal of raising enough funds to award two \$1,000 scholarships to young members of the gay Latino community.

"These scholarships are a way to recognize gay Latino youth that not only demonstrate good academics, but also leadership skills within the community," said ALMA board member Kenny Martin-Ocasio. "It's also a way to strengthen our community by providing more opportunities to our youth."

This year's recipients were Ignacio Maldonado, a rising senior at Columbia College, and Jose "Che Che" Turrubiardez, a recent high school graduate with plans to study architecture in Washington D.C.

"I don't know how I would have been able to finish if it wasn't for this scholarship," said Maldonado, who was a finalist for last year's ALMA scholarship. "I think it's really great what [ALMA] is doing for our community in helping the youth out like this."

Included in the night's festivities was a performance by the 2010 Windy City Idol winner, Matt Rivera. Said Rivera about the night, "I think this is really great, it's good to know that there is a group like this out there looking out for the community."

All of the proceeds from this event went to-

ward next year's scholarship fund.

ALMA is a 21-year-old community action group based in Chicago that focuses on strengthening the gay Latino community. For more information, visit www.almachicago.org.

Bar AIDS Aug. 26

EdgeAlliance and AIDSCare Progressive Services are hosting the 7th annual Bar AIDS fundraiser Thursday, Aug. 26. A Chicago-wide fundraiser, Bar AIDS will raise money to help the fight against HIV/AIDS.

More than 30 bars (including many LGBT establishments, such as Sidetrack, T's Bar & Restaurant, Berlin and Spin) throughout the Chicagoland area will host events. See www.EDGEAlliance.org.

Chorus raises \$1,600 for Project Kindle

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus (CGMC) has announced that audience members at its recent annual Pride concert—"Summer Camp," performed June 25-26 at Nettelhorst Auditorium—donated more than \$1,600 to support Project Kindle, a national organization dedicated to providing cost-free camping programs and advocacy programs for HIV/AIDS-infected and -impacted children, young adults and families, according to a press release.

"CGMC is thrilled to bring the message of Project Kindle to our audiences and is greatly touched by their generous contributions," said Quenten Schumacher, president of the board of directors of Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. "Our music affects people on many different levels, just as the mission of Project Kindle does, and we are honored to assist them in its efforts of sending over 60 Chicago-area clients to camp this August."

'One Man' semis under way

Twenty men in the Chicago area have been selected from hundreds of nominations and applicants to compete for the title of "One Man Chicago." On Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Harris Theatre in Millennium Park, one of the men will be chosen as "One Man Chicago"—the man who represents the best of the city from the perspectives of community involvement, personality, intelligence and fitness.

Through Monday, Aug. 30, any adult can vote for a semifinalist and his affiliated charity by visiting www.OneManChicago.com. There will also be a series of four "Meet the Men" cocktail parties throughout the city.

Semifinalists include Bryan Herb (Center on Halsted), Matt Matros (Common Threads), Terrence Chappell (Chicago Public Schools Arts Education) and James Goeke (Vital Bridges). The City of Chicago's Michael Segobiano, The Men's Book's Matt Lee and Selective Search's Barbie Adler are among the judges.

TPAN, Shanti launch LIFE program

The Shanti LIFE Institute—which assists agencies and health departments by offering health-enhancement programming—and HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) have implemented Learning Immune Function Enhancement (LIFE), a program for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

LIFE incorporates the latest research in HIV, immunology and health into a holistic model of care that aims to empower persons living with HIV to improve their health. During 13 weekly sessions, participants gain the knowledge, motivation, skills and support necessary to manage life issues that can impact immune functioning and overall health.

To join a LIFE workshop, call Billy Minshall at 773-989-9400, ext. 232, or e-mail b.minshall@tpan.com.



Alderman Mary Ann Smith.

Talking with outgoing Alderman Mary Ann Smith

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Recently, 48th Ward Alderman Mary Ann Smith surprised many by announcing that she is stepping down at the end of her current term. Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed Smith as alderman in 1989 to replace Kathy Osterman, and she was first elected in 1991. In 2007, she was elected to her fifth term in office.

Windy City Times talked with Smith about her reasons for retirement, her future and her choice for a successor.

Windy City Times: Many were stunned upon hearing that you were stepping down. How hard a decision was this?

Mary Ann Smith: It was actually a pretty hard decision because we all know that, as much as do, you know that there's always more to do, no matter how good something may look to other people. So it's really been thrilling to build capacity by developing special service areas and chambers of commerce and so forth; it's also really been thrilling to create school additions and campus parks, and to nurture and empower the community. But at the same time, I want to finish this bridge, I want to do more public art. You just want to make sure that you've done your very best on your watch.

WCT: You just listed a lot of accomplishments. Is there anything there you're really proud of?

MAS: It has to be public safety, first and foremost. When my children were growing up here, crime was rampant. It used to be that people didn't want to go north of Irving Park, and real estate maps and tourism maps never went north of there. I felt it was an outrage.

I built on what my predecessors accomplished. It's been a continuum since Marion Volini was elected in the '70s. So that part of the job has been thrilling, because it's involved community-based decision-making. But the job of public safety is never done; it means building enforcement, crime stats, community initiatives with the police, working with the state's attorney's office—it means everything that comes under the umbrella of "public safety."

And, of course, there was a fair amount of gay-bashing going on here, too. [I remember a] Molotov cocktail thrown at the front door of [the now-closed bar] Different Strokes [at 4923 N. Clark]. There was commotion and confrontations going on Clark Street south of Foster.

WCT: I find it very interesting that you, Alderman [Helen] Shiller and Alderman Vi Daley are all leaving office. I think if it had been three men, I wouldn't have noticed. [Editor's note: Since talking with Smith, 19th Ward Alderman Virginia Rugai announced that she is also stepping down.]

MAS: [Laughs] Well, we're all basically from the same vintage. We might have seemed distinctly different from each other but we share history, and we shared a geographic situation.

I don't know if it's more than that—but there might be common threads.

WCT: I've learned to never say never—so is this a permanent goodbye or more like a sabbatical?

MAS: Oh, that's an interesting question. Well, one of my goals is the slow-down time because time goes by so fast; the 21 years that I've held office have flown by in an instant. Plus, I want more focus; in this job, you have to be a responder and try to do what the people want. Instead of doing a thousand things, I'd like to focus primarily on the Great Lakes and the arts. I'm passionately in love with the fine arts, which can open a child up; after all, [children] are all gifted.

As for leaving [permanently], absolutely. We're very fortunate that there is so much homegrown talent here. It would be very difficult to step down if I weren't confident that community-bound talent would step up to the plate.

WCT: Do you have a successor in mind?

MAS: I do, but I'm just one vote. I very much would love to see Harry Osterman take the alderman's spot. He's so committed to the community. Regardless of what skills you bring to the job, you have to be committed to the community. You can't just say, "The public schools aren't important."

WCT: What would you like your legacy to be?

MAS: I don't know because I'm not done yet. [Laughs] I'm still focused on what's not finished. We have been waiting decades for a new library, for example. So I'm thrilled to have seven more months to wrap up things.

You know how you feel that nothing's good enough for your family? That's how I feel about my community.

Lesbian attorney mulls aldermanic run

Out attorney Betty Tsamis is considering a run for the 48th Ward aldermanic seat currently held by Mary Ann Smith. Smith has indicated that she will retire after this term.

In an e-mail, Tsamis wrote, "I am forming a committee to explore running for alderman of Chicago's 48th Ward, which includes major portions of Andersonville. Andersonville is a vibrant community that has sustained many local businesses and is a heavily LGBT populated area of Chicago. My areas of passion include: safety and community policing, friendly business development climate, quality public education, and environmental sustainability. My work in the LGBT community represents my longtime commitment to issues that impact the daily lives of LGBT people and LGBT families."

Regarding state Rep. Harry Osterman, who has expressed interest in the position, Tsamis stated, "Although he strikes me as capable, I think it is time for our community to demand a change from the same old/same old and usher in a new era of creative thinking, vitality in government leadership, and sensible problem solving for our city and local community."

Those interested in being in an exploratory committee should e-mail BTsamis@tsamislaw.com.



Betty Tsamis.

PFLAG in Crystal Lake



The Woodstock/McHenry County Chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) recently marched in the Crystal Lake Gala Parade. By the end of the parade, an estimated 50 people were marching with the organization. (Members asked people to join them along the route.) Photos by Jess Steidl

Dolphin Promotions, Inc. presents

chicago o'hare antiques show and sale

Friday, August 27 • Noon-7pm
Saturday, August 28 • Noon-7pm
Sunday, August 29 • Noon-5pm

Admission \$10 - Good all 3 days
FREE PARKING with paid show admission
\$2 off with this ad

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
Next to the Hyatt Regency on River Road in Rosemont
(Kennedy Expressway to River Road or I-294 to O'Hare)

Bringing to Chicago the finest in antiques for over 30 years.
A variety of 60 quality dealers featuring: Fine Furniture • Silver • Ceramics
Bronzes • Lamps • Paintings • Jewelry • Watches • Orientalia • Textiles
Prints • Vintage Clothing • And much more!

Visit our web site at: www.chicagoohareantiques.com
For information, please contact Dolphin Promotions, Inc.
at 708-366-2710 or 954-563-6747

a celebration of antiques



ILLINOIS Mile After Magnificent Mile
Rosemont CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU

photos courtesy of
Treasure Chest, Toulouse
Antiques & Silver Fund



Lola Lai Jong. Photo by Hal Baim

i2i marks five years of queer A/PI advocacy

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

While Chicago has been home to organizations focusing on Asian/Pacific Islander (API) lesbians and groups focused on API gay men, it wasn't until 2004 that community members got together to create an organization that would serve the needs of queer API individuals across all gender identities.

That group is i2i—Invisible to Invincible—and on Saturday, Aug. 28, members will celebrate the group's fifth birthday with a gala dinner and awards ceremony honoring longtime activist Lola Lai Jong.

According to i2i co-facilitator I Li Hsiao, the organization focuses on a mission of activism, culture and community and currently serves "about fifteen to 35 active members, representing about six nationalities." An additional 30 or 40 community members stay in touch via the list serve. He hopes to do more outreach to the QAPI community in the Chicago area. "I believe it's vital for queer APIs to have a safe space because we can understand each other's struggle in a deeper way, i2i can be a resource and we can learn more about each other's lives," he wrote in an email interview.

Hsiao's priorities for i2i include "immigration reform that's inclusive of queer API; trans inclusion in the queer community and protection under the law; equal rights for all LGBTQ people... including gay marriage; and repeal of DADT." He added that although DADT is a civil rights issue and the policy "is a direct discrimination against people of a different sexual orientation" he personally is against war. "War doesn't solve problems, just increase[s] hatred and create[s] more problems," he wrote. "I don't believe queers should take part in it."

At the gala, Lai Jong will receive the Community Catalyst award. The Chicago-born Chinese lesbian came out when she was 27 "after a long period of denial" and has spent the ensuing 34 years working on behalf of the lesbian, LGBTQ and API communities. Her long list of achievement include: co-producer of Lesbians of Colors performance group, co-founder of Pacifica Asian Lesbians-Chicago, co-facilitator of the Womyn of Colors Tent at Michigan Women's Music Festival (1987-1993); co-founder Asian American Literary and Arts Society and is a founding member of i2i.

A writer and poet, Lai Jong retired from her carpentry business some years back and currently works in home health care, "taking care of an elder" and accompanying her to Tucson during the winter months. "I've been blowing in the wind for the past 10 years and I'm still looking for a place to land, but haven't quite landed. I'm enjoying life but I'm missing that lively lesbian community that I came out into in Chicago."

When pressed for the top three items on her "bucket list" Lai Jong's first response was "get

back to writing. Also, lately I've been thinking about pulling the LOC (Lesbians of Color) group back together to do a couple of Elderspeak things. I talked to a couple of them. They're excited."

As an elder lesbian, Lai Jong sees a major need for better dialogue across the generations. "The older lesbians need to find a way to relate to the issues of younger lesbians and understand them and also for the younger lesbians to give respect and listen to what the older lesbians say. Not that the older lesbians know more, but maybe we have something to add or share so that the wheel does not have to be reinvented."

Lai Jong, who once identified as a separatist, is now in a relationship with a transgender woman—an individual she actually dated during her teens and who has come out as a transgender woman. The couple reconnected recently and this new relationship has added to Lai Jong's understanding of the issues, making trans inclusion and rights her most personal and passionate concern.

"I'm almost quoting Toni Armstrong when she talked about how the trans community and the lesbian community are natural allies but we seem to be not understanding each other. I would like to draw a bridge there. When I think of my own ignorance and my coming to a deeper understanding I want to make myself accessible to other lesbians who are struggling with the trans issue, who don't want to be ignorant or insensitive to trans people but need to talk about it, need to be educated and to understand," she explained.

She emphasized the need for both lesbians and transwomen to really communicate around the issue of women-only space. "My lover is a trans woman and I still value women only space. It is a place for us to heal. It is not about exclusion."

"Sometimes lesbians do act in an oppressive way toward trans women," she said, and related a recent encounter when two lesbians working at a hot dog stand were snickering and laughing at her partner. "They acted like straight people do toward lesbians. I was embarrassed for lesbians."

Lai Jong also sees a role for trans men in the dialogue and in helping to educate men and reduce violence against transgender women. "My fantasy is that trans men participate in the liberation work: You know what it was like to grow up as a woman, to be oppressed as a woman—can you bring that to your brothers?"

Despite her assertion that she's "still looking for a place to land," it sounds like she'll be getting back into it very soon.

The i2i event, which is being held in collaboration with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark. Tickets, at \$40 each, can be purchased at www.chicagoi2i.org or by calling 312-413-8619 (sliding scale available).

Broadway Youth's Hollendoner receives award

Joe Hollendoner, the founding director of Howard Brown Health Center's Broadway Youth Center, has been named one of 10 recipients of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award.

The award, which Hollendoner received Aug. 12 in New York City, honors individuals who have overcome significant obstacles to tackle health and healthcare problems facing their communities.

In a statement, Hollendoner—who was recently named Howard Brown Health Center's chief program officer—said that the greatest challenge is the increasing number of homeless youth, with LGBT people making up about 40 percent of that population.



"Saint Sebastian" by Scott Ashley, whose works are being shown at the Aldo Castillo Gallery.

ALDO from cover

AC: Because I am considered one of the main voices for Latin American art. I have studied the movements in Latin America, what sells, what doesn't sell, the prices, the authenticity of the work, so I am a key person that is knowledgeable about that. When I decided to close the gallery, all these people advised me not to do it—to keep the name alive. It's better to keep what I have done open.

WCT: What is it that you love about Latin American art?

AC: Actually, the truth is that I love art in general. Art is universal. It's just that in this country, they put you in a box. If I have black hair and I come from Latin America, I am Latino/Hispanic. It's just that I come from this, so I knew a lot about Latin American art because I've been studying it.

When I studied in Chicago, Latin American art, African-American art [and] Haitian art were considered [one] segment of the arts because, in people's minds here, Latin American art and European art were the top. I don't know why they got that idea, but art is global, it's universal.

WCT: So what's your favorite form of art?

AC: You know, it changes. I have become a fan of every different, new, cutting-edge, conceptual art. They say that the best art is the one who makes you think and art that is mysterious. Conceptual is very interesting—it makes you think and, also, ideas are explained to you. Deep inside there is a really valuable idea or reflection of something that we all need to know.

WCT: So when you leave, what are you going to miss most about Chicago?

AC: It's bittersweet. I think Chicagoans are very gentle, educated people. I had challenges along the way with some colleagues. I think there is a quality of life here, which is great, but it has a downside. I notice because there are so many resources, the people are less challenged than in other places of the world. The people, precisely because they think they have everything, they don't realize what they are missing. And I did bring something they were missing that they didn't know they were missing, which means that anybody from any place can come to Chicago.

WCT: What about Miami excites you the most?

AC: Well, the most exciting thing is that I can still be creative. Before I was in touch with the messages of social contribution, this one is about economy. And it's really great for me because being a dealer myself; I notice how all dealers and artists are affected by the economy. So going there and to think about how this connects—[if] it's an artist, [if] it's a gallery,



Aldo Castillo. Photo by Paul Strabbing

how can they survive? How can I put them in touch with the right buyers?

WCT: So, you're not going to miss the Chicago winters?

AC: Actually, no. For one simple reason, all along for 25 years—if I was born in a place that was 70 degrees almost all year around, that is very quiet and there's no crime, why do I live here? I've forgotten that place that was paradise—it was too small. This is huge, so in order to develop my dreams, I pay with the winter. But, of course, I still have problems when I go back there—the heat bothers me. I'm still adjusting to it.

WCT: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

AC: I think that my parents were wise to [provide] education to us, to all my brothers and sisters. They gave us that opportunity, telling us that we could do whatever we wanted as long as we were studying. And they didn't control us. They gave us the sense that we're not alone, that we can always contribute to the world. There is always room for some of us to understand how we can help, to prevent or to cope with the people who are affected. I think the thing that I'm proud of is that I have a conscience. I'm a conscious person of human issues that affect people, whether it's AIDS, whether it's poverty, whether it's floods, whether it's ignorance, lack of education—racist, homophobic, all of that.

WCT: Are you going to be doing something in the gallery before you close?

AC: Yes, there have been so many ideas. But the one that I'm set on is cleaning the gallery of everything that is there. Then, there is Scott Ashley, a very well-known artist. He's an amazing conceptual artist and I want the gallery to close with an artist from the United States.

The final show at the Aldo Castillo Gallery with work by Scott Ashley will run through Aug. 28 at 675 N. Franklin. The gallery will become an online showcase of contemporary and modern art at www.artaldo.com.

**The best selection
of new and classic
books**

**Always great deals
on books and other
gifts**



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST
FEMINIST BOOKS + CHICAGO

wcfbooks@aol.com
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com
Parking Available
Wheelchair Accessible



nightspots



**Have your
premiums
increased
recently?**

See me:
**Charles T. Rhodes,
Agent**
2472 N. Clark
773.281.0890

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
(not in NJ)
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ)
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois



Jeremy Bonsol
Chiropractor

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN

Jeremy Bonsol has a passion for art and has produced hundreds of pieces. His abstract work on canvas is seen online (www.MichaelJeremy.com) and on the walls at second-floor offices of Greater Chicago Chiropractic, 561 W. Diversey.

That's Bonsol's full-time job, as doctor of chiropractic care. Art is his hobby.

He has been at this Lincoln Park business since February, where he specializes in natural holistic healthcare, and he often incorporates Reiki and chakra balancing.

"I love my job. It's great watching people leave here feeling like a million bucks, which is something we hear very often," Bonsol said. "I enjoy meeting new patients, to show them that we offer so much more than just chiropractic care. I get to see people from throughout the city and many suburbs—and get to help them enjoy a healthier life."

Bonsol sees about 15 patients daily, a number that is continually growing.

"I get up every [work]day looking forward to seeing my first patient of the day," Bonsol said.



Bonsol at the chiropractic office, with his artwork displayed on the wall.

the stats

Age
31

Neighborhood
Uptown

Favorite Music
Indie Rock (e.g. Bon Iver and New Amsterdam)

Favorite Chicago Restaurant
El Gallo Bravo #5

Relationship Status
Dating

Pets
Harvey, a French bulldog puppy

Favorite TV show
True Blood



Bonsol with some of the tools of the chiropractic trade.





**BRIDGET
STRATHMAN**

Straight talk about Market Days

I love Market Days weekend and look forward to it every year. This year as I walked through the crowds, I was reminded of someone I met in college who I haven't thought about in years. I went to a large university where I was co-chair of our queer group. Every year the student government would hold elections, and those campaigning would make their rounds with the student organizations. Of everyone who came throughout the years, only one pair sticks out in my mind. They arrived one night as planned. They approached me together and introduced themselves. They were both large men but while one seemed outgoing, confident and dominated the conversation, the other was quiet and seemed visibly uncomfortable. I tried to listen as the first guy spoke about his campaign but I was distracted by the quiet guy's appearance.

While the talkative guy was dressed nicely with a button-down shirt and tie, the quiet one was wearing a playboy shirt. Splayed across his chest was the silhouette of a naked woman. I thought to myself, "What kind of person wears a shirt like this on the campaign route? Sure, we were in college but I would have expected a polo shirt in the very least, but this?" The only reason why this guy would have chosen to wear this shirt to our meeting was because he wanted

to make sure we all knew he was straight.

"I'm sorry," I said, interrupting the guy talking. Then, I looked at the quiet one and said, "That's an interesting shirt to wear today." He didn't respond. "Wanted to make sure everyone knew you were straight?" He looked uncomfortable and said, "No, this is just what I was wearing today." I just looked at him for a second and said, "Really? You weren't afraid of some gay guy hitting on you tonight?" Of course he was. I could tell by how uncomfortable he was being there that he did not like gays. Maybe he didn't mind us if we weren't around but we were a little to close for comfort that night. This guy had come to a gay meeting as an ally looking for our support with a big "I'M STRAIGHT" SIGN. That's not the kind of ally I'm looking for.

Recently at Northalsted Market Days I saw these same allies. They appear at various gay functions to show their support with clear signs on them as to not be confused for queer. As I squeezed my way through the crowds on Halsted, I noticed a shirt that read, "I'm not gay but my friends are." I wondered to myself if she had made that shirt that morning thinking, "This will show my support." Or, did she make that shirt thinking, "Now swarms of lesbians won't be hitting on me all day." Later I saw several women wearing stickers that said, "I heart f**king men." These stickers were being passed out as an advertisement for a current play although I'm pretty sure very few people who wore the sticker knew what it was referring to. This sticker was being worn as a form a gay pride by a lot of the men at the street festival which was fun and appropriate. When the straight women wore the sticker, the meaning was co opted into another "I'M STRAIGHT" sign. If this were a bunch of straight guys walking around Market Days with stickers that read, "I heart F**cking women," there would be a problem.

I know what you're thinking: "We need allies. We should be happy they're here to support us."

I agree, but real allies do not care about being mistaken for queer because it's not offensive. We need more allies like Johnny Galecki who, when asked about rumors that he was gay responded, "I've never really addressed those rumors because I always figured, why defend yourself against something that's not offensive." Bravo. Johnny Galecki, you get my vote for ally of the year. Even Oprah, who mostly ignores the rumors about Gayle and her, said, "The truth is, if we were gay, we would tell you, because there's nothing wrong with being gay." Thank you, Oprah. I'm so tired of celebrities getting so huffy-puffy about being called gay by the media. Getting angry only perpetuates the idea that being gay is bad and should be offensive. I personally don't think it's offensive so when people make an effort to make sure they are not mistaken for gay, I get offended.

If you are wearing a straight shirt, sticker or sign at a gay pride event, you are not 100-percent OK with gay people. If you think you are wearing it to show your own straight pride, turn on the TV, go outside and take a look around—straight pride day is every day. Give us our measly couple of days a year. If you think flagging straight is going to keep you from getting hit on, you've got a surprise coming. It is human nature to want what you can't have. When I go to straight bars I don't wear a big sign that I'm a lesbian. When men hit on me, I'm flattered. I don't get bothered; I just continue my evening.

As a queer community we need to strive not only to nurture and strengthen ourselves but also our allies who are often at our sides. We experience battle after battle both politically and emotionally and we need strong supporters. Sometimes, though, we need to set the bar a bit higher.

Bridget D Strathman is a lesbian artist, traveler and vegan. Currently living in the Windy City with her twin cats, she works tirelessly for a non-profit.



LETTERS

A matter of race

I am responding to a news item that appeared in the Aug. 11 edition of Windy City Times. In the article, a member of the Log Cabin Republicans was reportedly assaulted by "an unknown [B]lack male." This description of the alleged attacker was provided by the Chicago Police according to the same article.

For what purpose was this cursory description provided to your readers? Clearly, because of its limited nature, it could provide little or no help in apprehending the suspect. What it can and probably will do is foster and/or reinforce racial stereotypes.

Should individuals walking in the NewTown neighborhood where the incident took place now cross to the other side of the street if they see a African-American male walking toward them? Or maybe they should have their cell phones out at a ready to call 911?

Street crime is a serious matter. I have been the victim of it more than once. A dear friend was murdered in the street. But *please* let's not make matters worse by appealing to our lowest instincts. Doing that it seems to me would only put us on the same level as the perpetrators of these crimes.

David Klein
Chicago

Love and marriage

Letter to the Editor:

What's happening in both the national and local LGBT-rights movements? Thank God that the gay-rights movement has a life of its own, and

is not dependent on the HRC or Equality Illinois. Same-sex marriage will be a reality most likely within the next two years in spite of our so called political leadership.

A few more states have recognized same-sex marriage: Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire and Vermont have joined Massachusetts in granting same-sex matrimony, as has the District of Columbia. Only the last three have approved gay marriage without judicial intervention.

Both HRC and Equality Illinois seem to think that the issue of human rights is a chess game. You just have to make the right moves and some well-placed political endorsements, and you are going to achieve equal rights. Add to that visiting the politically correct bars to make sure you have funding for paid staff. In my opinion, both organizations have done some good for our community, but they also have done some harm.

Our collective memory can be rather short. Remember when HRC joined Freedom to Marry, ACLU, Lambda Legal, GLAAD, Victory Fund [Note: This is the letter writer's strikethrough.], Log Cabin Republicans and PFLAG in denouncing the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* lawsuit, saying in an open letter, "Rather than filing premature lawsuits, we need to talk to our friends, family and neighbors, and help them understand why denial of the freedom to marry is wrong." Unfortunately, this same mentality is at play in Illinois.

Then some of these same groups flipped their position and wanted to be part of a history-making judicial decision in overturning Prop 8. The response was quick, and it came from Chad Griffin, one of the plaintiffs and the head of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is funding the lawsuit. He said, "You have unrelentingly and unequivocally acted to undermine this case even before it was filed. Considering this,

it is inconceivable that you would zealously and effectively litigate this case if you were successful in intervening. Therefore, we will vigorously oppose any motion to intervene."

It's time to introduce same-sex marriage in the Illinois General Assembly, even if the above organizations are married to civil unions. Concerning the endorsement of political candidates for elective office for the fall elections, you scratch my back and I will scratch yours. Equality Illinois should be promoting same-sex marriage and not civil unions. Separate but equal has never worked.

Sincerely,
Joe Murray

Send letters and viewpoints to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Items may be edited for length or clarity.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Meghan Streit
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson
PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes
NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.
BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS Mary Shen Barnidge, Jim Edminster, Steve Warren, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Catey Sullivan, Zachary Whittenburg, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Susie Day, Jorjet Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Lisa Keen, Charles Dewey, Michael Knipp, Mark Corece, Sabine Neidhardt, Sam Worley, Billy Masters, John Fenoglio, Chuck Colbert, Micki Leventhal, Sarah Toce, Rachel Pepper
PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor

Copyright 2010 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609

e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
radio: WindyCityQueercast.com
video: QueerTVNetwork.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640 USA
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
Identity (BLACKlines and En La Vida): Now online only
Deadline The 10th of month prior.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
www.WindyCityQueercast.com
www.QueerTVNetwork.com

"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Con Buckley

BETTY BUSINESS

The musical act BETTY (above) was among many entertainers at the recent Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. See page 15.

AUTOS

Future shock.
Page 19.

Photo courtesy of the
Museum of Science and Industry



MOVIES

'Gray' expectations.
Page 16.



SPORTS

Local color
at the Games.
Page 22.

Photo courtesy of Cathy Seabaugh

SCOTTISH
PLAY SCOTTZak's back with
a McNally rally

BY SCOTT MORGAN

When David Zak resigned his post as artistic director of Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in 2009, it seemed that the company would fade and disappear.

After all, Bailiwick no longer had a permanent theater after jumping ship from its longtime Belmont Avenue home to become an itinerant company again. And since Zak's name was synonymous with the LGBT-friendly theater for most of its existence, many thought it couldn't weather on without him.

Luckily for Chicago theater audiences, others have picked up where Zak left off.

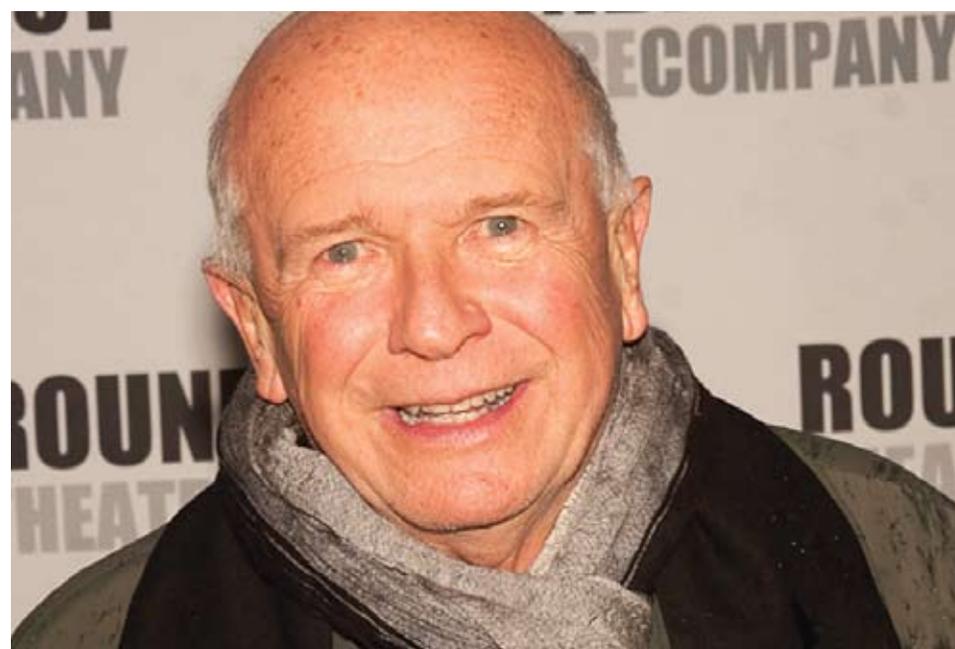
Theater Wit moved into the former Bailiwick warehouse space and completely gutted and renovated it into a new three-theater venue.

And a revamped and renamed Bailiwick Chicago under a new collective leadership led by general manager Kate Garassino and executive director Kevin Mayes recently scored two summer hits. Bailiwick Chicago's take on Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* was a critical and audience hit at American Theater Company, as is Joe DiPietro's *Fucking Men*. (The latter is set to close this weekend after several extensions at Stage 773.)

"Kate Garassino has done a great job with Bailiwick Chicago and I'm really thrilled that that's going on," Zak said.

Though he no longer is in charge of Bailiwick, Zak has found ways of keeping busy theatrically. Zak has been teaching at Roosevelt University, and he's also created the non-profit *Pride Films and Plays* as a way of "helping develop literature—great plays and great screenplays."

In what Zak describes as our current Facebook



Terrence McNally. Photo courtesy of David Zak

world, it's easier to reach out to talented people in all sort of different groups ranging from Hollywood to different theater communities. Which is why *Pride Films and Plays* has launched initiatives like the recently launched "Great Gay Screenplay Contest" and the soon-to-debut "Great Gay Play Contest" to tell stories specific to the LGBT community and to hopefully cross over to mainstream American culture at large.

"You know, fresh takes on [LGBT-related] material that you could show your church group or show your family in Alabama or let people know across the country that these are just stories about love or religion or the military," Zak said. "There are so many stories that we feel still need to be told."

Zak also plans a "Women's Work" contest for women penning screenplays, teleplays, plays and other performance art work for 2011.

In addition to the writing contests, *Pride Films and Plays* has also been staging one-night only readings of important LGBT plays. The first series focused on five famous gay plays from each decade of the second half of the late 20th century.

"It's really given a lot of us a chance to go back and really reexamine some of the great scripts and to introduce a lot to our [younger] audiences," Zak said. "Sometimes people have said to us at the talkback 'I had no idea what I was in for' since there's no sets, there's no costumes—just music stands and actors. But it's really a great way to get swept away by the story."

The latest play reading series is dedicated to the works of out playwright Terrence McNally, and begins 7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29, with the premiere of his 2006 drama *Some Men* at

Stage 773. *Some Men* follows a group of gay men through the latter-half of the 20th century.

Although McNally himself isn't coming out to attend any of the readings, Zak says he's talked with the famed playwright who is excited at this opportunity for Chicago audiences to get a 35-year retrospective of his work in the theater.

Zak is also excited by the directing and performing talent that is to be featured in the series. For example, Goodman Theatre regular Steve Scott is set to direct the reading of McNally's 1989 opera queen drama *The Lisbon Traviata* at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at Mary's Attic. Then there's stage and TV actress Alexandra Billings, who is set to play the outrageous diva role of Googie Gomez in McNally's 1975 bathhouse farce *The Ritz* at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, at Stage 773.

Zak has also arranged for a series of "celebrity hosts" for each reading, ranging from cabaret star Honey West to Hell in a Handbag Productions' David Cerda to introduce the works. Other plays in the series include the 1995 drama *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, the 1994 drama *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* and the controversial 1998 drama *Corpus Christi*.

Also in the cards for Zak's future is his London directing debut with Martin Casella's 2010 comedy *The Irish Curse*. It's about a support group for men coping with their emotions toward their miniscule members, and it's intriguingly to be staged at the tiny London fringe theater known as *Above the Bush*.

Since Zak helped Casella develop the play at the Bailiwick, he's eager to be working with Casella again in a higher-profile venue.

"It's going to be fun," Zak said. "I'm excited and really nervous."

For more information on *Pride Films and Plays'* writing contests and play reading series titled "The Great Plays of Terrence McNally," visit pridefilmsandplays.com.

Please send theater news and other related tidbits to scottishplayscott@yahoo.com and Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.



Jon Steinhagen (left) and Philip Winston in *The Real Inspector Hound*. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

The Real Inspector Hound

Playwright: Tom Stoppard
At: Signal Ensemble, 1802 W. Berenice
Phone: 773-347-1350; \$20
Runs through: Sept. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

No sooner do three plays exhibit similar structures than a fourth comes along to mock their stylistic elements. But even in 1968, a young Tom Stoppard bent on ridiculing the values of the previous generation couldn't resist flaunting an intellect defying parody to this day.

On the surface, the titular play is a send-up of the thriller-melodrama, a dramatic genre usually revolving around respectably helpless citizens and their comical servants menaced by a sociopathic villain whom they escape only through the intervention of a high-ranking public guardian (e.g., a police inspector, but rarely a uniformed patrolman). In this case, our setting is an isolated country house, and our premise, the usual welter of family secrets, romantic intrigue and unexplained deaths—the last evidenced by a conspicuously displayed corpse that goes curiously unnoticed by the other characters.

But that's not all: framing this scenario is the equally conspicuous presence in the playhouse of two reviewers for rival newspapers—chief

critic Birdboot and second-stringer Moon. They pay scant attention to the event in progress, preferring to pontificate from their press box, when not pursuing their own individual agendas (Birdboot has a date with the leading lady)—that is, until they suddenly find themselves introduced into the onstage action, where they fit into its artificial universe disturbingly well.

It's not over yet, however! Beneath the world-of-the-theater inside joke lies a commentary on the rigid class barriers upheld by the profiling inherent, not only in our whodunit, but those elected to evaluate it. The irony comes to its climax with the discovery of the murderer and his choice of victims.

There are clues, of course—note the interaction between Moon and Birdboot involving the latter's cache of expensive chocolates, especially in light of their successors' preferred snacks. Still, keeping abreast of the many levels of consciousness for 75 minutes presents a challenge. But Signal Ensemble director Ronan Marra has located our kibitzers full upstage (after Birdboot makes a token search for his seat among his real-life counterparts) and cast John Steinhagen and Philip Winston, uniformly large men with large faces, as the squabbling Birdboot and Moon. Thus, even with the satire unfolding in Melania Lancy's Victorian-gothic parlor (whose set dressing alone deserves its own museum tour), our focus is easily steered toward the sphere under scrutiny for the moment to render this ambitious production a worthy inauguration of the company's new North Center quarters.

THEATER REVIEW

The People's Drum Circle Pandora

Playwright: Andrew Park; **Score:** Scott Lamps
At: Quest Theatre Ensemble
at Blue Theatre, 1609 W. Gregory
Phone: 312-458-0895; **Free,**
but reservations required
Runs through: Sept. 19

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It won't be until March 2011 when the national touring company of the 2009 Tony Award-winning musical revival of *Hair* hits Chicago. Until then, those who want an immediate dose of 1960s-style theater filled with feel-good vibes and liberal lecturing should catch Quest Theatre Ensemble's musical *The People's Drum Circle Pandora*.

Pandora definitely fits with Quest's mission to be free and accessible to everyone. And if you're introducing children to Greek mythology and the wonders of live theater, you can't go wrong with Quest's visually inventive and participatory Pandora.

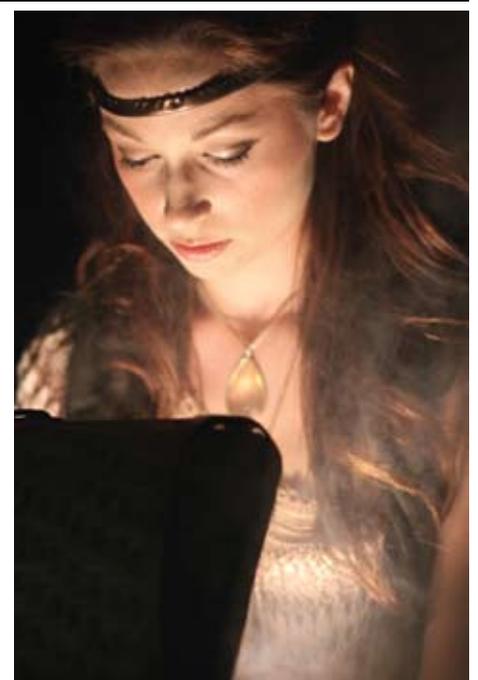
But for grown-ups who want a more substantive approach to exploring the Pandora myth, Quest's version will seem far too preachy and simplistic with its peppy solution to face the world's many ills.

Like the Biblical story of Eve in Garden of Eden, centuries of ugly misogyny have come from the Greek myth about Pandora opening a box to release all of the evils and human misery into the world.

In Quest's Pandora, the box opening is argued as Pandora's own personal awakening to social injustices and other people's suffering. This approach by director/show conceiver Andrew Park is a valid one and steered toward an overriding message of how we all need to be open to seeing problems around us.

But overall, the script is far too slight. As husband Epemethious and wife Pandora, Merrill Matheson and Angelica Keenan aren't given much dramatic material to work with.

The show also takes its sweet time getting started. Most of Act I (more of a prologue, really) is dedicated to the skilled percussionists Aimee Bass and Kim DeVore instructing audienc-



The People's Drum Circle Pandora. Photo courtesy of the Quest Theatre Ensemble

es on how to play Quest's hand-out instruments. Then after intermission, one whole number is dedicated to the prisoners in Plato's cave analogy.

But what Quest's Pandora may lack in psychological depth and plot, its strengths lie in its large and energetic cast who sing, dance and facilitate a parade of memorably stunning and trippy visuals by scenic artists Nick Rupard and Julie Taylor, puppet designer Megan Hovany, costume designer Emma Weber and lighting designer Lee Brasuell.

It's Jason Bowen who gets to vocally shine the most as Brother Sun, the narrator of sorts. Accompanied by a backup singing trio of Sunshine Girls (Beth Allin, Erin Renee Baumrucker and Kiley Moore), Bowen gets the best inspirational musical numbers composed by Scott Lamps in an upbeat 1960s pop style.

Quest's Pandora may be far too positive in an "Up with People" way. And it has two too many anthem-filled finales. But Quest does use the percussive drum circle aspect nicely to symbolize the need for everyone's contribution to make things better for the world we live in. Now who can really begrudge that?

THEATER REVIEW

Godspell

Playwright: music & lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by John-Michael Tebelak
At: Provision Theatre, 1001 W. Roosevelt
Phone: 866-811-4111; \$25-\$28
Runs through: Sept. 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The milestone marking the so-called "Jesus Freak" movement of the early 1970s may have been Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar*—arguably the inspiration for the wave of Christian evangelism that gripped young Americans glutted on counterculture-chic Eastern and Pagan theologies. But close on its heels came *Godspell*, Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Tebelak's fashionably hip (but safely non-controversial) survey of the wisdom handed down by Nazereth's most famous home-boy.

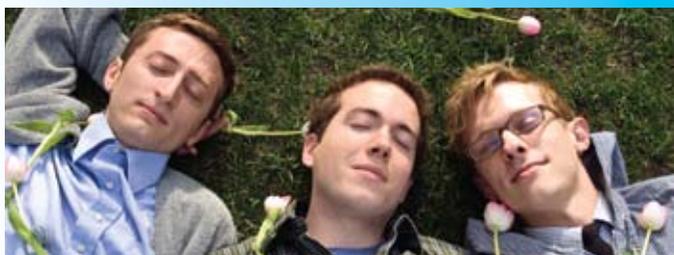
This Provision Theatre production is not your grandparents' *Godspell*, however—and not just because of the tribal-ethnic restrictions presented by a conventional proscenium stage, even as the players parade the aisles in an attempt to breach the fourth wall. Tim Gregory's direction delivers the gospel according to Glee, the hit television series defining teen-musicals in 2010. So while "Day By Day" is no less innocuous a ditty than it was in 1972, the rest of the score has been updated by Alaric Rokko Jans to reflect orchestral styles once anathematized by

wholesome white Sunday-schoolers, but now comfortably mainstream. (Conversely, audiences will encounter no "gentle kiss of peace" among the touchy-feelies swapped by the ensemble, lip contact nowadays being a purely sexual activity.)

None of this violates copyright, understand. True to its creators' (and Creator's) spirit, the *Godspell* scripture—uh, script—is replete with dispensations allowing each company to adapt the text to its individual milieu. Thus, a line like "I will pay you in full" is, in this instance, amended with "Just as soon as the stimulus package kicks in". A character declares, "God is on Facebook. He knows everything!". And the Pharisees are introduced by the unmistakable hook of the "Addams Family" jingle.

Ultimately, the play's episodic conceit cannot help but reduce to a series of cleverly executed classroom-games—Did I mention the hand-puppet Good Samaritan scene?—led by Syler Thomas as a suitably junkie-gaunt messiah, clad in "Lifeguard on Duty" T-shirt and muffled enunciation. Still, the exuberance displayed by the ensemble is infectious, notably, Tiffany Yvonne Cox's in-your-face rendition of the soulful "Turn Back, O Man" and Maxwell Burnham's revivalist "We Beseech Thee." (Remember this name when Million Dollar Quartet looks for replacements.) But it's the charismatic Justin Berkobien who dominates the stage in the dual role of John the Baptist/Judas, along with the heavy-lifting five-piece band, to make joyful noise from that old-time religion.

SPOTLIGHT



The core members of the queer improv trio **1, 2, 3, Fag!** say they've been on hiatus for the past four months so they could perfect their summer tans on Hollywood Beach. (Actually, it's officially Osterman Beach, but we'll forgive them that moniker mistake.) See if the trio of Seth Dodson, John Hartman and Kellen Alexander are lying or not by seeing them in the flesh starting again this week in Wrigleyville. **1, 2, 3, Fag!** plays 8 p.m. Fridays at iO's Cabaret Theater, 3541 N. Clark. Tickets are \$14; call 773-880-0199 or visit www.ioimprov.com for more information. Photo of Alexander, Hartman and Seth Dodson by Nathan Keay





From left: Andy Lupp, Todd Kryger and Stephen Schellhardt in *Hot Mikado*. Photo by Brett Beiner

THEATER REVIEW

Hot Mikado

Playwright: Gilbert & Sullivan,
adapted by Bell & Bowman

At: Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace

Tickets: 630-530-0111;

www.drurylaneoakbrook.com; \$31-\$45

Runs through: Oct. 3

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

With a \$45 top price, Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook Terrace delivers more musical bang-for-bucks than any other troupe in town, especially with the lavish production values which are a signature of Drury Lane's new regime. The *Hot Mikado* bursts with talent and energy in a good-looking, fast-moving, musically strong production that "swings" the 1875 Gilbert and Sullivan operetta into the big band era.

The swing concept dates from the late 1930's, but director and choreographer David H. Bell and musical arranger/composer Rob Bowman created their own "hot" update in 1987, and Bell has staged it several times since. It retains the very

CRITICS' PICKS

Billy Elliot The Musical, Ford Center for the Performing Arts Oriental Theatre, through Jan. 15. Tony Award-nominee Emily Skinner will soon be leaving the Chicago company to play Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* on Broadway. So see her now while she's still in the Windy City providing the tough love and training to help make young Billy a ballet star. SCM

Nothin' But The Blues, Black Ensemble Theater at the Beacon Street Arts Center, through Aug. 29. If, as its founder Jackie Taylor is fond of saying, the Black Ensemble experience is "just like going to church," then this is the heavenly choir wrapping its chops around some 12-bar progressions to shake the pearly gates. MSB

Fucking Men, Bailiwick Chicago at Stage 773, through Aug. 29. Director Tom Mullen extracts strong, nuanced performances from his all-male cast in this contemporary daisy-chain mating dance based upon Arthur Schnitzler's sexually frank 1897 hetero original. JA

The Philadelphia Story, Circle Theatre in Forest Park, through Sept. 5. The gender inequities may be cringeworthy, but this handsome production of Phillip Barry's classic screwball comedy enjoyably explores class differences in old Philadelphia. And this is the last show Circle is performing in its long-time Forest Park home, so make that trip just one more time for old time's sake. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

substantial bones of Gilbert and Sullivan's story and music, but turns it into a multi-cultural "sukiyaki" with big band, R&B and close-harmony musical stylings.

If there's a fly in this ointment, it was stated by a gentleman I overheard at intermission: "It's beautiful, but I think it's a little overdone." Both are hallmarks of Bell, who visualizes in imaginative ways and doesn't believe that less is more, at least not in theater. In *The Hot Mikado*, the Act I Finale is too long, the bright brassy band sometimes is a trifle too hot and a handful of moments could benefit from calm sincerity, Koko's "Tit-Willow" song among them.

Nonetheless, it's a dazzling show to behold. Scenic designer Marcus Stephens takes advantage of the wide stage to create a Japanese Deco fantasy of fans, a pagoda and a gracefully curved characteristic Japanese bridge. Blues, gold and a range of purple-reds are his chief colors. Costume designer Jeremy W. Floyd has a field day with day-glo zoot suits for the guys and slinky little party dresses for the gals (rather too short for the 1940's, but what the heck). Jesse Klug's lighting washes all in pastel tones, which softens the more garish colors. A nod, also, to Cecil Averett's superb sound design, which is crystal-clear and seems to come from the actors (vs. speakers).

The cast is nigh-perfect. Stephen Schellhardt is a skilled and understated comic as Koko. Ted Louis Levy storms the stage in Act II as tap-dancing Mikado. Aurelia Williams is a substantial Katisha, and I mean her vocal chops (with some of the show's heaviest music) and not the figure she cuts. Devin DeSantis and Summer Naomi Smart (who appears to have made Chicago her home, much to our benefit) are triple-threat performers (acting, singing, dancing) who make a fetching ingénue couple. The supporting cast and the ensemble are equally strong. Conductor Jeremy Kahn leads a six-piece band that cooks (kudos to trumpeter Larry Bowen).

The one oddity is the omission of "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring," perhaps the best known of all songs from *The Mikado*.

ART

Las Manos Gallery's Remodernist show

Las Manos Gallery, 5220 N. Clark, will present a Remodernist show—described as "a revival of authenticity and self-expression"—through Sunday, Aug. 29.

Remodernism is a new movement that celebrates aspects of modernism and a resurgence of self-expressionism and authenticity in artwork. New works will be on display by artists Pritika Chowdhry, Joe Boudreau, Mark Pease, Matthew Best, Jay Zerbe, E.C. Rolwing, John Mosher and Anja Frumert.

Visit the website and blog at www.lasmanos-gallery.com.



DETROIT

A new play by: LISA D'AMOUR

Directed by: ensemble member AUSTIN PENDLETON

Featuring ensemble members: KEVIN ANDERSON,
KATE ARRINGTON, IAN BARFORD, ROBERT BREULER
& LAURIE METCALF

In a "first ring" suburb outside a mid-sized American city, Ben and Mary fire up the grill to welcome the new neighbors who've moved into the long-empty house next door. The fledgling friendship soon veers out of control, shattering the fragile hold Ben and Mary have on their way of life—with unexpected comic consequences. *Detroit* is a fresh, off-beat look at what happens when we dare to open ourselves up to something new.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Buy online at steppenwolf.org
or call 312-335-1650.

Hotel Partner THE TALBOTT HOTEL

Dancing for our lives



An eclectic evening of exquisite art, Dance For Life Chicago brought together some of the city's biggest and brightest names in dance to raise awareness and funds for HIV/AIDS services Aug. 21 at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

Since the event began in 1992, Dance For Life has raised nearly \$4 million, with the sold out August 21st performance at The Harris Theater certainly increasing that total. WGN entertainment reporter Dean Richards guided the show, with inspiring words sprinkled between dances from various AIDS foundation partners, as well as an appearance from Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn.

As for the dancing, the diverse spectrum of talent in the evening created a program with a little something for everyone. Showcasing styles from flamenco to modern dance, each of the six participating organizations shared dance that spoke to the originality of the choreographer, training of the dancers, and talent of every individual company. The finale combined the talents of multiple companies, kinetically expressing a singular voice of hope. Choreographed by Harrison McEldowney, the number was a mixture of reflection and celebration, featuring emotion filled music and extraordinary technique. Dance For Life 2010 succeeded in providing an entertaining and enlightening event, bringing together a community of dancers to rally for a very worthy and important cause. Text by Alicia Wilson; photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com). See more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.



Hershey Felder on Bernstein

Felder brings behind the scenes look at creation of new work to the Spertus Museum Sept. 2

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) is a name synonymous with the popularization of classical music among the American middle and working class. The charismatic composer of West Side Story and Candide advocated for incorporating vernacular and popular music—including jazz—into the rarified realm of symphonic composition. During 1958-1972 he enriched the lives of countless children through his nationally televised Young People's Concerts. He was an outspoken advocate for social justice who hired the New York Philharmonic's first full-time African-American and female musicians and a revered and reviled hub of 1960s "radical chic."

To LGBT audiences Bernstein is also an icon of a world-class gay artist who endured the threat of outing during an era when, according to Dr. Patricia J. Smith, "a revelation of homosexuality would undoubtedly have destroyed the celebrity and influence he had attained."

On Thursday evening, Sept. 2, Hershey Felder, award-winning creator and star of George Gershwin Alone, Beethoven as I Knew Him and Monsieur Chopin, will visit the Spertus Museum, 610 S. Michigan, to discuss the creation of his new work, Maestro: The Art of Leonard Bernstein, and the ways in which he brings legends to life.

Hershey Felder is a composer, actor, playwright and musician. Born in Canada, the 42-year-old currently lives and works in Paris with his wife, Kim Campbell, a former prime minister of Canada. He has served as a scholar in residence at Harvard University School of Music and taught master classes at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, University of Pennsylvania and the Boston Conservatory. He continues to perform internationally.

Windy City Times recently chatted online with Felder regarding his view of Leonard Bernstein, and the Maestro's life and work.

Windy City Times: Why have you chosen the particular artists you have created work about—Gershwin, Chopin, Beethoven and now Bernstein? Is there a common thread that defines these four musicians for you?

Hershey Felder: The first three musicians, from my perspective, changed music entirely—Beethoven for everyone, Chopin for the piano and Gershwin for America. Bernstein was a part of that continuum. It's clear that he wanted to change music for the world as much as his predecessors. We know that he brought the classical arts to a much broader public, but whether he is a composer who significantly changed music is not an answer we'll have in our lifetime. Perhaps in a hundred years. In the meantime, it's fun to ponder.

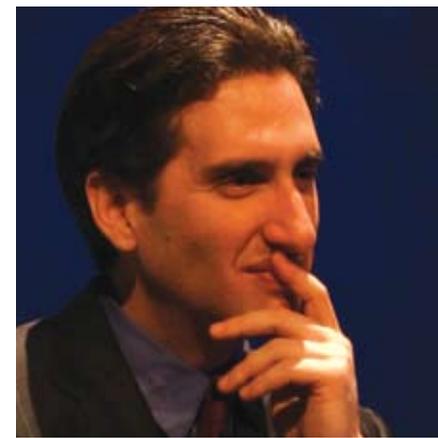
WCT: Is there anything in your creative or personal life experience that influenced your choices? How do these selections reflect your experiences as an artist?

HF: The characters that the audience meets on stage really are characters. What interests me is what they had to overcome to create their art—art at any cost.

WCT: What is your thematic emphasis in the Bernstein work?

HF: A life in music.

WCT: In his 2009 book, Leonard Bernstein: The Political Life of an American Musician, political science professor Barry Seldes depicts Bernstein as being hugely motivated by a liberal political agenda. Would you define Bernstein as an "Arts Activist"? How do you see the balance in his work/life between politics and "pure art?"



Hershey Felder.

HF: I delved into Seldes' book with much relish, but I must admit, I had a hard time with a lot of it. While the FBI dossiers have been made available, I always get concerned when the writing makes (or attempts to make) the individual as opposed to the individual being revealed through the writing. That said, I think Bernstein had "ideas." And he wanted you and everyone else to really know them, and "get" them.

WCT: Bernstein has been included in the group of American Modernist composers who sought to incorporate popular music into symphonic composition. What do you think Bernstein would think of Rap and Hip Hop as vernacular urban music? Do you think he would use it in his compositions?

HF: There are examples of Bernstein talking about "modern" music. He appears to me to be rather impatient, dismissive and even annoyed at music that perhaps was bypassing him. But then, in his Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award acceptance speech, he refers to "only two kinds of music. Good music and bad music." My guess is—if he found something interesting, different, new, evocative in rap and hip-hop (not everything, but certain pieces)—he'd probably call it good music, and perhaps then try and compose a major work using the elements.

WCT: Do you think that Bernstein's sexuality (homosexuality/bisexuality—however we want to label it) affected his creative work? In what ways?

HF: This is an important question, but I can only answer based on what I personally think and feel about the idea. There are only good artists and lousy artists. I've quite lost track of what's politically correct at this point, so please forgive me, but I don't (and never have) looked upon individuals as gay, or straight, or bisexual. My terms of opinion regarding people is whether they are kind or they are nasty, whether they are generous or selfish, whether they are good at what they do, or whether they are just big talkers and really can't do anything at all. While Bernstein's sexuality is a major part of who he is, I must admit that I am the wrong person to ask whether his sexuality affected his art or not. Right or wrong, it is not a term of judgment for me.

WCT: If Bernstein were alive today, do you think he would come out? Do you think he would be an outspoken activist in the cause of civil rights for the LGBT community?

HF: If it was important to him, you can bet you'd hear about it.

The benefit event, which includes preview selections from the one-man musical show, begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for the performance and discussion. Call 312-322-1773 or purchase online at www.spertus.org. Reservations for a \$350 post-show reception with the performer can be made at 312-322-1725. The Spertus event precedes a two-night booking of Maestro at Ravinia's Martin Theatre on Sept. 5 and 7 (www.ravinia.org).



Holly Near (middle) and Gina Breedlove (right) entertain the masses at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Below are Chicagoan Tamale Sepp (right) and a friend. Photos from the event by Con Buckley

MichFest 2010 rocks across generations

35th-anniversary celebration satisfies thousands of attendees—old-school and new

BY MICKI LEVENTHAL

Nearly 4,600 females from across the globe—from grandmothers to newborn babies—gathered on The Land Aug. 3-8 for the yearly celebration of women's music and culture known as The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF). Smaller by about half from its peak attendance years in the 1990s, the 650-acre no-man's land still teems with the sights and sounds of a community and culture that has grown steadily more diverse over the decades.

Rhonda Tullis, a founding member of Chicago's Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles, began attending MWMF as a college student in 1989. She's been back every year since, observing a multitude of changes from improvement in the famous vegetarian cuisine—"Twenty years ago I brought my own spices; [now] I admit to loving nut loaf"—to the open-air showers where the once ice-cold water is now warm, but lines are longer.

There are fewer craftswomyn. Many of the old-time favorites—including Sweetwater Pottery, Goddess Gowns and Feminist Forge—are gone, perhaps retired, for many years. But the bazaar still boasts a plethora of womyn-made products from silver jewelry, silky sarongs and the ubiquitous tie-die to eco-friendly goods made from recycled and reused stock and natty attire for urban hipster dykes.

In 1989 workshop offerings weighted toward

the spiritual and political. Attention grabbing titles from that year's program book include "Lesbian Separatism," "Networking for Witches," "Feminist Group Process," "Channeling the Universe," "Amazon Cellular Memory," and "Sex After Patriarchy"—listed in the Politics section.

While this year women could still enjoy "Peruvian Chakra Healing" and explore "Internalized Misogyny" the emphasis was on participatory personal growth and celebration. Those who were game could take workshops in yoga, belly dance, drumming, African dance, hooping, drumming, ballet, kickboxing, painting, breakdancing, knitting and more drumming. And, those over 18 could gather to discuss "the topography of the clitoris."

For many young people the festival has become summer camp. Including the boys five years and up in Brother Sun, festival organizers report 262 pre-registered children. Toddlers and infants do not need a ticket, so there is no official count on that demographic, but it is clear that vast numbers of children are being raised by two moms—or one—and yes, the kids are all right.

The children have brought some changes. A sign is posted along the path as you approach "Sprouts Family Camp," a day care facility for the 0-4 set staffed by work shift volunteers. The sign reads "Shh...babies sleeping!" There is also a special kitchen line for moms with small children.

"Twenty-two years ago, I remember only one woman who had children with her," said Tullis. "Now, babies, toddlers, tweens and teens are a significant part of the community. Some of the girls have been attending for most of their lives. A 'Teen Tent' was added within the last several years. Not always the case years ago, sexually explicit workshops and activities are now held in areas designated for those 18 years old and

up. Though it wasn't terribly common back in the day, now you won't see women sporting strap-on dildos in line getting Haagen-Dazs at Night Stage." Even MichFest has become family-friendly.

Despite accommodating for the younger and more sensitive viewers (and their vigilant moms), self-expression and the full and complete range of gender expression is not only tolerated but celebrated in today's Michigan.

While the "older generation" is still present and respected—women who for the most part embody the values and perception and display the fashion and gender statements of late 20th-century lesbian feminism, the stereotyped view of Michigan is giving way to a newer, more radical and diverse gender expression and politic that encompasses genderqueers, bois, femmes, dykes, butches and everyone in between.

"MichFest is so multifaceted and whatever someone's reasons for attending may be, it's clear there are thousands of unique experiences and thousands of unique identities surrounding you," said Jess Weida, a Chicago graphic designer and artist who supports the inclusion of transwomen at the festival.

"The potency of the whole, of what MWMF aspires to be, and of all the possibility we each create and embrace on the land and take with us beyond, is definitely no better for the long-standing effort of policing a handful of those (possible) experiences/identities," continued Weida. "Good faith, unquestioning respect, lack of judgment and simple tolerance from everyone are essential ingredients which make Fest possible in the day-to-day and I believe that each should be extended to any woman who decides she should be at Fest, regardless of her origins."

The debate around transgender inclusion is not new, but the balance of support is shifting, mostly along generational lines, with a likely majority of twenty- to thirtysomething festivalgoers allied with the transgender inclusion movement. A number of young women sported "Trans People Belong Here" T-shirts, and there was a silent action during a night stage when transgender-supportive signs were displayed.

"The women-only [woman-born-woman only] policy has fostered the presence of before unseen women bassists, drummers, sound engineers, lighting engineers, crew carpenters, and plumbers," noted Tullis. "Until women do not defer to men when they are present, then providing one week per year of women-only space is essential to the magic that happens at Fest. Over the last few years, dialogue has started taking place in order to incorporate trans-inclusion while keeping this magic. I believe trans-inclusion is eventually coming."

These important and ongoing dialogues, as well as those around racial diversity, disability

access and a host of other issues with which our communities continue to struggle, did not dampen the feeling of sisterhood, the atmosphere of celebration and the sense of carnivale. Plus, there was the awesome entertainment lineup.

From founding mothers of women's music Holly Near, Chris Williamson and Ferron to the hard-driving Afro-Caribbean rhythms of CoCo-Mama and the rock reunion of the Butchies, the range of music kept the crowd dancing and singing. Bitch, Erin McKeown, Sia, Sistars in the Pit, Laura Love, Slanty-Eyed Mama, Nedra Johnson, Toshi Reagon and a host of other talents rocked the house. Headliners Indigo Girls and Saturday night's multi-performer Chix Lix tribute to the music of 1976 (the first year of MWMF) were also standouts. Poet/performance artist Staceyann Chin tore hearts out at the acoustic stage with her powerful autobiographical work and the charismatic Ubaka Hill led her Drumsong Orchestra as festigoers danced and sweated in the noonday sun. MC/comedians Karen Williams and Elvira Kurtz were topical, incisive, snarky, sexy and absolute laugh riots.

Women's music is eons from the old days of "Girl with Guitar." Sophisticated composition, top notch musicianship, professional confidence and sexual power have brought the artists, from folkies to world fusion to rockers, into their own. Michfest too, continues to grow and evolve, meeting the sensibilities of younger audiences while continuing to treasure and preserve the magic that happens in the Michigan woods each August.

Kristine W to release jazz album

Singer Kristine W may be known for her myriad dance hits—in fact, the former Miss Washington holds the world's record for most consecutive #1 Billboard club hits—but, come Sept. 14, she will be releasing the double-CD jazz set *Straight Up with a Twist*.

"Straight Up with a Twist took four years to complete," explained Kristine W in a press release. "I insisted on bringing in the best musicians to the project. Scheduling studio time with these busy artists was complicated."

"This was my first foray in recording a Jazz album," she said. "I figured if I was going to do it, I was going to do it right. The end result is proof positive the wait was well worth it."

In the 30-track set, Kristine transforms several of her club hits into smooth jazz ballads, including "Wonder of it All," "Save My Soul" and "Stronger." The jazz version of "Feel What You Want," Kristine's first career release and first Billboard Dance #1, will be the debut single from the album. See www.KristineW.com.

Find more music on page 17.



CULTURE CLUB

FINAL WEEKEND - MUST CLOSE SUNDAY!
USE ORDER CODE "241" FOR TWO-FOR-ONE TICKETS!



NOW PLAYING AT STAGE 773!
1225 W BELMONT AVE

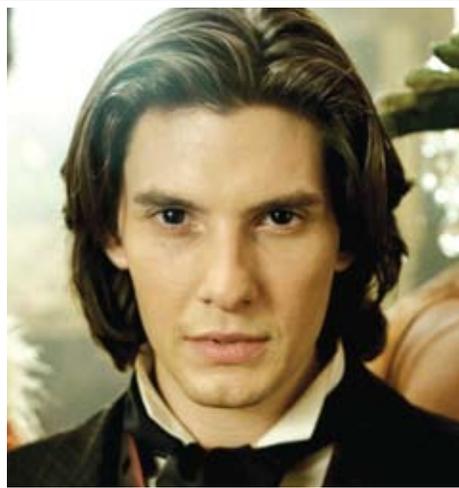
ticketmaster
photography by PopisStump.com

balliwickchicago

by Joe DiPietro
directed by Tom Muller
www.FMenChicago.com
(773) 327-5252

KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY
RICHARD
KNIGHT, JR.



Ben Barnes in *Dorian Gray*.

Orlando; Dorian Gray DVDs; film notes

As summer officially winds down, Hollywood is dumping a number of its less-than-sure-fire projects (Piranha 3D, Flipped, Nanny McPhee Returns) into theatres—all the better to compete with the stuff that's still hanging on (Eat Pray Love, The Expendables, Inception). There are reasons to see each of these but, for LGBT film audiences, two new DVD releases easily trump interest in what the Cineplex is offering.

Orlando, the re-release of Sally Potter 1992's art-house indie and 2009's **Dorian Gray**, offbeat English historical costume dramas both, have much to offer queer audiences. First, of course, each film is based on a classic novel by a queer writer—Virginia Woolf and Oscar Wilde, respectively. Second, both feature central characters that blur traditional sexual boundary lines—something emphasized in each movie (spectacularly so in Orlando). Finally, both feature queer-friendly casts and plenty of male and female eye candy.

Tilda Swinton, who is having a spectacular year thanks to the superlative *I Am Love* (out on DVD this October), stars as Orlando (out on DVD this October), stars as Orlando, the English nobleman who is commanded by his queen (portrayed by gay icon Quentin Crisp) in 1600 to “never grow old” and, for 400 years, Orlando obeys. Potter gives us an overview of English history through Orlando's eyes and at times Swinton's blank faced lad who becomes a lassie directly addresses the camera. But though Swinton delivers her typical ice-princess performance, this artsy movie isn't about acting or historical drama.

Instead, we focus on Potter's fabulous film aesthetics—the sumptuous costumes and set pieces. (The opening section set on the frozen Thames with everyone and everything on skates is particularly stunning.) Also, there's the gorgeous music (with gay singer Jimmy Somerville trilling an aria at the opening and closing of the film), and the hunky Billy Zane as

Orlando's lover once Swinton morphs from male to female (a feat accomplished without need for explanation). As the centuries pass, Potter's color scheme changes—something that's immediately apparent in this new print. Unavailable for over 10 years on DVD, this new edition has lots of new and old background featurette material to offer.

I'd hoped that this new edition of *Dorian Gray*, with a raft of English actors—Ben Barnes (of *Easy Virtue*) in the title role, *A Single Man*'s Colin Firth as Dorian's morally decayed benefactor, Ben Chaplin as the painter who captures Dorian's beauty and unwittingly sets the curse in motion, *et al*—would get a stateside release, but such was not the case. After viewing the film, helmed by Oliver Parker (who also made the little seen but winning Britcom *St. Trinian's* with Rupert Everett in drag as the head mistress of a female Animal House) in this DVD version, I'm even more disappointed as the movie's visually gorgeous with a Tim Burton-esque inky black Victorian England color palette.

The all-too-familiar story of Dorian, a young innocent morally corrupted by Henry—his acidic benefactor who urges him to indulge his increasingly sadistic pleasures leaving nary a mark on his pristine outer beauty while his portrait shows the inner, monstrous decay—is given much more visual bite than the classic 1945 MGM version. Though Parker makes sure Dorian's sexual indulgences are made explicit (there is no doubt that this Dorian likes men, rough trade and has a taste for S&M), the movie never quite catches fire.

That has more to do with the okay but not great performances rather than the lavishly dressed and costumed film. The perfectly capable Barnes is pretty to behold but he doesn't have the glint eyed, vacant stare of the somnambulist Hurd Hatfield and Firth's Henry is arch but never decadent and in a comparison with the especially sardonic George Sanders of the MGM version, Sanders easily takes the prize as does Angela Lansbury portraying the luckless innocent Sybil Vane. Nevertheless, modern audiences may find more to love in this new Dorian

Gray (though thankfully, the gore is kept to a minimum) than the classic version (I, of course, recommend a double feature screening with both editions). Entertaining and visually arresting, *Dorian Gray* is a welcome addition to the queer movie canon along with *Orlando*, which is sure to find fresh fans thanks to this new DVD edition.

Film notes:

—You heard it here first: Camp Midnight, the group dedicated to presenting “the best of the worst in cinematic trash,” returns to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport, on Friday, Sept. 24, with a special prime-time screening of 1967's **Valley of the Dolls**. This movie is based on a best-seller story of three girlfriends who claw their way to the top of the show biz heap amidst booze, dope (aka “dolls”) and plenty of boy toys; it is widely considered the Mt. Everest of camp movies. The film stars Oscar winner Patty Duke, Barbara Parkins, Sharon Tate and Susan Hayward as Helen Lawson, the tough as nails Broadway star. Like all Camp Midnight presentations, the audience interactive screening will include a festive pre-show hosted by my alter ego Dick O'Day and feature Hand Bag Productions artistic director David Cerda and other Hand Bag players. Best of all, the original Neely O'Hara herself aka Patty Duke will appear in person for a post-screening Q&A with the audience hosted by yours truly. Advance tickets \$14, \$17 at the door if available. www.musicboxtheatre.com

—On Saturday, Aug. 28, Knowledge Wisdom Productions will present an event titled “**HIV: Myth, Hoax or Reality?**” The event takes place in the Wishnick Hall Auditorium at the Illinois Institute of Technology, 3255 S. Dearborn, and begins at 4:30 p.m. with a DVD screening of the documentary *Deconstructing the Myth of AIDS* followed by a 6 p.m. panel discussion led by a consortium of female researchers and authors headed by Keidi Obi Awadu. The panel will tackle a range of questions under the topic heading “Rethinking HVI.” “Who is killing black women?” is the provocative, overriding question the event will purport to answer. The fee is \$5 for the screening only, \$15 for panel discussion. Phone Azziza Jafari at 630-929-7288 for further information.

Check out my archived reviews at www.windycitytimes.com or www.knightatthemovies.com. Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.

'Hannah Free' director starting new project

Wendy Jo Carlton—the director of *Hannah Free*, the locally filmed lesbian-themed movie that stars Sharon Gless—plans to shoot her next queer feature film in Chicago this fall.

Carlton will shoot *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together*. Carlton also wrote the movie, which stars Chicago actors Jacqui Jackson (Greta in *Hannah Free*) and Jessica London-Shields. *Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together* is about two women whose co-dependent, loyal friendship is fraught with erotic tension.

Carlton said, “This is the kind of film we want to see more of—a cross between a lesbian buddy movie and a romantic comedy. Think *Show Me Love* meets *My Best Friend's Wedding*, add two cute queer college girls and stir. The goal is to create a wildly popular feature film that evokes the experience of young love and lust, which just so happens to have lesbian protagonists.”

Producers are seeking extras; interested people should send head shots to juicyplanet@gmail.com. Donations are being accepted through Kickstarter.com, which helps filmmakers get projects off the ground. Also see <http://bit.ly/jamieandjessie> and the official website, www.jamieandjessie.com.



Denis O'Hare.

TELEVISION

Denis O'Hare: 'True' grit

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Up to now Denis O'Hare has been mostly familiar to larger audiences for a series of memorable supporting parts—usually as the bad guy—in a series of high-profile movies (Michael Clayton, *Milk*, *Changeling*, etc.). However, with his role as Russell Edgington, the King of Mississippi, a 2,800-year-old vampire with the 700-year-old boytoy boyfriend Talbot on HBO's *True Blood*, O'Hare's visibility has memorably increased. The actor, who lives in New York, discussed with *Windy City Times* his role on *True Blood*, the importance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* in his coming-out, being an openly gay actor in the business and more.

Windy City Times: You're just back from Comic-Con with *True Blood*. What's it like to be a gay man at Comic-Con, the ultimate nerd fanboy convention?

Denis O'Hare: It is definitely “geeks triumph all” and “nerds come first” but I guess there can be gay nerds and gay geeks, too. I'm a huge sci-fi fan myself and I was comfortable in that respect. It's a very nice crowd—it doesn't feel at all threatening. People are really fun so there's no bad energy. If it was a monster car rally, I might feel differently. [Laughs]

WCT: You came out in high school which by doing the math was the late '70s—a pretty courageous step for that period—did you have trouble because of that?

DO: I had a lot of trouble. I had a very, very good support in that my best friend growing up became my first lover when we were about 12 and we both struggled with our sexual identity throughout high school. He had a good friend named David and the three of us formed a kind of clique even though we went to rival high schools in Michigan and we would all hang out at *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on weekends. The permission of *Rocky Horror* was the permission to be different so we were allowed to express ourselves and we could also watch a beautiful, half-naked man on the screen and have it be okay. I was totally fantasizing about Rocky all the time and I had Tim Curry as sort of a mentor or role model. Not that I want to be like him but giving you permission to openly indulge in your satisfaction.

Find out more about Denis O'Hare—including if he thinks people will be ready for a gay actor to be the superhero—online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

EXPERIENCE THE FILM THAT'S DAZZLING AUDIENCES!

6 AUDIENCE AWARDS!

SAO PAULO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL
PROVINCETOWN INT'L FILM FESTIVAL
MAINE INT'L FILM FESTIVAL
ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF DALLAS
TORONTO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL
SEATTLE INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

★★★★★!

A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE
YOU MUST NOT MISS.

- Rex Reed, THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

Heartland
TRULY MOVING
PICTURE
AWARD

MAO'S LAST DANCER

PG

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA
2828 N. Clark St, Chicago
(773) 509-4949

LANDMARK RENAISSANCE PLACE CINEMAS
1850 Second St, Highland Park
(847) 258-7282

CENTURY 12 EVANSTON/CINEARTS 6 & XD
1715 Maple Ave, Evanston
(800) FANDANGO

maoslastdancer-movie.com

Bell Potter

BENT NIGHTS

Joan Armatrading at House of Blues

BY VERN HESTER

In 1976 when Joan Armatrading made her debut she presented an arresting and tasteful paradox—a singer/songwriter who specialized in intimacy without getting morose, self-involved or confessional while keeping her love objects as unspecific as possible. (They tended to be genderless which begged the question “Is she or isn’t she gay?”) To those who listened intently for clues in her lyrics they were wasting their time; it had nothing to do with who she was singing to but what she was singing about. Love, trust, intimacy and the act of relating and communicating were subjects that were all big with her, and they still are on her new *This Charming Life* (SLG Records), but there’s a big fat surprise tucked away on it: Armatrading’s unbridled glee.

The title track, “This Charming Life,” offers a clue to the buoyancy here—someone appears to be in love and Armatrading sounds like she’s in a rapturous free fall as clouds whizz by and her goofy grin gets broader. The only time that I’ve ever heard anyone sound so nakedly smitten was Marshall Crenshaw’s “This Is Easy,” where he likened falling in love to “Falling, falling, falling through open air...” Armatrading doesn’t get that carried away but her delight is expressed in some of the most lithe guitar playing that she’s done in eons, and it’s almost jaw-dropping to hear her open joy tumble off her tongue. “Heading Back to New York,” on the other hand, is galvanizing, chugging and propelled by a velocity that makes it pop out with a gritty punch. The tone of “New York” is blunt, muscular, and a tad harder than that quaint “singer/songwriter” mantle would suggest and, after all this time and all the searing ballads and hymns to emotional expression, it answers the question of whether Armatrading has mellowed out. Far from it: *This Charming Life* is far and away some of the most varied, adventurous and articulate music that she’s made in over a decade.

To be fair the intimacy—one of her most distinctive traits—is still present and upfront. “Cry” and “Two Tears” are heartrending songs of betrayal and misery and if you’re looking for some sonic heartbreak you won’t be disappointed. But then there are her refreshing forays into pop; “Love, Love, Love” and “This Charming Life” are radio-friendly boppers that chug right along like a warm summer breeze. “Best Dress On” is unnervingly catchy and sticks to your brain like a wad of gum to the bottom of your shoe, but in a good way. The chorus is such a delight with its boomerang hook and well placed lyrics that singing along with it is, well, a lot of fun. Which is not exactly what one would expect from Joan Armatrading.

But if *This Charming Life* shows her with a refreshed take on things her July 25 show at the House of Blues revealed her to be downright frisky and playful. Live on stage is by far the best place to see her and I have to admit that I had forgotten how damn—for lack of a better word—“cuddly” Armatrading is. For a good decade into the start of her career she seemed reluctant to let anyone too close—“Me, Myself, and I,” indeed. Involved, yes; intimate, no question; embraceable—well, not so much. Right off the bat she loaded the show with surprises and kept topping herself in unexpected ways. Opening with “Show Some Emotion,” her rapt audience was waving its hands in unison by the time she got to the third song, “All the Way From America,” and people were singing along like enchanted kids on “Romper Room.” (I half expected a sea of Bic lighters to appear.) At the



Joan Armatrading at the House of Blues. Photo by Vern Hester

close of the song Armatrading cheekily quipped with a huge smile on her face, “Did that come too soon?” It was the start of a lot of good cheer coming off and going to that stage.

This *Charming Life*’s new material folded smoothly with classics like “Love and Affection” (which had this audience enraptured with a call-

and-response duet with her), “The Weakness in Me” (so dramatic, stark, and arresting 19 years after it was recorded that you could hear a pin drop in this coiled tense reading) and a smirking, tossed-off “Me, Myself, and I.”

Seeing Armatrading live also reminded me how she’s one hell of a guitar goddess, a fact

that gets obscured because she’s never been one to posture or pose while deftly slicing notes with expressive and stinging dexterity. So what if the audience singalong on “Best Dress On” went on for what seemed like days or “I Love It (When You Call Me Names)” and “Drop the Pilot,” though hard-rocking and full of renewed fire, seemed anticlimatic compared to what came before it? This new edition of *Armatrading* seems far removed from the stoic, contained version from years before and it was worth it to see this audience respond to her. To the gently buzzed guy who wouldn’t stop running to the front of the stage, dancing and flinging his open arms out to Armatrading while proclaiming in a tipsy bark, “I WUUUVVV Y000000000...!!!”—I was right with ya, dude.

Heads up: Just announced are some upcoming dates at the Old Town School of Folk Music: Meshell N’degeocello (Oct. 16), Bob Mould (Oct. 22) and Janis Ian (Nov. 14).

Finally, there’s the “hasta la vista baaaaabee” tip of the hat to the Vanessa Davis Band for its tour of Europe. By the time this is printed you’ll be long gone but you can’t say we didn’t care.

E-mail Vern Hester at hester297@hotmail.com or Andrew Davis at Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

WINDY CITY TIMES

25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

After a quarter of a century of recording the exciting history of Chicago’s LGBT community, Windy City Times celebrates its silver anniversary with a special issue on

September 29, 2010

Deadline: Wed., Sept. 22

- Fresh, new cover design
- Exciting articles, photos and features
- Printed on high-quality, whiter paper

773-871-7610

advertising@windycitymediagroup.com



CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOUNTING

Accounting, Consulting and Training for Small Developing Businesses



The A.C.T. Group

- ✓ Start-Up Business Assistance
- ✓ QuickBooks Setup and Consulting
- ✓ Non-Profit Audits/Consulting
- ✓ Business Tax Preparation

LARRY LITTLE, C.P.A.
Licensed by the State of Illinois
larry@actgroup.io

773 743-2196
FAX: 773 743-0292

6242 N. Clark
www.ACTGroup.io



ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE HERE: Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. **To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.**

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assis-

tance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. **Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (4/27/11-52)**

COUNSELING

LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPY: 20 years experience providing counseling and clinical hypnotherapy. I specialize in relationship issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. Individuals and couples. **Starla Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, info@starlasholl.com; www.starlasholl.com. (8/25/10-26)**

FLOORING & WINDOW COVERING

FLOOR & WINDOW COVERINGS FOR ALL BUDGETS. Tile, Hardwood, Bamboo, Carpet, Laminate, Vinyl, and Window Coverings. Specializing in Helping with Material Selections for your Budget. Professionally Installed. Nationwide Floor & Window Coverings, We Bring the Showroom to You! Call or email for a free consultation and estimate. **Charles 773-935-8700, email cjones@nfwchicago.com www.nfwchicago.com (9/29/10-26)**

HEALTHCARE

NEW YOU COSTA RICA. We offer USA quality Medical & Dental in Costa Rica for a lot less (lipo anyone?). Please request a free quote today: **www.NewYouCostaRica.com 1-888-660-8060 or info@NewYouCostaRica.com (2/11/11-52)**

HELP WANTED

HEALTHY PET COMPANY SEEKING - Whole Healthy Pet, Inc looking for experienced employees (office/warehousing skills and love of animals a plus) for full-time positions. **Send resume to todd@wholehealthypet.com. (9/1/10-3)**

INTERPRETER

FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS: To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. **Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certified Interpreter, 773-401-1339, or e-mail thorpe2001@aol.com [P-TB]**

MOVERS

WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community. We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew \$65/hr.; 3-man crew \$85/hr.; 4-man crew \$105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) **Call 773-777-1110 or www.chicagocrescentmovers.com. (9/15/10)**

TRAVEL

THE BEAUTY OF DOOR COUNTY: beckons for your romantic stay in the warmth of Birchwood Lodge. Elegant suites include a king size bed, in room whirlpool and fireplace. Some suites are equipped with walk in showers. **Visit us at www.birchwoodlodge.com. (8/28/10-52)**
LOG CABIN, SAUGATUCK SLEEPS 8, fireplace, kitchen, decks, bath w/ Jacuzzi, one bedroom, walk-out lower level with windows three sides two queen beds. **10 minutes from Saugatuck, beaches, shops, restaurants, recreation. www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p250786 (9/15/10-15)**

ways free! Reservations are required; no walk-ins will be accepted. For information or tickets, contact events@anticruelty.org

Saturday, September 18,
7th Annual Chicago Canine Rescue Mutt Strut Southport Ave. and Newport Ave.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Family festival and fun walk. Cost: \$25 in advance; \$30 after Sept. 10. Children and dogs admitted free of charge. For more information, muttstrut@chicagocaninerescue.com or 773-697-8848

PARKVIEW PET SUPPLIES
EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

773-561-0001

Sensible Food
Sensible Prices

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

OUT OF TOWN

SAUGATUCK GET-AWAY. Buy a 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home, in gay friendly Saugatuck Michigan. Perfect as a vacation or weekend get-a-way. Ready to move into, small mobile home community just two miles from downtown. **WE FINANCE - EASY APPROVAL. Several to choose from. Call Maggie at 269-857-1191 or e-mail qsphomes@comcast.net (9/22/10-26)**

BERRIEN COUNTY, LAKESIDE, MI - Architecturally intriguing compound features one bedroom main house and 2 bedroom, one bath guesthouse - a total of 3 bedrooms and 2 and 1/2 baths. **Surrounded by 43 wooded acres Galien River frontage. \$729,000 Contact: Nora Duffy. 312-953-1783 nora.duffy@sothebysrealty.com http://www.michigan.crawfordsir.com (9/1/10-7)**

FOR RENT

1 BEDROOMS

VINTAGE 1 BEDROOM LAKEVIEW \$900. Spacious 1 bedroom avail September 15th in Buena Park. quiet tree lined street. FRIENDLY bldg & neighborhood. Big enough for a couple or individual. **Includes heat! Montrose Beach, Jewel-Osco, bars and restaurants, Boystown/Wrigley, and Target a few minutes walk. Cats OK. Laundry & bike. 312-209-5280, ryan47@gmail.com (8/18/10-1)**

3 BEDROOMS

STEPS TO BROWN LINE. 3 BEDROOMS \$950. Vintage building modern amenities. 6 large rooms, central air conditioning, new windows, hardwood floors. You pay heat and utilities. Laundry in building. Parking space \$75.00. **Phone day/night 773 478 4969. (9/1/10-2)**

4 BEDROOMS

EXTRA LARGE, BRIGHT & SUNNY VINTAGE UNIT. 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Oak floors, high ceilings, newer kitchen & bath. 4 minute walk to Loyala EL. \$1800. Available now. **John 773.973.2755 or meehanjohn@aol.com (9/15/10-4)**

HOUSE

ROGERS PARK HOUSE RENTAL 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath with all new updates, 1 Blk to Metra and a short walk to the Red Line \$1700. **Call Pete (224) 578-0947 (10/13/10-8)**

REALTORS

GayRealEstate.com

FREE!
Instant Access to Chicago and the Nation's Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors.

SOLD

Choose Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com

Toll Free:
1.888.420.MOVE (6683)

WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM Free On-Line Directory of the Top Gay & Lesbian Realtors in Chicago & the Nation. **Instant access at www.GayRealEstate.com or Toll Free 1.888.420.MOVE (6683). (6/24/11-52)**



Sunday, September 5
Dog Wash at Whole Foods Market South Evanston, 1111 W. Chicago Ave., Evanston, IL 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Get your dog bathed at Red Door's Dog Wash. Dog washes are \$10 (including a towel dry), all of which goes directly to the animals at the Red Door shelter. Is your dog water-phobic? Get a cleaning spritz and a quick brushing for \$5.

Friday, September 10
Good Luck Martini Bar at Mars Gallery 1139 W. Fulton Market 6-9 p.m.

Change the animals' luck by stopping in at Mars Gallery's opening for artist Kevin Luthardt. The gallery opening is free, but all proceeds from the Martini Bar will benefit the homeless animals at Red Door. Details: www.marsgallery.com.

Tuesday, September 15
Celebrity Rehab Bark-B-Que Oak Street Beach, Chicago 5:30 p.m. (RAIN DATE: Wed., September 16)

Bring your dog to this end-of-summer celebration to help support the renovation and expansion of the Anti-Cruelty Society's dog rehabilitation center. \$65 per person includes beer, wine, soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres for humans, treats and fresh cold water for the dogs. Dogs are al-

Pet for adoption: Alice and Jasper

Alice and Jasper are two beautiful and friendly Californian rabbits who were abandoned outside in the terrible heat this summer. Alice had fallen into a deep window well and her mate, Jasper, wouldn't leave her. He stayed above ground, keeping her company until a good samaritan noticed him looking forlorn. Both bunnies were easily rescued and brought to Red Door where they received proper vet care. Alice and Jasper are looking for a home where they can stay together and play together.

Call 773-764-2242 or e-mail info@RedDoorShelter.org. www.reddoorshelter.org





2011 Kia Sportage. Photo from Gaywheels.com.

VEHICLE REVIEW

2011 Kia Sportage

BY JEFF STORK, GAYWHEELS.COM

KIA showed off its new 2011 Sportage in San Francisco recently. It's the fifth all-new product in just under two years, following on the heels of the Soul, the subcompact Forte sedan, the two-door derivative Koup and the Sorrento SUV.

It's the third generation of Sportage, and this one looks like it came from Extreme Makeover: Kia Edition. It has a much larger footprint—wider and longer, with expressive exterior styling in the flavor of a miniaturized Audi Q7 (no surprise to learn it was penned by former Audi stylist Peter Schreyer) and giant 18" wheels (standard on EX) which are worthy of the coolest Tonka trucks. Did I mention that the target audience is single and male? It's a stylish and playful look which has a MUCH more upmarket look than its predecessors. Status seekers might consider swiping a set of interlocking rings for the grille. I think the Sportage could carry it off.

A much more upmarket execution permeates the interior as well. I called it a manpurse inside: a black-on-black compartment with comfortable, well-tailored leather seats, an Infinity Audio System with Bluetooth, USB, Sirius Satellite Radio heated and cooled driver's seat, and a ginormous Panorama sunroof. Yes, it's a lot of black but so is a Coach bag, and I found the interior much more pleasing and honest than fake wood or fake aluminum or the fake carbon fibre Europeans love so much these days. (Didn't they malign us for our fake wood in the '70s? All fashion comes back, I guess.) The storage console is larger now, the glove box is cooled (Evian, anyone?), and the door pockets are roomy. All in all, a well designed manpurse, and the rear seat will be more than comfy for taking the French Bulldogs to Palm Springs for the weekend. Coming later in the year is Kia's handsfree UVO system, developed by Microsoft and bearing more than a few similarities to Ford's Sync. But more of that when it comes on stream.

Power comes from the 2.4 litre Theta four-cylinder engine. In this guise, it produces 176 hp, earning 22 mpg in the city and 31 highway. Compared to the last gen's V6, it has a bit more power, a bit less torque, and quite a bit better highway fuel economy. For those who need more go, a 270 hp turbo will be introduced mid-year.

Driving impressions are favorable. The Theta engine idles very smoothly and is quite adequate for the car's needs, although I think the turbo will be more suitable for sporting drivers. While not a sports car, the Sportage handled quite nicely on the twisting roads of Half Moon Bay: the increased width made it feel quite stable, and the ride was quite pleasant for a vehicle of this wheelbase. Again, a big improvement over past generations and in no way a "penalty box."

Possibly the biggest improvement is invisible to the naked eye: residual value. In the retail biz, the better the residual, the lower the lease payment and traditionally Kia has not been blessed with high residuals. However, one of the benefits of Kia's reinvention has been an improve-

ment in the residual values that lenders have assigned to Kia models. In the case of Sportage, the improvement has been dramatic. A 36 month residual value of 61% has been assigned to the base Sportage, up twenty-two percentage points over the 2010 model. This is as dramatic of an improvement as I have ever seen in one year, and combined with the price point of the car (\$18,990 base and fully equipped in upper 20s), it should result in a very compelling affordability story. Perhaps I should have mentioned that first.

So if your taste runs toward the tailored Audi look but budget constraints preclude such a reality, you might take a look at the Sportage. I was quite favorably impressed.

See www.gaywheels.com.

Cadillac comes out during the N.Y. Auto Show

BY NICK KURCZEWSKI, GAYWHEELS.COM

In a first-of-its-kind event—and something we hope to see a lot more of in the future—Cadillac hosted a reception geared towards the LGBT community during this year's New York International Auto Show. Gays and lesbians from a wide range of professional backgrounds rubbed shoulders, talked cars, and clinked cocktail glasses at this groundbreaking soiree.

Seeking to counter what one sassy guest referred to as GM's "old white guys in suits" image, Cadillac chose the New York show and Jacob Javits Center in Midtown Manhattan to come roaring out of the closet.

Of course, many carmakers have promoted gay-friendly advertising, or generously sponsored charities and organizations aiding the gay community. But in terms of LGBT get-togethers held during the testosterone-fueled atmosphere of an auto show? This was a definite first. And yes, we can thank GM and Cadillac for it.

Other than the hot gossip and cool drinks, there was plenty of exciting new sheet-metal to ogle at the show. Not surprisingly, a Cadillac was featured prominently. The Cadillac CTS-V wagon was one of the show's undisputed stars; my friends and colleagues routinely said it was the car they most wanted to take home for the weekend.

From its sharply creased exterior, to its 556-horsepower 6.2-liter V8 and top speed of almost 190 mph, this is the kind of family wagon that everyone can appreciate—no matter what your definition of 'family' might be.

Several entertaining encounters with buff young gentlemen—was there a recent escape of extras from the cast of Jersey Shore?—asking yours truly about the car's stats helped drive the point home: this is one Caddy with plenty of cross-cultural appeal!

And most importantly, Cadillac is now a luxury brand that is leading the pack when it comes to recognizing the LGBT community. Good job, Caddy! Now, when do you think we can borrow the keys to that CTS-V wagon?

See www.gaywheels.com.



Auto news

—**Body work:** A recent Australian commercial has caused a commotion with its parade of bodybuilders, giving new meaning to "down under." It uses the question, "How much Massive can you pack into a [Honda] Jazz?" See the video (with muscular men and women) at www.gaywheels.com/tuesday_video_how_many_hot_sex.htm.

—**Partners:** Electric car maker Tesla Motors has announced a partnership with Japanese automotive giant Toyota to develop electric vehicles and production systems, according to an WREX.com item. Toyota will buy \$50 million worth of Tesla common stock in a private placement once Tesla's initial public offering is closed.

"Toyota is a company founded on innovation, quality, and commitment to sustainable mobility," said Tesla co-founder and CEO Elon Musk, in a statement. "It is an honor and a powerful en-

dorsement of our technology that Toyota would choose to invest in and partner with Tesla. We look forward to learning and benefiting from Toyota's legendary engineering, manufacturing, and production expertise."

—**Surging:** Ford Motor Co. had its most profitable first half since 1998, with earnings of \$4.7 billion and second-quarter net income reported at \$2.6 billion, according to SpeedTV.com. It was the company's fifth consecutive profitable quarter.

Ford President/CEO Alan Mulally credited the company's altered lineup of vehicles, for which consumers have been paying more for the new models, has the reason for the financial renaissance. "Our progress is being led by the strength of our new products and our leaner, global structure," Mulally said. "Customers are responding to our strongest ever product lineup—a full family of vehicles with world-class quality, fuel efficiency, safety, smart design and value."



Still from Australia's Honda Jazz ad. Image from Gaywheels.com

Car of the future



On Aug. 10, Museum of Science and Industry guests and kids from local community groups had the chance to familiarize themselves with the Aptera 2e electric vehicle—a finalist in the cutting-edge Automotive X Prize competition—and hear from Aptera Motors on the future of fuel-efficient cars.

The Aptera 2e—a futuristic-looking, three-wheeled electric car—is capable of getting the energy equivalent of 196 mpg on the highway, and a prototype of the vehicle is currently featured in the museum's "Fast Forward ... Inventing the Future" exhibit. The exhibit looks at everything from urban high-rise farming to IM hugs people can actually feel.

See www.MSICChicago.org.

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES



Wed., Aug. 25

Four Women Showcase This is a great musical series focusing on female singer/songwriters in, around and touring thru Chicago. Each Wednesday, "Four" female performers will showcase their talents in a show. For one month, the same four performers will be featured, but will rotate and change their sets. 6pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark, windycityopenmic.com/

LGBT discussion of Lisa Madigan re-election LGBTs talk about Attorney General Lisa Madigan's re-election. 6pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N Halsted Street, www.cocktail.com

Rihanna Last Girl On Earth tour The multi-platinum and Grammy Award-winning superstar has become the only female artist of the past decade to have six number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the United States, and she will be joined by rising star Ke\$ha ("Tik Tok"). 7:30pm, United Center, 1901 W Madison, www.liv-nation.com

Hot Sticky Poetry & More Writers read words of longing and desire. Readers include LeVan D. Hawkins, Dede DeLynn, Gregg Shapiro, and Avery R. Young; 7:30pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, www.gerberhart.org

Thursday, Aug. 26

Bar AIDS Participating establishments throughout Chicago pledge to donate a portion of their sales, or charge a door cover, to benefit AIDS Care Progressive Services. 6pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N Halsted Street, www.edgealliance.org

Gender Blender A variety of writers take a creative approach to the meaning of

MEN'S ROOM Through Sun., Aug. 29

The play **Fucking Men** will run at the Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont.

PopioStumpf.com photo



gender identity, entrapment and roles. Readers include Cookie Crumbles, Dede DeLynn, Robin Sneed and Sissy Van Dyke. 7pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, www.gerberhart.org

The Weir by Conor McPherson An enigmatic young woman from Dublin finds herself the center of attention at a local pub. Pints in hand, the local barflies recount ghostly tales of the supernatural to impress and entertain her, but it is the visitor herself who relates the most unsettling story of all. 7:30pm, (866) 811-4111, Irish American Heritage Center 4626 North Knox Avenue, www.seanachai.org

Friday, Aug. 27

Fucking Men Tony-nominated writer Joe DiPietro's latest play, FUCKING MEN, observes the sex lives of the modern urban gay American male. 8pm, Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont, www.fmenchicago.com/

GirlCrush Ent. Presents: Kiss A Girl Fridays GirlCrush Entertainment presents a

WEEKLY Friday Event. This event is for sexy and stylish LGBTQ women and men. 9pm, (773) 459-7168, Plan B, 1635 N. Milwaukee, www.facebook.com/girlcrush220

Sean Wiggins & lOne gOat Singer/songwriter. Two shows. \$5 cover. 9pm, 708-848-2743, Briejo, 211 Harrison Street, www.seanwiggins.com

Saturday, Aug. 28

7th annual Randolph Street Market Festival This West Loop Euro-style indoor/outdoor market — home to the Chicago Antique Market and Indie Designer Market — features more than 200 select purveyors of high quality, value-priced "finds," contemporary and vintage fashion, art, jewelry and décor, live music, food and more, offering unlimited creative inspiration and hours of shopping and entertainment. General admission \$10, good for both days. 10am, (312) 666-1200, 1350 block of W. Randolph Street, randolphstreetmarket.com

3rd Annual Chicago Social BackLot Bash Weekend, Julie Mosier Productions, sponsored by T's Bar, with Sean Wiggins, Reyna Larson and more: event rocks all day. 12pm, BackLot Parking Lot at 5238 N Clark, Chicago, www.seanwiggins.com

9th Lake View Music Fest Food, arts & crafts vendors, performers Too White Crew (hip hop), Infinity (classic rock), 7th Heaven (rock/pop) and Modern Day Romeos (party band), local indie rockers The Insecurities. Gate donation is \$5 until 5pm; \$7 after 5pm. 12pm, on Sheffield at Addison, Chicago, www.chicagoevents.com/event.cfm?eid=134

Equality Illinois Pie Toss Equality Illinois presents Pie Toss 2010! This event is quickly becoming a summertime favorite. Come bid on the right to toss a pie in the face of some of the biggest names in our community. 1pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, www.eqil.org

i2i, Asian and Pacific Islander of Chicago, 5th anniversary Chicago Invisible-to-Invincible: API Pride of Chicago fosters support and builds community for Chicago-area Asians & Pacific Islanders who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. Sliding scale \$9 - \$60 with suggested donation of \$40. chicagoi2i@yahoo.com; 6pm, 312-413-8619, Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St, Chicago, www.chicagoi2i.org

Chippendales Enjoy The Ultimate Night Out at the Exclusive Chicagoland Home of the Chippendales - The Venue at Horseshoe Casino. 10:30 p.m., The Venue - Horseshoe Casino 3838 North Harlem Avenue, Chicago, www.thevenue-chicago.com

Sunday, Aug. 29

Glenwood Sunday Market A weekly farmers' market of locally grown and produced foods at Morse and Glenwood, within the Glenwood Avenue Arts District. The market will run every Sunday from June 6th through October 17th. There will be a variety of live entertainment. 9am, Glenwood & Morse Avenue, www.glenwoodsundaymarket.org

All Groups Gay Picnic The West Suburban Gay Association (WSGA) welcomes all Chicagoland GLBT groups to this annual event. Come and party with members of Chicagoland gay associations, the Lincoln Park Lagooners, WOWS, Asians & Friends, CAAN, Rainbow Brunch, Oak Park Gay & Lesbian Association, PFLAG, the Fairy Gardeners and more. Bring some food, some drink, a guest or two, your own lawn chair, and just have fun! A grill will be available. Alcohol is permitted, but glass containers are prohibited in the Forest Preserve. This is a FREE event! 12pm, 630-512-0100, Busse Woods Forest Preserve Grove 31, Schaumburg, wsga.com

The Former Ladies of The Supremes The Former Ladies of The Supremes perform at The Venue. Tickets \$25 available by phone or online. 4pm, 219-473-6060, The Venue at Horseshoe Casino, 777 Casino Center Dr, www.horseshoehammond.com/

Monday, Aug. 30

\$1 Drink Night with DJ Laura B at Hydrate Monday at HYDRATE is \$1 DRINK NIGHT! All well cocktails are only One Dollar all night long! 8pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, www.hydratechicago.com

National Center for Lesbian Rights benefit dance party No cover charge, a portion of the PERV night of Rock n' pleasures, drink specials and raffle tickets goes to NCLR. No cover charge. Must be 21+. 8pm, Berlin, 954 W Belmont, www.nclrights.org

Trannypalooza Join us for Trannypalooza - A social event for transgender people, cross-dressers, and the men/women who want to meet them. This party is open to anyone who wants to dance, drink, and have a good time in a liberal environment. 10pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont, www.myspace.com/trannypalooza

Tuesday, Aug. 31

NewTown Writers Chicago celebrate 30 years NewTown Writers Chicago is proud to celebrate 30 years of publishing, performing, and promoting the work of GLBT writers with an anniversary shindig, unveiling the 14th edition of Off the Rocks, an anthology of poetry, prose, and plays about gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. 7pm, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave, www.newtownwriters.org

Wed., Sept. 1

Queer Social Club A no-attitude, casual evening for the Humboldt/Ukie Area LG-BTQ (and their friends) to come in, have drinks, meet new friends, mingle, etc. Just a fun night beyond the traditional outlets in Boystown and dance parties in Wicker Park - Doing our own thing across the Western Ave divide! 8pm, Archie's Iowa Rockwell Tavern 2600 W. Iowa, 60622, www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10150094929770492&ref=ts

CAKE Chicago - The BEST in LGBTQ live art. Cake Chicago blending queer artistry into the general public through live music and more. Featuring bands, singer/songwriters, comedians, video/film spoken word, drag artists, magicians and more! 9pm, 773-274-5463, The Red Line Tap 7000 North Glenwood Ave., www.myspace.com/cakechicago

Thursday, Sept. 2

American Veterans for Equal Rights (GLBT veterans) monthly meeting AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of military veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable



POLITICAL PARTY Wed., Aug. 25

An LGBT discussion about **Lisa Madigan's (above) re-election** will take place at **Cocktail, 3359 N. Halsted.**

treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to join. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, www.averchicago.org/

Nerd Fest, Nerds at Heart Kick off Labor Day weekend with other brainy hetero and LGBT single, \$10. Attendees get numbered tags indicating their gender preference and those who don't already make a match during games and performances can connect by leaving mailbox messages for each other during the evening. 7pm, Holiday Club, 4000 N. Sheridan, www.nerdsat-heart.com

Friday, Sept. 3

Salute to GLBT Veterans City of Chicago annual tribute to GLBT veterans. A part of Unity Month. 1pm, Daley Plaza, Washington & Dearborn, Chicago, www.averchicago.org/

Equality Illinois First Friday Networking Event Equality Illinois and ChicagoPride.com present this monthly "Make A Difference" event. For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two-drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing. 6pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St, www.eqil.org

Saturday, Sept. 11

Aware Affair: Totally '80s Ultra Lounge Co-chairs Todd Armbruster, Robert T. Cichocki, Toby Eveland, and Scott Silverman cordially invite you to attend Test Positive Aware Network's signature fall event, the Aware Affair: Totally '80s Ultra Lounge. 9:30pm, Ravenswood Billboard Factory 4011 N. Ravenswood Ave., www.tpan.com

Lakeview East Festival of the Arts Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce presents more than 150-juried artists featuring world-class original paintings, sculpture, photography, furniture, jewelry, a Pop-Up Gallery of emerging artists, the Christy Webber Landscape Garden Oasis, live sculptures, and interactive children's areas. 10am, 773.348.8608, Broadway Ave., from Belmont Ave to Roscoe St, www.lakevieweast.com

Monday, Sept. 13

The Human Rights Campaign Presents Crossing the Finish Line U.S. Representatives Mike Quigley, Jan Schakowsky and other federal and state officials for an evening of stimulating conversation about how to get real results for the LGBT community. RSVP ChicagoHRCtableCaptains@gmail.com; 5:30 p.m., Jenner & Block, 353 N. Clark, #4500, Chicago, hrc.org

Wed., Sept. 15

Gay-la for Equality will benefit Equality Illinois and PFLAG through an evening of entertainment. \$10 includes a raffle ticket, Nellie.Huggins@gmail.com; 7pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark



BASH LANDING

Saturday, Aug. 28

The 3rd Annual Chicago Social BackLot Bash weekend will take place at 5238 N. Clark.

Photo of Melissa Ferrick from 2009 by Mel Ferrand

BILLY MASTERS

"I don't want a sock around it, that feels ridiculous. If we're naked in the scene, then I'm naked. I've always been that way. I've got nothing to hide. I just think it might be embarrassing for the crew."—Alexander Skarsgard tells Rolling Stone why he won't wear the traditional "cock sock" when doing nude scenes. So I guess I shouldn't have turned down that visit to the set of True Blood.

You'd think that being back in Boston for the summer would be humdrum next to the excitement of Europe, but you'd be wrong. Within hours of landing, I was off to glamorous Ogunquit, Maine to see Sunset Blvd, starring Stefanie Powers. It's a fascinating thing to consider Stef's connection to the source material—her longtime paramour William Holden was in the film version and Powers herself is a product of the Hollywood studio system (she probably identifies with the character of "Betty Schaefer"). The Ogunquit Playhouse production is slick, functional, and a clever use of limited space. But more to the point, Powers' portrayal of "Norma Desmond" is fantastic. No disrespect to the theatre or its cast of players, but Stefanie is in a different class altogether—as you'll be able to see in the footage which will mysteriously turn up on BillyMasters.com. Rumor has it, Powers may get to play the role elsewhere—perhaps Papermill or yet another national tour. (Look out, Petula Clark.)

In addition to Ogunquit, I also managed to squeeze in a brief jaunt to Provincetown so I could catch up with some pals. A few of the people in our group were attorney to the stars Mark Sendroff, designer to the stars Bob Mackie, artiste to the stars Robert W. Richards, (previously) married to a star Peter Marc Jacobsen (who is scorchingly hot), and singing star Marilyn Maye. There were oodles of others who I will not mention lest anyone feel left out.

While I was cavorting on Cape Cod, Lance Bass was having his own drama at the Bridgehampton Polo Club. Details vary wildly. Lance originally Tweeted: "Wow! Some woman security guard took my drink and threw my drink on me and sai 'get the fuck out' I'm so confused why that just happened!" I'm confused what "sai" means. An incident with a drink did indeed happen, but onlookers say the drink was spilled when security was attempting to wrestle it out of Lance's death grip an hour after last call. Weird thing about that version is that Lance's Tweet was timed at 6:32 p.m.—but maybe it was only an afternoon party. Yet another insider claims that Bass somehow wandered out of the VIP area and ran into trouble when he tried to get back in—with drink in hand. Who knows what really happened, but there is a positive side to the story. Security had four cops escort Lance from the premises—so maybe some body cavities got searched. Hey, it was Saturday night and Lance may or may not have been drunk around guys with handcuffs and nightsticks. Sounds like a party to moi!

A couple of months ago, I received this "Ask Billy" from Frank in Colorado: "Whatever happened to that cop from Florida who was on a design show and did gay porn? I remember he was hot, but don't know how it worked out."

The guy in question is sexy Michael Verdugo, who was on HGTV's Design Star back in 2008 and who also did a gay-porn video back in 1996 (of it, he said, "It was all role-playing bondage. I was tied. I used handcuffs later on in my career"). But Verdugo believes that his problems with the Hollywood Florida Police Department began back in 2007, when he filed a complaint for discrimination based on sexual orientation. Instead of things getting better, he was given more menial assignments. When Mikey got the HGTV show, people on the web started talking



Gay-porn star and reality-TV veteran Michael Verdugo (above) is trying to get his handcuffs back.

about the sex tape and HGTV dumped him before you can say, "Tie me up" (which is hard to do with a gag in your mouth). Then the cops cuffed him, allegedly "for not disclosing previous employment" on his application. Verdugo claims he never considered doing a porn as "previous employment" and believes that the firing was in retaliation for his discrimination complaint. Then the force tried to have him stripped of his police certificate. However, this past week the Florida Department of Law Enforcement stated that the appropriate punishment for not disclosing previous employment—regardless of its nature—is one year probation and taking a state-approved ethics-training class. While Verdugo could be a cop anywhere in Florida, he's suing to get his old job back. The case will be heard in Broward Circuit Court in November. BTW, don't cry for Mikey—he's got his own design business and a very handsome boyfriend. Ironically, his beau is a Pembroke Pines police officer and, presumably, openly gay. We'll run all the salient photos on BillyMasters.com.

While I certainly support Michael, I think a reality check is in order. Most of the published reports state that Verdugo "appeared in a gay porn flick called 'Rope Rituals' for a 15-minute bondage scene." Everyone also has this statement: "Verdugo said he performed nude in the short scene, but didn't engage in hardcore sex." I'm not sure who is the fact checker for these things, but I'd sure like that job! I just dug out my copy of "Rope Rituals" and it's over an hour long—and feels endless. That's not a reflection on Mikey (performing under the name Jeremy Wess) or his "master" (played with aplomb by Chris McKenzie). But they are the only two in the flick, so after a half hour, I was getting a bit antsy. As to no hardcore sex, I suppose that's right up there with Bill Clinton defining what "is" means. The only thing that doesn't happen to Verdugo is anal penetration—at least not by a penis! You have the right to remain silent, Mikey. But the video on BillyMasters.com is worth a thousand words.

When more than one of my items involves handcuffs, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Alas, there's no rest for the weary. I had to skip Belinda Carlisle's birthday in NYC to blow out candles with Big Mama Masters. (They share the same birthday, doncha know.) Then off to see Kathleen Turner in a play ... but I'll tell you all about that next week. In fact, all sorts of juicy stories will show up on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that puts out. If you've got a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Hollywood Florida Police use "Rope Rituals" as a training film! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Join us 1-4pm Sat, Aug 28

EQUALITY ILLINOIS presents....

EQ IL

PIE TOSS at SIDETRACK

Thanks to our friends at SKYY VODKA

3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

No Cover!
Watch & bid on the right to cream community celebrities, favorites & friends!

Hosted by Matthew Harvat & Bradley Thomas.
Visit EQIL.org for more information.

RENT THE HISTORIC KEITH HOUSE

for your next:

- Baby Shower
- Bridal Shower
- Birthday Party
- Special Catered Event
- Small Intimate Weddings
- Corporate Retreats/Meetings
- Your Own Personal Art Show

Capacity:
25-150 people



For rates and availability contact:
Marcy Baim
312-907-7909
events@prairieavenuegallery.com
www.prairieavenuegallery.com



Chicagoans shine during Gay Games

This article is the second of a two-part look at locals who competed in the Cologne Gay Games.

BY ROSS FORMAN

Richard Sypniewski traveled to Cologne to compete in the triathlon, marking his second Games appearance (Chicago, 2006).

"The Games were great and Cologne was a fantastic host," Sypniewski said. "The people of Cologne were very welcoming and the compactness of the city made it very easy to get to the events. The main area [of Cologne] included a campus of facilities housing swimming, diving, track & field, [and more]. The global participation was great with athletes from Australia, Thailand, Africa, South America, and, of course, Europe and the U.S.

"I did not medal, however, [I] had my best swim time ever and it was rewarding to athletes in their 60s who have been coming to the Games again crossing the finish line to the roar and excitement of the athletes and spectators.

Sypniewski, 41, who lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood, is the managing director and CFO for Sagin, LLC.

"As with every Gay Games, the memories are with the people you meet from all around the world with which we share a common bond," Sypniewski said. "We come there to compete for our personal bests, but we also share the bond of competing in our everyday lives for equality.

"The Games ranks very high in my priorities to keep attending because it demonstrates the ability to set goals and achieve them, and [the Games] also bring us together for fun and achievement. People only need to participate to experience and see what a great feeling the Gay Games creates."

So which was better, Chicago or Cologne?

Well, that's sort of a loaded question for a Chicago resident.

"I am biased being a Chicago native, but [I] would definitely say Chicago was significantly better from an organization and coordination of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, not to mention all of the events," Sypniewski said. "I also would say it is unfair to compare each [Games] city because they all have their strengths and weaknesses. Cologne was better because of the city size compared to Chicago, which made it easier to get around, and [Cologne] had a greater global attendance. I think the recession put a damper on attendance and the way Cologne [organizers] may have approached the spending [for] the event.

"I strongly encourage people to participate [in the Gay Games, in] whatever event they want, so they can experience the feeling of being part of something so great and global."

Such as the story Sypniewski tells when he was talking with a fellow male competitor in the triathlon.

"I asked if he competed in Chicago in 2006 and he told me that he would have liked to, however, at the time, the U.S. did not allow him into the country because he is HIV-Positive and the U.S. travel ban was not lifted until January, 2010.

"The more we come together as a community whether locally for events or globally in the Gay Games competition, we begin to learn more about ourselves and others in our community and how much we have yet to accomplish together."

Kevin Haight can add a silver medal in basketball to his sporting resume that already includes a championship at the 2005 Gay Bowl (flag football) in San Diego.

Haight, 38, is the vice president group sales manager for Petry Television, and a two-time

Games competitor (Chicago, 2006).

"Marching into the stadium during the Opening Ceremony," was a highlight in Cologne, Haight said, "And also the presentation of the [basketball] medals."

Chicago or Cologne?

"It's so different traveling to another city. I actually was much more involved with the social activities in Cologne," he said.

Ryan Fournier had a "great time" in Cologne, despite an error of sorts in his swimming race.

"Sadly, I only registered for one event: the 50-meter breast stroke, and I had no idea that, at the end [of the race], you had to touch the wall with both hands—and I was disqualified," Fournier said. "So, I flew [more than] 4,000 miles to get DQ'd, but I had an awesome time anyway."

Michael Thiry, competing in his first Gay Games, captured three bronze medals—two for solo swimming efforts and one for the 4x2000 freestyle relay, which feature Chicago Smelts' teammates Scot Phinney, Luis Balaguer and Adam Parker.

"I was so happy to be sharing that experience with my teammates and [was very] proud to be participating in the Games in general," Thiry said. "I wished that my boyfriend, Quinton, was there to share the experience with me, but [I] couldn't wait to call him after my events and tell him how we all did."

Thiry, 34, who lives in University Village, is the coordinator, fare media operations for the Chicago Transit Authority.

"The Games were a tremendously uplifting experience," Thiry said. "They were organized very well and the entire city was so welcoming. It was great to compete with other gay athletes and to be a part of the gay community doing something positive.

"I trained really hard for [the Games] for the past year, [so] winning the medals made all of the hard work really worthwhile," Thiry said. "The success I had at the Games makes me want to continue training just as hard for future events."

Thiry said the Games were, "an experience of a lifetime."

"To experience thousands of gay people coming together from all over the world to participate in their sport as well as supporting others competing was amazing," he said. "It was great to meet so many other people and hear their experiences. Sporting-wise, the swimming competition was run extremely well and the spirit of the competition was very friendly. People were very supportive of one another and happy to see others winning medals.

"This experience was so great that I cannot wait for the next Games in four years."

Dan Norton did not medal, but gained lifetime memories.

"I had a great time in Cologne," he said. "Kyle [Chang] did a good job keeping Team Chicago together, as we all wanted to represent Chicago in a positive way."

Frank J. Pieri captured bronze in bodybuilding in Cologne, yet it's two other Chicagoans who he wants to praise.

"I could not have been successful without my trainer, Ira Crawley, at the Fitness Formula Club on Halsted Street and my posing coach, Michelle Amore, who is at the FFC at Union Station," Pieri said. "I also could not have done it without the support of my partner, friends and family. A year of a strict diet and no alcohol was a long time to ask everyone in my life to support me in one way or another ... but they did."



Chicagoan Cathy Seabaugh (center) wins gold in track and field. Photo courtesy of Seabaugh

Pieri, 53, has a private psychiatry practice and was competing in his second Games; he ran the 10K race in Chicago in 2006.

"[Cologne] was a great, affirming experience," Pieri said. "I met lots of great people from all over the world.

"I never trained for, or competed in, bodybuilding before [the Games]. I began my training and diet regimen a year before the Games. It is very rewarding to have accomplished this on my first attempt."

Pieri's most memorable moment: "Having my name announced as a medal winner," he said. "It was hard to believe that I actually won the medal."

The Cologne Games—combined with the personal, non-sporting aspects of his German adventure—rank as one of the best experiences in Steve Boudreau's life.

And the Games brought out a level of competition that he never before had experienced.

Ultimately, the 39-year-old Boudreau, an independent marketing consultant who was competing in his first-ever Gay Games, won the gold medal for singles in men's social bowling.

He also competed in team and doubles bowling.

"It was a spectacular experience where the gay community throughout the world came together and celebrated our diversity," Boudreau said. "Throughout my time competing, I had the pleasure of meeting gay men from many other countries and formed some amazing bonds and friendships with people I would have never otherwise had the chance to meet. I am excited beyond belief to have been able to go all the way and take the gold."

Boudreau also had joy climbing up the bell tower at the Kölner Dom with his partner, Joee.

"My partner and my friends from Chicago and Michigan were there to celebrate my win and that made me exceptionally proud," Boudreau said. "And, I started to cry because I knew the gold medal in bowling was going to make my father so proud. What I didn't expect was that the people who I met and bowled with throughout the week were just as excited and proud of me. It was a magical moment."

Boudreau said the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in Chicago in 2006 were better than Cologne's, "but the culture in Cologne provided an amazing backdrop for the Games.

"I can't wait to do it again in Cleveland. I am definitely addicted to the Gay Games."

If Matthew Stuczynski has to write a term paper about "What I Did Over Summer Break," it definitely will include his journey to Germany for his second Gay Games, where he competed in sailing.

"[The] best [part] for me was the sense of sport, camaraderie and support as a competitor," said Stuczynski, 47, who teaches Spanish

and German at New Trier High School in suburban Chicago. "I made [friends] with hosts and fellow sailors from throughout the world.

"My team of three was symbolic of the Games, in particular because the three of us, from three different countries, met for the first time in Cologne and quickly became a close and effective sailing crew; these two women/teammates will be friends for life.

"We took turns being skipper on the boat and the day that I was in charge tested my skills to the limit.

"We didn't win a medal, but I stretched myself to my personal best."

The five bowl together on Tuesdays at Waveland Bowling in the Windy City Athletic Association league—Pete Leal, Rob Chalupnik, Randy Israel, Ed Beach and Kent Jager. They took their balls to Germany for Gay Games VIII, except Jager, who opted for in-line speed skating, and he won a bronze medal.

Former Chicagoans Michael Bless and Michael Ooms also bowled in Cologne.

Ooms ultimately won gold for singles bowling.

"We were there for [the] Opening and Closing Ceremony, and everything in between," Leal said. "We had a great time exploring the city, eating and drinking at night."

Her luggage was a bit heavy heading home from Germany—from all the medals Cathy Seabaugh won at Gay Games VII. Just consider:

—Gold in the women's 45-49 (age-division) 100-meter and 200-meter run.

—Gold in the women's 4x100 (ages 30-34) relay.

—Silver in the mixed 4x200 relay.

—Silver in the mixed 4x100 relay.

"This was my third Gay Games," Seabaugh said. "I wrestled in 1994 in New York, ran [only] one mixed relay in 2006 in Chicago [since] I was on staff so could not compete all week until the last day."

Seabaugh, 49, said one of her Cologne highlights was listening to Taylor Dayne's Opening Ceremony performance, as well as the all-women's party at end of week.

The Games, though, also had an embarrassing moment Seabaugh: the javelin throw, but she redeemed herself with a win in the 100-meter race the next day.

Tony Phillips played basketball in Cologne with the Seattle Fury Vengeance in the men's recreational division since there were no Chicago basketball teams participating. His team won the gold medal, defeating SOS in the championship game—and the SOS team featured several Chicago players, including Jeff Edmonds and Rob Smitherman.

Find even more profiles of Chicagoans online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

GLOBAL PHARMACYDirect
 Leading the global effort in low cost drugs.

Visit **GlobalPharmacyDirect.com**
 for your prescription drug needs

- Secure, Quick, Convenient ordering process online.
- All drugs dispensed are FDA approved.
- Save up to 80% or more on all drugs including HIV.
- Medications ship to your door in 2 weeks by USPS.

Place your order with us today and start saving now on your medication needs.

Questions? Call or email
 1-866-744-3835 or
 info@GlobalPharmacyDirect.com



Leading the effort in low-cost Rx drugs while maintaining the highest quality standards.

iloilo

Famous comedic actor Jim Bennett on iloilo,
 on iloilo,



"Iloilo custom framing turned my old family painting into a beautiful masterpiece. It takes a lot of talent to make that old family look beautiful!"

CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991
 All work done on premise.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

Law Offices of Nancy Jill Cox, LLC

Your Neighborhood Attorney

- Bankruptcy
- Short Sales
- Deed in Lieu of Foreclosures
- Distressed Property Solutions

Practicing law in Illinois since 2003

773-944-0485 office
773-220-8020 cell
 attorneycox@gmail.com
 mybankruptcycounsel.com



 **Susan O'Dell, PhD**
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010
 1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660



The Law Offices of Alexander Weaver

312-588-5005
 email: violaw@rcn.com

A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
 Suite 628, Chicago

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
 rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com

CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC



"A terrific role for SHARON GLESS, who runs with it gloriously."
 - Los Angeles Times

WINNER! AUDIENCE AWARD BEST FEATURE FILM PHILADELPHIA Q-FEST

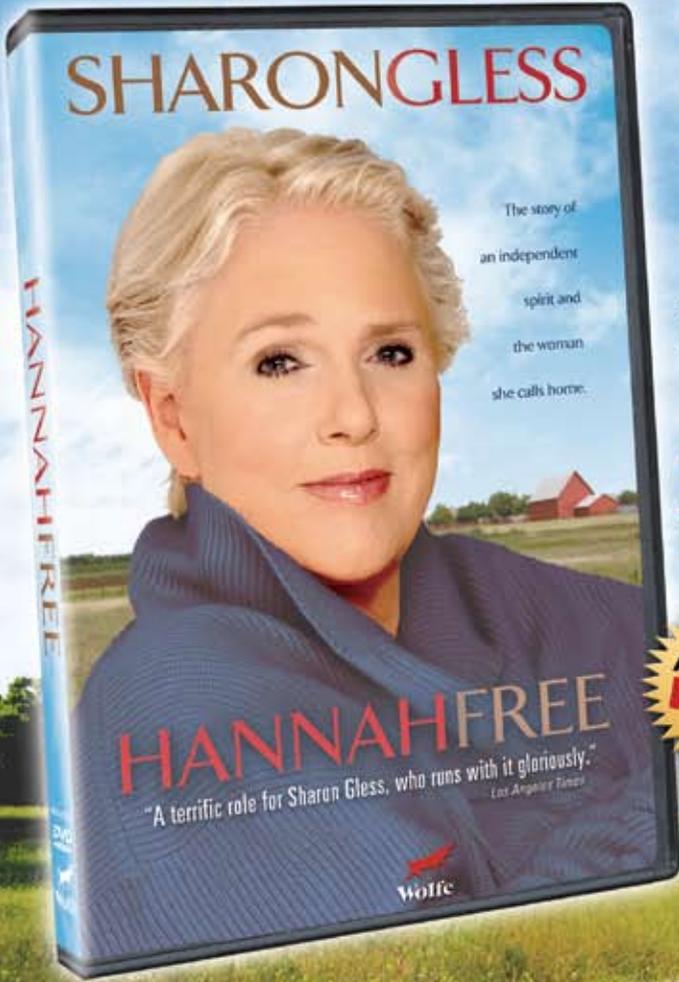
WINNER! BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM AUSTIN LGBT FILM FEST

WINNER! BEST FEATURE MONTREAL INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

Starring multi-award winner Sharon Gless (*Burn Notice, Queer as Folk, Cagney & Lacey*) in a tremendous performance, *Hannah Free* tells the moving story of the lifelong love affair between two very different women. Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton and written by Claudia Allen.

"Gless's free-spirited butch lesbian bridling against authority conveys the same punchy heartiness she brought to... *Queer as Folk*" - The New York Times

AVAILABLE NOW!




"This level of interpersonal lesbian drama definitely gives the women of *The L Word* a run for their money" - AfterEllen.com

WolfeVideo.com

VEHICLES YOU CAN HAVE PRIDE IN



SEE THE ALL NEW 2011 INFINITI QX56!

ZERO DOWN LEASE EVENT



2011 INFINITI M37X

LEASE FOR

\$559 PER MONTH*

FOR 39 MONTHS • STK# B2845

First Months Payment	\$559
Security Deposit	\$0
Acquisition Cost	\$0
Cap Cost Reduction	\$0
Due at Signing	\$559*

ZERO DOWN • 10,000 MILES PER YEAR

2010 INFINITI G37X SEDAN

LEASE FOR

\$389 PER MONTH*

FOR 39 MONTHS • STK# B2750

First Months Payment	\$389
Security Deposit	\$0
Acquisition Cost	\$0
Cap Cost Reduction	\$0
Due at Signing	\$389*

ZERO DOWN • 10,000 MILES PER YEAR

2010 INFINITI EX35

LEASE FOR

\$449 PER MONTH*

FOR 39 MONTHS • STK# B2737

First Months Payment	\$449
Security Deposit	\$0
Acquisition Cost	\$0
Cap Cost Reduction	\$0
Due at Signing	\$449*

ZERO DOWN • 10,000 MILES PER YEAR

*With approved credit. Excludes tax, title, license, and doc fees. See dealer for details. Offer expires 8/31/2010. +Infiniti Central Region 2009 Year End.



**#1 IN SERVICE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
IN CHICAGOLAND!†**

FIELDS INFINITI GLENCOE

2100 FRONTAGE ROAD

GLENCOE, IL 60022 • 847.998.5200

FIELDS INFINITI LAKE COUNTY

1121 S. MILWAUKEE AVENUE

LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 • 847.362.9200



INFINITI

Inspired Performance™

20 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN CHICAGO • FIELDSINFINITI.COM