

'NATE & MARGARET' DIRECTOR NATHAN ADLOFF

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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VICTORY FUND'S CHUCK WOLFE  
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# IDPH dismisses trans complaint

BY KATE SOSIN

In a stunning blow to transgender-rights advocates, the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) has thrown out a complaint by a transgender woman barred from using the women's restroom at work, despite having state ID indicating she is female.

Meggan Sommerville, a 14-year employee of Hobby Lobby, filed a complaint against her employer last year after the chain admittedly refused her access to the women's room.

The complaint argued that Hobby Lobby violated the Illinois Human Rights Act by denying her full and equal

enjoyment of their services.

Sommerville had transitioned from living as male to female at the time and had obtained a driver's license indicating that she is female.

Transgender advocates have long held that the Illinois Human Rights Act, which grants equal access to public accommodations regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, protected transgender people in public restrooms, especially if they had obtained state IDs indicating their new gender identity.

"IDHR basically showed an absolute ignorance," said Sommerville, noting that the IDHR decision incorrectly refers to her being transgender as a "sexual identity."

According to Sommerville, she remains banned from using the women's room at her Aurora store.

The dismissal confirms that Hobby Lobby personnel instructed Sommerville to use the men's room because she "still possessed his (sic) male anatomy."

A Hobby Lobby spokesperson said the company does not comment on pending legal matters.

In June, IDHR dismissed Sommerville's case for lack of evidence. Sommerville learned of the ruling in late July through Betty Tsamis, a well-known lesbian attorney who had been working on the case (Sommerville

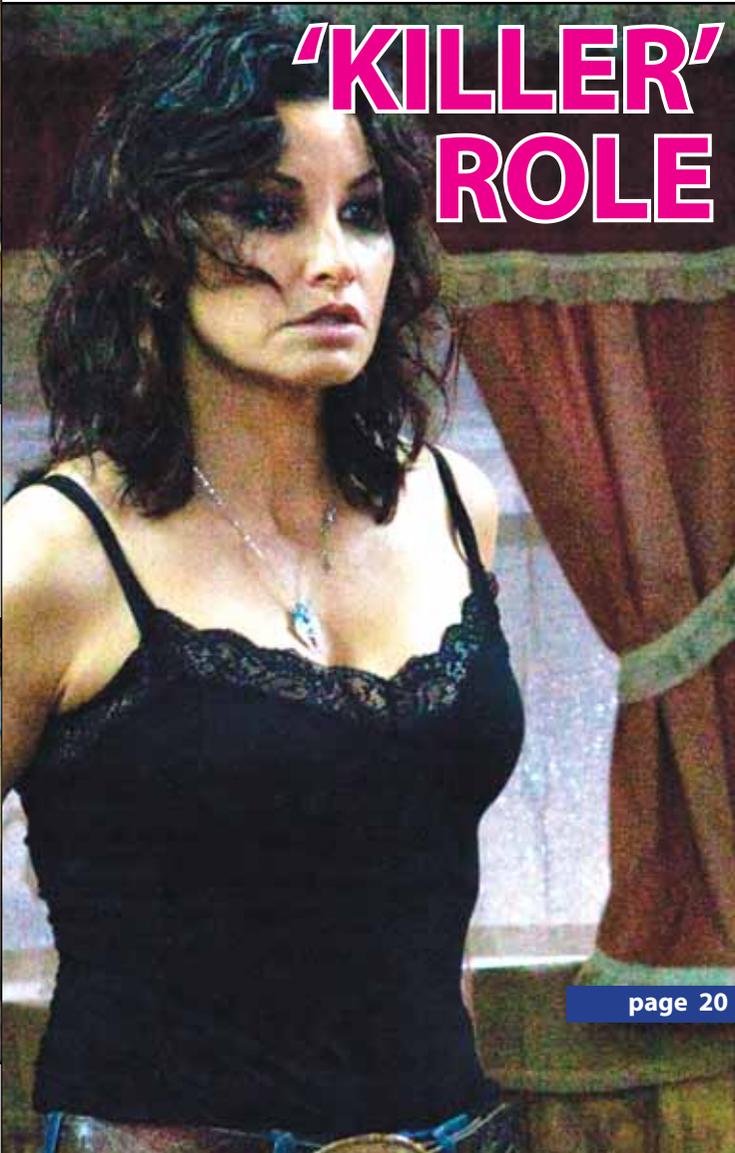
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## 'KILLER' ROLE

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Actress Gina Gershon talks about her role in the new movie Killer Joe—and why she took the role of Corky in the movie Bound (despite her agent's advice) on page 20. Photo courtesy of LD Entertainment

## LOOKING BACK



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Chicagoan Mickey Powers (here in a vintage photo) reflects on the city's history with gay people. See page 10. Photo by Ross Forman



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Photos on cover (left, from top): Publicity photo of Nathan Adloff; photo of Chuck Wolfe courtesy of Victory Fund; photo of Donna Adams by Andrew Davis; photo of Cris Williamson at Michfest by Charlsie Dewey

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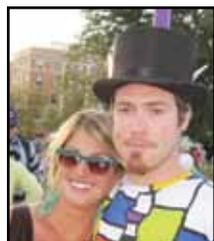
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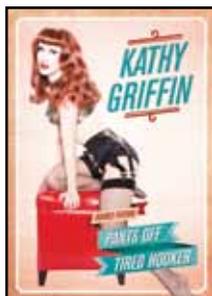
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Read a review of the new DVD release Weekend.

PR photo



Pop Making Sense looks at the upcoming North Coast Music Festival and various artists.



Read a review of Kathy Griffin's Pants Off and Tired Hooker.

Photo from 2010 by Andrew Davis

### A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

Find out all about captive insurance companies.

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Read about longtime local gay couple Tommy Starr and Brent Alwood, who both work as nurses.

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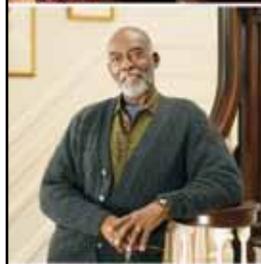
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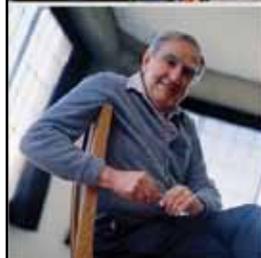
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# Victory Fund CEO Chuck Wolfe talks 2012, strategy

BY ERICA DEMAREST

Since 1991, the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund has given openly LGBT candidates the financial, strategic and technical support needed to win races. As the nation's largest LGBT political action committee, it has one simple goal: to change American politics through queer elected leaders.

During a recent trip to Chicago, President/CEO Chuck Wolfe sat down with Windy City Times to talk strategy, funding and the 2012 elections. Wolfe joined the Victory Fund in 2003, after a successful run as vice-president and chief operating officer at the American Legacy Foundation, which fights the tobacco industry.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Chuck. With the 2012 elections, there's a record number of out queer candidates and officials. Can you tell us about that?

Chuck Wolfe: This is the first year that we now have someone [who is openly LGBT] elected in every state in the country. That's important because we know that no LGBT-specific legislation moves without having some of us in the state legislature, county council or whatever it might be. It's really important for us to elect members of our own community.

**WCT:** The Victory Fund issues "Out to Win" endorsements. In 2010, you only backed 164 of the more than 350 openly LGBT candidates who ran. What motivates that?

CW: Well, it varies on the level of race they're running for. Our endorsement seal gives a [potential] donor the confidence that we've vetted that candidate through our board of directors and campaign board, and that the candidate meets certain qualifications—namely that he or she is a viable candidate running in the right race at the right time, and that they actually have a good chance of success. It also means that they're pro-choice and pro-gay.

That's where we start. That could also be the point in which we start to invest in the race directly. We offer technical assistance to every candidate, but then for some, if they're in a focused race—like Tammy Baldwin running for United States Senate—then they get a lot of extra assistance.

**WCT:** And how important would you say funding is for queer candidates?

CW: This isn't a question of sexual orientation. Money is what drives the message, and this is true throughout politics. You need to raise money to be able to send your message—period. The successful candidates are the ones who figure out how to fundraise.

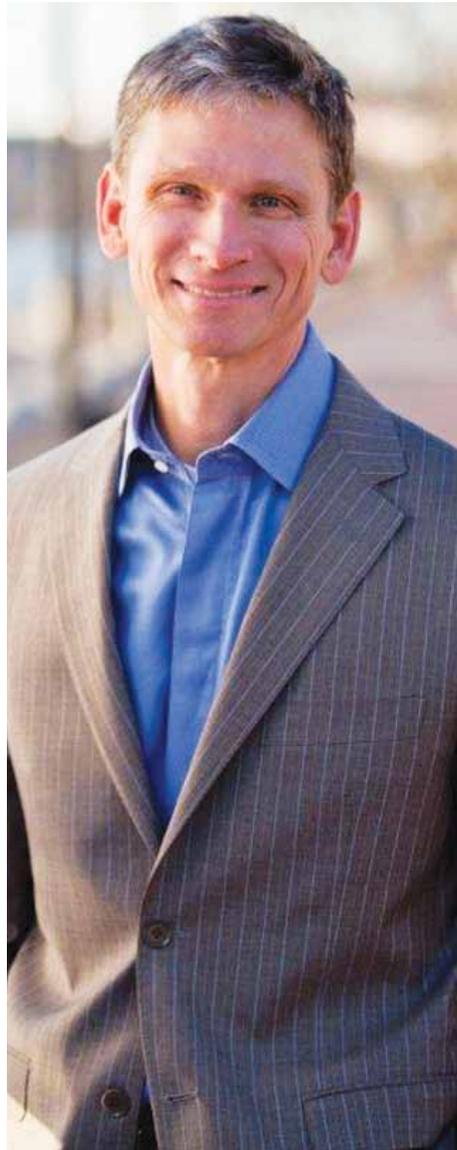
**WCT:** Can you tell us about the Victory Fund's work in Illinois and Chicago?

CW: We have such great success here with people like [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner] Debra Shore, who chairs the Victory Institute board, and [state Rep.] Greg Harris. Greg's been a great champion and is a wonderful out elected official but you have to realize that, in time, these people will move on and you'll need more great people to come in behind them. We've added more trainings in the city and the Midwest.

We also have a partnership with Equality Illinois that we're really proud of. The Appointments Project has been especially successful.

There's a lot of groundwork that's been laid for us to be able to do more work here, and we're actually bringing our first brunch to Chicago on Sept. 9. We offer this series of fundraising brunches around the country, which are meant to highlight our candidates so everybody gets to meet them. This will be our first time in Chicago.

**WCT:** Can you give us any details?



Chuck Wolfe. Photo from the Victory Fund

CW: It'll be at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. And Christine Quinn, who is a member of the New York City Council and who's running for mayor of New York City, is going to headline that event. Her race is next year, so it's really exciting.

**WCT:** How is your 2012 strategy different from 2010 or 2008?

CW: Well, we have definitely staggered the endorsements differently this year. But if you're asking what's causing those increased numbers, I think the real reason is just that we're getting more of our community members willing to engage in the community and run as out candidates. We're getting more people running, and others are seeing that you can be successful. There is this great track record.

I would not claim that the Victory Fund is doing some miraculous thing. More of the community is simply willing to step up and run, and if we've been helpful in any way, it's that we show them a way to win.

**WCT:** At the American Legacy Foundation, you worked on the iconic "Truth" anti-smoking campaign. How important is that type of messaging?

CW: I think that's essential anywhere. Brand awareness is key. Our benefit is that we have a very focused mission. We are out to win, and that's what we say—both in our day-to-day work and also in our marketing message. Because we're such a focused organization, when people invest with us, they know what we're about. Nobody has to wonder.

If you compare it to the "truth" campaign: That operated with billions of dollars of settlement money, and the Victory Fund operates with money it raises each and every year. They're really not directly comparable, but the fundamentals are the same. You need to have a brand message.

**WCT:** What's up next for 2012?

CW: Our Women Out to Win project is really cool. Growing that program is probably our greatest excitement right now—having Annise Parker elected as mayor of Houston, Texas; having Tammy Baldwin running for the United States Senate; watching Chris Quinn run for mayor of New York City... These women are encouraging other women in our community to step up and run for office, and that is really, truly exciting.

**To learn more about the Victory Fund's Sept. 9 brunch fundraiser, visit [www.victoryfund.org/chicago](http://www.victoryfund.org/chicago).**

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NATIONAL NEWS

- Joe Biden praises gay-rights activists
- Bullied gay student gets free car makeover
- Bathhouse offering free admission to RNC delegates

## Psychiatric assn. supports transition health care

BY KATE SOSIN

In a move that could have a far-reaching impact on transgender healthcare, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has come out with a series of transgender-positive positions.

The statements represent a shift for the APA, which has long provoked the ire of trans activists who say the group's labeling of transgender people in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is offensive.

The APA recently released two statements, approved by its assembly and board of trustees, in support of transgender people. The first condemns discrimination against trans people and calls for policy that supports transgender individuals.

The second advocates that gender-affirming health care is medically necessary and should be supported by the medical community and insurance providers.

"Transgender and gender-variant individuals currently lack access to the best standards of clinical practice, frequently do not have the opportunity to pursue patient-focused treatment decisions, do not receive scientifically established treatment and could benefit significantly from APA's advocacy," the statement reads.

The statements come alongside news that the APA is doing away with the unpopular term "gender identity disorder" in favor of the term "gender dysphoria" in the upcoming DSM. Some activists have advocated the removal of transgender identity from the DSM altogether, stating that it unfairly categorizes transgender identity as a mental illness.

However, trans advocates applauded the APA's latest statements.

"We welcome the American Psychiatric Association's support, which is part of a long trend in the medical community affirming transgender people's access to health care and civil rights," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality in a statement to Windy City Times. "The National Center for Transgender Equality strongly believes that changes like this are just going to keep us moving forward."

The APA statement is part of a growing trend among medical societies to back tran-

sition-related medical care in recent years. Both the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association have released such statements.

Claudia Mosier, director of mental health at the Center on Halsted, said the APA positions are particularly powerful when placed alongside the stances of other medical associations.

"It so totally solidifies what all the major health and mental institutions are saying about transgender and gender-variant individuals," Mosier said.

Mosier said the statements could have a practical impact on health care for transgender people, removing barriers to care and encouraging insurance coverage for transition-related health care.

## Webinar for undocumented LGBT individuals

Several organizations—including National Council of La Raza, Immigration Equality, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, and the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, among others—are providing information to LGBT undocumented individuals who are looking to apply for the president's new deferred action immigration program, according to a press release.

According to the memo issued by the president Aug. 15, youth must meet several criteria to qualify for the program:

- Under the age of 31 as of June 15;
- Came to the United States before reaching 16th birthday;
- Continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- Physically present in the United States June 15, 2012, and at the time of requesting consideration for deferred action from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services;
- Entered without inspection before June 15 or lawful immigration status expired as of June 15;
- Currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and

—Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

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# Iowa marriage-equality backers prepare for vote on justices

BY M.C. CLARK

Lambda Legal and One Iowa held a town hall at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 27, signaling the beginning of a new chapter in the campaign to support marriage equality in Iowa. The panel for the event (which also streamed online) included author and activist Zach Wahls, One Iowa Founder and Board Chair Sharon Malheiro, One Iowa Executive Director Donna Red Wing and Midwest Regional Director for Lambda Legal Jim Bennett.

Wahls has recently become a spokesperson for the marriage-equality movement after a YouTube video was posted of his address to the Iowa Judiciary Committee in 2011 concerning a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. He is the author of *My Two Moms: Lessons on Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family*.

Much of the conversation centered on the upcoming retention vote this November for Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Wiggins.

In 2009, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Varnum v. Brien* that an Iowa law that existed at the time, defining marriage between a man and a woman, violated the equal protection clause in the Iowa constitution. It effectively legalized same-sex marriage in the state, which made Iowa the third of six states to do so.

But in November 2010, three of those justices failed a retention vote that is required for the renewal of their eight-year terms. The votes followed a campaign to remove the judges based



Jim Bennett. Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

on the *Varnum* decision, and had substantial financial support from the National Organization for Marriage and the American Family Association.

"The latest move to oust judges is, as we know, politics at its worst," Red Wing said during the event, which was broadcast streaming on the Internet. "It's a movement that we believe is mean-spirited and bigoted."

Red Wing said One Iowa is committed to traveling across the state prior to the upcoming retention vote in support of Justice Wiggins. One Iowa has also begun a Why Marriage Matters campaign. It is also a supporter of the Justice Not Politics campaign, which aims to counter out-of-state funding for judicial retention elections.

"To all of us, it felt like a watershed moment," Bennett said during the town hall, providing a national context for the Iowa decision. Bennett stressed that while the removal of the judges has no impact on the decision itself, it does still undermine the judicial process.

"[The goal] was to send a chilling message to judges across the country," Bennett said.

Bennett, who was a leading strategist of Lambda Legal's educational and media efforts in Iowa, told the *Windy City Times*, "Our hope is to just keep the conversation going and to get Iowans to consider their own judicial process. We don't take judges out based on an unpopular decision. And that is what we hope to achieve nationally."

Lambda Legal has its own Fair Courts Project, which conducts workshops at universities and bar associations.

In May, Public Policy Polling found that 71 percent of voters in Iowa support some form of legal recognition for same-sex couples.

## D.C. shooter indicted

Floyd Lee Corkins II has been formally charged with the Aug. 14 shooting of the security guard at the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the conservative group the Family Research Council (FRC), according to the *Huffington Post*.

A grand jury indicted Corkins, 28, on a federal charge of interstate transportation of a firearm and ammunition and two D.C. offenses: assault with intent to kill while armed and possession of a handgun during a crime of violence.

A law-enforcement official said that during a scuffle with the guard, Corkins expressed views different from those of the FRC, the *Washington Post* stated. The official also said Corkins was carrying a bag that had a Chick-Fil-A bag inside. Chick-Fil-A President Dan Cathy has expressed views about same-sex marriage that are similar to the council's.

Afterwards, Perkins accused the Southern Poverty Law Center of sparking hatred that led to Corkins' actions, calling the shooting "an act of domestic terrorism," which led to angry responses from pro-LGBT groups.

Corkins had volunteered at a community center for LGBT individuals.

## Correction

Ed Negron, not Hal Baim, took the cover photo of the Aug. 22 issue, which showcased Dance for Life participants.

*Windy City Times* regrets the error.

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# LGBTs question Catholic Charities deal with city for homeless outreach

BY KATE SOSIN

The city is outsourcing some of its homeless services to Chicago Catholic Charities, a move raising eyebrows among some LGBT people who see the organization as anti-gay.

Mayor Emanuel announced the move, intended to cut down on youth homelessness, in an Aug. 23 press conference.

"If you can cut somebody off at a younger age who's homeless, get them the jobs and get them the education, they won't be an adult statistic," Emanuel said.

According to the mayor, the deal will save the city \$1.7 million, to be funneled back into homeless services. The result, he said, will be a 40-percent increase in the number of shelter beds.

Catholic Charities will take over the city's program that offers late-night rides to homeless shelters, operating 12 vehicles and employing 50 workers.

But many LGBT people questioned the move, as Catholic Charities in Illinois and the Archdiocese of Chicago have taken high-profile stances against LGBT rights in recent years.

"It just raises a lot of red flags in my mind," said Joe Murray, executive director of Rainbow Sash Movement, an LGBT Catholic organization. "Catholic Charities, one, does not recognize us [LGBT people] and two, believes we are morally disordered."

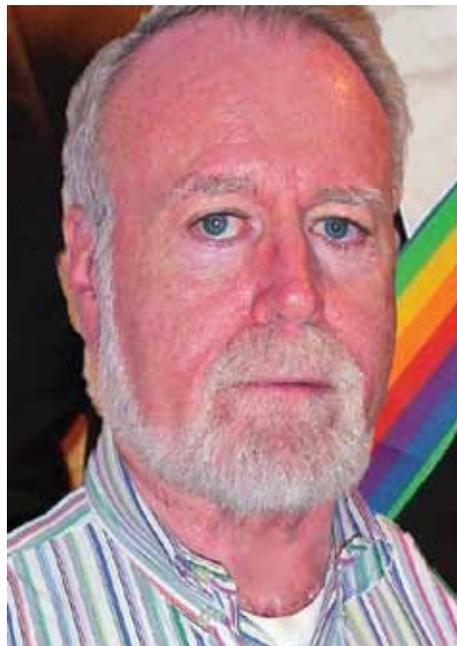
Chicago Catholic Charities is an arm of the Archdiocese of Chicago, headed by Cardinal Francis George, who sparked outrage last winter when he compared the Pride Parade to a Ku Klux Klan gathering.

Responding to a Lakeview church's request to alter the Pride Parade plans to let parishioners attend Sunday mass, the Cardinal repeatedly stated that parade was at risk of turning into a KKK gathering.

"You don't want the gay-liberation movement to morph into something like the Ku Klux Klan, demonstrating in the streets against Catholicism," he told Fox News Chicago.

George later apologized for the remarks.

However, Illinois Catholic Charities have also come under fire in recent years for other anti-gay stances. Last year, a group of Illinois Catholic Charities refused to place foster children in same-sex households after civil unions went into effect. The state pulled the charities' contract over the refusal, and the charities unsuccessfully sued to keep the contract while turning away LGBT parents.



Joe Murray of Rainbow Sash Movement. Photo courtesy of Murray

Chicago Catholic Charities was not a party in the suit, but George oversees all of the state's six dioceses.

"Catholic Charities are the same in every diocese no matter where you're at," explained Chris Pett, president of LGBT Catholic organization Dignity/Chicago. "Now the city will layoff workers and shift the service to an organization that is known to be anti-gay."

Ed Flavin, a spokesperson for Chicago Catholic Charities confirmed that the organization's stance on LGBT parents is the same as the other charities, but he said there was no connection between the foster care dispute and homeless services.

"We've never discriminated against anyone, period," Flavin said.

Flavin noted that he personally "is a major advocate of assisting that community."

According to Matt Smith, a spokesperson for Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), all agencies contracting with DFSS are contractually required to follow federal, state and local anti-discrimination laws and policies.

In addition, Smith said, Catholic Charities provided the city with its own anti-discrimination policy.

"Catholic Charities maintains a policy of

non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, marital status, age, gender including pregnancy, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local laws in all matters relating to employment with the Agency, including hiring, training, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, help wanted advertising, layoff, termination, compensation, and other terms and conditions of employment," the statement reads.

Finally, the newly released "Plan to End Homeless, 2.0" includes recommendations on better serving LGBT people, said Smith.

That inclusion comes in the form of a mention of LGBTQ people among "special populations" that also include families, youth, victims of domestic violence, seniors, people who have been convicted of a crime, persons with a disability, people who are chronically homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, undocumented people and people with limited English proficiency.

One openly gay person who supports the deal is Jim LoBianco, who headed up homeless services under Mayor Daley and currently serves as executive director of Streetwise.

LoBianco contends that because "human service worker" is one of the lowest titles in Chicago government, homeless services had become

a dumping ground for demoted employees who were trained in other careers.

"They never wanted to work with the homeless," he said, adding he felt the way some workers treated clients was unacceptable.

LoBianco pointed out that Catholic Charities has received city contracts for decades. During his time heading homeless services, he said, LGBT-specific complaints were filed with the city, but Catholic Charities never received a complaint.

"There are not a lot of agencies committed to doing this work, and of those, Catholic Charities is the best," LoBianco said.

Openly gay Ald. James Cappleman expressed similar feelings.

Cappleman is a longtime member of Dignity/Chicago and a former social worker. Overall, he said, he was not concerned about the deal. He never witnessed homophobia from Catholic Charities when he was doing social work.

Asked if he worried about the image of the city contracting with Catholic Charities, he said, "I'm mostly focused on making sure that people are who experience homelessness are getting the best possible care."

—Contributing reporter: Bill Healy

## TPAN receives grant for new initiative

The local HIV/AIDS agency TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) has received a \$10,000 grant from The Gibbs Family Foundation in support of its new HIV prevention initiative for serodiscordant couples.

This prevention initiative is available to all HIV/AIDS-impacted populations in the greater Chicago Metropolitan Area. The psycho-educational program will be composed of six weekly groups for five couples, approximately two and a half hours per session, three cycles per year.

TPAN is currently finalizing the initiative and expects to convene its first group this fall. For more information, visit [www.tpan.com](http://www.tpan.com).

## HBHC, Near North among those with HHS grants

Howard Brown Health Center and Near North Health Service Corporation are among the Illinois recipients of a \$68-million grant disbursement that Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced.

The disbursement is part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Part D program to provide coordinated HIV primary medical care and support services to women, infants, children and youth. HBHC will receive \$500,000 per year

for three years, totaling \$1.5 million, while NNHSC will receive \$200,000 per year for three years, totaling \$600,000.

The other recipients in Chicago include Access Community Health Network (\$353,328 per year), Hektoen Institute for Medical Research (\$1,382,507) and the board of trustees of the University of Illinois (separate grants of \$200,000 and \$292,956).

The full list of recipients is at [www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120807hivaid.html](http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2012tables/120807hivaid.html).

## Law Project offers forums for emerging nonprofits

The Law Project (TLP)—a project of The Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights under Law—is offering a series of five workshops for individuals looking to form nonprofit organizations.

Participants can register for each workshop individually or—for a significant discount—for the entire five-course series at once. Workshop titles include "Nonprofit Board Basics," "Business Planning for New Nonprofits," "Developing a Budget for a New Nonprofit," "Funding a New Nonprofit" and "Legal Steps to Create a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization."

The first series of workshops will conclude at The Law Project, 100 N. LaSalle St., Aug. 30 and Sept. 6; advance registration is required. Visit [www.thelawproject.org](http://www.thelawproject.org).



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Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan (left) and Dr. Rob Garofalo at the event. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

## Chicago House announces new trans initiatives

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 50 people attended a party at the Wicker Park home of Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan Aug. 25 to hear about the organization's new TransLife programs.

The programs will launch next year with the opening of the TransLife Center in Edgewater. The center will offer TransHousing, TransWorks and TransHealth (Connect-to-Care) services for transgender adults.

The event's hosts were Sloan; Dr. Rob Garofalo, director of adolescent HIV services and research for the Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and point person for the TransHealth program; and two new Chicago House board members: June LaTrobe and Emma Joy Jampole.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes ahead of a presentation by Chicago House board and staff members.

Following introductory remarks by Chicago House Special Events Manager Jeremy Hilborn, LaTrobe said, "The trans community has certainly seen tremendous progress in terms of protections and rights. However, that hasn't always been the case and is not even the case today for the most vulnerable members of our trans community, young trans women of color. Chicago House TransLife project is a very important step

in rectifying that situation."

Garofalo remarked that this project is a labor of love for him. "I am honored to be involved with the Chicago House TransHealth program," he said.

Jampole said she is looking forward to working with everyone to ensure the success of these initiatives and expressed excitement at being a new board member.

Sloan explained how his understanding of the transgender community grew over the years as he learned more about their lives. From that understanding, Sloan said he recognized there were gaps in services to the transgender community that he hopes Chicago House will fill in with the TransLife programs. "So far there is enough funding to get the programs started, however, more donations are needed for the programs to continue," said Sloan.

Chicago House Program Director Judy Perloff explained what each component of the program will provide for individuals and said, "Our goal is very simple. We want to provide long-term structural intervention to improve the stability of the transgender community to decrease economic and social marginalization and to improve greater health outcomes."

See [www.chicagohouse.org](http://www.chicagohouse.org) for more information.

## City settles last of Fiorito DUI suits

BY KATE SOSIN

The City of Chicago has settled the last of federal lawsuits aimed at Richard Fiorito, a former Lakeview cop who allegedly hit LGBT people with false DUI charges.

James Dean Jr. and Steven Lopez recently settled their cases against Fiorito. The developments began with 37 complainants on DUI arrests dating as far back as 2003.

Dean and Lopez were each awarded \$99,000 in the settlements and up to a combined \$250,000 in attorney's fees, to be determined at a later date by a judge.

"Justice was served," said attorney Jon Erickson, who represented both men. "It took a long time."

Complaints about Fiorito first surfaced in 2003, but it was not until 2009 that the allegations made headlines.

Several LGBT people complained that Fiorito had used anti-gay and racist language during the arrests, and Fiorito became the target of gay rights activists who protested his continued employment after the allegations broke.

Fiorito allegedly issued hundreds of false DUIs to motorists, more than 130 of which the Cook County State's Attorney's office threw out. But the State's Attorney dropped criminal proceedings against Fiorito in early 2010, amid community protest.

According to Erickson, most of cases against Fiorito, filed in the Northern District of Illinois, were dismissed because plaintiffs had committed minor infractions before being stopped—driving without headlights, not having a city sticker or failing to use a turn signal.

Roderick Drew, a spokesperson for the city's law department, said that some of the plaintiffs also failed to show for court. In total, 17 cases involving Fiorito were filed in federal court. Three were settled, while the rest were dismissed.

Others could not file suits involving the DUIs because they had accepted earlier deals in the criminal charges against them.

"Everybody that we filed for was not guilty of the DUI," said Erickson.

Erickson contends that Fiorito issued the DUIs to buy himself overtime hours in court. Many minorities complained that the officer had unfairly targeted them.

According to Erickson, Fiorito used racist slurs against Dean, a Black gay man who was stopped by Fiorito moments after being released from the Town Hall District Police station on a traffic charge. Erickson alleges that Fiorito instructed Dean to move his car and then immediately pulled him over for a DUI, despite the fact that police did not report him being intoxicated minutes earlier.

Drew said the settlements conclude the cases involving Fiorito. But, he said, "The settlement is not an admission of liability."

The city had been prepared to take Dean's case to trial Aug. 20, he said.

## UIC, U. of C. among most LGBT-friendly schools

Campus Pride has released its list of the top 25 LGBT-friendly colleges and universities, according to a press release.

The University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago are the only area schools on this list. Other schools include Indiana University, Oberlin College, the University of Oregon, the University of Utah, Stanford University and the Ohio State University, among others.

"Praise and accolades are deserved for these 'Top 25' colleges and universities. Each has demonstrated in policy, program and practice inclusion and safety for LGBT and ally student populations," said Campus Pride Executive Director Shane Windmeyer in a statement.

The Campus Pride Index lists nearly 350 publicly available campus climate reports online at [www.campusprideindex.org](http://www.campusprideindex.org).

## 'LGBTQ Healthy Aging Fair' Sept. 7 at Center

"Taking Pride in Wellness: LGBTQ Healthy Aging Fair" will take place Friday, Sept. 7, at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

There will be a complimentary lunch, free health screenings, flu and pneumonia shots, raffle prizes, massages and more than 40 vendors.

Email [BLarson@CenteronHalsted.org](mailto:BLarson@CenteronHalsted.org) or call 773-472-6469, ext. 445, for more info.

## 'Out in the Park' Sept. 8 at Six Flags

BestGayChicago.com and vitaminwater® are premiering "Out in the Park 2012," an all-new LGBT event and fundraiser at Six Flags Great America. The event will take place Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

The park will be closed for this event. The music of DJs Matthew Harvat and Phil DaBeatz will be heard live throughout the venue.

Advance tickets are \$35; the price includes admission to the park all day long, free parking and access to the private event. A portion of the advance ticket sales will benefit HIV/AIDS agency Test Positive Aware Network. Tickets are available online at [www.sixflags.com](http://www.sixflags.com), using promo code "OUT2012."

Regarding bus tickets (which are limited), visit [www.GaySixFlagsChicago.com](http://www.GaySixFlagsChicago.com) or call 773-979-5323.

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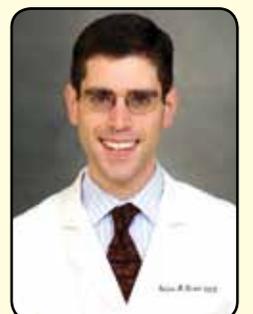
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## PASSAGES

# John Thurman

John Dee Thurman, formerly of Rogers Park, passed away Aug. 25 in Munster, Ind., from complications of a fall. He was 52.

Thurman was the beloved life partner of David Lee Fler and husband of the late Constance "Connie" Watterson. He was also the son of the late Dee Thurman and Hazel Wilson Thurman.

Thurman was also "deputy chief of staff" to Lili the cat.

The deceased was an aficionado of gospel as well as country and western music, especially Donna Fargo, with whom he had a special musical relationship. He was also an active member of Chicago Prime Timers, an organization for mature gay and bisexual men as well as their admirers.

After receiving his associates degree in interior design from Harrington School of Design, Thurman enjoyed a long career in the banking industry, retiring as executive administrator from a major institution.

Thurman lived Fargo's assertion that "you can't be a beacon if your light don't shine."

A memorial mass was held Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m. at St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church, 4945 S. Dorchester Ave., Chicago.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to Hospice of the Calumet Area, 600 Superior Ave., Munster, Ind., 46321.

Arrangements were made by the Cremation Society of Illinois (773-281-5058 or [www.cremation-society.com](http://www.cremation-society.com)).



John Thurman. Photo courtesy of David Fler

## TRANS from cover

said Tsamis is no longer representing her because the two had a disagreement).

According to the IDHR dismissal, the complaint was thrown out because at the time of her conversations with managers on the issue, Sommerville was still in the process of transitioning from male to female. It also says, her "physical anatomy was that of a male," and she had failed to provide her managers with legal precedent that would prove the store was required to let her use the women's room.

The document further notes that Sommerville had previously agreed to use the men's room, a statement that Sommerville contends is false.

Finally, the dismissal references a series of incidents in which Sommerville was accused of sexual harassment for side-hugging, following and making physical contact with a co-worker in 2006. Sommerville was relocated to another Hobby Lobby store over the allegation, but a formal police complaint was never filed. Sommerville denied the allegations of sexual harassment.

Sommerville said she worries for her safety and for the image of the store when she uses a male bathroom shared by customers.

"I look over my shoulder every time I need to use the restroom," she said. She has to wait, she said, until no one is in or around the bathroom before going.

Sommerville's anxieties are not uncommon among transgender people. Transgender women in particular face harassment in large numbers regardless of the gendered bathroom they choose.

Last year, Chrissy Lee Polis—a transgender woman who used a female restroom in a Baltimore, Md., McDonald's—made headlines when she was beaten by two other women while employees filmed the attack.

While Polis was using the women's room at the time, many advocates have argued that trans women face a greater risk of violence in men's rooms.

Sommerville's case could prove significant for other transgender Illinoisans, many of whom use the bathroom that corresponds with their updated IDs, despite not having had genital surgery.

Such surgeries are often costly, are rarely covered by insurance providers and are not always desired by trans people.

Transgender people can change the gender markers on their state IDs and on their U.S. passports without proof of genital surgery.

This year, the American Civil Liberties Union won a court ruling on behalf of three trans people who wanted new Illinois birth certificates but had not undergone genital surgery.

Just one transgender person is known to have won a discrimination case under the Illinois Human Rights Act. Vanessa Fitzsimmons, a taxi driver, successfully sued her former employer for discrimination last year.

"Nobody has tested this [bathroom issue]," Sommerville noted. "This could have been a landmark case."

But despite lack of precedence under the Illinois Human Rights Act, trans advocates have long advised that IDs were more than sufficient proof of the right to use the bathroom marked with their preferred gender.

"This just seems like a slam dunk case of discrimination," said Christina Kahrl, a trans advocate and board member of Equality Illinois. "They are betraying the spirit of

the Illinois Human Rights Ordinance."

Kahrl argued that the dismissal sends a message that rights are "economically determined" by who can afford gender-related surgeries and who cannot.

She also worries that the dismissal has set a precedent under which similar cases of alleged discrimination could be thrown out.

"A non-ruling doesn't mean they will rule incorrectly on something in the future, but it does create uncertainty on something that should be absolutely clear," she said.

Kahrl said that Equality Illinois would be taking action on the dismissal, but declined to provide further details. She added that she believes transgender people should continue to use the bathrooms that they have been using.

Equality Illinois was instrumental in the 2005 inclusion of gender identity protections in the Human Rights Act.

Aiding in the effort at that time was Rick Garcia, policy advisor of The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), and a longtime LGBT-rights activist. Garcia has worked closely with IDHR for years, he said, even conducting a training on trans issues for IDHR with trans advocate June LaTrobe.

"They have been really good about understanding trans issues," said Garcia. "From what I understand of this case, this was an aberration."

Garcia said he urged Sommerville to ask for a review of the case.

Mike Claffey, a spokesperson for IDHR, said IDHR cannot comment on cases still in the request for review period. "But anybody who is not satisfied with the outcome of their complaint has an avenue of appeal," he said.

Sommerville has until Sept. 24-25 to appeal the two charges listed in her initial complaint. She could also take her case to the circuit court.

Those avenues, however, may not be options for Sommerville. She is behind on rent, she said, and can't afford the cost of an attorney she may need to pursue either route.

Sommerville can likely request a review at IDHR at no cost and without the help of an attorney. If her case makes it past that process, however, she will likely need legal assistance.

Disclosure: This reporter participated in an unrelated educational project around transgender people and restrooms in Illinois that referenced the Illinois Human Rights Act.



Meggan Sommerville. Photo courtesy of Sommerville

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# Mickey Powers looks back on Chicago's gay life

BY ROSS FORMAN

It was an early summer evening when Mickey Powers walked from his Lakeview apartment to the lakefront near the totem pole to read, as he often does.

He spotted two twentysomething Latino men sitting side by side on a bench, and one had his legs draped over the other man, and they were kissing intimately.

An array of emotions raced through Mickey's 66-year-old body.

He thought that he personally would never be so open, in public, with his affection for another man. He's too old-fashioned, he said. And years ago, if they were kissing in public, they likely would have been arrested or attacked, or something more severe, Mickey said.

But on this night, as Mickey watched others in the area, no one even looked twice at the lovers. "We've really come a long way," Mickey said, reflecting on how gay life has progressed. There was a time, which Mickey witnessed first-hand, when gay men couldn't and wouldn't even touch each other in a gay bar. There was a time when two men needed two women to join them on the dance floor if they wanted to dance, even at a gay bar. Today, we're talking about same-sex marriage.

The world has certainly changed for the LGBT community. Mickey, originally from Chicago's South Side and a Lakeview resident for the past 20 years (though he's moving to Edgewater by the end of the summer), has had a front-row seat on the world—good, bad and indifferent.

"I'm not ashamed of who or what I am. But years ago..." said Mickey, cutting off his sentence. He came out in 1965, first telling his mother's hairstylists.

"One day in the 1980s, I was driving with a

friend of the family, and we drove past two men holding hands on Belmont Street," he said. "I thought he was going to fall out of the car. He was shocked. Today, that'd be nothing.

"Today, I don't hesitate to hug and kiss anyone on the street when I see them, yet we couldn't do that years ago."

Mickey tended bar in the Chicago area for 20 years, including 15 years at The Nutbush in suburban Forest Park. He also worked at a bank and in the travel agency industry.

He is now retired, single, smiling and reflective on what he's watched in the LGBT world, specifically, gay bar life, dating back to the 1960s, when he first was a customer.

"Years ago, I think there was much more camaraderie in the bars, with all of the dancing. The bars were a lot of fun back then," said Mickey, who also worked at The Hideaway in Forest Park for less than a year, and at The Lucky Horseshoe in Lakeview from 1992-96.

"People were more hiding themselves back then, meaning, people often would walk into the bar with their collars up, wearing hats, with sunglasses [on]. Many people didn't want others to know that they were gay, but once they got inside, all hell broke loose and the fun would begin."

Mickey said the The Nutbush regularly had security guards in the parking lot to protect its customers, and poppers were a common sight inside the bar.

"You could not touch anybody in the 1960s, nor buy a guy a drink, [even in a gay bar]. Dancing was out [for same-sex couples]. If I wanted to go dancing with a fellow, we would have to take two girls with us, and pretend that we were dancing with them."

Mickey came out to his mother's hairdressers at age 18, and they took him to his first gay bar.



Mickey Powers. Photo by Ross Forman

"I still remember walking in [to a gay bar for the first time] and thinking, 'This is fabulous; this is where I belong,'" Mickey said. "The [gay] bars then basically were [almost all] straight-owned."

"My memories of the 1960s include the different bars: Finocchio's, The Chesterfield, The Annex and others. When I first started going into Kitty Sheon's, there was a woman at the door named Pat; she was so nice. It was a really exciting time for me, coming out in the '60s."

He went to The Nutbush on the day after Thanksgiving 1976, and was friends with its owner. Then on New Year's Eve, he was back at the bar, which stayed open until the following morning. Mickey was in drag that memorable night—and he ultimately lost a shoe, ripped a mink coat, "and was a mess," he said, laughing. A photo from the night is framed and hung at his home.

In February, 1977, Mickey started working at The Nutbush, at the request of its owner.

"I never envisioned that I'd work there for 15 years, but I loved it. The people at The Nutbush were like family to me," Mickey said.

The Nutbush closed three years ago and has since been converted to an auto service center. Mickey drives by it nowadays and reflects. "I think of all the wonderful times that I had there and the wonderful people who I met," he said. "Many of them, though, are now [dead]. Thankfully I still have a lot of photos from when I worked there."

Mickey endured the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, when countless customers died from the disease. Mickey is grateful, though. "I did not lose a ton of close friends to AIDS," he said.

"I enjoyed the 1970s the most. The '80s were a lot of fun for me; there was a lot of partying and drinking," he said. "I enjoyed the bar life in the '70s the most because it was the disco era and there were wonderful parties. The 1980s were filled with a lot of illness and death; maybe that's why I didn't think it was so wonderful. The 1980s were a fun time, yes, but also a sad time."

Mickey said it wasn't until the 1990s when LGBT bar customers came and went without worrying about being spotted or outed. Gay life became more acceptable in the 1990s, he said.

"My immediate, close friends did not come down with HIV/AIDS, though of course there were many who I met at the bar who were diagnosed with HIV, and yes, many ultimately died," Mickey said. "The bar was affected, certainly, but not me personally. No one extremely close to me died, so I was very lucky."

Still, Mickey long has done extensive fundraising for Chicago House, which assists people with HIV/AIDS.

Mickey was called "Grandma" one day at a gay bar in the 1990s, and he quickly and immediate-

ly rejected the tag. He's too proud of the path he's paved—for others—to be insulted, which is how he took it. He replied, "I'm one of the ones who paved the way for you to dance down Halsted Street."

Clearly, Mickey is an LGBT pioneer, along with others from his era.

That said, Mickey laughs when he goes to gay bars nowadays. "I feel like a fossil," he said.

"When I see Boystown, I just think of what it was years ago. I remember when Sidetrack opened, and it was one storefront, only one bar," he said. "Halsted Street and Boystown ... that used to be a nasty neighborhood, not what it is today. And over to Lake Shore Drive, too. It's changed greatly, thankfully."

Mickey has battled bone-marrow cancer for 12 years. He had a stem-cell transplant 11 years ago that "has changed my life," he said.

Mickey now often gets fatigued quickly, "but I cannot give up. My job is not done here," he said.

So what else do you want to do, or what is there still to do?

"I'm not sure. My life is not over, yet," he said.

He is considering taking French or Spanish classes, which he saw are taught at the Center on Halsted. "I think that would be wonderful for me," said Mickey, who also plans to travel more, including at least one more trip to Paris.

"I don't feel bad when I'm at the bars nowadays; I just feel ... older," Mickey said. "I wish, years ago, I could have done things that gays can openly, freely do today, such as, holding hands in public. Even now, if someone came into my life, I still couldn't walk down the street holding someone's hand, though; it just isn't me because I'm from the era where you had to be more proper and so forth."

## More Mickey Powers:

—Said he had several memorable relationships

—Is an active fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

—Describes himself as "outgoing, gregarious, loving, and old-fashioned"

—Mickey is amazed at the growth of the annual Chicago Pride Parade: "I walked to the parade this year, but left [before getting to the route] because it was too crowded. It was so mobbed; I couldn't take the crowd. I never, ever envisioned the parade would grow to what it is today. Never, ever."

—The quote: "I don't think I could handle [same-sex marriage]. I'm too old-fashioned; it just isn't me." He also said, based on his past, he never could refer to a partner as "my husband."

—Mickey said his role model in the 1980s and 1990s was Phil King.



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# GAY *in the* LIFE

## Kim Marks

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
PHOTOS BY FORMAN AND COURTESY OF MARKS



**Age**  
31

**Neighborhood**  
Bucktown

**Job title**  
Senior corporate tax accountant, Schwak, Inc.

**Hobbies**  
Basketball, softball, flag football in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA)

**Family**  
Married Tara Marks on May 26; step-daughter Maia, 13

**Football position**  
Defensive linebacker

**High School**  
Rich Central, class of 1999

**College**  
University of North Dakota, class of 2004

**Little-known fact**  
Competed in gymnastics for 10 years

The quiet, reserved Kim Marks who works at her suburban desk is truly worlds apart from the aggressive defensive specialist who preys on opposing quarterbacks for the Chicago Force.

Even her boss admits it's hard to imagine Marks on the football field.

But that's her home to let out aggression and frustration.

"How I am on the field allows me to be how I am in the office," Marks said. "After a hard day of work, there's nothing like going to the field, getting physical and getting to let off some steam—and I don't get yelled at, but rather, praised."

Marks started playing for the Force while in law school at DePaul University. She learned of the women's tackle football team while playing recreational basketball with former Force stars Pam Schaffrath, Angie Bandstra and Jessica McPeake.

They said she had to try out, that she'd be a natural in helmet and pads. How true that turned out to be.

Her brother, Chris, played football in high school and then at Illinois State University. Now 33, he lives in Chicago. And her dad, Ricky, was Chris' football coach when he first started playing.

"There's nothing more exhilarating than being on the field, especially [delivering] a big hit," said Marks, who, during her first Force game ever, caused a fumble on a quarterback sack—and the moment is still her most memorable.

Marks' most memorable off-the-field moment in years happened this past May—when she married her girlfriend, Tara, in New York.

They had been dating since last October after meeting through a mutual friend.

Marks made the proposal, and Force teammate Sami Grisafe wrote and sang their wedding song at the event.

Kim and Tara held a special party for their Chicago friends in late August, and Kim said she's still uncertain what they will do in October when they celebrate the anniversary of their first date.



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**Sun., Sept. 9**  
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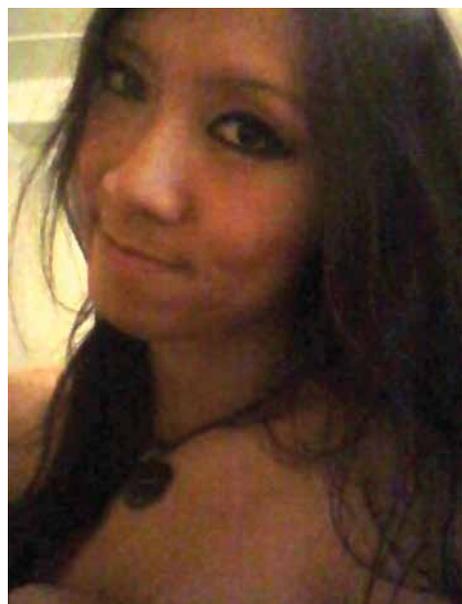


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# T *in the* LIFE

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She/her

**Identifies as**  
Trangender female

**Neighborhood**  
Near North

**Life's work**  
Artist/ Writer

**Hobbies**  
TV, movies, books, outdoor activities

### Do you have a coming out story?

"Growing up in a single parent Asian family where I was the only "boy" in the household it was hard for me to express who I really am. I'm not like blaming my family for being that way to me, and I totally understand where they [were coming] from. I stayed the same way as I was no matter how sad and empty I've felt over the years just to keep things as they are...up until the end of 2008. That's when my mother passed away. I finally have the courage to live my life as I am and fully express myself to the outside world without feeling like being tied down for actually doing it. Still, I had no idea there's a term called "Transgender," let alone the people within the community, and so I went online to see if anyone was also facing the same issue just like I do. I was so happy to finally get connected with people like me."

### Whom do you admire most?

"I have to say my mother, even though she might or might not fully understand how I am in so many way (not just how I express myself), she was always so strong and hopeful and no matter how things were in life."

### What issues outside of the queer community do you care about?

"Animal rights and the environment."

### When did you start questioning gender?

"At the early age, I never thought I was any different than other little girls within the circle and I thought I was just like one of them and dreaming about how I would be when I grow up. I dreamt about being a beauty queen [with] a handsome and popular boyfriend, the clothes...etc. But then by four to five years old I realized that I was not as the same (body-wise) as all the other girls, and I was being told that I was a boy and that was it."

### How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?

"I always tell them that there is no such thing as black and white when it comes to gender issue. We are all unique (every single one of us). There shouldn't be a strict rule that separates us as in only this or that."

### What do you think is the most pressing issues facing trans people?

"One of the thing other than dealing with the outside world, we need to come together and make our own community stronger. There is a lot of hatred even in our own Trans community with some of the girls constantly trashing one another or like not liking one another because you have this or that. We need to stop that and be happy with ourselves because it's super hard to go through the transition to begin with."

To nominate a person  
for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin  
sosin@windycitytimes.com

## VIEWPOINTS

## WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 45, Aug. 29, 2012

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"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.



REV.  
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 MONROE

## Nothing new in GOP's platform

The GOP's anti-abortion platform hasn't changed—it is identical to that of its 2008 platform, allowing abortions only in cases of rape and incest.

The GOP's anti-gay platform also hasn't changed—it is identical to that of its platform, allowing marriage only between a man and a woman.

The Grand Old Party's future, which includes younger generation of social conservative and LGBTQ voices, depends on its ability to have open discussions about abortion, reproductive coercion and gay rights.

Yet no Log Cabin Republican is among the GOP's list of invited speakers at the convention.

As a matter of fact, "the Log Cabin Republicans may be glad to get a sentence in the Republican platform suggesting that all Americans be treated with respect and dignity, but that's all they're getting. The rest of the document will be an homage to how to respectfully tell the LGBT community that they don't have true American values and need to just shut up already," Hunter of the Daily Kos (<http://hunter.dailykos.com>) wrote.

Clearly, the GOP is also signaling that it neither wants nor cares about the safety and full rights and protections of its citizens—especially their female, LGBTQ Republicans and Republican families.

In case I wasn't paying attention, the GOP hit me with a bucket of cold water in the recent

incident with U.S. Republican Missouri Rep. Todd Akin. Akin's remark about rape—made on a St. Louis television station—stated a bogus, magical biological defense mechanism that highlighted not only insensitivity but also pure ignorance.

"It seems to be, first of all, from what I understand from doctors, it's really rare," Akin said. "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut the whole thing down."

Akin apparently also has a rape hierarchy—classifying some rapes as "legitimate" and some as "illegitimate."

If the GOP had hoped to avoid controversy before the national convention, it has failed. If it had hoped to woo independent heterosexual women voters, an important constituency the Romney-Ryan team hopes to win, it has failed there, too.

Moderate Republican and independent women voters have long been leery of the party's insensitivity to their issues, especially the issue of abortions justified in cases of rape.

The GOP platform upholds an oppressive stance on abortion, one, that in my opinion, could be loosely defined as "reproductive coercion" which is a form of sexual violence. One form of reproductive coercion refuses to let women use forms of birth control, as the Catholic Church suggests, and it controls women's reproductive health decision-making. Prohibiting women to make choices for their well-being is a form of violence.

In commenting on Akin's remarks, Obama stated the following:

"So what I think these comments do underscore is why we shouldn't have a bunch of politicians, a majority of whom are men, making healthcare decisions on behalf of women. And so, although these particular comments have led Governor Romney and other Republicans to distance themselves, I think the underlying notion that we should be making decisions on behalf of women for their health care decisions—or qualifying forcible rape versus non-forcible rape—I

think those are broader issues, and that is a significant difference in approach between me and the other party."

Although Akin has apologized for his remark, stating he misspoke, the incident is a classic illustration of deeply held sentiments many still hold about rape: that there's "legitimate rape" versus "fake rape," and "she wanted it."

Obama came out with a full-throated condemnation of Akin's remarks about victims of "legitimate rape."

"Let me first of all say, the views expressed were offensive," the president said. "Rape is rape. And the idea that we should be parsing and qualifying and slicing what types of rape we're talking about doesn't make sense to the American people and certainly doesn't make sense to me."

When rape is misunderstood, it is also assumed to be particularly to a specific gender (female) and sexual orientation (heterosexual). And, sadly, only a certain voice is heard over other voices even if the assault is assumed to not be a "legitimate rape." Male and LGBTQ rape victims are too often dismissed.

In exposing the myth about rape, new studies show that males—heterosexual or gay—are at a greater risk of being raped because of the stigma that "real men" aren't rape. These victims are less likely to speak up than women. With a high percentage of male rape in prisons, parks and in sports, according to the U.S. Justice Department, one in 33 men in the United States has been a victim of a rape or attempted rape, compared with one in six women. Many assume gay sexual intimacy is synonymous with rape, thinking being gay is all about forced and violating sex.

So I give thanks to the GOP for waking us up. We are not included and, in fact, we are endangered. The 2012 Republican National Convention (RNC) kick-off officially began Aug. 27 with the theme "A Better Future."

But for whom?

## LETTERS

### A plea for the homeless

Mayor Emanuel, please reconsider your decision on Catholic Charities and homeless LGBT youth.

Why is the mayor not supporting homeless LGBT youth on the streets? While the Rainbow Sash Movement (RSM) understands the mayor's need to cut wasteful spending, we don't understand why he is dismissing the needs of LGBT Youth by turning over some services to Catholic Charities.

Now, homeless youth are encouraged by local none Catholic Churches on the North Side to ride the Blue Line during late hours in order to get sleep in a safe environment. Some of these Churches are opening their facilities to homeless LGBT/Straight youth to provide showers on the weekend. Lakeview Presbyterian supports a Cafe Pride that gives LGBT youth a safe space for about 4 hours every Friday night.

Have you heard about The Crib? It's Chicago's only overnight, low-threshold shelter for homeless gay and straight youth ages 18-24. Staffed by The Night Ministry, it is located at Lakeview Lutheran Church, on Chicago's North Side. What is the Catholic Church doing around this issue absolutely nothing and that includes Catholic Charities. This facility was recently closed for the summer because of lack of funding. [Editor's note: The Crib is closed until the fall.]

The RSM is concerned that Emanuel is willing to turn over the operation of providing rides to these homeless youths to Catholic Charities an organization that has already closed down its adoption agencies across the state, and has

decided not to reopen its Chicago operation because the clients were LGBT. We do not think it is unreasonable to ask if LGBT youth will get a fair shake from Catholic Charities if they already refuse to serve LGBT families.

We understand the mayor will use money saved by this transfer to Catholic Charities as a way to save \$1.7 million annually, and that would allow for the city to provide more beds at area shelters—but at what cost to LGBT youth? We should not be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

We do not believe the needs of LGBT youth should be dismissed in order to get Catholic Charities on board with this program. We are calling on the mayor to reconsider his decision, or to guarantee that Catholic Charities will serve all youth regardless of their sexual orientation.

Rainbow Sash Movement

### Hate speech

Letter to the Chicago Defender Editor:

I am astounded that David E. Smith, the executive director of the Illinois Family Institute (IFI), would publicly express his hate-filled demagoguery in the editorial page of the Aug. 1-7 issue of the Chicago Defender. Obviously, David Smith isn't aware of the Defender's long history or its first platform plank disavowing "prejudice and racism in all forms!"

That's why I was briefly perplexed and sadly disappointed that the Defender's editors would allow Smith's right-wing propaganda to pollute

the publication's editorial page!

His comments concerning Ald. Proco Joe Moreno's position on the Chick -Fil-A restaurant are another example of how many within conservative political circles continue to regurgitate the narrow-minded "take my country back" statements often expressed by the simple-minded!

I reviewed Smith's LinkedIn page, which states the "IFI works within the state of Illinois to promote and defend Biblical truths to foster an environment where families can thrive and reach their full God-given potential to serve and glorify Him—making the most of the opportunities afforded to each of us by His gift of life and liberty."

It is my position that if Smith were sincere in his efforts to "defend biblical truths" and "foster an environment where families can thrive and reach their full God-given potential to serve and glorify Him," he would simply follow the only known Biblical truth directly professed by Jesus and biblically referenced by his apostle John.

I specifically refer to John 13:34-35, where Jesus stated, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Michael O'Connor  
 Chicago

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from  
Breaking  
Glass  
Pictures

## BRING ON THE 'NATE'

Director Nathan Adloff talks about his movie *Nate & Margaret* (above), which our critic says is not the typical gay film. See page 18.

## DISH

Bar none.  
Page 22.

Photo at Bar Umbriago  
by Andrew Davis



## THEATER

Texas two-step.  
Page 14.

Photo from *Princes of Waco*  
by Johnny Knight



## BOOKS

Simply 'Gorgeous.'  
Page 17.

Art from *Gorgeous Gallery*  
from David Leddick



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Fringe benefits

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Theater producers are always gambling on shows, hoping that the hits outnumber the flops. However, very rarely do they produce things on an open lottery system.

But that's just what the organizers behind the Chicago Fringe Festival have done in the past, and they're doing it again for the festival's third edition, which runs from Thursday, Aug. 30, through to Sunday, Sept. 9, in the Pilsen neighborhood.

The 24 acts from the Chicago area, the 22 from other parts of the United States, a company from South Korea (*The Interpreters*) and one from France and Canada (*Le Petite Famille*) all got into this year's festival largely based on an unfiltered lottery system. More than 200 performances will be offered by the festival's end.

"The 2012 Chicago Fringe Festival is a rare opportunity to see an incomparable mix of performances at very affordable prices," said executive director Vinnie Lacey in a statement. "From traditional theater to solo shows to dance to performances that do not fit into any category, Fringe 2012 offers something for everyone."

As in last year's Fringe, LGBT artists and audiences have also been invited to have a place at the performance table amid a diverse mix of shows. Publicist James Juliano highlighted seven shows by Chicago-area artists and troupes to be of interest to LGBT audiences.

Transgender performer and playwright Rebecca Kling of Chicago returns with a new show called *Storms Under Her Skin*, which questions how gender is physicalized among other topics ranging from breasts to metaphorical weather. *Storms Under Her Skin* plays seven shows at

Both Sides Art Gallery throughout the Chicago Fringe Festival.

The Chicago troupe Terra Mysterium offers *The Alembic*, a "Steampunk" tale involving transmutation and a heavenly goddess who sullies herself when she becomes one with humanity. The *Alembic* plays seven performances throughout the festival at Dream Theatre.

Social Paraphernalia is presenting *In My Own Defense* for five performances at the Americana Stage, touching upon notions of sanity when someone goes against the expected norm.

Chicago-based Revision Theatre presents three performances of *Dawn on a Splintered Heart* at the Dream Theatre space. This focuses on three couples facing three difficult moments under extreme circumstances in three short plays.

The *Roast of Cinderella* promises to be an underhanded and irreverent take on a classic fairy tale by Forest Park-based *The League of Miscreants*. This show runs five performances at Dream Theatre.

Newly formed troupe White Elephant from Evanston presents a drama with dance elements in *Pink Milk*, which looks at the tragic life of gay mathematician and Nazi code-breaker Alan Turing. This show (which comes with a warning of brief nudity) plays seven performances at the Americana Stage throughout the festival.

What's a 16-year-old girl to do when her love for her best friend, Sarah, is threatened by outside forces like parents, boys and society in general? Find out in *The Last Sleepover*, a drama presented by Eleusis for three performances at the Chicago Art Department.

The 3rd Annual Chicago Fringe Festival runs from Thursday, Aug. 30, through Sunday, Sept. 9, at five venues in the Pilsen neighborhood.



Rebecca Kling.

Those venues are: Americana Stage, 600 W. Cermak Rd. (basement); Black Cloud Gallery, 1909 S. Halsted St.; Both Sides Gallery, 1838 S. Halsted St.; Chicago Art Department, 1932 S. Halsted St. #100 and Dream Theatre, 556 W. 18th St.; Tickets are available at Fringe Central, 600 W. Cermak Rd.

Performance times vary, but most shows are performed three to five times during the festival. Tickets to most shows are \$10 (ticket sales go directly to the artists), on top of a reusable \$5 festival button. Other ticket/button packages are also available. For tickets by telephone call 866-811-4111. For a more thorough schedule of showtimes and for more info, visit [www.chicago-fringe.org](http://www.chicago-fringe.org).

## Equity Award nominations

The nominations for the Jeff Awards were announced last week, focusing on professional theater in the Chicago area. A total of 197 nominations in 34 categories were bestowed upon 96 "Jeff Recommended" productions during the 2011-12 season.

Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the Goodman Theatre both led with 18 nominations each (though several of the Goodman's nominations were on shared productions with other regional theaters). Drury Lane Theatre Oakbrook and the Court Theatre were close behind with 17 and 15 nominations respectively.

By production, Chicago Shakespeare Theater's take on the Sondheim musical *Follies*, a revival of *Death and Harry Houdini* by The House Theatre of Chicago and the Court Theatre's *Invisible Man* all lead with seven nominations each.

Of LGBT interest, Sarah Gubbins' new lesbian play *The Kid Thing* (co-produced by Chicago Dramatists and About Face Theatre) received three nominations for new work, its scenic design and actress Kelli Simpkins, while the Chicago-set family comic drama *Immediate Family* received two nominations for its scenic design and for production of a play in a midsize theater.

But as with any round of nominations, there's always surprise at the omissions. Several Broadway veteran actors like Nathan Lane in *The Iceman Cometh* at the Goodman Theatre, Gregg Edelman in Drury Lane's *Sweeney Todd* and Brent Barrett in Chicago Shakespeare Theater's *Follies* were excluded.

To get a full look at the list of Jeff Award nominees, visit [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org). The 44th Annual Jeff Awards ceremony itself is to be held Monday, Oct. 15, at Drury Lane Oakbrook, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Pre-show appetizers and cash bar will run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with the Michael Weber-directed awards ceremony beginning at 7:30 p.m. A buffet and reception follow the ceremony, which features musical numbers featuring cast members from nominated musicals and video segments from nominated plays. Advance tickets for the ceremony and buffets are \$75 (\$55 for members of Actors' Equity Association, United Scenic Artists, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Stage Managers' Association, The Dramatists Guild of America and the American Federation of Musicians). The evening is black tie-optional and open to the general public.



Susan Swayne and the Bewildered Bride. Photo by Stephen Townshend

## THEATER REVIEW

# Susan Swayne and the Bewildered Bride

**Playwright:** Reina Hardy  
**At:** Babes With Blades Theatre  
 Company at Lincoln Square in the  
 Berry Methodist Church, 4754 N. Leavitt St.  
**Tickets:** 773-904-0391;  
[www.babeswithblades.org](http://www.babeswithblades.org); \$15-\$20  
**Runs through:** Sept. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The Society of Lady Detectives (S.O.L.D.) is a special branch of Her Majesty's Secret Service, usually assigned to matters of national security, but lately one of its agents, against the advice of her commanding officer, has taken it upon herself to prowl the streets of Whitechapel in a solo undercover operation to capture a Ripper-styled murderer. In the course of her patrols, super-sleuth Susan Swayne encounters a distraught young matron who reports her husband missing. Further investigation points to the errant spouse being—well, not the man that his bewildered bride thinks he is.

That was where Reina Hardy's one-act play, submitted to the first Joining Sword And Pen competition in 2006, left us—i.e., wanting more. Six years later, what began as a simple cross-dressing farce provides the premise for a full-length exploration of gender issues as the women of S.O.L.D. confront the ambiguities of the status quo in Victorian England. By the time intolerance and rigid sexual roles have been identified as the source of social disorder—some things don't change—the question of what constitutes the female “natural” sphere emerges as more complex than even its defenders imagine.

These weighty issues are buoyed up by the extravagant spectacle we have come to anticipate in productions generated by the Babes With Blades Theatre Company. In addition to the standard swordplay, fight designer Libby Beyreis serves up an exemplary demonstration of Bartitsu wrestling (aka, Sherlock Holmes' secret weapon), umbrella and sword-cane fighting, a flying-petticoat fracas utilizing an array of household objects, knifework with a grisly hashshashin dagger and a splendiferous surprise-finish to the final girl-power showdown. Oh, and did I mention that the women of S.O.L.D. execute these athletics dressed in corsets, bell skirts and frequently only their—ahem!—unmentionables, in locales ranging from millinery shops to opium dens?

The fundamental test of action-oriented drama, however, is whether you'd still have a story if the stunts were diminished, or even eliminated altogether. Not to worry—Hardy's script displays an articulate mastery of romantic-fiction conventions for this period, while director Dan

Foss and a cast led by Lisa Herceg as the indomitable Swayne strike just the right note of proto-feminist audacity. It's easy to envision Swayne and her feisty colleagues starring in a series of Steampunk-marketed graphic novels.

## 'Steamwerkz the Musical' through Aug. 31

The Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N. Broadway, will presents Steamwerkz the Musical Fridays through Aug. 31 at 10 p.m.

The comedy-musical is about “a wide-eyed gay boy [who] comes to Chicago looking for love in all the wrong places when he stumbles on a popular bathhouse Steamwerkz,” according to a press release.

Tickets are \$15-\$20; visit [www.theannoyance.com](http://www.theannoyance.com) or call 773-561-HONK (4665).

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Dumb Waiter**, TUTA Studio, through Sept. 1. You and 24 others are the cold, uncaring universe literally looking down upon, and smirking, at the poor, mortal jobs trying to figure it all out in Zeljko Djukic's striking production of Pinter's quintessential absurdist classic. See it. JA

**RenFaire: A Fistful of Ducats**, Factory Theater at Prop Thtr, through Sept. 2. Matt Engle's comedy pits RenHeads against Cowboy-Shooters, Eurocentric chivalry against American swagger, rapiers against six-guns, but in this live-action cartoon universe, the pure-in-heart emerge the victors. MSB

**A Steady Rain**, Chicago Commercial Collective at Chicago Dramatists, through Sept. 2. Keith Huff's tight gritty cop-gone-wrong drama reaped considerable gains from its foray into the big time following its sellout Chicago premiere, but now it's back in the look-em-in-the-eyes-and-smell-the-sweat bunker where it all began. MSB

**Steamwerkz the Musical**, Annoyance Theatre, through Oct. 5. This zany musical with plenty of gross-out humor spoofs the similarly named and notorious North Halsted gay bathhouse and (oddly enough) Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. So “fall into the hole” while you still can. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

# Princes of Waco

**Playwright:** Robert Askins  
**At:** Signal Ensemble Theatre,  
 1802 W. Berenice Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-698-7389;  
[www.signalensemble.com](http://www.signalensemble.com); \$20  
**Runs through:** Sept. 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

“When Jesus comes back, He won't be coming to Texas—because there's nothing here worth saving!” After blurting out these angry words at the funeral of his clergyman father, teenage Jim prepares to flee the despair reflected in this pronouncement. As the man who will sabotage his escape observes, however, “If you were really going, you'd be gone.” Jim hesitates before embarking, just long enough to order a beer. So does Esme, the church-going girl he invites to come with him. Soon both these waifs find their destinies inextricably entangled with that of aging hell-raiser Fritz and the repercussions of his own hesitation, years earlier.

Oh, yes, we are in the realm of Southwestern noir now—territory rendered familiar by, among other authors, Sidney Kingsley, Sam Shepard and Tracy Letts: a sun-baked wasteland where—despite references to malls and carry-out lattes—it is always 1955, where a riverside metropolis still conjures visions of cactus and drought-infested flatlands and where bartenders dispense whiskey

(with the occasional beer, their only stock) to the same three customers. In short, it's where life is dark and bitter as chicory coffee and grim as a Johnny Cash song.

What distinguishes Robert Askins' ballad from such prototypical panhandle parables as Killer Joe and Bug is that its desperadoes lie, rob, betray and murder not for money or glory, but for love. “You ain't no angel, and you can't save nobody,” the seen-it-all bartender tells Esme, the inadvertent candidate for the role of good woman to whom her two suitors look for their reformation and ultimate redemption.

Tragedy recounts the fall from lofty heights but in this universe, the descent is from the curb to the gutter—or the grave. It takes a bare 90 minutes for everybody's plans to go awry, but director Bries Vannon refuses to hurry the dramatic action, instead allowing it to emerge as slowly and ominously as a sidewinder stretching in the sun. By encouraging us to savor each new twist in the Byzantine plot, Signal Ensemble company members Joseph Stearns and Meredith Bell Alvarez, along with guest players Rob Fenton and Carolyn Braver, gradually draw us into their personae's quest for a ticket out of soul-shriveling existential squalor. Starwatchers are advised to note especially Braver's nuanced performance as the enigmatic Esme. When a jail-bait-pretty damsel shrugs, “You take what you get,” her complicity in the fates of those willing to offer her things is a question that lingers in the mind.

## THEATER REVIEW

# Marvin's Room

**Playwright:** Scott McPherson  
**At:** Circle Theatre at Madison Street  
 Theatre Studio, 1010 W.  
 Madison St., Oak Park.  
**Tickets:** 708-660-9540;  
[www.circle-theatre.org](http://www.circle-theatre.org); \$24-\$28  
**Runs through:** Sept. 30

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

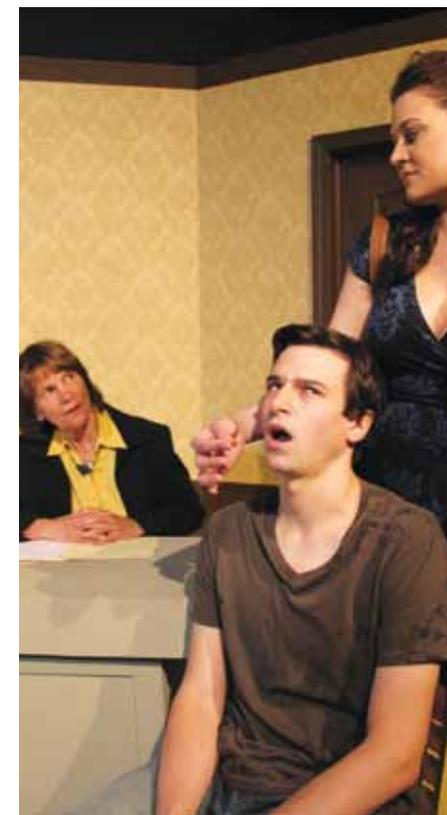
AIDS is never mentioned in the late gay playwright Scott McPherson's acclaimed and award-winning 1990 comic drama Marvin's Room. Yet AIDS acts as a behind-the-scenes scourge to the play, since the disease untimely felled McPherson at the age of 33 in 1992.

At least the native of Columbus, Ohio, who found successful work as an actor and playwright in Chicago was able to see Marvin's Room go onto be a off-Broadway hit in 1991 and finish a screenplay adaptation for the acclaimed 1996 film starring Diane Keaton, Meryl Streep and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Now, Marvin's Room is back in the Chicago area with an intimate studio staging at Circle Theatre in Oak Park. Though elements of director Mary C. Redmon's production aren't always the most ideal, Marvin's Room shows how nearly timeless and insightful it is in exploring issues of family loyalty, disease and death.

Marvin's Room focuses on Bessie (Amanda Hartley), who has devoted a good portion of her adult life taking care of her slowly dying father, Marvin (voiced by Paul Chakrin), and her aging aunt Ruth (Kate Kisner). When Bessie is diagnosed with leukemia, she's forced to contact her long-estranged and bitter sister, Lee (Elizabeth Morgan), and her troubled sons, Hank (Todd Aiello) and Charlie (Danny Mulae), with the hope that they'll be matching bone marrow donors.

If you think this all sounds like a relentless downer, fear not. McPherson layers on the laughs throughout Marvin's Room so that they outnumber the teary-eyed moments, for sure. But wringing out those potential laughs isn't always the strong suit of Circle's production, which has some issues with casting (Mulae is too old for the role of Charlie) and



Marvin's Room. Photo by Bob Knuth

comic timing. (Kisner's Ruth, Liliana Mitchell's psychiatrist/retirement counselor and Eliza Shin's flustered Dr. Wally all aren't quite there in making their characters the laugh riots they could be.)

Undoubtedly, Morgan makes the biggest impression as Lee, especially when she sarcastically deals with Aiello's sarcastically defiant Hank (who starts the play in a mental institution for his destructive pyromania). Hartley as Bessie is good, but could plumb the depths of her character's fears beneath her outward and enduring show of strength and fortitude.

Even if Circle Theatre's production of Marvin's Room is far from perfect, the play itself remains a must-see. Not only does Marvin's Room survive as a wonderfully insightful blend of comedy and drama, the play is a lovely memorial to McPherson as an artist who was only beginning to bloom into greatness before AIDS cut his life short.

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THURS SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 | 7:30PM\*  
By Stephen Sondheim/Directed by Gary Griffin  
From the company and director that brought  
you FOLLIES comes this Sondheim musical  
about the artist's relationship to his art.

## WASTELAND

WORLD PREMIERE  
TIMELINE THEATRE  
FRI OCTOBER 26, 2012 | 8PM\*  
By Susan Felder/Directed by William Brown  
Over two years of captivity with little  
expectation of rescue, two soldiers are drawn  
together as they battle dire conditions,  
loneliness, loss of faith, and each other.

## CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY SHOW

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CGMC and their 30th anniversary season!

## MOTHERF\*\*KER WITH A HAT

CHICAGO PREMIERE  
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THURS JANUARY 10, 2013 | 7:30PM\*  
By Stephen Adly Guirgis  
Directed by Tony Award winner Anna Shapiro  
The Tony Award nominated hit comes to Chicago  
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## TEDDY FERRARA

WORLD PREMIERE  
GOODMAN THEATRE  
THURS FEBRUARY 7, 2013 | 7:30PM  
By Christopher Shinn/Directed by Evan Cabnet  
From Pulitzer Prize finalist Christopher Shinn,  
a campus tragedy makes national headlines  
and throws openly gay senior Gabe's world  
into disorder.

## SWEET CHARITY

WRITERS' THEATRE  
TUES MARCH 19, 2013 | 7:30PM\*  
Book by Neil Simon, Music by Cy Coleman  
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields  
Directed by Michael Halberstam  
Charity's problems aren't unique—a dead end  
job and a long string of dates with flawed men!  
Musical Director Doug Peck re-imagines this  
iconic and stylish show for a live jazz combo.

## PAL JOEY

PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE  
FRI APRIL 26, 2013 | 8PM  
By Rodgers and Hart/Directed by Michael Weber  
From John O'Hara's hard-as-nails New Yorker's  
stories enjoy this Beguiling Broadway Classic with  
its great American score.

## CHICAGO IS BURNING

WORLD PREMIERE  
VICTORY GARDENS THEATRE  
WEDS JUNE 5, 2013 | 7:30PM\*  
By Marcus Gardley/ Directed by Chay Yew  
Set in Bronzeville Chicago, this exhilarating  
drama with music reveals the underground ball  
competitions where many African-Americans and  
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Idomeneus. Photo by Jonathan L. Green

## THEATER REVIEW

### Idomeneus

Playwright: Roland Schimmelpfennig

At: Sideshow Theatre Company at the DCA Storefront Theatre, 66 E. Randolph St.

Tickets: 1-800-838-3006;

www.sideshowtheatre.org; \$25

Runs through: Sept. 23

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Things didn't end well for participants in the Trojan War, not even for the victors. Crafty Odysseus needed 10 years to get home, although he got laid a lot along the way. Or consider lesser-known Idomeneus, king of Crete, who ranked with Odysseus and Agamemnon as a Greek general. He commanded 80 warships—79 of which were destroyed in a storm on the way home. His

flagship survived only when he vowed to sacrifice the first living thing he saw once he safely returned to Crete. But this is Greek mythology: You're damned if you do or don't. The first living thing Idomeneus saw was his eldest son. When he fulfilled his vow, a plague fell upon Crete and he was driven into exile—or, a younger son overthrew him. There are several versions.

Contemporary German playwright Roland Schimmelpfennig (meaning "moldy penny") riffs on Idomeneus (in this production pronounced "EYE-doe-MEN-ius" vs. the usual "EE-doe-mi-NAY-us") and complicates things by rerunning the various possible scenarios of the myth: he didn't kill his son, his son became a sea monster, his wife was unfaithful to him, his son was betrothed to Electra (whose father sacrificed Electra's sister), etc.

Familiarity with Greek mythology would help one understand the tangle of possibilities, but it isn't essential as things are explained with

## SPOTLIGHT



The life of Alan Turing, the gay British mathematical genius and code-breaker who helped defeat the Nazis during World War II before he was later persecuted by his own government for his sexuality, is told in *Pink Milk*. This acclaimed production infused with dance (and some promised nudity) is reimagined by the new Chicago company White Elephant after a sold-out run at the New York Fringe Festival. *Pink Milk* plays Aug. 31-Sept. 9 as part of the 4th Annual Chicago Fringe Festival at the Americana Stage, 600 W. Cermak Road. Tickets are \$15 without a fringe festival button, or \$10 with a fringe festival button. Visit [www.pinkmilk2012.com](http://www.pinkmilk2012.com) or [www.whiteelephantproject.com](http://www.whiteelephantproject.com) for tickets and more information. Photo by Justin Barbin.

reasonable clarity. More to the point, all the retools of the tale serve a larger idea, tipped by a banner hung across the stage before the show, "War is over. Please discuss." The entire play is a discussion of Schimmelpfennig's central premise that the sacrifice of even one human life is "crossing the boundary," let alone the many lives sacrificed in war. The chorus comments to Idomeneus, "The human sacrifice has already happened, is happening. Who knows this better than you?" It doesn't matter if he actually killed his son or not.

Idomeneus is stimulating but demands focus as it's exceptionally classical in form and length (one hour). It's an extended choral ode spoken and chanted by a chorus of 15, several of

whom speak the roles of Idomeneus, his son, his wife, etc., although even these roles shift among several players. I suspect the script allows the director assign the lines and decide how many actors to use. Here, Jonathan L. Green is the skillful director substantially assisted by movement coordinator Katie Spelman. The ritualistic movement combines elements of dance, combat and the esoteric performance discipline, eurhythmy. The striking thrust sandbox playing area, with an upswept cyclorama of blond wood slats, is well-conceived and -executed (Joe Schermoly, scenic designer; Mac Vaughney, lighting). Kristin DeiTos' costume elements are a carefully selected mishmash that blend well and suggest the universality of the message.

## Michigan Womyn's Music Festival: More than a week of camping

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

The well-established, 37-year-old Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (or Michfest) was held Aug. 7-12 outside of Hart. Despite two days of nearly constant rain, women's voices and laughter could be heard at all hours of the day and night across the expansive 650-acre wooded area where women had pitched their tents for a week of music, performances, workshops and, most of all, freedom to be themselves without judgment.

"This is my third year," said Kim (no last name), who was attending the festival with her girlfriend. She said that the festival offers her a week of total freedom to be an out lesbian, which she is not able to be back in her Midwestern community. She said there are still many women like her who visit the festival each year for that promise of being able to be out in a completely accepting and comfortable environment.

"A week of total freedom as a lesbian with no judgment," Kim added. "I think we really need a festival like this. There is nothing else like it in the world this size, with the foundation it has. I think it's important to continue to realize the struggle, the fight and the success. Whether

it's for gay rights or for all women's rights and that continues to be real important issue that we continue to struggle with in the real world. So it's just not about being a lesbian—it's about being a woman.

"This is the part that I really love," Kim said. "It allows one woman to come here totally by herself, never been here before and feel safe. When she comes she will not only leave with a feeling of rejoice, she will leave with friendships and she'll want to come back."

In addition to friendships and a place of solace and retreat, the festival offered a morning-through-night roster of performances and workshops. There were three venues—the acoustic, day and night stages—all of which offer a tree-lined backdrop and lawn seating. This year's list of musicians included both well-established and up-and-coming artists, many of whom are veterans to the festival: Amy Ray, Chris Williamson, Holly Near, Team Dresch, Mazzmuse, Gina Breedlove, Leslie & the Ly's, C.C. Carter and Sistas in the Pit, Dar Williams, Tender Forever, Mary Gauthier, Scream Club and several others.

Comedians Elvira Kurt, Karinda Dobbins, Jennie McNulty, Kate Rigg and Marga Gomez also performed as well as writers Dorothy Allison and Staceyann Chin, both of whom read unpublished



Cris Williamson. Photo by Charlsie Dewey

pieces during their sets.

The festival's official kick-off was held Aug. 8; Chicagoan C.C. Carter hosted, and was attending the festival for the 12th time. It included performances by many of the performers who would return throughout the week to give hour-long shows, including Ray and Chin.

Musician Cris Williamson attended the first festival and has been coming back regularly ever since.

"I don't want to miss it," Williamson told *Windy City Times*. "It keeps growing. It's so

elastic in the center of it. It's my only chance to encounter music that I wouldn't know about otherwise because a lot of this music is still underground, a lot of the poetry, a lot of the work because women don't have any money so here everything is to scale so we women can go around and discover groups and music, for me as a musician, music that is just knocking my socks off. And it makes me so proud. My, how we've grown."

Williamson also mentioned that the festival offers an important opportunity for performers to interact with their fans. Throughout the week performers mill about with the crowds, camping alongside of them and sharing a very similar experience to what their audience are having there.

"I've always loved coming to festival, but now I have a daughter," Chin said. "She is seven months old; she is floating around here somewhere. I think people who have common experiences, common struggles, common issues, common triumphs even need to be able to sit at a common table. This is not the only table that I come to for that commonality, but this is a table I come to for women who were born as girls, who were raised as girls, who lived a particular kind of life, and I am so happy my daughter gets to experience it. I hope it is around for a long, long time to come."

This year's festival was smaller in size than some of the previous years, which often average 6,000-8,000 attendees, and almost all of the performers reiterated from the stage how important it is for women to keep coming back and to bring their friends.

BOOKS

# 'Gorgeous Gallery' mixes sexuality and fine art

BY SALLY PARSONS

David Leddick's book *Gorgeous Gallery* combines popular sexual art with fine art, compiling examples of the homoerotic works of 47 artists of the 20th and 21st centuries in color reproductions. Leddick is a noted gay art chronicler, novelist and actor.

**Windy City Times: What distinguishes popular art from fine art, and which is it that we have here?**

David Leddick: It's really only the last couple centuries that we've made this big difference in our minds between what is the one and what is the other. Besides, I think a lot of what we consider fine art from the past is homoerotic.

But I think fine art can be sexy. And I think a lot of what we consider popular art—and even pornography—can be fine art. ... There's something really beautiful about this work that is kind of exciting to look at, and it can also be sexually exciting. And those two things can exist in the same art piece.

**WCT: Describe the three periods—classics, contemporary and avant-garde—that the book covers. What distinguishes each period?**

DL: The Classics is really from 1920 on. Classics, for the most part, are artists that are dead. ... They were people that, in their time period, a lot of their work was very undercover. They only gave it to friends, never published in a book, ever. A lot of this material from this section came from [the] Leslie Lohman [Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art] because these [pieces] were in personal collections. People would buy the drawings or buy the paintings. There wasn't much available.

**WCT: Moving onto contemporary, how do you classify that period?**

DL: They're people that have gallery shows and books have been done on them; they have a clientele, they're well-known as fine artists. We have in that group Andy Warhol, David Hockney—people who are very major names. Also, it's interesting. A couple people in this section are under assumed names because they're quite



Item in *Gorgeous Gallery* by Michael Leonard. Photo from David Leddick

well-known as landscape painters and they said, "I really can't come out as an artist of the male nude or I'd lose my landscape painting clientele probably." ...

The avant-garde, for me, means ahead of the general trend. The [artists] are much younger. It's really sexy, but not in a way I would ever even think of.

Part of it has to do with their mind set, the way they look at it. They're abstract and sexual at the same time.

I think one of the most interesting is a guy named John Parot because he combines photography and graphic art in a very abstract way. You think, "Where do his ideas come from?" Very sexy—but then suddenly you realize that it's not so sexy because he's really looking at the visual material as elements of a design and it kind of takes the whole sexual quality out of it.

**WCT: How do you define sexy?**

DL: Well, if you see a big close-up of somebody masturbating, [then] I think a lot of gay men would see as being very sexy. And then he [Parot] includes a kind of drawing of an abstract face right in the crotch. And you think, "Wait a minute. This face has nothing to do with this at all." It's very jarring, very unexpected. I'm always so interested in where it comes from in the artist's mind.

**WCT: Which of the three periods is your favorite, and why?**

DL: Contemporary. I have several portraits by Don Bachardy. I think Don Bachardy is very underrated. I think he is a very important artist. He's not working from a photograph. He's really looking at you, and he works very quickly and really captures...

**WCT: Other art books have focused on male erotic art. Whose concept was *Gorgeous Gallery*, and how did you think of it as different from the other books?**

DL: *Gorgeous Gallery* was really a Bruno Gmunder [publisher] concept because I had done a number of forewords for them for other people's art books. I think there's never really been a book like this before because this is going a whole lot further sexually than any previous book that anybody's done.



David Leddick. Photo by David Vance

**WCT: So the objective with this book was to...?**

DL: To take the mixture of sexuality and fine art as far as we could.

**WCT: What was the biggest challenge?**

DL: Maybe overriding my own prudery. Sometimes I said, "Wait a minute, David. Is some of this maybe too extreme?" And I'd say, "No, it's not too extreme." It's fine art, it's something other people might call porn, but you have to be true to your own judgment. ... You can't weasel out of stuff. You've got to stand by it.

**WCT: What's an example of one picture where you initially thought you were too prudish about?**

DL: There are some great pictures by Paul Cadmus, The Kinsey Institute. They are really out there. Also, I want to tell you my favorite artist is Michael Leonard. He's such a good artist. ... They're very sexy and they're all portraits, very nude portraits, very original. You haven't seen it before. I think he's superb.

**WCT: What did you learn during the process of putting this book together that surprised you?**

DL: How quickly within my lifetime we've gone from where we didn't even know what gay was, to thinking being gay was terrible, to being interested when one of the major television personalities announces he's gay and nobody even cares. In 80 years, that's a very fast social development, I think.

**WCT: What's next for you?**

DL: The next big book we're pushing is all done and ready to go, and it's called *How to Hit 70 Doing a Hundred*. That's kind of a combination picture book thing—anybody that's in their 60s? We can all easily live into our 90s. Are we going to sit about for 30 years? This could be the best part of your life. I tell everybody, you can never ruin your reputation after 70.

***Gorgeous Gallery*, by David Leddick, retails for \$52.99.**

## Del Shores show Sept. 7 at Mary's Attic

Out writer/storyteller Del Shores will perform Friday, Sept. 7, at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., at 9 p.m. as part of his "Naked.Sordid.Reality" tour. Tickets are \$20 each.

After the show, Shores will attend Ludicrous Theatre Company's reboot of its production of *Del Shores' Sordid Lives*—with the original cast getting together again for one weekend only. The show will run at the Athenaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

He also has a new DVD out entitled *Del Shores: Sordid Confessions*.

See [www.DelShores.net](http://www.DelShores.net) for more info and tickets.

## Gay Chinese expat pens personal story

Dave Yan—a Chinese expat who resides in New Zealand—has penned the book *Over A Year*.

Set in Auckland, the story surrounds the life of an international student for the time period of over a year. He comes to New Zealand, pursuing his dreams, but he struggles more and more to achieve his value in this foreign country. The story also explores the realities of his sexuality and gay life during time in the city.

See [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

VH1's 'Best Week Ever' and Showtime's 'Queer as Folk' as Folk'

# HAL SPARKS

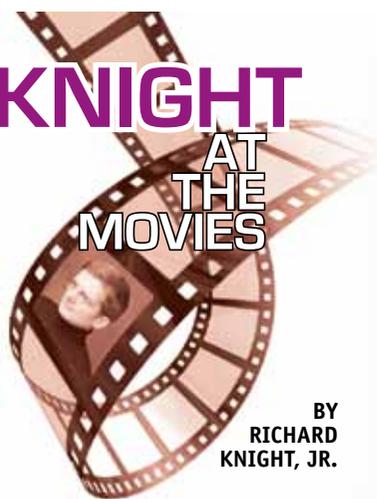
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<p><b>AUG 30</b> 8PM</p>	<p><b>The Del Moroccos</b> with Little Rachel Beer tastings from Lagunitas</p>	<p><b>SEPT. 22</b> 7:30PM</p>	<p><b>Barely Bloodshot:</b> Bloodshot Records 18th Birthday Party</p>
<p><b>SEPT. 14</b> 9PM</p>	<p><b>The Handsome Family</b> with Jon Langford</p>	<p><b>OCT. 20</b> 8PM</p>	<p><b>From The Jam</b></p>

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# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## For a Good Time, Call...; Lawless

We're in the home stretch as far as summer releases goes, which means that a lot of just-okay movies are upon us. **For a Good Time Call...**, a raunchy sex comedy, and **Lawless**, a Prohibition-era gangster flick, are two cases in point. Neither film is particularly original or inventive, but an enthusiastic cast in the comedy and a group of terrific young actors in the second certainly don't hurt.

In the age of online instant gratification, does anyone still call phone-sex lines to get off? According to *For a Good Time, Call...*, they do and call often. The premise of the movie hangs on two twentysomethings who meet one night at a college frat party and can't stand one another. But the brash, slovenly one (the blonde) needs a roomie to help her pay for the expensive, formerly rent-controlled apartment she lives in while the prim, proper one with the exquisite manners (the brunette) has just been dumped by her cutie-pie boyfriend, has lost her job and immediately needs a place to stay.

Katie (Ari Graynor) is the sluttish loudmouth and Lauren (Lauren Anne Miller) is the Miss Goody Two Shoes. This mix of human oil and water was brought together in a moment of inspiration by their joint *über-gay* friend Jesse (Justin Long). Katie loves to talk and it isn't long before Lauren figures out that Katie's working for a phone-sex line. With her business smarts, she and Katie are soon running their own company, with the money pouring in.

After an undercover born-again Christian tries to sabotage their business, Lauren joins Katie as a second operator and then the two really start raking in the dough. Naturally, Lauren's straight-laced parents have no idea what she's up to and Katie's hiding a few secrets of her own. In between these all-too-familiar hijinks, the ladies chat on the phone with a series of horny guys with a lot of the usual offbeat sexual peccadillos (Seth Rogen cameos as one of them) and fall in like with one another.

Graynor—who is as brash and funny here as she was in *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist* and Miller, and who looks and acts like a young Kate Beckinsale (albeit without the British accent)—brings plenty of enthusiasm to the awfully familiar, sitcomish proceedings that seem awfully close to the TV hit *Two Broke Girls*. Miller wrote the script with Katie Ann Naylor, and openly gay Jamie Travis makes his feature directorial debut.

The movie, with its tired premise, might have been helped and scored some honest laughs (instead of the usual blue jokes and gross out sight gags) had it been set in the early '90s, the era where it belongs. Travis also needs to learn when to reel in his actors—Long's playing of the gay character is so over the top (he plays to the balcony in every one of his scenes) that one can almost hear him lisping as he minces around. Talk about retro.

Short on laughs and high on vulgarity (it's like a modern day, pornographic variation on *The Odd Couple*), *For a Good Time, Call...* works

in fits and starts—usually when it is focusing on the importance of the friendship between the two young women and displaying some genuine emotion.

**Of related interest:** Nathan Adloff, another queer director, also made his feature debut this year with **Nate & Margaret**, the offbeat story of a friendship between a 19-year-old college film major and his eccentric 52-year-old neighbor who dreams of becoming a stand-up comic. Adloff's quietly effective movie is a genuine charmer and is just out on DVD from Breaking Glass Entertainment. (See my interview with him in this issue.)

**Lawless**, the second also-ran to open in theaters this week, is based on a true story set in Franklin, Va., in 1931, when Prohibition and the Great Depression collided and found desperately poor folks resorting to bootlegging to make ends meet.

Three brothers—Jack (Shia LaBeouf), the baby of the family; Howard (Jason Clarke), the middle one with the violent temper; and Forrest (Tom Hardy), the oldest and the craziest of the lot—run a successful bootlegging business that is portrayed in director John Hillcoat's film as being as exemplary as a manufacturer of Gideon



Ari Graynor in *For a Good Time, Call...* Photo from Focus Features

Bibles. The three bros are captains of their local industry, delivering their product on time, looking the other way when little old ladies can't afford to pay for the hooch and making nice nice with the local fuzz.

But into this bucolic scenario comes the nasty dandy Charles Rakes, a special agent with the feds who is charged with enforcing the law. Guy Pearce, who plays this elegant priss, has a whale of a good time (and so do we) as a psychopathic bad guy from hell who is determined to shut down the three brothers and come out smelling as sweet as his heavily pomaded hair. When Pearce is referred to as a "nance" because of his sartorial splendor and heavy use of cologne, he goes ballistic; the idea of even appearing queer is shown to be just cause for murder and unending revenge. The war over the illegitimate booze that ensues is, naturally, filled with plenty of violent set pieces mixed in with a soupcon of romance. (LaBeouf courts a Mennonite gal played by Mia Wasikowska while Hardy hooks up with Jessica Chastain, who's a mystery woman from the big city who shows up looking for refuge.)

The result is old-fashioned and fairly entertaining—and a nice way to pass the time until the new season of *Boardwalk Empire* starts next month on HBO. However, the attempt to show these violent bootleggers as mythic heroes doesn't quite come off and the movie's long, overextended coda that portrays these thugs as peace-loving, upstanding regular Joes certainly isn't sweet-smelling—it stinks.

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

## MOVIES

# Writer/director Nathan Adloff talks 'Nate & Margaret'

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

With *Nate & Margaret*, out writer-director Nathan Adloff has crafted—along with his writing partner Justin D.M. Palmer and two stars, Natalie West and Tyler Ross—an indie film that is a lot more hip and has a lot more going for it than the oftentimes derivative "gay movie" label. In retrospect, the "gay movie" tag is not so surprising considering the film's premise: an unlikely friendship between a 19-year-old film student in the throes of his first queer romance and a 52-year-old anti-social who actually dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian.

But the odd twists and turns in the character arcs, the quirky bystanders at the edge of the friendship (with Gaby Hoffmann as the hedonistic party girl Darla, the most vivid character) and a deft touch have easily separated *Nate & Margaret* from the usual queer indie fare (and label). Blessed with a raft of good reviews and a brief theatrical run, the film is now out on DVD from Breaking Glass Entertainment.

The twentysomething Adloff, a Chicago native who made the film here, talked about his debut feature as he was packing to head off to yet another film-festival appearance with the movie in tow.

**Windy City Times:** As I pointed out in my review of the film, I loved that your film really captured this relationship between an older, straight woman who is a little irascible and a little eccentric, and this younger gay guy. I know so many gay men who have relationships like this but I haven't seen this examined in a movie before like this. So, did this come from a relationship of yours or your co-writer?

Nathan Adloff: It actually was an accident. My co-writer, Justin D.M. Palmer, and I started writing a very different script. Nate was always sorta based on me but then [with] this

female character we actually had the idea of having her closer to Nate's age and in college and living in the same apartment building. We didn't know anyone specific in mind to pull true stories from so we actually posted ads in Craigslist asking for crazy true stories based around an apartment building, and got a bunch of responses. We began scripting based on that—weaving those together.

I found out that Justin knew Natalie West. I loved her on *Roseanne* and I said, "Well, we have to see if she wants to have something to do with this" and we approached her with the idea of making the female character her. We were pretty early on in the process so we actually got her to agree to have us write the role for her. So, it was really an accident.

**WCT:** So neither one of you has had this kind of relationship that you portray in the film?

NA: No.

**WCT:** Oh my God. Then you're geniuses; you're brilliant. [Laughs]

NA: I think I gravitate to those odd souls but I haven't had a much older close friend and I don't believe Justin has, either.

**WCT:** That's interesting. So maybe that explains why we don't see the backstory between Nate and Margaret. We don't see the moment where the two first get together—that moment where the bond is somehow instantly formed.

NA: It's been something people have asked about. It's never been, "Oh, I wish that I could have seen that."

**WCT:** It was with me. [Laughs]

NA: Really? Well, I guess it's just easier to assume that they met at school or something. It wasn't something we felt we needed to draw out; just as we felt we didn't need to draw out Nate's sexuality. There's never a coming-out story or any idea that he's had hardships because he's gay.

**WCT:** [That] is also lovely to see. A lot



Nathan Adloff. PR photo

## ADLOFF from page 18

of the new queer cinema pictures are getting past the coming out story which I'm happy to see. Increasingly, it's just portrayed as a fact of life which I think is to the good.

NA: Definitely.

**WCT: So, working on the piece you shaped it for Natalie, but what about the young actor who played Nate, Tyler Ross? Did you write for him as well or were there auditions for that role?**

NA: Nate was always based on true story of myself in college, though in the film I would say only about 10 percent is really true. Tyler I had seen in *The Wise Kids*; when we were getting close to casting and I was thinking about actors that would be good for certain roles, I [remembered] loving him in that. He auditioned and we saw about 30 other young men for the role, but it was just always him. He really blew the other ones out of the water.

**WCT: He's very good in the film. Let's talk a little bit about the process of actually making a micro-budget indie. You've done the creative and now you get to the business aspects. Doesn't that money just appear somehow? [Laughs]**

NA: Right now I'm packing to go to Sidewalk, the festival in Birmingham, Ala. I've been there the past two years and two years ago I met Ash Christian, who produced the movie. He's made three of his own films and been around the block a few times, and he was looking to produce other people's films. I told him I was working on a script and sent it to him and he read it on the plane ride home; he emailed me and said he wanted to help make it happen. So, as far as funding, he got all those balls rolling.

**WCT: Great—so you got to just worry about the creative elements.**

NA: [Laughs] No, no. I was very, very much involved but Ash had an army of people to see if they were interested in helping and some of

them were but it wasn't enough so I myself put in a chunk of cash and the rest of it was raised through two Kickstarter campaigns—one before we shot and one for finishing funds.

**WCT: And having Natalie West attached certainly must have helped.**

NA: Yeah, it was nice to be able to say early on in the pitch video and add some level of validity to the project that it was actually going to happen—that we were serious about it and wanted to move forward with it.

**WCT: And how did Gaby Hoffmann get involved? I love her from all her childhood pictures—Now and Then, Field of Dreams, etc.**

NA: She had met Ash in New York at some point; when we were thinking of actresses to offer that role to, she came up and we sent the script to her manager and he sent it to her. At the time, she was living in Rome doing some sort of cooking school; she said she wanted nothing more than to come back and do a small movie. So, she came back and was in Chicago with us for three days during the shoot. She's awesome; she's great. She said that it was the script that pulled her in but she didn't know me or Justin and barely knew Ash so she put a lot of trust and took a chance with us.

**WCT: Nice validation, isn't it?**

NA: It's very encouraging—absolutely. At the very least, it's a very nice compliment even if it doesn't pan out.

**WCT: She's a lot of fun in the film. What was the shoot schedule?**

NA: Two weeks. Six on, one off, and we had two pick up days after that. So [it was] 14 days total.

**WCT: It's a lot to cram in, but with everybody pulling together it can happen. Then it must have been so great to get those rapturous reviews from top critics.**

NA: It's just extremely encouraging and humbling, and I'm so grateful for it. It certainly wasn't expected; I just wanted to make my first feature and do as good as I could with my means

and maybe get it out there somehow. It's been a whirlwind of positivity; it's been really, really great.

**WCT: Another thing that I love about the movie is that it really has crossover appeal. This is a relationship movie with a gay character, viewpoint, whatever. But I suspect that mainstream audiences, even alternative ones, still have a bit of a resistance in this area; they want to label it as "just a gay movie."**

NA: I think that's very true. We actually shopped it around before it was finished to distributors, and *Breaking Glass* did/does see it as a crossover film; they really got it and they were really passionate about it and wanted to give it the best release possible. So it was a no-brainer to go with them. If people want to see it as a gay film that's fine but I also think it's a crossover film that is about friendship.

**WCT: I think that anyone looking for a great relationship picture and an usual one will really [be drawn] to your movie.**

NA: Thanks so much.

**WCT: So now that you've created a movie about this unusual relationship, have you now yearned for one? Have you created one in your life?**

NA: [Laughs] Do I need a Margaret in my life? No, I can't say that I do.

**WCT: Well, I'm going to encourage you to find one. Having had a lot of those "Margarets" in my life, they are friendships to be treasured.**

NA: I would love to know what that is. I can imagine what it is and maybe one day...

**WCT: So, what's next for you?**

NA: Justin and I are starting to script our next project which is, again, based on me. This time, junior high/high school age, [when] I was growing up in small-town Illinois, and I really did have a graduating class of 63 like Nate does in the movie. And I was the only guy on the girl's volleyball team.

**WCT: Oh dear, oh dear.**

NA: It's about that and losing my father to a heart attack. [It's also about] finding out that he bought one of my brother's ex-girlfriends a \$30,000 Corvette and left the bill for my mom to pay, so that's why I wasn't able to go to college in Chicago. It's about working at the theater in the town, trying to save up money and meeting guys online. We're setting it in 1999-2000 when AOL chat rooms were big.

**WCT: It sounds interesting. Based on your assured touch with *Nate & Margaret*, I certainly look forward to seeing it.**

NA: Thank you.

See [www.nateandmargaret.com](http://www.nateandmargaret.com).

## Pam Grier appearance Sept. 6 in Berwyn

Actress Pam Grier will be at Reel Art Collectibles, 6727 W. Stanley St., Berwyn, on Thursday, Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m.

She will sign copies of autobiography, *FOXY: A Life in Three Acts*, as well as posters and photographs. (Grier will charge for her autograph and photos.)

Grier became famous in the early 1970s after starring in a string of women-in-prison and blaxploitation films such as 1974's *Foxy Brown*. Later, she appeared in Quentin Tarantino's film *Jackie Brown* (1997). She has also been in TV series such as *The L Word*, *Law & Order: SVU* and *Smallville*.

Grier is coming to Reel Art through a special arrangement with the Hollywood Show autograph and collectible show, where she will be appearing Sept. 7-9 at the Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel, 5500 N. River Rd., Rosemont.

See [www.reelartstore.com](http://www.reelartstore.com) for more info.

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## Youth of Halsted Survey

The past two summers have seen much debate about who LGBTQ youth in Chicago are and who they are not. Now, Windy City Times is asking young people themselves.

For the next three months, Windy City Times reporters will be out polling LGBTQ and heterosexual young people on their experiences in Lakeview and beyond, from their needs to their interactions with police and residents and more.

Young people ages 24 and under can also take the survey at

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/wctyouthsurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/wctyouthsurvey)

# Gina Gershon: Show girl

*Gina Gershon on her crotch close-up and how it's cool to play gay now*

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Vagina. That's the first thing to come up during my recent interview with Gina Gershon, who goes full-frontal as Sharla in the awesomely twisted *Killer Joe*.

The actress plays a trashy two-timer who gets caught in the middle of a family's murder plot when they hire a hit man (Matthew McConaughey) to take out their mother to collect the life insurance money. Just minutes into the movie, and there she is—all of her.

We got Gershon on the phone to chat about her crotch coat, the agent that almost stopped her from playing a lesbian in one of her most lady-loved films and why she really wishes she were gay.

**Chris Azzopardi: Are you sick of talking about your vagina yet?**

Gina Gershon: You mean my merkin? I never get tired of talking about my merkin.

**CA: Did you name your merkin?**

GG: Yes, I believe I was calling my merkin Bertha—a big, heavy-set merkin. Make room for Bertha! She's ready for her close-up.

**CA: This isn't the first time you've been part of a movie that was rated NC-17. Do you think the MPAA has been fair to the movies you've starred in?**

GG: Listen, I think the whole rating system is unfair. It's just arbitrary and there's no consistency and I find it fairly ridiculous. I mean, *Showgirls* was NC-17—why? I'm still not really sure. I guess there was a lot of nudity. And in this country if you cut off a boob, it's rated PG; if you just show them, then they're sometimes NC-17. *Bound* was going to be NC-17 because that love scene was very intense and very beautiful and didn't show anything of Jennifer [Tilly] or myself, but it was too much of a love scene so we had to change it. Once it was more of a fucking scene then they were like, "Yeah, that's OK."

**CA: You can get away with full-on sex but you can't show lesbian love?**

GG: It seems a little bit strange to me. I just think the whole rating system is arbitrary. I don't quite get it. Of all of them, *Killer Joe* probably should be NC-17 if we're going by an NC-17

rule, which in Europe they don't have. I forced my parents to take me to see *The Exorcist* at 11. I was completely enthralled and so excited; my mother was mortified. Had I been a different 11-year-old, I might've been completely traumatized. So it's up to the parents and the kid to know what they can and can't handle.

To me, it's a hardcore movie, and I think people should know going in. It ain't a Disney film! That being said, and because of this system, I'm really respectful and completely behind [director] William Friedkin in choosing not to change a frame. He's earned the right to make the film that he wants to make—and god bless him for it. I think it's great. It's just a bummer that it's harder to roll out. It can't show in as many theaters, but I think word of mouth is getting out. People who want to see this film are going to see it.

**CA: With *Bound*, your agent told you at the time that playing a lesbian role would ruin your career. But you did anyway. Why did you take the role of Corky despite your agent's advice?**

GG: Because it was a great role. The hero stories were always men—they got the money, they got the girl, they got away with things. When I read this movie, I was like, "Wow, I get to be the hero."

I'm really proud that I did that film. And so what—at the end of the day, I got new agents. They literally said, "We can't represent you if you do this," and I said, "OK, here's your commission; I'm doing this film."

**CA: So it was worth the sacrifice?**

GG: Yeah, it was actually.

**CA: Do you think actors are still being told to avoid gay roles?**

GG: No, man. The gayer the role, they're like, "Do it! You'll get nominated for an Academy Award." That just goes to show how far we've come. Before it was going to ruin your career. Not anymore.

**CA: Are you currently looking at any gay roles?**

GG: I don't look at roles if they're gay or straight or young or old or black or white. I just don't distinguish roles like that. I look to see if I can relate to what the character is going through or if I like the whole story and if I like the director. I like colorful stories.

**CA: Your co-star in *Killer Joe*, Matthew McConaughey, is also in another recent movie, *Magic Mike*, as a stripper. As a dancer in *Showgirls*, did you approve?**



Gina Gershon in *Killer Joe*. Photo courtesy of LD Entertainment

GG: Wasn't he great? He was so great. I'm so proud of him. As soon as I saw him, I told him, "Dude, that was awesome." He really did a great job. He showed more ass than I did in *Showgirls*, too. Look at that. They don't make a big deal about that!

**CA: Is it a double standard?**

GG: Yes and no. I think *Magic Mike* wouldn't have been made 10 years ago with big movie stars in it. There's no way their agents would have let them play this 10 years ago, or maybe even seven years ago.

**CA: So, fried chicken. Will you ever look at a chicken leg the same after felling one in *Killer Joe*?**

GG: Oh, yeah. It's still finger-lickin' good to me. [Laughs] I've never been a KFC girl but I do love fried chicken. I had a Southern Black lady when I was younger who was the real deal, and she taught me how to make fried chicken. When she would make fried chicken, it was a special event. It was really good! Juno [Temple's] like, "I don't really like fried chicken. I don't get it." I'm like, "Yeah, you're from London; you gotta have real Southern fried chicken."

**CA: How was the fried chicken in *Killer Joe*?**

GG: It was good! We were in New Orleans so I made sure it was. I can't remember if we did Coop's or Church's—there was a big debate. But I made sure it was good fried chicken. New Orleans. Hello! [Laughs]

Before that scene, I knew I wanted to devour the fried chicken. I had to keep eating it and I thought, "Well, I wanna make sure it's good fried chicken." I do like my fried chicken. Not gonna lie.

**CA: In an interview with *DIVA* a couple of years ago, you said you wish you could be gay. Can you clarify what you meant?**

GG: It was one of those days. At that time I was looking around at my gay men friends and they were so hot and sexy and nice and I'm like, "Ugh, why can't I be with them?" If I were a gay man, I could be! And then they would want me in that way. [Laughs]

**CA: That's what all the straight girls say: that gay men are so hot but unavailable.**

GG: Yeah. Well, they're still a girl's best friend!

**CA: If you were lesbian, which character of yours would you hook up with?**

GG: Corky. That's the most narcissistic answer, isn't it? [Laughs]

**Chris Azzopardi is the editor of *Q Syndicate*, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com).**

## Field Museum fashion exhibition starts Sept. 14

The Field Museum's newest exhibition, "Fashion and The Field Museum Collection: Maria Pinto," will run Sept. 14-June 16, 2013.

The exhibition explores the world of design, mixing artifacts hand-selected from the museum's collections by esteemed Chicago fashion designer Maria Pinto along with contemporary pieces Pinto created.

In 2010, Pinto selected objects that inspired her in collaboration with Alaka Wali, the museum's curator in North American anthropology. Pinto's artistic perspective includes items such as a crocodile skin vest, a parka made of bird skins and a necklace made of woven monkey fur.

The museum is at 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr. See [www.FieldMuseum.org](http://www.FieldMuseum.org).

## 'Singing to End AIDS' Aug. 30

The fundraiser "Singing to End AIDS" will take place Thursday, Aug. 30, at Chicago's Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St. Each starts at 7:30 p.m. (It had been slated for Aug. 23, but was rescheduled.)

The event will feature baritone Peter Ruger—who is running the 2012 Chicago Marathon with the organization Team to End AIDS, which donates funds to the AIDS Foundation

of Chicago—and Bill Marsland on piano.

Admission is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10; proceeds will go to Team to End AIDS. Email [baritonebaker@gmail.com](mailto:baritonebaker@gmail.com) for more info.

## North Coast to feature Oakenfold, Big Boi

Legendary DJ Paul Oakenfold and Big Boi—known as one-half of the duo Outkast ("Hey Ya")—are among the scheduled headliners at this year's North Coast Music Festival.

The event, nicknamed "summer's last stand," will take place Friday-Sunday, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, in Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St.

See [www.NorthCoastFestival.com](http://www.NorthCoastFestival.com) for tickets and info.

## Chicago among Mika's first live dates

Singer Mika has announced his first U.S. live dates to support his upcoming album, *The Origin of Love*, out on Universal Republic Oct. 16.

His first dates include New York's Webster Hall (Oct. 15), the Vic in Chicago (Oct. 18) and Los Angeles' The Fonda (Oct. 21).

His single "Celebrate" (featuring Pharrell Williams) will be available on iTunes Sept. 4. Find out more at <http://MikaSounds.com>.

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# the **DISH** WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN

# WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

## Bar Umbriago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Bar Umbriago** (6 W. Hubbard St.; www.barumbriago.com) is in the spot that EATT formerly occupied. Having had a mixed experience at EATT, I was wondering what I'd be in for at this newest eatery. Chef Michael Ponzio has done himself proud at Bar Umbriago, which is named after a



Cotechino meatballs (above) and whipped ricotta crostini at Bar Umbriago.

Photos by Andrew Davis



character in Italian-American singer Jimmy Durante's famous song. (In addition, as Ponzio told Savor, it's about a "man who is the life of the party.")

Also—although it's in the family-friendly River North area just off Michigan Avenue—one can surmise from the first part of the spot's name that it caters to the adult crowd. The wine list is quite extensive (half-off on Wednesdays), and the set-up is perfect for the after-work business

crowd or for nightclubbers to enjoy themselves. (However, if Bar Umbriago cleared some tables, said club-hoppers might never leave, as the music playing was a heady mix of dance songs.)

In addition to the wines, Bar Umbriago has an interesting drink list, with items such as meat and potatoes (with potato vodka and salami-stuffed olives) and the summer social (which includes rum, watermelon, peach, Prosecco and a squeeze of lime). With the day being a bit hot, I asked for the latter—after being denied my first choice, the Tacco Rosso. (I was told that not all of the ingredients were available. The drink includes mango, passionfruit and blood orange.) However, the social was definitely a hit—and was certainly refreshing.

The Italian menu (which relies on mostly locally sourced food) is divided into sections such as salumi, cheese, crostini, cicchetti (small side dishes), primi, secondi and pizza. Bar Umbriago serves smaller portions; however, the prices are quite reasonable, with side dishes running as low as \$6. Having never tried a Scotch egg (with arugula and pecorino sardo), I went for it—and was pleasantly surprised. However, my favorite item was probably the whipped ricotta crostini; if you get nothing else from it, try this dish.

The goat-cheese gnocchi wasn't far behind, nor was the crispy poussin with roasted vegetables. Of course, the desserts are sinful as well, as I tried la bomba (homemade doughnut with chocolate and Nutella) and the ciocolato (a chocolate mousse cake with fresh berries). I paid the price in the gym the next day—but those items were worth it.

On top of it, Ponzio and General Manager Nick Lombardo are extremely outgoing, talking with almost every patron that evening. (They even talked about how their servers have personalities—verified when they called one over who told a joke I can't reprint here.)

Bar Umbriago offers a bit of everything, but is (thankfully) not over the top. I definitely plan on returning.



## All that jazz:

### Talking with cafe owner Donna Adams

BY ANDREW DAVIS

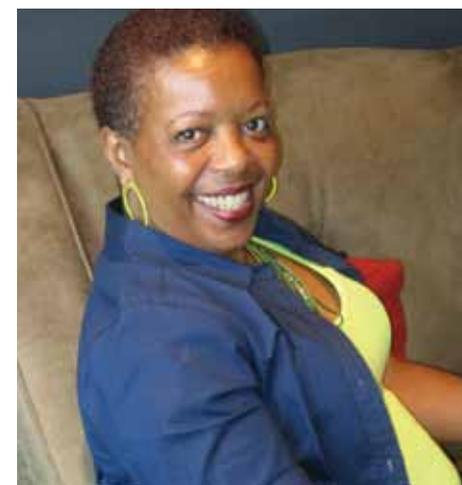
Donna Adams is possibly one of the friendliest, most honest people one could come across—but don't mistake her for a pushover.

Adams, a retired police officer, is the owner of **Donna's Cafe** (1255 S. State St.; www.donnascafechicago.com), a jazz-themed eatery in the gentrified South Loop area. She's an unmistakable presence in the cafe; as soon as someone enters, she greets the person with a "Good morning" and a smile. She often recognizes patrons by name, and they catch each other up on the latest.

Talking with Adams, a staunch ally of the LGBT demographic, is an experience in itself—and I mean that in a good way. In a conversation that was about an hour, she talked about everything from Frankie Knuckles to writing police reports to the South Loop area itself—and that was before we talked about the city's leather community.

When asked why she decided to become a cafe owner, Adams deadpanned, "Well, after a year and a half, I've yet to come up with a really good reason. I don't have a story to tell people so I can say I was on drugs, obviously—or I should've been on them so I'd have a good excuse for this foolish move. This is more work than I ever did—and there's nothing glamorous about it." (She later stated that her reasons were, like with all business owners, financial—but she also wanted to leave something for her children.)

Talking about a down side of the business, she said, "I came up in an era when owning your own business was something to be proud of; it was an accomplishment. Now, people sometimes



Donna Adams. Photos by Andrew Davis

come in here and get the attitude of 'Oh, you're just a shop owner.'" With my background, I never kissed ass—and I'm not about to start now. I'm too old for that. I let them know: 'You don't impress me, either.'"

However, something Adams loves is the chance to showcase her love of jazz (although she's also an admitted "househead," but she acknowledges house music would be too much in the morning—even for her). Adams said that she's always love the music genre, thanks to her grandmother, who she called a "jazzy, jazzy lady." Her grandmother left Adams a huge jazz record collection; she said it would take "at least a year to transfer [all the music] to digital."

Adams said it's "straight-ahead jazz" that she likes. She added that it's "different from easy-listening jazz that will put you to sleep." Adams listed some of her favorites as Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Sarah Vaughan and early Miles Davis. She also listed someone who may initially seem like an odd choice to some: Queen Latifah. "I love her singing jazz," Adams said.

When asked what she wants people to come away with, Adams said, "I want them to have a good experience. I want them to have AN EXPERIENCE. I want them to get the vibe that you can come here and be comfortable. You can chat with me about anything."

As for the food itself, it is wonderfully tasty. The sandwich I ordered, the "Cool Bird" (named after Parker), contains turkey, Romaine lettuce, Swiss cheese, apple and cranberry mayo on wheat bread—and it was heavenly. There are also items such as a garden panini that vegetarians will love, but there are also selections ranging from the Wynton Marsalad (with spinach, pears, Craisins, walnuts, goat cheese and Paris dressing) to banana pudding. But don't fear if you're on a diet: Just tell Adams and she'll remind you every time you're there—especially if you reach for the wrong item.

Donna's Cafe: Come for the food, stay for the conversation—and the music. (Musicians perform on Fridays.)

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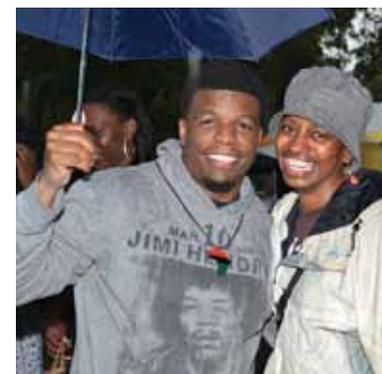
# Crystal Waters rocks 'LoveFest'

Dance-music artist Crystal Waters and local entertainers Mz. Ruff N Stuff and Cyon Flare headlined Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus's 8th Annual LoveFest, which initially took place at Jackson Park (63rd Street and Cornell Drive) Aug. 26. The event was eventually moved to Club Escape because of the inclement weather; more than 300 people went inside as well, according to event promoter David Dodd.

LoveFest is an annual summer "edu-tainment" festival designed for the African-American LGBT community—specifically gay and bisexual men—to bring awareness to health and wellness management with live entertainment, dancing, health screenings and physical-fitness activities. In addition, Lovefest hosted the Old School vs. New School Battle of the DJs as well as the EGOmania Mini-Ball.

This year's theme was "Healthy.Sexy.We.," from the Chicago Department of Public Health's Healthy Chicago LGBT Community Action Plan.

Visit [www.chiblackgaycaucus.org](http://www.chiblackgaycaucus.org). Text by Andrew Davis; photos by Ed Negron



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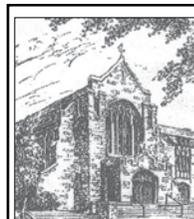
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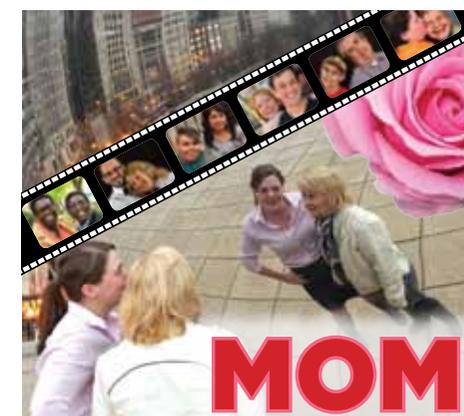
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## REAL ESTATE

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# calendar

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## Wed., Aug. 29

**Gay/Lesbian Chamber 6th Annual Private Boat Cruise** Aboard Chicago's First Lady, dinner buffet, open bar, fireworks on the lake. Boarding 6:30pm sharp. Cruising till 10pm. Fireworks on the Lake at 9:30pm. Register early, the event may be at capacity. 6:30pm, Michigan & Wacker aboard Chicago's First Lady, [www.glchamber.org](http://www.glchamber.org)

**Hounds of Love: The Music of Kate Bush** Shana Spiegel spanning all the eras of the music of Kate Bush, giving musical precision and treatment reflective of the original recordings. Rare live show. 8:30pm-11pm, Schubas Tavern, [www.schubas.com](http://www.schubas.com)

**Curtains Up! Showtune Video Night** Come and enjoy the music of the Great White Way and the Silver Screen, 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave.,

**\$1 Drink Night** Join SPIN every Wednesday for \$1 Cocktails, featuring 42 Below Vodka, Wine & Beer and \$5 Bacardi Bombs! 9pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., [www.spin-nightclub.com](http://www.spin-nightclub.com)

**Hydrag Revue** Join Hydrate Nightclub for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE hosted by Tajma Hall, featuring the all star cast of Dida Ritz, Sorraya Dash, Mercedes Andrews, Kelly Lauren, Erica Andrews and special guests each week! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

## Thursday, Aug. 30

**Cocktails Without Prejudice** Stop in The Call any Thursday in August, enjoy a Van Gogh PB&J Jammer shot, and a \$1 will be donated to "Give a Damn Campaign" a project of Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Fund. That's right \$1 for each shot, so bring your friends!! 4pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W.

## ALL THAT 'BRASS' Friday, Aug. 31

Tamale Sepp will present "Brass Chuckles" at Playground Theatre, 3341 N. Lincoln Ave.

Photo from Sarah Terez Rosenblum



Bryn Mawr Ave.

**Fundraiser recital for Team to End AIDS** An hour of amazing music featuring baritone Peter Ruger and pianist Bill Marsland, a set of songs inspired by the fight against AIDS plus English Art Song, popular musical selections, cabaret songs. Free but \$10 donation is suggested. 7:30pm, Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St

**LIVE Music Karaoke/Ultimate Open Mic** Charlie's has some great local musicians & singers that throw down, creating a fantastic live music show. It's acoustic & laid back. Join them and be part of the band. 10pm, 773-871-8887, Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway

**TimeLine Theatre Company presents 33 Variations** 16th season opens with the Chicago premiere by Moisés Kaufman, through October 21. 7:30pm, 773-327-5252, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., [www.timelinetheatre.com](http://www.timelinetheatre.com)

**5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche** After a successful run and extension in the summer of 2011 and productions in Omaha,

Charleston, Boulder and San Francisco, this play was accepted into the 2012 NYC Fringe Festival! Limited engagement off to New York. 8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Put It In the Scrapbook--Chicago Fringe Festival** Put It In the Scrapbook, an original one-person show about the life of vaudeville's most famous female impersonator Julian Eltinge, is an official selection of the Chicago Fringe Festival to be performed August 30-September 9th, 2012. 8:30pm-9:30pm, Dream Theatre, 556 West 18th St., [www.chicagofringe.org](http://www.chicagofringe.org)

**Cult with Jessica Wild, Ab Soto** RuPaul's Drag Race star Jessica Wild, and DJs Ab Soto, Moneyworth, Ten Witch, Baby Bamboo and more. Party photos by A/S/L. Hosted by Debbie Fox. Club paintings by Rafa Dejota. To RSVP for guest list: do312.com/event/2012/08/30/cult . \$2 PBR and Berlin bombs, \$6.50 Patron Silver and \$5.50 42 Below. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., [www.berlinchicago.com](http://www.berlinchicago.com)

**Rhythmic: Down & Dirty w/ Michael Serafini** Gritty, sleazy house and techno is the soundtrack for trouble at Wang's. Perfect for its opium den-inspired interior and well made cocktails. Every last Thursday of the month. No cover. 10pm, Wang's, 3317 N Broadway St.

## Friday, Aug. 31

**Chicago Convergence 2012** Convergence is an international gathering of gay big men and their admirers. It is the largest event of its kind in the world for the Chub and Chaser community. Through Sept. 3. Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, [www.convergence2012.org](http://www.convergence2012.org)

**Women's Labor Day Weekend Camping, Sisters for LGBT Community Fundraiser** Bags, frisbee cups, flippy cups, flag football, fishing, karaoke, listening to Mindy Bartlett sing and share her acoustic set. Through Sept. 3. Questions to Edith Nieves at [iluv2tch2@gmail.com](mailto:iluv2tch2@gmail.com); 1pm, 773-790-1180, Hide-Away-Lakes Campground, 8045 Van Emmon Rd, Yorkville, <http://labordaycamping.eventbrite.com/>

**Mr. Continental 2012 Preliminaries** Opening night of the biggest pageant weekend in America. First of two nights to choose Mr. Continental 2012. Doors open at 5 pm; contest begins at 6. Call 312-527-9338 for ticket information. 5pm, Baton, 436 N. Clark St., [www.thebatonshowlounge.com](http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com)

**Town hall discussion of draft of Chicago Cultural Plan** In continuing with its public engagement process for the Cultural Plan, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events will once again hold a series of public meetings to get direct

feedback from residents. 6pm-8pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St., [www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca.html)

**Pink Milk, the story of Alan Turing** At the Chicago Fringe Festival through Sept. 9, a drama infused with dance is inspired by the true story of Alan Turing, the man basically responsible for ending WWII in Britain and later criminally charged for being gay, who chose chemical castration over prison and died a mysterious death. Written by Alex Paul Young, a Latino Chicago playwright. 7pm, Americana Stage, 600 W. Cermak Rd., [www.pinkmilk2012.com](http://www.pinkmilk2012.com)

**AIDS Foundation Chicago AIDS Run/Walk Fundraiser** Come support and/or learn how you can join the team. Minimum \$5 suggested donation at the door; \$5 drink specials and \$5 raffle tickets. The mission of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS and improve the lives of people affected by the epidemic. 9pm, Big Chicks, 5024 N Sheridan Rd., [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org)

**Tamale Presents Brass Chuckles** Comedy Showcase Brass Chuckles is a comedy show that invites fascinating people to come out to play hosted by comedian and femme(ce) Tamale Sepp. Explores comedy through stand-up, sketch, improv, videos, performance art, live readings of personal narrative work and other creative methods. \$10. 10pm, Playground Theatre, 3341 N Lincoln Ave., [www.brasschucklescomedy.com](http://www.brasschucklescomedy.com)

## Saturday, Sept. 1

**Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago** A monthly meeting with the goal to erase the invisibility of bisexual identified people within the LGBT community. Through outreach, education and discussion, the BQAC hopes to raise awareness of issues facing bisexual identified people. This group is open to bisexual people and their allies. 3pm-5pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.CenterOnHalsted.org](http://www.CenterOnHalsted.org)

**Put It In the Scrapbook--Chicago Fringe Festival** Put It In the Scrapbook, an original one-person show about the life of vaudeville's most famous female impersonator Julian Eltinge, is an official selection of the Chicago Fringe Festival to be performed through Sept. 9. 5:30pm-6:30pm, Dream Theatre, 556 W. 18th St., [www.chicagofringe.org](http://www.chicagofringe.org)

**Mr. Continental 2012 Finals** Final night of the two-night contest to choose Mr. Continental 2012. Doors open at 7 pm; contest begins at 8. Call 312-527-9338 for ticket information. 7pm, Park West, 322 W Armitage Ave., [www.thebatonshowlounge.com](http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com)

**D.I.L.F.** It's Labor Day Weekend and daddy works hard and needs a day of rest! Host Jason Hendrix and DJ Marc "Moose" Moder bring you D.I.L.F., the place to be in Chicago for men over 35 and the men who want them. First Saturday of every month. 9pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N Clark St.

## Sunday, Sept. 2

**Urban Village Church** Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. It's a place to receive God's grace and love and to give of ourselves, as well. 10am-11:15pm, Spertus Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave., [www.urbanvillagechurch.org](http://www.urbanvillagechurch.org)

**Urban Village Church: Andersonville service** Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), [www.newchicagochurch.com](http://www.newchicagochurch.com)

**Urban Village Church: Wicker Park evening service** Wicker Park is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which make Urban Village Church thrilled to be in the community! 5pm-7pm, 1502 N. Hoyle (At LeM-



## SPARKS AND RECREATION Thursday, Sept. 6

Hal Sparks will perform at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

Pic by Kat Fitzgerald

oyne), [www.newchicagochurch.com](http://www.newchicagochurch.com)

**Miss Continental 2012 Preliminaries** First night of the two-night contest to choose Miss Continental 2012. Doors open at 6 pm; contest begins at 7. Call 312-527-9338 for ticket information. 6pm, The Vic Theatre, 3145 N Sheffield Ave, Chicago, <http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com>

**Broadway DIVA/DJ David Byrne's Birthday Show** Come celebrate DJ David Byrne's birthday while you enjoy Broadway DIVA with drag divas Miss Sassy Trade, Elyse Giovanni and very special guest Cee Cee LaRouge. Cheap drink specials, \$5 Rock Islands. Never a cover and showtime is 8 pm sharp. 8pm-11pm, @mosphere, 5355 N. Clark St., [www.atmospherebar.com](http://www.atmospherebar.com)

## Monday, Sept. 3

**Miss Continental 2012 Finals** Final night of the two-night contest to choose Miss Continental 2012. Doors open at 7 pm; contest begins at 8. Call 312-527-9338 for ticket information. 7pm, The Vic, 3145 N Sheffield Ave., [www.thebatonshowlounge.com](http://www.thebatonshowlounge.com)

## Tuesday, Sept. 4

**Intersex Chicago** We have features typical of both male and female at once or may have no clearly defined sexual features at all. There are many different kinds of intersex people. 6:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

## Wed., Sept. 5

**Gay Liberation Network meeting** Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group calling attention to equality and liberation for LGBTs, against America's wars, supporting labor and immigrant rights, and more. Chicago's multi-issue, LGBT direct action group; 7pm-9pm, 773-209-1187, Berger Park Cultural Center, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, <http://www.gayliberation.net>

**Curtains Up! Showtune Video Night** Come and enjoy the music of the Great White Way and the Silver Screen, 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave.

## Thursday, Sept. 6

**Hal Sparks** Actor/comedian performing stand-up through Sept. 8. \$23-\$27; 8pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., [www.maynestage.com](http://www.maynestage.com)

**Judy Tenuta Opening Night** Support Pride Films and Plays by purchasing opening night tickets, \$20. Questions to [PFPTickets@gmail.com](mailto:PFPTickets@gmail.com) with Judy Tenuta in the subject line. 8pm, Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway, [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com); Tickets: <http://goprider.com/z7et>



## CONTINENTAL DRIFT

### Friday-Monday, Aug. 31-Sept. 3

The Mr. and Miss Continental pageants will take place in Chicago this weekend.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

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# BILLY MASTERS

"I have a lot of gay fans because they know that I just accept people as they are. That's not my place to judge. I ain't God and I ain't runnin' for office."—Dolly Parton explains her support for filmmakers (and dear friends) Gary and Larry Lane. Their documentary, *Hollywood to Dollywood*, won a slew of awards at film festivals and is now available on DVD at [www.Hollywood-2Dollywood.com](http://www.Hollywood-2Dollywood.com).

Our first story has many sections, so I'm going to report it sequentially. It all started when Olympian Ryan Lochte started putting the word out that he'd be interested in doing some television projects. In addition to filming a cameo for 90210, he was throwing his hat into the reality-show ring. First he said he'd like to do *Dancing with the Stars*—but only if Michael Phelps also competed so he'd have the chance to whip his ass (a visual I find most appealing). He's also like to be the next guy on *The Bachelor* because he wants to find true love—however, his agents are trying to find \$750K for his participation. While these negotiations proceed, reports have surfaced that a former girlfriend is trying to sell some nude photos Lochte sent her when they were dating.

Around the same time, Prince Harry was coming to the United States on holiday. He arrived in Vegas while Lochte was belatedly celebrating his 28th birthday in a pink Speedo. The royal hottie expressed interest in meeting the Olympian at XS nightclub. After some imbibing, the prince challenged Lochte to a swimming race that Lochte won.

Harry left the party first and invited some girls he met at the bar up to his VIP suite. Somehow they all ended up playing a game of strip billiards—something I must confess that I not only haven't played but haven't heard of. Regardless of what they tell you, what happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas. (Thank God for *moi*.) One of the revelers happened to snap some photos of the prince nude, which means two things: 1) He's not very bright and 2) He lost the game! In the first photo, he's seen cupping the royal jewels while an anonymous girl crouches behind him. In the second, he is bent over said girl, exposing the royal buttocks.

Initially the British press was reticent to run the photos. Why? Because the palace "asked" them not to—an intriguing request since we've already seen William's willy and Charles' cock. After a couple of days, *The Sun* broke ranks and put Harry right on its cover. And you know what happened? His approval rating went UP! Most people feel that he's young, he's single, he's just having fun—who cares? I should add that this is the same public who once saw Fergie as a breath of fresh air, and we know how that turned out. (I believe toe-sucking is the line that one cannot cross.) Since I've never been one to stand on ceremony, I'm happy to run all these naughty bits and regal rears on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

Remember Nick Gruber? Calvin Klein's most recent boytoy with a porn past? Since his break-up with the designer, his arrest and subsequent stint in rehab, he's planning to write his memoirs—tentatively titled *What Came Between Me and My Calvin*. Oh, he's a clever one. A writer who's been approached to "collaborate" with Gruber on the tawdry tale claims that this is the only way Gruber can get "closure" in the wake of his tumultuous two-year relationship with Klein. While shopping it around, he's telling potential publishers that lots of secrets about Klein and his cronies will be revealed. On the record, he's only saying, "Yes, it's true that I'm writing a book." I suspect he's saying that for the benefit of people like me who are not at all convinced that he's ever READ a book.

Our pals at Channel 1 Releasing (i.e., Chi Chi LaRue) have issued a compilation of vintage gay-porn vids from the Catalina and All Worlds

catalogues under the title *Criminal Cocks*. The synopsis reads, "Ripped from the headlines! Porn stars before they became real-life criminals. Grand theft, attempted murder, serial rape, and 1st-degree murder ... these criminal cocks have done it all and now you can see them all on one convenient disc ... compiled for your pleasure." While that's pretty fabulous, the back cover is even better. Alongside stills from the



John Barrowman will be back on TV, Billy says.

sex scenes included are each guy's real-life mug shot and the crime. BRILLIANT!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Mitchell in Cincinnati: "Have you heard any news about the new John Barrowman series that Shonda Rhimes is producing? I haven't heard anything since it was announced."

It's amazing to me how many potential series have involved Barrowman, and how many have either never made it to air or fizzled shortly thereafter. Obviously, he has talent and a following, but he's not had much luck here in the States—but not for lack of trying. Rhimes' *Gilded Lilys* was ordered by ABC, but the network passed. That meant Barrowman was able to take a role in the upcoming *Green Arrow* series for The CW. We know precious little about his part (well, not THAT part—his quite large member is readily available on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com)). On the show, he'll be playing a wealthy, sexy, mysterious man who has ties to quite a few characters. He'll initially be recurring with hopes of being a series regular for season two—if, of course, there is a season two.

When Harry's using his penis as a billiards cue, it's time for me to end yet another column. Perhaps that's why he lost. Since we've run long (unlike the prince), let me quickly remind you to check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site with nothing to hide. If you've got a question you'd like me to tackle, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Nick Gruber appears in *Criminal Cocks 2!* Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

## CLICKTOWIN!



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# Gay man turns cheering into a career

BY ROSS FORMAN

Lee Trudell didn't start cheerleading until he arrived on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee about 20 years ago—but he's been hooked ever since, touring the world to entertain fans and educate future cheerleaders.

"It just looked like a fun thing to do in front of people—flip around and lead a crowd," said Trudell, who was first intrigued by the sport as a senior in high school in his native Wisconsin. "I just enjoyed the athleticism, the creativity. There's just an enthusiasm and spirit with cheerleaders that's so positive."

Trudell spent two years as a college cheerleader, and even was on the sidelines for a Wisconsin-Milwaukee basketball upset win over intra-state rival Wisconsin-Madison.

Also while in college, Trudell met a cheerleader friend from a rival university. She worked for a company that taught summer camps, so he auditioned and made the summer staff at the camp.

That involved tours throughout the Midwest for cheerleading, and then across America, and eventually worldwide, including a month teaching cheerleading in Japan.

He also has traveled to London, Paris, Jamaica and elsewhere for cheerleading.

"I never expected [cheering] to turn into a career, which it has, nor to travel to the extent that I have [due to cheering], nor make the friendships that I have, or to affect lives the way I have."

Trudell, 39, who lives in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood, has taught cheer for almost two decades—and some of his former students from his early years are now parents and coaches themselves, and they bring their children to Trudell for coaching.

"Going to Japan [in mid-1999] and staying for a month, after really never leaving the Midwest, that was amazing," said Trudell, who was teach-

ing Japanese students with a Japanese cheerleading company. He did not know how to speak Japanese at the time, and has not retained much of what he learned.

"It was amazing to experience so much of Japan. They didn't understand [English] but they understood based on how we taught, the motions, the facial expressions, etc. That crossed the language barrier."

Trudell's cheerleading career also has taken him five times to London, even to perform at the city's New Year's Day parade. "Their reaction to 1,200 cheerleaders coming down the street in London was unbelievable," he said. "Doing a partner stunt in front of Tower Bridge was an awesome experience."

"To take the kids to London, to do something that they may never do again, and expose them to a different culture; that was neat."

He also has performed in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

"When I see cheerleaders on ESPN, it always sparks something; that's always nice," said Trudell, who has been active for years as a cheering judge and event organizer.

He now is a cheering consultant for various schools, working with their choreography, rules and more. He mostly works with high schools across the Midwest, and by the fall, several Chicago schools, including Evanston Township High School.

In June, Trudell started teaching recreational cheerleading classes in Wicker Park, where young and old alike learn from a 20-year professional cheerleader—even though he may break the stereotype of what a cheerleader looks like.

"Cheerleading definitely is still fun. I like working with kids; I like teaching kids, help them have new experiences," said Trudell, who also, for the past two years, has been a doorman at Sidetrack in Lakeview. "Some people [at Sidetrack] know that I'm involved in cheerleading,

have been involved in cheerleading, but I'm sure they don't think about it much because, well, I don't look like a stereotypical cheerleader.

"But cheerleading has been a huge, positive part of my life."

And yes, several times over the past couple years, Trudell has been approached at Sidetrack by students he once taught in cheer.

"I enjoy the fact that I'm not what someone would envision as a cheerleader," Trudell said, smiling. "If I send someone an email [about cheering], they usually think it is coming from a woman who is petite and blonde, but I'm not. I'm a guy who's bearded, grey and gay—and I think that's great for everyone to understand that everyone is different."

Trudell teaches at various studios in Chicago and hopes to have his own training center in the city within a few years. He can be reached at cheerleadingchicago@gmail.com.



Lee Trudell. Photo by Ross Forman

## Chicago teams struggle during ASANA Series

BY ROSS FORMAN

SAN DIEGO—It was the bottom of the seventh inning, with the Chicago Raw Energy Majors leading 8-4 in a must-win softball game here Aug. 24 in the annual Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA) World Series.

The Dallas Outcasts had runners on base in this early morning C-Division game in the loser's bracket pool play. Chicago pitcher Maryann Baran delivered a pitch, and with seemingly dramatic affect, the umpire paused, and then called the Outcasts' hitter out on strikes.

It was the final out of the game, sealing the Chicago win.

"Our team went nuts. It really was a special moment that we're still talking about [hours after the win,]" said Courtney Roberts, the Chicago Raw Energy Majors coach.

The celebration ended shortly thereafter, though. The Raw Energy Majors lost their next tournament game 4-0 to Portland GirlPlay, thus ending their World Series run.

"We had a good tournament. ... We just

didn't get the clutch hitting that, at times, we needed," Roberts said. "We got knocked out of the tournament earlier than we wanted [to be,] but we're OK with that, though not happy."

"We're already talking about the 2013 World Series in Portland."

The Raw Energy Majors went 3-1 in round-robin portion of the tournament, earning the No. 5 seed, "which we were really excited about," Roberts said.

The team; however, lost its first game in pool play on Thursday, Aug. 23, falling 6-3 to Deiderich's Diamond Divas from Orlando. "We definitely were within reach in that game, but didn't get the hits we needed," Roberts said.

The other Chicago team in C-Division also lost its first game in pool play, as the Dallas Aftershock defeated the Chicago Breeze.

The Breeze won one loser's bracket game, and then was eliminated from the tournament following a 17-8 setback to Los Angeles Really Though.

In D-Division play, the Chicago Raw Energy Minors and the Chicago Thunder T's each lost their first two pool play games, thus ending their Series.

"Typically, for whatever reason, the Chicago teams don't do very well in the ASANA World Series," said Roberts, 35, who has played in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) women's softball league for about 14 years and five World Series. "We always play in divisions that challenge us. Still, we always have fun."

That was true on and off the field. Baran, for instance, got engaged to her girlfriend, Olga Prutnikov, while at the San Diego Zoo. Ironically, the only game of the Series that Prutnikov missed was the Friday morning game, highlighted by Baran's strike out. "We re-enacted that strike out many times for her," Roberts said. "That [strike out] really was exciting."

Second baseman Megan Gibson was one of the offensive stars for the Raw Energy Majors, often connecting with hard-hitting singles. "She was really consistent and had some clutch hits in the Series," Roberts said.

Gibson earned Series MVP honors from her team.

Outfielders Amber Unruh and Katie Rutter led the Majors defensively. "Each normally plays shortstops, but stepped up big in the outfield," Roberts said.



Batter at ASANA. Photo by Ross Forman

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### THE DANGERS OF SELLING YOUR HOUSE WITH NO MONEY DOWN

**Q. My partner and I are selling our Lake Shore Drive condominium so we can retire in Florida. Our condo has been for sale for over a year but we can't seem to find a buyer.**

**A real estate investor who lives in our building agreed to pay our full asking price but wanted us to finance 100% of the purchase price. The offer is tempting because we could get our price and receive monthly payments, but we would get no money at closing. Is there any risk to us?**

**A.** On the other side of every "no money down" transaction is the seller who accepts a piece of paper for his or her property instead of cash. Typically, these sellers are older and own their property free and clear. Even though the seller may be getting his or her asking price the question is should the seller take this kind of financing? The answer is no.

There are many valid and creative strategies to help buyers finance the purchase of real estate. A seller financing part of the purchase price is a legitimate method to make real estate purchases affordable to buyers and can benefit both parties in a sale.

With the "no money down" method of real estate financing, instead of the seller receiving the bulk of the sales price at the closing and financing 10 to 20 percent of the price, the seller finances the entire purchase price for a buyer who needs no money to close. An acceptable alternative would be to sell the condo on a land contract, receiving a 10 or 20 percent down payment while financing the balance over 20 to 30 years with a five-year balloon

My advice to the couple in the question is that they should not sell their home to someone who does not have any money. Their buyer could be a big risk because he may lack the income and savings to buy the condo on conventional terms. The buyer could have bad credit, too many loans or have gone bankrupt.

Whenever a seller agrees to give up property for a promise of future payments at less than the going rate, the value of the deal is reduced. The couple would be better off selling their condo with different seller financing methods that offer real protection to the seller instead of only risk.

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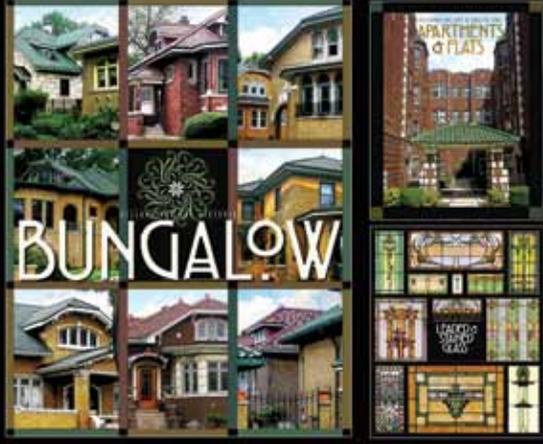
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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved 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.

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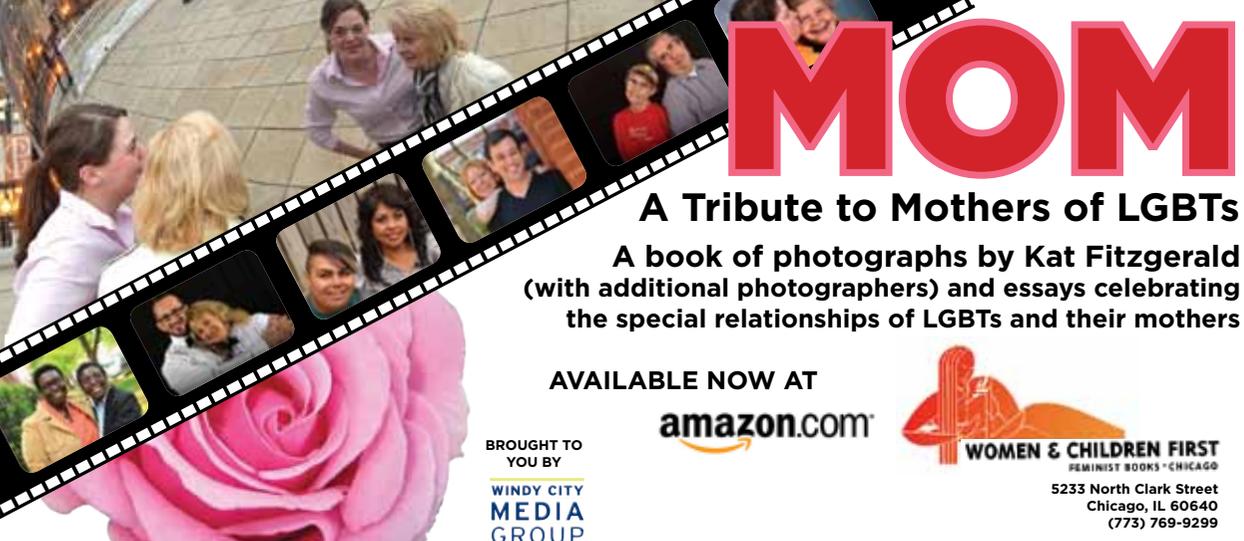
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