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WINDY CITY TIMES

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

SEP. 5, 2012

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CEO leaves Howard Brown

ANALYSIS BY YASMIN NAIR

In a stunning turn of events, Jamal Edwards' two-year tenure as CEO of Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) has reportedly come to an end. According to numerous sources, the announcement was finally made official at a staff meeting held at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 31. Windy City Times broke the news online shortly after.

HBHC released a press release at 6:42 p.m. Aug. 31 stating that the board "has accepted the resignation of President and CEO Jamal Edwards, who is leaving to pursue other opportunities." Duke Alden, of AON Corporation, will take over as interim board chair. He was not

present at the staff meeting and neither, according to several sources, were any other board members.

In a move already garnering much criticism in many quarters, the board has appointed board chair Karma Israelsen as interim president and CEO, but there is no word on how long she will remain and what her salary will be in the meantime. Edwards made \$265,000, an amount that has been controversial given his lack of experience in healthcare and that he had no experience in the nonprofit world.

There is no word on what opportunities Edwards might be pursuing, no reasons given for his unexpected resignation, and no details on how the decision to re-

place him with Israelsen was made.

The press release says, with no definite dates, that "[t]he board will announce plans at a later date regarding a search for a new president and CEO."

It is still unclear if Edwards resigned or was dismissed by the board; WCT has heard from several sources that he attempted to rescind his initial resignation but the board reportedly decided to accept it, citing the loss of the MACS grant and undue amounts of negative publicity in the past months.

There were other rumors surrounding his departure;

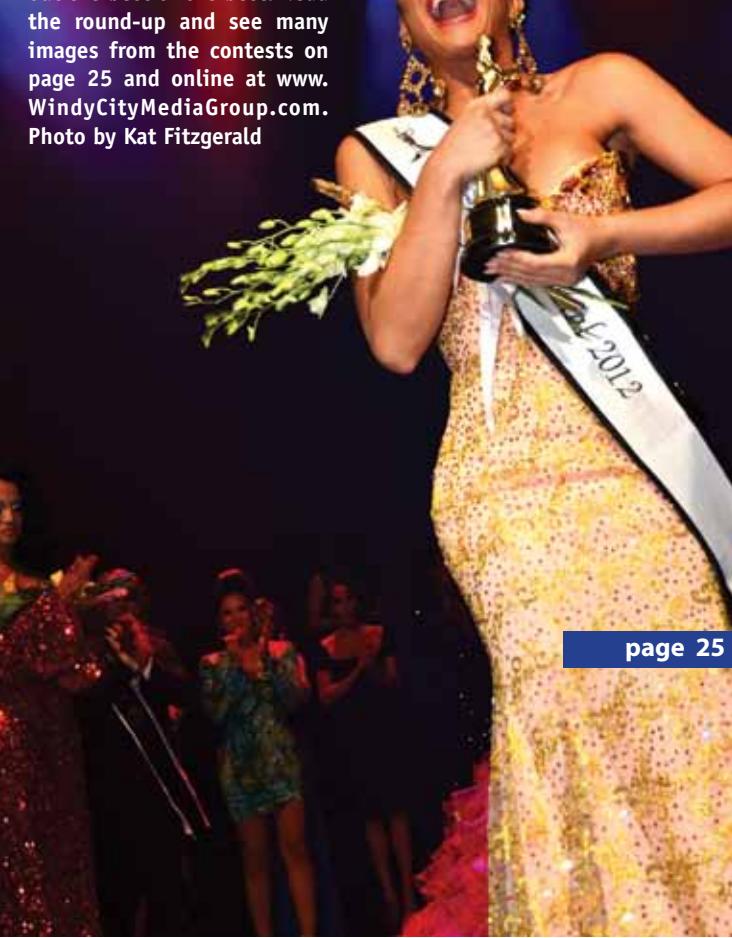
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QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

The annual Mr. and Miss Continental pageants brought out the best of the best. Read the round-up and see many images from the contests on page 25 and online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

PROVIDING 'FACE' TIME

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Local personalities and performance artists JoJo Baby (left) and Sal-E are the subjects of Getting Into Face, which captures them in many club-kid personas. JoJo talks with Windy City Times on page 21. Photo by Bernard Colbert

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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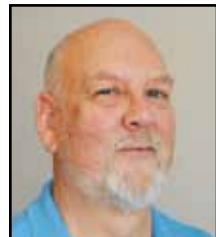
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**FEARLESS LEADER**

Read about openly gay teen Jose Aburto (left), who reflects on a recent student leadership summit in D.C.

Photo from Aburto



Jim Edminster is back with a new Fairy Gardener column.

Photo from Jim Angrabright



Read a review of Meatloaf's recent concert in our Bent Nights column.

A TAXING SITUATION

Find out where you fit in regarding the tax-paying population.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Read more about the national political conventions—including updates on the DNC throughout the week.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about The Price Is Right, Stevie Wonder and Sir Ian McKellen.

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Romney speech exempts gays from 'better future'

ANALYSIS BY CHUCK COLBERT

Mitt Romney received a rousing reception as he accepted the Republican Party's presidential nomination Aug. 30, making his way through a spirited crowd on the convention floor, approaching the podium to address delegates in the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

The choreography evoked images of the president walking through the aisles of Congress before delivering a State of the Union address. After all, Romney's remarks to GOP Convention delegates were the most important speech in his political career.

And part of the evening's up-close and personal biographical story line was to make him appear utterly presidential.

But Romney's everyman (and everywoman) appeal for a better tomorrow, both inside and outside the convention hall, stopped dead in the water for LGBT individuals.

"Mr. Chairman, delegates. I accept your nomination for president of the United States of America," he said, wasting no time in getting to the point.

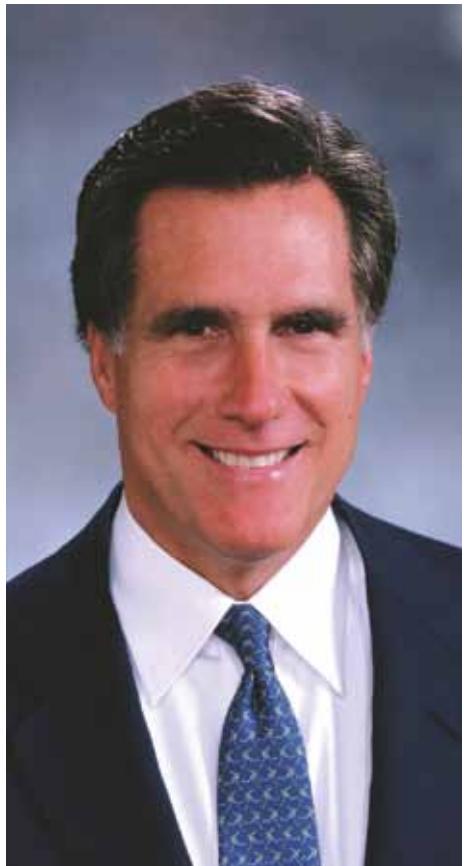
"Tonight I am asking you to join me to walk together to a better future," said Romney, sporting a bold red tie with thin blue stripes.

For nearly 40 minutes, on prime-time national television, the GOP nominee served up Ronald Reagan, "morning-in-America"-style optimism.

"We Americans have always felt a special kinship with the future," said Romney.

He spoke of Mormon faith and family, business and jobs, foreign affairs and the environment, freedom and opportunity, immigration and workforce diversity. Romney's appeal was to the GOP partisans and Tea Party adherents gathered in Florida, as well undecided and independent voters nationwide. Women and Hispanics were especially singled out for inclusion.

And in playing up traditional marriage and



Mitt Romney.

family life, Romney said, "My mom and dad gave their kids the greatest gift of all—the gift of unconditional love. They cared deeply about who we would be, and much less about what we would do.

"Unconditional love is a gift that Ann and I have tried to pass on to our sons and now to our grandchildren. All the laws and legislation in the

world will never heal this world like the loving hearts and arms of mothers and fathers. If every child could drift to sleep feeling wrapped in the love of their family—and God's love—this world would be a far more gentle and better place.

"Mom and Dad were married 64 years. And if you wondered what their secret was, you could have asked the local florist—because every day Dad gave Mom a rose, which he put on her bedside table. That's how she found out what happened on the day my father died—she went looking for him because that morning, there was no rose."

Touching the raw nerve of voter dissatisfaction and unsteady economic recovery, Romney made his case for pink slipping the president.

Blunt but not snarky, Romney put it this way: "For too many Americans, these good days are harder to come by. How many days have you woken up feeling that something really special was happening in America?"

Continuing, he said, "Many of you felt that way on Election Day four years ago. Hope and change had a powerful appeal. But tonight I'd ask a simple question: If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama? You know there's something wrong with the kind of job he's done as president when the best feeling you had was the day you voted for him."

For Romney, "The president has disappointed America because he hasn't led America in the right direction. He took office without the basic qualification that most Americans have and one that was essential to his task. He had almost no experience working in a business. Jobs to him are about government."

The president just doesn't get it, according to Romney. The name of the game is the free enterprise system, job creation, lower taxes, and less government.

"That is why every president since the Great Depression who came before the American people asking for a second term could look back at the last four years and say with satisfaction: 'You are better off today than you were four years ago,'" Romney said. "Except Jimmy Carter. And except this president."

It was a good but not a great speech, any number of TV commentators and political pundits said.

Still, many LGBT listeners would find cold comfort from what a Romney-Ryan administration has to offer.

For instance, "As president, I will protect the sanctity of life," he told delegates. "I will honor the institution of marriage. And I will guarantee America's first liberty: the freedom of religion."

If there were any dissonance between the family value of unconditional love and less than full equality for LGBT Americans, it seemed lost on Romney.

But the party platform leaves little doubt. While embracing the "principle that all Americans should be treated with respect and dignity," the GOP decries "an activist judiciary" and blames it for "court-ordered redefinition of marriage in several states," which the Republican document calls "an assault on the foundation of our society, challenging the institution which, for thousands of years in virtually every civilization, has been entrusted with the rearing of children of cultural values."

For her part, Ann Romney seemed to stick it same-sex couples.

"I read somewhere that Mitt and I have a 'storybook marriage.' Well, in the storybooks I read, there were never long, long, rainy winter afternoons in a house with five boys screaming at once. And those storybooks never seemed to have chapters called MS or breast cancer," she told delegates on Tuesday evening.

"A storybook marriage? No, not at all. What Mitt Romney and I have is a real marriage," Ann explained.

Oddly enough, Romney made no mention of his non-traditional, polygamous family ties. That would be Miles Park Romney, Mitt's great-grandfather, a devout Mormon, who had five

ONLINE AT
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NATIONAL NEWS



—Outed sheriff (left) wins GOP primary

—Lesbians killed in murder-suicide

—Pro-gay boxer withdraws support for Scott Brown

wives while living in polygamous colony in Mexico, according to Boston Globe reporters and authors, Michael Kranish and Scott Helman, in their recent book *The Real Romney*.

Even Log Cabin Republicans felt the sting of exclusion and derision with the gay exception to apple pie and the American dream for all.

"The obsessive exclusion of gay couples, including military and families, from the rights and responsibilities of marriage, combined with bizarre rhetoric about 'hate campaigns' and 'the homosexual rights agenda' are clear signs of desperation among social conservatives who know that public opinion is rapidly turning in favor of equality," stated R. Clarke Cooper, executive director for Log Cabin Republicans.

Attempts to reach Log Cabin Republicans and GOProud leadership for post-speech comments were unsuccessful, although GOProud had endorsed Romney before the convention.

But Jerame Davis of National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) offered a partisan perspective.

"Mitt Romney's speech last night capped a bizarre and meandering GOP convention filled with shallow references to 'defending' or 'honoring' marriage. What didn't make the prime-time schedule is the news that this Romney/Ryan ticket represents the most reactionary anti-LGBT platform in politics. Even ever-loyal gay Republicans had to admit defeat in their attempts to moderate the GOP at this year's convention," he said in an email correspondence.

Continuing, "While Log Cabin Republicans were bragging about their inclusion in the platform drafting process, the GOP was undercutting their work and their message by commissioning the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins to draft the platform's anti-LGBT language. There could be no more clear message that LGBT people, whether they are loyal Republican operatives or average voters, are simply not welcome in the Republican Party," Davis said.

Meanwhile, back on the convention floor, other bizarre—weird or off-kilter—rhetoric took center stage when Hollywood star Clint Eastwood, aka Dirty Harry, engaged in an imaginary dialogue with an invisible president.

Speaking to an empty chair, make-my-day Eastwood, 82, took Obama to task.

"Mr. President, how do you handle the promises that you made when you were running for election?"

Thousands of stunned OMG tweets ensued.

Continuing, Eastwood pressed the invisible Obama why he had not closed the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"What do you mean, 'Shut up?'" Eastwood mumbled.

"What do you want me to tell Mr. Romney?" he asked, with an uncomfortable audience, including ill-at-ease Ann Romney, looking on.

"I can't tell him that. He can't do that to himself," Eastwood said. "You're getting as bad as Biden."

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Sights during the Republican National Convention. Photos by Bob Olayas

Gay Catholics differ on Dolan's RNC prayer

BY CHUCK COLBERT

After the red, white, and blue balloons and confetti dropped at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, did it really get worse when the Roman Catholic archbishop of New York City, the Most Rev. Timothy Dolan, offered a closing prayer?

While one gay Democratic partisan voiced disappointment over Dolan's benediction, gay Catholics offered mixed views on just what the cardinal signaled to the faithful.

"May we know the truth of your creation, respecting the laws of nature and nature's God and not seek to replace it with idols of our own making," prayed Dolan, who is also president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Give us the good sense not to cast aside the boundaries of righteous living you first inscribed on our hearts even before inscribing them on tablets of stone. May you mend our every flaw, confirming our soul in self-control, our liberty in law," Dolan said.

One view is that Dolan offered a subtle theological take on gays as freaks of nature, even idolaters in advocating-same-sex marriage.

Gay Catholics hear this all the time, said Charles Martel, president of the advocacy group Catholics for Marriage Equality, natural law theory used as an argument to "justify denial of civil marriage rights and benefits to same-sex couples."

"The reality is that gay people, too, are part of God's nature, and therefore we are a part of the laws of nature. We need to remind Cardinal Dolan and the Church that God created gay people to be fully who we are; we are not a 'mistake,'" explained Martel over the telephone and in e-mail correspondence.

Like Martel, National Stonewall's Davis also found Cardinal Dolan's presence at and prayer offered during the Republican National Convention disquieting.

"I am beyond disappointed at the selection of Cardinal Dolan to give the benediction at the convention and NSD was among the first to lodge a complaint with the DNC when the news was announced," Davis said in email correspondence.

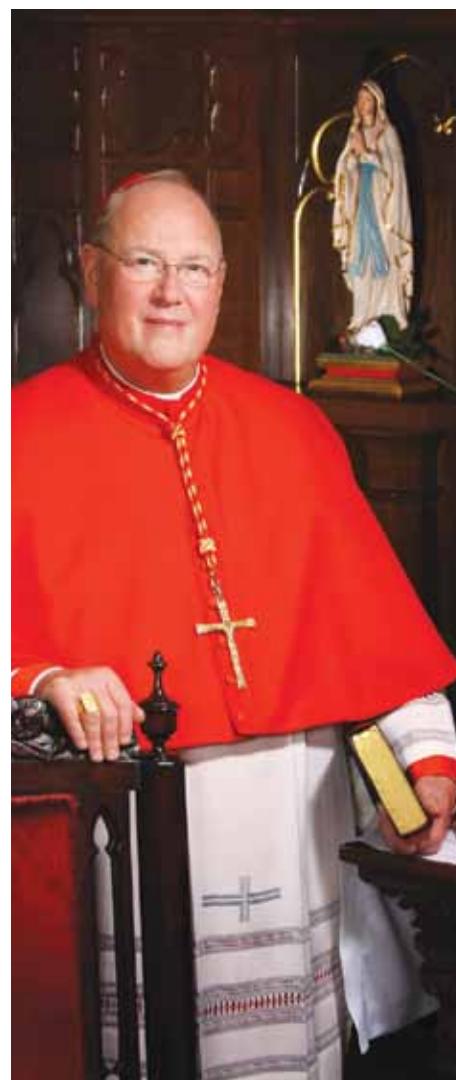
"Dolan has been one of the most virulent anti-LGBT leaders and has said some pretty ugly things about us. Even so, there is a broader context here. This Democratic convention is, by far, the most LGBT-inclusive convention in history. With nearly 540 official LGBT participants, the adoption of a plank endorsing the freedom to marry, and speeches by prominent LGBT Americans, there should be no doubt about where this party and this president put their loyalties," explained Davis.

Still, "Cardinal Dolan is the highest-ranking Catholic in the US, and he speaks to a combined congregation of nearly 80 million Catholics in this country. Denying him the opportunity to speak would have been an insult to millions of those Catholics and other people of faith. Right or wrong, we give religious beliefs a wide berth in America," said Davis.

Joe Murray of Chicago's Rainbow Sash Movement offered a different perspective. "The cardinal's very presence" was "of itself a political act," he emailed.

However, "What stood out to me was no mention of gay marriage or abortion his two hot-button issues. It will be interesting to see if he will use the same prayer at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte next or whether he will change some words," said Murray.

"The prayer itself was kind of moderate. The issues he covered were respect for all human life, remember Jesus' example of the preferential option for the poor; and preserve all the blessings of liberty in our nation particularly freedom



Cardinal Dolan. Official photo

of religion," said Murray.

"The prayer itself [also] seemed to indicate a moderate approach, which surprised me. The Republicans invited him and he accepted knowing full well that they are kindred spirits, outspoken opponents of President Obama on matters like abortion rights, gay marriage and health insurance coverage for birth control. It would not surprise me if his prayer also surprised the GOP," explained Murray.

"That said I don't think the Cardinal saw his presence at the convention as being pastoral. He has been very blunt about saying, 'We are called to be very active, very informed and very involved in politics.' But that was not the tone last night," Murray said.

"From a LGBT Catholic perspective I see this as indication that in the cultural wars Dolan is recognizing public opinion is overwhelmingly opposed to his far right position on the cultural hot button issues, and this might be an indication that he is trying to move his position to a more moderate one. What can I say I believe in the Holy Spirit," Murray added.

Similarly, Francis DeBernardo, executive director of the Maryland-based New Ways Ministry, a pro-gay group for LGBT Catholics, their friends, families, and the Church, viewed the prayer favorable light.

"Cardinal Dolan does not mention anything about LGBT issues, which I think is a good thing," explained DeBernardo. "Some people may think that his mention of natural law refers to lesbian and gay people or our society's move towards marriage equality, but I do not agree. Lesbian and gay people are well within the bounds of nature's law and the desire to live as a committed couple is a perfectly natural thing to do."

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U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill. Official headshot

Rep. Aaron Schock talks marriage issues, storms off interview

U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., talked with Buzzfeed.com about social issues and this year's election.

When asked if he supports the Federal Marriage Amendment, he initially said he supported it, but then added he "ha[s]n't really thought too much about it" and would "have to read it."

Schock also said, "There are pro-life Democrats, there are pro-choice Republicans. For people who wake up and that's their single issue—whether it be abortion or gay rights or guns or any of those single issues—if that's

their sole issue, then I'm not sure either party really has an ability to get that voter. But, I think what the last election showed was the bigger issue that matters is the economy."

However, when asked about the ACLU's and Lambda Legal's marriage-equality lawsuits brought in Illinois, Schock said he was unaware of their existence: "That's all news to me."

In a separate interview with out Sirius host Michelangelo Signorile, Schock was asked about his own sexuality. AmericaBlog.com reported that the congressman stormed off and refused to answer. In fact, Signorile tweeted, "Rep. Aaron Schock, who voted against DADT repeal, said it is 'ridiculous and inappropriate' to ask if he is gay."

Later, Signorile posted, "...and said he thus wouldn't answer, but then did say that he is not gay, before storming off."

Other GOP-related news:

—Billionaire businessman David Koch, who with his brother Howard is spending millions to elect Republican candidates, made a somewhat surprising statement recently: He supports marriage equality, Advocate.com reported. This means he differs with the official platform the GOP adopted at its national convention in Tampa, Fla. In 1980, Koch was the vice presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party.

—Undocumented and LGBT youth disrupted Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan's Republican National Convention farewell speech at the Lakeland Linder Regional Airport by shouting "We want the DREAM Act" and "We want full equality," according to a joint release from GetEQUAL and the DRM Capitol Group. "As an undocumented and LGBT American, Romney's speech was an insult toward our communities," said Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez, GetEQUAL's national field director.

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DNC 2012

Milk: Obama is 'no-brainer' for LGBT community

BY MATT COMER,
EDITOR OF GOQNOTES.COM

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—President Barack Obama's campaign has put a premium on North Carolina, a swing state that turned blue in 2008 for the first time since Jimmy Carter first ran for president in 1976. Placing the Democratic National Convention in North Carolina's largest city was no accident, but the campaign is doing much more to ensure the state remains in Obama's column come November.

Convention and campaign officials on the ground have used the national political event to mobilize volunteers for the president's reelection bid. Members of the public seeking credentials to attend Obama's renomination speech at Bank of America Stadium Aug. 30 were required to complete at least three different, three-hour volunteer shifts.

The Obama campaign is also reaching out to key constituents, including LGBT voters. Campaign surrogate Stuart Milk, co-founder of the



Stuart Milk. Photo by Jennifer Hogan/Hogan Imaging

Harvey Milk Foundation named in his late uncle's name, was called to Charlotte last week. The campaign flew him up from Florida to speak at the annual Charlotte's annual LGBT Pride festival last weekend.

Milk said that choosing Obama this November is a "no-brainer" for members of the LGBT community. He's been inspired by Obama and his administration's work toward equality since first meeting the president three summers ago.

"The first lady said, 'We have a lot of work to do,'" Milk recalled. "And, the president said, 'We will get it done.' Everything we talked about, they've gotten it done."

The Obama Administration, Milk said, has been a source of "never-ending and consistent support for the LGBT community."

The support is not just given at home. Internationally, Obama's pro-equality stances have had an impact.

"That often gets lost," Milk said. "When they give me speaking points, they never mention or tout what they've done globally but I can see the faces of all the young people I've met in Budapest or Ankara and in Istanbul and in El Sal-

dor who hear the president supporting them and they feel connected."

In contrast, Republicans have offered no reason for LGBT voters to cast their support toward the GOP ticket.

"We haven't even heard anything even remotely inclusive from the other side," Milk said. "We have too many young people who die everyday because they don't feel included. We have too many who can't celebrate their relationship and get the full benefits of first-class citizenship because of what this Republican-led Congress has done."

North Carolina, among other states, will be critical to Obama's success, said Milk. In fact, Milk believes the Tar Heel State's electoral votes—15 in all—will be among several key deciding factors this fall.

"North Carolina is one of the most important states," Milk asserted. "It is a state that was carried by just a few thousand votes [in 2008]. It is critical that we win in North Carolina in order to keep the White House."

Charlotte's local LGBT community prepares for DNC

BY MATT COMER

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Volunteers and business owners in the LGBT community have been hard at work ensuring their visitors and guests during the week of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) receive star treatment.

At The LGBT Community Center of Charlotte, staffers and board members teamed up to give away 20 credentials to LGBT bloggers and others. The credentials will offer access to co-working and event space in Uptown organized by The PPL (theppl.us), an effort to involve independent artists, bloggers and citizen journalists in convention activities.

"This is a great time for our voice to be heard," said O'Neale Atkinson, operations manager for the center, located at the NC Music Factory in uptown Charlotte. "This is historic. Something like this has never happened in Charlotte before and we'll have national attention throughout this week and we want to make sure that

Get more info about goings-on at the 2012 Democratic National Convention online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

we aren't just there but that we actually have a voice and it is being heard."

Atkinson said the center will also be open for extended hours.

"This is an opportunity for us to gain visibility not just for the center but for the whole community," he said. "We're definitely going to try to take advantage of the opportunity by making the center as accessible as possible throughout the week."

The center, usually open only in the evenings for events and for public drop-ins, will be open each day, 12-8 p.m., during the week of the convention. Center organizers are also planning on

Nearly 1,000 attend LGBT welcome party

BY MATT COMER,
EDITOR OF GOQNOTES.COM

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Organizers of the Unity Through Community LGBT welcome event for the Democratic National Convention said nearly 1,000 people attended their special event Sept. 2, held at the new North Carolina Dance Theatre building on South Tryon Street, just blocks away from official convention venue sites in uptown Charlotte.

Among the guests were recognizable names like former Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese, Democratic National Committee Treasurer Andy Tobias, National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director Jerame Davis and his partner, Bil Browning of Bilerico.com. Also present were Campus Pride Executive Director Shane Windmeyer and several Human Rights Campaign board members, including Meghan Stabler. Also, according to blogger Joe Jervis, other big names in the LGBT community were also present, including former Empire State Pride Agenda Executive Director Brian Ellner and Clinton White House advisor Richard Socarides.

On the local front, openly gay Charlotte City Councilmember LaWana Mayfield and openly gay Chapel Hill, N.C., Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt attended the party, as did openly gay North Carolina state Rep. Marcus Brandon and Charlotte City Councilmember Patsy Kinsey, who represents one of the most diverse and gayest districts in the city. Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, popular with LGBT voters, welcomed those in attendance to the city.

Organizer Craig Snider, one of dozens of locals who came together to plan the party, said the event bested all expectations. Several delegates from across the country, he said, told him they were pleased with the welcome which defied all their expectations.



Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx at the gathering. Photo by David Lari/Q Notes

extended hours Sept. 1, the night DNC officials will host visiting media for a welcome party. Atkinson said the center will provide journalists with complimentary refreshments and information about the local community. Concerns on Aug. 29 that the open house might be canceled were quickly allayed after a local media partner stepped up to provide LGBT Center staff with passes to the media event.

During the week of the convention, Atkinson said refreshments and other services like work space and free Wi-Fi will be available to visitors.

In other parts of Uptown, Hartigan's Irish Pub—a lesbian-owned restaurant, bar and club popular with LGBT clientele—is preparing for a big event Thursday, Sept. 6. That night, President Barack Obama will give his nomination speech at Bank of America Stadium. Afterward, the entire Maryland delegation will have the opportunity to celebrate at Hartigan's.

"The DNC is going to be huge news," co-owner Jill Phillips said with excitement. But she's concerned about business before that Thursday. Located right next to Bank of America Stadium, Phillips said security checkpoints, traffic and street closures might keep many of her regulars away.

"With the traffic, the proximity will hurt us before the Maryland delegation gets there," she said. "A lot of people are going to stay away. We might have some specials and decorations to celebrate the DNC being here but we're just looking forward to the Maryland delegates."

Phillips said she'll enjoy the experience, one

many have said is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She expects an influx of regular customers back to her business the weekend after the convention.

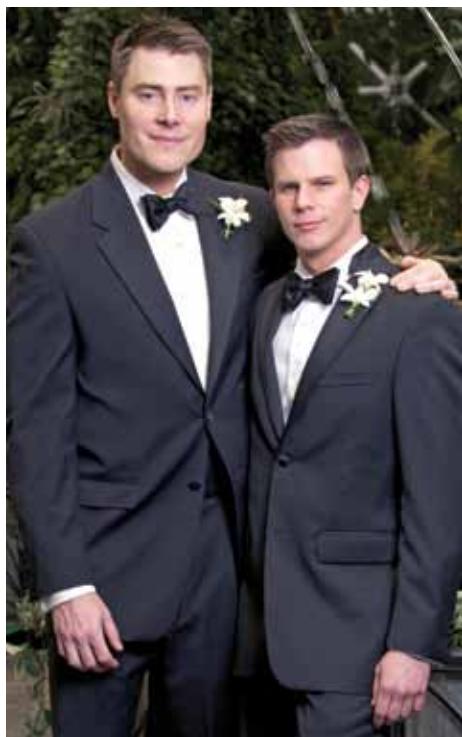
Get more information on extended hours and other LGBT Community Center of Charlotte services during the DNC at www.gaycharlotte.com.

LGBT participation at DNC an all-time high

National Stonewall Democrats (NSD) announced it has identified at least 534 official LGBT participants for the 2012 Democratic National Committee Convention in Charlotte, N.C., this week. This number of participants is a record, and represents a marked increase in LGBT participation from four years ago in Denver, where just more than 350 LGBT participants were identified.

"What an amazing and inspiring convention this will be," said Jerame Davis, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats. "With over 530 LGBT participants identified for this year's convention, we not only set a new record for LGBT participation in a national convention, we have sent the clearest message possible that the Democratic Party is the party of inclusion."

There is at least one LGBT delegate from every state—the first time that has happened.



Michael Carr (right) with partner Fred Bachhuber. Photo by Dave Ouano

Former Chicagoan running for Colorado state Senate

Colorado is experiencing history as two gay candidates are battling for a spot in the state Senate, according to U.S. News & World Report.

In the state's 31st district—which includes parts of Denver—openly gay Republican Michael Carr is opposing incumbent Democrat Pat Steadman.

Carr was put on the ticket after the original candidate dropped out, and said the party approached him to run. The Colorado GOP said it would run "whoever was qualified."

Carr lived in Chicago, where he was president of the Illinois chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, before moving to Colorado. He and partner Fred Bachhuber were united Jan. 21 at Navy Pier.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which works to elect LGBT lawmakers, has already endorsed Steadman, who has also worked as a lobbyist. Carr is applying to earn the group's co-endorsement.



Deb Mell (right) and wife Christin Baker. Photo courtesy of the couple

Mell recovering from breast-cancer surgery

State Rep. Deborah Mell, D-Chicago, is recovering from surgery three months after announcing she had Stage 1 invasive breast cancer, her doctors at the University of Chicago Medicine said in a statement.

Mell, 44, came to the University of Chicago Medicine in July for a second opinion after she was diagnosed with a small, early stage cancer in June. On Aug. 10, she had a bilateral mastectomy with immediate reconstruction, and is awaiting a second-stage reconstructive procedure. After that, she will take tamoxifen—a drug that blocks the effects of estrogen—for

five years to help prevent a recurrence.

"Rep. Mell is doing extremely well," said her surgeon, Nora Jaskowiak, M.D., associate professor of surgery at the University of Chicago Medicine. "She's out of the woods. She is expected to do very well."

Calif. Assembly approves ban on conversion therapy

The California Assembly voted 52-21 Aug. 28 to pass a bill that will protect LGBT youth from treatments by mental health practitioners who say they can change sexual orientation or gender expression, according to a release that the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and Equality California co-issued.

NCLR, Equality California, Gaylesta, Mental Health America of Northern California, Lambda Legal and the Courage Campaign co-sponsored the measure (Senate Bill 1172). State Sen. Ted Lieu authored the legislation to bar so-called conversion or reparative therapy.

NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell said, "The time is long overdue for the legislature to take action to stop the severe harms being inflicted on young people and their families by these dangerous practices. ... This bill will literally save lives. California youth deserve protection from this terrible abuse."

Federal lawsuit filed on behalf of gay student

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and the law firms of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Waples & Hanger filed a federal lawsuit against Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) on behalf of Darnell "Dynasty" Young, a 17-year-old gay student.

According to a statement, they allege that IPS exercised "discriminatory treatment" and failed to protect Young from "severe and relentless harassment at Arsenal Technical High School throughout the 2011-2012 school year."

The statement continues, "Rather than address the constant harassment and abuse suffered by ... Young, school administrators blamed the harassment on Young's gender nonconforming clothes and 'flamboyant' behavior. Ultimately, IPS expelled Dynasty instead of taking effective measures to protect him from the harassment."

Young made national news earlier this year after being expelled after firing a stun gun in the air as a warning to anti-gay bullies. His mother, Chelisa Grimes, said she sent her son to school with the stun gun because she felt school officials had failed to protect him.

IPS ended Young's expulsion in early August, but sent him to the New Horizons Alternative School, which describes itself on its website as a school for "students who cannot adjust to a traditional school setting."

FDA OKs HIV treatment

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Stribild, a new once-a-day HIV treatment from Gilead Sciences that contains four different drugs in one pill, the New York Times reported.

However, AIDS activists are criticizing the price Gilead plans to charge for the drug: about \$28,500 annually. The advocates say that the price puts additional pressure on public-health programs. AIDS Healthcare Foundation President Michael Weinstein said, "That's shockingly irresponsible. It's just unsustainable at these levels."

Two of the ingredients in Stribild, emtricitabine and tenofovir, are sold as a dual combination known as Truvada. The other two drugs in Stribild—which have not yet been approved for use independently—are elvitegravir, which is a type of drug known as an integrase inhibitor, and cobicistat, which enhances the effect of elvitegravir.

Cappleman safe after apparent knife chase

BY KATE SOSIN

Chicago's 46th Ward alderman is safe after being chased by a woman with a knife, he said.

James Cappleman, one of the city's two openly gay aldermen, said that a woman chased him after he called police on her for public drinking twice Aug. 24.

"She got mad, reached into her blouse and started chasing me," Cappleman said.

According to Cappleman, he called police on the woman for drinking in a public way around 4 p.m. She was ticketed, and Cappleman returned to his office. When he walked the neighborhood two hours later, he saw the woman drinking again and signaled to her that he was calling police.

The woman allegedly chased him, while witnesses told Cappleman she had a knife.

"She has a history of pulling a knife and holding it to people's necks," Cappleman said. He added that the woman pushed another man, who bumped into Cappleman and caused him to fall into a flower bed.

Cappleman said the woman, who goes by both Charmane Boone and Shermain Miles, has 448 arrests.

This is the second violent incident involving Cappleman recently. He also filed charges against a woman who allegedly pushed him and threw bread crumbs at him.

Cappleman said that both women have repeatedly harassed ward residents and that the criminal justice system has failed them. He wants the two to enter programs that break



Ald. James Cappleman. Photo by Kate Sosin

those arrest cycles.

The alderman recently sold his car and relies on public transportation, walking and biking to get around. He frequently walks the ward on Friday nights, when public drinking is common occurrence, he said.

Cappleman is a former social worker and he has faced unsafe situations before, he said. Still, he wants his recent experiences to draw attention to the issues facing 46th Ward residents.

"I'm used to being in some pretty tough circumstances, but I'm going to be 60 in a few months," he said. "I don't want to be killed over public drinking."



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Homofrecuencia marks a decade in Latino LGBTQ radio

BY STEPHEN SONNEVELD

"We are a cry of liberty, strength and willpower—just and necessary. We are Homofrecuencia."

Ten years ago, that phrase emanated from a publicly funded radio station in Pilsen and heralded an important chapter in Chicago's queer history as well as a neighborhood's transformation.

Homofrecuencia was America's first Spanish-language radio program focusing on LGBT issues, but show creator Jorge Valdivia was initially met with resistance from the station. As Radio Arte's then-27-year-old assistant general manager, and someone the gay and lesbian youth at the station confided in, Valdivia would not be deterred.

Together, they spent months conceptualizing the program, which Valdivia boldly christened Homofrecuencia ("Homofrequency"). He told Windy City Times, "Deep inside, we were all petrified of coming out on the air, [which] was unheard of in our community, especially in Spanish language media and even more so at a radio station with windows in the studios. But that's exactly what we did on August 12th, 2002, at 9PM."

Tania Unzueta, a former producer and host of the program from 2003-2006, said, "For me, it was one of the only spaces where we could talk about gay history in Spanish, [and] about those intersections of being Latino, being an immigrant and being queer."

Unzueta was one of WRTE's student workers when Homofrecuencia first aired. When she came out and began to recognize herself as part of the LGBT community, she soon joined the production.

"I remember doing pieces on the importance of Stonewall and what immigration reform meant for people who are HIV-positive," she said. "Both as a producer and as a listener, for me, it was a place where we could expose some of those big LGBT issues, but also think about how they specifically affected the Latino community."

The response from young listeners was immediate. Valdivia remembered a student from another show at the station who tearfully confided his thanks for broadcasting the program. "He insisted that there was plenty of reason for being grateful," Unzueta said. "He said it made him feel connected to the gay community and that it was extremely hard to feel connected living on the South Side of Chicago. He went on to



Jorge Valdivia. Photo by Emmanuel Garcia

tell me that he had just come out and that his parents were not as accepting as he had hoped. I handed him a list of resources of places to call if he needed. That moment happened for a reason. It reminded me why we started doing Homofrecuencia to begin with: to help Latino youth have a sense of belonging, to give them a sense of community."

Although Homofrecuencia was created to be safe place, those windows exposing the producers caused some anxiety, and there was initially fear of protests against the program. What happened next in Pilsen, no one could have predicted.

According to Valdivia, the radio show "paved the way for an openly queer identity in Pilsen [and] marked the beginning of a sense of community for LGBTQ Latinos in Pilsen and Little Village. Homofrecuencia, in many ways, has helped bridge two communities. It's helped create a safe space where we can embrace being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer AND Latino."

Besides reaching their target audience, pro-

ducers were surprised to find that straight listeners didn't reach for the dial. Valdivia recalled one in particular, Israel, who listened with his son because he wanted him "to grow up accepting and informed."

In 2004, Unzueta joined Valdivia and other Homofrecuencia producers to create "Queer Prom." She had seen other LGBT proms, but not one specific to Latinos. Homofrecuencia and Radio Arte have made it an annual affair, where hundreds of young LGBT couples now share their special night at Chicago's National Museum of Mexican Art.

"For the past two years we've had over 250 youth. Not including volunteers and community members who come to support," said current Homofrecuencia producer Emmanuel Garcia. "It has grown tremendously."

This year, the event was held May 11, and advertisements proudly proclaimed it as a "space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth and their allies to celebrate fearlessly and unapologetically who they are, our communities and prom."

When RadioArte.org first began broadcasting Homofrecuencia, the small station with the 14-mile radio signal range tracked 40,000 global listeners a month, from South America to Asia. Garcia stated, "We've interviewed folks in different parts of Latin America—including Venezuela, which was the first Latin American country to marry a same-sex couple."

As for creating the show week in and week out, "We have an editorial meeting on Wednesday to talk about how the Monday show is coming along and where everyone is with their as-

signment [segments]. Most of the pieces are pre-recorded and go through a rigorous editing process."

Sometimes those segments become stories themselves.

Nancy Hernandez, a former member of the show, used Homofrecuencia as the means to come out to her parents. Valdivia remembered she "pre-recorded what she wanted to tell them and gave it to us to play on cue. She called us like we had planned and we played her story. It was one of the best coming out stories ever."

Tania Unzueta's mother used to pick her up from the studio, and was able to peer into those studio windows and watch her daughter produce the program. "I remember her saying to me once, 'Just don't let them convince you.' And I know that what she was referring to was don't let them convince you of homosexuality," she laughed.

"We talked about that since, and talked through a lot of the misconceptions that she had. Actually, my mom became a listener at some point because her and I didn't really talk about my LGBT identity. But the radio show became our way of her listening to the stories and her learning about LGBT history without me even realizing she was doing it at the time."

Valdivia is proud Homofrecuencia "helped bring visibility to the vibrant, Latino queer community." Before long, the FM signal will be gone, and the show will continue in digital formats.

A lot has changed in 10 years.

Homofrecuencia broadcasts on 90.5 FM Radio Arte and online at www.radioarte.org on Mondays at 6 p.m.

Affinity needs to meet goal to get \$10K bonus

An anonymous donor called Affinity Community Services Aug. 30 to say that s/he will make a \$10,000 donation to the organizations' Scholars Campaign drive if Affinity met its \$25,000 goal on Indiegogo.com.

The campaign drive runs through Monday, Sept. 10. The three-year grant that funded the Scholars Program ended this summer. In preparation for this, however, Affinity has been seeking alternative foundation funding for the past two years.

The program launched in 2009, is a service-learning program for Black women 18-24 who self-identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer.

Interested persons can visit www.indiegogo.com/ACSScholars by Sept. 10 to contribute to the campaign. Those with questions should email executivedirector@affinity95.org or call 773-450-2444.

Personal PAC luncheon to feature Gloria Allred

Personal PAC—a bipartisan group aimed at electing pro-choice candidates to state and local offices in Illinois—is featuring famed attorney Gloria Allred at its 19th Annual Awards Luncheon.

Allred, an active feminist, founded and is currently serving as president of the Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund.

In addition, Personal PAC will honor Marjorie Craig Benton, who co-founded the Chicago Foundation for Women, the Women's Issues Network and The Peace Museum. Jon O'Brien—the president of Catholics for Choice, a pro-choice organization advocating for sexual and reproductive rights from a standpoint of culture, faith, justice and morality—will also be honored.

The event will take place at 12 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Ticket prices start at \$150; call 312-422-0005 or visit www.PersonalPac.org.

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State lawmakers file brief against marriage equality

BY KATE SOSIN

A group of Illinois lawmakers has weighed in on two lawsuits that seek same-sex marriage in the state.

Headed by Sens. Kirk Dillard and Bill Haine, 11 members of the state's General Assembly have filed an *amicus curiae* brief in support of the ban on same-sex marriage. The 19-page document argues that the ban is constitutional and that lawmakers, not courts, should determine the fate of the law.

"Since there is no clear constitutional support for a right to same-sex marriage in Illinois, a judicial ruling that such is required in the State would clearly contravene the principal of separation of powers, giving precedence to the opinions of the judiciary over the enumerated provisions of the constitution," the brief reads.

The document goes on to argue that children are better off raised by heterosexual parents and that religious institutions could face persecution if same-sex marriage were made legal. The brief references recent opposition by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Ald. Proco Joe Moreno to the construction of a Logan Square Chick-fil-A

after the chain's COO made anti-gay comments, as an example.

Both the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal filed lawsuits on behalf of 25 same-sex couples that want to marry in Illinois. While the suits name Cook County Clerk David Orr, Orr and State's Attorney Anita Alvarez have refused to defend the ban. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has also intervened in support of same-sex marriage.

The brief supports a motion to dismiss the cases filed by conservative law firm Thomas More Society on behalf of two intervening county clerks. Circuit Court Judge Sophia Hall must approve the motion before it becomes part of the case.

The Thomas More Society praised the filing in a press statement, noting that the Catholic Conference of Illinois has also filed a brief in the case that argues against marriage equality.

The lawmakers that submitted the brief include Sens. Matt Murphy, Bill Brady, Darrin LaHood; and Reps. Richard Morthland, Paul Evans, Michael Connelly, David Reis, Joseph Lyons and Patti Bellock.

Prairie Avenue, which will also feature games, entertainment and an arts-and-crafts fair.

For more info, call 312-401-2688 or email pdna.chicago@gmail.com.

Foreclosure fraud forum Sept. 9 in Skokie

Lynn Szymoniak—a prominent attorney and foreclosure activist featured on 60 Minutes' Loeb Award-winning segment "The Next Housing Shock"—will tell her story Sunday, Sept. 9, at the Ethical Humanist Society of Chicago, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie.

Szymoniak battled some of the biggest banks in the country, exposed major unethical practices, saved her own home and stymied banks from foreclosing on countless others. Her efforts resulted in a \$95 million judgment, with Szymoniak personally receiving an additional \$9 million compensation.

The program, "Exposing Massive Home Foreclosure Fraud," will start at 10:30 a.m. It will include a question-and-answer period, followed by an open discussion. There is no charge; the program is open to the public.

See <http://ethicalhuman.org>.

200th anniversary of battle to be commemorated

The 200-year anniversary of the Battle of Fort Dearborn will be commemorated at the site of the 1812 battle. Several events will be held Saturday, Sept. 8, on Prairie Avenue and 18th Street in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood, at 2:30 p.m.

The commemoration will include, among other things, the Chicago History Museum's chief historian providing a historical overview. This event will be part of the 6th Annual Festival on

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Chicago House's 'One Night Stand' Sept. 15

HIV/AIDS agency Chicago House will host the all-new fundraiser "One Night Stand" Saturday, Sept. 15, at 8 p.m. at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave.

Disco icon Linda Clifford will be the featured performer. There will also be everything from go-go boys to DJ Matthew Harvat.

For tickets (which are \$35-\$200), see www.ChicagoHouse.org/event_onenumberstand.html.

Lambda Legal's 'Into the Woods' Sept. 15 in Mich.

Lambda Legal's 16th annual celebration of summer and civil rights will take place at the home of Keith Stolte and Brian Ortiz in Union Pier, Mich.

The event will take place Saturday, Sept. 15, 6-9:30 p.m. CT, and will feature the Elaine Dame Jazz Quartet.

Tickets are \$150-\$250; see www.lambdalegal.org/intothewoods. Lambda Legal offers round-trip motorcoach transportation from Chicago to Into the Woods for \$25 per person (in addition to your ticket or sponsorship purchase).

Reservations are first come, first serve; contact Jeff Souva at jsouva@lambdalegal.org or 312-663-4413, ext. 335.

Photos wanted for 'A Day with HIV'

In order to mark A Day with HIV, Sept. 21, Positively Aware is asking people to take digital photographs to record a moment of their day that will focus the world's attention on the daily trials and triumphs of people living with HIV.

Photos need to be submitted by Sept. 25 on the A Day with HIV website (www.adaywithhiv.com). People can follow A Day with HIV's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ADayWithHIV) or on Twitter @A_Day_With_HIV

(https://twitter.com/a_day_with_hiv) to see updates and selected photographs.

Ndegeocello at 'Garden' Sept. 14 at River East

Howard Brown Health Center/Lesbian Community Care Project's annual "Garden of Eve" gala will take place Friday, Sept. 14, 6 p.m.-12 a.m., at the River East Art Center, 435 E. Illinois St.

The VIP reception (hosted by Ted Allen of the Food Network's Chopped) is 6-7 p.m., with the gala taking place thereafter. Grammy nominee Me'Shell Ndegeocello and singer Chris Bruce will perform.

Tickets are \$250 to the reception (\$300 after July 31) and \$125 to the gala (\$150 after July 31). See www.HowardBrown.org.

Those interested in getting involved in the event should email willardd@howardbrown.org or call 773-572-8368.



Garden of Eve last year. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



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CEO from cover

WCT is attempting to verify these.

In related news that does not appear to be directly linked to the Edwards announcement, Lara Brooks, senior-most staff member at the Broadway Youth Center, a program of HBHC, has resigned. She confirmed the news in an email to WCT: "I will be resigning from Howard Brown Health Center on Sept. 14 and will be joining the Chicago House team in October as project manager of the TransLife Center, an emerging program that will eventually provide housing, drop in services, and employment support to Transgender, Two Spirit, Gender Variant, and Gender Non-Conforming people."

Rumors about Edwards' departure and Brooks' resignation have been swirling in the community for the past two weeks. When asked, repeatedly, about both, HBHC denied the news, saying that it was incorrect.

In the meantime, rumors are also afoot that several other staff members have gone, under circumstances that are still the object of speculation. Among them is Will Raj, vice president and chief administrative officer. Rumors also swirled that two of his subordinates, Jeremy Carr and Jeff Ard, were let go by Edwards before his own departure. The departure of so many members of the technical support staff could mean that the agency has been brought to a standstill, given that data and information management is a crucial part of its business.

When asked about his departure, Raj would neither confirm nor deny the facts to WCT. HBHC denied it outright, saying that the information was "incorrect." There are rumors that Raj has been reinstated, but nothing has been confirmed.

An email sent to Israelsen and other board members, in the wake of initial rumors about Jamal Edwards' departure was responded to by Edwards, who denied he was leaving. Israelsen has consistently not responded to WCT queries and requests for interviews.

A tumultuous history

This final announcement comes at the end of a period that has been clouded with doubts even as it began with much promise after initial news that the agency was in severe financial crisis. In early 2010, then-CEO Michael Cook and Mark Joslyn, then chief financial officer, resigned and were let go, respectively, under a cloud of allegations of financial mismanagement. At the time, Edwards was lead counsel pro bono to the board and, to the surprise of many, became the executive director after allegedly having first declared, according to several sources, that he would only be an interim appointment.

In April of this year, HBHC held a press conference to declare that it now had a \$1.2-million surplus. Much of that, according to the organization, was due to its pharmacy program and profits from the Brown Elephant, its retail store that sells second-hand items.

However, such notable achievements have come at the cost of cutting healthcare for staff at all three Brown Elephant locations, most of whom have been turned into part-time employees in order to save on their healthcare costs. At the same time, Jamal Edwards' salary in 2011 was \$265,000. HBHC never responded to our query about how much it actually saved by cutting employee health care.

While Edwards has consistently reported on the positive financial developments at the organization (which will be thoroughly reported upon here in the upcoming weeks) his tenure has been marked by several departures on all levels, nearly 60 by most counts. They included high-level and respected medical experts like Dr. Rob Garofalo, whose work on trans adolescent sexual health is considered groundbreaking. They also included people hand-picked by Edwards, such as Editha Paras, his first chosen chief financial officer and Chuck Benya, his chief development officer who was also made a vice president.

In addition, Edwards' management style ap-



Jamal Edwards. Photo by Ed Negron

peared hostile and combative, even when he was not faced with direct threats. WCT broke the story of his having sent an email in May 2011 to a yahoo listserv set up for area non-profit CEOs. In it, he wrote, "It's come to my attention that a few of our former employees—and 'former' for very good reasons—may have been seeking employment with some of your agencies. ... Many of you know that since I joined HBHC we've had to do a lot of clean up, coming out of a very troubled past. Please feel free to check with me before hiring any senior level person who list[s] HBHC as a former employer or mentions as a reference or other affiliate. Email, call [...], snail mail, is fine. I'll be happy to share what I know. After having a few recently of my own, I'd be happy to help others avoid a bad experience if I can. Hope we can all do that in return."

According to several sources, this only confirmed a general staff-wide concern that Edwards not only bore grudges but would actively work to stand in the way of even former employees. Benya was among those who left before the email was sent out, and thus one of its subjects. He responded that "[i]t reflects that Jamal Edwards is wasting his resources when he should be focused on the viability of the organization."

News of the email added to the stress of the workplace, according to several sources, creating an atmosphere of suspicion and surveillance. The wording of the email also raised questions about legal and personnel ethics.

In October 2011, Edwards, unhappy with WCT's coverage of its matters, banned the free community paper from its premises. The move was reportedly criticized internally by many staffers and several community members contacted WCT to express surprise and dismay at the banning. In a larger context, Edwards' move raised more concerns about his tendency to make broad and sweeping decisions without considering the possible backlash.

The board, headed by Karma Israelsen, has consistently stood by Edwards in all these developments. In May of this year, Time Out Chicago expanded upon WCT coverage in a piece that could not be read as favorable to the CEO. It drew renewed and possibly unwelcome attention to the organization, this time in a popular and mainstream publication. Here, Israelsen was again quoted giving him effusive praise and insisting that the inordinate number of departures was no cause for concern, "When you have a new CEO, there's always turnover. I wouldn't define it as a lot."

Sep. 5, 2012

Promotion amidst losses

In the midst of so many departures, others at HBHC began rapidly rising up the ranks of HBHC leadership. The executive leadership, comprising of Edwards and a few others, expanded to include Will Raj, who became a vice president and chief administrative officer. Dr. Magda Houlberg joined Howard Brown in 2008 as its director of geriatric medicine and became chief clinical officer in 2011, under Edwards. Most recently, in June, she was again promoted to senior vice president of health center operations and chief operating officer. Where the leadership team formerly consisted of more than a half dozen personnel, they are now only these three.

Of all these and other high-level personnel, only Edwards' salary has been revealed. HBHC has not respond to WCT's requests for disclosure of all salaries and other hiring details, as part of a community-wide survey of non-profit groups.

Houlberg is also the only full-time physician on staff at HBHC. HBHC has not responded to previous emails asking for quantitative proof that there are others; it also appears, from reports as well as what is visible on the website, that a significant number of caregivers are either interns, volunteers, or part-time staff. The organization now claims a budget of more than \$12 million.

At the same time, HBHC has faced significant changes in its research and service provider roles. The MACS (Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study) grant has been a pivotal part of HBHC, granting the organization the prestige of a research project given to very few other community health centers. That grant was transferred to Northwestern in the wake of the financial crisis of 2010, with HBHC taking over the role of the subcontractor. But HBHC has had to relinquish even that role, having the grant recently removed from it in order "to protect the MACS participants and to preserve the integrity of the research," according to NU.

At present, the majority of HBHC's research projects appear to be participatory research or sponsored by pharmaceutical companies.

Moving forward?

Edwards' departure will doubtless cause exultation in many quarters both inside and outside the organization, as indicated by the responses seen by the WCT.

However, in moving forward, there do not appear, so far, to have been any firm structural changes. The board has now undertaken an appointment that looks exactly the same as that of Edwards: Hiring an outsider without any qualifications, with no prior experience and who moves from a pro bono position to one as one of the most highly paid LGBTQ non-profit executives in the city. In addition, it does not appear that the organization has disposed of its old habits of rewarding internal political connections.

Israelsen has consistently evaded being interviewed by WCT. She is from the same for-profit company, Career Education Corporation, as Mark Andrews, the former board chair. Israelsen has worked there as vice president of regulatory operations. At the time of her becoming board chair, she was one of only two board members (the other was Frank L. Buttitta) who had been newly appointed to the board and was thus allowed to stay on.

Asked about a possible conflict of interest in an appointment that seemed to indicate at least some deliberate positioning, barring a fantastic coincidence, Edwards dismissed any concerns in a February 2011 interview with WCT, "... quite frankly, Karma is a vice president and more senior than Mark and the board felt very comfortable there would be no undue influence or inappropriate relationship between the two, that they both served on the board or one served on the board, and I believe that completely. The board has a conflict-of-interest policy and it's fully disclosed that she worked for the same company."

Andrews and the outgoing board were presented with a plaque of recognition for what Edwards explained as their deserving "to be

recognized for having put the agency first and agreeing to transition themselves out for the good of the people we serve." In fact, the board had little choice but to do so in the wake of a community-wide furor over what many saw as its lack of oversight.

In that same interview, Edwards discussed how he and Israelsen oversaw the formation of a board formation committee. Ron Nunziato, previously board chair from 1991-1992, was the only one who volunteered for the position as chair of the board formation committee; all the others were people whose investiture as such was overseen by Edwards and Israelsen. They were Lisa Kuhns, Ph.D., Howard Brown staff; Matt Neilson, then current Howard Brown board member; Tom Klein, M.D., physician and partner in Klein, Slotten and French Medical Associates; Leslie Ramyk, executive director, Ravenswood Health Care Foundation; and Alicia Ozier, then-executive director of Taskforce Prevention Services.

Of these, Ozier was the only one without a direct connection of some sort to HBHC. That would change in February 2012, when she joined as a vice president of operations (a position that was then clarified as "vice president of Community Health Services"; Ozier never returned WCT's calls requesting an interview).

The announcement of Lara Brooks' departure means yet another in a long line of Howard Brown employees, including Garofalo and Joe Hollendorner, who was a founding director of BYC and is now at AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Brooks, who was contacted before the news about Edwards was confirmed, has expressed delight at her new position at the TransLife project, along with an abiding respect for the potential of Broadway Youth Center (WCT will have more details on this next week). The TransLife project would, in years past, have been housed at Howard Brown Health Center.

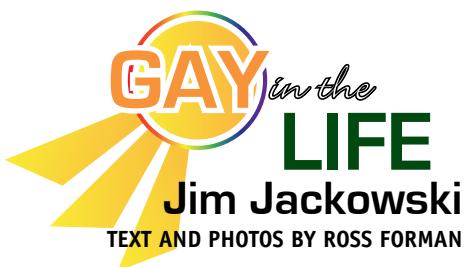
As this paper has pointed out repeatedly, over the course of its own publishing history and that of Howard Brown, which has been around since 1974, the issues go much deeper than current or former management. Already, there are signs of dismay and outright hostility to the notion of Karma Israelsen, who has no qualifications in the healthcare industry or in the non-profit world, possibly being paid the same high salary as Edwards.

HBHC was once celebrated for being one of the few LGBTQ health centers in the country, but that status has shifted with a changing healthcare industry and the shifting and growing needs of the community it has served. Organizations like HBHC need to consider a population of people with AIDS that is aging and even thriving (albeit with many threatened cuts to AIDS funding), contrary to prior expectations. They also need to consider a newer population of LGBTQ people with needs that demand more than instant or short-term hospice care, and they include youth and transgender populations.

In the end, it is not just that Howard Brown is changing but that the very landscape of LGBTQ healthcare is shifting under its foundations. Over the course of the last few years, HBHC has rapidly isolated itself from the community it was meant to serve and become part of a structure of non-profits that must now recalibrate or fade away. In the meantime, there is not much to indicate that HBHC has fundamentally altered the way it operates, and it has in fact tightened its secrecy and increased its turnover of essential staff and service providers. In the end, while many have sought to paint Edwards as the biggest problem, he and his tenure at the organization may well have been symptoms and indications of greater issues at this troubled organization.

That reality has haunted and will continue to haunt Howard Brown, long after the short if contentious two-year tenure of Jamal Edwards has faded in memory.

Windy City Times will continue to update this story.



Age	42
Neighborhood	Andersonville
Hometown	Upstate New York; has been in Chicago for 12 years
Job title	Owner, Revive Massage Therapy & Spa
Hobbies	Movies, dinner with friends, working out
Relationship status	Partnered
Football position	Defensive linebacker
Favorite local restaurant	Calo Ristorante in Andersonville
Favorite local bar	Marty's Martini Bar in Andersonville
Little-known fact	Taught eighth-grade health education for one year



Jim Jackowski spent 18 years working in high-tech IT sales. He was, admittedly, a workaholic who, consequently, never had a hobby—and his home away from home often was a seat on the next American Airlines flight.

During his peak stretch, Jackowski was on the road 70 percent of the time and has amassed more than 1 million frequent-flyer miles on American.

He eventually got burned out on the high-stress position and wanted to return to his roots. Jackowski had studied health education at SUNY-Cortland, though he never used the degree once in the real world.

Until recent years, that is.

He took a one-and-a-half-year course to become a massage therapist, graduating in July 2010. He now owns a new spa in Uptown, which he opened July 2.

"I always thought I'd just do [massages] as a hobby," he said.

However, his passion became his profession.

Jackowski is involved with all aspects of the business, including marketing, design, scheduling and more.

"We wanted to do it right, to be unique and different, so it attracts quality therapists and repeat customers," Jackowski said.

Therapists at Revive work shorter days than traditional therapists, per Jackowski, to help eliminate stress and other issues. Plus, sessions are a full 60 or 90 minutes. Revive also offers facials and waxing services.

"I definitely feel like I'm in more control [in this job]; everything is now my time, not by the company's calendar," Jackowski said.

Revive has 10 rooms with 12 employees, most part-time. Jackowski also gives massages; he's not just the owner. And Revive caters to men and women. Plus, the hip, trendy salon is quite modern, with reservations made online 24/7, iPads in every room, and more.

"I definitely am trying to incorporate my [IT] past to today to make Revive truly the best salon around," Jackowski said. "I still enjoy high-tech, and everything I own I owe to 18 years of high-tech sales. That [profession] will always be there, but I don't want to be in a situation years from now of, 'Gee, I should have tried something, but never did.'"

For more information, or to book a reservation, go to www.revivemassagechicago.com.



DNC 2012

DNC attract LGBT, queer youth organizers

BY MATT COMER,
EDITOR OF GOQNOTES.COM

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Thousands of Democratic National Convention delegates and guests will celebrate the renomination of President Barack Obama this week as thousands more people show up to protest the national political convention. Among them are conservative religious activists protesting abortion clinics and others declaring a "national spiritual emergency." But, LGBT activists are on the ground, too, highlighting pro-equality issues and other topics of interest especially to young people.

Matt Hickson, a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill student and an organizer with Festival Liberación and the March on Wall St. South, said neither political party are addressing issues most important to people today.

"Political discourse today is not speaking to the needs of regular people," said Hickson, who identifies as gay. "Every time you turn on the TV you get an ad for one of the major political parties and their candidates. Almost all of those ads

don't speak to the fact that North Carolina is a state where workers are highly oppressed, where public sector workers are not allowed to collectively bargain, that North Carolina just passed [the anti-LGBT state constitutional] Amendment One or that education has been cut by almost a half a billion dollars."

Hickson said he and his co-organizers want to use the DNC's presence in Charlotte to bring attention to issues here at home and across the nation. The influence of corporate cash on politics today is one of his biggest concerns.

"We see that the root of the problem with the two major political parties is the amount of money they take from big corporations and banks and the interests they are beholden to because of that," he said. "It's not surprising that they chose to have the DNC in Charlotte, being that the headquarters of Bank of America and Wells Fargo are here and Duke Energy is here. Duke Energy's CEO is serving as the fundraising chair of the DNC."

Hickson said Charlotte is a "perfect storm" for Democrats, being the largest city in a swing state and being "the one southern city with a huge concentration of financial capital."

Other issues like the status of undocumented students and other immigrants as well as home-



LGBT organizers in Charlotte talk about their plans to highlight queer and youth issues during the DNC (from left: Loan Tran, Gelisa Stitt, Matt Hickson and openly lesbian Charlotte City Councilmember LaWana Mayfield. Photo by Matt Comer/QNotes

lessness are also important, even to LGBT people.

"LGBTQ people make up a huge portion of homeless youth and undocumented youth," he said. "That really needs to be addressed and it really needs to end."

Hickson's group held a special day of organizing with workshops and other activities Sept. 1. On Sunday, they joined hundreds for the March on Wall St. South. He said he and his friends will stay the entire week of the convention and hope to leave a progressive legacy.

"Charlotte does not have a history of real good organization on the ground, the kind of organiz-

ing that doesn't just organize actions like the march but also the kind that organizes workers, for example, to picket in front of city hall for a raise," Hickson said. "We want that kind of organizing to continue in Charlotte and this has been a great way to bring all these groups together."

Citizens and residents, Hickson said, already have the tools to organize.

"The hope is that this will spark a lot more energizing in Charlotte and in North Carolina because we need it here. We need labor organizing and organizing for queer rights and for undocumented people," he said.

Wed., Sept. 12
Douglas Foster
After Mandela:
The Struggle for Freedom
in Post-Apartheid
South Africa
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13
Beth Richie
Arrested Justice: Black
Women, Violence, and
America's Prison Nation
5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 15
Sappho's Salon
Featuring Sarah Terez
Rosenblum and Diva
Kai with DJ SpinNikki
7:30 p.m.



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VIEWPOINTS



**DAVID
ERNESTO
MUNAR**

A watershed moment for Chicago's gay community

There are times when a staged public event becomes much more than the event itself.

Such is the case with the 2012 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago.

Set to take place Sept. 30 at Soldier Field, the AIDS Run & Walk will be fun and exhilarating—there's no question about it. But the event has meaning beyond the music, the sunshine and the celebration. It's also a unique opportunity for the LGBT community and its allies to come together and raise money to fight a disease that continues to have a devastating impact on gay/bisexual men.

In the 31 years since the crisis began, HIV/AIDS has come to affect virtually every part of Chicago and have a deadly impact in communities of color that bear the brunt of the disease. Heterosexual men and women are not immune. Nationally, African-American heterosexual women are the second most affected group after gay/bi men of all races and ethnicities.

Diverse population trends notwithstanding, one fact remains inescapable: gay/bi males remain the population most impacted by this still deadly disease. That was true 31 years ago and it's still true today.

Nearly one in five gay men is HIV-positive, according to a 2010 government study of 21 cities, including Chicago (www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/Newsroom/ngmHAAD2010PressRelease.html). About half of those HIV-positive gay men don't even know their status.

Young gay men are the only group with ris-

ing HIV infection rates, due in large part to the alarming 48 percent increase in new infections (www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/HIV-FactSheets/TodaysEpidemic-508.pdf) for young African-American gay/bi in the last 4 years nationally.

Now is the time for the Chicago gay community to ramp up efforts to change that. One place to start: Embrace the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago because the lives of gay/bi men matter.

How forcefully we respond as a society to HIV/AIDS speaks volumes to our commitment to equal rights and gay rights. It will define what legacy we leave for future LGBT generations, and whether their lives will be marked by illness and stress or health and opportunity.

Let us first address the challenges, then we'll explain how the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago can help.

The unsettling disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on gay/bi men was highlighted at the recent International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

One study (www.springerlink.com/content/xn677m76k8363272/), presented by Dr. Ron Stall of the University of Pittsburgh, linked common facets of the gay experience, such as homophobia and related violence, to related psychosocial health problems, like depression, substance abuse and sexual risk-taking. In other words, the very stigma of being gay increases a gay man's chances of becoming infected with HIV.

Data presented by two researchers at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago took it a step further, demonstrating that homophobic trauma (http://aidschicago.org/pdf/2012/trauma_poster.pdf) and harassment (http://aidschicago.org/pdf/2012/harassment_poster.pdf) dog efforts in linking people to continuous care.

AIDS has always been an epidemic that affects gay/bi men more than other demographic groups. But perhaps even more troubling is the rapid increase in infections among gay/bi men of color.

By the age of 40, six in 10 Black gay men will be HIV-positive, according to HPTN 061 (www.hptn.org/research_studies/hptn061.asp), another study presented at the International AIDS Conference. The rate of new HIV transmission

among African-American gay/bi men is 50 percent higher than their white counterparts. For young Black gay/bi men, the rate was three times the rate for white gay/bi men of the same age.

A crucial point to make: This doesn't mean that Black men are engaging in riskier behavior. In fact, the study found the disparity to be a result of social determinants, such as community viral load, poverty, education and access to health care.

We can talk about treatment as prevention as much as we want, but until we address the social roots of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, we will not prevail in this fight.

So, what can the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago do about all of this?

Raise money, for starters. Whether you're an individual participating or an organized team, fundraising is an important part of this experience. The money benefits the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and HIV/AIDS organizations that are actively engaged in turning the tide of the epidemic here in Chicago.

Put in simpler terms, the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago raises thousands of dollars for lifesaving HIV prevention, care, housing and other supportive services for those living with or at risk for HIV in Chicago.

The event also sends a clear message: We, the LGBT community and our allies, will not stand for this anymore. Throngs of us will descend on Soldier Field Sept. 30 and lift our voices and walk our miles to save the lives of our brothers and sisters.

And it's a hell of a good time. If you've never heard the musical stylings of The Voice's Jamar Rogers, a young HIV-positive African-American man with an incredible story, you are in for a treat. Other celebrities include comedian Wanda Sykes and singer Michael Feinstein.

So, if you think it's wrong that an epidemic continues to disproportionately affect the lives of gay/bi men, particularly those of color, largely because of homophobia, violence, poverty and lack of education, then help us take a stand.

This is our city. This is our team.

Come walk with us.

David Ernesto Munar is the president/CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

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Remembering Danny

As we commemorate what would've been his 54th birthday (Aug. 30, 1958) I can't help but reflect on this timeless cartoon and his assessment of the insurance companies then ... and now.

It's not much different!

DANNY NEVER FAILED TO TELL IT LIKE IT WAS. ... And, sadly, the insurance industry still puts corporate profits before public interest. As the most important U.S. election in modern history looms, let us remember the price we have paid for not making certain the insurance industry is forced to care for the most vulnerable among us.

WE MISS YOU DANNY. THE SILENCE IS DEAFENING.

—Lori Cannon and Victor Salvo

Send letters
and viewpoints
to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

Community Marketing, Inc.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Peter Coombs and the Marriott Theatre

'DREAM' SPIRIT

Windy City Times looks at the Marriott Theatre's version of Dreamgirls. See page 14.

DISH

Dining 'Room.'
Page 26.

PR photo of the Signature Room at the 95th



THEATER

Playing 'House.'
Page 14.

Photo from Fall of the House of Usher by Matthew Gregory Hollis

TRAVEL

Marvelous Mexico.
Page 24.

Photo by Kirk Williamson



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

London calling: Matilda and Sweeney Todd

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The 2012-13 Broadway season has just barely started, but theater fanatics (like myself) are already eyeing what shows will be likely Tony Award contenders.

Many hopes are pinned on the new movie-to-musical adaptation of *Kinky Boots*, which features a score by pop star Cyndi Lauper and a script by out playwright/performer Harvey Fierstein (its world premiere pre-Broadway tryout hits Chicago's Bank of America Theatre from Oct. 2 to Nov. 4).

However, the main musical to beat this season appears to be *Matilda the Musical*.

It's Carrie for kids!

Matilda is one of the latter children's novels by Roald Dahl, the late British author famed for other favorites like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*. I wasn't sure if *Matilda* possessed a strong enough story to warrant a glitzy musical-theater transformation, but I was pleasantly proven wrong when I recently caught the musical in London last month.

The Royal Shakespeare Company commissioned *Matilda*, and it opened to rapturous reviews in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 2010. The show transferred to the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End in 2011, where it has been a continual box-office hit. *Matilda the Musical* also carries the distinction of winning seven Olivier Awards (London's equivalent to Broadway's Tony Awards), the most ever for a single production.

Australian/British singer/songwriter Tim Michin, who has crafted a peppy and quirky

score to suit Dennis Kelly's masterful adaptation of Dahl's original book, has certainly earned the accolades. *Matilda* concerns a bookish child prodigy who is not appreciated by her TV-loving family. She must also cope with Miss Trunchbull, the violent, child-hating headmistress of *Matilda*'s school who terrorizes her and her classmates. Luckily *Matilda* has support in the form of librarian Mrs. Phelps (Melanie La Berrie) and the teacher Miss Honey (Haley Flaherty), plus some magic powers.

Kelly's aggrandizements to Dahl's original characters provide extra flashy laughs (as in making *Matilda*'s couch-potato mum played by Josie Walker into a garish competitive ballroom dancer) and unexpected poignancy that can surprisingly move you to tears (especially with a heart-wrenching back story for Miss Honey).

Another key element to *Matilda the Musical*'s success is the decision to have the villainous and butch Miss Trunchbull played by a man in schoolmarm drag. Bertie Carvel won an Olivier for his performance, but by the time I caught the show, Alastair Parker was pulling in the laughs in the role. (He was filling in for an indisposed David Leonard.)

Choreographer Peter Darling has a great time with the book's cartoon-like violence and in song sequences like the ballroom number "Loud" and Miss Trunchbull's gym-class routine in "The Smell of Rebellion." Director Matthew Warchus' production works extremely well on Rob Howell's igneous Scrabble-inspired set and with his colorful costume designs, while Hugh Vanstone's lighting certainly adds a sense of magic to the entire show.

There's lots of room for great performances in



Michael Ball in *Sweeney Todd*. Photo by Johann Persson

Matilda, not only from the kids (up to five different girls rotate in the title role, with Isobelle Molloy giving a strong performance the night I saw it), but also for the grown-ups.

All of these elements help to make *Matilda the Musical* a treat not only for kids, but their discerning parents as well. How well *Matilda the Musical* will fare on Broadway may depend upon the competition from other kid-targeted shows (a revival of *Annie* is planned for this season) and if audiences are willing to embrace its very British-ness in tone (which didn't seem to be an issue for *Billy Elliot The Musical*).

Matilda the Musical continues in an open run at the Cambridge Theatre in London. A Broadway production of *Matilda* is set to start previews March 4, 2013, with an official opening April 11 at the Shubert Theatre in New York. For more information, visit www.matildathemusical.com.

A starry *Sweeney Todd*

Also while I was in the U.K., I made it a point not to miss the Chichester Festival Theatre's West End transfer of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon*

Barber of Fleet Street.

This was mainly due to the above-the-title stars of Michael Ball (the original Marius in *Les Misérables*) in the murderous title role and Imelda Staunton (famed for her Academy Award-nominated turn in Mike Leigh's film *Vera Drake* and as the Harry Potter villainess Dolores Umbridge) as his meat-pie baking accomplice, Mrs. Lovett.

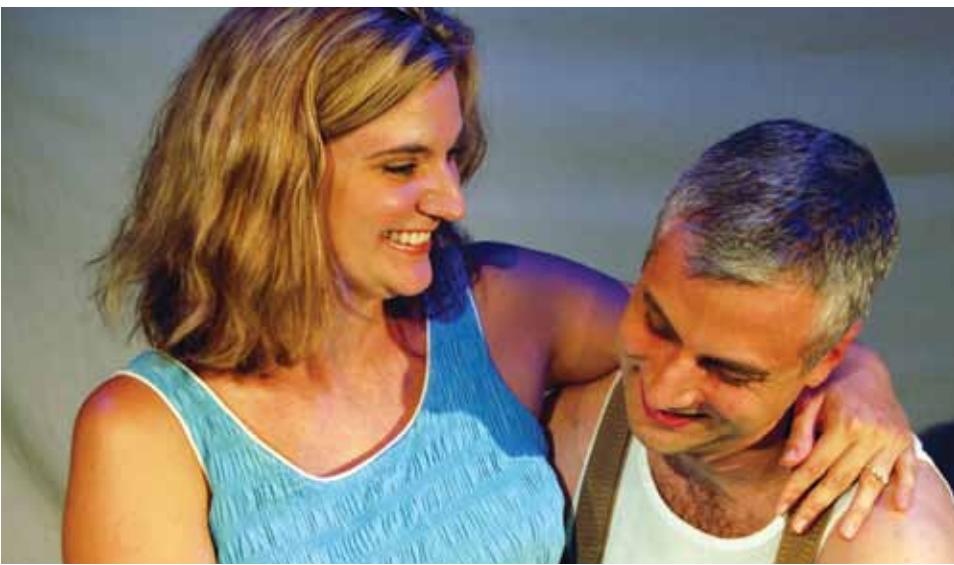
The two British stars didn't disappoint, especially Staunton who found a way to make the conniving Mrs. Lovett her own (her character's desperation of nearly being caught by the Beadle Bamford of Peter Polycarpou was a master class in stage acting). Technically, Michael Ball wowed in a nearly unrecognizable form as the revengeful barber.

Controversially, director Jonathan Kent updated the setting to the Great Depression rather than the original Victorian era, as specified in Hugh Wheeler and Stephen Sondheim's original script and score. But other than the occasional Victorian-era reference in the lyrics, the updating to the 1930s didn't jar too much.

In fact, Kent found an insightful way to structure the piece as a flashback for the ensemble, who we discover by the end are cleaning up the massacre site and are already indulging in gallows humor to cope with the horror of it all.

Alas, this truly great production seems very unlikely to transfer to the United States. Both Ball and Staunton have other commitments after the limited run concludes, and the grand scale of the production might be too costly for New York investors (especially when the 2005 Broadway revival was a conceptual cost-saving affair where the actors played their own instruments). So there's little time left to savor this masterful interpretation of *Sweeney Todd*.

Sweeney Todd continues through Sept. 22 at London's Adelphi Theatre. A 2012 London cast recording of highlights is available on First Night Records. Visit www.sweeneytoddwestend.com for more information.



Skin Tight. Photo by Victoria DeIorio

THEATER REVIEW

Skin Tight

Playwright: Gary Henderson
At: Cor Theatre at Red Orchid,
 1531 N. Wells St.
Tickets: 1-866-811-4111;
www.cortheatre.org; \$15
Runs through: Sept. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The stage is furnished with a barnyard trough pushed up against the back wall, flanked by two galvanized steel buckets. The entire floor is covered by gymnasium mats. This is because our introduction to lovers Tom and Elizabeth is the sight of them charging full-tilt at one another from opposite sides of the playing space to clash in mortal combat—shoves, grapples, upsets, takedowns, kicks, punches, fish-hooks and hair pulls—rolling and scrambling over the ground in primal animalistic fury.

Once upon a time, courting couples seeking wholesome exercise usually found it in ballroom dancing. However, in 2012, they are just as likely to forge compatibility through pursuit of more athletic activities—even such martial arts as boxing or wrestling. This knowledge only slightly decreases our shock at this display of domestic violence. The exchange of what looks to be brutal blows, however, is executed with a palpable undercurrent of mutual affection, mitigating the initial repellence of this preamble to the participants uttering a word.

U.S. audiences may not be familiar with the poem by Denis Glover upon which fellow New Zealander Gary Henderson bases his play, but attentive listeners will quickly discern the subtext served by Scott Cummins and Julia Neary's balletic *mano a mano*: the now-elderly Elizabeth is dying, you see, and making her last confessions to her likewise aged husband, Tom. The episodes of corporal contention—even those drawing blood—reflect the intensity of their passion, recalled in all its fiery splendor as they review the tumultuous events of their lives together, invoking its simmering warmth when the moment comes to face their final adversary together.

It takes 60 minutes for this love song to reach its conclusion—an hour of raw emotional disclosure riveting our attention in an auditorium so intimate that opening-night playgoers were visibly holding their breaths during the delicate *adagio* involving the sharpened blade of a paring-knife. Tony Bozzuto's and Toshia Fowler's performances deliver an infectious synergy, while Lindsay Jones' sound design maintains the environmental synchronicity associated with romanticism, elevating the mood to operatic levels despite the starkly minimal scenic ambience. Victoria DeIorio's direction seamlessly integrates the flow of physical spectacle and verbal revelation, allowing us nary a pause in our anticipation of the ending we know is inevitable. When it arrives, the catharsis can be felt throughout the whole room.

Show on female impersonator part of Chicago Fringe

"Put It in the Scrapbook"—a show based on the life of famed vaudevillian/female impersonator Julian Eltinge—is part of this year's Chicago Fringe Festival. The production stars George Contini.

According to the festival's website, the production is "the first re-creation of Eltinge's stage routines and rare archival footage," and that "this multimedia performance examines the dark fluidity of Eltinge's sexual persona and its ability to ultimately offer him salvation."

The show is running at Dream Theater, 556 W. 18th St., Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 7 at 8:30 p.m.; Sept. 8 at 2:30 p.m.; and Sept. 9 at 4 p.m.

Tickets at the door are \$10. See www.ChicagoFringe.org.

CRITICS' PICKS

Idomeneus, Sideshow Theatre Company at Storefront Theater, through Sept. 23. German author Roland Schimmelpfennig riffs on classical mythology in this modern words and movement piece about sacrifice, war, honor and vow-breaking as told by a Greek chorus of 15 in a lively hour. JA

Marvin's Room, Circle Theatre, through Sept. 30. The comic timing might not be as fine tuned as it should be, but this laugh-filled drama involving family, disease and the ever-present threat of death is a lasting tribute to the late gay playwright Scott McPherson. SCM

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

Susan Swayne and the Bewildered Bride, Babes With Blades Theatre Company at Lincoln Square, through Sept. 22. The adventures of a Victorian "lady detective" include the athletic spectacle you'd expect from an all-female fight troupe, but Reina Hardy's play also exercise our brains with its commentary on gender issues and the evil of intolerance. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The Fall of the House of Usher

Playwright: adapted by Sean Graney from the story by Edgar Allan Poe
At: The Hypocrites at the Chopin Theater, 1543 W. Division St.
Tickets: 773-989-7352; www.the-hypocrites.com; \$28
Runs through: Sept. 23

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It started in 1984 with Charles Ludlam's The Mystery of Irma Vep for the legendary Theatre of the Ridiculous. This seminal comedy parodied the mystery/horror/thriller plays popular in the 19th and early-to-mid-20th century, highlighting the genre's artificialities through the conceit of only two actors playing all the characters. Efforts to capitalize on the same device continue to proliferate, but Sean Graney's contribution outstrips them at capturing the very essence of the Ludlam aesthetic.

Our framework is Edgar Allan Poe's shivery neo-Gothic tale of two patrician siblings doomed by their inbred lineage—Roderick Usher, afflicted by morbid depression, and his likewise neurasthenic twin sister, Madeline, whose delicate health is evidenced in cataleptic seizures mimicking death. Our narrator is the former's boyhood companion, whom Graney's adaptation transforms into a gal pal in order to introduce a

subtext of repressed sexuality, and whom he furnishes with a consumptive condition requiring large doses of medicinal—not brandy, or laudanum, but low-bred, vulgar GIN.

What chiefly distinguishes this 65-minute romp from its prototypes, however, is not just that its personae, male and female, are played by women, but that their duties exceed simple quick-changes within a specified list of roles to include switching identities with one another. This means that any character may be played, at any point in the story, by any of three different actors, the costumes and wigs serving as our only indication of the personnel occupying the scene under scrutiny. To be sure, our trio of thespians varies considerably in physique and vocal range, but so swiftly does the dramatic action progress that we are allowed no opportunity for expository reflection.

A chronic hazard with this roadrunner pace is the propensity of its participants to lose control of their material, but Tien Doman, Halena Kays and Christine Stulik (assisted by a pair of backstage dressers, brought out for the curtain call) retain their grip on Graney's intricate alley-stage choreography and Poe's florid language with never a misstep. Joey Wade's surprise-filled scenic design and Rick Sims' stereophonic soundscape (listen for thunder literally rolling across the sky) also keep the stage picture fraught with anticipation, so that the literary sophistication and physical agility on display more than redeem the few standard-issue mock-melodrama gags as yet unexcised.

MUSICAL REVIEW

Dreamgirls

Book and Lyrics: Tom Eyen;
Music: Henry Krieger
At: Marriott Theatre,
 10 Marriott Dr., Lincolnshire
Tickets: 847-634-0200 or
www.marriotttheatre.com; \$41-\$49
Runs through: Oct. 28

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

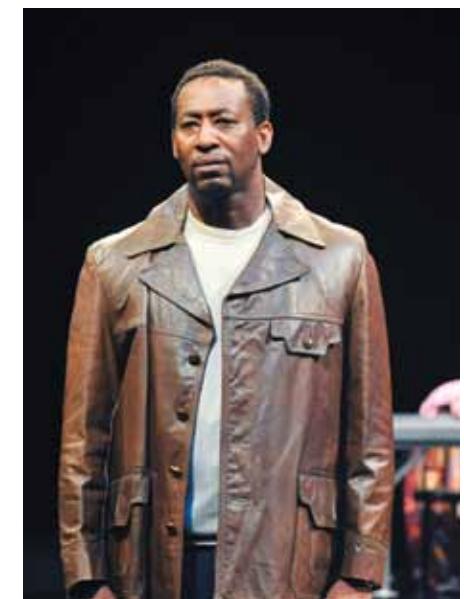
Back when Dreamgirls debuted on Broadway in 1981, one of many elements critics singled out for praise was director/choreographer Michael Bennett's "cinematic" staging.

Now that Lincolnshire's Marriott Theatre is reviving Dreamgirls, it's great to point out that the same "cinematic" adjective also applies as a praiseworthy element of director/choreographer Marc Robin's ever-shifting staging. It not only suits the show's year-hopping structure, but the venue's in-the-round space.

So if you only know Dreamgirls from the 2006 film starring Jennifer Hudson and Beyoncé Knowles, now's the time to experience the show in its original form. (For the most part, Effie White is allowed her applause at the end of the Act I showstopper "(And I Am Telling You) I'm Not Going" rather than being pulled off stage as in Bennett's original production). Audiences will get to appreciate the show's largely sung-through recitative, which was changed into spoken dialogue for the film. Also, don't expect to hear any interpolated songs added to the film (like in the 2010 national tour at the Cadillac Palace Theatre).

Plot-wise, Dreamgirls is about the rise of an African-American girl group called The Dreams in the 1960s and '70s (modeled so closely on The Supremes that it's rumored Diana Ross threatened a lawsuit). But more importantly, Dreamgirls looks at the gains and drawbacks of the "mainstreaming" of Black culture for white audiences.

This is seen in the way wheeling-and-dealing manager Curtis Taylor, Jr. (Byron Glenn Willis) promotes the more photogenic Deena Jones (Britney Coleman) to sing lead while demoting his lover, Effie White (Raena



Dreamgirls. Photo by Peter Coombs and the Marriott Theatre

White), who has the better and more powerful singing voice. Curtis also seemingly tames the wild and soul-filled headliner James "Thunder" Early, causing him to try and reclaim his sound at a conflict-filled moment with his lover of many years, Lorrell Robinson (Rashidra Scott).

The whole cast of Marriott Theatre's Dreamgirls is great and filled with dynamo singers (though the Marty of Kevin Bartel seemed to stumble over a few of his lines on opening night). The show is truly a feast for the ears and eyes, especially with Doug Peck's groove-filled music direction and costume designer Nancy Missimi providing a parade of luxurious period outfits all spectacularly lit up by Jesse Klug's showbiz lighting designs.

If there is one quibble to level against the Marriott's Dreamgirls, it's that everything is so super-slick right from the beginning. We don't really get to see any rough edges in the performers' singing styles or behavior that later get smoothed over.

But with so many plusses working in favor of the Marriott's Dreamgirls, count your lucky stars that you have another chance to experience such a great production of an iconic 1980s Broadway show.

Sep. 5, 2012



33 Variations.
Photo by
Lara Goetsch

THEATER REVIEW**33 Variations**

Playwright: Moises Kaufman
At: TimeLine Theatre at
Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 1-773-327-5252;
www.timelinetheatre.com; \$32-\$42
Runs through: Oct. 21

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

As a play, *33 Variations* is more interesting than good, although it offers meaty acting roles, colorful characters, personal struggle, a concert pianist and enough thoughtfulness to pass as a work of intellectual merit. Certainly, the Timeline production is audience-pleasing, with master director Nick Bowling guiding veteran lead players.

The play splits its time between present-day Bonn, Germany, and 1819-23 Vienna, Austria. In Bonn (and preliminarily in New York) we meet Dr. Katherine Brandt, a psychologist and musical researcher with ALS, and her adult daughter, Clara. In Vienna, we meet Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), the subject of Brandt's final research project. Brandt wonders why Beethoven spent three years—while enduring personal

difficulties and declining health—composing variations on a little waltz most scholars regard as mediocre, written by a music publisher who requested only one variation from Beethoven but got a major solo piano work instead.

Along the way, Brandt and her daughter gain insights into themselves and their rocky relationship, in part through close associates each acquires, just as the real-life Anton Schindler (also a character in the play) provided essential support to Beethoven in his last years. Brandt's help-mate is her German research assistant; Clara's, conveniently, is an ALS specialist male nurse and boyfriend. It's this too-calculated parallel structure—three lead characters each with an assistant—that diminishes the play as does the obvious parallel between Beethoven and Brandt in physical decline while at the height of their creative powers.

Reminiscent, at times, of Peter Schaffer's *Amadeus* and Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* (a modern researcher tries to determine what Byron was up to 150 years earlier), *33 Variations* benefits from a formally dressed concert pianist (George Lepauw) actually performing many of the variations. It's a gimmick, but one that's essential to making the play work. You don't gain new insights into Beethoven, but you come to understand his music better and appreciate his singular genius.

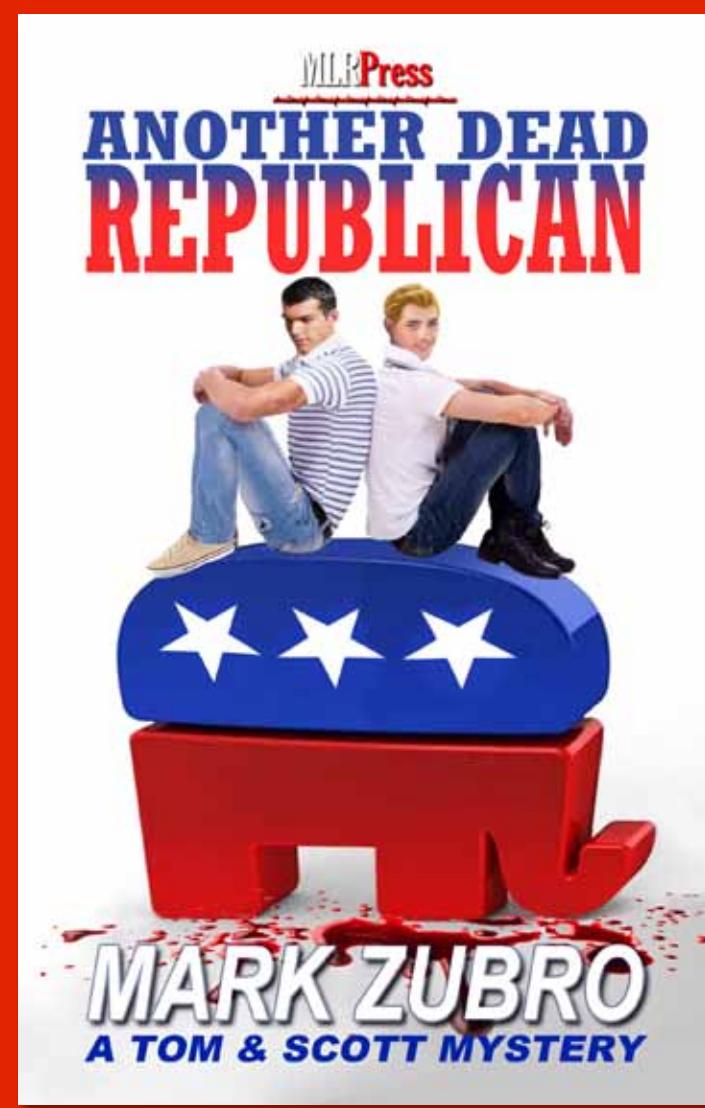
Also, late in the play there are tender mother/daughter moments that will touch anyone who's ever cared for a dying loved one.

Janet Ulrich Brooks and Terry Hamilton, as Brandt and Beethoven, have little direct interaction but make a pair nonetheless: dogged, dismissive individuals we find appealing in part because of the wry understandings Brooks and Hamilton muster in an instant and express with the tic of an eye. The more-than-capable supporting cast features, among others, Matthew

Krause in the tricky role of the slavishly-devoted Schindler, Juliet Hart as the cucumber-cool research assistant and Jessie Fisher as emotionally-repressed daughter Clara. Brian Sidney Bembridge has created a neutral-toned two-level set of plywood panels as a background for Mike Tutaj's atmospheric architectural projections. Timeline's *33 Variations* is a good show, even if not a great play.

SPOTLIGHT

Performers/playwrights Ever Mainard and Alicia Queen illuminate the canon of women in William Shakespeare's dramas, histories and comedies in sketch-comedy form in the new show *Shakespeare's Female Women*. So go along a journey through time and fiction when the little-known Shakespearean character of Volumnia tries to gain more prominence in this history-influenced comedy. *Shakespeare's Female Women* plays 7:30 p.m. Saturdays from Sept. 8 through Sept. 29 at the Gorilla Tango Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Tickets are \$15; call 847-677-7761 or visit www.gorillatango.com for more information. Photo courtesy of Gorilla Tango Theatre.



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Loni Anderson: TV icon talks 'WKRP,' hair and Snow White



BY JERRY NUNN

Loni Anderson will be forever known for playing Jennifer Marlowe on the hit CBS show WKRP in Cincinnati. (In one episode, she talked Les Nessman from jumping out of a window after he's accused of being gay.)

This friend of the community embraces those memories by traveling to Naperville this weekend for a WKRP screening and hitting up the Hollywood show in Rosemont to mingle with the fans.

We chatted about her past and how a blonde became a blonde bombshell television star.

Windy City Times: Hi, Loni. I have been watching that show since I was kid.

Loni Anderson: It just keeps going with the reruns. Life is so different as far as television is concerned these days. Everything we have ever been on keeps going. You can find it everywhere.

WCT: How do you feel about doing events like this one about WKRP?

LA: I am everybody's biggest fan in the show because I think, "What a group and how did this ever happen, how were we all so lucky?" We keep in contact with one another. Only Gordon is gone.

WCT: So it is a high school reunion when you get together?

LA: It is, and just fantastic.

WCT: You are going to be in Naperville and they are going to show some of the episodes.

LA: Yes; it is a great chance to get to talk about them. I am looking forward to the Q&A and sharing those old episodes with people. I screened the episodes first and they hold up because Hugh Wilson who was our mad genius creator always said, "The humor should come out of the story and not out of the jokes." I makes a show last and makes it funny forever.

WCT: It was a good concept for a show.

LA: Of course, there is not a radio station in existence where everything isn't already programmed electronically these days.

WCT: You are originally from Minnesota.

LA: I am. I spent a lot of time in Chicago. I worked for Shirley Hamilton, who was my first commercial agent. I did my first national commercial in Chicago for Secret deodorant way back in 1974. I had black hair and it was a different life.

WCT: What made you decide to go blonde?

LA: WKRP. When I first moved out to L.A. in 1975, people told me that my hair was so dark that it absorbed the light—that is looked like an ink blob. Someone suggested that I put lighter streaks in it to break it up. The lighter I went the more work I got. I had never thought of myself as a blonde except for a few Broadway roles. I was a serious brunette actress. When I did the pilot, I wasn't quite blonde. I was a strawberry color. Hugh Wilson said, "Let's have her be Lana

Turner and the smartest person in the room." That was the creation of this slave to blonde hair.

WCT: You are stuck with it!

LA: [Laughs] It has been all of these years. My roots insist on growing out black. I don't know what the deal is!

WCT: Did you exercise to have that pinup body?

LA: I didn't work out for a second. I didn't work out until after WKRP. It wasn't a trend. I had taken dancing lessons and was active with swimming, but I had two glazed doughnuts every day for breakfast! I even had malted milk balls on my desk for the show the whole week. Now when I think back about it, I shiver with horror. I was the luckiest girl on the planet.

WCT: You wrote a book about your life called *My Life in High Heels*.

LA: That was back in 1995. I have had so much more happening since then. That was two years after Burt Reynolds and I split up. I thought I needed to get it out of my system.

WCT: So you would like to do some updates?

LA: Well, you know Oprah Winfrey said I should do *My Life in Sneakers*.

WCT: She is a brilliant woman!



Loni Anderson. PR photo

LA: Isn't she?

WCT: I read you have a big miniature collection. Do you still have this?

LA: I do. I have an extensive Snow White collection. Because I have that black hair when I was a little girl, my dad would read stories to me where all the princesses were fair and had blue eyes. I was very sad at 3 years old to not look like a princess, so he found Snow White for me. She had hair as black as night. I always considered her who I was. She was my alter ego. All my life I have been collecting it.

WCT: You are doing a signing at the Hollywood Show. What is the craziest thing a fan has ever asked you at a convention?

LA: Embarrassingly enough, a woman asked

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me what Burt Reynolds was like in bed. My jaw did drop and it was shocking.

WCT: What did you tell her?

LA: I said, "Whatever your fantasies are, just keep thinking them!"

WCT: That's a good answer.

LA: But otherwise, I just get asked out on dates. Either they are not paying attention to the fact that I am married or they don't care. They always ask about the rest of the cast. I did six series, so there are fans of other series or TV movies. Henry Winkler and I talked about that one time: You are forever The Fonz or that thing that catapulted you into everybody's face. That is why it is always the biggest thing and my favorite thing that I ever did, too. In the '70s there weren't glamorous smart people. Now

WINDY CITY TIMES

we don't think anything of that. In 1978 that wasn't happening; it was innovative, and I am so glad to have been a part of that.

WCT: I am a big Lynda Carter fan and you did that series with her.

LA: I always keep a picture of her with me because a lot of people are big Partners in Crime fans. Lynda and I are such good friends. I just saw her perform and she is so terrific.

Anderson brings Hollywood to Illinois this weekend at the Hollywood Palms Cinema, 352 S. Route 59, Naperville, on Saturday, Sept., 8, at 7 and 9 p.m.

She will be at the Hollywood Show, 5500 N. River Rd., Rosemont, Sept. 7-9. For details, visit www.hollywoodshow.com.

TELEVISION

David Tutera: 'Fair' essence

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

David Tutera could be considered a bride's dream come true. Although he doesn't appear with the click of a heel and simply wave a magic wand, he is known to pull off dream weddings, which can be seen on his show *My Fair Wedding With David Tutera*, now in its fifth season.

In an interview before an appearance with a Q&A session at Water Tower Place's In Fashion Lounge (as part of the Magnificent Mile Shopping Festival), Tutera spoke with Windy City Times about his successful career as a celebrity wedding and entertainment expert, the on-screen drama he handles and how he pulls off the fairy-tale wedding.

Windy City Times: When did your interest in weddings begin?

David Tutera: My second job I ever did, when I was 19, was a wedding. So it really began in the beginning of my career. I worked on a wedding and knew nothing about weddings. Who knows anything at 19?! And I asked my grandfather to teach me about the floral business—which we sat and actually learned how to make the centerpieces together—and I realized I just loved it. And I've been doing weddings ever since. I've been doing other celebrations also.

WCT: Where do your inspirations come from?

DT: I live my life where I'm just sort of so aware of everything around me. So my inspiration comes from the things I do—from travel, to movies, to theater, to just looking at a restaurant décor or window treatment and I always sort of tuck it in my head and put it away and it sort of pops back out when it needs to. It does it automatically when I think it fits for the right person. It's like my Rolodex in my brain. I'm a very visual person, super-visual.

WCT: Do you have a signature detail or style?

DT: No, I don't. It's funny; I realized when I was younger if I created a look that was consistent all the time, people would know it was my work, and as great as that might sound, it could very well become stale because I get bored very quickly.

WCT: Is that where your show comes in—when you have to adapt to people's styles and edit?

DT: Yes. I'm a chameleon and that's the way I am with my clients as well. They deliver the information to me and I just come out and make it happen.

The trick to being successful is to listen to what they want and, as you say, "edit" what they think they want and sort of not tell them what's wrong or right. You know when you go to a navigation system and it gives the shortest [or] fastest direction? You pick a dif-



David Tutera. Photo by Melissa Wasserman

ferent direction and you bring them to that best place without thinking their ideas are not good.

WCT: You've probably come across all challenges. Is there something that has particularly stood out in your career?

DT: A lot of girls nowadays think they want something, but they can't express what it is. So, sometimes, for me, it's frustrating to pull out of them "What do you want?"; lots of times many of them don't know and they make things up. So, it's through that process of short time on the show that you learn really fast what it is they are trying to achieve. For me, it's the frustration of lack of knowledge. I feel like that lack of information is because it's just not clear in the industry for girls.

WCT: What was it like planning your own dream wedding?

DT: Not easy. I have a different respect for brides. It's hard to make decisions that are personal for yourself and easy to make for other people, so it was challenging for me, but I had 130 guests in Vermont and it was a weekend celebration of four parties. It was fabulous, but hard to do.

"My Fair Wedding With David Tutera: Unveiled" will premiere Saturday, Sept. 8, at 9 p.m. ET on WE tv. **My Fair Wedding: Revealed** will air mid-season. See www.wetv.com/shows/my-fair-wedding for more on the show and www.daviddutera.com to learn more about Tutera.

Read the entire interview with David Tutera online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

NUNN ON ONE: BOOKS

JoJo Baby: Local personality provides 'Face' time

BY JERRY NUNN

Chicago-based artist JoJo Baby knows how to make an impression out on the town. Getting Into Face, the new book that chronicles the costumes and nightlife of JoJo and Sal-E, features Bernard Colbert's photographs. This five-year project followed the two self-titled "club kids" as they dressed for Monday-night themes each week. More than 100 portraits are included, with everything from creature costumes to astronaut suits.

Nunn put Baby in a corner to talk about his upcoming book signing Sept. 8 at the Eyeporium Gallery and other projects.

Windy City Times: Hi, JoJo. Let's talk about this book that was put together with you and Sal-E.

JoJo Baby: We started being photographed by Bernard Colbert about 10 years ago. This was back when we did Boom Boom Room every week. Every Monday, we would go into the studio and have a quick photo shoot then go to work. I came up with the title Getting Into Face because it is the process of getting ready.

WCT: They are not hosting Boom Boom parties on Mondays currently?

JB: We are trying to bring it back with the organizers right now. It is on hiatus but it will be coming back at Green Dolphin Street, which is on Webster and Ashland. We are just waiting. I will have a job once the door opens!

WCT: I am not familiar with Bernard Colbert.

JB: He is a local photographer. We were both neighbors in the Flat Iron Building. That is how it started. Sal and I were getting ready for the Bristol Renaissance Faire. We dressed up as Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI. That was our first photo shoot.

EXPO CHICAGO to take place Sept. 20-23

The inaugural EXPO CHICAGO, The International Exposition of Contemporary/Modern Art and Design, will take place Sept. 20-23 in Festival Hall at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave.

Art Expositions, LLC, under the leadership of president/director Tony Karman, is producing the event.

Dozens of galleries are slated to take part. Among the many local galleries that will be featured are the Stephen Daiter Gallery, Anthony Meier Fine Arts, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Rosenthal Fine Art and the Catherine Edelman Gallery. Other exhibitors will hail from U.S. cities such as New York City, Philadelphia and San Francisco, with still others visiting from global spots including Zurich, Switzerland; London; Beijing; and Helsinki, Finland.

See more info at www.ExpoChicago.com.

'Superstars of Burlesque' in Chicago Sept. 21

Studio L'amour, FEW Spirits, Fancy Feather and Taboo Tabou will present "Superstars of Burlesque 2012" Friday, Sept. 21, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WCT: Is that in the book?

JB: That is in the book. Since the book is doing so well they are ready for our monster book that we want to do next.

WCT: Where can people buy the book?

JB: We are going to be selling 50 copies at the Eyeporium on Sept. 8, but it can be bought on Amazon.com as well. The presales have gotten so crazy that it forced the book out sooner.

WCT: Is it a photo book, or is there writing in it also?

JB: Clive Barker wrote some in it but it is mainly pictures. With the book coming out, Clive Barker is sending out the movie JoJo Baby into the mainstream this year.

WCT: There is an after-party following the book-signing?

JB: We are doing a lip-sync show at Debonair with Silky Jumbo hosting. We want to share the night with people like Silky, and Sissy Spastik. Sal-E will be performing as well as me. It is going to be fun!

WCT: Maybe Berlin Nightclub after that ...

JB: Possibly, depending on how the night goes.

WCT: Do you know what you are wearing for the evening?

JB: No, but I think I am going to double dog dare Sal-E to wear something over-the-top.

WCT: I heard you are in the film Scrooge & Marley.

JB: Yes, I play the Ghost of Christmas Future and a couple of other drag-queen kind of ghosts in it. It was fun. I got to hang out with Bruce Vilanch and Tim Kazurinsky from Saturday Night Live days. My scene was actually with him. I also just filmed a movie called Chicago Rot, which is also coming out.

WCT: What is it about?

JB: It is a horror film. The lead actor is com-



Sal-E and JoJo Baby in Getting Into Face. Photo by Bernard Colbert

peting in a guitar solo with the devil in my head. It is campy and scary all in one.

WCT: How do you find the time?

JB: I am very busy. I just got a commission out of New York for the Luxembourg & Dayan Gallery in November to make 21 dolls. One of them will be a life-sized doll of a punk star. They are making a book to be presented there. The book is basically Fight Club meets the gay leather-bar scene. It is graphically violent. Some of the dolls will be fisted with rusty chains. It runs the gamut, [with] someone just being cut to death.

WCT: Good to hear things are happening for you.

JB: I feel like this is my year. For the first time, people have showered me with love and wanted me to do well. Hopefully, one day I will be working for The Muppets!

A feast for the eyes will be had at the Eyeporium Gallery, 1431 N. Milwaukee Ave., with a signing Saturday, Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m. The after-party will be held from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Debonair, 1575 N. Milwaukee Ave. The exhibition runs through Oct. 1 at the gallery. More details can be found at www.eyewanteyewear.com.

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Friend of Rue McClanahan sets up estate site

BY JOE FRANCO

Imagine for a moment meeting then befriending one of your favorite icons from your childhood and teenage years. Michael LaRue did not need to imagine it. He met Rue McClanahan in 2000 and the two were virtually inseparable for the last decade of her life. "She always said that she was nothing like Blanche," said LaRue. "What? You're always chasing men, I'd tell her. Just before she passed, she was actually courting husband number seven. 'Well, seven is a lucky number' she'd say," added LaRue.

McClanahan had a prodigious career that never seemed to lose steam. While she played hundreds of roles on stage, screen and television, gay men and the world at large recognize her as the iconic and first sultry television Southern belle, Blanche Elizabeth Devereaux from *The Golden Girls*. She was, for many gay men living in the mid-'80s and early '90s, the "Samantha" of their generation. McClanahan passed in June 2010, leaving behind a son and a mountain of possessions. "She really loved to shop. She had two homes [including] a Manhattan apartment with 13 closets stuffed so full you couldn't fit a paper clip in sideways. She saved everything! She even had her prom dress from 1949," said LaRue.

McClanahan knew that she wanted her fans to have her seemingly unending collection for themselves. "She always knew after she was gone that she wanted her fans to have it all. She wanted to make sure that as many people as possible could have some access to her and her career as possible," explained LaRue.

At first, after McClanahan passed, LaRue held two charity auctions of some of the more memorable and expensive pieces of McClanahan lore. The first auction was held in New York City and the second in Beverly Hills, Calif. "Still, there was so much more left," LaRue said. "So I developed the website www.EstateOfRue.com to make sure that everyone had access to her. I have to stress that this site is not about the money. Most of the proceeds of the sale go to the cost of continuing the on-line estate sale, the rest is split between her numerous charities and her son."



Rue McClanahan and Michael LaRue. Photo courtesy of LaRue



Picture of Rue McClanahan. Image courtesy of Michael LaRue

EstateOfRue.com offers for sale just about everything, since McClanahan was a pack rat and also the only *Golden Girl* who had her costumes written into contract as her property. "Some of the costumes were sold at auction. Some were donated to museums. But the rest is for sale to her fans on the website," said LaRue. "There are these great earrings that she said were from the *Golden Girls* but I couldn't find a photo of her wearing them from a single episode. It turned out that they were Bea [Arthur's] from the show and McClanahan 'filched' them from her because she liked them so much. So now you can buy those earrings with a picture of Rue [McClanahan] wearing them with Estelle [Getty]," said LaRue.

Gay male fans of McClanahan or the iconic show will remember one particular calendar with fondness. "The Men of Blanche's Boudoir" calendar was a homemade gift that Blanche gave to the girls during one of the show's Christmas episodes. Dorothy, Blanche and Sophia share a brief exchange that still represents some of television's most memorable writing. As the girls flip through the calendar, Dorothy says "Whoa!" when she sees the man for September. Blanche asks, "September?" and Sophia quips, "I'm surprised you could walk in October!" One may be the last remaining actual copy of that calendar is available for sale on the EstateOfRue.com.

Something else remarkable is a leather bound copy of the original pilot script for the *Golden Girls*. It's the only script featuring Coco, the gay houseman that Blanche employed.

LaRue is not only responsible for the management of McClanahan's estate, which is considerable, but also for beginning the Official Rue McClanahan Facebook Memorial Page. The page features photos, quotes, movie and television stills and, of course, memories, from the life of his friend.

"Some people said to me that it was 'great that you're doing this. ... She was so lucky to have you,' when all along I was the lucky one," said LaRue. "My own mom passed when I was 8. As it turns out, Rue was the same age as my mom. Rue baked for me, sewed for me, encouraged me. The hole that had been there was more

than amply filled by this wonderful woman.

"Betty White has been so supportive of the page as well and has done some wonderful promotions for the EstateOfRue.com and the Facebook memorial page. It's funny: The last movie Rue saw was *The Proposal*. I actually found that ticket stub in one of her handbags. Anyway, she called Betty White to tell her what a great job she did in the show but asked 'Who WAS that MAN you were with [remarking about Ryan Reynolds]?' Even until the end, Rue was boy-crazy," laughed LaRue.

In 2007, McClanahan started to work on the production of the one-woman show based on her autobiography *My First Five Husbands*, and the *Ones that Got Away*. Shortly after her endeavor, McClanahan became ill and entrusted her care to LaRue. "You know, most of the employees who were helping her with the show ended up helping her with her medical care and recuperation," LaRue said. "She closed the production company and most of those folks helped her. It took a village to care for Rue."

Before and after the pre-production of her show, McClanahan had a camera crew following her. Her intention was to release the film as a documentary on her and the making of a Broadway show. "Even after she became ill, the crew still followed us everywhere. So I decided to make use of some of that footage," said LaRue. "I used that footage, with old photos and other interviews to do my own documentary on our relationship and on her life, on her career; it's called *Rue LaRue: Thank You For Being a Friend*. I loved that woman. She always thought it would be hilarious if we got married then she would be Rue LaRue. She was a blast."

Fans of Rue McClanahan can visit www.EstateOfRue.com to purchase items from the McClanahan estate, see dozens of photos and read stories about the legendary actress. Facebook users can also "Like" the Official Rue McClanahan Memorial Page for updates on sales and for more memories of McClanahan.

BOOK REVIEW

Journey: Based on a True Story

by Stephen Mateo
\$18.99; AuthorHouse;
190 pages

BY SALLY PARSONS

When your father escapes Fascist Spain in 1946 by completing a journey across the Atlantic solo in a stolen sailboat, you've got golden material that clamors for an audience. Stephen Mateo—an actor, fitness trainer and screenwriter—set out to honor his father's story by doing just that.

He started first with a screenplay, hoping no doubt to capitalize on the large visual images and drama inherent in such a retelling. Perhaps to broaden audience appeal, Mateo (who is gay) made the hero's son character (based on himself) a straight man who is struggling to hold his relationship with his girlfriend together. Thus, there is no gay content in this appealing tale.

Mateo then rewrote his father's story as a novel, which is the form we have here. It is not clear exactly how much of the retelling is real. Presumably, he talked with his Papa to gather much of the story before Tomas Castellano passed away in 2009 at the age of 82. They made a publicity junket to the Canary Islands together in 2007 to launch the Spanish version of the book. The Canaries, a Spanish archipelago located just off the northwest coast of mainland Africa, is where the story began.

Mateo, it is clear, is a young man of enormous heart who encourages his readers to "never give up on your dreams," just as his Papa did not in escaping the Fascist regime to seek freedom across the Atlantic. In doing so, he left his family behind and in the dark as to what their son had done or what happened to him.

This book, whose story is so full of promise of a riveting and adventurous tale, is modestly told in simple prose. It is lacking in much of the detail that would have made Mateo's account of the crossing a thrilling read. What were more of the oppressive details, and the historical basis, for life's difficulties under the Fascists in the Canary Islands?

Interestingly, while the islands never saw a war with gunshots, deaths and heroic tales, the post-war repression was among the most severe in all of Spain (source: www.what-tenerife.com).

Then, too, what did Tomas, the young man whose story this is, do and think each day to pass the time as the boat drifted across the waters? How did he fight his fears and bore-



Stephen Mateo. Photo from Mateo

dom? Mateo writes of his protagonist, "Tomas was forced to discover who he really was, and to confront his strengths as well as his weaknesses." More details would have been fascinating. He doesn't give us many. Perhaps screenplays are lighter in such descriptions, but Mateo would have enriched his readers' imagination more satisfactorily had he taken a little more time to dwell on such things in his novel version.

Nonetheless, a pleasant read about family love, immigrant struggles, and a man surviving incredible odds against nature.

Originally from Toronto, Mateo studied acting in L.A. He co-starred on the CBS sitcom *High Society*, has appeared off-Broadway and developed a cooking show for kids.

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.

NUNN ON ONE: COMEDY

Judy Tenuta: On Chicago, sports and Man's Country

BY JERRY NUNN

The outrageous and quirky comedian Judy Tenuta is heading to the Laugh Factory Chicago on Sept. 6 with each patron's \$20 admission going to Pride Films and Plays. The Grammy-nominated performer is releasing a new book, *Judy Tenuta: Full Frontal Tenudity*, as well as appearing in several movies.

She chatted with entertainment writer Jerry Nunn before the Illinois native returns to her roots.

Windy City Times: Hey, Judy.

Judy Tenuta: Hey, Jerry. You are calling from where? Give me all of your stats.

WCT: I am from Chicago.

JT: Yay, my hometown!

WCT: You are from Oak Park.

JT: [Laughs] Oak Park will beat New Trier! We were the smallest family on my block. My parents had nine children. Across the street there were a dozen Catholics in their family. The whole block was Irish Catholic. Next door to us were the Newtons. They also had 11 kids.

WCT: No birth control in this neighborhood!

JT: I called them the Fig Newtons. They would always sing out their window, "Put on your Sunday clothes when you feel down." The Catholics did not like them singing at all hours.

WCT: Are you the youngest in your family?

JT: Of course—I am the youngest now.

WCT: So you were the Cindy Brady of the Tenuta bunch.

JT: Yes, I had a lot of jock brothers. That is how I learned that you have to love the Cubs, the Bears, the Bulls and the Hawks. My favorites, of course, were the winners: The Bulls. Don't be mad.

WCT: Don't worry. I am not a sports gay.

JT: It was just exciting when they won in the '90s. I had just done another special. I was out on Lincoln Avenue. I didn't really know what was going on because I was like you and didn't know about sports. People started lifting me up in the air like I was in Cirque du Soleil.

WCT: So how did you wind up living in L.A.?

JT: I went to New York after Chicago. I got my HBO specials and Diet Dr. Pepper commercials. I realized I needed to be on TV more. Now you could be anywhere, but at that time people moved out to L.A. Then I needed a scandal and to be in the Betty Ford Clinic. I needed a sex tape like Kim Kardashian. Honey, they are only putting people like that on shows.

WCT: Would you ever do a reality show?

JT: They won't let me because I am not an alcoholic or 700 pounds going on The Biggest Loser. I'm not saying I was sexually abused—okay, Roseanne!

WCT: Did you watch Roseanne's roast on Comedy Central?

JT: Oh, please. Are you kidding? I was watching the Olympics. But I did see Gilbert Gottfried's part. He was really funny calling her Rozilla!

WCT: I was looking at your new book, with dating tips in there.

JT: There are really three separate books. The first part is about living in Hollywood, where I learned that people are full of crap, really. They say things they don't mean like "we will have to do lunch," which means good luck getting a hold of me. "My divorce is almost final" means I am married and broke. "I love your work" means I just saw your sex tape.

I made myself a part of everything because I have to do a tribute to the goddess. I thought



Judy Tenuta. Publicity shot

if people just thumb through this, it looks like a mini-musical. You can be illiterate and still love it because it is a coffee-table book. I'm not bragging but the photos are great, right?

WCT: They are fun.

JT: I have another section because my brothers said I eat like a stoner. We were at a Mexican restaurant in Chicago. It was so great, like in the meatpacking district. They have a dessert that is like fried ice cream.

WCT: Uncle Julio's Hacienda? I used to work there.

JT: Yeah, that was it. I was dipping the tortilla chips in the ice cream. So I write about snacks like that then I have love advice. I have things like never surrender your bod on the first date unless you are with Hugh Jackman or Ryan Reynolds. This goes for gay men, too, honey! Although I know my gay men and they love to put out on the first date. Don't lie to me, but they always do.

WCT: Sometimes, this is true.

JT: You know what I love about the gay community? They tend to stay friends after a breakup; the straights never do. I don't know if it was just me but it was hard to be friends with someone that betrays you. But they can always be part of my act!

WCT: You mentioned performing at [the private club] Man's Country in the book.

JT: Thank you for noticing. I used to drive in a blizzard to get 10 minutes on stage there. I even did the IML Mr. Leather celebration. They always have it around Memorial Day and that is why I love that holiday so much.

WCT: People come from all over the world for that.

JT: I saw a lawyer with chaps on and said, "Excuse me. I don't think you can wear that in court!"

WCT: I went to the Sister Mary movie opening to talk to you last time you were in town.

JT: Oh, I loved that. I had a great part in it.

WCT: The new movie, called Going Down in LA-LA Land, looks good.

JT: I got to play a real hardcore bitch like Cruella de Vil, except I didn't have the black-and-white hair.

Sep. 5, 2012

WCT: But you had the attitude.

JT: Oh my God, it was so much fun. We filmed that almost two years ago. My shoot was all day long. I get the parts that Meryl Streep turns down!

WCT: I have to see her new movie.

JT: Hmm, boring, but they can't all be gold.

WCT: You are coming to the Laugh Factory for the whole weekend.

JT: I have so much history with that theater. I will never forget when it was a movie theater. I was scared out of my mind and saw Taxi Driver there. It was so bloody I could hardly watch.

WCT: It is now a comedy venue and they have revamped it.

JT: I can't wait to see it. I hurt my knee so, hopefully, I won't be a pirate limping around by then. I tore my meniscus and I don't even play basketball!

WCT: You will bring your accordion?

JT: Oh, yes. Everyone wants to kiss my accordion so there might be a privileged few that get to come up and kiss it.

Pucker up for Judy at the Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway, with performances Sept. 6-9 beginning at 8 p.m. with a two-drink minimum. Visit www.laughfactory.com for ticket information.

NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

Michelle Visage of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' talks all-stars

BY JERRY NUNN

Sitting on the judge's panel on RuPaul's Drag Race is the one-and-only Michelle Visage, who replaced Merle Ginsberg on season two. She is now scheduled to school drag queens on season five of the show as well as on RuPaul's All Stars Drag Race.

Originally from the girl group Seduction, Visage broke into the club scene with a few hits and then continued hosting radio shows. She met RuPaul years ago and has stayed friends ever since, changing the course of her life.

Nunn chatted with her right before her club gig at Spin in Chicago.

Windy City Times: We talked not too long ago but it was in the middle of last season. What did you think of the winner of season four?

Michelle Visage: I think if Sharon Needles didn't win, there would have been an uproar because so many people identified with Sharon. People identified with being an outcast and freaky. I understand that and I identify with it, too. I would have been equally as happy if Chad had won. I think Phi Phi needed to be in the top three but I don't think she needed to win, and I think the choices were clear. I do love Phi Phi, but not for the crown.

WCT: During the competition, when the other judges pick past eliminated contestants to return, people on the street say RuPaul gets rid of them right away to prove she was right in the first place. Is there any truth to that?

MV: That has nothing to do with proving anything but has to do with my shit choices. I believe in my heart that the people we bring back have something to prove, but maybe that is why they are sent home—because it is getting too tough. [However,] I think any of the people I brought back are shit choices because I still believe in Kenya and Carmen.

It is not RuPaul going, "No, bitch, I am still in charge!" Our friendship is [more than] 20

years old. He doesn't need to do that. It's his show. Everybody knows he's in charge. It's RuPaul's Drag Race so in the end, of course, he has the final word. He will ask me my opinion off camera. I tell him my honest thoughts. In the end, he is drag queen. I'm just a wannabe girl drag queen. There is no shade involved.

WCT: RuPaul must have grown up a lot.

MV: I met RuPaul in 1986. People don't know my personal life but they know the character I play on TV. I fight for gay rights and equality every day of my life. I love hair and makeup—that part is true. I live a very holistic life. I don't drink and have never done drugs in my life. I am a pretty evolved person but Ru is the most evolved person I have ever met. People wouldn't believe the person he used to be so, yes, he has grown quite a bit.

WCT: So no drinking at Spin?

MV: I love our sponsors, like Absolut, but I don't drink. I never liked alcohol. It might be the Virgo thing in me.

WCT: What are you doing at the appearance?

MV: There is a drag contest that I am judging. I am really just excited to be in Chicago. It is a city that has supported me since Seduction. I married a Chicago boy. My in-laws are coming to the show. [The radio station] B-96 was always being supportive of our type of music back in the day, so we used to always be in Chicago.

WCT: Were the All-Star Drag Queens picked online?

MV: No; just Mimi Imfurst was voted in through Facebook. This is the first time we are doing it but I think it will be a hit and a regular thing.

WCT: You judge on it?

MV: A lot people ask me that. You don't understand. My ass is glued to that chair. I am not going anywhere. It took me two seasons to get there. All Stars is going to literally blow your mind.

WCT: Season five of the show is already filmed, too?

MV: Yes, all done. It never gets boring whether it is a pageant queen or a camp queen.

WCT: I know of at least one contestant who is from Chicago and a friend of mine.

MV: Our Chicago queens have had lots of talent, from DiDa Ritz to Jade. I just hung out with Jade at Micky's for the first time and said, "Bring me to Chicago, bitch! We have to hang again!"

Come see the vivacious Visage judge live and in person at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., on Saturday, Sept. 8. The contest begins at 11 p.m. Visit www.spinnightclub.com for tickets and details.

Michelle Visage. Photo courtesy of Logo

Mexico City: One día at a time

BY KIRK WILLIAMSON

El día numero uno:

The first day actually began *en la noche* as I departed to O'Hare for my 1 a.m. flight on Aeromexico. I was initially apprehensive about the flight's timing, until I realized—night owl that I tend to be—that getting there so early would afford me an entire day of leisure. And never has a complimentary cocktail on a flight been so well-needed. Muchas gracias, Aeromexico!

After a three-and-a-half hour flight (yes, you read that right), I arrived to a still-darkened Mexico City. By 5:30, I had made it to the W Mexico City (www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels) in the ritzy Polanco neighborhood. I was a bit woozy from the unusual travel time and when the gentleman at the check-in desk asked me four times if I wanted "one key for my room," I could swear he was asking if I wanted "Joaquina for my room." *I don't have much use for a Joaquin at this hour, much less a Joaquina,* I thought to myself before the idiot cloud passed, I accepted Joaquina (which was the name I assigned to my room key), and headed up to the 16th floor.

I entered my room and was immediately enraptured by the view of the endless landscape of city lights, which

I drank in slowly while resting in the hammock which was strung diagonally across the shower room. The entire exterior wall was a window and it peered right into the heart of the massive, bustling metropolis. It was a worthy introduction to the city.

I slept until noon, napped until 2, and then struck out into the city, in search of culture, *comida*, and a better deal than the 152-peso single-shot bottle of vodka in the honor bar.

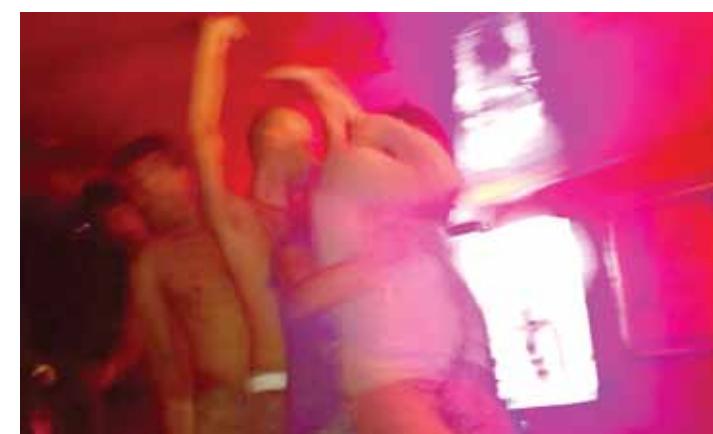
I was impressed with the public spaces of the city. Sculpture, both sparkling-new and quaintly crumbling, dotted the green spaces nestled between the buzzing avenues. As I got strategically lost among the foreign embassies and Spanish-tiled private residences of Mexico City's most upscale area, I pondered the contrasts of the city. Like Chicago, Mexico City has strived recently to shake off the stigma of a gritty past and to shine as an improved, safer center of commerce and high living. Crowded buses with broken windows zoomed past, hinting at a stark economic range typical to any large world city.

And I found a much larger bottle of Smirnoff for 158 pesos, but more on that later.

That evening, I began what was to become a quasi-intimate relationship with the food of Mexico City. I dined

with utter delight at Pujol (www.pujol.com.mx), voted one of the world's 50 best restaurants by San Pellegrino. He appeared at first to be out of my league. Then he tempted me with his ant larvae tostada with kohlrabi and leek. By the time I had his dessert with mango mousse, passion fruit, grated macadamia nut and coconut gel, I was putty in his hands.

Now that I was just so much putty, it was time for a drink. Word from the locals led us to Marrakesh (República de Cuba 23). We were warned that it was in a "bad part of town," but as everyone in my group was either from Chicago, New York or Washington, D.C., we didn't much waver at the warning. While Nicki Minaj boomed from the sumptuous sound system, a rotating cast of daring youth danced on the bar while cheesy '70s Mexican soft-core porn was projected on the large wall over the dance floor. Drink prices were spectacular—at least for me. I paid 20 pesos for a Dos Equis, while another in my group who was not so melanin-rich paid considerably more. Just speak Spanish and you'll be okay. And if you don't think you speak Spanish and you're coming from Chicago, trust me, you speak Spanish. It'll just come out after about *quatro* or *seis* Equis.



Goin' loco at Marrakesh.



View from the 16th floor of the W Mexico City.



Mango mousse, passion fruit, grated macadamia nut and coconut gel at Pujol.

El día numero dos:

I began my day in a hot, passionate romp with a plate of chilaquiles verdes from W room service. When I was finished, I wiped my face (because I'm a lady) and traveled to Cárcamo in Chapultepec Park. This newly-restored, mosaic-tiled fountain serves as the ceremonial entrance of the water of the Lerma River into the city. Directly behind the fountain is a cistern which is brilliantly painted with "El Agua, Origen de la Vida," a mural by famed Mexican painter Diego Rivera. The marriage of the engineering feat of the Cárcamo water source and the emotionally jarring Rivera mural speaks to the attitude of a city which has grown and innovated to astounding proportions, while keeping in mind its cultural and historical beauty.



Above: Detail from "El Agua, Origen de la Vida" by Diego Rivera, at Cárcamo in Chapultepec Park.

Below: Warrior statues at Templo Mayor



The Monumento a la Revolución (www.mrm.mx) stands as a proud beacon of remembrance of Mexico's storied revolution, which began in 1910. Originally the centerpiece of an entire federal legislative palace designed by French architect Emile Bénard, it was the only building begun before the government funneled funds away from the project to fight the revolutionaries. For two decades, it stood an unfinished steel structure, until Mexican architect Carlos Obregón Santacilia overtook the project, declaring it a monument "to the revolution of yesterday, today, tomorrow, and always." The basement houses a museum of the revolution and the observation deck provides some stunning views of the city.

I then continued my culinary affair at Azul Historico (www.azulhistorico.com), where chef Ricardo Muñoz Zurita warmed me up with a shot of chicken breast mezcal served in a carved jicara shell. He then ravaged me with in-season poblano peppers, stuffed with a sweet melange of fruit and rice and drizzled with a sweet/sour duo of white sauces and sprinkled with pomegranate seeds. When I thought I could take no more, the Tres Leches dessert sent me off in ecstasy. Not feeling a drop of self-consciousness seated among Mexico City's fashion elite and boozy businessmen, I then had a cigarette and did a little shopping. You know, just to come down a little.

In an educational effort to walk off the dec-

adence of Azul Historico, I headed to Templo Mayor, the ruins of an Aztec temple discovered 35 years ago when electrical workers found a stone monolith while digging. Templo Mayor provides a shocking link to the past, when warriors and human sacrifice were *de rigueur* in pre-Hispanic times. My favorite moment at the Museo del Templo Mayor (www.templomayor.inah.gob.mx) was seeing the "face knives," anthropomorphically-decorated knives which, upon initial glance, provide a goofy grin. Then, once you realize their connection to human sacrifice, you ain't grinning so much.

Back at the W, I was shown some of the amenities of the hotel in a far more grand fashion than I was expecting. Tequila shots, breathtaking views of the night skyline and mariachi bands concealed in circular showers were just a few of the bells and whistles that trumpeted the W as the place to stay in Mexico City.

Hong Kong's DJ Angus Wong spun all night at Whiskey Bar, located in the lobby of the W, and after the previous night at Marrakesh, that was as far as I went. Kirk out.

El día numero tres:

My fling with the W's chilaquiles verdes proved to be a two-morning stand. He bade me farewell and I ran into the morning and ultimately to the Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (www.muac.unam.mx). Part of the university system of Mexico City, MUAC held the first public collection of contemporary art in the country. The exhibits highlight a strong connection to education of the form and interactivity with the patrons. La Selva Sintética (Synthetic Jungle) from artist Jorge Alberto Alba floods the senses with individually-generated, simulated sounds of the rainforest that combine and crescendo into a hypnotizing soundscape. In another room, signs inscribed with sayings—both witty and dire—litter the floor and walls and encourage the public to play with the labels and to act out, in direct opposition to how we are normally taught to behave in museums. It will bring out the child (and the artist) in you.

The next stop was Bazar del Sábado San Angel, a huge bazaar where you can find gorgeous textiles, tchotchkies in every color of the rainbow and tequila, tequila, tequila! It skews a bit touristy, but it's a worthwhile stop to spend a few pesos on some authentic keepsakes of your trip. I'm kind of obsessed with the Day of the Dead skeleton shadow boxes I found and I'm kind

of wishing I'd bought twenty instead of three, which at 50 pesos a piece would have been a reasonable transaction.

A brief walk from the bazaar was lunch at Paxia (www.danielovadia.com.mx/vExplorer), another jewel in the fine dining crown of Mexico City, where my love spree continued. The black mole sauce that came with the "Quesadillas Oaxaca" was certainly marriage material, and I can't wait to introduce it to my mother. The honey-glazed sweetbreads turned out to be a bit of a Monet unfortunately; it looked sexy and inviting on the plate, but turned into just so much fat in my mouth.

One cannot forget that Frida Kahlo was a native daughter of Mexico City. Her face was emblazoned on half the tchotchkies at the bazaar! It was a *fait accompli* that I would end up at Frida and husband Diego Rivera's house and studio for a look-see. Sadly, I was too late for a look-see, but had a nice look-buy at the gift shop. My Frida Kahlo shot glass was broken in almost immediately, thanks to a small bottle of tequila I snagged at the bazaar.

I stopped back to the W to freshen up (read: nap) and almost drifted off to sleep when a knock came at the door. A complimentary glass

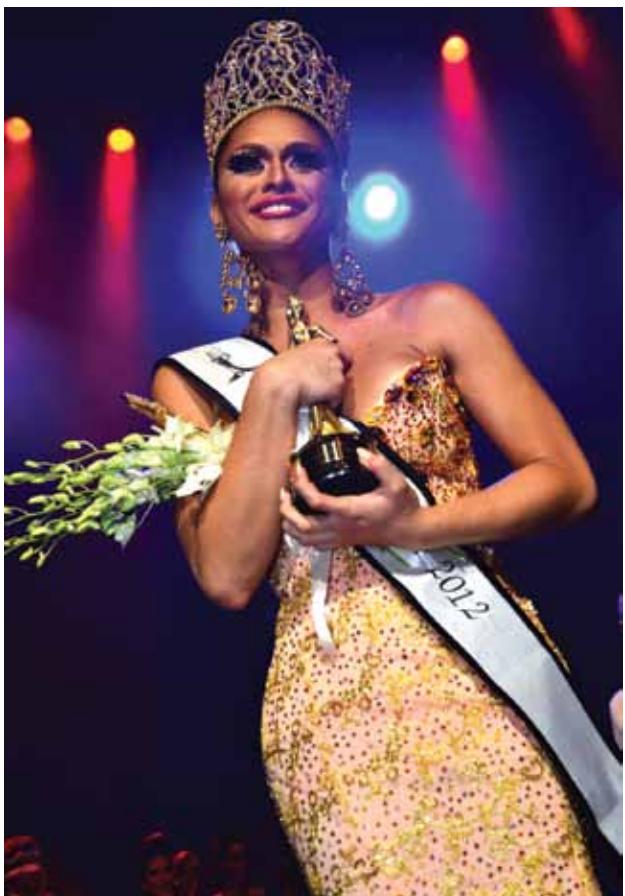
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Left: Shadow boxes at Bazar del Sábado San Angel. Right: Touching the art at Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo. Photo by Joseph Pedro

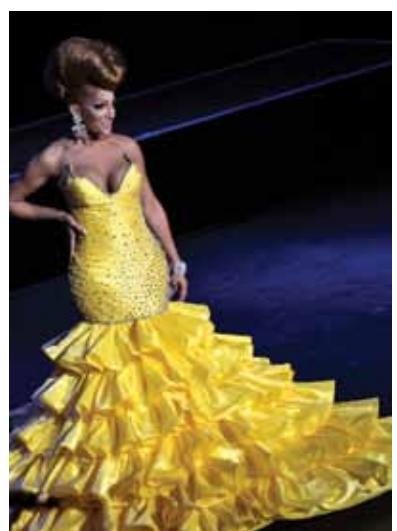


New Miss and Mr. Continental chosen



Congratulations to Miss Continental 2012 Sasha Colby (left) and Mr. Continental 2013 Angel Saez Amador (right). Sasha was crowned Mon., Sept. 3 at The Vic Theatre and Angel claimed his title Sat., Sept. 1 at The Park West. The Miss Continental preliminary was also held at The Vic, Sun., Sept. 2 and the Mr. preliminary took place at The Baton Show Lounge, Fri., Aug. 31.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, mysticimagesphotography.com. More at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com and in the next Nightspots.





Signature Room at the 95th

BY MEGHAN STREIT

If you haven't been to the Signature Room at the top of the John Hancock Building in many years (or you've never eaten there), you might be inclined to think that a restaurant with such a magnificent view of Chicago's skyline and a steady stream of tourists would rest on its laurels. That's what I thought until I dined there recently. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the sky-high restaurant turns out top-notch cuisine.

Everything I ate was freshly prepared, beautifully presented and served with a smile. The restaurant uses many locally sourced ingredients and has a seasonal menu, which on my visit, boasted summery treats like a roasted corn ravioli.

The menu is ample, with plenty of selections but not an overwhelming number of choices. The prices, considering the quality of the food and the breathtaking scenery, are shockingly reasonable. Starters and salads range from \$8 to \$12 and there are several entrees for less than \$30.

The beet salad was one of the best I've had in a while. I find that most beet salads, which have become ubiquitous on restaurant menus everywhere, have too many beets and not enough other tasty ingredients. The Signature Room's version was a delightful mix of light greens, Maytag blue cheese, candied walnuts, tangy Dijon vinaigrette and just the right amount of fresh beets. I don't typically gravitate to mus-



sels as starter, but I'm glad I sampled them at the Signature Room. They were tender and served in a broth that was spicy enough to make them memorable.

The entrée selections include the upscale dining staples you might expect like seared salmon, braised lamb, and surf and turf. While there aren't many huge surprises, there are also no missteps. Just about everything I tried was flavorful, properly seasoned and perfectly executed. It's worth noting that all of the food is cooked on electric stoves and ovens because gas can't be installed at that height—quite the culinary feat when you are grilling steaks and baking cheesecake.

Speaking of steaks, the one I tried was fantastic. It was tender and juicy, and served as an excellent vehicle for the rich, buttery béarnaise sauce that accompanied it. I also really enjoyed the lamb. The portion was quite large, and the



Beet salad (right) and the view (left) from the Signature Room at the 95th. PR photos

tender meat fell easily off of the bone. On my visit, the lamb was served with soft, doughy spaetzle, which was flavored with spices that gave it some kick.

There was a lobster tail special on the menu when I visited, and for your sake, readers, I hope it's still available when you visit The Signature Room. I eat as many lobster tails as I can get my hands on, and this one was definitely among the best. If I heard my waiter correctly, it was steamed and then grilled. Every drawn butter-soaked bite melted in my mouth. The lobster paired nicely with a glass of Piper Heidsieck champagne, which is one of many wines available at The Signature Room. It was served on top of whipped potatoes and green beans, both of which made fine companions for rich seafood.

There's not a bad seat in the house, so you'll definitely want to stay and linger over dessert at the Signature Room. Between my many visits to The Signature Lounge and my recent dinner at The Signature Room, I think I've tried almost every dessert the establishment has to offer. They are all quite tasty, but if I had to pick a favorite, it would be the carrot cake. It is constructed of at least six super-thin layers of sweet and spicy carrot cake, each topped with rich frosting.

There is one very special dessert I did not have the pleasure of sampling, and that is a chocolate box the servers at The Signature Room use to deliver about 250 engagement rings every year. If you're looking for a stunning and memorable place to pop the question, I think this is an excellent place to do it. You'll never forget getting

engaged at what I believe is Chicago's Empire State Building. No matter how many times you go to the top of the Hancock, no matter how many tourists you might have to wait in line with, the panoramic skyline views just never get old. Whether or not you plan to propose to someone over dinner at The Signature Room, definitely make a reservation before you go. That will allow you to bypass the typically long line of people waiting to get up to the lounge.

The Signature Room is located at 875 N. Michigan Ave.; call 312-787-9596 or visit www.signatureroom.com.

Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter @SugarAndSpiceMS for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.

MEXICO from page 24

of champagne from the W as a final gift. Class, baby. As I stood naked in the shower with my champagne and looked out one last time over the city lights, I choked up just a little, realizing it might be a while before I get this glamorous again. All things must pass

Time for one last fling at Bar Tomate (www.grupotragaluz.com/rest-tomate_mexico.php). He got a little "fresh" with me, but I certainly did not mind. After the upscale experiences at Paxia and Pujol, I reveled in the simple, hearty, bistro-like atmosphere of Bar Tomate. The exquisitely spiced tuna tartare made my night. I'll always remember you, Bar Tomate, as the one who got away.

The trip was rapidly coming to an end as I flew out early the next morning, but the group and I endeavored over to Living (www.living.com.mx) for one last hurrah. Living bills itself as the ultimate gay club and it has the decor and talented DJs to prove it. Regrettably, due to a migraine brought on by the tannins in the wine at Bar Tomate (which is no assault on Bar Tomate, but an unfortunate reaction I have to wine in general), I was not living for Living, and as my 9 a.m. flight loomed, I bade a fond *adiós* to the group and headed back to the W for precious little sleep.

El día numero cuatro:

Near-heart-attack-inducing wake-up call; silent shuttle to the airport; "Donde esta la puerta numero sesenta y dos?"; brief airborne nap; few episodes of Shameless on my iPod; unopened bottle of Smirnoff through customs; home by early afternoon.

See www.visitmexico.com/en-i0/mexico-city to plan your own trip. Photos by Kirk Williamson, except where otherwise indicated. Look for many more photos online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



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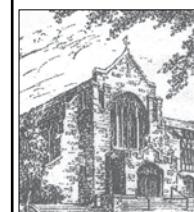
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Youth of Halsted Survey

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

calendar Q

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Wed., Sept. 5

Walk-in Wednesday HIV Testing Free rapid HIV testing is available on a walk-in basis only. No need to schedule and appointment, just ask at the reception desk. Center on Halsted offers free and confidential HIV tests, using the finger stick test that generates results in just 15 minutes. 12-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

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., 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.,

\$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

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, Mercede Andrews, Kelly Lauren, Erica Andrews and special guests each week! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

Thursday, Sept. 6

Farmstand Farmers' Market Monday - Friday, features the Frank Family Farm, Gotta Bee Crepes and Saigon Sisters. 7am-3pm,

COMIC RELIEF Monday, Sept. 10

NewNowNext Vote with Wanda Sykes will air on Logo.

Photo of Sykes by Craig Blankenhorn

66 E. Randolph St.

Pam Grier Grier, famous in the 1970s for women-in-prison and blaxploitation films such as 1974's Foxy Brown and later Jackie Brown (1997), The L Word, Law & Order: SVU and Smallville, will sign copies of autobiography, FOXY: A Life in Three Acts. 5pm-7pm, Reel Art Collectibles, 6727 W. Stanley St., Berwyn, www.reelartstore.com

Coming Out Support Group This Coming Out Support Group is for women who find themselves attracted to other women, or may be questioning their sexual identity and are looking to discuss issues of sexuality in a safe and confidential space. 6pm-7:30pm, 773-388-1600, ext. 3319, Howard Brown, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., www.howardbrown.org/lccp

By Women For Women: A Night of Friendship Center on Halsted's Women's Action Committee hosts. Cocktails, appetizers and desserts on the rooftop, plus special dance performance and information about new programs just for women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer.

\$20 includes two drink tickets, entrance to after-party at Rehab and hors d'oeuvres created by celebrity lesbian chefs. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., https://community.centeronhalsted.org/bywomenforwomen more information

American Veterans for Equal Rights (LGBT veterans) Monthly meeting first Thursday of each month. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

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, will be performed through Sept. 9. 7-8pm, Dream Theatre, 556 W. 18th St., www.chicagofringe.org

Hal Sparks Actor/comedian, performing through Sept. 8, began his professional career in Chicago as a member of Second City; hosted Talk Soup on E!, and co-starred as Michael Novotny on the Showtime series Queer As Folk. He will start in the stand-up special Charmageddon this June. \$23-\$27; 8pm, Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., www.maynestage.com.

Judy Tenuta Opening Night Support Pride Films and Plays by purchasing opening night tickets, \$20. Two-drink minimum (alcoholic and non alcoholic) per person. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime. Questions to PFPTickets@gmail.com with Judy Tenuta in the subject line. 8pm, Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway, www.pridefilmsandplays.com; Tickets: http://gopride.com/z7et more information

Encore Weekend of 'Sordid Lives' with Del Shores A black comedy about white trash. Nominated for over thirty awards in its LA run. Thursday and Saturday at 8 pm; Friday night at midnight. 8pm-10pm, 773-703-4090, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave., https://athenaeumtheatre.org; Tickets: https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe/9707108

Friday, Sept. 7

Taking Pride in Wellness: LGBTQ Healthy Aging Fair Second annual LGBTQ wellness fair, providing resources and strategies for healthy aging. Created by and for LGBTQ people over the age of 55. Features a keynote speaker, complimentary lunch, massages, health check-ups, flu and pneumonia shots, activities, prizes and more than 40 community vendors. Free and open to the public. 9am-2pm, 773-661-0797, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Del Shores show Out writer/storyteller Del Shores will perform as part of his "Naked. Sordid.Reality" tour. \$20. After the show, Shores will attend Ludicrous Theatre Company's reboot of its production of Del Shores' Sordid Lives—with the original

DEL IT LIKE IT IS

Friday, Sept. 7

Out writer/storyteller Del Shores will perform at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. In addition, he will attend a revival of his play Sordid Lives at Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

Photo courtesy of Shores

cast getting together again for one weekend only at Athenaeum Theater. 9pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., Tickets: www.delshores.net

Windy City Wine Festival Chicago's Windy City Wine Festival, a late-summer tradition in the heart of downtown, celebrates its 8th anniversary this year—bigger and better than ever. 4pm-10pm, 312-274-3555, Buckingham Fountain, Grant Park, www.windycitywinefestival.com

WSGA Dinner The West Suburban Gay Association provides a safe and friendly environment through social, recreational and educational events. 7:30pm, The Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 639 N Blackhawk Dr., Westmont, www.wsga.com

Bruce Springsteen Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will perform. 7:30pm, Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St., # 1, www.tickets.com/brucewrigley/

Saturday, Sept. 8

Befriending the Bible: Reading Condemnation with CARE Introductory workshop demonstrates the unique model of reading the Bible designed by Rev. Jacki Belile, a lesbian Baptist minister and spiritual life coach. Registration cost of \$35 includes program, materials and continental breakfast. 9am-11pm, Living Well Ministries 6554 N. Rockwell Ave., http://befriendingthebible0912-efevent.eventbrite.com/

Gay Day—Out in the Park BestGayChicago.com and Glaceau Vitamin Water present the day including an exclusive event: The general public will leave Six Flags Great America at 9pm and until 1am the group will enjoy rides with no long lines. Tickets online with promo code "out12." Also limited seating on special roundtrip bus ticket departing from Uptown in Chicago at the site: www.gaysixflagschicago.com/2012/07/03/bus-tickets-for-six-flags-9-8-2012.aspx

LGBTQ Family Movie Day Family-friendly film screening with LGBTQ families. This month's feature is the family hit Spy Kids (rated PG), starring Antonio Banderas, Teri Hatcher and out actor Alan Cumming. 2pm, 773-661-0797, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Book launch "Getting Into Face", The Living Art of JoJo Baby, Sal-E Celebrates the collaboration between the performance artists JoJo Baby and Sal-E and the photographer Bernard Colbert. This book is a visual result of a five-year photo project documenting JoJo Baby and Sal-E on a weekly basis as they prepared for their Monday night performances at the "Boom Boom Room". 7pm, 773-782-1744, Eyepori Gallery, 1431 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Michelle Visage Head judge of RuPaul's Drag Race Michelle Visage brings her reading eye to the girls of the Dragzilla drag contest. Contest at 11. \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door; \$25 VIP package includes hosted bar 10-11 and a meet and greet after the show. 11pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

Lakeview East Festival of the Arts More than 150 juried artists showcased. Art, music, food, family activities, Garden Oasis by Patch Landscaping. Through Sept. 9; 11:30 a.m., Broadway between Belmont and Hawthorne, www.lakevieweast.com

Sunday, Sept. 9

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

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



PAM I AM

Thursday, Sept. 6

Actress Pam Grier will sign items at Reel Art Collectibles, 6727 W. Stanley St., Berwyn.

Pic by Jerry Nunn

(at Ashland), 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. Hoyne (At LeMoynne), www.newchicagochurch.com

Victory in Chicago Champagne Brunch Join Co-Chairs Wally Brewster & Bob Satawake, Gary Metzner & Scott Johnson, and Debra Shore for the inaugural Victory in Chicago Champagne Brunch at the new Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus Dr. 11am-2pm, 202-567-3314; www.victoryfund.org/chicago

West Suburban Gay Association cruise Chicago Architectural River Cruise. \$26 for adults when purchased at the dock or \$24.18 in advance online. Meet at the dock below street level at 1 for 1:30 tour. 1pm, Wendella Boats: 400 N. Michigan Ave. Tickets: www.wendellaboats.com

Summer PRIDE Film Festival The Gay and Straight Together Ministry of United in Faith Lutheran Church, a welcoming and affirming congregation, invites you to Summer PRIDE, a film festival dealing with different aspects of homosexuality and our faith. 2pm-7pm, 773-283-2326, 6525 W. Irving Park Rd. www.unitedinfaith.org

Monday, Sept. 10

NewNowNext Vote with Wanda Sykes Politically minded comedian and TV personality Sykes will educate, activate and entertain viewers while shining a spotlight on the state of national politics through an LGBT lens. 9pm, LOGO, www.newnownext.com

T-Talk This free event is a casual, peer-led conversation group for those 18 years old and older who either identify as transgender or are dealing with a gender identity issue. 6:30pm-8:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Tuesdays at POW-WOW LGBTQ poets and open mic. \$5. powwowinc@gmail.com-Door opens 7:30 pm; 8:30pm, Jeffrey, 7041 S. Jeffery Blvd.

Wednesday, Sept. 12

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, Mercede Andrews, Kelly Lauren, Erica Andrews and special guests each week! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.

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BILLY MASTERS

"It's presumptuous to even look too closely into Angela's shoes, much less stick one's own hooves into them. But I said, 'Of course.'"—Elizabeth Ashley's reaction when asked to replace Angela Lansbury in the Broadway revival of *The Best Man*, reprising the role she played in the 2000 production. And for the record, Liz's hooves are mighty fabulous as well!

You wouldn't expect much gay news to come out of the Republican National Convention, but you'd be wrong. And it came courtesy of Aaron Schock. When a cameraman from TMZ caught up with the hunky congressman, who is more known for his six-pack than for any political ideals, what do you think he was asked? Whether Paul Ryan's wardrobe is adequately showcasing his physique. "I think Paul's in great shape," said Schock. "I think a little bit of leaner attire would help accentuate that physique that he's worked so hard to maintain." Is this the RNC or TLC's *What Not To Wear?* What pushed this exchange into the theater of the absurd is that Schock was strolling through Ybor City—specific-



Rob Gronkowski has no problem playing with the gays, Billy says.

cally the GaYbor District. While he was gushing about Ryan's body, he was strolling past a bathhouse and numerous gay shops with ... shall we say "colorful" window dressing. What was he doing in this part of town? You can probably answer that question after watching the video on BillyMasters.com.

If you ever question that the times they are a-changin', you need only look to professional football. "What? Really, Billy?" I can hear you crying through your Internet portal (or, if you're a purist, crying to your newspaper). It's true. New England Patriot Rob Gronkowski made it clear that he'd have no problem if one of his teammates came out. The tight end said, "If that's how they are, that's how they are. I mean, we're teammates so, as long as he's being a good teammate and being respectful and everything, that's cool." Of course, this is no surprise as Gronkowski, who is in possession of one of the most delectable torsos around, previously said he would "eff" Tim Tebow just to take his virginity. I must confess that I find this visual most appealing, especially thinking back to that photo of The Gronk using his penis to whack a football piñata (which you can see on BillyMasters.com).

Mr. Gronkowski isn't the only pro baller to have no problems with gay teammates (at least in the abstract). We now turn to Tennessee Titans quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, the brother of

Tim Hasselbeck, who is the husband of Elizabeth Hasselbeck. He claims to have discussed the matter with his fellow quarterbacks and it was a non-issue. He added, "The question did come up, well, what about in the shower? And those are tricky, delicate issues. But so are female reporters in the locker room. There's rarely a clear, black-and-white answer on a lot of tricky issues. But I think, at least for the three quarterbacks in our room, it was kind of a shrug: "Yeah, so what?"

Ryan Lochte accepted an invitation to appear on E!'s *Fashion Police*. Joan Rivers managed (without too much effort) to get Lochte out of his clothes—much to the delight of co-hosts Giuliana Rancic and George Kotsopoulos. Lochte then explained that he shaves his body for competitive reasons, and not solely to make his abs pop. Rivers wanted to know how much shaving he did, and he said, "Pretty much everything except the top of my head." "Everything everything?" asked Auntie Joan. "I think that's a personal preference, but I ... uh ... yeah." She then led Lochte into the reflecting pool in front of the E! studios—and, yes, she went in fully clothed. I'd hate to ruin her big joke, but you can watch the magic unfold on BillyMasters.com.

British Olympic diver Tom Daley has had a tough year. After losing his father to cancer, he had the scrutiny and hopes of a nation foisted upon him for the London Games. After a disappointing bronze medal, he endured some offensive tweets that necessitated the involvement of the authorities. And yet, he's still found time to flaunt his fantastic physique (damn those teenage Olympians) for *Heat* magazine. The tyke was asked about future plans. "When I finish diving, I will become a fitness freak," he said. "It's hard because if you are an athlete and you stop, you'll put on weight so easily, so it's important to me that I keep it going. I do want to make sure that I don't lose my shape. I want to stay in shape." We all want you to, Tom. To see quite a bit of that shape (including some behind the scenes footage in his pink undies), check out BillyMasters.com.

Theater lovers Down Under are in for a treat: Angela Lansbury and James Earl Jones are on their way to Australia to star in *Driving Miss Daisy*. Although Jones appeared in the recent Broadway revival of the play opposite Vanessa Redgrave, this will mark Lansbury's first time assuming the role. They open in Brisbane on Feb. 5, 2013.

Speaking of legends hitting the road, Barbra Streisand is doing a smattering of dates this fall in conjunction with her "Back to Brooklyn" concert. And she'll also be promoting a new CD. *Release Me* will drop (as the kids say) Sept. 25 and will consist of 11 previously unreleased tracks that were recorded as early as 1963. When reviewing the material, Streisand said, "The thing I'm happiest about is that I still have great affection for all these songs. They appealed to me at the time ... and still do. Listening now, I actually think to myself, 'The girl wasn't half bad.'"

When Streisand's giving herself a good review, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And you know what else it's time for? Billy to return to the good ol' US of A. After all, the summer's over and there's plenty going on both in showbiz and at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that never takes a vacation. We couldn't squeeze in a question this week, but I always have room for my fans—both privately and publicly. So send your queries to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Aaron Schock joins Joan Rivers on *Fashion Police!* So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

ALL WEEKEND LONG



Welcome Senior Cup
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WINDY CITY
MEDIA
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Gay man set to shoulder 5K swim

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jordan Conover is ready for the Big Shoulders 5K Swim—mentally, physically and quite personally.

The openly gay Conover, 31, who lives in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood, will participate in the annual event for the first time—and this will be the longest continuous swim he's ever done.

The event is Saturday, Sept. 8, at 8 a.m.

"Growing up, my parents both worked two jobs and had to keep my brother and I occupied during summer breaks, so they put us through swimming lessons every year," Conover said. "We also had the advantage of growing up 20 minutes away from the Lake Michigan shoreline where we spent the better part of our summers with our aunt, Linda, who is a school teacher and had summers off."

"I am always seeking ways to challenge myself physically; this is a challenge, for sure. Your body is your greatest gift, your vital tool that deserves special attention. You only have one. Use it to its maximum potential, no matter what state of health you're in or what limitations you might have. I am blessed to be healthy and I'm always looking for ways to challenge myself."

"Finally, Chicago weather is fascinating due to its geographic location. We are experiencing our hottest summer in 17 years, and according to the 'Ask Tom Why' weather blog, this summer's oppressive heat is responsible for the earliest 80-degree surface-water temperatures in Lake Michigan; they are more common for late August and early September. The unseasonably warm



Jordan Conover. Photo by Ross Forman

lake waters make practice swims more enjoyable and eliminate the need for wearing a cumbersome wetsuit. In addition, the reality that this summer is drier than average gives swimmers more opportunities to practice without having to compete with the weather elements that would likely slow us down. I love discussing the weather and how it impacts the city I love."

Sep. 5, 2012

After all, Conover studied meteorology at Indiana University and has been nicknamed Jornado.

He swam on his high school swim team in his native Indiana, and completed the 2011 Chicago Triathlon. He also has run three marathons, plus multiple shorter-distance races.

"Before participating in last year's Chicago Triathlon, it had been 11 years since I swam competitively," Conover said. "Swimming is the best endurance sport since it targets almost every muscle. I discovered that running long distances is very strenuous on the body; I had physical therapy on my knee after finishing my third marathon."

He learned of this 3.1-mile swim through an online Google search. His goal is to finish in less than an hour and 45 minutes.

"The big difference between the Chicago Triathlon and Big Shoulders is the volume of participants," Conover said. "The Chicago Triathlon hosts 10,000 participants, [as opposed] to 1,000 for the Big Shoulders. There are 80 to 150 swimmers per wave in the Chicago Triathlon. Each wave kicked off in DuSable Harbor in a rather confined space, where we were literally

swimming on top of one another and getting elbowed. That was certainly a memorable experience."

Conover trains at Ohio Street Beach multiple times per week.

"The biggest challenge could be the condition of the lake on race day," Conover said. "Luckily, we have been able to train under light southerly winds, which puts the lake in a calmer state. The slightest change in wind speed and direction can change the condition of the lake drastically, giving it more wake and wave action."

"It is much more challenging to swim when the winds are from the north or northeast. Trust me, I learned the hard way after a cold front moved through, stirred up some wave action, and then had the pleasure of swallowing a few cups of lake water as a result."

"The [2011] Chicago Triathlon brought back my passion for this sport; it encouraged me to practice and compete in Lake Michigan," Conover said. "Swimming in Lake Michigan is a completely different dynamic compared to a lap pool. Olympic pools offer a controlled environment versus Lake Michigan where the weather and water conditions are unpredictable."

Proud to Run seeks beneficiaries for 2013

The board of directors of Proud to Run (PTR)—which coordinates Chicago's Pride weekend's 5K and 10K runs—is seeking beneficiaries for next year's event.

The PTR board will consider applications from organizations that serve the Chicago-LGBT community; that clearly define the need or have a project with a specific timeline and budget; are community-based and driven; and are "grassroots" in nature or do not receive a large part of their budgets from state or federal grants.

PTR has given more than \$300,000 to the local LGBT community. Recently, PTR donated checks to its 2012 beneficiaries, Gerber-Hart Library and Pride Youth Program at the Chicago Frontrunners/Frontwalkers circle. Each beneficiary received a check for \$10,000.

Guidelines and application forms are available by visiting www.proudtorun.org or emailing proudtorun@yahoo.com. The deadline is Oct. 30.

'Race Judicata' Sept. 13

The 19th annual Race Judicata Sprint for Justice—a 5K run & walk that raises money for the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) Foundation—will be held Thursday, Sept. 13, at Columbus and Balbo. The start time is 6:30 p.m.

Last year's event, which netted more than \$180,000, attracted nearly 5,000 including participants and support from many of the city's top law firms.

Advance registration is \$33 through Tuesday, Sept. 11; after that date and on-site, the fee is \$38. Visit www.cvls.org/judicata or call 312-332-3319.

Force tryouts Sept. 23

Tryouts for the women's tackle-football team the Chicago Force will take place Sunday, Sept. 23, at the University of Illinois-Chicago's physical-education building, 901 W. Roosevelt Rd., 2-4 p.m.

People should arrive by 1:45 p.m. to register.

The tryouts will consist of various sprints, agility and strength assessments as well as football basics and a Q&A session. Women must be at least 17, and there's a one-time tryout fee of \$20.

Afterwards, there'll be a meet-and-greet at Morgan's Bar and Grill, 1325 S. Halsted St. See www.ChicagoForceFootball.com.



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I'VE BEEN ARRESTED FOR PUBLIC LEWDNESS. WHAT NOW?

Public lewdness laws are a weapon against LGBT sexuality. These laws are often invoked against sexual expression, including loitering, flirtation, solicitation, and sexual encounters outside the home. The social consequences of such arrests can be devastating.

Most arrests for public lewdness result not from chance encounters with the police or from individual complaints, but from under cover police operations. A local or state police department will identify a certain area—a beach, park, or rest stop—as a gay cruising spot. Plain-clothes officers, frequently selected for their good looks, are then assigned to hang around the target area and attempt to solicit sexual attention.

Often these officers are instructed to follow people around, sometimes even exposing themselves, masturbating, and engaging in provocative behavior. When a civilian target reacts with interest, or even perceived interest, an arrest is made.

People are often arrested simply for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or for being there for too long a time. Others are arrested because they showed interest or engaged in conversation, in theory perfectly legal activities. These amount to arrests for the "crime" of being gay. It's very common for such victims to plead guilty, even to false charges, and pay a hefty fine.

If you are arrested for public lewdness or public indecency, first remind yourself that it will be a frightening experience. Most victims of these operations are law-abiding citizens. If you are arrested for public lewdness or public indecency remember: Don't talk. You have the right to remain silent. In general, you should defer all decisions about what to do or what to say until you have consulted a lawyer.

During the arrest you should carefully make mental notes of everything that might bear any relevance to your case. Such information includes the activities of the arresting officer and other police; their conduct before, during, and after the arrest; and any potential witnesses who might support your version of the story.

Also of importance is anything that would support a charge of entrapment or enticement against the arresting officer: what exactly he or she may have done to invite what followed. You have to show that you would not have done what you are accused of if the officer had not crossed certain lines.

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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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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.

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STEPPENWOLF THEATRE

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 with its original Broadway director!

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
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