



**ACTOR MICHAEL ANTHONY FIGHTS BULLYING**  
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**HOMECOMING COUPLE HAS LGBT TWIST**  
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**TRANS CONFERENCE IS ENDING**  
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# Marriage-equality push falls short

BY KATE SOSIN

By the time pro-gay lawmakers, LGBT activists, media, gay families and even a sitcom celebrity, had appeared in Springfield last Wednesday (Jan. 2), the immediate passage of same-sex marriage in Illinois felt almost inevitable to many.

But what began as a seemingly abrupt push towards equal marriage for Illinois, proved to be a longer stretch, the end of which remains to be seen.

## Leading up to Springfield

A year ago, openly gay Rep. Greg Harris sat down with LGBT leaders to discuss the possibility of introducing a bill that would legalize gay marriage. Harris had

introduced marriage bills before, but with civil unions taking effect in Illinois, marriage equality appeared closer to possible than ever before.

Stunning victories for LGBT candidates and causes in November further energized LGBT proponents.

Still, when pro-gay lawmakers announced weeks ago that they would push a marriage equality bill in Illinois, some LGBT advocates quietly questioned if the bill could pass in the 97th General Assembly.

"It's absolutely possible, and we don't need people talking like that," responded Rep. Kelly Cassidy, a house sponsor of the bill and an out lesbian, when first asked about that sentiment.

**Turn to page 6**



Actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson and fiance Justin Mikita were among those in Springfield last week to help push for the marriage-equality bill. Read more on page 6. Photo by Kate Sosin

## RALLYING POINT



A woman holds a sign at a marriage-equality rally that took place Jan. 5 at the Thompson Center in the Loop. Organizers estimated that approximately 250 people attended the event. Read more and see images on page 8. Photo by Hal Baim

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Artemis Singers photo from Joanne Swanson; Michael Anthony photo from Anthony; photo of Bougest Sutton and Bryant Jenkins from Sutton; Mara Keisling at the 2012 Be-All Conference by Kate Sosin

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Steve Warren takes a look back at 2012's films, listing his choices for best and worst—with Skyfall (above, with Daniel Craig) being mentioned.  
Photo by Francois Duhamel

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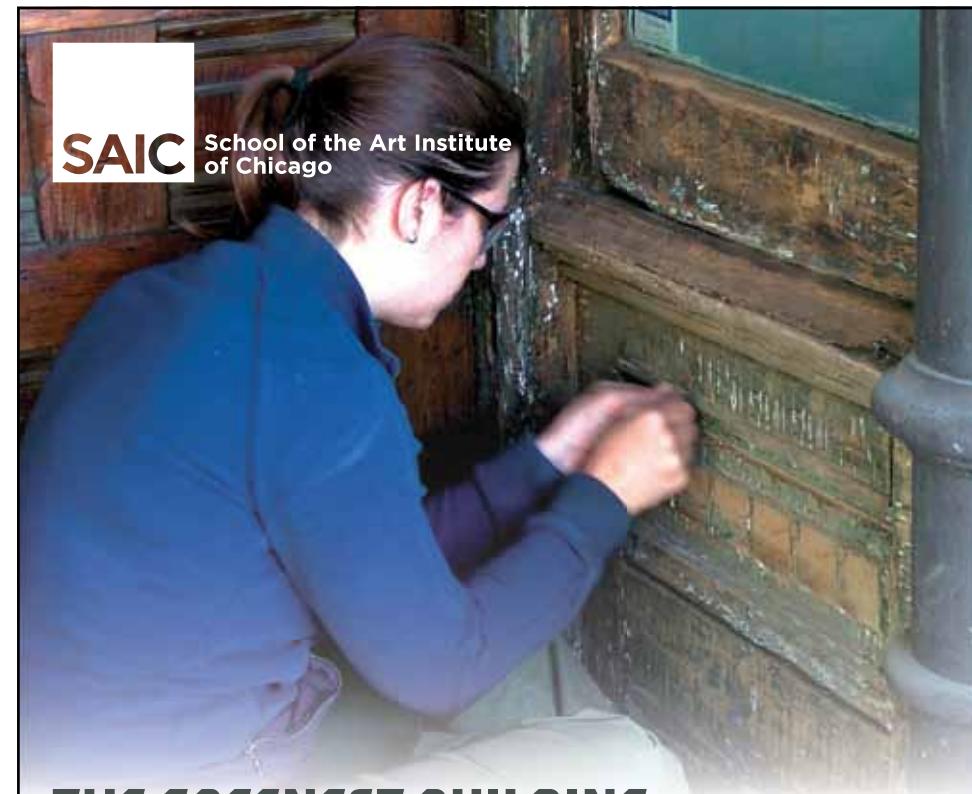
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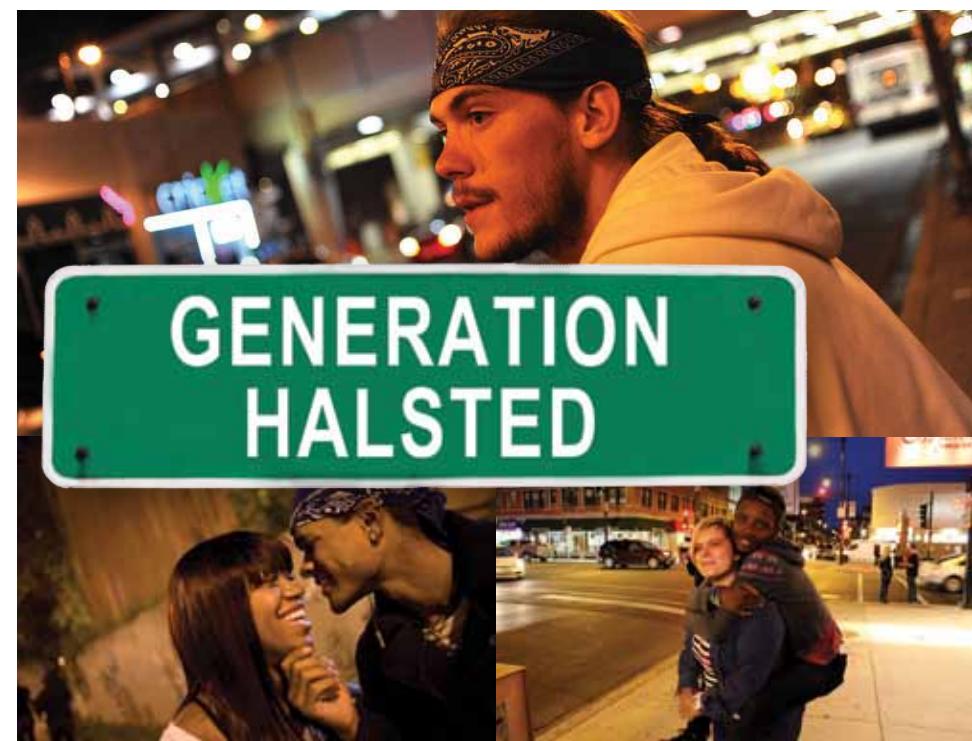


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# LGBTs soften on Hagel

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin said Monday (Jan. 7) that she wants to see whether Defense Secretary nominee Chuck Hagel's apology for anti-gay remarks 14 years ago is "sincere and sufficient."

Baldwin made her remarks just minutes after President Obama officially nominated the former Republican Senator from Nebraska to the top Pentagon post. During an interview with MSNBC, Baldwin said she did not know Hagel, but that she plans to ask him "some tough questions."

Baldwin does not sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee but, as a member of the U.S. Senate, will vote on Hagel's confirmation.

She told MSNBC she plans to give Hagel's nomination a "thorough review" and will "be fair."

"But I do want to speak with him particularly about his comments 14 years ago to ... see if his apology is sincere and sufficient," said Baldwin. "I want to see how he's evolved on this issue in last 14 years" and how he will contribute to the successful implementation of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

The Human Rights Campaign has backed off from its initial opposition to Hagel as Secretary of Defense, but the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force continues to express "concern" and Log Cabin Republicans says he's "not the right nominee."

The national LGBT Republican group ran a full-page ad in the Washington Post Monday, saying Hagel's apology for past anti-gay remarks is "too little, too late." The ad highlights his previous opposition to repealing the military ban on gay servicemembers and his opposition to allowing equal marriage rights for gay couples.

"Until his name surfaced as a potential nominee for Secretary of Defense, he has stood firmly and aggressively against not only gay marriage, but also against gay people in general," said Gregory Angelo, who took over as interim executive director of Log Cabin less than two weeks ago. "Log Cabin Republicans helped lead the charge to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell and is extremely invested in seeing that we don't lose any ground due to a lack of sincere commitment to gay people and their families on the part of the incoming Defense Secretary."

In a phone interview Monday afternoon, Angelo said he thinks people should "pause and question" the timing of Hagel's "so-called apology."

"I'm not about to hypothesize what was in his head, but the timing of the apology does seem rather suspect—that his evolution [on gay issues] came days after his name floated" as a nominee, said Angelo.

"Log Cabin Republicans spent a lot of time and money on repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell—a bipartisan effort," said Angelo. "Now is not the time to roll the dice on a nominee who may or may not smoothly implement" that repeal. "He's not the right nominee."

A spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force expressed "grave concerns" last month about Hagel's potential nomination and this week said NGLTF "continues to have concerns."

"Though Chuck Hagel has recently apologized for past anti-gay remarks, we expect him to fully explain his views during the confirmation process and what steps he intends to take as defense secretary to demonstrate his support for LGBT members of the military and their families," said NGLTF Executive Director Rea Carey. "We recognize that people do evolve on these issues and we hold out hope that, if confirmed, Hagel will meet the bar set by other cabinet secretaries and the administration when it comes to ensuring fairness for all LGBT military families and for women in the military."

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin issued a statement last month when Hagel's name was floated as a likely nominee, saying



**Log Cabin Republicans Interim Executive Director Gregory Angelo.**

Hagel's past comments on gays and his Congressional voting on gay-related issues "unacceptable." But after Hagel issued his apology for his 1996 hostile remarks over openly gay ambassadorial nominee James Hormel, HRC softened its opposition to the nomination.

"Senator Hagel's apology and his statement of support for LGBT equality is appreciated and shows just how far as a country we have come when a conservative former Senator from Nebraska can have a change of heart on LGBT issues," said Griffin, in a statement issued Monday. "Our community continues to add allies to our ranks and we're proud that Senator Hagel is one of them."

"The next Defense Secretary should get off to a fast start and ensure LGBT military families have access to every possible benefit under the law," said Griffin. "Every day these families continue to face unfair treatment and the Secretary can take meaningful action to remedy this discrimination."

This week, HRC added, "We look forward to Senator Hagel's testimony on how he intends to ensure equal benefits for gay and lesbian service members and their families."

Zeke Stokes, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said his organization never opposed Hagel's nomination and believes the apology was worth consideration.

Hagel issued a statement shortly after reports surface that he was a leading candidate for Secretary of Defense, apologizing for his remarks against the nomination of James Hormel to become ambassador to Luxembourg under President Bill Clinton. At that time, in 1998, Hagel characterized Hormel's openness about his sexual orientation as an "aggressive" act that could inhibit his ability to represent the United States in a foreign post.

"My comments 14 years ago in 1998 were insensitive. They do not reflect my views or the totality of my public record, and I apologize to Ambassador Hormel and any LGBT Americans who may question my commitment to their civil rights. I am fully supportive of 'open service' and committed to LGBT military families," said Hagel in his statement.

"Senator Hagel pretty quickly addressed those remarks and apologized for what he said 14 years ago, so we certainly want to give him the same space we would give anyone to evolve over 14 years on this issue," said Stokes. "He's indicated he has [evolved] and, just as we would with anyone, we are communicating to him and to the White House things we believe need to happen."

Specifically, said Stokes, SLDN wants to hear from the nominee whether he will "take a serious look at the inequities" for gay servicemembers serving today "and make an immediate commitment to remedy those inequities that he

can [through...] own authority."

In a press release January 4, SLDN Executive Director Allyson Robinson said Hagel "clearly has the military credentials and experience" for the Secretary's job but that it is "incumbent upon him during the nomination and confirmation process to lay out demonstrable actions he will take" to support his words. The press release said SLDN wants the nominee, if confirmed, to add "sexual orientation" to the language of military's non-discrimination policies and extend "all benefits" possible to married same-sex couples, while DOMA is still in force.

HRC's scoring of Hagel's voting record while the Republican represented Nebraska in the U.S. Senate earned him the lowest grade possible on LGBT-related issues—zero in two of his last

three Congressional sessions, and a 20 out of 100 in the last session he served. Hagel opposed an effort to ban same-sex marriage nationally through an amendment to the federal constitution.

Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, who is both gay and Jewish, said last month that he thinks Hagel would be "very good" with respect to Israel and the Defense budget but that Hagel's anti-gay comments were a "disqualification from being appointed."

Neither the president nor Hagel referred to any opposition to the Hagel nomination during a White House press conference Monday afternoon.

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## Supreme Court to hear marriage arguments

The Supreme Court said it will hear two days' worth of arguments over laws affecting same-sex marriage March 26-27, according to the Huffington Post.

The justices hear arguments in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* on March 26 and *United States v. Windsor* on March 27. The first case involves California's constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex marriage. The second concerns a federal law that denies same-sex couples who legally marry the right to obtain federal benefits available to their heterosexual counterparts.

## Petition wants Westboro church called hate group

The number of people who have signed a petition to the White House asking for it to label the notorious Westboro Baptist Church a hate group is approaching 300,000, according to Politico.com.

The petition—aimed at the Kansas church known for picketing military funerals and other events with signs declaring "GOD HATES FAGS"—is believed to be the most popular cause ever on the White House's "We the People" petition site. The church has picketed the funerals of military members killed in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as ceremonies for victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre.

Four other petitions targeting the church's tax-exempt status have garnered nearly 200,000 additional signatures.

## There's petition for Catholic church, too

A White House online petition seeks to have the Roman Catholic Church classified as a hate group, according to WhiteHouse.gov. Thousands of people have signed the petition, which partially states, "Using hateful language and discriminatory remarks, the Pope painted a portrait in which gay people are second-class global citizens." Twenty-five thousand signatures are needed by Jan. 24 for the White House to file an official response.

## Brown appeals

California Gov. Jerry Brown appealed a court injunction that has blocked enforcement of a new law that prohibits conversion therapy for minors, according to the L.A. Times. State Attorney General Kamala Harris filed the notice of appeal on behalf of Brown and the Medical Board of California with the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which decided Dec. 21 to block the law that was to take effect Jan. 1, pending a decision on its constitutionality.

## Military computers blocking LGBT websites

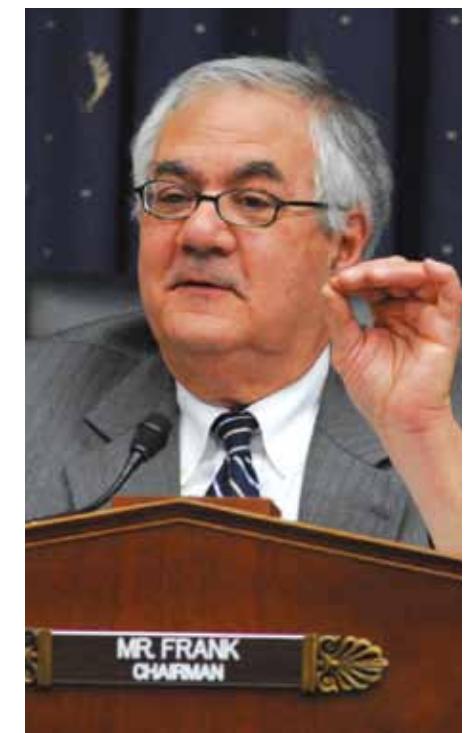
Military computers are reportedly blocking a number of LGBT blogs and websites, including those of AMERICAblog Gay and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), according to GLAAD.

GLAAD discovered that the Department of Defense uses a web-filtering product made by Blue Coat Services, a company based in Sunnyvale, Calif. Blue Coat responded to a GLAAD inquiry with a statement that it categorizes websites into 90 categories that range from type of content to audience to topic.

The Department of Defense told AMERICAblog Gay, "No filter is perfect and some sites may have unnecessarily been blocked. The Department Chief Information Officer will work with relevant components to address these situations."

## Frank wants to be U.S. senator

Just-retired U.S. Rep. Barney Frank would like to serve as a temporary successor to Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, the secretary of state nominee, according to the Washington Post. Taking a more proactive stance, Frank has said that he's asked Gov. Deval Patrick to appoint him, although Frank added he doesn't want the job for the long term. Patrick will be required to fill Kerry's seat with an interim appointment, while setting a day for the special election between 145 days and 160 days after Kerry's resignation.



Barney Frank.



Chaz Bono (left) and Olivia Connor at the 2011 Be-All Conference. Photo by Jerry Nunn

## Transgender conference ending after 30 years

BY KATE SOSIN

Citing waning participation and a shortfall of funds, one of the nation's largest transgender conferences has ceased organizing after more than three decades in the Chicago area.

The Be-All Conference, which gathered hundreds and hosted big-name speakers in Downers Grove, has been cancelled.

"Everything has a life cycle and, unfortunately, it looks like we're at the end of ours," said Katie Thomas, an organizer of the conference.

According to Thomas, attendance at the spring event has dwindled in recent years, from about 500 at its peak to around 325 in 2012. That, combined with a struggling economy and a lack of volunteers, did the conference in.

Organizers faced a Dec. 28, 2012, deadline for booking a hotel for the 2013 conference. Facing declining attendance and financial liability, they called off the event.

News of the cancellation came just weeks after Illinois Gender Advocates, long the only transgender policy organization in the state, announced it was considering dissolution due to declining membership.

Both organizations were primarily run by middle-aged transgender women, a large community currently experiencing waning participation across the board.

Chicago Gender Society, a transgender social group that formerly organized Be-All, has also struggled to maintain members.

"It's all in decline, really," Thomas said. "It's no fun playing in an empty house."

For years, Be-All served as one of few places in the country where many wanting to explore gender could go. While some identified as transgender publicly, others only crossed gender boundaries at the conference, often safely away from spouses or kids.

Be-All began 30 years ago, under the stewardship of Tri-Ess, a national cross-dresser organization. Chicago Gender Society eventually took over the conference in 2000. It later became its own non-profit and has operated independently since.

Be-All trailed only one other conference, the Southern Comfort Conference, in attendance. Two years ago, the conference hosted Chaz Bono. Last year Amanda Simpson, the first out transgender presidential appointee, keynoted the event.

But many now lament that Be-All failed to attract younger participants to keep the organization going.

"Generationally, we're a lot older than the kids that are out there now," Thomas said. "We got to be an old ladies group."

But for those who have relied on Be-All for decades, Thomas points to a glimmer of hope. Transgender people have longed for acceptance in society beyond the conference, she said. Organizers worked hard to create a high-quality conference, with an emphasis on education to improve the lives of attendees beyond its annual meeting. Diminished attendance may signal the actualization of that dream.

"It's kind of a self-fulfilling prophecy," Thomas said. "We set the standards ourselves, and we have no regrets about it."

### Mell denies retirement reports

Longtime Chicago Ald. Richard Mell is denying reports that he may leave his post within the next few months, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Mell—the powerful chairman of the City Council's Rules Committee and father-in-law of convicted former Gov. Rod Blagojevich—may leave his post within a few months after serving as an alderman for almost four decades.

Mell, 74, told the Tribune, "I've been retiring for the past five years. ... This [report] is premature. I haven't made any decision, and I may not make a decision (to retire)."

He did add that he would like daughter, lesbian state Rep. Deb Mell, to succeed him when he does retire. He would not say, however, if he has told Mayor Rahm Emanuel he would like his daughter appointed to his seat should he decide to retire.

In response to the rumors, Deb Mell tweeted, "Whereas I am truly honored to receive so many wonderful messages, I am 100% focused and love my job as State Rep of the 40th district."

## World news

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

### Charges dropped against producer

In Uganda, the courts have dropped all charges against David Cecil, the 34-year-old theater producer who had faced prison time for staging the gay play *The River and the Mountain*, according to an Advocate.com item. (In addition, his passport was returned to him.) Little evidence was produced against the defendant, but more than 2,500 people, including celebrities, signed a petition to drop the charges.

### Nigerian pastors face sex charges

In Nigeria, two pastors—Prince Ejimole, 26, and Lawrence Udo, 25—have been arrested and charged to court after they were allegedly caught having sex with each other in a hotel room, according to PM News Nigeria. They are facing charges of having carnal knowledge of each other against the order of nature before the presiding magistrate, Mrs A. O. Awogboro.

### Argentina's blood-donation bill

Argentina's Chamber of Deputies—the equivalent of the U.S. Congress—has passed a bill that would make it legal for gays and lesbians to donate blood, according to an EDGE Boston item. The bill will go up before the Argentina Senate in 2013. Mexico recently lifted a similar ban.

## NewTown Writers' Cookie Crumbles dies

NewTown Writers (NTW) board member, author and performer Cookie Crumbles (also known as Russell Neumann), who enriched so many of NTW's events and workshops with her warmth, intelligence and vivacity, passed away Dec. 27 due to cancer at 63. Her loving spirit will always be with us.

A service of remembrance for Cookie will be held Sunday, Jan. 13, 1-4 p.m., at Howard Mohr Community Center, 7640 Jackson Blvd., Forest Park. The memorial ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. A suggested donation in an envelope with a contribution for Grace (her partner) to help pay Cookie's final medical expenses is requested in lieu of flowers.

"In honor of her contributions and dedication to NewTown Writers, we would like to form an award to transgender writers, in her name," said NTW President, Timothy Rey. "I think she would have liked that."



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## MARRIAGE from cover

Cassidy's stance was echoed by LGBT activists and supportive lawmakers over the following weeks.

The votes were in fact very close, they said.

Following that announcement, major LGBT groups launched a coalition, Illinois Unites for Marriage. The Coalition listed the support of approximately 30 groups, and was headed by Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) and Equality Illinois.

Equal marriage opponents likewise launched the "Coalition to Protect Children & Marriage." Among its member organizations are the Illinois Family Institute, Eagle Forum of Illinois, Abstinence and Marriage Partnership, Illinois Citizens for Life PAC, Lake County Right to Life, Concerned Christian Americans and Family-Pac.

Chicago Archbishop Cardinal Francis George fired off a letter opposing the measure and calling on parishes across the city to do the same.

"Civil laws that establish 'same sex marriage' create a legal fiction," the letter stated.

Countering that sentiment was support from President Barack Obama, who urged lawmakers to pass the "Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act."

The Chicago Teachers Union weighed in favor of marriage equality, as did groups of prominent businesses, African American leaders and LGBT-affirming clergy.

Sitcom star Jesse Tyler Ferguson also became a vocal proponent of the bill. Ferguson, the openly gay actor who portrays Modern Family's Mitchell (half of a gay couple on the show), made appearances in both Chicago and Springfield to rally support.

But backing for the measure also came from unexpected places.

Pat Brady, chair of the Illinois Republican Party, announced his support for the bill and vowed to call Republican lawmakers to ask them to vote for it in favor of it.

"More and more Americans understand that if two people want to make a lifelong commitment to each other, government should not stand in their way," Brady said in a statement. "Giving gay and lesbian couples the freedom to get married honors the best conservative principles. It strengthens families and reinforces a key Republican value—that the law should treat all citizens equally."

The National Organization for Marriage, a national anti-gay group, has vowed backlash against Republicans like Brady.

Despite momentum, the bill's sponsors knew they had a limited amount of time. The Senate had been scheduled to meet Jan. 2-4, while the House would be in Session Sunday through Tuesday.

Still, the lame-duck session offered an unprecedented opportunity for passing tough legislation because outgoing lawmakers could vote without fear of reprisal.

It was a similar strategy used to win civil unions in 2010.

### Wednesday

The Senate's Executive Committee room buzzed with excitement Wednesday evening, as gay couples and their children filed into the rows of red leather chairs and waited for the committee meeting to begin.

The hearing had been scheduled for 5:30 p.m., and major LGBT leaders had flocked to the capitol for what many expected to be a historic few days.

But a hearing on the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act did not come, and what started as a little more than a hiccup in the plan to pass the measure ultimately foreshadowed a longer struggle.

Moments before the hearing was scheduled to begin, sponsoring Sen. Heather Steans entered the room and informed coalition members that three senators they had counted on were absent.



**State rep. Kelly Cassidy spoke in favor of the marriage-equality bill. Photo by Kate Sosin**

Republican Suzi Schmidt of Lake Villa and Democrat James Clayborne of Belleville had been called away from Springfield on family emergencies, leaving sponsors scrambling to secure needed votes. (Schmidt's mother died and there was an illness in Clayborne's family.) Also missing was Evanston Democrat Jeffrey Schoenberg who reportedly finished out his term on vacation in Israel.

All bills must be posted at least 24 hours before they enter committee. Senators could have waived that rule for the marriage bill, but with three "yes" votes missing, Steans could not secure a waiver. As a result, the bill would have to wait at least a day to be heard.

Attempting to hasten the vote, Steans filed the marriage bill as an amendment to a bill already bound for committee. HB4963, an unrelated bill that dealt with automobile rentals and the Collateral Recovery Act, would carry the marriage bill on Thursday.

Advocates expressed hope that missing Senators might return in time for a vote.

The fray Wednesday night was treated as little more than a blip, with sponsors and LGBT groups stating that the setback would not negatively impact the bill's passage.

"It's a technical way for us to get the bill moving," said TCRA's policy advisor, Rick Garcia.

But ultimately, it foreshadowed available Senate votes for the bill.

### Thursday

Thursday morning began hopefully for supporters.

Sponsors held a press conference in the Capitol building with sitcom star Ferguson and fiancé Justin Mikita.

Ferguson urged legislators to pass the bill.

"I can't imagine anyone who is a fan of the show who would want to deny Mitchell and Cameron the opportunity to get married," he said.

Other speakers included Steans and House sponsors Greg Harris and Kelly Cassidy.

The new bill was expected in committee late Thursday morning, but the Senate Session ran over, and a committee hearing was rescheduled to mid-afternoon.

LGBT leaders paced the halls, making phone calls and checking in with Cassidy, Rep. Ann Williams and other lawmakers. With repeated delays, the chances of passing equal marriage in the lame duck session appeared to be shrinking.

"It doesn't mean that the whole marriage equality bill in the lame duck session dies," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

Still missing, however, were the three Senators. Two of those missing sat on the Senate's

executive meeting, further slowing matters as the senators had to be temporarily replaced before the amendment could be heard in committee.

Finally, word came that the Senate's Friday session would likely be cancelled. If sponsors could not secure a vote Thursday, their last hope would be a special session on Tuesday. Even that did not guarantee enough time for missing senators to return, and it increased chances that other outgoing senators would be absent.

By the time the committee meeting finally began in the late afternoon, supporters had spent the better part of the day fretting over lost time.

The Executive Committee room was packed with LGBT families, activists, media and opponents.

Committee Chair Sen. Don Harmon called the meeting to order.

Harmon reported that hundreds had submitted online testimony in favor of the bill.

Stearns stepped up and made a case for the bill. "Same-sex couples want to marry for the same reasons we all do," she said. Civil unions, seen as second to marriage, invited the opportunities for discrimination, she said.

Backing that sentiment was the testimony of Theresa Volpe and Mercedes Santos, who approached the microphone with their two young children and explained how their civil union fell short.

Volpe reported that when their son was hospitalized, only one mother was allowed to enter to see him because a hospital administrator argued that only one of the women could be his mother.

"No one really understands what a civil union is referring to," Volpe said. "We ask you to think for a moment about how you would feel if your son were close to death and you were blocked from being by his side, all because you can't say you're a married family."

Also testifying was PFLAG mother Bonnie Garneau, Rev. Vernice Thorn of Broadway United Methodist Church, Rev. Kim Beckman of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Illinois State University psychology professor Dr. Laura Berk.

Republican Sen. Dale Righter challenged Steans' statements that the bill adequately protected religious institutions. "Most churches with which I'm familiar will not qualify," Righter said, adding that bill mandates that churches that accept public funds or charge for weddings will be required to perform same-sex ceremonies.

ACLU LGBT Project Director John Knight and Lambda Legal Marriage Project Director Camilla Taylor countered that the bill would not overturn the Illinois Human Rights Act, which already

bans discrimination in public accommodations.

Testifying opponents of the bill echoed Righter's concerns.

Bishop Thomas Paprocki stated that neither two men nor two women can form a marriage and that that the bill would encroach on religious rights.

"The law can be used in ways that violate religious freedom," he said.

Ralph Rivera of the Illinois Family Institute lamented that since Massachusetts legalized gay marriage, children in schools are taught that gay families are normal.

In the end, senators voted along party lines. No votes included Republicans Matt Murphy, David Luechtefeld, Bill Brady, Dale Righter and Christine Radogno. Of those, only Radogno, who has a history of LGBT support, appeared to waver.

"I think that when this comes to the floor, there is a potential for bipartisanship on the bill," she said. She said she voted no because of concerns that the bill marginalized religious institutions.

Voting yes were Harmon, Maggie Crotty, Senate President John Cullerton, Kimberly Lightford, Antonio Munoz, Donne Trotter, Terry Link, Iris Martinez. (Link and Martinez sat in for James Clayborne and Jeff Schoenberg.)

Consequently, the bill passed out of committee 8-5. Proponents leapt from their seats cheering and hugging.

In the hall outside the committee meeting, media swarmed Steans.

Some pressed Steans on the lack of available votes for the measure, questioning if she had pushed the bill prematurely.

"We unexpectedly had members that were not here today. That's beyond my control," she said.

Many left the Capitol building with the understanding that with the hurdle of committee passage cleared, the push for equal marriage would resume Sunday afternoon. Consequently, many who had traveled from Chicago started the trip home.

An hour later, however, coalition members announced that the clock had run out on the measure and that they would try again with the next set of lawmakers.

"With just a handful of days remaining in the current lame duck session, time to move the bill through both chambers is not on our side," wrote Cherkasov to supporters.

A press release announcing the decision celebrated the historic achievement of pushing the bill through committee. And it said that advocates would pursue equal marriage early on in the next session.

Garcia was upset with the decision to back off. He said late Thursday night that he thought the measure had a chance.

"What I have learned—and I have been down here [in Springfield] for 20 years, and I have worked things—is that on every piece of legislation I have worked on, there are dark times, when you think it's not going to go. You push forward, and you stand firm, you move and move until you can't move any more. To throw in the towel now is a stupid maneuver. TCRA is here, and we've been here for past three years, and we knew nothing about this decision until we saw the press release."

Garcia later softened those comments, stating that he was not accusing Steans of throwing in the towel. He remained optimistic about the bill's chances of passage soon.

### Moving forward

Despite any internal conflicts between TCRA and other groups working on the bill, activists and sponsors walked away from Springfield Thursday with the same sentiment.

"It's still 'when,' not 'if,'" said Rep. Cassidy.

Harris said that he believes the bill will pass before 2013 runs out.

"I think we will do it," Harris said. "We just need to redouble our efforts."

# Homecoming couple has LGBT twist

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bougest Sutton and his best friend, Bryant Jenkins, hatched a plan last summer. They were, at the time, on the train heading home to suburban Round Lake Beach after attending the annual Chicago Gay Pride Parade.

They wanted to become the first same-sex pair to be named homecoming king and queen at Round Lake High School.



Bougest Sutton (left) and Bryant Jenkins. Photo courtesy of Sutton

"Once the school year started, we got really dedicated to make a difference—and it played out well," Sutton said. "The plan just seemed really regular to us. But when we got home to Round Lake, we didn't really think it would go that far."

So they went online, mostly on Facebook, asking if fellow students would care for, and support, a same-sex homecoming king and queen. Everyone was supportive, Sutton said.

"Initially, I wasn't too concerned if we would win. More, I wondered if it would be allowed and would it be accepted, particularly from adults—the teachers and staff—because they are from a different generation. I was worried that it would become an issue," Sutton said.

So, the two met with the school's principal, Juan Gardner Sr. They didn't know before the meeting started where Gardner stood on LGBT issues.

"Ultimately, he was really dedicated and motivated to make sure that our names were still be on the ballot," Sutton said. "Mr. Gardner called what we were doing 'courageous' and said that he was '100 percent OK' with our decision to run."

Plus, Gardner told the two that, if they have any problems with anyone, they can come back to him immediately.

"That felt great," Sutton said.

Sutton, 17, a senior, is openly gay. He came out during the second semester of his sophomore year. He hopes to attend college in the fall in New York City.

Jenkins, 17, also a senior, is bisexual.

The two are just good friends, not romantically involved.

They were one of four couple on the school's ballot for homecoming king and queen, with Sutton holding the king title. They were the only same-sex couple in the running.

"I felt outnumbered [during the voting], so I was worried that we wouldn't win," Sutton said. "But, we had a lot of students come up and say that they voted for us; that really inspired me."

The final voting results were not released publicly, but the winners—Sutton and Jenkins—

Jan. 9, 2013

would be] a football player and a cheerleader. Now people realize that it can be two guys, two best friends, two gays," Sutton said. "This [honor] is the first step toward bigger and greater things for me. Hopefully, I will get into marketing and advertising [in college and beyond]. I also want to blog and more."

"Who knows? Maybe I'll run for president [of the United States]."

"I want to become my own brand."

Sutton said his mom and his siblings have all been supportive.

But he also has endured negative responses, mostly online, he said. Facebook posts about the two last fall were not critical of either personally, just that a male was running for the title of queen. Some Facebook posts tagged their decision to run as "weird and unorthodox."

"What I've realized is, they have not brought [the negativity] to me personally, so they don't have an issue with me personally; they just have an issue with the gay community," Sutton said. "So, I feel the change that we made in our small community also can be made in a larger community."

"This is a big step for LGBT youth."

Sutton and Jenkins attended, and danced together, at the Round Lake Homecoming on Saturday night, Oct. 6, 2012.

"There were absolutely no problems at Homecoming, other than too many pictures [were being taken]," Sutton said, laughing. "Overall, it probably was the most positive night I've ever had in high school."

Sutton has taken charge of trying to start at GSA at Round Lake and is hoping to have it officially formed before the end of the school year.

"It would break my heart to leave this school without even trying to make a change for my LGBT community," Sutton said.

"Often, when kids say the word 'faggot,' they don't usually think 'gay.' Instead, they use it as a euphemism for any disapproval, yet they don't know who they are offending. But, it's important that we speak out against all slurs, no matter who it's offending."

"Hopefully that, too, is changing at Round Lake High School and elsewhere."

## Angelique Munro fireside chat Jan. 23

Leatherman Douglas O'Keeffe's LGBT fireside-chat series continues Wed., Jan. 23, with Chicago entertainer Angelique Munro. It will take place at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., at 7:30 p.m.

Munro will discuss her history, community involvement and transgender issues before a live audience. Following the formal interview, the floor will open for questions.

The suggested donation is \$5. O'Keeffe, Joanne Gaddy and Brian Mincey are producing the series. The suggested donation is \$5.

## MARRIAGE from page 6

Harris said that while votes fell short in the Senate and the House was anticipated to be the greater hurdle, he felt he could have secured the votes.

With a Democratic supermajority stepping into office this week, chances of passing the bill soon are only improved.

Lawmakers will be back in session come February, and LGBT groups report that conversations with incoming lawmakers have been ongoing since before elections. Further, activists say that many who voted against civil unions in 2010, including Republicans, are showing a change of heart.

"We're looking at a larger pool of potential voters than we ever did with civil unions," said Jim Bennett, regional director for Lambda Legal Midwest.

Advocates continue to urge supporters to contact their lawmakers and to tell their friends and family throughout the state to do the same.

While time ran out in the lame duck session, they said, a vote remains on the horizon.

Erik Roldan, public information officer for Lambda Legal, said he thinks marriage equality is overdue in Illinois.

"It's time," he said. "There's not stopping us right now."

—Contributing: Tracy Bain

**Wed., Jan. 16**  
7:30 p.m.  
**The Color Complex**  
by Midge Wilson and  
Kathy Russell

**Thursday, Jan. 17**  
7:30 p.m.  
**Chasing Sylvia Beach**  
by Cynthia Morris

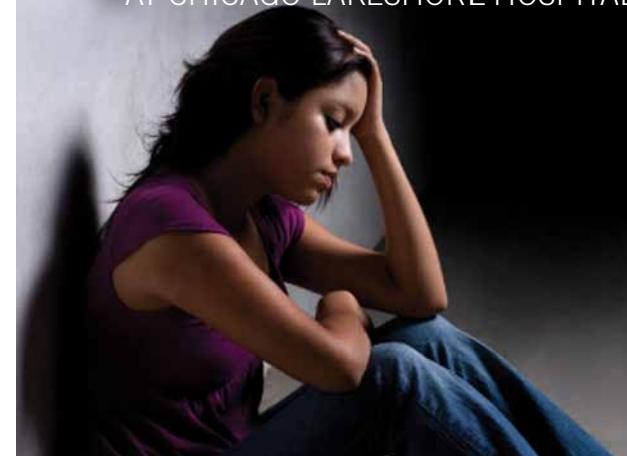


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## Rally held for Illinois marriage equality law

BY MATTHEW C. CLARK

"We'd like to sing a little song to you about yearning for a better world," said Patrick Sinozich, artistic director for the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

As "Over the Rainbow" could be heard throughout the James R. Thompson Center in downtown Chicago, signs reading "Opposition to legal equality is bigotry," "I am no different than your own daughter," and "Call your legislators for marriage equality" could be read.

A coalition of LGBTQ activists and organizations organized a rally at noon Saturday, Jan. 5 to help garner support for the same-sex marriage bill that passed an Illinois Senate Committee two days earlier.

After CGMC's song, Andrea Crain, a member of Join the Impact Chicago, introduced a number of speakers who appealed to hearts with emotional stories, and urged everyone in the crowd to call their legislators.

Beth and Boyd Bellinger stepped up to the microphones at the edge of the plaza with their two five-and-a-half-month-old children in their arms. Beth told the story of the couple's wedding back in 2010 in Charleston, SC., and about being elated afterwards and telling an attendant at the airport.

"Not here you didn't," was the attendant's response, according to Beth, suggesting their marriage isn't legally recognized.

"We also want our marriage to be legitimate and legal for the sake of our

children," Boyd added. Boyd said she is lucky she lives in a state where she could put her name on the childrens' birth certificates, and legally adopt them in order to be recognized as their legal guardian.

"And we are lucky that we could afford to do that," she said. "We shouldn't have to pay thousands and dollars and hire someone to navigate the legal system for us in order to have our family be protected and legitimate in the eyes of the state and the nation."

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, urged people to call their representatives, senators, as well the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and to urge others to do so.

"If we call 10 people and tell them to contact their legislators, we might actually be able to get this done sooner rather than later. And it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. And if we continue to push hard now, we can get this done now."

Long-time LGBT activist and TCRA policy advisor Rick Garcia, openly gay Ald. James Cappleman, Jose Rivera of the Children's Rights Council of Illinois, Gay Liberation Network activist Andy Thayer, Join the Impact Chicago activist Rachel Miller, and Ald. Robert Fioretti also spoke, among others.

"Our organizers counted over 250 people in attendance," said Martinez. The session of the Illinois General Assembly begins Jan. 9.





TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



<b>Age</b>	29
<b>Neighborhood</b>	Edgewater
<b>Hometown</b>	Grew up in Lake County (Ill.) and Kenosha County (Wis.); has lived in Chicago since November 2011
<b>Job title</b>	Massage therapist at Revive Massage Therapy and Spa
<b>Hobbies</b>	Reading or watching Netflix with a bottle of port, card games, and kink
<b>Relationship status</b>	In an open, same-sex relationship
<b>Identifies as</b>	Bisexual
<b>Favorite local bar</b>	Taverna 750, Marty's Martini Bar, or Jackhammer
<b>Little-known fact</b>	Admitted cocktail snob

Chris Pierce coordinates the monthly events at the Center on Halsted for the bisexual community, relying on his diverse personal relationships, past and present, and an open-book look at his life.

He came out at age 15 as bisexual while in a heterosexual relationship. They continued to date and eventually were married, living a mostly monogamous life for nine years, separating in September, 2011, for reasons unrelated to his orientation.

Pierce is now in an open, same-sex relationship and tags himself polyamorous.

"I like to think I can be helpful and relate to people on most issues," he said. "I know I was very lucky figuring out I was bisexual while in a relationship with someone who was so understanding. Most people don't have that luxury."

"My past lets me relate to most people and many feel very comfortable asking me any question, mainly because I'm so open about my life."

Pierce leads the Center's monthly bisexual social discussion, which recently has included politics and other current events, and a once-a-month bi movie night.

"The biggest issue facing the bisexual community is, visibility. That's simply identifying [each other], and also [identifying] within the LGBT community as a whole," Pierce said. "Often, we feel we aren't understood by both the homosexual and the heterosexual community, so often we are, or feel we are, left out."

"A lot of statistics will combine gay men and bisexual men into one group, which isn't always helpful for bisexual men."

"The big thing we discuss at the Center is, awareness and support."

Through Pierce's leadership, events and participation at the Center for bisexuals has slowly, steadily, grown—now with a mix of men and women, and a variety of ages.

"I specifically try to help bisexuals learn how to have a useful conversation, so they are not continually dismissed and make themselves angry for no reason," he said.



## Former Chicagoan asks, 'What bullies you?'

BY ROSS FORMAN

Michael Anthony Nalepa has come full circle from his days being bullied while growing up in suburban Wheeling.

Now known as simply Michael Anthony, he is a Los Angeles-based actor, writer and producer. He came back to Wheeling in late August to discuss and sign copies of his new book, anthology of anonymoUS. Anthony also discussed the "anonymoUS initiative" and his similar-themed documentary, set to be released this year.

"I'm really proud of the book and am actually shocked at the life it's taken," Anthony said. The book also has an accompanying soundtrack, anonymoUS: mUSical mUSings, about the ways we bully ourselves, available on iTunes.

Much of Anthony's entire "anonymoUS initiative" has had a strong groundswell, dating back to March 2011, when he returned to Wheeling to film an inspirational anti-bullying documentary for local gay teens, inspired by the "It Gets Better" campaign.

He ultimately learned that most did not want to speak out about the bullying they endured.

So he turned to emails with a simple question in the subject line: "What is it that bullies you?"

The replies came in, lots of replies—hundreds, then thousands.

Some came from Wheeling's gay teens, as well as their parents, their siblings, their straight friends and classmates, and others, he said.

"Some of these letters were long, multiple pages. Some, meanwhile, were short, maybe only a single word. There also were poems and drawings," he said.

Those emails led to the "anonymoUS initiative," and letters from literally around the world, though mostly from the United States.

He has received about 3,000 replies overall, and 99 of them are spotlighted in his new book. Each was published exactly as received and as written by its author.

"Originally, I just wanted to get these letters out there, but I think people have really been taken in by these short stories," Anthony said. "What I have found across the board is that people talk about how the letters make them feel."

Such as the letter from a mom living in Elgin, who wrote about her daughter who had committed suicide. "The thing I loved most about this letter was, she talks about something that hap-



Michael Anthony. Photo from Anthony

pened 10 years ago, yet you can still see/feel so many emotions, including guilt, pain, forgiveness and love. That story really touched me," Anthony said.

About 50 percent of the book's stories are gay-related.

"The point of this project, and encouraging people to write their letters, is because although I'm pretty open, a lot of others are not that open," Anthony said. "But a letter is kind of the first chance/opportunity to take the problems in their head, which they are wrestling with, and actually put it on paper and give it a voice. I think, if you have the strength to write it, you will eventually have the strength to talk about it with people."

The book features stories sent from celebrities, Anthony said, though he would not identify

the celebrity or the corresponding letter.

"While it would be great to know who wrote some of these [letters], it's anonymous because I'm not sure that is necessary. We can emphasize; we don't need to identify," he said. "This [book] is not [strictly] about gay teen bullying; this is about the bullies that live inside of us."

"This campaign is not about convincing people that, 'It gets better.' Of course we provide them with resources, if they need them. What it is is, an opportunity to tell your story and realize that you're not alone—and when you're in the thick of a problem, I firmly believe that knowing that you're not alone provides strength."

About 80 percent of the letters in the book are from Chicago, particularly the suburbs. All are from the United States.

Anthony and his anonymoUS initiative are no stranger to controversy, he admitted: "A huge part of the initiative is that we don't try and convince people that 'It Gets Better!' Yes, when it comes to gay teen bullying, it always gets better. But this campaign isn't a 'gay thing' and it's not a 'teen thing.' It's about the ways we all bully ourselves and, let's face it, not everything gets better. Cancer, the loss of love, money problems, losing a spouse ... those don't get better; they only get different."

"A few influential people have told me that because I'm gay and because I'm speaking about bullying, I have to say 'It Gets Better! But I'm not going to do that."

"This campaign is about helping people of all ages, races, demographics and orientations come together and realize that their inner bullies are exactly the same. I love the 'It Gets Better' campaign, and I think it is so vital in this day and age. But that's not what the anonymoUS initiative is about. It's not about telling people that things always get better. I'm not qualified to do that and, frankly, I don't know if I believe that either. All I know is that we are not alone. Even in our darkest moments, we are never alone."

Anthony will be launching a live stage show in 2013 *a la* The Vagina Monologues. It will feature actors bringing the letters to life.

He graduated from Wheeling High School in 1999, and then from the University of Southern California in 2003. But back in 1993 or 1994, Anthony was the one bullied.

Anthony, who is now openly gay, had his first same-sex crush while in eighth grade at MacArthur Middle School in Prospect Heights, Ill. Anthony made a Reba McEntire mixtape for the subject of his crush, and it took him 90 minutes to make.

His classmate "freaked out," Anthony said, and he let everyone at school listen to it. "That's when I started to be bullied—because I was gay. I also was overweight, dorky and loved show choir though I was tone-deaf. I had a bunch of strikes against him."

"I was quite often picked on in school."

In 2006, he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

"My bully is bipolar disorder," Anthony said. He has since battled and beaten his bully.

"I'm really proud, perhaps also a bit shocked, by how many people have decided to help with this project," Anthony said. "It's touched something in people, whereas I just thought it was going to be a little quick email back and forth between 100 people in Wheeling, Ill."

For more information or to order the book, go to [www.iamanymous.org](http://www.iamanymous.org).

### Dating-site launch party Jan. 12

M4M411.com, a new dating and social networking site exclusively for men, will hold a launch party Saturday, Jan. 12, at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., at 11 p.m.

The site has been described as "a bustling virtual hub of dating, networking, entertainment and socializing with a healthy dose of blogs, news and local events." There are also features such as chat rooms and a high-tech web chat.

### Equality Illinois' trans community social Jan. 19

Equality Illinois will hold its 2013 winter season transgender community social Saturday, Jan. 19, at 12 p.m. at the Mayne Stage Theater, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

The event will feature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, complimentary appetizers, raffle prizes and a cash bar.

The suggested donation is \$10. RSVP at [info@eqil.org](mailto:info@eqil.org).

# VIEWPOINTS



**CHARLES  
MARTEL**

## Marriage equality: Nothing to fear in Illinois

Eight years ago, the citizens of Massachusetts were given a long list of fears by some as to the predictions of what would happen to marriage now that same sex couples had been given the legal right to marry. Now—15,000 couples later—not only has nothing bad happened, and none of those fears realized, but also we have come to experience the reality that love really did win out. And so has society.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is unique in terms of being the first state to grant civil marriage rights to same-sex couples, but what is not unique is experience in now eight other states and the District of Columbia, where these couples have stood before family and friends to make the same commitments of love that is the core of what we call the institution of marriage.

There were those who feared that somehow the granting of these rights to same sex couples would diminish our understanding of marriage, or that it would reduce the specialness of such a pledge, one to another. Some worried that this

was a “dangerous social experiment,” that instead of seeing this as a matter of fairness to same-sex couples, it would introduce chaos into the social fabric, creating confusion. This has not happened.

There were those who were afraid that this legal right would infringe on the rights of religious denominations to decide what constituted for them a sacramental marriage, that somehow they would be forced by the government to officiate at weddings they did not wish to bless.

None of this has come to pass, but rather the laws in each state protect the rights of each religious denomination to determine whom they choose to marry, as has always been the case. Religious liberty has been preserved. Religious denominations that wish to bless same sex couples are free to do so, and those who choose not to, do not have to.

When I was invited to join the Board of the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry in 1997, an organization of Massachusetts’ clergy—as a lay Roman Catholic—the idea that marriage equality would ever become a reality was a distant hope. But we were committed to this endeavor, each mindful that a movement of justice evolves over time, grounded in the belief that the stories of love would be the source of change. Recalling when we had the 100th clergy signer to our declaration, a faith-based statement of support for marriage equality, we began to see the possibilities.

When the signing of the 1,000th member of the clergy took place in the Great Hall of the State House in Boston, by the Suffragan Episcopal Bishop of Eastern Massachusetts Gayle Harris, clergy of 23 denominations throughout

Massachusetts had attached their names to the Declaration. While this was in support of the rights for civil marriage, it was a witness that God was not absent from these proceedings.

As a practicing Roman Catholic, the challenges were never easy with the hierarchy continuing their opposition at every opportunity to recognizing same sex couples. But what became very clear and evident to me was that the laity saw this very differently, for these couples were their families and friends, those whom they loved, and whose love for each other they witnessed on a daily basis. For them, this was not an abstraction but a reality, and they were advocates and allies throughout the political journey, which followed the ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.

Right now, the legislature in Illinois is at an important juncture with the possibility of upcoming vote on marriage equality. Many of the same stories of fears have been told, and repeated over and over again. But Illinois lawmakers and citizens are in a very different position than were the citizens and lawmakers of Massachusetts eight years ago, for our Massachusetts story, and the stories of all the states with marriage equality, offer you the experience and knowledge that these fears are unfounded.

Now, in Illinois, perhaps it is your turn to ensure that love, in the end, wins out.

A **Boston-based licensed clinical social worker in private practice, Charles Martel is a co-founder of Catholics for Marriage Equality, an advocacy organization.**



**FRANK  
MCALPIN**

## Queer street youth need OUR love

As a queer person there is much to be proud of as 2013 begins. Last year was an unprecedented year of progress in the LGBT-rights movement, with greater LGBT visibility and support for marriage equality gaining huge momentum. And that momentum doesn't seem to be slowing, as it looks like the state Illinois will soon legalize same-sex marriage. Yes, in many respects, it's an exciting time for LGBT justice and things do seem to "get better."

Yet all this excitement and progress is greatly diminished by the hundreds of queer young people who are sleeping on the streets of Chicago every night. The truth is, for many queer street-based youth in Chicago, being queer isn't that exciting and things aren't "getting better."

For most of us, the daily reality that so many queer homeless youth experience is difficult to imagine. It is a reality of constant hunger. A reality of being physically and emotionally tired all the time. A reality of violence and abuse. A reality of rejection and stigma. A reality consumed with doing everything possible to survive. And these unimaginable realities are often compounded by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism and other forms of oppression.

When trying to imagine these realities I can't help but think, "What kind of community allows young people—already marginalized because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression—to be homeless? To eat from the

garbage? To be subject to police intimidation and abuse? To be denied services by community agencies? And to be targeted and discriminated against by local businesses and community members?"

Our collective acceptance of youth homelessness in our community is nothing short of child abuse and neglect. It is an injustice so horrific and painful, it disgraces our humanity. And its existence greatly stains the very equality and justice the LGBT-rights movement is accomplishing today.

Queer youth homelessness is, without question, an issue of equality and justice and must not be neglected in the broader LGBT-rights movement happening now. Queer youth are part of OUR LGBT family and we must care for them. If we, as LGBT folks, don't stand up for and with queer street-based youth, who will? If we don't recognize them, who will? If we don't love and support them, who will?

We, as the LGBT community, can no longer allow the gross realities of being young, queer and homeless to dominate these young people's lives. We must do something to make it better for these youth. Windy City Times recently highlighted many actions one could take that would help chip away at the injustice that is youth homelessness. I encourage you to read "Generation Halsted: Recommendations" and do something ([www.windyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Generation-Halsted-Recommendations/41012.html](http://www.windyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Generation-Halsted-Recommendations/41012.html)).

But at the very least my hope for all of us, as individuals, is to change our own attitudes and behaviors towards queer street-based youth. We must recognize them. Smile at them. Talk with them. Because queer street-based youth are no different from you or me. They have interests, hopes and dreams—and love to kiki. Chicago's queer street-based youth are beautiful, creative, courageous, expressive, resourceful, passionate, determined, loving and resilient. Most of all, they are epically inspiring.

So become epically inspired! See Chicago's queer street-based youth, as important and val-

ued members of our greater LGBT community. Care for them. Fight for them. Include them. Extend to them, what we, as LGBT folks have been working towards for decades: equality, justice and LOVE.

**Frank McAlpin is a social worker and human-rights activist; he's on Twitter at FrankMcTalk.**

## Letters:

Dear Editor,

The recent maneuvers of the Catholic Conference in Illinois only highlight its diminishing importance in the marriage-equality debate. One confused bishop in Illinois (Daniel Jenky of Peoria) even compared President Obama to Adolf Hitler and Stalin in the marriage-equality/HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] debate. He exposed the most basic rule of debate, when you bring in Hitler to the scenario you have obviously lost the debate.

Recently, a coalition was formed to oppose marriage-equality legislation which will be introduced in January. These far-right organizations (absent the Illinois Catholic Conference) represent, in my opinion, the Looney Tunes mentality of Cardinal Francis George, whose paw prints are all over this move. Such stealth maneuvering may have worked a decade ago, but today the marriage-equality debate has entered the arena of reason.

All the Catholic Conference of Illinois has done has shone the spotlight on its impotency in this debate. Their threats of gloom and doom under the banner of promoting marriage in our society do not seem reasonable given its present reality.

Joe Murray  
Chicago

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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# GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo  
courtesy  
of TapMan  
Productions

## HERO EFFECT

**TapMan: Origin** is running in Skokie—but does it fly or fall flat? Read the review on page 13.

### DISH

**City planning.**  
Page 17.

*PR photo of City Winery*



### PERFORMANCE

**Like magic.**  
Page 14.

*PR photo of Dennis Watkins*



### SPORTS

**Step by step.**  
Page 22.

*Photo of Will Dong and Ming Mac courtesy of Dong*



### DANCIN' FEATS

## Jill of all trades

BY VICKI CRAIN

Student, teacher, dancer, choreographer, writer, curator, tech crewmember: She's all of those things and more. Lauren Warnecke is a jill of all trades. This busy lady teaches group exercise at the University of Illinois at Chicago, works on the tech crew for shows at The Dance Center of Columbia College and writes for numerous publications, and enjoys traveling, cooking and crafts. In what little spare time she has, she also dances, choreographs and curates independent performances around Chicago.

Warnecke, 31, grew up on the West Coast, but moved to Chicago's northwest suburbs in third grade. She wanted to take gymnastics, but a physician recommended ballet and she was hooked. After bouncing around to a number of dance schools, she landed at Barat College in Lake Forest. "I decided to go into dance in college because I really didn't know what else to do," she said. After two and a half years, the school closed and she transferred to Columbia College in the South Loop. "It was a completely different environment, I love ballet, but I had the realization pretty early that I didn't have the build for it as a professional dancer, so I sort of forced myself to enjoy modern and learn more about it," she said.

After graduating with a B.A. in dance, Warnecke apprenticed with Luna Negra Dance Theater, but was soon sidelined with a foot injury. She couldn't afford good insurance, so the injury was recurring and she eventually left the dance world, albeit temporarily. A stint at nursing school led to a new career opportunity. "What I liked about nursing school were all the classes

leading up to it," she said. "I loved the sciences—biology, anatomy and physiology—so I tried to find a combination of all the things I like about nursing and all the things I liked about dance." The result was a master's degree in kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Her master's project turned into her website, Arts Intercepts, a platform for Warnecke to engage the community in dance-based discourse. The site redesign launches this month. For the site, she translated scientific studies about injuries into language that dancers could understand. "I felt like my role in the project was to take all the sciency stuff and all the dancers and have them meet in the middle," said Warnecke. "Especially at the student level, I wanted dancers to have a place to go where they could get accurate information."

While pondering her post-college life, two major things happened. One involved coming out of the closet. "A group of friends of mine at Columbia accused me of being gay before I actually knew that I was," she recalled. "It was very offensive, but they were right." Warnecke now lives with her girlfriend in Edgewater.

The second major development was that her dance-writing career took off. She started reading dance blogs, particularly Dance Advantage, commenting regularly. The editor took note and asked her to be a contributing writer in 2010. She now also writes for The L Stop, 4dancers.org and The Huffington Post as well as her own site and her blog, One Crafty Lady ([www.craftylauran.com](http://www.craftylauran.com)).

For the past two years, she's co-curated an experimental artists' lab with a live audience



Lauren Warnecke. Photo by Kelly Rose

called Produce. With the aid of two Russells (Tim Russell in 2011 and Russell Weiss in 2012), they pick local music and movement artists from an open call audition and pair them up in different combinations to see what will happen and then ask the audience for feedback. The goal is to create artistic mash-ups of people that otherwise would never meet. Warnecke said, "We thought, wouldn't it be interesting if we could get an audience in real-time to say what they're seeing, what they like and what they don't."

"There are so many choreographers that say they don't care what the audience thinks or they don't want them to understand, that they want them to form their own opinions. People don't do that; they want to understand. They go to the Nutcracker because there is a story and it's accessible. This format gives the artist a chance to say that to the audience and the audience can

choose to say 'that's really cool' or 'that's really lame, you should let us in more!'"

Expect another round of Produce in 2013.

Looking forward to the coming year, Warnecke states her goal simply: "to keep my shit together." She will be participating in a collaborative dance show with Francesca Bourgault and other artists this spring. It will be a re-working of a nine-minute piece she created last May.

"I'm just getting into the studio to finish that piece," Warnecke said. "I used to be a firm believer in cranking out material really fast and I have the ability to do that, but I think as I've matured and my opportunities to present work have grown, time-wise, I've grown more patient and able to revisit things that are older and still be inspired by them. I'm excited to have a reason to work on it again."



A Nude Hope: A Star Wars Burlesque. Photo by Greg Inda

## THEATER REVIEW

### A Nude Hope: A Star Wars Burlesque

**Playwright:** Dan Abbate and Kelly Williams

**At:** Gorilla Tango Theatre,  
1919 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**Tickets:** 773-598-4549;  
[www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com); \$35

**Runs through:** open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Among the spectators at the standing-room-only show on a wintry day just before New Year's Eve was a lad who had celebrated his 18th birthday a week earlier, accompanied by his father and uncle. All three declared their choice of entertainment for a "boys' night out" to have been based on their shared enthusiasm for ... science-fiction movies.

Therein lies the distinction between "burlesque," as defined by Gorilla Tango's Dan Abbate and Kelly Williams, and your standard-issue skinfest. A Nude Hope's plot—such as it is—spoofs the groundbreaking 1976 space-opera film with a prologue in which a princess with a funny hairdo transmits a provocative plea via hologram. This time, however, the message is intercepted by a prepubescent boy on whom her sexual innuendoes are lost. Fortunately, his elderly mentor is intrigued by this mysterious intergalactic booty call, and so the rescue journey commences.

Did I mention that all the roles are played by nubile young women, and that their adventures all involve taking their clothes off? Rachel Singer's choreography calls for two sections of starship chassis to be transformed into props for a fan-dance, the mercenary Han Solo executes a steely-eyed chair dance, and a pair of storm

troopers clad in masked helmets, pasties and bikini-bottoms lead our heroes in a marching drill to a spirited anthem of—what else?—"Macho Man." The disco-era songbook takes a break during a full-cast Busby Berkeley-style Charleston line, but returns to the 1970s for the final battle and "Disco Inferno."

You won't see anybody tucking money into bras or garters, though a hat is passed, should anyone want to contribute. Nor do the eight beauties ever invoke offensively lascivious behavior—these are not blank-faced gentlemen's-club chorines, nor tight-lipped academics conducting research. Instead, the impression conveyed by the convivial smiles of the athletic ensemble is of nothing more than healthy and wholesome maidenhood engaging in good, clean, naughty fun.

The show's Friday-night slot, 60-minute running time and \$35 admission price make this a perfect stopover during an evening's Bucktown crawl. Oh, and if a gray-wigged-and-bearded Obi-wan Kenobi doing a peekaboo dance to the coy double-entendre "Brand New Key" only leaves you wanting more, there's a sequel—titled The Empire Brings Sexy Back—at 10:30 p.m.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Book of Mormon**, Bank of America Theatre, extended through Sept. 8. The creators of South Park and a co-creator of Avenue Q have concocted a hilariously blasphemous and frequently raunchy Broadway musical that smartly takes on Mormon culture and African superstitions. Yet the musical also stresses the importance of faith, friendship and belief. SCM

**The Glass Menagerie**, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Angel Island, through Jan. 20. No, this is *not* the classroom-classic version—director Hans Fleischmann restores the poignant and haunting magic of memory that Tennessee Williams wrote into the play that launched his career. MSB

**Hänsel und Gretel**, Lyric Opera of Chicago, through Jan. 19. Director Richard Jones' Olivier Award-winning take on Engelbert Humperdinck's classic 1893 opera is back in all its comical, creepy and brilliantly surreal glory. SCM

**The Magic Parlour**, The House Theatre of Chicago at Palmer House Hilton, open run. Youthful master magician Dennis Watkins offers an intimate hour of jaw-dropping sleight-of-hand magic and mind-reading in an oak-paneled room. His clever repartee adds to the fun. It's \$75 with drinks, and Fri.-Sat. only, 10:30 p.m. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## SPOTLIGHT



A standup comedian learns to stand by his wife "in sickness and in health" when she develops early onset Parkinson's disease in **Side Effects May Include...**, a poignant comedy co-written by former Seinfeld writer Marc Jaffe and Emmy nominee Eric Coble. MadKap Productions presents the Chicago premiere of Side Effects May Include..., which will be donating 10 percent of the proceeds from the show to the organization Shaking with Laughter in support of the Michael J. Fox Foundation. "Side" continues through Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$25 and \$20 for seniors and students; call 773-404-7336, or visit [www.greenhousetheater.org](http://www.greenhousetheater.org) or [www.madkapproductions.com](http://www.madkapproductions.com). Photo courtesy of MadKap Productions

## THEATER REVIEW

### Macbeth

**By William Shakespeare,  
adapted by Maxx Miller**

**At:** Suitcase Shakespeare Company  
at the Athenaeum Theatre,  
2936 N. Southport Ave.

**Tickets:** 773-935-6875,  
[www.athanaeumtheatre.org](http://www.athanaeumtheatre.org); \$20  
(\$10 students, \$15  
seniors/educators/industry)

**Runs through:** Jan. 27

BY STEVEN CHAITMAN

In Macbeth, as with much of Shakespeare, characters often bring bad tidings of violence as a substitute for the real thing, but not in Suitcase Shakespeare Company's abridged take on the Scottish Play.

For nearly five years now, Suitcase Shakespeare has built its reputation on going beyond the Bard's words, and in Macbeth, this added physicality allows for a more satisfying expression of the characters' intense paranoia, guilt and rage. Basically, there's a lot of stage fighting, and though timeless his work is, Shakespeare could always use more stage fighting.

Unfortunately, there's not much room for or attempts at visual embellishment in the first half of this adaptation, which feels like a 40-minute sprint to intermission. The actors rush their dialogue too often and it comes out wooden and frankly a bit amateur, but everyone comes into their own in the second act, or I should say Act II Scene IV and beyond.

From start to finish, however, the company's knack for the theatrical makes the three witches the production's greatest strength and really accentuates what makes Macbeth unique among Shakespeare's tragedies—the emphasis on the supernatural element. Wearing animal-inspired masks, the Weird Sisters speak in three distinct pitches to create an

eerie and hypnotic sound that makes the infamous first scene of Act IV one of the real highlights.

Later, they don equally well-crafted masks and follow Macbeth (founding company member Matthew Davis) about the stage, reflecting his emotional toil visually and echoing it with vocal effects and flourishes. Their hand twitches and choreographed movements add so much to the play, but the rest of the cast is not required to treat us to the same energy. Although their supernatural nature understandably warrants a different performance technique than the rest of the cast, there's such a discrepancy in the level of creative quality that something could have been done artistically to bridge the gap.

Shakespeare usually only goes as far as its actors, but adding to the sensory experience takes a little bit of pressure off the performers. Nevertheless, the key players exercise a sufficient understanding of how to deliver Shakespeare, especially Davis, who demonstrates the important fact that less can be more and nails the all-important "she should have died hereafter" monologue.

As to Shakespeare's many themes present in Macbeth, the production doesn't necessarily shed a new light upon them so much as it streamlines the emotional intensity of the plot and the predicament of its characters to the audience. With the Weird Sisters present in background of the final scene, there's also greater sense of the stakes, but on the whole, the production doesn't offer any revelations in spite of the liberties afforded by condensing the material.

Yet Shakespeare's revered work begs for interpretation upon reinterpretation and Macbeth's visceral nature especially suits the artistic vision of Suitcase Shakespeare Co. More could have been done to give this staging the emotional punch it's definitely capable of, but there's no denying the creative thinking that went into crafting a quick and accessible version of one of Shakespeare's finest tragedies.





TapMan: Origin. Photo courtesy of TapMan Productions

**THEATER REVIEW****TapMan: Origin**

Playwright: Tristan Bruns and Zada Cheeks

At: TapMan Productions at Gorilla Tango's Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie

Tickets: 847-677-7762 or www.gorillatango.com; \$15

Runs through: Jan. 25

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Tristan Bruns—the director, co-author, co-choreographer and star of *TapMan: Origin*—states in the program notes that his family show is not a “concert” or a “professional recital.” Well, Bruns may say that, but there are elements of *TapMan: Origin* at Gorilla Tango’s Skokie Theatre that unfortunately feel like an unpolished revue or recital.

Now the idea of combining percussive dance with our pop-culture craze for superheroes is one with loads of potential. Bruns originally created *TapMan* as part of a late-night entertainment at the former Lakeshore Theatre, later taking the nimble crime-fighting character on the road to other burlesque and variety shows.

But as the title character of his own full show, *TapMan* needs a sturdier plot than the revue on offer: a sprinkling of comic and dramatic superhero vignettes, way-out-of-left-field songs performed by Kyle Greer and non-connecting group dance numbers choreographed by Julie Cartier.

When *TapMan* truly works is when Tristan Bruns’ superhero performs tasks (like the enjoyable sand dance spoofing an iconic scene from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*), or does battle with his

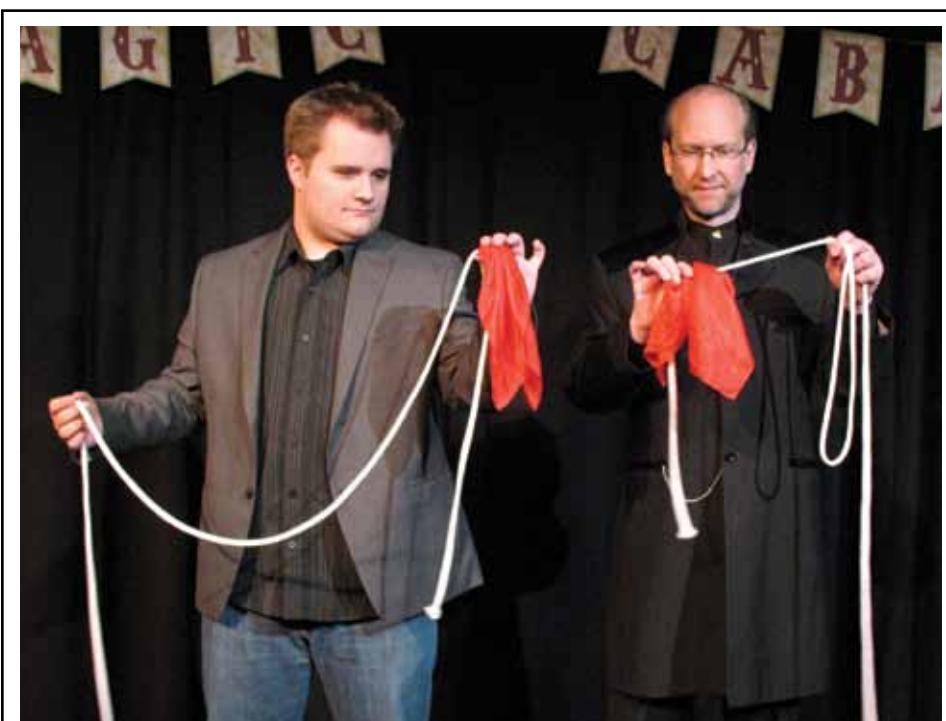
nemesis, the MADD Tapper (a great comic turn by co-choreographer Zada Cheeks). Seeing Bruns and Cheeks spar with frequent tap-shoe clashes is very impressive; plus, their comic banter is frequently funny in terms of self-aware camp.

When Bruns and Cheeks aren’t onstage is where *TapMan* loses its way. Cartier’s pleasant group dance interludes feel like non-essential filler, when just a simple script detail could have tied them closer to the superhero theme. For instance, the Drummin 2 dance interlude could have featured restaurant guests with breadsticks who have been hit by a “percussive dancing ray gun” fired by the MADD Tapper.

Some of the other stagecraft is less than smooth, especially transitions with non-essential tables and a noisy podium. The backstage crew and supporting cast also needs to be quieter backstage, since their chatter bleeds into the auditorium.

There is a Super Villain Auditions sequence where some guest dancers get to shine (Starinh Dixon and Donnetta Jackson showed off their stuff on opening night), though it makes no sense for Bruns and Cheeks’ dueling characters to serve as panel judges. Also severely lacking is a full scene featuring *TapMan*’s love interest of Kim (Kirsten Uttich), who just makes beginning and ending cameos. Why the audience should care isn’t offered, nor are we given a curtain call to let us know that the show is officially over.

*TapMan: Origin* definitely doesn’t live up to its potential. Next time Bruns should spend more time crafting a more integrated script and maybe shed one of his many responsibilities to get extra perspective on what the whole stage experience is like for the audience.



The Magic Cabaret. Photo courtesy of David Parr

**The Magic Cabaret**

Playwright: David Parr &amp; Joe Diamond

At: TMC Partners at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-404-7336; www.greenhousetheater.org; \$20

Runs through: open run

**The Magic Parlour**

Playwright: Dennis Watkins

At: House Theatre of Chicago

at the Palmer House, 17 E. Monroe St.

Tickets: 773-251-2195; www.thehousetheatre.com; \$75

Runs Through: open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time not so long ago, exhibitions of magic—not the Vegas-sized spectacles we nowadays equate with that term, but mind-boggling manipulation of physical objects occurring at sufficiently close range to forestall hidden cameras or slyly-placed mirrors—could be found all over Chicago. These days, urban fans of this entertainment genre still have two weekly opportunities to satisfy their enthusiasm for experiences defying the laws of probability.

Since 2007, David Parr and P.T. Murphy (the latter now succeeded by Joe Diamond) have paid homage to the legendary Matt Schulien, who popularized “Chicago-style” legerdemain—known more widely as “table magic”—in his legendary Lakeview tavern. Likewise intimate is this cozy all-ages show

occupying the smallest of Lincoln Park’s Greenhouse studios on Wednesday nights, where the lanky Parr and sturdy Diamond demonstrate such classic hocus-pocus as the “Chicago Closer” and the prop-oriented multiplying rabbits, as well as some eerie “phantom light” levitation, while never losing their hostly congeniality.

By contrast with this homey atmosphere, Dennis Watkins’ Friday night show is performed in a wood-paneled, sconce-lit private room (admission price includes drinks) at the Palmer House, whose concourse once featured a shop for amateur prestidigitators, according to Parr. Watkins is a founding member of the award-winning House Theatre of Chicago and himself descended from three generations of illusionists. With the face of a Renaissance angel and the patter of a county-fair auctioneer, he first acquaints us with the basic elements of stage magic—restoration, teleportation, etc.—and then proceeds to illustrate them, one by one, his hour-long demonstration culminating in a dazzling stunt involving a body-sized balloon, a deck of cards and a deadly-looking switchblade knife.

“The point is not to fool people, though fool them you must,” Watkins’ grandfather once told him, “The point is to help them imagine.” Scam artists can humbug us, after all, but these magicians answer their call with a humility that renders us perfectly willing to be bamboozled by their chicanery, eagerly assisting them in our deception. Parr and Diamond even go so far as to return the favor, instructing us in a step-by-step drill with our very own cards, so that each one of us can share in the wonder of our own extraordinary powers.

**Beautiful Thing**  
By Jonathan Harvey  
Directed By John Nasca

January 17 - February 17  
At The Athenaeum Theatre, Chicago  
AthenaeumTheatre.org

PRIDE Performers & Players

**Goodman names ‘Teddy Ferrara’ cast members**

Goodman Theatre has announced casting for the world-premiere production of *Teddy Ferrara* by Pulitzer Prize finalist Christopher Shinn.

According to a press release, the production “explores what happens when a tragedy sparks a movement—and the truth gets lost along the way.”

The cast includes Liam Benzvi (Gabe), Patrick Clear (University President), Rashaad Hall (Nicky), Ryan Heindl (Teddy Ferrara), Christopher Imbrosiano (Jay), Jax Jackson (Jaq), Dev Kennedy and Fawzia Mirza (Campus Police), Paloma Nozicka (Jenny), Adam Poss (Drew), Josh Salt (Tim), Kelli Simpkins (Ellen) and Janet Ulrich Brooks (University Provost).

Teddy Ferrara runs Feb. 2-March 3 in the

Owen Theatre (with opening night Monday, Feb. 11). Tickets (\$14-\$45; subject to change) are available at [www.GoodmanTheatre.org](http://www.GoodmanTheatre.org), by phone at 312-443-3800 or at the box office (170 N. Dearborn St.).

**Reading of ‘8’ at Goodman Jan. 14**

Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., is presenting a one-night-only reading of the new play “8” by Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*) Monday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m.

This riveting docudrama chronicles the landmark *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* case (now called *Hollingsworth v. Perry*) filed by the American Foundation for Equal Rights to overturn California’s Prop 8.

See [www.8theplay.com/readings/goodman-theatre](http://www.8theplay.com/readings/goodman-theatre).

**NUNN ON ONE: MAGIC**

# Dennis Watkins: Not just a 'Parlour' trick



BY JERRY NUNN

The House Theatre of Chicago has brought magician Dennis Watkins to the Palmer House for an open run of The Magic Parlour that promises to astound audiences. Guests meet at the Potter's Lounge then are escorted to a 32-seat intimate library-styled room. There the magic begins, from classic tricks such as linking rings to mind-reading stunts.

Our dear Watkins keeps the room laughing and guessing at what he has up his sleeve. We met for lunch to learn more about what goes on behind the magic curtain.

**Windy City Times: So, Dennis, when did you start performing at the Palmer House?**

Dennis Watkins: In January. The Magic Parlour is something we started down at the Chopin Theater, which is where The House Theatre does most of the shows. We started it two years ago. It was a very different feeling event. Some of the same material is in the show but it was down in their little basement bar area.

**WCT: I have seen shows down there before.**

DW: Then you know it is a quirky space with lots of furniture. It was a late-night Wicker Park event. We ran it down there for a while but the opportunity came to run it at the Palmer House and we jumped on it.

**WCT: It must feel more upscale.**

DW: It does. I think it was fun at Chopin but now at the Palmer House it is a special event. It's good for a date or special celebration.

**WCT: You are a third-generation magician?**

DW: Yes; my granddad was a magician. He did slight of hand magic for a long time then after World War II started working at a magic shop in Texas that he stayed for 30 years. He did a lot of magic at the shop and was an excellent sleight-of-hand performer. He was my primary teacher when I was a kid learning to do magic.

**WCT: So you learned from a young age?**

DW: From when I was a little kid, which is funny because none of my three brothers had an interest in doing magic. None of my cousins did either so I was the only one from my grandfather that did. We used to go to magician conventions, so it was super-duper fun for me!

**WCT: Doesn't that take the magic out of it?**

DW: Well, seeing the behind-the-scenes does, but watching it I still get totally fooled. It is awesome when that happens.

**WCT: How much do you practice to do a trick?**

DW: An awful lot, especially when something is dependent on specific sleight of hand. I have a little brother who is a pianist and I compare the two. There is daily practice and daily repetition. It is like playing a piano where you can enjoy it and stop thinking about how you do it.

**WCT: When I did magic as a kid I had a suitcase full of tricks like yours onstage. Does everyone have a suitcase?**

DW: When we did a show called Death and

Harry Houdini, and the stage manager brought in a suitcase just like you had. His dad had the suitcase in the attic for years with tricks in it. We opened the suitcase and all of the items were stamped with "shipped to you from Douglas Magic Shop in Texas," which was my grandfather's magic shop. I took pictures and sent it to my dad.

**WCT: Do you go to school for something like this?**

DW: I went to school for theater. I grew up learning magic and all I wanted to do was be a magician. When I got to high school I studied theater to help me with magic. I studied acting in college then started a theater group in Chicago with friends from my college, which is The House Theatre. Now it is fun that I am back in



Dennis Watkins. Publicity photo

the magic world.

**WCT: It seems like the spiel is as important as the tricks.**

DW: Absolutely. The fun part of being the performer is making it fun for the audience. It is taking the things that magicians did in the '30s and making it current now. Scripting and enjoying it is the trick.

**WCT: It is almost like a stand-up act.**

DW: It is. I learned pretty quickly when I wanted to pay my rent and was doing corporate events that making it funny became incredibly important to getting audiences to pay attention. Some performers take it very seriously but it's magic, man! It should be fun and light.

**WCT: Your show was a modern take on stylish magic from the past.**

DW: When we moved it to the Palmer House I wanted it to be classic magic in an old school venue. The blindfold segment has been around for a long time. Those things are still interesting to people and fool them. It is probably nowhere as dry as it was the '30s and hopefully a lot funnier. The Sam the bellhop trick was done by my grandfather ages ago.

**WCT: It [takes] audiences back to being little kids.**

DW: I think it should. My hope is that people come to see the show and don't even ask how a trick works by the end of the show because they won't care at that point. I want them to have fun to be fooled and wonder about it.

**WCT: It seems like a good date night show**

for people. We need to build your gay audience.

DW: They have been trickling in, which I appreciate.

**WCT: Do you want to move the show to other places?**

DW: I want to stay in Chicago because of the theater scene and I love it. My family is all over the country not just in Texas now. I have built a really great family here. People think I have to move to Vegas and make this a big show, but I

love a room of 50 people that I can involve with it. I want to build this show here and make it a long-running experience. If I could make this show run forever at the Palmer House, I would be really happy!

The Magic Parlour is an open run and currently has two shows at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. every Friday at The Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 E. Monroe St. Tickets are \$75; visit [www.TheMagicParlourChicago.com](http://www.TheMagicParlourChicago.com) or call 773-769-3832.

## BOOK REVIEW

### No Turning Back

by Kim Flowers

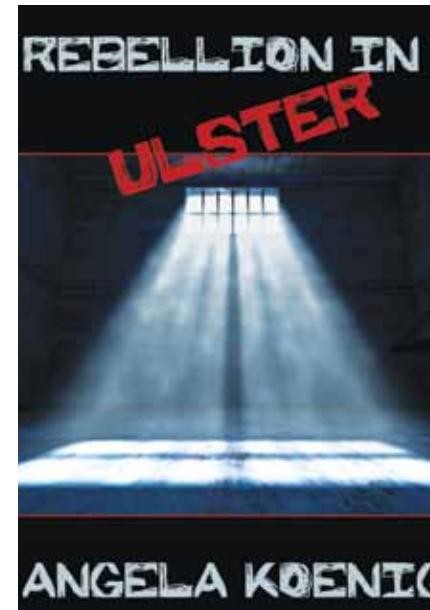
\$14.50; Queerteen

Press; 228 pages

BY SALLY PARSONS

A gripping story that pulls no punches for young teens and preteens who might be considering running away, No Turning Back is also an eye-opener for adults who know young runaways or teens contemplating striking out on their own. While freedom from whatever lies behind is a strong incentive to run away, the grimness of reality on the run comes through in this, Flowers' first book. The themes dealt with include parental abuse, family loyalty, trust, responsibility and accountability, as well as a budding lesbian romance.

The story centers around the escapades of Ash, Dayna and Kevin, whose runaway adventures take place in cornfields, pastures, tree growths and small towns somewhere in the Midwest. Ash is the leader. At 13, her parents dead, she is determined to join forces with her brother Matt (10), who was placed in a separate foster home in a town at some distance from her. Ash leaves her foster home replete with the travel survival supplies she



## BOOK REVIEW

### Rebellion in Ulster

by Angela Koenig

\$13 (e-book, \$11); Blue

Feather Books; 152 pages

BY TRACY BAIM

Chicago writer Angela Koenig's debut novel is a wonderful work of historical fiction, centered on a Boston lesbian who gets caught up in the IRA (Irish Republican Army) of the 1980s.

There's plenty of passion and politics in this thriller, giving you an insider's view of the Irish-English debate that claimed thousands of lives over hundreds of years. While there is relative calm in Britain today, this book does a terrific job of bringing you right back to the anger and chaos of those frightful days of rage, where guns and bombs killed innocent civilians and military soldiers alike.

Ulster is in northern Ireland, a province with great historical significance. The book focuses on the life of Rhodes scholar Jeri O'Donnell, who makes the trip to England after a mostly isolated life in South Boston's Irish enclave.

Jeri has been writing her cousins in Ireland for many years, and her first chance to meet in person comes with a price—her cousin Fiona dies and Jeri spends several years in the Armagh Women's Prison as a result of the incident. While in prison, Jeri is recruited for the IRA, and another prisoner, Arkadia O'Malley, tries to educate Jeri about the outside world (and her inner world) through the books in the prison's library. Especially interesting are the many literary references—Koenig does a nice job integrating these into her story.

Jeri does join the Provisional IRA, and she is trained both inside and outside of Ireland. But don't worry—between the training she has time for a few romantic entanglements. The question is whether she is really ready for love.

This is a highly recommended first novel from a Chicago talent—and an added bonus at the end is a short excerpt from her next novel, a sequel entitled Rendezvous in the Himalayas.

Koenig will read from and sign copies of her book at Women & Children First Bookstore, Wed., Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at 5233 N. Clark St.



Kim Flowers.

needs. She knows what to carry because she has made this journey before, only to be caught and placed in juvenile detention. Now wise in the ways of evading capture, she sets out with a timetable in mind.

Not too far along, she encounters Dayna (11) and her brother, Kevin (8), who have abusive parents. Shocked at how they're treated, Ash invites them to accompany her on her journey. They all band together to reach Matt and reunite the siblings.

The action picks up halfway into the book. Ash has bitten off a pretty big chunk of responsibility promising her young charges she will find them a better life. Eventually, lack of food and approaching winter forces Ash to reconsider what is best for all of them.

Matt's story runs parallel to his sister's. Flowers skillfully interweaves the two. Matt has his own coterie of friends—boys living under the charge of Auntie Helen, who is warm and loving, but not family. One of the more appealing aspects of this novel is the developing attraction between Ash and Dayna.

Flowers first began writing No Turning Back at age 11. Her second book, The Divide: Uprising, is scheduled for publication early in 2013. She lives with her wife and son in Indiana.



Artemis Singers. Photo courtesy of Joanne Swanson

# Artemis Singers: A look at Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

As the first lesbian feminist singing ensemble in the United States, Artemis Singers has been making music for decades. Founded in 1980, Artemis Singers is open to every woman who is interested in singing regardless of their musical abilities.

The 29-member chorus is, according to its website, "[composed] of women with diverse backgrounds who are dedicated to performing music written or arranged by women. The chorus works to effect positive change in cultural attitudes toward women and women artists, as well as to increase the visibility of lesbian feminists.

"Our goal in selecting and performing music is to provide an emotionally moving, spiritually and aesthetically uplifting, and politically motivating experience to our audience. We want to entertain, amuse and educate ... and most of all, to share a sense of community with our audience."

Artemis Singers was first introduced in December 1980 at the second annual Chicago Gay/Lesbian Community Band and Windy City Gay Chorus concert.

Since then, the group has performed at a variety of venues including the Center on Halsted, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Chicago History Museum, the 2006 Gay Games VI at Millennium Park's Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the Harold Washington Library, Lincoln Center in New York City, Women and Children First Bookstore and many other places.

Artemis Singers has also participated in the Sister Singers Network's—a nationwide cooperative of feminist choirs, singers and musicians—International Women's Choral Festivals around

the country. They hosted both the third festival in 1986 and the 10th festival in 2010.

Additionally, Artemis Singers held a concert to benefit the Lesbian Community Cancer Project (now known as the Lesbian Community Care Project) in 2003; in 1987, the chorus participated in a fundraiser for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

In 1982, Artemis Singers received the Paul R. Goldman Award from the early LGBT group ONE of Chicago and, in 2008, the group was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Artemis Singers is a self-directed chorus. Each member is invited to select the music that the chorus sings at each concert. For their upcoming concert in January, all members of the group picked songs to perform that speak to their own personality and experiences such as falling in love, coming out as a lesbian or giving birth.

"The chorus has a diversity of ages and experiences," said Loraine Edwalds. "The result is a beautiful mosaic of music and poetry." Since Edwalds came up with the theme for the concert, she was chosen to be the artistic director. As artistic director, Edwalds is responsible for the order of each musical performance.

Although Artemis Singers operates in an organic and non-hierarchical way, as a 501(c)(3) organization the group has a president, Meta Hellman; vice-president (to be determined); treasurer, Midge Stocker; and scheduler, Diana Clegg. Stocker and Clegg met and fell in love through their involvement with Artemis Singers.

As president, Hellman is the face of the group to the rest of the world and as production coordinator, she is responsible for publicity, gathering volunteers, securing a house manager and all other non-creative aspects of each show.

"I have a community. That has been the most gratifying and wonderful thing for me," said Hellman. "It's a lot of work but you are working on something that is bigger than you are. It's kind of a sisterhood thing where we care about each other."

Hellman also noted that "everyone should sing and can sing. We feel that every woman has a voice and Artemis is here to help women make their voice become a part of everyday reality."

"Artemis is my extended, chosen family," said Stocker. "One of the great things about Artemis is that we teach and learn from each other as well as help each other outside the musical realm. That has changed the lives of lots of the women for the better over the years."

As scheduler, Clegg (along with Hellman) looks at the song list and determines the rehearsal schedule each week so every song gets equal rehearsal time in the weeks prior to each concert.

Clegg noted that the best part of being a member of Artemis Singers is the family atmosphere. "Artemis Singers is still going strong and we would love it if people came to see our concerts," Clegg said.

**The chorus will be performing "Many Voices Create the Song: Artemis Singers in Concert" at the Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, on Saturday, Jan. 19. The group will also be performing in June for Pride month and in December to celebrate the winter solstice. Dates and locations for those concerts are to be determined.**

See [www.artemissingers.org](http://www.artemissingers.org) and find "Artemis Singers" on Facebook for tickets and information.



Paul Caldwell. Photo from Gerry Johnson

## Windy City Performing Arts has new director

LGBT choral-arts organization Windy City Performing Arts has named Paul Caldwell as artistic director of Windy City Gay Chorus and Aria, Windy City Performing Arts' women's chorus.

In addition to directing WCPA's flagship choruses, Caldwell is artistic director of the Youth Choral Theater of Chicago, a community-based after-school program enrolling 200 young people in Chicago's northern suburbs. Additionally, he is artistic director for the ¡Canta! Costa Rica festival in San Jose, Calif., and resident conductor for the Sing A Mile High choral festival in Denver.

Caldwell's debut performance will be at Windy City Performing Arts' spring concert entitled "A Flood of Hope," a special benefit for the Ali Forney Center, a shelter for homeless LGBT youth in New York City that was devastated by Hurricane Sandy last fall.

See [www.windycitysings.org](http://www.windycitysings.org).

## Sinfonietta's tribute to King Jan. 20-21

Chicago Sinfonietta will continue its 25th-anniversary season with its annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The concert will be presented at Wentz Concert Hall of North Central College, 171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville, on Sunday, Jan. 20, at 3 p.m. and at Orchestra Hall of Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave. in downtown Chicago on Monday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Grammy-winning bass-baritone Eric Owens will be the special guest; Mei-Ann Chen is the Sinfonietta's music director.

Single tickets range from \$40-\$50 for concerts at Wentz Concert Hall and \$26-\$50 for concerts at Symphony Center, with special \$10 pricing available for students. Call 312-236-3681, ext. 2, or visit [www.chicagosinfonietta.org](http://chicagosinfonietta.org).



Mei-Ann Chen.

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## Cloudburst; Amour; film note

"Getting old ain't for sissies" Bette Davis once famously declared, and both out writer-director Thom Fitzgerald's **Cloudburst** and writer-director Michael Haneke's **Amour** vividly attest to the veracity of Davis' statement, albeit from very different perspectives.

Fitzgerald's movie, driven by star performances from Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker, is much lighter in tone, helping the medicine go down with a spoonful of sugar while Haneke's

cago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St. The evening, which Sharon Zurek's Black Cat Productions and Reeling are co-presenting, begins at 7 p.m. with a one-hour social period followed by the 8 p.m. screening. (The movie is also screening tonight, Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 7:30pm at Columbia College's Hokin Hall, 423 S. Wabash Ave., as part of the Chicago Filmmakers monthly screening series.)

**Cloudburst** follows the adventures of Stella (Dukakis), a tough old bird if there ever was one, and her lover of 31 years, Dotty (Fricker). After Dot has an accident and winds up in the hospital temporarily, her granddaughter decides to put Dot in a nursing home and sell the home she shares with Stella in Bangor, Maine. Stella, mad as hell and as profane as a truck driver, isn't about to be separated from sweet, legally blind Dotty. After rescuing her partner from the nursing home, Stella and Dotty head for Canada to wed, in the hope of bringing some legal standing to their relationship.

With k.d. lang blaring from the speakers in their red pick-up truck, the two head off in what is a sort of geriatric *Thelma & Louise*. Like that classic female-buddy road picture, the duo pick-up a hot little hitchhiker (named Prentice, played by Ryan Doucette) who joins them in their quest. Prentice, who has the habit of removing parts of his clothing when the mood strikes, is heading home to visit his dying mother, and finds himself caught up in the constant love spats between ditzy Dotty and impatient (really impatient) Stella. The tone of the movie wrenches about nearly as much as the trio do inside the high-speed pick-up (that Stella cer-

Jan. 9, 2013

than a bit of Blanche in the demure, refined but quietly resigned Dotty. The two actors, expert at finding nuance and telegraphing that to audiences, bring out the best in these two women in spite of the plot lapses and odd tonal shifts. Most endearingly, you believe wholeheartedly that these two are deeply in love, and Dukakis and Fricker gift their characters with a real bond of intimacy.

Intimacy is also at the heart of **Amour**, in theaters this Friday and the official Austrian submission for this year's Academy Awards. But while the intimacy between retired music teachers Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) and her husband, Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant)—with warmth and unnamable pleasures—will be instantly familiar to many longtime couples so, too, will the heartbreaking and often uncomfortable affinity inherent in caring for a terminally ill loved one that suddenly is thrust upon them without warning.

After Anne suffers a debilitating stroke and a surgery to clear a blocked artery goes badly, it is up to Georges, along with a series of nurses, to take care of her when she returns home from the hospital. A series of health reverses follows as Georges does his best to keep up with Anne's constants needs. By the time the couple's daughter (Isabelle Huppert) shows up, he has little patience for her tears and remonstrations—there's no time left for regrets, miracle cures or second opinions. It's all down to days, then hours and, finally, minutes. Soon, Georges is nearly as much a prisoner as Anne is, and the couple's apartment—stuffed with music and books—becomes as familiar and inviting to us as to Anne and Georges. The film clearly demonstrates the importance and calming effect of accustomed surroundings to the chronically ill.

**Amour** eschews the shared sunsets and walks on the beach, and the unspoken moments in the

dark after lovemaking that we often think of as the true intimacy between couples; instead, it focuses on the moments spent in bringing trays of food and medicine, helping the loved one take a sip of water, going in and out of the bathroom and trying hard to discern when communication skills have broken down—just what the loved one desperately needs and is trying to convey. It's an emotionally devastating, deeply moving approach.

That this incredibly heartfelt film has come from writer-director Haneke—noted for his cold, flinty movies that often portray humanity at its worst (*Funny Games*, *The White Ribbon*, *Cache*, etc.)—is perhaps **Amour**'s greatest surprise. What's no surprise is that it will instantly resonate with a generation of gay men and women who became caretakers during the AIDS crisis and are now dealing with aging parents and significant others. **Amour** is a tough but rewarding film experience that honestly earns its tears—and the performances of Riva and Trintignant are revelatory.

### Film note:

—A silent classic returns: The historic Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., is presenting a restored, colored tinted print of the 1926 Italian silent classic **The Last Days of Pompeii** as part of its Silent Saturday matinee series. The epically scaled movie, which features lots of decadent behavior from the citizens of wicked Pompeii before the eruption of the nearby Mt. Vesuvius wipes out their wanton ways, screens Saturday, Jan. 12, at 12 p.m. with Dennis Scott appropriately providing the dramatic music at the Music Box pipe organ. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

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



Olympia Dukakis (left) and Brenda Fricker in **Cloudburst**.

film, winner of the Palm d'Or at Cannes and drawing raves for its performances and sumptuous photography, is much more sobering—and much closer to real life. Both films—along with the forthcoming *Quartet* (Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut), the story of four opera singers reuniting for one last performance in a nursing home for classical musicians and the recent DVD release of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*—certainly point out a growing trend toward movies focusing on characters dealing with life during the sunset years.

It's nice to see—as in **Cloudburst**—that LGBT senior folks are part of this cinematic mix. The movie, which began as a play in Fitzgerald's native Canada and which has been an audience favorite on the queer festival circuit over the last year—is screening Saturday, Jan. 9 as the kickoff for the tenth season of *Dyke Delicious*, the popular lesbian-themed screening series held the second Saturday of every month at Chi-

tainly has a lead foot) and the actors struggle to keep the material, which veers wildly in tone, on track. And though certain sidebar sequences have their individual charms and warm laughs—a visit to Prentice's dying mother descends into screwball comedy when his naked father mistakenly comes on to Dotty, etc.—they stretch plausibility and undercut the actors' attempts to bring the characters fully to life.

But Fitzgerald—who will be familiar to queer film audiences from previous efforts like *3 Needles* and *Beefcake*—has written great parts for Dukakis and Fricker and these alone are worth the price of admission. With Dukakis chewing the scenery one moment, tenderly embracing Fricker the next, opining about her lust for lang and telling off the clueless granddaughter a moment later, the movie is nothing if not entertaining. There's more than a bit of Baby Jane in the loudmouth, crude Stella, who apparently has no use for manners or decorum, and there's more

## Little Queer Film Fest in Chicago Feb. 2-3

Little Queer Film Festival (LQFF), a new film series in Chicago, will be held at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Feb. 2-3.

Revenue from the festival, in addition to several other fundraising events and donations from supporters and partners, will go toward the financing LQFF screenings.

LQFF, launched after the annual LGBT Reeling Film Fest went on hiatus in 2012 (and it is not associated with Reeling), will be a smaller intimate experience with alternative venues during the festival and throughout the year. Venues showcasing films will be conducive to social/mingling and conversation while providing a space where the community can participate. LQFF films will touch on a wide range of issues and raise awareness of LGBT equality and social issues.

Kicking off day one of the festival is award-winning *Call Me Kuchu*. Veteran activist David Kato labors to repeal Uganda's homophobic laws and liberate his fellow LGBT men and women, or "kuchus." A very timely movie considering the recent move to legalize sentencing homosexuals to death in Uganda.

Next is the award-winning *Kiss Me*, a love story with a twist. Mia and Frida meet for the first time at their parent's engagement party and their mutual attraction is undeniable. There's just one small complication. Mia has just announced her engagement to her long-time boyfriend Tim.

The first feature by Negar Azarbayjani, the award-winning *Facing Mirrors*, is the first Iranian film with a transgender protagonist. *Facing Mirrors* is a film that explores the rare solidarity that is sometimes achieved through mutual oppression while following the development of an unlikely friendship and ensuing advocacy for a friend despite differences.

Day two of the festival begins with *Lesbian Factory*. What began as a documentary about the unfair treatment of foreign migrant workers in Taiwan wound up doubling as a love story following the lives of seven lesbian couples.

The second featured film, the award-winning *North Sea Texas*, is a coming-of-age story set on the Belgian coast. Fourteen-year-old Pim navigates his way through his teens while figuring out his feelings for his 17-year-old neighbor Gino and dealing with a single mother who cares more about her relationships with men than being a mom.

Rounding out the festival, LGFF will present the award-winning *I Do*. A British gay man marries his lesbian friend in order to get a green card. Things get complicated when he falls in love with the man of his dreams, jeopardizing the validity of the marriage and the friendship. Can love conquer all?

Sapphic Adventures and Jeanette Diaz Photography are producing LQFF in partnership with Center on Halsted, 2100°DG and Baby Girls & Co.

To learn more about supporting this event or to register, visit [www.littlequeerfilmfest.org](http://www.littlequeerfilmfest.org).

## 'Normal Heart' on HBO in '14

HBO announced that it will adapt the Tony-winning Larry Kramer play *The Normal Heart*, according to Deadline.com. The movie will star Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo in the key roles, along with out actor Matt Bomer (*White Collar*).

Glee creator Ryan Murphy will direct the film, which will feature Roberts as Dr. Emma Brookner, the paraplegic physician who treats several of the earliest victims of the disease. Ruffalo portrays Ned Weeks; Bomer plays Felix Turner, a reporter who becomes Weeks' lover. The *Normal Heart* will run in 2014.



## City Winery

BY MEGHAN STREIT

When I first heard about City Winery—a West Loop spot that is at once a working winery, 300-seat concert venue and full restaurant—I was a bit skeptical. I'm generally a believer that you can't be all things to all people, and so I figured City Winery would excel at one of its goals, but be lackluster in the other departments. Boy, was I wrong (and pleasantly surprised!).

I had my first full City Winery experience in November when one of my favorite artists, Rachael Yamagata, played at the venue. Instead of standing on tired tiptoes to see the stage, I was seated comfortably in a chair and could hear every beautiful word. Glasses of robust Sonoma zinfandel replaced the watery overpriced beer I'd normally be forced to drink at a concert. Somewhere around Yamagata's third song, as I stuffed myself with delicious Burrata cheese spread on crusty toasted bread, a waitress appeared quietly to set down a fresh glass of wine in front of me, and I thought to myself, "This place is a freaking urban amusement park for adults!"

I had seen Yamagata perform several times before, and I initially thought I'd miss the grit of being at a rock concert. Nope. As it turns out, standing in a long line and then missing your favorite song to pay \$9 for a crappy beer actually sucks. Eating delicious food and drinking high-quality and reasonably priced wine while you listen to your favorite artist is such a superior concert experience. Obviously, Chicagoans aged 30 and above are going to love this place. But, you don't have to have wrinkles to enjoy City Winery. I was sat next to two University of Chicago students at the Yamagata show, and they seemed to enjoy the experience as much as I did.

Chicago's City Winery is the second location. There's also one in New York, and from what I've read, the Chicago location is bigger and better. I haven't been to the Big Apple location, but the Second City version is positively visually spectacular. Thirty-foot ceilings, walls lined with wine bottles and huge stainless-steel wine vats behind the bar make the space stunning.

Exposed brick, colorful artwork and a fireplace in the middle of the main dining room make it cozy.

You can dine at City Winery any day of the week, and you should. But, if you opt to have dinner and see a show, then you are in for a real treat, albeit a pricy one. Depending on your appetite for lovingly crafted glasses of wine, you can easily drop \$200 on a meal for two. If you're seeing a show, it's recommended to arrive about an hour early if you'd like to have dinner. The idea is that you'll be finishing up your meal, perhaps lingering over dessert, as the show gets underway.

Seating is tight because, hey, you're getting a fine dining experience in a concert venue. I like my space, so I was a teensy bit irritated at first, but I was happy to have a chair at all, and my fiancée and I ended up chatting with our table-mates and had a great time.

After you're settled with a glass of wine—there are nearly 100 to choose from, but I'd recommend sampling one of City Winery's own varietals that are "on tap"—then it's time to dig into the menu. The concert venue menu is a smaller version of the restaurant's main menu. You'll find a nice selection of small plates that are well thought out and made with fresh and just downright tasty ingredients. Smaller items average about \$6 a pop, and the heartier dishes cost around \$12 each. Four to five dishes will satisfy—but not stuff—a party of two. But so many sound tempting, so I wouldn't blame you for ordering more than that.

I have a mid-level obsession with City Winery's Burrata, as I discussed in my last column (<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Sugar-Spice-The-10-best-things-I-ate-in-2012/40937.html>). The cheese itself is impossibly soft and creamy, but what makes it so memorable is the bread it's served with. The crusty Italian bread is slathered with a generous dose of olive oil, dusted with herbs and then toasted to perfection. It's the perfect start to a lovely meal. Other lighter and highly sharable plates include white bean and garlic dip served with pita and an assortment of arancini balls (fried risotto) that I'm dying to try.

I also tried the salame flatbread, which was basically to die for. The light and crispy crust was phenomenal, and the sopressa and smoked mozzarella worked in perfect harmony as toppings. This pizza pairs nicely with City Winery's slightly spicy house zinfandel.

Among the more entrée-like offerings is a braised short rib with creamy rosemary polenta.

## WINDY CITY TIMES

Images of  
City Winery.  
Press photos



Sandra Bernhard performed her one-woman show "I Love Being Me, Don't You?" at City Winery, Fri., Jan. 4. Photo by Jerry Nunn



In a culinary world now saturated with braised short ribs, this one definitely stands out. The meat was infused with so much flavor and was ridiculously tender. The polenta makes a perfect companion, and a dollop of tomato compote gives the dish a little extra zing. If you want to sneak a vegetable into your meal, the cauliflower gratin is a delightful way to do it. The cauliflower is baked beneath a gooey and piping-hot layer of Gruyere, Mornay sauce and toasted breadcrumbs (which perhaps disqualifies it as a vegetable, but who the heck cares?). The portion was quite small, and when Gruyere is involved, I don't like to share, so next time I'll order my own cauliflower gratin.

Not that I needed any more calories at this point, but midway through the concert, dizzy with the special happiness that can only come from drinking good wine and listening to great music, I decided to order the City Winery sliders as a late-night snack. They are served simply on pretzel rolls with lettuce and tomato. The burgers themselves tasted eerily like the ones my dad

used to grill in the backyard when I was a kid. So, either my dad is a secret culinary genius or these burgers are fairly average. I think the sliders could have benefited from some cheese or some sort of a secret sauce, but nonetheless, I happily gobbled them up just like I did at backyard barbeques as a child.

If you're looking to treat yourself or impress someone special with a truly lovely evening, City Winery is the place to do it. The dinner and concert I enjoyed there was sincerely one of the best nights out I've had in a long time, and I'll be hoping that all of my favorite musicians book gigs there, so that I have many excuses to return to City Winery.

City Winery is located at 1200 W. Randolph St.; call 312-733-WINE or visit [www.citywinery.com/chicago](http://www.citywinery.com/chicago).

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**COUNSELING AND CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPY:** Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. **Starla R. Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, [www.starlasholl.com](http://www.starlasholl.com)** (2/20/13-26)

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## HELP WANTED

**\*\*\*SAFE BUS DRIVERS WANTED\*\*\*DAILY TAKE HOME PAY\*\*\*** Do you enjoy helping others? Do you like having the freedom to work on your own? Is your safety and the safety of others a priority for you? Is earning a paycheck important to you? If you answered "YES" to each question please read on. We are hiring SAFE BUS DRIVERS to work in the City of Chicago and surrounding communities. This is year 'round work. We pay \$12.50/hour, \$13.00/hour for weekends. We offer medical, dental and vision insurance, a 401k plan, a free \$5,000 life insurance policy and PAID VACATION AND PAID HOLIDAYS! WE HAVE FULL TIME WORK AVAILABLE FOR DRIVERS! Must have a class "C" CDL or be able to obtain one with passenger endorsement. We provide CDL training. TRAINING STARTS IMMEDIATELY...COME IN AND APPLY TODAY TO START EARNING A PAY CHECK! We are easily accessible from the PACE 290 bus and the CTA 85A bus! MV Transportation, Inc. 6230 W. Gross Point Road Niles, IL 60714 773-467-2455. [www.mvtransit.com](http://www.mvtransit.com) Must pass a drug test and have a clean driving record and clean criminal background. EOE (1/23/13-8)

**HEALTH CARE - CAREGIVERS WANTED.** Growing, licensed homecare company has positions open for Caregivers who want to make a difference. All shifts available; one year experience required. **Apply on-line <http://lavenderhcs.com/careers>** (1/30/13-9)

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## HOME IMPROVEMENT

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**TOP TO BOTTOM PAINTING AND CLEANING.** Need to get a fresh look and have the place cleaned as well? Get it done now before all the entertaining starts. **Call me for a free estimate. 847-444-1482** (1/23/13-13)

**RENAISSANCE REMODELING + REPAIR** 20 years experience in remodeling high end kitchens and bathrooms, home repairs, painting, built-ins. Fully insured. Jobs of all sizes welcome. Free Estimates. Call **773-946-7559**, email [renremodelchicago@gmail.com](mailto:renremodelchicago@gmail.com). (1/30/13-4)

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 11:00 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #08062/3501 W. Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712-2730 847-674-5302.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 1010 - Porsangi, Eden 1101 - Durakovic, Nadil, 2102 - Osse, Maria. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 12:30 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #22335/2101 W. Howard Street, Chicago, IL 60645-2191. (773) 262-0902.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0011 - Martinez, Clifford, 0098 - Dacres, Tiffany, 0127 - McFarlar, Desiree, 0133 - MARTIN, VERNON, 0156 - Ryan, Glenn, 0177 - Schmidt, Janet, 1009 - Oladipo, Taibou, 1061 - Lopez, Ronald, 2026 - Chisom, John, 2031 Hightower, Raymond, 2057 - Tillman, Elizabeth, 2071 - Garnett, Dionne, 3022 - Bennett, Tracy, 3027 - Lawrence, Yolanda, 3048 - Geanes, Marcel, 3061 - Priklonskis, Jegors, 3084 - Urbaniak, Nichole, 3127 - Sundin, William, 3165 - Nankya, Anna, 3179 - Payton, Otesha, 4104 - EDWARDS, TRACY, 5078 - OYEWOPO, ISAAC, B13 - Kus, Michael, B7 - MALIK, UMAR. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 10:30 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #25518/6460 N. Lincoln Ave. Lincolnwood, IL 60712-4038. (847) 677-5975.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 1091 - bynum, Samantha, 2061 - rahmen, murad, 3017 - burns, Christopher, 3077 - burns, Christopher, 4128 - Pearson, Samantha, 4173 - Kucharski, Michael, 4197 - ardales-kurita, suzette, 5034 - Drew, Cynthia, 5050 - hernandez, pedro, 6049 - Castellon, Alex. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 10:00am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #22339/5838 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60646-6008. (773) 539-9549.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. A016 - raulston, Michael, A035 - Boras, Rose, A052 - Cruz, Fe, A077 - moore, tonya, A155 - Cichon, Susan, A196 - lopez, julio g, A221 - ABBAS, NAIMAT, A226 - ABBAS, NAIMAT, A232 - Shooper, Jacqueline, A240 - Selloutos, Nephele, A288 - Izquierdo, Carmen, B010 - cadet, angelica, B017 - De Leon, Diana, B123 - Williamson, David, B131 - cvejic, dejan, D050 - Banks, Johnese, D122 - Limbachiya, Jitendra, Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 3:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #23404/5643 N. Broadway St. Chicago, IL 60660-4415. (773) 784-8410.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0005 - Scott, Chelsea, 0015 - YEARWOOD, CASSIE, 1060 - Talley, Pearl, 1075 - Barbise, Joseph, 1083 - Price, Betty, 1100 - Masciola, Paul, 1119 - Luckett, Juanita, 2263 - Jenkins, Sheri, 2323 - Howard, Hugh D, 3338 - Riddle, Latasha, 3362 - Deisch, Manford, 3481 - Crosby, Latosa, 3510 - Garcia, Sergio, A029 - Neely, Verna, A039 - Zamudio, Guillermo, A071 - Brown, Shalisha, B132 - Castillo, Matt, B164 - Tanala, Virginia, B224 - Faceson, Teresa, B231 - Galloway, Shondra, C321 - Estes, Cynthia L, C379 - MCANANY, CHRISTOPHER. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 1:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #28160/1512 W. Jarvis Ave. Chicago, IL 60626-1909 (773) 338-6828.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 018 - Sheppard, Soraya, 058 - Phillips, Alfreda, 126 - Jones, Brittany, 137 - Mechanic, Sean, 139 - Wilkie, Jermaine, 199 - Gordon, Kevin, 264 - LEWIS, MONIQUE, 266 - Hynes, Joan. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 2:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #28161/5733 N. Broadway St. Chicago, IL 60660-4301 (773) 878-3913.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below. 0017 - Kirksey, Gregory, 0028 - DANIEL, ANDRE, 0348 - AJAVON, AYI, 0362 - Werderitch, Garry 0476 - wynn, Stephanie. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 2:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage #07116, 362 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60654, (312) 266-0174.** In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 1032 - Lewellen, Augustus, 2024 - Faist, Barton, 2031 - BASS PRODUCTIONS / Donnie Lyle, 3020 - Parker, Chastity, 4054 - THOMAS, AURRIE, 4120 - Carter, Jacqueline, 5070 - Brown, Eugene, 6160 - Kranz, Shanna. Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY (cont.)

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 1:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-08066, 947 West Van Buren, Chicago, IL 60607, (312) 421-0049**. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 0036 - Thomas, Joyce, 0103 - Mumphery, Audrey, 0204 - Jones, Karl, 0225 - Mack, Tamara, 0345 - Tolliver, Patricia, 0366 - Miklusak, Carol, 0452 - Lozano, Maya, 0456 - Jeffries, Ryan, 0546 - Black, Letanya, 0672 - Rambo, Elisha, 0705 - Dinwiddie, Ronda, 0772 - Kauffman, Corie. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 12:00 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-08067, 1711 West Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60613-1912, (773) 525-5518**. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 1107 - Booth, Aaron, 1203 - Hassan, Quawana, 2016 - McDonald, Stephanie, 2034 - Wilkinson, Loren, 2104 - Lambert, Debrah, 2247 - Lewis, Corey, 3066 - REED, ANTOINE, 3158 - Rosen, Herb, 4013 - Roland, Kerdia. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 12:30 pm** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-20485, 1414 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 427-1043**. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 0020 - Hutchinson, Michael, 0068 - matthews, eddie, B1018 - GSSP Enterprise, B1019 - Diaz, Veronica, B1035 - Muhammad, Dianna, B1048 - Wiggins, Lisa, B1055 - Lewis, Monique, C2005 - Robinson, Joann, C2020 - Massey, Walter, C2066 - Myers, Peter, D3043 - Eubanks, Chiquita, D3076 - JONES, CEDRIC, E4007 - McCants, Marlon, E4031 - Robinson, Shanta, E4042 - Dias, Brian, E4115 - Roeder, Ingrid, E4138 - HAMMOND, HOWARD, E4148 - Shannon, Robert, F5019 - CARIDINE, DALE, F5094 - Thomas, Arnesia, F5097 - Bell, Lauren, F5111 - DeGroat, Marian, F5112 - Thompson, Nikia, G6047 - Fikes, Gregory, G6128 - Joseph, Cheryl, G6132 - Kidd, Tyjuan, G6139 - kennedy, patricia, H7051 - Scott, Hughie, H7059 - Roberts, Sanford, H7068 - Adams, Delrice, H7120 - Vinson, Sheila, H7128 - Walton, Soraya. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 10:30 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-20620, 4430 N. Clark , Chicago, IL 60605, (773) 989-4619**. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: C010 - Washington, Ron, C011 - Harrison, Michael, C044 - Cowans, Richard, C058 - Supran, Richard, C069 - Meltzer, Howard, C071 - Flaherty, Colleen, D038 - Cashman, Kathleen. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding January 24th, 2013 at 11:30 am on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-21807, 1916 N. Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60642, (773) 227-3114**.

In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: A229 - HIGAREDA, VIRGINIA, A237 - ACEVEDO, ARTURO, A320 - HOSKINS, CYNTHIA, A421 - HAWLEY, DUSTIN, A481 - BERNSTEIN, GAIL, C005 - 1637 PIERCE DW LLC FOR BUSINESS / Joseph Varan, C055 - BERN AHL, DAVID, C095 - SANDERS, LEONARDO, D537 - CHALMERS, ROBIN, D547 - KOLLATH, DENNIS, D566 - SUMA, MARY, D573 - LEANER, MARIE, D634 - PIERCE, MARVIN, D681 - RAMIREZ, GEORGE D714 - WALKER, CHARLES, D726 - HOLSHOE, JASON, D741 - KOLLATH, DIANE. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on January 24th, 2013 at 10:00 am on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-22331, 4072 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613, (773) 404-8592**.

In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: A012 - Hareas, Cathy, A023 - Roca, Meloney, B026 - Cargill, Denise, B044 - Toledo, Manuel, B051 - Hood, Isaac, B083 - AJAYI, SAMUEL, B108 - Valadez, Eustaquio, C016 - IBRAHIM, ALI, C025 - BELL, AMIR, C028 - Butler, Edward, C054 - Laniche, Sofiane, C067 - Frempong, Michael, C070 - Davenport, Eric, C075 - BALOGUN, KOLAPO, C095 - Mueller, Neal, D006 - Gwendolyn, Bailey, D016 - GISH, DIANE MARIE, D031 - PRINCE, MAE, D073 - CLARK, SHANNON, E014 - Jaranilla, Virginia, E026 - The Three Dollar Store, Inc / Brian Brothers, E057 - HAREAS, CATHY. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc.

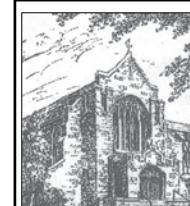
Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

**Notice is hereby given** that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, that Public Storage / PS Orangeco, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage by Competitive bidding on **January 24th, 2013 at 11:00 am** on the Premises where property has been stored, which are located at **Public Storage#-22336, 2835 N. Western Ave, Chicago, IL 60618, (773) 772-9209**. In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: 0053 - Wright, Tim, 0102 - SMALUK, ALLISON, 0115 - SPACIO LLC / Patricia Feeley, 0119 RUDOLPH, KAREN, 0147 - BALANZAR, MIRIAM, 0202 - Rice, Kathleen, 0219 - Palmer, Thomas, 0268 - Howlett, Edward, 0279 - Rosen, Lisa, 0301 - QUINONES, RAFAEL, 0337 - BATES, OMAR, 0356 - Rivera Perez, Alexis, 0563 - MARTIN, LINDA, 0570 - Martin, Helen, 0608 - FARRELL, KATHLEEN, 0669 - MILLER, CHERYL, 0742 - SMITH, IDELLA, 0765 - Ayende, Juan, 0823 - WILSON, NEKETA. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

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In the matters of the personal property for the individuals listed below: A006 - Harrison, Suzanne, A008 - LANDAHL DESIGN STUDIO, LLC / Gregory Landahl, B077 - Nguyen, Canh, B089 - SYNAGOGUE, CENTRAL , B095 - Robinson, LaTonja, B124 - NAVIGANT DEVELOPMENT, LLC / Anthony Tomaska, C310 - HANNEY, SUZANNE, D402 - Nowak, Elizabeth, D414 - Ress, Penelope, D416 - Rhine, Nigeria, D468 - Mui, Teresa, D485 - LEE JR, CHARLES, D500 - KLEPTACH, THERESA, D522 - Jones, Paige, E563 - Koppel, Flora, E661 - Cantwell, Steven, E676 - mannsell, roy, E690 - LANDAHL DESIGN STUDIO, LLC / Gregory Landahl, E692 - Dumbuya, Salimatu, E695 - Ress, Penelope, E698 - Dumas, Lorell. Public Storage/ PS Orangeco, Inc. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Sale is subjected to adjournment.

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**NEED LEGAL ASSISTANCE?** William H. Ransom & Associates, Estate Planning & Trusts; Real Estate; Commercial/Contract Litigation; Employment Discrimination and Retaliatory Discharge; Personal Injury; Mortgage Foreclosure Defense. **312-953-9120;** **whrlaw@aol.com.** (1/16/13-13)

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### REAL ESTATE

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**4 A.M. license & PPA license.**  
**Rogers Park near 7000 N. Clark St.** 6 blocks north of Clark & Devon.  
**Occupancy is 135 people.**

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**john1770@att.net**

### BUSINESS/BUILDING FOR SALE

**7000 N. CLARK AREA TAVERN WITH REAL ESTATE,** 4 am and public place of amusement licenses. Eleven units in 3 brick adjoining buildings. 100 x 100 property with driveway and 3-car garage. **\$995,000.** Richard at **773-671-1273** (4/3/13-13)

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### SEEKING RENTAL

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# calendar Q

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## Wed., Jan. 9

**Cloudburst** Oscar®-winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker play a couple together 31 years. Now in their seventies, Dot's neurotic granddaughter puts Dot in a retirement home and Stella breaks her out of the nursing home and the two embark on a Thelma & Louise-style road trip. 7:30pm, Hokin Hall, Columbia College, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

**Women Wednesday** Second Wednesday of every month, Equality Illinois holds a monthly social gathering for women. 7pm-9pm, 773-477-7173, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., www.eqil.org/events.html

**HyDrag Revue Xmas Show: Naughty or Nice!** Join Hydrate for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE XMAS Show! Hosted by Tajma Hall featuring DiDa Ritz, Soraya Dash, and special guest Mimi Marks! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, Chicago, http://www.hydratechicago.com

**Third Annual BroadwayWorld Chicago Awards** 3rd annual Chicago theater fans choice awards. Join members of Chicago's diverse theater community as they receive their awards and enjoy Showtime night. 9pm, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W Bryn Mawr Ave., www.cattlecallchicago.com

## Thursday, Jan. 10

**Exhibition: The Almost Metal Collective** Visual excursion into the opinions and ideas of this group, which uses technology to create things out of the castoffs of contemporary culture. 11am-8pm, 312-369-8668, A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., www.colum.edu/adgallery

**Open Gym Volleyball** Mondays and Thursdays. Co-ed, open court volleyball for

## THE 'GOSPEL' TRUTH

**Jan. 19-20**

**Rodrick Dixon (right) will be among those performing at "Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz Gospel Messiah" at Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.**

*Photo by Dan Rest*



players of all levels. \$7/night; \$30/month; 6pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**CAPS Meetings** Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy regular meeting with the public; 7pm, Illinois Masonic Hospital, 836 W. Wellington Ave., 7th Floor

**Lewis & Clark (Farewell Party) and Q-we're & L-Stop Calendar Shoot** The owner of Q-we're, a new edition to the queer erotic scene, is shooting folks at Berlin starting at 11 pm. Wanna see yourself in the 2014 edition of Q-we're's calendar? Come get your picture taken and enter for a chance to be one of the next Q-we're Calendar model. The L Stop will be posting the photos for the public to help vote who is the next model. DJs Lewis and Clark (Farewell Party), Nicki Butler, and Teen Witch Fan Club. Photos by ASL (<http://asl-media.com>) \$2 PBR, \$3 Berlin Bombs, \$5.50 42 Below. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

## Friday, Jan. 11

**Wood Unique** multi-media installation with wood utilized in the creation of film, sculpture, print and musical instruments. 7pm-10pm, Las Manos Gallery, 515 W. Foster Ave., www.lasmanosgallery.com

**CCPA Guest Artist Recital: Bruce Briney, trumpet** Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts presents Briney and other featured artists Julieta Mihai, violin; Tammy Walker, piano; and Rick Kurasz, percussion. This concert is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required; seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. 7:30pm-9pm, 312-341-2352, Ganz Hall at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave., www.roosevelt.edu/ccpa

**Caucasian Chalk Circle** Prometheus Theatre Ensemble presents a work by Bertolt Brecht. When a servant girl becomes the less-than-willing guardian to the infant of her wealthy mistress during a revolution, great consequences hang upon her smallest choices. 8pm-10:30pm, 800-838-3006, City Lit Theater, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., www.prometheantheatre.org/on-stage.aspx

**Mary's Old Skool House Party feat. Janet Jackson showcase** Back by popular demand, a whole night of old skool jamz from DJ Moose, with a special focus of the Nasty girl herself, Miss Janet Jackson. 9:30pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago

## Saturday, Jan. 12

**Free Seminar: Secrets of the Ideal Kitchen** A great kitchen is more than just pretty cabinetry and plenty of counter space. Find ways to maximize your kitchen's functionality as well as ways to make textures, colors and styles meld together to create a kitchen that's uniquely you! 10:30am-12:30pm, 630-455-5600, Normandy Remodeling 440 E Ogden Ave., Hinsdale, www.normandyremodeling.com/seminars.aspx

**Youth Speak OUT! Saturdays.** Open Mike for young people to express themselves and to hear from legendary artists in the making. Free. 4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Dating for Queer Nerds** New Year's resolution fixer mixer Smart queer singles build their best year at a New Year's resolutions fixer mixer including a Calendar Construction Kit icebreaker, Try, Try Again trivia on famous second chances, and a Check Yo'self before you Wreck Yo'self quiz on past geek gaffes, plus board gaming and themed drink specials. Registration required: nerdsatheart.com; 4pm-7pm, 855-637-3568, The Aberdeen Tap, 440 N. Aberdeen St., <http://nerdsatheart.com>

## '8' EXPECTATIONS

**Monday, Jan. 14**

A one-night-only reading of the Prop 8-themed play 8 (written by Dustin Lance Black, above) will take place at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

*Publicity photo*

Get  
**calendar**  
online

**Q** : WindyCityMediaGroup.com  
ChicagoPride.com

**Ripley Caine** opens for Husker Du's Grant Hart and Jeremiah Webb. \$10. in advance, \$12. at door. 8pm, Red Line Tap, 7006 N Glenwood Ave., [www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/288774](http://www.brownpaper-tickets.com/event/288774)

**Rhinoceros Theater Fest** Opening Gala: Full Moon Vaudeville. Long running fringe festival continues through Feb. 17. 8pm, Prop Theater, 3502 N. Elston Ave.: [http://rhinofest.com/events/opening\\_gala.php](http://rhinofest.com/events/opening_gala.php)

**Deja Delicious Series presents Cloudburst** Oscar®-winning actresses Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker play a couple together 31 years. Now in their seventies, Dot's neurotic granddaughter puts Dot in a retirement home and Stella breaks her out of the nursing home and the two embark on a Thelma & Louise-style road trip. 7pm social hour, 8pm screening. \$10; 8pm, Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N Clark St., [www.chicagofilmmakers.org/cf/content/cloudburst-0](http://www.chicagofilmmakers.org/cf/content/cloudburst-0)

**m4m411.com Launch Party** The official launch party for the new website exclusive to, about, and for men. Featuring performances by Lady Tajma Hall, Purple Haze, and Amy Eisenberg, plus hot male dancers. 11pm, Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark St., [www.m4m411.com](http://www.m4m411.com)



## PLANET JANET

**Friday, Jan. 11**

The music of Janet Jackson will be showcased at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

*Album cover photo*

**Boy Gets Girl** Theresa Bedell is on top and in control; that is, until a seemingly harmless date turns into a terrifying display of obsession and desperation. Through March 2. \$22 during previews, \$45 opening night and \$36 all other performances; 8pm-10pm, 773-338-2177, Raven Theatre's West Stage, 6157 N. Clark St., [www.raventheatre.com](http://www.raventheatre.com)

## Wed., Jan. 16

**Marriott Theatre 2013 Season** The Marriott Theatre, Chicago's longest running musical theatre, will soon open subscriptions for the 2013 season; 1pm-3pm, 847-634-0200, Marriott Theatre, <http://www.marriotttheatre.com>

**Midge Wilson and Kathy Russell author reading** The Color Complex explores Western standards of beauty influencing cultures across the globe and affecting personal, professional, romantic, and familial relationships in ways like skin lightening in India, hair straightening among African Americans. 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., Chicago, <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## Thursday, Jan. 17

**Beautiful Thing** Presented by Pride Films and Plays. A boy who skips school to avoid playing sports is attracted to his next-door neighbor, an athletic teen who is regularly beaten by his father and brothers. Illustrates the struggle of growing up in a world that can be cruel and unforgiving to anyone perceived as different. Through Feb 17, 2013; 7:30pm, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport Ave., [www.athenaeumtheatre.org](http://www.athenaeumtheatre.org)

## Friday, Jan. 18

**Miami Nice: A Golden Girls Musical** Miami, 1986. Divorced and over 60, a substitute teacher is spending another lonely Friday night playing Scrabble with her mother and friends, but is suddenly plunged into a world of drugs, guns, and cheesecake. 7:30pm-8:30pm, 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave., [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com)

## Saturday, Jan. 19

**Artemis Singers concert** Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus will perform "On the Street Where You Live," "Testimony" and other favorites. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. 7:30pm, Ethical Humanist Society, 7574 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, [www.artemissingers.org](http://www.artemissingers.org)

**Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz Gospel Messiah** Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. with the 8th annual Messiah (also on Jan. 20). 7:30pm-9:30pm, 800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy., [www.auditoriumtheatre.org](http://www.auditoriumtheatre.org)

# BILLY MASTERS

"I was so glad that I didn't have to sing 'Broadway F\*cking Baby' that I ended up having a really nice time."—Elaine Stritch tells a friend about a holiday party she went to. So if you want a happy guest, don't ask her to sing!

If you're like most people, one of your New Year's Resolutions was something about losing weight. While I have often kvetched about those last pesky five, 10 or 20 pounds, it may be time for some action. Last week, I did quite a bit of travelling. For one flight, I arrived at the airport uncharacteristically early, so I was able to go standby on an earlier flight. After I boarded, the doors closed and the pilot started the engines. Suddenly the engines stopped, the doors reopened and several airline employees got on board. They spoke excitedly with the crew ... while looking at me! After several tense moments, a uniformed person approached me and said he'd have to escort me off the plane. Why? "Well, Mr. Masters, it's a weight issue." Huh? "We're over our weight limit, so you will have to deplane." It has finally happened—I am too fat to fly! Next time I travel, I'll probably have to pay for two seats, or at the very least be forced to wear one of those seat-belt extenders.

But all my *sturm und drang* was worth it to get back to Boston in time to see Pippin at the American Repertory Theater on the arm of the dashing attorney to the stars Mark Sendroff. The moment the set and concept were revealed, I said to Mark, "Now that's a compelling argument for a Broadway transfer." The show is set in a circus-type environment, since it's about a group of players telling the story of Prince Pippin. This also means that the cast includes some stunning (and I do mean *stunning*) half-naked acrobats who also, as luck would have it, are able to sing, dance and act—so they're a quadruple threat! The show is ably stolen by the sublime Andrea Martin, whose performance quite frankly defies description; in fact, it also defies gravity—a Tony-winning turn if ever there was one. The Pippin of Matthew James Thomas may lack some charm or even presence, but I can shallowly tell you it gets better once he takes his shirt off. The Leading Player of Patina Miller is fine, but she never approaches the charisma of Ben Vereen or the terrifying stakes set by Sam Harris in Los Angeles. Still, this is such a fantastic production and incredible cast that I'm not surprised it will transfer to Broadway in the spring.

There is some news regarding the oft-delayed Ryan Murphy film version of *The Normal Heart*. As I predicted months ago, a deal has been signed with HBO. The film, with a script adapted by playwright Larry Kramer, will star Mark Ruffalo as Ned Weeks, Julia Roberts as Dr. Emma Brookner and Matt Bomer as Felix Turner. Rumor has it that some of the previously attached actors will still be in it, including Alec Baldwin as Ned's brother and Jim Parsons as Tommy Boatwright (the role he played on Broadway). Filming will begin in NYC this summer.

What's ironic about this news is that about 10 years ago, Larry rejected an offer from HBO to make this film—a deal negotiated by Barbra Streisand (who no longer had the rights, but was still trying to get it made). Larry not only insisted on a theatrical run, but he also wanted to be paid \$1 million for the script. BTW, Babs' cast also included Julia Roberts and Mark Ruffalo. (Bradley Cooper was supposed to play the part of his lover.) When Ryan came on board, Larry went out of his way to say that he would be able to do what Barbra was unable to accomplish—which is somewhat amusing because it's a virtually identical deal. Maybe Larry is just showing us he has a sense of humor. After all, he recently told a reporter, "I'm sorry [Barbra] never got around to making the movie. But she can still sing our theme song!" That Larry Kramer is a laugh riot.

As you all know, Lady Gaga is a strong sup-

porter of our community and has really embraced her role as a gay icon. After hearing so many stories about the difficulties facing her young fans, she's come up with a unique way to help. The upcoming leg of her Born This Way Ball tour will include the BornBrave Bus before each show. Gaga calls this an "ultimate tailgating experience," complete with individual and group counseling sessions on suicide, depression, bullying and mental health. It will also feature food, games and live DJs. It sounds like having a therapy session at Disneyland! Still, it's a great idea. But I bet follow-up appointments will be a bitch to get to!

Ke\$ha has reaffirmed that she's not just a straight ally—she's a member of our community. In the February issue of Seventeen (which you know I read religiously), she says, "I don't love just men. I love people. It's not about gender."



Ke\$ha loves everyone.

It's just about the spirit that exudes from that other person you're with." This comes as no surprise to *moi*, who quite vividly remembers Ke\$ha admitting to having sex with a ghost—and I don't mean Whoopi Goldberg!

I was amused by our "Ask Billy" question this week. Gary in Houston writes, "What is this I hear about a nude photo of Channing Tatum that has been circulating? Is it real? Have you seen it? Can you run it?"

It's a fake ... pure and simple. And I must say that I'm both shocked and disappointed that such an obvious fake has been perpetuated by people who should know better. The photo in question is a well-known shot of Tatum in his underwear at a modeling shoot. The body (from the waist up) was cut out and placed on top of a nude model leaning against a jeep. Ridiculous. What makes this "news" even more ridiculous is that the only real nude photo of Channing Tatum was revealed by me, Billy Masters, years ago. Of course, you can see it on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

When my real nude of Channing Tatum is better than any fake out there, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Hmm, maybe I've stumbled upon a new career: debunking celebrity nudes. Obviously, the only site you can really trust is [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If there's anything else I can clear up for you, just send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I get mistaken for Chris Christie on my next flight! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

# LOVED 2012.

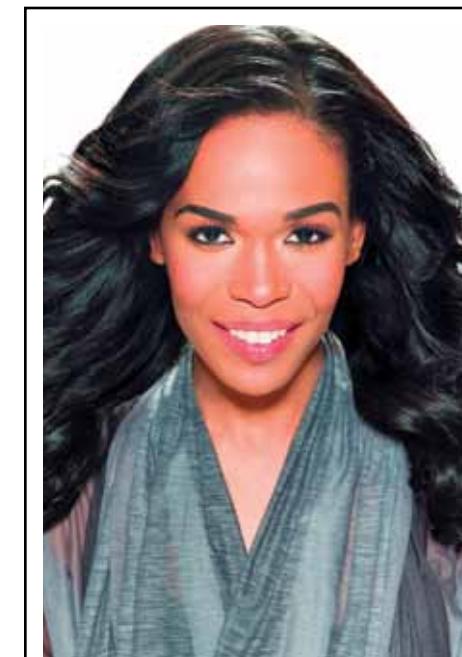
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Michelle Williams. Photo by Derek Blanks

## 'FELA!' to run at Arie Feb. 19-23

FELA! will return to Chicago with six performances Feb. 19-23, 2013, at the Arie Crown Theater, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr.

FELA! is the true story of musician Fela Kuti, who created a type of music called Afrobeat, and mixed these eclectic rhythms (a blend of jazz, funk, and African rhythm and harmonies) with lyrics that openly attacked the military dictatorships that ruled Nigeria and much of Africa.

Producers Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Will & Jada Pinkett Smith, and Ruth & Stephen Hendel announced that Grammy Award-winning re-

cording artist and former member of Destiny's Child Michelle Williams will join the national tour of the hit Award-winning Broadway musical.

Tickets are \$20-\$70; see [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com) and the Arie Crown Theater box office.

## Emmy Rossum takes listeners on 'Journey'

Award-winning actress Emmy Rossum (currently starring on the TV show *Shameless*) is releasing her first album with Warner Bros. Records Jan. 29.

The album, titled *Sentimental Journey*, will feature a collection of covers done of classic songs spanning the 1920s to the 1960s. Among the tunes covered are the title track, "Many Tears Ago," "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover" and "All I Do Is Dream of You."

Fans can pre-order *Sentimental Journey* at [www.emmyrossum.com](http://www.emmyrossum.com) and receive a physical CD, a calendar featuring exclusive photos capturing the album's 12-month musical journey and an instant download of the song "Pretty Paper."

## Khris Francis in Antioch Feb. 13-16

Fox's Lounge is presenting comedian, singer and songwriter Khris Francis for cabaret-style performances Feb. 13-16.

The lounge is located at 350 W. Highway 173 in Antioch, Ill.

Shows are from 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Feb. 13-14; and 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Feb. 15-16. There is no cover charge for the show, but reservations are recommended; call 847-395-3606.

# Chicago friends ran wild in 2012

BY ROSS FORMAN

A wild adventure conceived in October 2011 by two Chicago friends came to fruition on Sunday morning, Dec. 9, along the shores of Waikiki Beach.

Will Dong and Ming Mac, who are both openly gay, ran the annual Honolulu Marathon, thus completing their running goal for the year: 12 marathons in 2012, one per month.

"Twelve [marathons] in '12 just sounded good," said Dong, who first suggested the idea.

Their running journey—encompassing 314.4 race-day miles—included stops in San Francisco, Indianapolis and Quebec City, among other courses. Both also ran the annual Chicago Marathon in October.

Mac, 41, who lives in East Edgewater and is an accountant, has run 23 total marathons. His best time (3:48) came in Chicago in 2004, on his first-ever marathon. He has lived in Chicago for 24 years.

Dong, 36, who lives in the South Loop and is a software engineer, has run 16 marathons. His best time (3:34) came in Louisville, and he has lived in Chicago for about 10 years.

"At first, we didn't even know if it was possible since we didn't want to go to small towns," Dong said. "Part of the fun [of the overall adventure] was the logistics, figuring out where to run, how to get there, etc."

Even when thrown a curve in their path. They were, for instance, scheduled to run in Madison, Wis., over Memorial Day weekend. However, organizers cancelled the 26.2-mile race days before due to heat concerns.

But they found a marathon that weekend in

Rochester, Minn., so, with Dong behind the wheel, they drove to Minnesota.

Ironically, en route, they stopped at a McDonald's near Janesville, Wis., and met other runners heading to Rochester instead of Madison.

All four posed for a photo together after the marathon in Rochester.

"It was a lot of fun trips," Dong said.

"It was an awesome experience," Mac added.

Dong and Mac always started each marathon together, but rarely ran long stretches together.

In Louisville, though, they were side by side with not many others nearby. Fans yelled in support, shouting, "Goooo ... Asian people," since they didn't know what to say," Dong said, laughing.

Dong said the San Francisco Marathon was his favorite of the 12, mostly because it was near his native San Jose. Mac said Indianapolis was his most memorable.

Mac tagged Fort Lauderdale as his least favorite due to the heat, and the trouble he endured late in the race finding a bathroom. Dong said Quebec City was his least favorite, also due to race-day heat, plus the limited shade over the final six miles.

Both spent about \$5,000 on the year-long journey which, due to his day job, Mac was responsible for. Dong handled most of the travel plans.

Was it worth it?

"Oh, yes; this was a lifetime memory," Mac said.

"There were so many good memories," Dong said.

Some nervous moments, too. Such as in Honolulu when Mac boarded a bus bound for the starting-line and had a bag of personal items

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**Will Dong (left) and Ming Mac. Photo courtesy of Dong**

with him that he wanted to store at the gear-check area. However, there is no gear-check at the start of the Honolulu Marathon.

Mac, Dong and a friend of theirs split up the times and ran with the items for the first 5 miles until they made it back into Waikiki and left the items with friends.

"I was really stressed out, nervous, worried, mostly because I had my cell phone," in the bag, Mac said. "Ultimately, it all worked out."

So what's next?

Both are considering the 50 States Marathon Club which, as the name implies, is running at least one marathon in all 50 U.S. states.

They have 39 states to go, but the drive to do

it. After all, they ran the Chicago Marathon two weeks after running a marathon in Denver.

Dong has about 10 pairs of running shoes and ran about 1,100 miles in 2012, including races and training. He plans to have a quilt made with the shirts he acquired from each race.

Neither has a plan yet for their 2012 medals.

Both have marathons scheduled to run for each of the first five months in 2013, but that doesn't mean they're shooting for 13 in '13. But they haven't ruled it out, either.

For anyone considering running 12 marathons in a year, go for it; it's not as bad, as difficult as you may think," Mac said. "It definitely is doable, but it takes a lot of planning."

## Bull-riding at Allstate Jan. 12-13

The Professional Bull Riders (PBR) announced that the 2013 PBR Built Ford Tough Series will be at Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, on Jan. 12-13.

Competition begins at 8 p.m. on Jan. 12 and at 2 p.m. on Jan. 13.

Tickets are \$15-\$125; visit the Allstate Arena box office or [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com), or call 800-745-3000.

## CMSA women's social party Jan. 26 at Joe's Bar

The third annual CMSA women's social party will take place Saturday, Jan. 26, 7-10 p.m., at Joe's Bar, 940 W. Weed St.

Among the slated performers are singer Mindy Bartlett, comedian Judy Fabjance, singer Daphne Willis, and Amy Kelly & The Bill Ande Band. There will also be a date auction with members of the Chicago Force women's football team and the Chicago Women's Rugby Football Club.

CMSA members are admitted for free (and get free pizza and two drink tickets); non-CMSA individuals pay \$5. All of the door charges will go to benefit The Chicago Force and Fabjance.

See [www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa\\_new](http://www.chicagomsa.org/cmsa_new).

## Sports shorts

In Russia, fans of two-time defending Russian soccer champion Zenit St. Petersburg are calling for non-white and gay players to be excluded from the team, according to ESPN.com. Landskrona, the largest Zenit fan club, released a manifesto saying, among other things, that gay players were "unworthy of our great city." The team quickly distanced itself from those fans; coach Luciano Spalletti said, "tolerance for me is most of all the ability to understand and accept differences."

A conservative website is trying to convince its readers that CBS is mocking football player Tim Tebow and Christianity by featuring out actor Neil Patrick Harris in its Super Bowl ads, according to Advocate.com. Calling Harris an "outspoken homosexual actor," WND.com points out that the CBS sitcom star was used in spots advertising next month's Super Bowl. In the ad, Harris has blackeye paint that lists the date of the football game. (Beyoncé used the same paint and pose to promote her half-time show for the Feb. 3 sporting event.)

Out figure-skating champion Johnny Weir is taking his competitive skills from the ice rink to the kitchen in the show Rachael vs. Guy Celebrity Cook-Off, according to Gay Star News. Previews of the series show him kissing a fellow competitor, actor Dean McDermott, who is married to Tori Spelling. Other celebrities on the show, which premiered Jan. 6 on the Food Network, include actress Kathy Najimy, comedian Gilbert Gottfried, football icon Hines Ward, singer Carnie Wilson, philanthropist Cornelia Guest and singer/rapper Chilli (of the group TLC).



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### DIVORCE – LEGAL EQUALITY FOR EVERYONE

When the Civil Union Act was signed into law by Governor Quinn, everyone was rejoicing at the granting of all the legal benefits to same-sex couples. For Beth and her ex-lover Janet, however, the joy of the new civil union law was not that they could enter into a legally binding relationship in Illinois – the joy was that they could finally end the legal relationship they created in Vermont in 2000.

In 2000, LGBT couples from all states could travel to Vermont, apply to Vermont town clerks for a civil union license and then receive a civil union certificate. Vermont intended that the legal status granted to LGBT couples was to be parallel to civil marriage. But it only worked while in Vermont.

Relationships change and it changed for Beth and Janet, who now live apart. In 2006 they split. Now ready to move into new unions and marriages, they discovered they could not terminate their Vermont civil union in Illinois. Illinois did not allow them to "divorce" under Illinois law. The only way for Janet and Beth to terminate their Vermont civil union was for one of them to move to Vermont and meet the residency requirement of living there for one year. They couldn't afford to move back nor did they want to. So they stayed together legally.

People change and grow, people can create ugly disasters and people make mistakes – what seemed like a good idea at one point in someone's life may not be the same great idea years later. The new civil union law in Illinois provides a legal fix for the mistakes. It allows judges to grant legal dissolution of unions and make declarations of invalidity of a civil union, and decree that a marriage between persons of the same sex, a civil union, or a substantially similar relationship (other than a common law marriage), legally entered into in another jurisdiction, can be dissolved here in Illinois.

Now Janet and Beth – as well as all the other LGBT couples who have marriage licensees from other states and countries – can have the benefit of Illinois' law and courts to terminate their legal ties – to unwind the mistakes and fix the bad ideas. This gives a real sense of equality to LGBT couples so they know they won't end up in legal limbo if their relationship changes.

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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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