



**JOSHUA BOSCHEE  
AMONG THOSE  
AT VICTORY  
FUND BRUNCH**

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**MINNEAPOLIS  
MAYOR URGES  
MARRIAGE  
MIGRATION**  
PAGE 7

# Push for marriage equality continues

BY KATE SOSIN

Zero. That is the number of on-record "yes" votes for marriage equality added since May 31.

But LGBT leaders say that support for the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, SB10, is growing and they intend to see a vote on the bill during this fall's veto session.

LGBT leaders and sponsors are in the midst of a massive push to pass the bill, after an attempt to do so fell short during the spring session in May.

Illinois Unites for Marriage, the coalition of organizations leading that charge, has put 19 field organizers on the ground in 38 districts across the state. The cam-

paign has also employed a field director and two deputy field directors under Campaign Manager John Kohlhepp, who was hired following the May shortfall.

"We hope to pass SB10 in the veto session," Kohlhepp said.

Organizers are knocking on doors, running phone banks and collecting post cards from supporters, he added.

"It's a matter of elevating the voices of people who care about the issue, and that is what the campaign is about," he told Windy City Times.

Kohlhepp reiterated the goal of securing an ambitious 71 votes, 11 more than the bill needs to pass. Those extra votes would allow sponsors to amend the effec-

tive date to 30 days after passage, rather than the June effective date that would be required if the bill passed during veto session. Kohlhepp said that campaign continues to work towards the 71 vote goal but makes no guarantees.

The bill passed the Senate in February but fell short of support by session's end in May. Rep. Greg Harris, sponsor of the bill, previously said that wavering colleagues had assured him they would return in the fall ready to vote on the measure.

But Harris will not say whether he intends to call for a vote on the bill during the veto session, which begins

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CHICAGO FORCE**  
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**EX-LOCAL  
ATTACKED BY MOB  
IN CLEVELAND**  
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# HAVING A BALL THIS FALL



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A new season means new offerings in the world of entertainment. This week, Windy City Times looks at films, music and television programs that people will be watching and/or listening to this autumn, including (clockwise, from right) TV's Sean Saves the World (photo by Chris Haston), Sole Survivor from director Ky Dickens (photo by Kristen Kaza), the movie Four (photo by Max Dworkin), and Project Runway's Nina Garcia (pictured with Zac Posen; photo from Lifetime TV). Interviews and roundups begin on page 16.

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# a raisin in the sun

BY LORRAINE HANSBERRY directed by Ron OJ Parson

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# the normal heart

BY LARRY KRAMER  
directed by Nick Bowling

**TICKETS ON SALE THIS WEEK! PERFORMANCES START OCTOBER 26**

The first Chicago staging of this landmark play since its Tony-Award winning Broadway production in 2011. Set at the height of the public and private indifference to the AIDS plague in the early 1980s, this searing drama will feature acclaimed actor/director David Cromer in his return to the Chicago stage as a passionate activist leading the fight to awaken the world to the crisis.

# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Joshua Boschee by Tracy Baim; photo of Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak by Kate Sosin; photo of the Chicago Force's Tricia Charbonneau by Ross Forman; photo of Jared Fox by Bob Olayas



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### DISC AND THAT

The TV series *Bedlam* (starring Theo James, left) is one of several DVDs promoted in *Disc and That*.  
*Screen grab from YouTube*



A second item about the fall TV show *Sean Saves the World* features Megan Hilty (above).  
*Photo by Chris Haston*



Ella Vincent writes about why Queen Latifah (above) and Janelle Monae deserve privacy.  
*Latifah in Joyful Noise by Van Redin*

### THE SOUND OF THUNDER

Before coming to town, Thunder from *Down Under*'s Marcus Deegan talked workouts and workplace accidents.

### WAG THE DOG

Read about the suburban canine that's slated to reunite with his lesbian owner—after eight years apart.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Liza Minnelli, Anna Wintour and the AIDS movie *How to Survive a Plague*.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

### LIKE A BLOCK



Mavis Staples (above) was one of the many acts at last weekend's *Hideout Block Party*.  
*Photo by Vern Hester*

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# DOMA ruling impacts IRS, HHS

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The impact of the June 26 U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down the core provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) continues to roll out, both within the Obama administration and in court.

Two major federal departments announced that their interpretations of the Supreme Court ruling in *U.S. v. Windsor* will bring benefits to married same-sex couples regardless of whether a couple's state of residence accepts or bans their marriage.

The most impressive announcement came from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the tax-collecting arm of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Aug. 29. An IRS press release announced that legally married same-sex couples "will be treated as married for all federal tax purposes," including for income tax filing, gift and estate taxes, individual retirement accounts, and in other tax regulations where marriage is a factor.

"Any same-sex marriage legally entered into in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory or a foreign country will be covered by the ruling," stated the agency in its Aug. 29 press release.

The Supreme Court's DOMA ruling striking down a provision that barred the federal government from recognizing any marriage license issued to a same-sex couple did not guarantee how and when the federal government would recognize such marriages. For instance, it did not spell out whether a couple married in a marriage equality state but residing in a state that bans marriage equality would be considered married for federal purposes.

Conceivably, a presidential administration that opposed allowing marriage equality for same-sex couples could have interpreted the Windsor ruling in a way that only married couples residing in marriage equality states could be considered married. But the IRS, under the Obama administration, interpreted the DOMA ruling in a broader sense.

In a 15-page document explaining its analysis of the impact of Windsor on tax matters for married same-sex couples, IRS special counsels Richard S. Goldstein and Matthew S. Cooper note that, regarding common-law marriages, the IRS has, for the past 50 years, determined the marital status of couples based on where the marriage was created, not where the couple was later residing.

"A rule under which a couple's marital status could change simply by moving from one state to another state would be prohibitively difficult and costly for the Service to administer, and for many taxpayers to apply," said the analysis. Given the ruling in *Windsor*, said the analysis, "individuals of the same sex will be considered to be lawfully married under the Code as long as they were married in a state whose laws authorize the marriage of two individuals of the same sex, even if they are domiciled in a state that does not recognize the validity of same-sex marriages."

"Had the Bush administration been in place, I doubt they would have seen the *Windsor* decision that way or accepted the good policy reasons for following a 'rule of celebration' recognizing all marriages as valid if valid where entered," said Jon Davidson, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense. "That might well have led to lawsuits, the outcome of which are rarely assured. So, I think the Obama administration deserves our thanks and our respect. ... I think it highly unlikely that an administration like Bush's that had actively defended DOMA and the justifications behind it would agree that that is what *Windsor* required."

The IRS press release noted that the agency's interpretation of *Windsor* would not allow same-



Lambda Legal's Jon Davidson. Photo from Lambda Legal website

sex couples who have domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other non-marriage relationships to be considered married for federal tax purposes.

The press release also advised married same-sex couples to file their 2013 tax returns as either married filing jointly or married filing separately. And it noted that couples who were married prior to 2013 have the option of filing original or amended returns for tax years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

"Additionally, employees who purchased same-sex spouse health insurance coverage from their employers on an after-tax basis may treat the amounts paid for that coverage as pre-tax and excludable from income," noted the release. The IRS analysis indicated the IRS intends to issue additional guidance on implications for employee benefits.

In other DOMA-related developments, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidelines Aug. 29, saying the Windsor ruling ensures that all beneficiaries of Medicare can have equal access to coverage in a nursing home where their spouse lives, regardless of their sexual orientation.

"Prior to this," explained Marilyn Tavenner, administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), "a beneficiary in a same-sex marriage enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan did not have equal access to such coverage and, as a result, could have faced time away from his or her spouse or higher costs because of the way that marriage was defined for this purpose." The HHS announcement indicated guidance on other HHS-regulated matters would come later.

And on Aug. 30, a federal judge in Los Angeles cited the Supreme Court's decision in *Windsor* to order the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to provide benefits to a veteran and her same-sex spouse.

The Southern Poverty Law Center filed the lawsuit, *Cooper-Harris v. U.S.* in 2012, after the VA denied to the same-sex spouse of disabled Army veteran Tracey Cooper-Harris benefits available to the spouses of other veterans. The two women were married in California, but both DOMA and the federal law governing veterans' benefits (Title 38) defined spouse to be only a person of the opposite sex.

In her summary judgment ruling, Judge Consuelo Bland Marshall (a Carter appointee) said excluding same-sex spouses from veterans' benefits was "not rationally related to the goal of gender equality."

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## Cultural Q's

BY FRANCESCA ROYSTER



### Orange is the New Black and the Meaning of Freedom

*"Prisons, of course, thrive on class inequalities, they thrive on racial inequalities, they thrive on gender inequalities. They produce and reproduce those inequalities, because they segregate and isolate the individuals they punish. They also conceal the inequalities they reproduce."* — Angela Davis, "The Meaning of Freedom" (2012)

In Angela Davis's writings on the Prison Industrial Complex she suggests that in order for the current prison system to work, we are required to forget our loved ones there, and even our own past experiences in prisons. We are required to think of prison life as not here, not us, at the

multiple women unfold, both through flashbacks that give the stories behind their crimes, and with more time on screen. While flawed, *Orange is the New Black* has begun to live up to the promise of its superb opening credits, which feature a vivid montage of closeups of faces of women formerly incarcerated in real life, depicting multiple skin colors, ages and genders, all whose eyes have story to tell.

At its best, the show reveals how the structural racism of prison reflects our larger social fabric. White women and women of color are given unequal punishments for their infractions. For example, when Piper is seen by the guards running to catch an illusive chicken on the grounds, she is given a slap on the wrist while an African American inmate also found running is sent to "the shoe," or solitary confinement. We watch Piper's face struggle as she wrestles with this knowledge, even as she sometimes uses it as a bargaining chip. At these moments, Piper's relative white privilege is made visible. Even the ways that racial segregation in

prison is naturalized by the inmates themselves, by calling it "tribalism," powerfully illustrates the ways that the prison reflects the racism in our society as a whole, in these so-called "post-racial" times.

Sex is everywhere in *Orange is the New Black*: in showers, behind a church pew, solo in a bunk with a rubber-padded screwdriver, and it is depicted with raw, funky and sometimes funny honesty. But scenes of true intimacy and trust are rare on the show. We also see the ways that sexual harassment is a tool used regularly by the guards and officials. While some might hail the sexual frankness of show, and especially its willingness to feature lesbian sex scenes, I think it's also important to call attention to the emotional bleakness of the sexual landscape, and the undermining of trust, intimacy or eroticism by the prison's structures.

The show also movingly depicts the surveillance of gender expression in prison. Through the character of Sophia, a transgender character (powerfully performed by real-life trans actor Laverne Cox), we see how the control of gender is medicalized, when Sophia is blithely denied her hormones to complete her transition as a means of cutting down health costs.

I believe that in its next season *Orange is the New Black* has the power to bring more folks in the United States to the nationwide activist movement for prison reform and abolition. But in order to do so, it will need to continue to center the experiences of women of color and an analysis of prison's structures of power.

"At its best, the show reveals how the structural racism of prison reflects our larger social fabric. White women and women of color are given unequal punishments for their infractions."

same time that we are meant to fear going to prison. This erasure is accomplished by fear, produced by police presence and surveillance with the threat of incarceration, and by culture as a whole, including sensationalistic, flat and inaccurate representations of prison life in popular culture.

Jenji Kohen's controversial if critically acclaimed new series on everyday life for women in prison, *Orange is the New Black*—is a bold effort to reassert these erased stories—and in particular the struggle to maintain personal integrity, equality and sexual freedom. This exploration of the meanings of freedom in prison goes hand in hand with the show's representation of multiple races, sexualities, genders and classes of women.

I admit to being impatient initially with the ways that the show at first centers the struggles of Piper Chapman, the educated white woman who is wrested from her comfortably heteronormative life by being sentenced to one year in prison for past drug trafficking and money laundering. We watch Piper bearing the prying eyes of the women of color prisoners in the shower and aggressively pursued by "Crazy Eyes," an African-American prisoner whose sense of reality seems a little bit off. Piper becomes our entre into prison life; her humiliations the gauge of what's wrong with prisons. At least at first.

But as the show develops over the course of the season, it increasingly subverts its white center. This is particularly important because women of color constitute the fastest growing population within the entire prison population. As the season unfolds, we see the lives of the mul-

Francesca Royster is a Professor of English at DePaul University, where she teaches courses on Shakespeare, Popular Culture, gender, race, sexuality and performance. Her books include *Sounding Like a No-No: Queer Sounds and Eccentric Acts in the Post-Soul Era* (University of Michigan Press, 2013) and *Becoming Cleopatra: The Shifting Image of an Icon* (Palgrave, 2003).

# Bisexual U.S. rep part of Victory Fund's brunch

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

About 450 people attended the Victory Fund's second annual Chicago Champagne Brunch at the Raddison Blu Aqua Hotel Sept. 8. U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) was the afternoon's keynote speaker.

Debra Shore, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and chair of the Victory Institute board of directors, invited members of the host committee to the stage and recognized elected and appointed political office holders, the table captains and sponsors for the event. Shore also spoke about the training and leadership development that the Victory Institute offers for LGBT candidates as well as LGBT individuals interested in working in the political sphere.

Shore invited Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris to the stage to receive an award from the Victory Fund, given in honor of Harris' work he's done for the LGBT community.

Harris said the work to ensure that the marriage equality bill becomes law "is not done in the state of Illinois."

Illinois state Rep. Kelly Cassidy spoke about how far LGBT elected officials have come in the last 20 years. In talking about her family, Cassidy shared that her conservative colleagues congratulated her on her engagement to Kelley Quinn and have also identified with her due to their shared experiences as moms. "Our presence and our numbers make a difference [in all levels of government]," said Cassidy.

Cassidy introduced North Dakota state Rep. Joshua Boschee, the first openly gay candidate to get elected to the N.D. state legislature. Boschee shared his story and the help that the Vic-

tory Fund and Institute gave him as a candidate and as an elected official.

Victory Fund & Institute President and CEO Chuck Wolfe spoke about the progress that was made in 2012, including doubling the number of out LGBT members of Congress and the election of the first out LGBT U.S. senator, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin.

Wolfe said 2013 is the "year of the mayor," with a number of cities holding elections with LGBT candidates, including Seattle, Houston and New York City. In Seattle openly gay candidate Ed Murray won the primary and is facing a runoff in November; in Houston openly gay Mayor Annise Parker is running for re-election; and in New York City openly gay candidate Christine Quinn (speaker of the city council) is running in the primary against a number of other candidates, noted Wolfe. (Quinn's race is this week.)

Wolfe then brought Kyrsten Sinema, the first openly bisexual member of the House of Representatives, to the stage. Sinema, who received a standing ovation, thanked Shore for her friendship and guidance; the Victory Fund for their assistance and her colleagues from the Illinois delegation Mike Quigley; and U.S. Reps. Bill Foster and Brad Schneider for attending the brunch.

"Little could I have imagined when I was a young girl that I would be standing here today in this fabulous dress as a member of Congress," said Sinema. "Only in America can a kid who grew up homeless, living in an abandoned gas station with no running water and no electricity ... one day make it to the United States Congress."

The Victory Fund was there from the beginning, Sinema explained, and stayed with her throughout her campaign and election victory.



Sinema also talked about the history of the LGBT movement over the past 13 years including marriage equality victories in numerous states, the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the recent Prop 8 and DOMA Supreme Court victories.

"I believe there is no greater dream in America than opportunity," said Sinema. "Our job is to ensure that the great American value of opportunity exists for all Americans. While opportunities for LGBT Americans have grown exponentially over the last decade we face a challenge to finish the job that generations before us started."

Sponsors included BMO Harris Bank, Northern Trust, Dover Strategy Group, Debra Shore, state Sen. Heather Steans and Leo Smith, as well as many other individuals.

See [www.victoryfund.org/home](http://www.victoryfund.org/home) for more information. For videos of the event see the online version of this story, <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Victory-Fund-event-features-national-politicians/44309.html> or the Windy City Times channel on YouTube.

See videos from the event with the online version of this story, or on the Windy City Times YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/WindyCityTimes>.



Top: Debra Shore speaks at the podium. Above: U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema. Photos by Tracy Baim

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# LGBT activists 'let down' after Obama meeting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

LGBT activists who last week met with President Obama shortly before he left Russia after the G-20 Summit said that they feel "let down" after the meeting.

According to Euronews, Obama told the activists that he has to consider his overall relationship with the Russian Federation.

One of the activists, Igor Kotchetkov of LGBT network, told Euronews Sept. 7, "The President said that he can't prioritize human rights in his relationship with Russia because there are other issues (to consider) as well. I disagree with the President because, in my view, by doing so, we narrow our chances of cooperation in other areas."

Obama invoked his history as a community organizer before heading into the meeting Sept. 6. "I'm now in government, but I got my start as a community organizer, somebody who was working in what would be called an NGO in the international community," Obama said. "And the work I was doing was helping poor communities have a voice in what was happening in their lives. And I got elected as President by engaging people at a grassroots level. So the kinds of activities that are represented here are critically important to Russia's development, and I'm very proud of their work."

The talks came during a time of strained relations between the Obama Administration and the Russian Federation. The U.S. government has a pending extradition request for NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, who has been living under temporary asylum in Russia. So far Russia has refused to grant the request, saying Snowden committed no crime on Russian soil. Furthermore Obama has been lobbying for military intervention against the Syrian government, with whom Russia has very strong ties.

Obama has also denounced the Russian anti-gay legislation but has not endorsed a boycott of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Meanwhile, members of Russian President

Vladimir Putin's ruling party continue with legislation that clamps down on the Russian LGBT population. Thursday a member of the Duma tabled a draft law that added homosexuality to a list of parental situations for which a child could be removed from a household, the Guardian reported.

"In the case when a parent has sexual contact with people of their own gender, the damage that can be inflicted on the psyche of a child is enormous," Alexei Zhuravlyov, author of the draft, wrote.

## Queer Nation: Article proves Stoli is 'Russian' Vodka

A Sept. 8 New York Times article that featured SPI Group CEO affirming the Russian roots of Stolichnaya Vodka shows that the brand is indeed a legitimate target for a boycott, said the New York City-based activist groups Queer Nation and #DumpRussianVodka in a statement.

In the article, Val Mendeleev, CEO of SPI Group, said that "SPI Group is 'not trying to hide' its Russian roots—Stolichnaya's formula, basic ingredients and name, which means capital, all come from Russia."

Some commentators had previously argued that since much of the production of exported Stolichnaya Vodka was centered in Latvia that a boycott was both misguided and harmful to the Latvian population. But the statement said the article confirmed that the boycott was on target.

"While arguing that it is a supporter of the LGBT community, SPI has done nothing to combat the recently enacted Russian law that effectively bans all pro-LGBT statements and demonstrations there, or the recently proposed legislation that would remove children from Russian households headed by gay and lesbian parents," said the statement. "Stolichnaya is an iconic Russian brand made by a Russian company. ... That boycott will continue until that vile law is repealed."



Cocktails bartender Jimmy Foster, who reportedly called police several times. Photo by Bob Olayas

# Mob of 20 beats gay man in Cleveland hate crime

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In Cleveland, Ohio, a group of approximately 20 men attacked a gay man who once lived in suburban Chicago in what authorities are calling a hate crime.

Jared Fox—a former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 nominee who now resides in New York City—was visiting his family in Cleveland, where he grew up, when he decided to go out Aug. 30 at the gay bar Cocktails on the city's West Side.

Fox said that he was finishing speaking with his partner, who resides in Chicago, on the phone when he noticed the young men.



Jared Fox. Photo by Bob Olayas

"I saw them walking in the street," Fox said. "I was walking in the street too, and thought to myself, 'Maybe this isn't such a good idea.'"

He moved to the sidewalk, only to find himself surrounded by the men, who he said appeared to be in their teens, demanded to know what was in his pockets. Fox answered that he was broke.

"So you're one of those broke faggots," one of the men replied.

The men began beating Fox. The incident lasted eight to 10 minutes, he said. At one

point he tried running to the porch of a neighboring home, but no one answered the door. Finally, Fox threw out his cellphone and said his credit and debit cards were in the case. He was then able to run inside the bar.

Fox sustained numerous injuries. His right eardrum is completely ruptured; the left eardrum is ruptured partially. He sustained numerous bruises on his face and back.

He was helped by the Cocktails bartender and a patron who was an EMT. The bartender said he and another patron had phoned police several times about the men loitering nearby, but there was no response.

Cleveland police responded to the call about Fox's attack in about 15 minutes, he said. But Fox said he was met with little sympathy or compassion. The officers never got out of their squad car to interview him.

"For somebody who had just obviously been badly beaten, you'd think they would at least have had me sit down," Fox added.

No suspects have been located yet. Fox has been trying to get images of the suspects, who were filmed on surveillance cameras, widely disseminated through social media. "I'd like to see them caught," he said. "I'd like to see them brought to justice."

Fox currently works for the New York City Department of Education and was a teacher in Louisiana. Additionally, he interned at Center on Halsted when he was in Chicago. As such he has had some experience dealing with teens, and said he's not especially angry over what happened, just grateful that he survived. He has watched the surveillance repeatedly to wrap his mind around the incident.

"I'm just kind of in awe at what happened," he added.

Despite his injuries, Fox plans on running in a race Sunday, Sept. 8, that he'd long planned on participating in in order to raise money for GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), an organization to which he's deeply committed.

"Many problems in the world can be fixed with education," Fox said, adding that his attackers likely would not have been in a disadvantaged position had they been better taught. "Education is the great equalizer."

—Assistance: Andrew Davis

## DoJ paves way for same-sex military benefits

The Obama administration has cleared the way for the spouses of gay and lesbian veterans to receive military benefits, with the Justice Department declaring it will no longer enforce a provision of the law that states only opposite-sex married couples are eligible, according to the Huffington Post.

Attorney General Eric Holder said in a Sept. 4 letter to Congressional leaders that the Justice Department had determined the Supreme Court's rationale in a decision overturning part of the Defense of Marriage Act should also apply to Title 38, the part of the U.S. code that governs veterans' benefits.

Title 38 currently defines marriage as between a man and a woman, meaning that only heterosexual spouses receive the benefits, including health care, disability and survival benefits.

James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project, said in a statement that "The federal government is right to ensure that legally married couples, where a spouse has served valiantly in the military, are treated equally. Federal protections that come with marriage should apply to all who are married."

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# Minneapolis mayor: Marry here, where it's legal

BY KATE SOSIN

Minneapolis, Minn., will gladly give up the competitive edge once Illinois passes equal marriage, but until then LGBT Chicagoans should travel to Minnesota to marry. That is the message Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak is sending in a new ad campaign that targets Chicago, among other midwestern cities.

Rybak unveiled the campaign at a press conference at Center on Halsted Sept. 5.

"Chicago is my kind of town, but right now, it's a second city in human rights," Rybak said.

Chicago is missing out on tourism and entertainment dollars, Rybak said, money that Minneapolis would welcome.

The new ad campaign invites Chicagoans to tie the knot in Minneapolis.

"Hey, Chicago!" one ad reads. "I want to marry you in Minneapolis!"

Rybak's pitch aims to highlight the economic urgency of passing same-sex marriage in Illinois

as well as bolster his city's tourism industry.

A recent Williams Institute study found that marriage equality in Illinois could generate \$103 million in spending from Illinois couples alone. Out-of-state marriages could add to that number. Windy City Times found that 70 percent of Iowa's same-sex marriages were between out-of-state couples. Those numbers are expected to increase as the effective repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act has opened up a laundry list of rights to married same-sex couples, not available to Illinois civil-union couples.

That is a reality Rybak wants to capitalize on.

He wants Chicago couples to hop a flight to Minneapolis and spend their wedding dollars there, he said. He is making the same pitch in Milwaukee, Madison and Denver as part of a tour targeting midwest cities without marriage equality.

Asked if the campaign was unfair to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a supporter of same-sex marriage, Rybak chuckled.

"Have you met Mayor Emanuel?" he asked. "He would do it to me any day of the week."

Rybak said he will be happy when Chicagoans have equal marriage and can poach its wedding business dollars.

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda and a spokesperson for Illinois Unites for Marriage, said he will be happy to see that, too.

"I speak for the majority of Illinoisans when I say we look forward to returning the favor soon," Martinez said.

See videos from the event with the online version of this story, or on the Windy City Times YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/WindyCityTimes>.



Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. Photo by Kate Sosin

## Texas, Mississippi deny same-sex benefits

Members of Texas' military forces were not eligible for spouse and family benefits that federal military forces could access as of Sept. 2, according to the Dallas Voice.

The adjutant general's office said the federal guidelines conflict with the Texas Constitution, and encouraged gay and lesbian military to enroll for benefits on a federal base. Texas Military Forces spokeswoman Laura Lopez emailed the Voice that "any federal benefit already provided heterosexual military spouses will also be offered to same-sex military spouses."

"Additionally, the Texas Military Forces' remain committed to ensuring military personnel and their families receive the benefits to which they are entitled. As such, we fully support same-sex families enrolling for benefits at the nearest federal installation."

In a statement, Stephen Peters, president of the pro-LGBT American Military Partner Association, said, "It's truly outrageous that the state of Texas has decided to play politics with our military families. Governor Rick Perry should be ashamed. Our military families are already dealing with enough problems and the last thing they need is more discrimination from the state of Texas."

In addition, Mississippi has joined Texas in not helping same-sex spouses enroll for federal benefits, despite a Pentagon directive requiring the military to treat all married couples equally, the Washington Post reported. The Mississippi National Guard has cited reasons similar to what Texas has stated. Sept. 3 marked the first day that gays in the military could apply for benefits.

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5:30-6:15 pm | Reception

6:15-6:30 pm | Introduction by James Elvord  
First Vice President - Financial Advisor

6:30-7:30 pm | Keynote by Justin Nelson

7:30-7:45 pm | Q & A

**Location:** Center On Halsted | 3656 North Halsted | Chicago, IL

Please RSVP to James E. Elvord at (312) 559-1738 or [james.elvord@rbc.com](mailto:james.elvord@rbc.com)

Please see the back for a brief biography on Justin Nelson.

Justin Nelson is the co-founder and president of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Since its inception in 2002, the organization has grown to be the largest LGBT economic advocacy and business development organization in the world.

Prior to launching the NGLCC, Justin was the Director of Federal Affairs and External Relations for the American Academy in Washington, DC. Helping craft and implement the legislative agenda of one of the top medical associations, Justin spent five years fighting for patient & physician rights before Congress. Justin was on the forefront of some of the most contentious healthcare debates in congressional memory.

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WINDY CITY TIMES

## VOTE from cover

ruled out veto session, but would not say for certain if he would move the bill then.

"I would like to see it take effect as soon as possible," Harris said, adding that the 71 vote goal is "a broad reach."

Sponsors will have between Oct. 22-24 and Nov. 5-7 to pass the bill in the veto session. If sponsors fall short of shoring up 71 votes, they will need to decide if they want to move the bill in the fall veto session or wait until January when regular session begins. That would allow them to pass the bill in January and see an effective date the following month, rather than in June.

Harris said that the Supreme Court's effective strike down of the Defense of Marriage Act has given sponsors more ammo for their argument that civil unions fall short of marriages. That is because same-sex married couples will now be able to access a number of federal benefits—like veterans benefits, joint tax filing and social security recognition for spouses.

"I think we need to continue to work with folks in their districts and let them know how things have changed," Harris told Windy City Times.

Pressure will be on Harris and other sponsors to call for a vote on the bill during veto session.

Thousands are expected to rally in support of the bill Oct. 22 outside the Capitol Building. The March on Springfield, planned by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim and a group of LGBT activists from around the state, is scheduled for noon that day.

Organizers are urging thousands to flood the capitol for the march. Illinois Unites has also thrown its weight behind the rally, using its list-serv to publicize the event.

Asked if organizers have added numbers to their "yes" count, Kohlhepp said, "I believe that we can say that we have."

But supporters face a tough fight. Those that have switched to the "yes" column have yet to make their stances public, leaving them room to back out. Additionally, the veto session falls before election filing deadlines, increasing chances that lawmakers fearful of primary challenges will balk at voting on controversial bills.

Rick Garcia, policy advisor for The Civil Rights Agenda, said that reality is making him cautious about forecasts for the fall.

"I'm making no predictions because after what happened in May, I'm gun shy about doing that," Garcia said.

And Garcia suggests another challenge—organizers have yet to secure even 60 votes, he said.

"We're cobbling together votes that we need," he said. "We need a handful."

That, he said, should be reason for equal marriage supporters to contact their state reps. and put the pressure on.

"How can we position [representatives] in a way that they're comfortable in doing this before a primary?" Garcia asked.

More information on the March on Springfield is available at [marchonspringfield.org](http://marchonspringfield.org). Information on Illinois Unites and volunteer opportunities can be found at [illinoisunites.org](http://illinoisunites.org).

# Illinois state reps on marriage: Yes, no and maybe

BY KATE SOSIN

Using data pulled from public statements, endorsements and inside sources, Windy City Times has put together a comprehensive list on lawmakers and how they might vote.

Following that list is an estimated tally of votes for the bill. We make no claims that lawmakers will vote according to this list, or that we have all the information on their stances. In some cases, it is very difficult to guess how a lawmaker might vote. In a few cases, this list has been informed by off-record statements from political insiders and LGBT advocates. In other cases, a lawmaker has been placed according to party lines.

The Illinois Unites coalition of LGBT and allied groups is keeping their lobbying efforts private, so their own targets for the fall veto session are not known. They also appear to be working all angles, including those who have said they are a "no" vote to push them to a yes by the fall veto session, which starts Tuesday, Oct. 22, the same day as the planned March on Springfield for Marriage Equality.

This should not be taken as a definitive list. Sources also indicate a number of votes in favor of equal marriage will be surprises, including Republican votes.

Not sure who your lawmakers are? The Illinois board of elections has an interactive map for that: [www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx](http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx).

Also the Illinois Unites website: <http://www.illinoisunites.org/>.

### Predictions:

#### Yes- 34

1. Daniel Burke
2. Ken Dunkin
3. Cynthia Soto
4. La Shawn K. Ford
5. Ann Williams
6. Sara Feigenholtz
7. Greg Harris
8. Kelly Cassidy
9. Lou Lang
10. Laura Fine
11. Robyn Gabel
12. Robert Martwick
13. Michael Madigan
14. Elizabeth Hernandez
15. Barbara Flynn Currie
16. Christian Mitchell
17. Robert Rita
18. Elgie Sims Jr.
19. Maria Antonia Berrios
20. Deborah Mell
21. Keith Farnham
22. Ed Sullivan, Jr.
23. Scott Drury
24. Carol Sente
25. Sam Yingling
26. Mike Smiddy
27. Camille Lilly
28. Ron Sandack
29. Naomi Jakobsson



Sam Yingling is solidly behind marriage equality. Photo courtesy of Yingling

30. Deb Conroy
31. Natalie Manley
32. Elaine Nekritz
33. Kathleen Willis
34. Arthur Turner

#### Likely Yes-18

1. Edward J. Acevedo
2. Esther Golar
3. Emanuel "Chris" Welch
4. Derrick Smith
5. Michael Zalewski
6. Will Davis
7. Andre Thapedi
8. Frances Ann Hurley
9. Kelly Burke
10. Al Riley
11. Martin Moylan
12. Michelle Mussman
13. Stephanie A Kifowit
14. Emily McAsey
15. Lawrence Walsh Jr.
16. Linda Chapa LaVia
17. Jehan Gordon
18. Jack Franks

Yes or likely total: 52

#### No-42

1. Monique Davis
2. Renee Kosel
3. Jeanne Ives
4. Patti Bellock
5. Sandra Pihos
6. Mike Fortner
7. David McSweeney
8. Brandon Phelps
9. Thomas Morrison
10. JoAnn Osmond
11. Barbara Wheeler
12. Timothy Schmitz

13. Michael Tryon
14. Charles Jefferson
15. John Cabello
16. Joe Sosnowski
17. Robert Pritchard
18. Patrick Verschoore
19. David Leitch
20. Don Moffitt
21. Pam Roth
22. Frank Mautino
23. Katherine Cloonen
24. Jim Durkin
25. Rich Brauer
26. Keith Sommer
27. Jim Sacia
28. Tom Demmer
29. Michael Unes
30. Norine Hammond
31. Jil Tracy
32. Wayne Rosenthal
33. Tom Cross
34. Raymond Poe
35. Bill Mitchell
36. Josh Harms
37. John Cavaletto
38. Charles Meier
39. David Reis
40. Mike Bost
41. Jerry Costello II
42. John Bradley

#### Likely No-9

1. Darlene Senger
2. David Harris
3. Adam Brown
4. Chad Hays
5. Dan Brady
6. Brad Halbrook
7. Daniel Beiser
8. Dwight Kay
9. Jay Hoffman

No or likely no: 51

#### Target List-16

1. Silvana Tabares
2. Thaddeus Jones
3. Marcus C. Evans Jr.
4. Fred Crespo
5. Kay Hatcher
6. Rita Mayfield
7. Anthony DeLuca
8. John Anthony
9. Sue Scherer
10. C.D. Davidsmeyer
11. Mary Flowers
12. Luis Arroyo
13. John D'Amico
14. Dennis Reboletti
15. Eddie Lee Jackson Sr.
16. Michael McAuliffe

Contributing to roll call: Casey Cameron

See fuller descriptions of each House member's marriage position (and each individual's contact info) at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-vote-count-Push-for-marriage-equality-continues/44316.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/The-vote-count-Push-for-marriage-equality-continues/44316.html).

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# D'Emilio talks about little-known part of gay labor history

BY MATT SIMONETTE

John D'Emilio, professor of history and gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke Saturday at Center on Halsted about a significant overlap in both the histories of the gay community and the U.S. labor movement.

D'Emilio's talk, "No Race-Baiting, Red-Baiting, or Queer-Baiting: The Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from Depression to Cold War," was largely conceived and written by author Allan Berube, who was best known for the landmark history of gays in the military, *Coming Out Under Fire*, which was published in 1990. Berube died in 2007.

During the course of his research for *Coming Out Under Fire*, Berube was told repeatedly that he should look into the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union (MCS), which was active on the West Coast in the first half of the 20th century and saw its heyday in the 1930s and 1940s.

D'Emilio is literary executor of Berube's estate, and along with Estelle Freedman co-edited *My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, and Labor History*, compiled from Berube's writings. He and Freedman have been trying to prepare Berube's MCS writings for publication.

A number of cruise ship stewards in the early 20th century were gay, D'Emilio said, and many of them were either unable or unwilling to serve in the Navy because of their homosexuality. They often dominated the employee culture of their ships. To be named a "queen" by them was a high compliment; the term implied respect and authority. They gave each other female nicknames as well.

The stewards' onboard working conditions were brutal, however, and stood in stark contrast to the luxurious traveling conditions many of their passengers knew. They slept below deck in cramped quarters and heat so intense that their shoes would become warped if they were left on the floor overnight.

But many of their conditions improved as MCS became active. By the mid-1940s, the union had about 15,000 members. About half of those members were African-American, D'Emilio said. Unlike some labor organizations, MCS was not hostile to the idea of Black members and officials. Furthermore, many of MCS's leaders were openly gay and members of the Communist Party.

"The idea of solidarity with these white working men [was] a huge act of faith for these [Black] stewards," D'Emilio said.

MCS was active in the movement to integrate ships with all-white crews in the late 1930s. Union members would tie up ships that refused to allow Black stewards.

But the union weakened during the communist scare of the 1950s, when the government used the Taft-Hartley Law to bust union shops. Black members were largely loyal to the MCSU, but white members split into different political factions. Gay union leaders were outed and others were prosecuted in charges related to their communist ties.

MCS may have dissolved, D'Emilio said, "But they went down fighting. It's remarkable that they held out for so long. Their history is unknown today because of fear and intimidation. It was first rewritten as an un-American activity, then dismissed as an insignificant failure, and finally erased from our nation's memory as if what they achieved had never happened."

D'Emilio and Freedman redacted three different drafts of the book. "Each draft is a completely different start-over," he said, admitting he is still unsure of what final form the material will ultimately take for publication.



Above: John D'Emilio (left) and longtime activist Bill Kelley. Left: Darrell Gordon and D'Emilio. Photos by Tracy Baim

D'Emilio's talk on the MCS was the first in the nine-month Lavender University series of LG-BTQ educational programs featuring prominent scholars presenting innovative research and work. The programs, presented by Windy City Times and Center on Halsted, will take place the first Saturday of every month, except the

November presentation, which takes place on a Sunday.

See videos from the event with the online version of this story, or on the Windy City Times YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/WindyCityTimes>.

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# Booed gay soldier addresses gay vets at health event

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT

Army Major Steve Snyder-Hill, who was famously booed by an audience during a 2011 Republican presidential debate for asking a question via YouTube about LGBTs in the military, spoke to a LGBT military healthcare symposium in Chicago Sept. 7.

The 2nd annual Operation "Do Ask, Do Tell" symposium was for LGBT servicemembers, veterans and families and focused on benefits, health needs and resources. It was held at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago.

Snyder-Hill spoke of experiences as a gay service member under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Those experiences made him feel that he had to ask the presidential candidates if they would roll back or sustain the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy (see video). The difficulties of military service and deployment separations were multiplied for gay couples during "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," he said, and continued progress is not guaranteed.

"Military people will tell you every day, it is just treacherous on your family and your relationships. Words can't articulate how hard it is on an LGBT family. At the time, we didn't have any kind of support," he said. "Josh and I hid under an escalator to be able to say goodbye. There were other families around and the wives were giving each other phone numbers to call each other and they just had that camaraderie of knowing you've got other people ... and we hid under an escalator and cried."

While soldiers of earlier eras had to write physical letters, worry about them being inspected, and wait months for replies, those in recent conflicts had Skype and cell phones, each with their own risks.

"Many times Josh would say [on the phone], 'I love you,' and I'd just [grumble] thanks," Snyder-Hill said. "But I realized I could overhear voices on the other end on others' calls, so could people overhear Josh? They'd be saying, 'Hey, your wife got a cold?' I bought headphones and turned the call down so far I could hardly hear."

He spoke of the gay jokes that LGBT servicemembers endured without exposing their reactions. On an overseas flight, the joke was made that Brokeback Mountain would be shown during the flight and the military passengers reacted with a wave of derisive laughter.

"I'll never forget the cold, dark and lonely feeling that I [had]," he said. "I was looking at my fellow soldiers, thinking, 'You are my family, you are who I am going into war with, you have to protect me. You're it. You're all I have in this war zone and you're mocking me.'"

When the opportunity to ask a question of presidential candidates came up, Snyder-Hill had to think hard about the debate organizer's request that he ask his question in the form of a YouTube clip where his face would show. But the risk was that, if "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" were brought back, his coming out and that of others could not be taken back. His 24 years of service, at that time, would be gone. He and his partner agreed that it was important that someone ask the question and that, if that someone was serving in combat at the time, all the better.

"So I submitted the question and my life



Army Major Steve Snyder-Hill. Photo by Jean Albright

passed before my eyes. And then the booing, it happened, and from that point it was insane," he said. As the news coverage of the booing was starting to hit, he was starting his morning in Iraq by hearing his own voice and the booing coming from every television screen lining the chow hall. After some awkwardness, he was gratified that many fellow soldiers showed interest and support.

Snyder-Hill and his partner Joshua Snyder-Hill were also plaintiffs in a lawsuit on behalf of married gay and lesbian service members and veterans. The Supreme Court decision in the Edie Windsor case did not address the situation of legally married active-duty military members and veterans. The lawsuit which specifically included veterans was important to the announcement in early September that legally married same-sex spouses of veterans will soon have benefits. (Related coverage at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/DOJ-Same-sex-spouses-of-veterans-will-have-benefits-/44294.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/DOJ-Same-sex-spouses-of-veterans-will-have-benefits-/44294.html))

Snyder-Hill's partner recently celebrated picking up his official military benefits card. Meanwhile, Snyder-Hill has completed a book which will be available soon.

The "Do Ask, Do Tell" event was the second in a continuing initiative to make sure LGBT veterans are aware of services and policies and feel welcome to be open about their sexual orientation while seeking care. The official repeal of the military's anti-gay policy was Sept. 20, 2011, but since 2010 the Veterans Hospital Administration has been reaffirming LGBT family members rights to patient visitation and, in June 2011, the Veterans Hospital Administration published a directive spelling out the policy regarding transgender veterans and intersex veterans.

The event in Chicago was equally attended by veterans and service providers interested in fostering a culture of easy communication between LGBT patients and providers.

Lorry Luscri and Mandi Evanson of Edward Hines Veterans Hospital have been primary organizers of the first and second events, joined in their work by Jenny Garretson and Rebecca Pow-

ers of Jesse Brown Veterans Hospital and many presenters and volunteers.

Breakout sessions covered topics including services to transgender individuals, DOMA and qualifying for benefits.

A panel of veterans who have sought healthcare through veterans hospitals spoke of the pros and cons for LGBT patients there and many resource organizations hosted information tables.

Coverage of last year's event is at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Operation-Do-Ask-Do-Tell-reaches-out-to-LGBT-veterans/40108.html](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Operation-Do-Ask-Do-Tell-reaches-out-to-LGBT-veterans/40108.html). See videos from the event with the online version of this story, or on the Windy City Times YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/WindyCityTimes>.

## New IRS regulations change game for Illinois residents

BY KATE SOSIN

Married same-sex couples living in Illinois will likely find themselves filing taxes in a new way for 2013, the third change in just four years.

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that legally-married same-sex couples will be treated as married for federal tax purposes, regardless of where they live. That means that Illinois couples who married in states like Iowa will be filing jointly this year.

The change comes after the U.S. Supreme Court effectively struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, which barred federal recognition of same-sex marriages. And it will result in a new filing process for married same-sex couples who live in Illinois.

Same-sex couples in Illinois continue to be denied equal marriage rights, but couples with out-of-state marriages will be recognized both federally and in Illinois.

That's because Illinois tax returns are based on federal filings.

In recent years, that created some challenges for the Illinois Department of Revenue (DOR), as the advent of civil unions in 2011 entitled same-sex couples to joint filing rights, while the federal government continued to ban recognition of same-sex unions.

In 2011, DOR skirted the issue by allowing Illinois civil union couples to file two federal returns—one for the federal government and a dummy federal return for Illinois. Last year, the department simplified that process by creating an online form for civil union couples.

Civil union couples will be required to continue to use the civil union form for Illinois filings. That is because the federal government does not recognize civil unions. But legally married couples—regardless of where they married—will be able to file both their federal and state returns jointly.

Sue Hofer, a spokesperson for DOR, said the change will be simple for the department.

"If you got married in a state that recognizes your marriage as a marriage... you will file your return in Illinois and with the federal government as a married couple," said Hofer.

The big challenge, said Hofer, will be in re-educating the community impacted by the changes. "So, we have an ongoing problem," said Hofer. "The best way to resolve this problem is for Illinois to have same-sex marriage."

For some, the new IRS rules will mean a new way of filing taxes for the third time in four years. It will also mean that despite the fact that civil union couples and married couples are both recognized as civil union spouses in Illinois, they will navigate Illinois tax filing in different ways.

The IRS guidelines, along with a host of other federal decisions about benefits, have led some to question of same-sex couples should skip Illinois civil unions and head to marriage states like Iowa.

Gail Morse is a tax attorney and longtime LGBT advocate, however, said that couples will have to make those decisions on a case-by-case basis.

"It's hard to make any determination on a global basis," Morse said.

Regardless, she said, many hope that going out of state for marriage is a short-term fix.

The Illinois House is weighing a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Senate passed the measure in February, but sponsors have struggled to gather the 60 votes it needs to pass. The next opportunity could come this October, when the General Assembly reconvenes for veto session.

Camilla Taylor, marriage project director for Lambda Legal, said that the IRS guidelines are the latest in a string of changes that increase the disparity between civil unions and marriages and force Illinois couples to leave the state.

"It certainly accelerates the pressure on the legislature," Taylor said. "Marriage is becoming more and more superior to civil unions every day."

## Illinois group backs Russian anti-LGBT laws

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A group of six U.S. organizations, including one based in northern Illinois, has signed an international petition that supports anti-LGBT laws in Russia.

Rockford-based World Congress of Families was among over 100 international conservative groups praising the anti-gay legislation passed by the Duma and Russian President Vladimir Putin this past summer, according to [advocate.com](http://advocate.com).

In the petition, the signees "acknowledge that the Russian law protects the innocence of children and the basic rights of their parents recognized in the international legislation and treaties. With its new law Russia is protecting genuine and universally recognized human rights against artificial and fabricated 'values' aggressively imposed in many modern societies."

Other U.S. groups include the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, Mission: America, GrasstopsUSA, Population Research Institute and His Servants.

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## Marriage-equality rally in Oak Park Sept. 18

A marriage-equality town hall and rally will take place Wed., Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Foxboro Room of the Carleton Hotel, 1110 Pleasant St., Oak Park.

Illinois Unites for Marriage—a coalition of Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal and the ACLU—and several supporting constituent groups will introduce their senior staff and discuss their plan for moving forward the marriage-equality bill currently stalled in the Illinois House.

Organizing for Action (Oak Park Chapter) and the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPAL-GA) are co-sponsoring the events.

See <https://my.barackobama.com/page/event/detail/dayofaction/gsfvrq#rsvp>.

## RBC Wealth event Sept. 25 at Center

RBC Wealth Management, Windy City Times, Center on Halsted and the Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce are hosting "Navigating Your Business Through a Sea of Change" Wed., Sept. 25, at the Center

A reception will take place at 5:30 p.m.; RBC's James Elvord will provide the introduction at 6:15 p.m. Justin Nelson, president and co-founder of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will deliver the keynote address at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP to Elvord at 312-559-1738 or [james.elvord@rbc.com](mailto:james.elvord@rbc.com).

## GAY in the LIFE

### Aurora Pineda Zarate

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
PHOTOS FROM ZARATE

**Age**  
42

**Town**  
Oak Park

**Job**  
Bilingual Benefits, Medical & Supportive Case Manager

**Relationship status**  
Committed; civil union to Karen. The two have been together for 12 years.

**Children**  
Son named Reyes, 5, named after her dad.

**Favorite movies**  
The Godfather, Citizen Kane, The Graduate and all Pedro Almodovar films

**Favorite TV shows**  
Scandal, Grey's Anatomy, The Fosters and Orange is the New Black

**Favorite local restaurant**  
Quaker Steak and Lube

**Hobbies**  
Going to the movies, taking pictures, checking out old movie theaters, and camping

**Little-known fact**  
"I love introducing my son to the cartoons that I watched as a kid, and we both love Angry Birds."

Aurora Pineda Zarate said the best part of her job is the "interactions with people from all different walks of life," and it's a job she acquired through her best friend.

Zarate will celebrate her 14th year as a bilingual benefits, medical and supportive case manager in February.

"It's a great feeling, making a difference" by helping others through her work, she said.

That said, Zarate said her dream job is to be a film director/editor, which she went to school for, and her long-term goal is to make a film.

Zarate's biggest life issue she's overcome is the death of her grandfather and close friends, thus, she said, "I was not able share my present accomplishments and family with them."

Zarate, who also speaks Spanish, works with a wide age-range of needy, and said her job truly "has been very satisfying," especially for the gratitude she receives from those she aides. Her work involves a lot of referrals.

"Many are very grateful for what I do, but I'm just trying to be one less thing for them to have to worry about," she said.



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## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 28, No. 49, Sept. 11, 2013

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Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky  
 MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis  
 BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine  
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 SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Chris Chevront  
 PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Scott Duff  
 NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
 SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair, Erica Demarest, Matt Simonette  
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(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
 e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

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Community Marketing, Inc.



PEDRO  
SERRANO

## Project PrEPare open for youth

Hello, Chicago!

As this is the first time I have written something for *Windy City Times*, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Pedro Alonso Serrano, and I am 26-year-old queer Latin@ of Mexican heritage. I was born and raised in Chicago, am a DePaul University graduate, and have dedicated myself to serving the Chicago LGBT community of color.

I work with the Adolescent Trials Network (ATN) for HIV/AIDS Interventions, a research network funded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), with additional support from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The ATN operates in cities across the country, including here in Chicago, through the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Stroger Hospital and the CORE Center. Since 2009 we have conducted three HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) trials with young men who have sex with men (Y/MSM) and transgender women.

PrEP is a very promising method to prevent HIV infection among those who are HIV-negative. With PrEP, antiretroviral medications that are usually used to treat HIV are taken by uninfected people to reduce their risk of infection. Recently, there have been several scientific studies which show that taking these antiretroviral medications for prevention can reduce a person's risk of becoming infected with HIV. Three of

these trials—involving men who have sex with men (iPrEx) and heterosexual men and women (Partners PrEP and TDF2)—demonstrated that PrEP reduced the risk of getting HIV compared to placebo by between 44 percent and 75 percent. However, in both iPrEx and Partners PrEP, analyses of PrEP medications in blood samples suggests that those who were taking PrEP as directed (daily dosing) reduced their risk of HIV by greater than 90 percent.

Based on these studies, on July 16, 2012, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Truvada as the first ever medication to help reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV among adults ages 18 and over.

Despite the FDA's approval of PrEP, we cannot simply assume that the results of these studies will be the same in other vulnerable populations in the United States. In the U.S., youth ages 13-29 years accounted for 39 percent of all new HIV infections in 2009. Over two-thirds (69 percent) of all new youth infections occurred in MSM and among young Black MSM, and new HIV infections increased 48 percent during 2006-2009. Yet, in the aforementioned studies, not a single participant was under the age of 18 and only a small number of the participants in the United States were 18-24. Understanding the safety, acceptability and feasibility of PrEP in youth is critical, as they have unique behavioral and biological considerations that are important to understand.

To that end, the ATN has opened Project PrEPare. Coordinated locally by Dr. Sybil Hosek and Dr. Jaime Martinez of Stroger Hospital, Project PrEPare is an innovative HIV prevention study designed to explore the safety, acceptability and feasibility of PrEP among YMSM who are at risk for HIV infection. We are now recruiting 100 HIV-uninfected YMSM ages 15-17 for the younger age cohort of Project PrEPare. To date, we have already completed enrollment of 200 youth into the 18-22-year-old cohort of Project PrEPare.

Once enrolled in the study, participants receive regular HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia testing and treatment on site as needed; hepatitis vaccinations are also available. They also receive full physical exams and follow-up with our clinicians. Moreover, they receive regular harm and risk reduction counseling, including condoms and lube for free. Given the level of commitment each one of our participants makes toward the science of PrEP, including ten visits over a year's time, each visit is well compensated for time and transportation.

Project participants often come to us without primary-care providers. As such, the division is often their first opportunity to access quality health care—provided by a team of specially trained case managers, social workers, psychologists, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and medical doctors—regardless of ability to pay.

Together with the staff at the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, I have had the opportunity to coordinate the recruitment, retention and counseling of participants in our PrEP trials. Working with the young men and women participating in these projects has really been an amazing experience. Being invited to hear their stories and allowed to witness both their challenges and successes has been a privilege. Many of our youth state that their commitment to PrEP is not wholly personal, but also community based as they understand the bigger picture of being able to provide PrEP to more youth around the country as a direct result of their current participation.

This study will also be taking place in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Boston and Denver. More information can be found on the Project PrEPare website—projectprepare.net—where participants can also find out if they are eligible. To contact me directly, please call 708-683-9415 or email PedroAlonsoSerrano@gmail.com.

Thank you, Chicago!

## LETTERS

### Planning ahead

Dear Editor,

I encourage same-sex couples to take advantage of the Internal Revenue Service's new policies regarding same-sex married couples. My partner of 33 years and I plan to do just that.

The mayor of Minneapolis made an excellent case for getting married in his state. He was quoted as saying "You could fly to Minneapolis today and by the afternoon you would be eligible for 111 federal legal advantages."

The mayor's statement suggests that a couple can apply for a license, receive it, and get married on the same day. That is not accurate.

According to Minnesota law, you must appear in person at a service center in Minnesota to apply for and receive a marriage license. Then you must wait five days before you can be married. True, a couple may obtain an exemption from the five-day wait. Unfortunately, flying into Minneapolis from Chicago does not qualify as an emergency.

The statutes of the state of Minnesota mandate equal treatment for all couples seeking marriage. Consequently, it is unlikely that the mayor of Minneapolis can modify the laws of his state to accommodate same-sex couples from Chicago.

If you plan to go to Minneapolis to get married, please factor into your plans an extended stay or two trips to Minnesota.

Judith Markowitz  
Chicago

### Church and marriage

Gay marriage in Illinois will once again be on our radar screen. Along with Illinois we are seeing movement to equalize marriage in Hawaii. In both states the Catholic Church is leading the charge to deny fairness and promote the idea that good and bad discrimination exists.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois, under the leadership of Cardinal Francis George, will again be leading the opposition to passage of same-sex marriage this fall. The clarion call of Catholic Teaching supposedly supported by natural law is that homosexuals are morally disordered will be the rally call.

Look for George to bring the discussion of marriage equality under the mantle of lust and chastity when he needs examples of virtue and vice. He may not be as honest as Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu when he openly promotes discrimination against the LGBT community, but no less effective with his anti-gay view of the world.

The cardinal has no problem promoting discrimination in the name of God; however, the courts do not look as kindly on it, as was made clear by the DOMA decision.

"Upholding a lower-court ruling, the New Mexico Supreme Court held that the company's refusal was an act of discrimination," according to the Wall Street Journal's law blog. "They rejected the argument of the devout Christian owners of Elane Photography who claimed they had a free speech and religious right not to shoot the ceremony."

George will be using the Archdiocese Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) ministry as a cushion for the injustice directed at the LGBT Community, as if such an official organ of the Archdiocese could seek to promote the wellbeing of Catholic LGBT people with such deceptions. This organization will be silent on same-sex marriage, thereby giving the cardinal room to promote his nonsense that by supporting discrimination against same-sex marriage he is actually showing love towards the LGBT community, and believe it or not the board of directors of AGLO has drunk the same Kool-Aid.

While many in our community were heartened by Pope Francis' recent statement concerning gay priests and judgment, it must be balanced with Lumen Fidei, a recent encyclical written both Benedict XVI and Francis wrote. In section 52 of the encyclical, "Faith and the Family," he calls the family the "first setting in which faith enlightens the human city"—a political-theory reading of the church's interest in the institution. Indeed, "I think first and foremost of the stable union of man and woman in marriage," he explained.

The majority of lesbian and gay Catholics understand that the Church is hostile to both our community, civil rights and personal safety. It is time for Catholics to make a difference between the promotion of homophobia, and church teaching. Homophobia, like racism or sexism, is both an evil and sickness.

Joe Murray  
Executive Director  
Rainbow Sash Movement

# GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Ross Forman

## FORCE OF NATURE

Last week, the Chicago Cubs honored the national champion Chicago Force women's football team. See page 26.

### DISH

**King of the grill.**  
Page 22

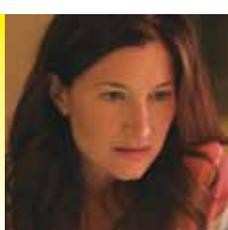
Photo of Ed Berg by Ross Forman



### MOVIES

**Hahn game.**  
Page 18

Photo of Kathryn Hahn in Afternoon Delight



### FILTH

**Quite engaging.**  
Page 25

Photo of Lance Bass courtesy of PETA



### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

# South Side sitcom

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

"Sitcom" is often used as a bad word when critics review new stage comedies. Yet two Chicago theater troupes, The New Colony and The Inconvenience, are proudly collaborating on a brand new four-episode live stage sitcom series called B-Side Studio at the University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts.

According to The New Colony co-artistic director Evan Linder, the idea of making B-Side Studio into a sitcom came about when members from his company and The Inconvenience hung out together for some late-night Netflix binges of acclaimed 1970s sitcoms.

"We started talking about the format of them and just how easy they looked to do, and actually how hard they are to do," said Linder, who is collaborating with out playwright Ike Holter (Hit the Wall) on writing the B-Side Studio scripts. "Look how right they got it on those early shows and how quickly people perfected that style of writing. It also seemed like something great for a collaboration in terms that it would right up the alley of our ensembles to get into a room and to nestle into some characters in an episodic story structure."

B-Side Studio takes its biggest influences from sitcoms like Good Times and WKRP in Cincinnati, and is set in the 1970s at a Chicago South Side recording studio that is on the brink of bankruptcy. The studio workers are always coming up with schemes to keep the business afloat, in particular the idea of recording "Song Poems" submitted and paid for by the general public.

The sitcom idea also played well with The New Colony's video artist Nicholas J. Carroll, who filmed and directed a video version and documentary on Linder and Andrew Hobgood's hit play 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche. Both companies liked the idea of uploading filmed and edited

versions of the stage episodes online.

"We do want this to live beyond and presumably it will be available in perpetuity online," said director Gus Menary of The Inconvenience, who is co-directing the B-Side Studio episodes with The New Colony's Carroll and Hobgood. "What I'm looking forward is to having that sort of sitcom love song to exist forever toward something that I didn't realize, meant a lot to me and a big part of who I am in my upbringing in what it means to entertain people."

The Inconvenience and The New Colony's B-Side Studio plays Sept. 13 through Oct. 12 at the University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (no shows Sept. 20-21). Tickets are offered on a four-episode subscription pass of \$40 (\$20 students), or for single episodes at \$20 (\$10 students); call 773-702-2787 or visit [www.theinconvenience.org](http://www.theinconvenience.org) or [www.thenewcolony.org](http://www.thenewcolony.org).

#### Women at work

Pride Films and Plays is presenting a weekend's worth of enhanced staged readings of six of the 12 finalists in its Women's Work Contest for Plays and Screenplays with Lesbian Themes or Characters Written by Women. The readings all take place at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St.

The six selected works are:

Let All Mortal Flesh by Pat Montley, which is about a troubled schoolgirl in 1955 whose views are challenged when she discovers that an adored teacher is a lesbian. Presented at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13.

Sweetwater by Christina Hulen, which is a World War II romantic adventure about a farm girl who falls for a fellow recruit in the elite Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs). Presented at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.



B-Side Studio. Photo by Ryan Bourque

180 Degree Rule by M.E.H. Lewis and Barbara Lhota, which is a drama about a film professor in 1960 who seeks out the missing masterpiece of an obscure lesbian director killed before World War II. Presented at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

The Green Door by Gail Hackston, which is a 1960s-era British drama about a soon-to-be married woman who meets an unconventional woman who belongs to the Gateways Club in London. Presented at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

Semi-Circle by Eileen Tull, which is a stylized short focusing on two women confronting a tragic love from the past, present and future. Presented at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

Moon Dancers by Mary Steelsmith, which is a short work set at a church camp where two teenage girls meet in secret and try to reconcile the age-old question: "What would Jesus do?" Presented at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15.

Tickets to each performance are \$10 and can be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets. Pride Films and Plays has also launched a Indiegogo campaign to expand and fund a full season of its Women's Work program. Call 773-250-3112 or visit [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com) for more information.

#### And the Equity nominees are...

The Jeff Award nominees honoring excellence in professional theater produced in the immediate Chicago area were announced last week. The 166 nominations in 36 categories are for Equity productions that opened between Aug. 1, 2012, and July 31, 2013.

Coming out on top was Chicago Shakespeare Theater with 19 nominations, including eight for director Gary Griffin's acclaimed revival of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical Sunday in the Park with George. Next in nominations was the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire with 13 nominations, including six for its production of South Pacific. Porchlight Music Theater also had six nominations for its recent production of Rodgers and Hart's Pal Joey, which are part of the theater's overall 12 nominations.

The 45th Annual Jeff Awards ceremony, complete with musical numbers and video segments from the nominated productions, will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. Tickets are \$75. For a complete list of Equity Jeff Award nominees and to purchase tickets to the awards ceremony, visit [www.jeffawards.org](http://www.jeffawards.org).



#GodHatesHashtags. Photo courtesy of GayCo

## DOUBLE REVIEW

### #GodHates Hashtags

**Playwrights:** Kathy Betts, Christopher Lotito, Jamie Newland, Clay Goodpasture, John Loos, Alexandria Miller, Becca Levine and Robin Trevino  
**At:** GayCo at Donny's Skybox, 1 616 N. Wells St., 4th Floor  
**Tickets:** 312-337-3992;  
[www.gayco.com](http://www.gayco.com); \$13-\$16  
**Runs through:** Oct. 19

### Sweet Child of Mine

**Playwrights:** Bron Batten and Jim Batten  
**At:** Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-275-5255;  
[www.neofuturists.org](http://www.neofuturists.org); \$10-\$20  
**Runs through:** Sept. 21

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Debuts can be very difficult because expectations can be unreasonably high. This is especially true if a show is opening a newly renovated space, like GayCo's #GodHatesHashtags does, or if a show is making a U.S. debut after a series of acclaimed international fringe-festival runs like the Neo-Futurists' presentation of the Australian creation Sweet Child of Mine.

In the case of GayCo, the Chicago's oldest LGBT sketch comedy troupe, the company is having a homecoming back at The Second City, where it got its start. GayCo is also one of the first shows to open the remodeled Donny's Skybox space, which has been reconfigured lengthwise to resemble a smaller version of The Second City's Mainstage space.

Alas, GayCo hasn't brought its best material to the fore in #GodHatesHashtags. The title alone suggests that you'll be seeing sketches centered on social media and anti-gay trolls, especially with the play on words with a favorite slogan by a certain hateful family church based in Kansas. But strangely these topics aren't explored in depth here, and the other sketches that GayCo presents only spurs on chuckles and titters rather than full-out laughs.

Under the direction of Andy Eninger, the eight-member cast of writer/performers take on issues like the youth who hang out at the Center on Halsted (they talk street but are as sensitive and helpful as an Oprah Winfrey audience), gay surrogacy in song and possessive lesbian relationships (which takes on a disturbing tinge, especially when Becca Levine and Kathy Betts have clearly drawn upon the recent Cleveland kidnapping scandal for their material).

Other sketches aiming to be edgy are just downright uncomfortable, particularly the gay dads discussing the significance of their adopted daughter's first abortion. Others cry out for more elaborate choreography, especially the all-lesbian synchronized swimming routines.

There are bright spots, like the sexually explicit gay Parisian cruising pantomime sequence

that John Loos and Clay Goodpasture perform. But the majority of #GodHatesHashtags doesn't feel like GayCo brought its A-game material to share.

Much more enjoyable, although not quite as probing as I was expecting, is the Australian fringe export Sweet Child of Mine. The show concerns 29-year-old artist Bron Batten questioning the pretension of performance art she's done in the past, and directly asking her parents what they think of her career.

To do so, Batten screens some very amusing video question sessions with her sixtysomething parents, and she recreates highlights of her bewildering past work. Also physically on hand is her father, Jim Batten, who takes questions from the audience and who also does a bit of amusing performing himself.

One thing missing is Batten explicitly stating whether or not she feels her participation in avant garde theater has been ultimately worthwhile or not. But ultimately Sweet Child of Mine is undeniably touching and very funny, as it allows Batten to share pivotal moments from her artistic career, only to have her parents' honest reactions "take the piss" out of them.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**The Birds**, Hell in a Handbag at Berger Park Coach House, through Sept. 15. Wings are flapping and the clock ticking on this delish but surprisingly respectful send-up of the famous Hitchcock film and star Tippi Hedren. The drag smartly is underplayed which helps produce big laughs. JA

**Bo Thomas and the Sky Pirates**, Babes With Blades at Raven Theatre, through Sept. 21. Even if the small room precludes scripted zeppelin aerobatics, the flying fists and daggers in this Amazon Brigade action-adventure spoof make it the perfect end-of-summer show. MSB

**A Cole Porter Songbook**, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at No Exit Café, through Sept. 15. It's your last chance to enjoy this revue showcasing America's legendary gay composer's extensive catalogue of songs, both racy and romantic. MSB

**Next to Normal**, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Oct. 6. This first homegrown Chicago-area production of Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt's Pulitzer Prize-winning musical is a devastatingly emotional journey that tackles mental illness and mourning with top-notch performances. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### Clumsy Sublime

**Playwright:** Barrie Cole  
**At:** Curious Theater Branch at Prop Thtr (sic), 3502 N. Elston  
**Tickets:** [www.curioustheatrebranch.com](http://www.curioustheatrebranch.com);  
 \$20 or pay what you will  
**Runs through:** Oct. 13

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Last week, playwright Barrie Cole substituted for injured actor Kelly Anchors in Clumsy Sublime. Even reading from the script, she brought humor and vividness to the stepmother, Shelly. But then, she was reading her own words which she'd heard in her mind's ear as she wrote them. So many words, too many words.

Clumsy Sublime boasts clever and witty linguistic banter (homonyms such as "brrrr" and "burr," shifting meanings such as "check my email" and "check in the mail"), lovely leaps of imagination and knowledgeable riffs on art, philosophy and consciousness. It's an engaging, whimsical 100 minute play lost within an overstuffed, self-indulgent 160-minute work. Cole ruthlessly must edit and cut, shape and focus. Good riffs and funny riffs must be eliminated because they don't advance story or characters.

Writers have ruled the roost at Curious Theatre Branch for 25 years. But writers don't always discern what's best for their work. T.S. Eliot had Ezra Pound (may the anti-Semitic bastard rot in hell) to edit The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, Hemingway and Fitzger-

ald had the legendary Maxwell Perkins, and I ruthlessly whittle down each review I write so it doesn't run over 450 words. Cole can learn from her capable lead actor, Edward Thomas-Herrera, and from David Kodeski, who assisted the production. Their solo material is carefully edited and shaped with both length and pace in mind.

Clumsy Sublime defies easy summation. Greatly boiled down, it concerns Russell (Thomas-Herrera), an isolated 50-year-old man, and Delia (Bailey Boyle), an adolescent wicken. Cautiously becoming friends, they share an epiphany through viewing Edward Hopper's painting, Excursion into Philosophy. The two people in the painting (Vicki Walden and Jeffrey Bivens) are alive as well and we observe their playful metaphysical musings. The girl's stepmother, Shelly, also is present speaking to Delia as if in a gothic novel and to everyone else as if channeling Tennessee Williams, which is very funny but is one of those unnecessary riffs stretching the play.

From its exaggerated language to its unlikely situations, Clumsy Sublime is linear but not at all realistic. It's a fantasy of altered realities, or of how we perceive reality. But fantasy is not a license for indulgence. Under director Stefan Brun, the cast breathes a lot of life into the characters and the mostly-static physical situations, so the play never bored me. But I began to fidget at the two-hour mark when it was no nearer a conclusion and resolution than at the two-minute mark. If Cole wants her play to become full, perhaps she needs to empty it. An audience sitting through nearly three hours of Clumsy Sublime will not willingly return to see her next work.

## THEATER REVIEW

### Hank Williams: Lonesome Highway

**Playwright:** Randal Myler and Mark Harelik  
**At:** American Blues Theater at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-404-7336;  
[www.americanbluestheater.com](http://www.americanbluestheater.com); \$29-\$39  
**Runs through:** Oct. 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Characters in a "musical" reveal their inner emotions by singing, while those in a "play-with-music" present their songs and dances as performance—in the context of a stage show incorporated into the plot, for example. When the protagonist in the latter is a composer/musician, though, and his immediate circle of acquaintances comprised chiefly of people sharing similar interests, it's not unusual for them to express themselves through scripted lyrics—changing the words of a refrain to suit the occasion, say, or ad-libbing an improvised, if no less melodic, commentary during another instrumentalist's solo.

This dynamic is what distinguishes this portrait of Hiram King Williams—"Hank" to his fans, "Harm" to his intimates, "Skeets" to his elders—from its generic kin. Randal Myler and Mark Harelik may begin their story with the announcement of the singer's untimely death at the age of 29, or recount his life and times in "Story Theater" structure combining dramatic re-enactments and straightforward narrative, but the lyrics that introduced America to southern-white blues (later dubbed "country") are so closely integrated with their protagonist's personal growth as to eliminate all immediately detectable boundaries. In the universe of a scrappy Alabama boy who loved only four things—his mama, his girl, his God and his music—there's nothing startling about fully audible childhood memories of Negro shouters and gospel choirs haunting his restless sleep.

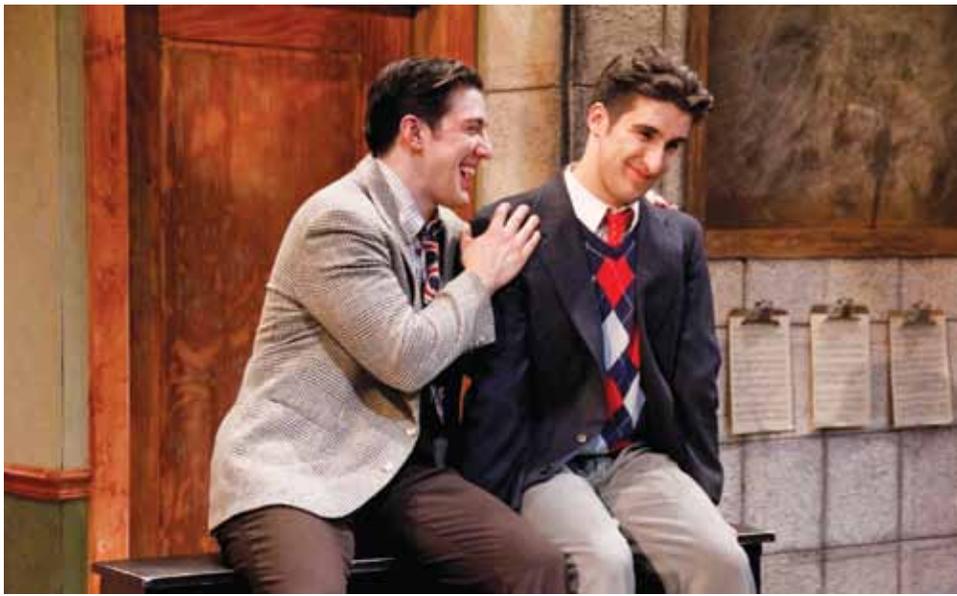
Theatergoers looking for no more than an evening's concert with minimal analytical rumination will applaud director Damon Kiely's wisdom in bringing on board veteran arranger Malcolm Ruhl to score an impressive selection of Wil-



Matthew Brumlow in Hank Williams: Lonesome Highway. Photo by Johnny Knight

liams classics, mostly for the songwriter's Drifting Cowboys string band—replicated onstage by Chicago's favorite sidemen, Michael Mahler, Austin Cook, Greg Hirte and John Foley—but also configured into a *cappella* soliloquies, down-home family hymns, and deliberately tone-deaf warbles. Even the actors restricted to speaking roles exhibit pitch-perfect phrasing and harmony.

Anchoring the action in the intimate Greenhouse ground-floor auditorium is Matthew Brumlow, his wholesome features almost wholly subsumed into his persona's wiry depression-era frame, delivering a portrayal of such transformative intensity as to spur devout secularists in the audience to enthusiastic caroling of "I Saw the Light" opening night. It's too early to predict whether this American Blues Theater production will match the success of that *other* roots-of-rock-and-roll show playing up the street at the Apollo, but it's off to a good start.



Adrian (left) and Alexander Aguilar in *Double Trouble*. Photo by Kelsey Jorissen

**THEATER REVIEW**

**Double Trouble**

Playwright: book, music & lyrics by Bob Walton and Jim Walton  
 At: Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.  
 Tickets: 773-777-9884;  
 www.porchlightmusictheatre.org; \$39  
 Runs through: Oct. 6

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Theater historians date the formula from 1984 and *The Mystery of Irma Vep*: you take a play with a complicated plot—an Agatha Christie whodunit, say, or a slamming-doors bedroom farce—and then propose to have only two actors play *all* the roles, on the convenient pretext of “wartime shortages,” snowbound supporting casts or the reliable “backers’ audition” conceit. What this does is to base the comedy in the sadistic spectacle of the hapless duo sprinting furiously through costume changes and multiple entrances, often re-appearing onstage gasping for breath, wigs and coat-sleeves askew, before being applauded at curtain call for their marathon-runner stamina more than for any thespian acumen. The popularity of these cheaply mounted stunt-turns often makes for structural overlap, rendering co-authors Bob and Jim Walton’s premise suspiciously similar to several other listings in the skeleton-crew genre, but the difference in this Porchlight production is apparent from the beginning.

First, the action is paced leisurely enough for us to enjoy the Walton brothers’ screwball plot, involving—whattaya know?—a pair of likewise songwriting brothers seeking their fortunes in Hollywood, portrayed by—you guessed it!—actual singing-dancing brothers Adrian and Alexander Aguilar. Second, the small stage combines with Jeffrey D. Kmiec’s compact set, Alexia Rutherford’s prosthetic costumes, Jack Hawkins’ pre-recorded dialogue-bites, William Kirkham’s 1930s-vintage electrical devices and a squad of body-doubles to facilitate the Aguilars’ switcheroos without either one ever breaking a sweat or scrambling the vocal boundaries of their characters (a roster encompassing gravel-throated producers, purring vamps, effete directors, smartcracking secretaries, adenoidal interns, schmoozy agents and geriatric technicians).

This doesn’t mean that the show proceeds with the lugubriosity of classical tragedy, even at two hours (with intermission). In a playbill note, director/choreographer Matthew Crowle confesses to drawing his inspiration from the early Looney Tunes/Merry Melodies cartoons and thus, learning the importance of the occasional respite from accelerating bouts of high-speed hijinks. His pacing of the Waltons’ period-accurate musical interludes—especially the toe-tapping homage to take-out Chinese cuisine “Cold Sesame Noodles”—reflects this insight, providing us, with the assistance of Linda Madonia’s backstage orchestra, the relaxed ambience necessary to appreciate the dazzling velocity of the climactic resolution.

The autumnal equinox is right around the corner, and with it, the onset of winter’s heavy-weight dramas. Treat yourself to a last fluffy, frivolous, feel-good romp while the sun still shines.

**SPOTLIGHT**



See how the largely Latino residents in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City react when word gets out that someone among them might have purchased a winning lottery ticket in the Tony-winning 2008 musical *In the Heights*. The Paramount Theatre in Aurora presents the first locally produced regional production of this show written by Tony Award-winner Lin-Manuel Miranda and Pulitzer Prize winner Quiara Alegria Hudes. In the Heights continues through Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora. Previews are through Friday, Sept. 13, with an official opening night at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. Tickets are \$36.90-\$49.90; call 630-896-6666 or visit [www.paramountaurora.com](http://www.paramountaurora.com). Photo courtesy of Paramount Theatre.

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## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Having a 'Kiki' with Ana Matronic



BY JERRY NUNN

Formed in 2001, the band known as the Scissor Sisters took over the gay nightlife scene in New York, taking its name after a lesbian sex act.

Consisting of Jake Shears, Ana Matronic, Babydaddy and Del Marquis, their names were not the only thing unique about them. They broke out with a cover of "Comfortably Numb" that went global, doing especially well in the United Kingdom; the same could be said about their single from the second album, "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'," reaching number one there.

Their fourth album, *Magic Hour*, hit a lucky number three with the single "Let's Have a Kiki." The song was featured in *Glee* and almost every gay dance club in the country.

Ana Matronic joined the group after performing at the Trannyshack in San Francisco and then starting her own club called Knockoff in Manhattan, where they first performed together.

She has been touring with the single, landing

at Chicago's Roscoe's—where *Windy City Times* caught up with her to have our own Kiki (meaning meeting of friends for a chat).

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Ana. I heard you refer to your fans as "nuns..."

Ana Matronic: Yes, this is perfect, you are the ultimate nun. You are so nun-y; your name is Nunn!

**WCT:** You were born in Portland, Ore.?

AM: Yes, I was born in the Pacific of Kim and Kanye's baby [North]. Portland is one of those cities that is weird to the core.

**WCT:** There are a lot of hippies there, aren't there?

AM: There are a lot of hippies. I am a little allergic to tie-dye and patchouli, based on my growing up. I do love a good crystal and I have been known to twirl to the Grateful Dead once or twice.

**WCT:** I read you studied anthropology.

AM: I did when I was in college. I was into anthropology and switched to sociology. I got really into Joseph Campbell. I saw him talking to Bill Moyers and heard him speaking about *The Hero's Adventure* and applying it to *Star Wars*. I decided that is what I want to do and talk about myth as it relates to popular culture. Then what I really wanted to do was be a performance artist.

**WCT:** How did the New York scene happen for you?

AM: I dropped out of college, well I finished community college. I am one of those fantastic people with an associate degree. Then my friend Michael at the time asked me to go to San Francisco because a friend of his was doing an art piece at a rave. We were underneath this art



Ana Matronic.  
PR photo

piece and he asked me to move into his apartment in Portland to save money to live in San Francisco.

It was San Fran that formed my aesthetic and who I am as a performer. That has everything to do with Trannyshack, the amazing drag club that happened every Tuesday at The Stud in San Francisco. I really see that as my performance college. There was a different theme every Tuesday and we were challenged to come up with something that fit the theme or a new number to a song. It was always a challenge and a really great place. I learned so much.

**WCT:** How did you meet all of the gang from Scissor Sisters?

AM: I moved to New York in 1999. I met Jake on Halloween of 2000 at a club called The Slipper Room, where I was doing a night with friends of mine from San Francisco. I was dressed as an Andy Warhol factory reject. This character of mine called Plasticine Porter. I looked over and there was Jake dressed as a late term back alley abortion. He had been out with his friend earlier who dressed as a morning after pill so they were a pair, cute huh? So heartwarming and fun!

I took one look at him and I knew he should be performing at my club. He had a group called Scissor Sisters with just Babydaddy and they did their first performance at Knockoff. He wanted to add a feminine energy and I always wanted to be in a band so I joined the group.

**WCT:** It was the perfect match.

AM: It certainly was.

**WCT:** Jake is a really nice guy.

AM: He's a lovely guy with good Southern upbringing.

**WCT:** A year ago you were performing in Chicago—that was a great show.

AM: That was one of the most amazing shows we have ever played. That was definitely my top show in Chicago that we have ever played. It was one of those magical perfect storms. Everybody was in a great mood and it was Pride Sunday. Everyone was on cloud nine and excited about the new record and in particular "Let's Have a Kiki."

**WCT:** I understood the song better when I saw the choreography. Where did the moves come from?

AM: They came from an amazing guy named Brad Landers. He's a choreographer and dancer. We met him through Chrissi Poland who is one of our backup singers. They had worked together. He was just great. How amazing that his choreography ended up on *Glee*!

**WCT:** What did you think of the track being on *Glee*?

AM: I thought it was great. We had been hoping and praying that we were going to get on *Glee* at some point in some form because Chris Colfer is a big fan of ours. We have met him a couple of times. He's so darling and dear. He sent us an email to let us know they had done "Let's Have a Kiki."

I was really excited. I heard it was with Sarah Jessica Parker, then I saw it and they had

worked my whole monologue into her lines. That was crazy!

**WCT:** It has the whole New York element to it in that scene.

AM: What is so funny is when I had an apartment in Bushwick I had an orphan's Thanksgiving, just like on the show. I don't think they know that so it was just synchronicity. Not only was it my song but it was very indicative of my life in New York, although my apartment was not that big in Bushwick, okayyy...

**WCT:** Was that Jake on a track you just performed live?

AM: We did a remix of "Tits on the Radio." We kept Jake in because everybody loves that part of the song. I do too. You can't really get rid of it. It is one of my favorite songs and I just love singing it. It has a mellow groove on the album version so we wanted to bring it to a pumping club state.

**WCT:** So what are you working on?

AM: I am working on a record called *Afterlife of the Party*. It is really inspired by dance culture, particularly gay dance culture. To me that is a very spiritual experience. Let's get into the spirit!

It really is true when you think about gay history and the fact that a gay club throughout time is a place where people can come and express themselves, where is they can't in their everyday lives. A gay club in a tiny town in the South is a very vital place for people to go and express themselves. It can be the only place where people can feel free to dress as the woman they have always wanted to be, to hold the hand of the person that they love and to kiss them in public. It's a really important thing. Because of that nightlife in the gay culture it has been a really freeing spiritual experience and that is the kind of feeling I want to tap into with me record.

**WCT:** That sounds very creative. When can people expect this album to come out?

AM: We want to get a single out as soon as possible so we are working on that right now. I would love to get the record out by the end of the year but these things always take time so forgive me if it is not. We will be releasing singles as they get finished.

**WCT:** Where can people keep up with you?

AM: Anamatronic.com and follow me on twitter @MsAnaMatronic. We are really growing everything so it is just in the beginning stages, so keep checking in periodically.

**WCT:** Where are you off to next?

AM: Tomorrow I am going to Mobile, Ala.! I'm very excited because my grandmother was born in Mobile. She has a Southern heritage and I have never been.

**WCT:** They will appreciate that you are coming.

AM: I think so. I think I am going to enjoy it because I love the South and the people there. When you go to a place that the bigger tours pass them by then they really appreciate you. You get a love bomb dropped on your head!

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## TELEVISION

# 'Drop Dead' duo: Margaret Cho and Josh Berman

BY JERRY NUNN

Drop Dead Diva won't stay dead. A surprise fifth season began this summer after the show was supposedly cancelled on the Lifetime network.

The series, which Josh Berman produces, revolves around Deb, whose car crashes on her way to audition for *The Price is Right*. She is then put into the body of a deceased lawyer named Jane Bingum. Margaret Cho plays Teri Lee, Bingum's sassy assistant.

Cho started in the world of stand-up comedy then moved into the world of television. She has had several books, released the album *Cho Dependent* and appeared on *Dancing with the Stars*.

Windy City Times talked with Cho and Berman during the current season of *Drop Dead Diva* about a gay sports storyline.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Josh and Margaret. What made you tackle gay sports for this recent episode on *Drop Dead Diva*?**

Josh Berman: Well, I think the gays in sports is certainly a hot topic right now. We developed this episode before it became such a prominent issue and getting such coverage in the news.

So I'm thrilled that we are hitting this zeitgeist shed again with gay and lesbian issues. I do think that sports is one of the last frontiers where men and women feel they unfortunately need to be closeted. So it was important for me to address that issue.

**WCT: You were all over the episode, Margaret.**

Margaret Cho: Well, Teri is always doing anything and everything. She's kind of like a cross between Miss Money Penny and Alfred from *Batman*, and she's kind of like the enabler for everything.

What I really love about this episode is that it really talks about an issue that's very timely, which is athletes being able to come out of the closet.

I must note that there is a lot of sexism when it comes to this kind of stuff because Martina Navratilova came out as a lesbian over 25 years ago. She came out when Reagan was in office.

I really want to make sure that her contribution to sports, to the LGBT presence in sports is really noted.

I'm really, really proud of this episode because it goes into the story about how we look at men in sports and we have to sort of have an idea of who they are and what they're supposed to be.

I think sports in general is quite a homo erotic art form into itself. So it's surprising that there's not more out actually. Josh had been working on it before we even heard from [now-out NBA player] Jason Collins.

So this is a major thing I think I think he's psychic when it comes to these stories.

**WCT: Josh, you have also slipped in some marriage-equality references in a few episodes.**

MC: Well to me the show is about an underdog and it's a show about a woman who feels isolated for the first time in her life. I mean when Jane was Deb everyone loved her and she didn't give two thoughts about it.

Now that she is different than the norm people look at her differently and her journey, her trajectory, in the story is one of self acceptance. So I think it's still parallels what gay, lesbian and bisexual youth go through in their life and in their coming out process.

Although we don't necessarily consciously say we are going to explore gay and lesbian themes in every episode there's a natural parallel to do

that. I will say that throughout the season those are themes that are explored.

We have a couple of very poignant themes later on in the season where although it's not explicitly about a gay person there's no doubt that anyone who is gay will relate to those scenes.

**WCT: When is Teri getting her own spinoff series?**

MC: Gosh, I don't know but I am ready to go anytime.

JB: And I am ready to write that.

MC: We would have so much fun, Josh and I have been having such a great time for the last six years but I would love to do another series on my own.

Teri is a great character—she's a private eye, she's sort of everybody's best friend and I think it would be awesome.

JB: That would be the most fun I could ever have writing if I could write the Teri show about the Diva.

MC: Yes, let's do it.

JB: I don't think I ever shared this story I wrote the part of Teri with my fantasy actress Margaret Cho in mind. It's kind of the pie in the sky when you sit down and you're looking at a blank paper and you're like well who could I get for this role?

So I really, really wanted Margaret for this part and obviously I had never met her before. I kept hearing that she was considering it.

Coincidentally, I had gone to a concert and Margaret happened to be there. I'm not usually an aggressive kind of guy this way but I literally followed her out to her car.

I said, "My names Josh Berman and I wrote this script." I'm sure she thought I was crazy but because she's Margaret she's so nice to everyone, and was super-polite.

She didn't know anything about the script but said she will ask her agents. The next day she got the script from her agents and it was probably sitting in the piles of material that she gets sent.

She responded to it so if I get to write the Margaret show one day I would be thrilled it would all come full circle.

**WCT: What a great story.**

MC: I really fell in love with the storyline, I really fell in love with this idea about this character who is used to living the life of the mind and suddenly she's living the life of her body and then also sort of vice versa.

Women are always trying to decide whether to be beautiful or smart and here's somebody that can have everything and I love that idea and I love the premise of the show. We've had a wonderful time on it together, working together so we want to make more.

**WCT: Being openly bisexual, would you like to play that type of character?**

MC: Absolutely! I mean I would love to play a queer character. I would love to use my life and my work there's so very few cinematic or ideas of what bisexuality is and I mean for sure I'm definitely bound to be out in any way that I can be.

Unfortunately, there hasn't been a lot of visibility for bisexual people in movies the only one that I could say would be that I know of would be like Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct*.

I would be proud to play queer in anything. I would be proud to be able to represent who I really am in my work. I do that in my stand up comedy and I talk about being out. It's very important for people to acknowledge and be proud of themselves and so I'd be really grateful to do anything like that.

**WCT: Did the *Drop Dead Diva* episode have**



Margaret Cho. Photo from Lifetime

**similarities to your own coming-out story?**

MC: Well, my coming-out story was really more different. I came out really young. When I was younger I just assumed that I was a lesbian.

Later on in my twenties I realized that I had a lot of feelings for men. It's really scary because you have an identity in the queer community and then it's very hard to find out I'm actually more than I thought I was.

I think that in the gay community there is a lot of suspicion about you if you are bisexual because they think you're just going back in the closet or you're just you're confused or something.

For bisexuals there's a lot of distrust because we do operate in both arenas. I think that's hard for people to grasp and I think it's certainly easier for men than it is for women.

My own coming-out story is really kind of a reverse coming out because I came out as gay first and then I realized I'm bi so it's something that I'm still discovering. I think it's something that's probably fairly unusual.

**WCT: You referred to yourself as the prime minister of the gays?**

MC: What I was referring to in as the prime minister to gays is that people ask me because, Kathy Griffin is my really good friend and we enjoy a healthy rivalry in comedy. She's also been in *Drop Dead Diva* and she's a wonderful person and a great inspiration for me.

But people always put us against each other because they can't imagine that we can actually be good friends and they always ask who is the queen of the gays is it Kathy Griffin or is it you?

I think Kathy Griffin is the queen of the gays so I'm the prime minister of the gays. I actually get things done, not a false monarchy, I'm like the real deal.

So I make the laws, I make the policy, I go to the UN, but Kathy is all of the pomp and circumstance in the show biz so we have different purposes in our sort of a trajectory in show business.

On LGBT representation she is really, really important to the gay community as she is to me.

JB: I just want to say something about Margaret. She's one of the greatest comedic voices of our generation. When she meets someone for the first time she is genuine. She's such a good listener that maybe as a prime minister versus a queen you have to listen to the people more. I think it's a great analogy.

**Look for Cho in town on Oct. 19 at The Chicago Theatre. Keep up with her at [www.margaretocho.com](http://www.margaretocho.com) and watch episodes of *Drop Dead Diva* at [www.mylifetime.com](http://www.mylifetime.com).**

**Read the full interview online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).**

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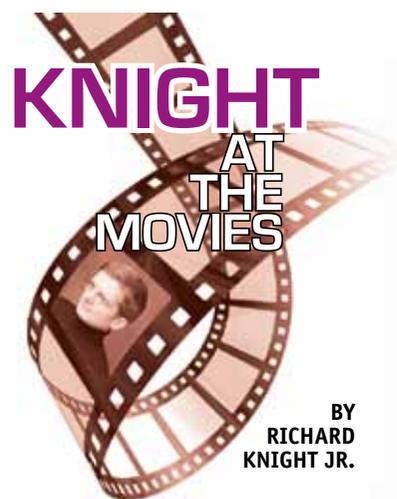
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BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## Fall LGBT movie preview; Afternoon Delight

The Chicago fall movie season is in full swing with former Chicagoan Jill Soloway's feature debut **Afternoon Delight** (see review below) kicking things off to a promising start. Lesbian icon Jane Lynch (also a former Chicago resident) co-stars in Soloway's refreshing, offbeat, female-centric, lesbian-tinged comedy. Here's a quick rundown of other notable movies playing in Chicago over the next couple of months—with an emphasis on those with an LGBT bent. Unless otherwise noted, the opening date listed refers to at least a one-week theatrical run.

### September

**C.O.G.**—Out actor Jonathan Groff stars as a disaffected grad student (a fictionalized version of humorist David Sedaris) who travels to Oregon and works as an apple harvester in this first film adapted from the writer's essays. A big hit on the LGBT fest circuit, the movie kicks off a Chicago premiere run at the Gene Siskel. Denis O'Hare co-stars. Sept. 20

**Four**—A quartet of interconnected folks hook up (including a couple of gay ones) in writer-director Joshua Sanchez's provocative film, which made the fest rounds in 2012 and is getting a Chicago theatrical run at AMC River East 21. Sept. 20

**The Wizard of Oz 3D**—Calling all friends of Dorothy: Judy Garland stars in the beloved fantasy classic from MGM, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in what promises to be an eye-popping Technicolor experience exclusively in IMAX theaters. Sept. 20

**Sole Survivor**—Lesbian director Ky Dickens follows up her acclaimed LGBT-themed *Fish Out of Water* documentary with this thought-provoking look at four lone survivors of horrific plane



Sole Survivor director Ky Dickens. Photo courtesy of Kristen Kaza

crashes, members of what Dickens has insightfully termed, "The loneliness club in the world." Screens at the Gene Siskel Film Center Sept. 21 and 26

**Don Jon**—Indie fave Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who played gay in Gregg Araki's *Mysterious Skin*, muscled up to star in his self-penned, directorial debut—a sexy tale of a computer-porn addict. Sept. 27

### October

**Concussion**—This lesbian-themed drama won raves on the LGBT film fest circuit after its Sundance debut. A suburban housewife has a sexual awakening after suffering a head injury and soon finds herself attracted to life as a prostitute. Oct. 2

**Valentine Road**—A searing documentary that has made the LGBT fest circuit comes to HBO on Oct. 7 and plays throughout the month. The film examines the tragic murder of a 15-year-old transgender teen by a 14-year-old boy he asked to be his valentine. Oct. 7

**The Chicago International Film Festival**—The 49th edition of this prestigious fest includes the best in international cinema, advance screenings of anticipated Hollywood films, and a highly selective group of LGBT-themed movies (regrouped this year under the moniker OUTlook). The fest is giving a new award—the Q Hugo—to this latter category. Announced titles include the queer-themed *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?*, *Blue is the Warmest Color* and a documentary portrait of Broadway legend Elaine Stritch titled *Elaine Stritch: Just Shoot Me*. The Coen Brothers' latest, *Inside Llewyn Davis*, will

be the closing-night feature. The fest's entire schedule will be released Sept. 17 ([www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com)). Oct. 10-24

**We Are What We Are**—A gothic drama with horror overtones, this is a remake of a Mexican film. Out actor Kelly McGillis co-stars. Oct. 11

**After Tiller**—This documentary that profiles the four remaining physicians performing third-trimester abortions (including a lesbian doctor) following the murder of Dr. George Tiller by anti-abortion activists has its Chicago premiere at the Music Box. Oct. 18

**Carrie**—Boys Don't Cry director Kimberly Peirce updates Stephen King's horror story of a misbegotten telekinetic teenager who takes revenge on her classmates after a cruel prank administered at prom and her religious fanatic of a mother. Chloe Morentz and Julianne Moore take on the Oscar nominated roles played by Sissy Spacek and Piper Laurie essayed in Brian De Palma's stellar 1976 version. Oct. 18

**The Fifth Estate**—A dramatic thriller based on real-life events by out writer-director Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*, *Kinsey*) focuses on the instantly infamous Wikileaks founder Julian Assange (Benedict Cumberpatch) and his cohorts. Oct. 18

**12 Years a Slave**—Chewitel Ejiofor, who broke through playing the gay drag queen/boot designer in the British indie hit *Kinky Boots* (the basis for the hit Broadway musical), reportedly gives an Oscar-winning performance in this based on a true story of a free Black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery before regaining his freedom after a dozen years. An all-star cast headed by producer Brad Pitt supports Ejiofor. Oct. 18

**Sal**—James Franco helms another gay-themed project. This one from 2011 centers on the last hours of murdered, openly gay actor Sal Mineo (*Rebel Without a Cause*, *Exodus*). Frequent Franco collaborator Val Lauren (who also plays Al Pacino in *Interior. Leather. Bar*) stars. VOD beginning Oct. 22, in theaters Oct. 30 (Chicago date TBD)

### November

**Blue is the Warmest Color**—The explicit, controversial, nearly-three-hour lesbian romance between two French teenage girls arrives stateside with an NC-17 rating. The film won the Palm d'Or at Cannes and awarded both female stars the actress prize. Nov. 1

**Kill Your Darlings**—Daniel Radcliffe plays gay poet Allen Ginsberg, who, along with his fellow beat poets, was drawn into a murder in 1944. Dane DeHaan plays Ginsberg's lover, Lucien Carr. Anthony Mackie, Elizabeth Olsen, Michael C. Hall, Ben Foster and Jennifer Jason Leigh co-star in out writer-director John Krokidas' feature debut. It opens in New York and Los Angeles Oct. 18. Look for a Chicago run to begin Nov. 1.

**Diana**—Naomi Watts portrays the late Princess Diana in this eagerly awaited biopic that focuses on the last three months of her life and a secret love affair. Nov. 1

**Reeling: The Chicago LGBT International Film Festival**—The 31st edition of the second world's oldest queer festival returns after a year's hiatus. The fest (of which I am this year's programming director) is announcing its complete line-up Wed., Sept. 25, at a special fundraiser at Sidetrack 7-9 p.m. The full schedule will be posted at the fest's website ([www.reelingfilmfestival.org](http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org)) the following day. Blackbox, out writer-director Stephen Cone's follow-up to his critically acclaimed 2011 debut *The Wise Kids* and *Interior.L Leather.Bar*, the collaboration between James Franco and Travis Mathews, are two films making their Chicago premieres at the festival. Nov. 7-14

**Dallas Buyers Club**—Matthew McConaughey lost 40 pounds to play the part of Ron Woodroof, a straight, anti-gay cowboy who unwittingly became a hero to the gay community when he contracted AIDS in the mid-'80s and sold his own prescription drug therapies to his fellow sufferers—drugs that were smuggled in from Mexico and unapproved by the FDA. Jennifer Garner and Jared Leto co-star. Nov. 8

**Thor: The Dark World**—This sequel to the popular Marvel Comics blockbuster again stars hunkalicious Chris Hemsworth as the super-strong superhero based on the Norse legend and is an early start to the forthcoming holiday movie season. Natalie Portman, Anthony Hopkins, Tom Hiddleston and Idris Elba co-star. Nov. 8

Gold Coast native Jill Soloway won a directing award when her debut feature, **Afternoon Delight**, premiered last January at Sundance. Now the film—an offbeat dramedy with a career-altering performance by Kathryn Hahn—is playing here in Soloway's hometown (at the Landmark Century). The movie is a sharply observed portrait of a marriage in crisis that not only benefits from Hahn's leading performance (and those of her fellow actors) but from Soloway's telling dialogue.

Hahn plays Rachel—an upper-class Jewish suburban housewife who is bored out of her skull and, more than anything, wants her husband Jeff (Josh Radnor), a sensitive but distracted computer software designer, to give her the works in bed. When her best girlfriend suggests the couples try visiting a sex club she gets a lap dance from McKenna (Juno Temple), a tiny blond who she later bumps into, takes pity on and insists should move into the bedroom of her now-departed nanny.

Rachel decides to "save" McKenna from what she perceives is a life of depravity and, over Jeff's objections, dubs her the new nanny for their couple's young son. McKenna, at first, seems to tantalize Rachel with her sexual openness. (In one scene, she even seems about to succumb to a desire for McKenna.) Soon, however, Rachel's assumptions about her new live-in guest are upended and, before long, the idea of whose life really needs saving comes into question.

Hahn is fearless in her portrayal of a woman who has eschewed vanity and thwarted her own desires (sexual and otherwise) in service to her husband, child and their lifestyle with its rigid rules and rituals. As Rachel spirals out of control, flailing about (sometimes hilariously, other times exhibiting cringe worthy behavior), she comes closer to finding what she left behind in service to this suburban dream that, as Soloway so aptly points out, has plenty of dark and dreary elements and exacts a price as well.

Although *Afternoon Delight* has its logical gaps, these lapses are outweighed by Soloway's ability to find fresh nuance in the all-too-familiar "Diary of a Mad Housewife" theme and the lively performances. Jane Lynch is funny playing Rachel's lesbian psychiatrist, a shrink who'd rather talk about her own relationship with her girlfriend. The movie's playing in Chicago at the Landmark Century Centre Cinemas, 2828 N. Clark St. [www.landmarktheatres.com](http://www.landmarktheatres.com)



Kathryn Hahn (left) and Juno Temple in *Afternoon Delight*.

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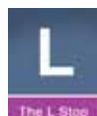
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Wendell Pierce (left) and director Joshua Sanchez on the set of *Four*. Photo by Seung Hun Lee

## MOVIES

# Joshua Sanchez: 'Four' on the floor

BY GARY M. KRAMER

*Four*, opening Sept. 20 at the AMC River East, is an outstanding character study directed by Joshua Sanchez.

The filmmaker adapted Christopher Shin's play about two couples that meet up for sex on the same Fourth of July. June (Emory Cohen) is a shy, gay teen who arranges a hook-up over the Internet with Joe (Wendell Pierce), a married, gregarious African-American man. Sanchez deftly captures the awkwardness and strained intimacy of their encounter, which is contrasted with Joe's daughter, Abigail (Aja Naomi King), reluctantly meeting up with the smooth-talking Dexter (E.J. Bonilla).

In a recent Skype session, Sanchez talked about the queer characters in *Four*.

**Windy City Times: What were you like as a teen—shy but adventurous, like June, or more flamboyant, like his gay friend Todd (Liam Benzvi)?**

Joshua Sanchez: [Laughs] I was probably much more like June. I grew up in Texas. My parents were very religious. [Texas] was not a welcoming environment for a gay kid. I was not unhappy as a teen—I struggled with my sexuality, but I had other things to keep me afloat—I was into punk rock, skateboarding, and film. I wish I was more like Todd. Gay kids are like that now; the acceptance is greater. I wouldn't want to ascribe any kind of positivity to struggling with sexuality, but it does prepare you to deal with life. It is a good thing that kids get to be more open now.

**WCT: How do you think audiences, in general, and gay men, in particular, relate to the characters of Joe and June?**

JS: I feel that a lot of gay men have a reaction to Joe that is nuanced and complex. You can read all kinds of unsavory aspects to his character, but to me, he was a man who was dealing with a lot of common gay male stuff. It was normal in my view of how gay men develop and the challenges they face. It makes folks uncomfortable to see the younger man-older man gay male relationship, which is common for younger guys who look to older men to show them how to be gay. One of the aspects of June's character is that we don't see him as a victim.

**WCT: The film has themes about being big; being proud of oneself, and believing in oneself...**

JS: I guess that Joe himself—that moment where he asks June to "be big, be American," is right after they first meet, and in a way it is the inciting aspect of the movie. It's setting the tone of the rest of the film. It brings this confidence out of June. It's also hypocritical, because Joe has such a twisted notion of what that means for himself. That's kind of part of growing up, reconciling aspects of yourself that you're not comfortable with, and learning to love yourself and keep your self-confidence up.

**WCT: And you did that, coming out? What are your experiences as a gay man?**

JS: When I came out I was 23, and it was in 2000. It was not the easiest thing. I came to New York [for school], and I knew I had to get out of Texas. It was about getting that distance away. I needed that space to come into my own sexually and otherwise. I had a few boyfriends before I landed into a long-term relationship with an older man for seven years. He's still a huge part of my life, but I'm in another long-term relationship now, with a guy whose more my own age. I felt that "Four" was honest to my experience.

**WCT: What makes your film so effective is how you frame the characters. You cut back and forth between Joe and June in the car—visually isolating them even though they are sitting side by side.**

JS: We used a handheld camera to tell the story effectively. We shot it in scope—a long rectangular box—which could keep two characters in the frame at the same time and then pull focus since it was so much about two characters in the same scene.

**WCT: How did you decide to film the sex scenes? They are passionate, but not erotic. What was your goal in depicting sex in *Four*?**

JS: I approached it by [asking], "What would typically happen in a situation like that?" Staging it was hard for all of us. We shot the Joe/June part in a real hotel room, which adds an authenticity to the vibe. The talented actors were very unafraid—they wanted to push it even more than I was comfortable pushing it. They wanted to tell the truth of the situation. What made the difference was giving the space and time to the actors to do what they have to do to discover the beats of the performances to bring out the emotions.

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## NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

# Nina Garcia works the 'Runway'

BY JERRY NUNN

Since *Project Runway's* first season, Nina Garcia has been judging up-and-coming designers on the reality-competition show. The Colombia-born fashion journalist spent 13 years at *Elle* magazine before moving to *Marie Claire* magazine, serving as fashion director there since 2008.

Garcia has authored four books. Her last one, *Nina Garcia's Look Book*, came out in 2010.

*Project Runway* is currently on its 12th season. This time, Heidi Klum and Zac Posen join Garcia on the judging panel.

*Windy City Times* caught up to the busy fashionista during a hectic day at the office.

**Windy City Times: Tell our readers about your start in fashion.**

Nina Garcia: Well, I am originally from Colombia. I was born and raised there until I was about 15, in Barranquilla, the land of Shakira and Sofia Vergara.

**WCT: Not bad...**

NG [Laughs] Not bad, right? It is a small town but a nice place to grow up. I knew from very early on that my interest was in fashion. I had a mother that was very obsessed with clothes. She was not a very thin woman but she knew how to dress her body very well. She took a lot of pride in getting dressed and how she looked. I think that is where it came from, my fascination with fashion came from her and watching her deal with the way she dressed. She wasn't model-size or thin; she was voluptuous.

I loved playing in her closet and watching her get dressed. Very early I thought I wanted to be a designer. Later on I realized I didn't have the talent for designing but there were so many other opportunities.

Fashion for me when I was an 11-year-old in Colombia equaled being a designer. Later on in life I learned that fashion business is so much bigger than fashion design. At 15, I came to the States to boarding school and I have stayed here ever since. Slowly and surely I found my way into publishing and the magazine side of fashion. It has fascinated me for 20-plus years!

**WCT: Are you able to travel back to Colombia often?**

NG: I do, Jerry; I try to go at least three times a year. Three times a year hasn't happened in a while but we usually go for Thanksgiving and celebrate with my family. We usually make it twice a year.

I have two children that I have raised bilingual. They go back to Colombia a lot and know they are half-Colombian and half-American.

**WCT: Audiences never get to see this side to you on *Project Runway*.**

NG: I know. It is interesting that some of the viewers don't even know I am Colombian. With a name like Garcia that should be a big lead!

**WCT: Let's talk about the current season. It's already great.**

NG: It is a great season. Every season is different. Some seasons the contestants are very competitive and other seasons they unite and are very friendly. This season they are very quiet but very talented. Yes, there are big personalities like we have seen obviously but there are some very hard workers that are very gentle and have a lot of talent.

**WCT: There have been many openly gay designers and with this season we have Jeremy Brandrick, who has kids with his partner, and there was a gay engagement captured on the runway in front of you and**



Nina Garcia. Photo from Lifetime

**the other judges with Bradon McDonald.**

NG: That was phenomenal moment in TV where he proposed to his boyfriend on camera. We have had many seminal moments on *Project Runway* with Mondo and this was another one. It is interesting on the show when a lot of other issues come up, bullying, this marriage proposal and AIDS. It just happens naturally. It is one of those things...

**WCT: Heidi says that Christian Siriano is a favorite of hers from a past season. Did you have a favorite one? Possibly a Latin designer like Mondo?**

NG: Christian is obviously everybody's favorite. He checks in and stays in touch. He's been our success story and has done so well. Mondo is one of my personal favorites as well. I love the Brazilians. I loved Layana. I haven't seen her but I loved her. I loved Fabio. There was something very calm about Fabio that I like.

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## FALL TELEVISION

# Sean Hayes explains the world

BY JERRY NUNN

Sean Hayes is widely known for his role as Jack McFarland on NBC's *Will & Grace*, which ran for eight seasons. He won an Emmy Award, four Screen Actors Guild Awards, two TV Guide Awards and had seven Golden Globe nominations.

After *Will & Grace*, he appeared on *Scrubs* and *30 Rock*. He then made recent appearances on *Parks and Recreation* and *Hot in Cleveland*. He appeared on *Smash* where he played a TV star making his Broadway debut.

His local background served him well as Hayes was raised in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and attended Illinois State University, where he majored in performance.

He received a Tony nomination for *Promises, Promises* and hosted the Tony Awards in 2011.

His film credits include *The Three Stooges*, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* and *The Bucket List* as well as voice overs in *Cats and Dogs* and *Monsters University*.

Hayes formed a production company with Todd Milliner called Hazy Mills Productions. They have produced television hits like *Hot in Cleveland*, *Grimm*, *Hollywood Game Night* and, now, *Sean Saves the World*.

Hayes plays Sean, a divorced dad who is single and gay with a career and family.

Windy City Times gave a call to hear more about the show.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Sean. I'm calling from your hometown in Illinois.

Sean Hayes: How is it? Is it hot, hot, hot?

**WCT:** It's not too bad. It's perfect, actually.

SH: Oh, good.

**WCT:** Can you first talk about landing *Linda [Lavin]* for the new sitcom?

SH: That was actually the title we had at first, *Landing Linda* and then we just switched it to *Sean Saves the World* because that sounded too dirty.

*Landing Linda* is actually a great title. She is a living legend. A lot of people don't know her extensive success on stage and on Broadway. We've got a lot of theater folks on the show, which I think is a huge factor in cultivating a hit sitcom. Sitcoms I should say, are the closest things related to theater.

So in that sense, we are so fortunate to get *Linda* on board. Tony Award-winning *Linda Lavin*, who you could give literally any line to and she would get a huge laugh.

So aside from being incredibly talented and gifted in zingers and playing the truth of scenes, she is also an incredibly warm, down-to-earth person and we've developed this wonderful working relationship where I actually do feel like



Sean Hayes. Photo by Chris Haston/NBC

it's my real mom. Of course, nobody can take the place of my real mom but she certainly comes close.

**WCT:** You also have Megan Hilty on the show.

SH: She's fantastic. I mean we were so fortunate to get her and to have her come on board to share her talent. I'm excited for our viewers who are fans of hers from either *Smash* or Broadway to see on a large scale her comedy chops which are brilliant.

She is just a delight to have around and adds so much comedy to the team. So we're very lucky to get her.

**WCT:** Have you thought about musical numbers, with all these Broadway stars on the show?

SH: I know, right? I mean, my gosh, that would be fantastic. I always think it's funnier when people can't sing, but if we ever do get the opportunity, it would be great to showcase all of this talent on the show that has more than one

threat going on besides acting.

**WCT:** What is more work: a Broadway show or the new sitcom?

SH: Oh, hands down Broadway. Broadway is the most difficult thing or one of the most difficult things an actor can do. It's also the most rewarding. It's grueling but it's wonderful. It's like going to the gym and feeling great after.

**WCT:** Do you think you're going to try it again?

SH: Yes, I am sure I will. I don't know about a musical but if the right one comes along and the timing is right then yes. I would really like to do a play and I'm working on something right now that I possibly do next year.

**WCT:** Who are some people who inspire you?

SH: Well, my comedy idols were Martin Short and Steve Martin. My music idols, classically, are Mozart and, in pop music, Andy Bell, which is a blast from the past. I just met him the other day.

**WCT:** What made you return to television with this project?

SH: Well, everything is about timing. Everyone from fans to friends were asking me when I was coming back. When I met with Victor Fresco, the creator of this show, we were tossing around ideas and we landed on this one. I was like, "Yes, I've never seen that character on TV before, a single gay dad raising a family," or raising his daughter actually.

To me, television is all about characters you haven't seen and relationships you haven't seen. This one I haven't seen yet so I thought that was interesting.

**WCT:** How does it feel to play a lead character for a change?

SH: It feels great being in my first leading role on TV. It feels familiar which I love, but yet it

feels new and there's forward movement in me as a person and me as an actor, and hopefully America will see that.

It's definitely a different character than I've played before. This is a real leading-man kind of role in that he's a responsible grounded person with the voice of reason to the rest of the characters.

**WCT:** Where did the title of the show come from?

SH: That was the first title that Victor came up with. I hate coming up with titles and he just loved the irony of my character thinking the weight of the world, quite literally, was on my shoulders, and balancing all of the crazy people in my life.

It's kind of fun for my name to be in the title. It just seemed that the title fit the show perfectly for what my character goes through every week.

**WCT:** Your character is single in the pilot episode. Is he going to stay single?

SH: He's going to be a concubine and just ... no, of course the goal is for him to move forward and evolve as the show goes on. That includes more dating and, hopefully sooner than later, settling down with somebody and including that person into our family and mine and his.

**WCT:** Are you coming home for the holidays?

SH: I am not. I will come home for other things but I think this year I'm not coming home for the holidays. I might, though; I don't know. I would love to; I miss Chicago tremendously and all my friends live there and a lot of family.

**WCT:** Well, good luck with the show.

SH: Thank you so much.

**Sean Saves the World** airs Thursdays on NBC beginning Oct. 3.



Pet Shop Boys. PR photo

## Upcoming concerts and releases

### Concerts:

Empire of the Sun at Aragon Ballroom on Thursday, Sept. 12

Laura Mvula at Martyr's on Friday, Sept. 13

Melissa Ferrick at Space on Thursday, Sept. 19

Pet Shop Boys at Auditorium Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 28

Sarah Brightman at Rosemont Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 28

Sigur Ros at Auditorium Theatre on Monday, Sept. 30

Girl in a Coma with Hunter Valentine and Krissy Krissy at Double Door on Friday, Oct. 4

KASKADE at Navy Pier on Saturday, Oct. 12

Janelle Monae at The Vic on Monday, Oct. 21

Lisa Marie Presley at City Winery Chicago on Friday, Oct. 25

Jay Brannan returns at Schuba's on Sunday, Oct. 27

Cyndi Lauper at Chicago Theatre on Friday, Nov. 1.

### Releases:

Berlin—Animal—Sept. 17

MGMT—MGMT—Sept. 17

Placebo—Loud Like Love—Sept. 17

Cher—Closer to the Trust—Sept. 24

Elton John—The Diving Board—Sept. 24

Icona Pop—This Is ... Icona Pop—Sept. 24

Mazzy Star—Seasons of Your Day—Sept. 24

The 1975—The 1975—Sept. 24

Joan Jett & the Blackhearts—Unvarnished—Sept. 30

Moby—Innocents—Sept. 30

Patty Griffin—Silver Bell—Oct. 8

Donna Summer—Love to Love You Donna (Remix Compilation)—Oct. 22

—David Byrne

## Celine Dion 'Loved Me...' set for Nov. 5 release

Columbia Records is releasing *Loved Me Back To Life*, the new album from multi-platinum-selling and five-time Grammy-winning musical legend Celine Dion.

*Loved Me Back To Life*, Dion's first English-language album in six years, will be released in the U.S. Tuesday, Nov. 5.

On this CD, Dion worked with musical figures such as Ne-Yo, Diane Warren, Stevie Wonder, Babyface and Janis Ian. Tracks include the title tune (which is the upbeat first single), "At Seventeen" (a cover of Ian's song), "Save Your Soul," "Unfinished Songs" and "Incredible" (a duet with Ne-Yo), among others.

Sean Hayes and Echo Kellum in *Sean Saves the World*. Photo by Justin Lubin/NBC

# CEO embraces—and is an example of—diversity at Roti Mediterranean Grill

BY ROSS FORMAN

After 13 years in management for Chipotle Mexican Grill, Ed Berg resigned in December 2011, and wasn't sure he'd work again. In fact, he purchased a motorhome and was traveling across the United States, along with his partner, Joel Nevarez.

Berg had last been a team director at Chipotle, overseeing 165 restaurants in five States and Canada. But, "it wasn't fun anymore," he said.

While traveling, Berg was contacted by a recruiter who informed him of this small restaurant chain called, Roti Mediterranean Grill. "I had heard of it, but never visited it," he said.

Berg agreed to meet with the Roti CEO at the time, and that also was the first time he had eaten Mediterranean food.

"I loved what I heard [from the CEO]; this was the culture that I was missing at Chipotle," he said.

Berg started at Roti, as it's known for its multiple rotisserie cooking style, on Nov. 19, 2012, as the company's senior operations director. The first thing Berg spearheaded was changing the culture of the restaurant, stressing participation, empowerment and openness, and embracing diversity.

This past March, Roti Chairman Mats Leder-



Roti CEO Ed Berg. Press photo

hausen asked if Berg would take the reins as CEO.

Berg never expected the offer, and had never been a CEO in the past.

Berg was named Roti CEO in early April, thus leading the ship of the fast, casual, Chicago-based, Mediterranean-cooking restaurant, with six locations in the Chicago market, 11 locations in Washington, D.C., and one in New York City.

"I owe Chipotle so much because they were so good to me. Our lives are immeasurably different and better because of Chipotle, and that's what allowed us to make the decision to travel for a year and then maybe do something different."

As CEO, Berg immediately brought in experienced colleagues because, as he often says, "Having great people on the team is key. I want to develop a great culture that rewards great people for helping us grow."

"The food business at times gets a bad rap, but it has been really, really good to me—and I want the same thing for other people. I want Roti to be a great place to live and work, not just to work."

"The most important thing in our company is, the people—not the food, or profitability."

Berg, 61, lives in North Aurora, where he's been for the past six years since moving to the Chicago market from Minneapolis. Berg and Nevarez have two dogs and a fenced-in yard.

"It's most important to have great people working at Roti, regardless if they are gay, straight, Hispanic, Black, white, Jewish, whatever; I don't care. I just want people who want to give back to others, work well with others,

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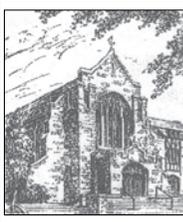
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## DISH from page 22

those who share, and those who care about making someone else better."

Roti certainly is one of the most accepting, diverse companies locally—with its gay CEO, and an out lesbian as the general manager of one of its suburban locations. Roti offers domestic partner benefits to all employees, including the LGBT community.

Berg said he would not have signed on with Roti if that was not the case.

Berg estimated that more than 10 percent of Roti's employees fall under the rainbow flag.

Roti was represented by more than 70, gay and straight, at the annual Chicago Pride Parade—including the chairman of the board, who is straight and attended the event with his two daughters. Straight investors in Roti also attended and participated in the parade, as well as a gay male restaurant employee who arrived at the parade in a dress with high heel shoes.

"Pride is really important to me," Berg said. "I wanted Roti to be a part of Pride, and a proud part of it."

The Roti entourage cruised past the near 1 million cheering supporters on and around a double-decker, London-style bus.

Company representatives also gave away t-shirts and free food coupons.

"I wanted it to be a great day, a fun day, one in which we truly embrace diversity. And we did," said Berg who, like almost everyone associated with the company, was shocked by the turn out to represent Roti. Most speculated it would only be 30, and even Berg only predicted 60.

Next year, Berg estimated there will be 100-plus marching with Roti in Chicago.

Roti also will participate in the 2014 gay pride parade in Washington, D.C., and then also in the New York City Pride Parade in 2015.

Roti produced a special Pride t-shirts with the familiar company logo in rainbow colors—and employees were allowed to wear the Pride shirt while working in any of the restaurants throughout Pride Week, and beyond. "We wanted to let people know that we're an embracing culture, an



Above: The fare at Roti. Right: Roti's pride T-shirt, front and back. Press photos

accepting company," Berg said.

Berg visits restaurants almost daily, usually unannounced, including the out-of-state locations. He knows most of the employees, greets them by their first name, and they welcome him, too.

Berg chose the top-selling chicken Roti plate, with a side of hummus and three-piece falafel (made with organic chick peas), to chomp on during this interview. He also praised the salad and told of pizza offered at the Northbrook and Vernon Hills location. He also said the moist, fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies are a must—and I agree.

"To me, the biggest surprise is how good our food is," Berg said. "I had never really eaten Mediterranean food [before joining the company], including hummus, but it's really good and good for you."

Roti offers delicious salmon from the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Maine, sustainably raised and delivered from the ocean to Roti in under a week, Berg boasted. Roti uses chicken from Amish country farms, raised in barns, not cages, and the chickens are antibiotic-free.

By the end of 2013, there will be 20 Roti Mediterranean Grill restaurants in the United States, with more than 600 employees.

## GARCIA from page 20

**WCT: Do you feel that you have mellowed a bit on the judging panel?**

NG: Do you think I have mellowed out? If you are asking me it's because you think so!

**WCT: Maybe Heidi has just gotten stricter in comparison.**

NG: I don't think I have mellowed out but I just think I need to give them more positive reinforcements. What I want for them is to succeed ultimately. I judge them and compare to what I see in the market. I don't want them to be scared of me. I want them to listen to me and get the constructive criticism. When I am too harsh on them I think they get scared and I don't want them to be scared.

**WCT: Is your work schedule at the magazine hectic?**

NG: The work at the magazine is great—yes, it is hectic. Anything that has a dateline to be published makes you always feel like you are scrambling at the last minute but it is exciting. No week is like every other week.

What is so exciting about the fashion industry is it's about change. It's about the new season, or the new shoe. It feels always exciting. I have been in the magazine business for a very long time. Sometimes I wonder why I am still doing this but it is because I love publishing a magazine. I love communicating to women what I see and kind of curating the best of the shows. It is all about embracing new ideas and seeing new designers. There is never a lull in fashion.

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# calendar

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## Wed., Sept. 11

**Five Fingers of Self-Defense: Free Personal Safety Workshop** Think, Yell, Run, Fight, Tell workshop will provide participants relevant tools for many types of situations from street harassment to physical assaults. Co-Sponsored by Alderman Tom Tunney, 44th Ward. Space limited. Register online. 7pm-8:30pm, 773-472-7663, Thousand Waves, 1220 W. Belmont Ave., Tickets: <http://www.thousandwaves.org/vpreg.htm>

**Q&A Trivia w/ Kwizmaster Kirk Williamson** Join Nightspots' own Kirk Williamson as he challenges the audience with a variety of questions while bartender Jeff serves up \$5 Rukk cocktails. Get your team together, because the first place team receives a \$25 @mosphere certificate. Drink prizes for second and third place teams as well. 8pm-10:30pm, Atmosphere Bar, 5355 N. Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/qatrivia>

**Book-signing and lecture** "Yearning to Breathe Free: Three Women Search for Meaning in 19th Century Chicago" the "Avenue of Dreams" series of historical novels explores the lives of three women and the challenges they overcome in order to live life on their own terms. 7pm, Glessner House Museum, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., <http://www.glessnerhouse.org>

## Thursday, Sept. 12

**The Dinner Party** The host of Fear No ART,

Elysabeth Alfano, invites three national or Chicago celebs and a known chef to a dinner party. Conversation flow over food, wine, chocolate, Twitter and a few impromptu performances, filmed live and streaming on the "Splash" section of the SunTimes.com and on WindyCityTimes.com. Be a part of the party and live filming at Chicago City Winery. 6:30pm Cocktails and 7 pm start time. No seating past 7:15 pm when food is served. Tonight's guests: Chicago Fire and Sex and the City TV star, David Eigenberg, Second City Comedienne, Katie Rich; Artistic Director of the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls; Chef Jason Vince of Nightwood. With opening act pop singer, Yemi Marie \$40. Advance purchase necessary. 6pm, City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph St.

**Lillstreet Loft Business & Community Open House** Enjoy new private event space, Lillstreet Loft, plus appetizers and refreshments provided by Provenance Food & Wine. Register online. 6pm-8pm, 773-769-4226, Lillstreet Art Center, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1405631879654274/>; Tickets: <https://lillstreetloftopenhouse.eventbrite.com/>

**World Music Festival Chicago 2013** The festival will open at Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park and close with "One World Under One Roof," an open house featuring nine groups on Sept. 22. Chicago Cultural Center. 6pm, Citywide, <http://worldmusicfestivalchicago.org>

**Furry and Fabulous GLTB Wine & Cheese Event** Chicago Canine Concierge and Chicago Party Animals host pups and their parents. Mix and mingle, enjoy special treats, wine and cheese and goodies from pet vendors. Purchase tickets online and you'll be entered to win a free dog birthday party or \$200 towards any social event at Chicago Party Animals plus a doggie gift basket. 7pm-10pm, 224-578-5698, Chicago Party Animals, 1133 W. Fulton Market; Tickets: <http://furryandfabulousdogs.eventbrite.com>

**Hatboxes screening** Part of Chicago International REEL Shorts Film Festival; 11:30pm, Film Row Cinema of Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S Wabash Ave., 8th Floor, Chicago, <http://www.projectchicago.com/schedule.html>

## Friday, Sept. 13

**Hofbrauhaus Chicago** Hofbräuhaus Chicago, the first and only German micro-brewery, beer hall and restaurant in the Chicago area, will celebrate its first annual Oktoberfest Sept. 13-Oct. 31. 11am-11pm, MB Financial Park, 5500 Park Place Rosemont, Ill., <http://www.hofbrauhaus-chicago.com>

**Howard Brown's Garden of Eve** Join Howard Brown for Garden of Eve in support of women's health services at Howard Brown Health Center. 6:30pm-11:30pm, River East Arts Center 435 E. Illinois St., Chicago, Illinois 60611, <http://www.howardbrown.org>; Tickets: <https://howardbrown1165.thankyou4caring.org/garden-of-eve-2013-tickets>

**Women's Work Festival, Lesbian Themes or Characters Written by Women** The work of six Pride Films and Plays finalists will be performed as enhanced staged readings through Sept. 15. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

**Female-Impersonator Hypnotist** Las Vegas headliner Bonnie Bitch, fast-paced and quick-witted, promises to make seemingly normal theater patrons ride imaginary roller coasters, dance with sock monkeys, and transform into sexy strippers. Each

show completely different, so come one or both nights. \$20 online, \$25 at the door. 7pm, Gorilla Tango Theatre (Bucktown) 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tickets: <http://www.gorillatango.com>

**Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry** An array of acclaimed artists from Chicago and beyond tell the powerful story of an African-American family living in a crowded apartment on Chicago's South Side during the 1950s. Previews August 20 - 25. Through Nov. 17. 8pm, TimeLine Theatre, 615 W. Wellington Ave.; <http://timelinetheatre.com>

**The Mystery of Irma Vep** Combines high camp with Gothic horror making this complex melodrama a satirical and vampirical delight. Two men, ten characters, and over forty costume changes in one of queer theatre's most beloved productions. 8pm-10pm, 847-424-0089, Piccolo Theatre, <http://www.piccolotheatre.com>

**Daft Punk: A Multimedia Mixdown** All Daft Punk related projects from 10-1 with DJ Greg Haus and special guest Adam El with a live vocal/DJ set. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

## Saturday, Sept. 14

**3rd Annual Ride Alive** Two person team scavenger hunt on bicycles benefits Alive Rescue. Celebration for all event participants after the race, with food (vegan & vegetarian), drink, prizes for teams that come in the first, second and third and those who raise the most funds. Register pre-Sept. 1 for a Ride Alive t-shirt and gift bag. 10am-3pm, 773.913.8100, ALIVE Rescue, The Little Barn, 2227 W. Belmont, Roscoe Village, finish at Canine Crews, 1616 N. Washenaw, Humboldt Park, <http://www.aliverescue.org/>

**The Ninth Annual Lakeview East Festival of the Arts** The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts. The Festi-



## 'EVE' IT TO DIVAS

### Friday, Sept. 13

Howard Brown's "Garden of Eve" will take place at the River East Arts Center, 435 E. Illinois St.

Photo from 2012 by Mel Ferrand

val attracts more than 40,000 people in Lakeview. Through Sept. 15. 10am-6pm, 773-348-8608, Broadway Ave., from Belmont Ave. to Roscoe Street., <http://www.lakevieweastfestivalofthearts.com>

**Rainbow Serenity's Annual Music & Arts Fair** Musical artists, arts & craft vendors, informational, non-profit booths, as well as local businesses. Benefits Rainbow Serenity's LGBT Community Center and the commUNITY. \$10, 6 and under free. Contact: [events@rainbowserenity.org](mailto:events@rainbowserenity.org). All Ages Event. 10:30am-8pm, 219-595-2321, Veterans Memorial Park, 5899 E 73rd Ave., Hobart, Ind., <http://fair.rainbowserenity.org>

Turn to page 26

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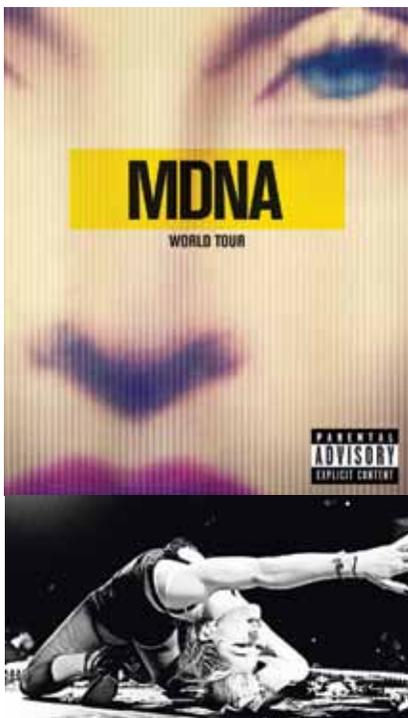
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# BILLY MASTERS

"Your homosexuality, it doesn't matter. We are all children of God. One way or another."—Pope Francis allegedly called a young man in France who wrote to the pontiff, very concerned that he'd burn in hell because he's gay. Look, I'm willing to believe that the Pope is calling people who write him letters. I'm even willing to believe Francis doesn't care if you're gay or straight. But I draw the line at believing that the pope is quoting a song by Blondie!

Lance Bass got engaged. Katie Couric got engaged. Zachary Quinto is dating a male model who wears skinny jeans. You can't avoid it—love (and being thin) is in the air. So, this is the perfect time to announce that I, too, am getting married. Of course, I have no idea when and I have no idea to whom. I'm not dating anyone



Andy Cohen may be a sports fan for a very good reason, Billy says.

special. Sure, I'm having sex, but not with anyone I particularly like. That said, mark my words, a wedding is in my near future.

When Lance Bass talked about his proposal to beau Michael Turchin, he discussed the dilemma he had finding a ring in New Orleans. "It's impossible. They don't make guy rings. Someone needs to start some kind of line for gay men's rings." I'm sure Lance is aware that his ex, Reichen Lehmkuhl, has a line of men's jewelry that includes rings. But I'm guessing it might have been awkward to buy a ring for his new partner from his old one—even if he did get a discount.

Perhaps I should take my quest for a mate online. After all, the Internet isn't just for hooking up. People have actually found love on these sites—admittedly, I don't know any of these people personally, but one hears rumors of such occurrences (much like a sighting of Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster or Kirstie Alley passing up dessert). A popular dating site is Christian Mingle—of course, that's just for heterosexuals. Or is it? Cheyenne Jackson and David Burtka (betrothed to Neil Patrick Harris) appear in a very funny parody commercial for "The Gay Christian Mingle" where they talk about how they found each other on the site by tricking the system and saying they were women looking for guys. See? Simple. Part of the parody says, "I think God has a plan for all of us. And even if that plan includes hell, it's still a plan." Even so, it probably isn't for me. I want to be the most important man in my partner's life, and I'm fairly confident I can't compete with Jesus—he's got better abs.

Rumor has it that Andy Cohen is planning a trip to the altar and his mate will be an NHL

star. I won't make you guess who it is—most of you would be stumped as to what the initials NHL stand for. Allegedly, Cohen is romantically involved with former New York Rangers forward Sean Avery (which would make him a hockey player). The two have been photographed at various events and even on vacation. However, not only have they never admitted to being a couple, but Avery has never admitted to being gay. Although there have been rumors about his sexuality for eons, he's also been linked with such women as Elisha Cuthbert and Rachel Hunter—not that that means anything. When Cohen was asked via Twitter if the rumors were true, he simply said, "Ask him." Avery posted the article on Instagram with the caption "Busted." So, what's the truth? Who knows. But a source close to the couple claims that they've been dating for over a year and a half and are secretly engaged.

The upcoming Broadway revival of Cabaret has finally found its Sally Bowles. Michelle Williams will be making her Broadway debut opposite Alan Cumming, who will recreate his Tony-winning portrayal of the Emcee. Liza Minnelli has weighed in on the news: "I'm excited to see what they will do with the show and am sure it will be great. Michelle is a wonderful actress and I love Alan Cumming."

Minnelli had an announcement of her own. She will join her sister, Lorna Luft, for two special concerts to benefit the Actor's Fund at Birdland on Oct. 14 and 21. These concerts will serve as the 2013 "Nothing Like a Dame" fundraiser, which raises money for the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative and the Dr. Philomena McAndrew Fund of Tower Cancer Research Foundation. "Lorna's Pink Party" will be hosted by Luft and will mark the first time she'll perform in New York since battling breast cancer last summer. "This event means the world to me. I'm so grateful to be feeling so well and performing again. These two Birdland nights are the perfect opportunity for me to gather some friends—including my sister—to raise money to help two essential organizations." You can get more info at ActorsFund.org.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Dan in Louisville: "Who is the hot guy in the Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing commercials? The guy who is always shirtless? WOW! What else has he done? He looks so familiar. I doubt he's gay, but please tell me you have some nude shots of him."

His name is Anderson Davis and, you're right—he's incredibly attractive. Although he's done lots of work (including quite a bit of underwear modeling), this Kraft campaign really put him on the map. He's shown up on a number of talk shows—The Tonight Show, Live with Kelly and Michael, and even on Andy Cohen's gabfest as a bartender (who, needless to say, was shirtless). You also might have seen him on an episode of CSI, in the documentary The Adonis Factor, or more likely in the music video for Katy Perry's "Thinking of You." You're right—he does appear to be straight. At least, that's what I got from one of his Twitter posts: "I have some absolutely amazing gay friends!" I have some absolutely amazing photos of him that I'll post on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm promoting dressing instead of undressing, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before we wrap up, I'd like to send out my own congratulations to Chaz Bono on his remarkable transformation. About 16 months ago, he embarked on a fitness regime and vowed to lose over 60 pounds. Thus far, he's lost 45 and looks terrific. Not skinny enough to date Zachary Quinto, but who is? For more stories, photos, and naught videos, be sure to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's never skinny on content. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the Pope gives his blessing to "The Gay Christian Mingle" website! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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One entry per person, please.

# Cubs honor national champion Chicago Force

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Force got together Tuesday night, Sept. 3, for the first time since winning the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) national championship back on Aug. 3 in San Diego—and they reunited in grand fashion.

The team was honored with a pre-game, on-field salute from the Chicago Cubs—and even Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts sported a Force jersey, with "RICKETTS" on the back.

Force kicker Tricia Charbonneau threw out the ceremonial first pitch, and quarterback Sami Grisafe sang the national anthem.

"This was amazing, a phenomenal experience," said Force owner Linda Bache. "It was incredibly generous of Laura Ricketts and the Cubs to invite us out here to acknowledge our national championship. The team is thrilled.

"Laura Ricketts is a huge supporter of women's sports."

Ricketts did the pre-game coin-toss before a Force game in 2012, and actually offered the Wrigley Field honor to the Force last season, Bache confirmed.

Almost all of the players attended Tuesday, along with some

coaches and front-office staff. David Gassman, the owner of Spin Nightclub in Lakeview and a longtime supporter of the Force, also attended.

Force head coach John Konecki was not able to attend due to his commitments as the head coach of the Crete-Monee High School football team.

"Tricia's pitch was perfect. She said she practiced a little, and it was obvious," Bache said. "To have Sami sing [the national anthem] at Wrigley Field was phenomenal; the crowd went crazy," as she was singing.

Cubs owner Tom Ricketts met the Force in their seats down the first-base line. He congratulated Grisafe on her singing and posed for photos with several of the players.

The Force will hold its 2013 team banquet Saturday, Oct. 5.

"As we were gathering outside Wrigley Field, it took us right back to San Diego; it felt like we had just won," the national championship, Bache said. "It was a great feeling, then and still now.

"And I have one more word, repeat."

Additional photo spread by Ross Forman at [www.windycitymedia-group.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php](http://www.windycitymedia-group.com/gay/lesbian/news/photospreadthumbs.php).



The Chicago Force women's football team poses outside Wrigley Field. Photo by Ross Forman

## CALENDAR from page 24

**CSB's Starry Night** Chicago Spirit Brigade's 4th annual Starry Night fundraiser, an evening of open bar cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres on an East Lakeview rooftop. 7pm-10pm, The New York Private Residences, <http://www.chicagospiritbrigade.org>; Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/440834>

**Out in the Park at Six Flags Great America** Private LGBT event featuring unlimited rides, live music, party-celebration dance area. \$38, portion to benefit Chicago House. 8pm, Six Flags Great America, 1 Six Flags Parkway, Gurnee, <http://goprider.com/z83p>; Tickets: <http://www.gaysixflagschicago.com>

### Sunday, Sept. 15

**Angelina Ristorante "Gay Church" Brunch** Known in Boystown as "Gay Church" this Sunday tradition brings cute people & tasty food together! Join Zany Philip, Straight Graham, Cute Bryan, Misbehaving Mikey, Bottle-Popping Justin, Pretty Teresa, Charming Daniel, Super Model Jayson, and Benny the Harry Potter look-a-like for this loud and delicious celebration. CASH ONLY; 11am-2:30pm, Angelina Ristorante, 3561 N Broadway, <http://www.angelinaristorante.com/>

### Monday, Sept. 16

**Dollar Drink Night with DJ Laura B!** Due to popular demand, \$1.00 drinks have made a return to Monday's at Hydrate. Featuring DJ Laura B spinning your favorite drinking tunes till 4am! 10pm, Hydrate Nightclub, 3458 N. Halsted, Chicago, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

### Tuesday, Sept. 17

**Drag Race with Frida Lay** Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premier in 2000. 10am, Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N Halsted St, Chicago, <http://www.roscoes.com> more information

**Cosmo Karaoke Tuesdays** Join Bonsai for karaoke every Tuesday, new songs added weekly. \$7 Cosmo all night long. 10pm-11:30pm, 773-248-0100, Bonsai Bar & Lounge, 3503 N Halsted St., <http://bonsaibarchicago.com>

### Wed., Sept. 18

**Fifth Anniversary Speaker Series Luncheon: Hillary Clinton** Chicago House Social Service Agency and Co-Chairs Christy Cressey, Betsy Ebeling, Todd Hamilton and Michael Leppen; 11:30am-2pm, Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S Michigan Ave., [http://www.chicagohouse.org/event\\_chicago\\_house\\_speaker\\_series.html](http://www.chicagohouse.org/event_chicago_house_speaker_series.html)

**Wabash Arts Corridor Crawl Kicks Off Expo Chicago** Kicks off International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art at Navy Pier, showcasing cultural assets of Chicago's newest creative community with gallery openings, concerts, performances, demonstrations, sales, a pub and food crawl, tours of new buildings, the unveiling of the new Papermaker's Garden, and a Joffrey Ballet rehearsal performance. Free. Information, call Norman Alexandroff. 5pm-8pm, 312-369-7416, Wabash Ave. between Congress and Roosevelt

**Signs of Life** A new drama with music based on the true story of the Czech ghetto Theresienstadt, tells one of the most fascinating and least known stories of the Holocaust. 8pm-10pm, 773.871.3000, Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N Lincoln Ave., <http://www.signsoflifethemusical.com>

### Thursday, Sept. 19

**Allies for Marriage Equality** Illinois Unites for Marriage Equality, \$50 ally ticket or more to help assure marriage equality in Illinois. Beer and well drinks for 3 hours included in your contribution. Mia Phifer at [mia@miaphifer.com](mailto:mia@miaphifer.com) or by phone. 5:30pm-8:30pm, 773-398-6986, Vertigo Sky Lounge, 2 West Erie Street, Chicago, <http://www.ilunites.org/allies>

**EXPO CHICAGO/2013 opening night preview** Art Expositions, LLC presents EXPO CHICAGO/2013, The International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art. Opening night preview benefits the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; 6pm-9pm, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., <http://www.expo-chicago.com>

## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



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

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985  
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