



**SOCCKER STAR  
ABBY  
WAMBACH**

PAGE 27

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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**CHRISTINA PERRI  
TALKS KATY PERRY,  
HER CHILDHOOD  
AND HER NEW CD**  
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## LGBT senior housing applications to open

BY TRACY BAIM

Heartland Housing and the Center on Halsted are in the final months of realizing their goal of combined senior housing and a senior center to serve the LGBTQ and allied community. The first units are expected to be occupied by end of August or early September.

The Chicago Housing Authority is currently reviewing existing applications for potential residents, and after that is done the Center on Halsted will interview their clients' applications.

In a tour of the facility April 18, Center on Halsted CEO Modesto Valle proudly showed off the various parts of the buildings, one totally new, the other in the renovated Town Hall police station, at the corner of Addison and Halsted.

The public entrance to the buildings will be from Addison street, which opens into a foyer and community space open to all. Further north is the entrance to the brand new building which will house 79 residential units, both studio and one



Right: Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle at housing construction site. Photo by Hal Baim

bedroom, for seniors. The one bedrooms can accommodate two people if requested and approved.

The second floor of the old police station will be a kitchen, living room, exercise room, case management offices and community space for residents, and then to the north are the seven floors of commercial space, apartments and offices. Along the east side of the housing complex will be a terrace along the entire front, on top of the commercial space.

In June 2011, Center on Halsted announced plans with Heartland Alliance to build the Midwest's first affordable LGBTQ Senior Housing facility on the lot adjacent to the Center, which itself opened in 2007. The first floor of the housing building has commercial space in the front, a lobby, and then parking for residents behind in a large enclosed garage.

Heartland Housing are the experts in building affordable housing, and they will operate the housing portion, Valle said. The Center will provide the wrap-around and supportive services, in addition to moving the senior services from next door at the Center on Halsted.

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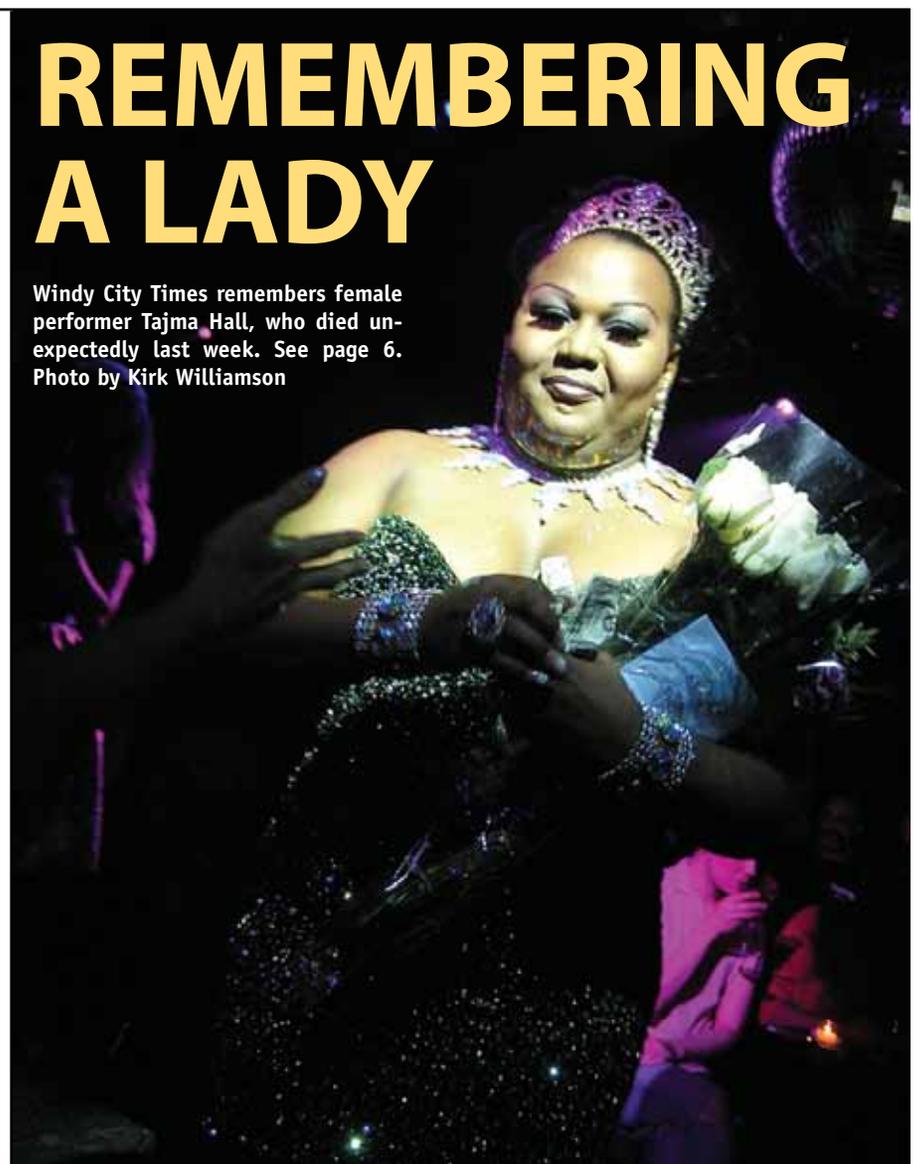
## CAMERON GETS REAL



Cameron Diaz—who stars in the movie *The Other Woman* (out April 25)—talks about everything from sexuality to plastic surgery. See page 22. Photo by Barry Wetcher

## REMEMBERING A LADY

Windy City Times remembers female performer Tajma Hall, who died unexpectedly last week. See page 6. Photo by Kirk Williamson



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Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Abby Wambach from Mark Novak/WNY Flash; photo of Dr. Brian Mustanski from Mustanski; photo of WACT banner from Melvyna Gaynor; photo of Christina Perri by Jerry Nunn



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### GLAAD TO MEET YOU

Spokesperson Omar Sharif Jr. (left) was among those at the GLAAD Hatter Brunch. Meanwhile, a revitalized ALMA held an event at Kit Kat Lounge.

Photo by Jason Carson Wilson



Precious Davis (above) and Shea Coulee led a drag/burlesque workshop.

Photo by Vern Hester



Dr. David Shifrin sheds light on cosmetic surgery.

Photo from Shifrin

### MINER INFRACTION

Comic-book illustrator Matt Miner riffs on animal liberation and animated lesbians.

### WORK OF ART

See images from artist Orlando Barsallo's recent body-painting exhibition.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Jodie Foster, Gloria Estefan and the late poet James Baldwin.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

### SAY YES TO THE 'S'



The 2014 Toyota Corolla S shows marked improvement in the line.

Photo from Gaywheels.com

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## OUT AT CHM

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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Judge Mary Yu. Facebook photo used with permission

## Lesbian of color poised to make history at Wash. state supreme court

BY SARAH TOCE,  
THE SEATTLE LESBIAN

Judge Mary Yu volunteered her time to marry the first same-sex couple in Washington State, Sarah and Emily Cofer, at 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 9, 2012. It was her day off from the bench, but she wouldn't have missed her midnight-to-seven a.m. shift for the world.

"Once the right to marry became legal in Washington State for all couples, I felt no one should have to wait a minute longer and so I made myself available to anyone who wanted to get married," recalled Yu. "We were surprised at the enthusiasm and presided over marriages throughout the night. It was a very exciting moment for the couples."

Fast forward to April 18, 2014: Yu is being considered to fill the Washington State Supreme Court vacancy left by Justice Jim Johnson, expected to retire April 30. There are 20 other applicants. Gov. Jay Inslee will likely make his decision this week. If appointed, Yu would become the first LGBT justice on the Supreme Court and the first Asian-American and woman of color as well. However, she would have no time to rest on her laurels; Yu would have to conduct a quick turnaround to retain the seat in November.

Yu would come to the Supreme Court with 14 years of trial-court experience. The Chicago-bred daughter to first generation immigrants—her mother is Mexican and her father is Chinese—has attempted this position before, in 2007, but was not chosen for the seat.

Yu has stated that if appointed she would run a competitive statewide campaign to retain the opportunity to serve on the court in Olympia.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving of appointment and election to the Washington Supreme Court than Judge Yu," said fellow King County Superior Court Judge Dean S. Lum. "Gov. Inslee has an opportunity to make history for not only the fast-growing API community, but all Washingtonians."

"The state Supreme Court is the highest court in our state. There is no more important judicial appointment that the Governor makes than this," Judge Anne Levinson (ret.) told The Seattle Lesbian. "The Court rules on a wide range of critically important issues that affect every person, business and government jurisdiction across the state. The cases that come before the State Supreme Court could involve a state voter initiative, whether the State is meeting its paramount duty to fund public education, whether criminal conviction should be upheld

or whether a law is discriminatory. For state issues, they are the final decision-makers on whether a law is constitutional. This the court that in 2006 decided 5-4 against marriage equality."

Levinson added, "Judge Yu not only has a stellar record as a trial court judge, but has also devoted her time off the bench to improving access to justice for all communities and mentoring the next generation of attorneys. When we were poised to have same-sex weddings begin in our state, she was the first judge I called and without hesitation she volunteered to start officiating at midnight that Sunday and went until 7 a.m. that morning so that couples would not have to wait a day longer to get married. Some of the first couples to get married in the months that followed were couples for whom she had presided over their adoptions in past years. It meant everything to them that she would officiate."

"She is a community leader that is active and engaged," said former City of Seattle Councilwoman Martha Choe. "She is highly regarded by the attorneys in her courtroom, as well as her peers. She is also highly rated by bar associations and kept in high regard by the Washington State Bar Association."

The article originally appeared at <http://theseattlelesbian.com/judge-mary-yu-poised-to-become-first-woman-of-color-member-of-lgbt-community-appointed-to-wa-state-supreme-court/>.

### HHS announces Medicare info for same-sex marriages

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the Social Security Administration (SSA) is now able to process requests for Medicare Part A and Part B special enrollment periods, and reductions in Part B and premium Part A late enrollment penalties for certain eligible people in same-sex marriages, according to a news release.

While the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) manages Medicare, SSA is responsible for determining eligibility for, and enrolling people in, Medicare.

For additional information, visit <http://medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/same-sex-marriage.html>.

## India court recognizes transgender community

India's top court recognized the country's transgender community as a third gender in a landmark judgment and human-rights groups, praising the development, have called on the government to ensure their equal treatment, according to Reuters.

There are hundreds of thousands of transgenders in India, say activists, but because they are not legally recognized, they are ostracized, discriminated against, abused and often forced into prostitution. The court ruling—which came after hearing a petition filed by a group of transgender individuals demanding equal rights—recognized the community as a marginalized group and directed authorities to implement policies to improve their socioeconomic status.

"We are quite thrilled by the judgement," Anita Shenoy, lawyer for the petitioner National Legal Services Authority (Nalsa), told the BBC.

"The court order gives legal sanctity to the third gender. The judges said the government must make sure that they have access to medical care and other facilities like separate wards in hospitals and separate toilets," she said.

Trikone-Chicago—a registered not-for-profit organization for LGBTQ South Asians and their family, friends, allies and community—issued a statement lauding the judgment.

"[T]he Supreme Court of India instructs the state to identify the transgender community as a minority and recommends the state to institute affirmative action policies aimed at social inclusion, better education, employment opportunities and access to health care," the release states. "It also directs the state to adopt the recommendations of the expert committee constituted to study issues faced by transgender individuals within six months of submission of the report."

"We hope that these directions are followed through by the state. We hope that these directions are followed through by the state. We also hope they are followed through irrespective of any administration that assumes office after the elections that are underway in India."

The release also states a local connection to the decision: "[A]s a Chicago-based organization, we are happy to see Chicago cited as the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois struck down the municipal law prohibiting cross-dressing in *City of Chicago v. Wilson et al*, 75 Ill.2d 525 (1978).

"Trikone-Chicago hopes, with cautious optimism, that this provides some justice and opportunity to the transgender community in India."

—Andrew Davis



Legacy Project Executive Director Victor Salvo in a screen shot. Video by Ryan Bishop

### 'Equality House Presents The Legacy Project' launches

The grand opening of "Equality House Presents The Legacy Project" recently drew hundreds of people to the groundbreaking rainbow-colored home located directly across from anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church compound in Topeka, Kan., according to a press release.

Visitors to the new permanent exhibit at Equality House were able to learn more about the many contributions LGBT people have made to world history and culture. The mid-April open house brought people from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma and Florida.

The Legacy Project at Equality House exhibition features 18 plaques, framed in bronze and under glass, representing people from throughout history giving visitors an overview of LGBT contributions throughout the centuries. The exhibition also features a multi-media component, with an iPad kiosk that enables visitors access to all the inspirational stories found on The Legacy Project's website, [www.legacyprojectchicago.org](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org).

The Equality House/Legacy Project installation is open to the public. Drop-ins are welcome, but larger groups are urged to call 850-585-7903 to schedule a visit before making the trip to Topeka.

The Legacy Project is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit that manages Chicago's "Legacy Walk"—a memorial streetscape spanning half a mile of the North Halsted corridor in Chicago that highlights some of the contributions LGBT people have made to world history and culture.

### Prop 8 defender has lesbian stepdaughter

Charles J. Cooper—the chief legal defender of Proposition 8 for the duration of the Perry case—has an openly gay stepdaughter named Ashley, and Cooper and his wife, Debbie, are helping to plan Ashley's upcoming wedding to her partner of several years, according to LGBT Weekly.

The news was disclosed in Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jo Becker's upcoming book *Forcing the Spring: Inside the Fight for Marriage Equality*.

In a statement, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said, "I spent the better part of five years sitting across courtroom aisles from Mr. Cooper, disagreeing with just about every word that came out of his mouth, but I have profound respect for his decision to love and celebrate his daughter and her fiancée because his story reflects the experience of so many of the 90 percent of Americans who personally know someone who is LGBT."

### La. keeps outdated sodomy law

The Louisiana House voted 66-27 to keep the state's unconstitutional sodomy ban under Louisiana's "crimes against nature" law, according to The Huffington Post.

The Supreme Court's 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas* decision invalidated all state bans on gay sex, declaring them unconstitutional. However, Louisiana, along with several other states, has refused to strike the provision from state law.

# \$8.7M grant for young MSM and HIV study

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Thanks to an \$8.7-million grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Drug Abuse, the largest comprehensive study of young men who sleep with men (MSM) recently launched.

The multidisciplinary study, "Multilevel Influences on HIV and Substance use in a YMSM Cohort," will include psychologists, physicians, virologists, developmentalists, network scientists and statisticians from Northwestern University, Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Throughout the study, researchers will look at the genetics of the virus, effects of medications, individual behavior, sexual partner and relationship characteristics, networks and community-level factors.

Dr. Brian Mustanski—director of the IMPACT LGBT Health and Development Program in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University—will lead the study.

"We are motivated by the fact that each year in the United States about one-third of the HIV infections that occur are among adolescents and young adults ages 13-29. ... Seventy percent of those infections are among young gay and bisexual men and other young men who have sex with men (MSM)," Mustanski said.

The Center for Disease Control recently found that 15 percent of men who have sex with men ages 25-29 were HIV positive.

"If the current rate of infection continues it is estimated that 40 percent of these young men will be HIV positive by the time they turn 40," Mustanski said.

He added, "The face of AIDS is changing to really be young gay men in the United States. And, of course, Black gay men are disproportionately affected."

By taking a multilevel approach the study will try to determine what is driving this epidemic, and how factors are interrelated.

"We've had little pieces of the puzzle over the last few years, different studies looking at a specific aspect of it, whether it be the role of a medication or the role of an individual behavior, people are starting to study networks, but this will be the first study of its kind to look at all of these different levels of drivers at the same time," Mustanski explained. "That is really what is so exciting about this study."

Mustanski pointed out that young Black men are disproportionately affected, but previous studies have indicated they are not taking any greater risks than their white counterparts.

"They don't have any more unprotected sex. They don't use condoms less. They don't use drugs more," Mustanski noted. "In fact, Black young men are doing a very good job of trying to protect themselves, but unfortunately they are getting infected more often."

He said that a recent study focused on social and sexual networks is shedding some light on the reason that young Black men might be facing higher HIV-infection rates.

"Their networks are denser, they are more tight-knit, they are more likely to have a sexual partner from a neighborhood in Chicago that has a higher HIV prevalence," he explained.

"I think that is one example that sets up why we need to be looking at things from this very interdisciplinary, multilevel way, because we are never going to really understand the epidemic if we just focus on individuals, if we just focus on biology, if we just focus on behavior. The explanations come from looking at these different levels at the same time.

Another big difference will be the age of the study participants. Mustanski said that the study will seek out 16- and 17-year-olds, and noted that this group of young people is rarely looked at in scientific studies of HIV.

"We actually know very little about LGBT people before the age of 18," he said. "That is when our habits develop, that is when we start to form our identity, when we start to form romantic and sexual relationships, and it's really important that we have information about people before they turn 18."

Mustanski will be inviting participants from his "Project Q2" study, which is the longest running longitudinal study of LGBT youth ever conducted, to be involved.

"So, by the end of the initial five year period of this grant we will have been following and interviewing some of the young men for 10 years," he said.

Mustanski expects 1,300 young gay and bisexual men as well as MSM from the Chicago area to participate in the study, which will include interviews every six months for five years as well as biomedical research such as blood samples and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

"Chicago is a really great place to understand and conduct this kind of research because of its diversity, because of the different neighborhoods, so its really going to be the base for the study," Mustanski said.

He hopes the grant will be renewed after the first five period so that the researchers will be able to continue following the participants and so that additional studies may be conducted.

"The focus of this grant is really to be a launching pad for many studies," he explained. "This is really to create a framework where we can build many, many studies, whether they be virology studies, behavioral science or network science, all these different things. People will be able to propose add on studies to our scientific team to continue to expand the science and address new issues that come out."

Mustanski said that the purpose is also to begin to address the findings immediately.

The Chicago Department of Public Health is a partner in the study along with many community organizations like Center on Halsted and Vida/SIDA. These partners will be vital in disseminating and addressing the study findings.

"It's so important to us that we take the science and we start putting it into applications, and really our goal is to change the course of the epidemic," he said.



Dr. Brian Mustanski. Photo from Mustanski



ALEXANDER GALLERIES



BUCELLATI



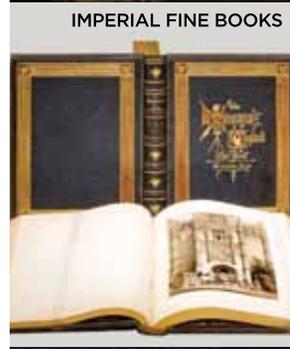
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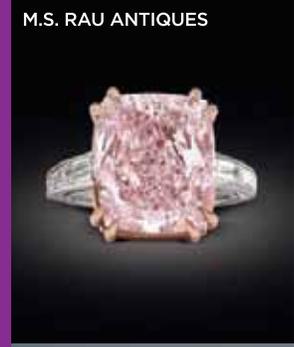


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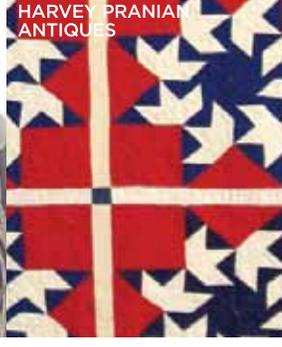


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REHS GALLERIES

# Performer Tajma Hall dies

BY ROSS FORMAN

Tajma Hall, a Chicago-based entertainer who shined worldwide, died Saturday morning, April 19, of cardiac arrest at Evanston Hospital. She was 44.

The Continental Pageantry System of Chicago, which showcases female performers and entertainment, confirmed the passing on its Facebook page: "With great sadness and a heavy heart we wish to inform every one of the passing of Tajma Hall. Forever now in the arms of Our Lord, this day—April 19, 2014."

Hall won numerous pageants around the world, including Miss Continental Plus in 2007, Miss Gay USofA At Large in 2008, and the Miss All-American about 15 years ago. Hall also hosted the popular Hy-Drag Revue at Hydrate Nightclub in Lakeview. Plus, she has been the official emcee for the annual Continental Pageant Plus & Elite for the past eight years.

"My heart is very, very heavy right now—extremely heavy," Jim Flint, owner of The Baton in Chicago and founder of the Continental Pageantry System, told Windy City Times in an interview April 19. "I didn't know what I was going to do without her [as the MC for the 2014 event]; I just planned to use someone as a substitute for her this weekend and then she'd be back in September to do her thing again."

"We have to go on because she would want us to go on, and she'll be with us. She never will leave us because she always will be with us in memory."

The 2014 Continental Pageant Plus & Elite, which was slated to start April 20 at the Park West and culminate April 22 at The Baton, also will have a pall cast over it as the 2013 winner—Whitney Paige, of Dallas—died last June of pancreatic cancer.

"It's been a hard thing for me since 9:30 this morning [when I heard the news]," Flint said. "If you look at the outpouring of [Tajma Hall's] friends on Facebook from all over the country, it's amazing. She's touched people in almost every major city in the country. She was known by everybody and was one of those people who you loved to be around."

Hydrate general manager Sean Kotwa said on Facebook that he is "at a complete loss for words at the moment. Not only did I lose a friend, a drag mother, but the world has lost an incomparable drag performer this morning way too soon! Lady Tajma Hall you will forever be in our memories and in our hearts."

Kotwa said April 19 in a phone interview that the news "is still very shocking, very difficult to believe."

"She was a very dear, sweet friend of mine personally," he said.

Tajma Hall hosted her show at Hydrate for 11 years, Kotwa said.

"I met Taj when I was 18, serving at Nookie's Tree, back in the day. She came in on Sundays and always had the same order," Kotwa said. "Then, when I first started [working] at Hydrate, I couldn't think of a drag name [to use]. She said, 'I'm going to give you the drag name that I first used: Shanita Jobs.'"

Kotwa still performs as Shanita Jobs.

"I don't think ever in her mind, or mine, we would be together for so many years," Kotwa said.

Tajma Hall, born K.B. Watkins, is originally from Fayetteville, N.C., and has lived in Chicago for about 20 years. As Watkins, she sang in her local choir, Flint said.

Jon Mindrum of Chicago wrote on Facebook, "She was actually the first drag queen I ever

met ... she used to be a guest speaker in Northwestern's Human Sexuality class for one class every year. She helped educate a lot of people."

David Hackett of Chicago said on Facebook, "Not the news I wanted today! Joining Vernita [Gray] and Frankie [Knuckles] and making a heavenly trifacta. RIP my lady."

"I met Tajma back in 2007 and we immediately hit it off over our love of gospel music," said Jimmy Kays, the founder of the Over The Rainbow annual fundraiser for cancer and a manager at Sidetrack. "She was one of the sweetest people I've ever known."

"Last year, I approached Tajma about performing at the third-annual Over The Rainbow benefit, and she jumped on board," he added. "I had no idea she was even having back issues until after she performed that night. She was a dedicated and amazing entertainer, and I'm so thankful that our paths crossed. This is a great loss for our community; she will be missed so much."

Christopher T. Guy was traveling to Chicago from Orlando for the 2014 Continental Pageant Plus & Elite. He said about Tajma Hall on Facebook, "Tomorrow is NEVER promised. I was coming to see you as we had planned when I landed in the morning. I love you so much and you brought such pure joy to my life and I will miss YOU so very much. I just don't know what else to say. My thoughts go out to all those competing this weekend and The Continental Pageantry System as well as the Gay USofA systems, but most of all her family and her chosen family which I was lucky to be a small part of. We lost one of the most beautiful souls that ever walked this earth. RIP."

Hall had back surgery within the past few weeks and was doing physical therapy to recover.

"She had been in the hospital after surgery for a few weeks and things had been dicey, but we were all hoping for an upswing," Flint said.

Jack Neilsen roomed with Tajma Hall in Chicago, and he regularly has been updating the world about her health through Facebook. On April 17 Neilsen said that, on April 14, Hall "was at ease with everything that has happened and more determined than ever to get through this minor bump in the road ... she was laughing and carrying on." Neilsen said that on April 15, he visited her and they "had the party room going."

Neilsen added that on April 15 "her spirits were the Taj we all know and love, she was eating her red jello, orange Popsicles, and cherry Italian ice."

Neilsen added, "I am so proud of her and the progress she is making ... keep your thoughts and positive vibes going for her [as] it's a long road ahead, but she has the power and determination to fight through this, not only for herself but for all those friends that know and love her."

Christopher Negron of Plainfield said April 19 on Facebook, "We lost an amazing person today!"

Monte R. St. James, of Atlanta, expressed his thoughts about Tajma Hall on Facebook, too, writing, "YOU WERE ONE IN A MILLION. IT'S SO AMAZING HOW MY GOD WORKS. ON THE WEEKEND OF CONTINENTAL PLUS, HE CALLS YOU HOME ... TEARS ARE SHED, BUT TEARS OF JOY AND HAPPINESS BECAUSE YOUR FIGHTING IS NOW OVER. MANY PRAYERS TO THE CONTINENTAL FAMILY, Jim Flint AND ALL THOSE COMPETING THIS WEEKEND. NO one knows the day nor the hour."



Tajma Hall lighting up the room at Hydrate in 2008. Photo by Kirk Williamson. See many more photos of Tajma Hall from the past 10 years online at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) and in next week's Nightspots.



Left: Tajma Hall with Hydrate owner Mark Liberson (photo by Kirk Williamson). Center: Hall with DiDa Ritz at 2013's Market Days (photo by Verdell Shannon). Right: Hall with Nightspots editor Kirk Williamson at her birthday Hydrag drag show in 2006.



Photo by Anthony Meade



Hall at The Baton Show Lounge with Continental promoter Steven Sena in 2012.



/windycitymediagroup

# Downstate transgender woman sues doctor

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lambda Legal, on April 15, filed a lawsuit on behalf a Mattoon, Ill., transgender woman who says she was denied medical care by her physician after she requested hormone replacement therapy from her physician.

The lawsuit alleges that the provider is in violation of the Affordable Care Act, which stipulates that medical facilities cannot discriminate on the basis of sex or gender identity, and that facilities receiving federal funds must treat transgender patients in the same manner as any other patient, according to a Lambda Legal statement.

Naya Taylor said that when she requested Dr. Aja Lystila, her primary-care physician, start her on hormone-replacement therapy in order to help treat her gender dysphoria, Lystila refused, claiming she was not experienced in providing hormones to transgender people. Clinic officials allegedly later told Taylor that they did not have to treat "people like you."

The lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Urbana Division.

"The provisions of the Affordable Care Act are clear: doctors receiving federal funds cannot discriminate in providing patient care just because a person is transgender," said Kenneth Upton, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal, in the statement. "Patients such as Naya Taylor place their health and well-being in a doctor's hands. Ms. Taylor asked for her doctor to provide services similar to those provided to other clinic patients who are not transgender and the doctor and clinic refused, posing a significant risk to Ms. Taylor's health. The ACA's non-discrimination provisions were intended to ensure appropriate medical care for transgender people,



Naya Taylor. Photo from Lambda Legal

a community that already faces a disproportionate amount of discrimination, violence and suicide rates."

Taylor added, "When they said, 'we don't have to treat people like you,' I felt like the smallest, most insignificant person in the world. The doctor and office provide hormone replacement therapy for others at the same clinic, they just refused to do that for me."

Upton is handling the case, along with Christopher Clark, counsel for Lambda Legal and M. Dru Levasseur, Transgender Rights Project director for Lambda Legal.

# Suspected Lake View assailant charged

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago man has been charged in the April 14 attack of a 22-year-old woman that took place in Boystown, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Marcus Lynch, 20, of the 4700 block of South Loomis Blvd., was charged with one count of aggravated criminal sexual assault with a weapon and one count of armed robbery. Nearby surveillance cameras helped identify the suspect, who was expected to

appear in bond court April 16.

The victim was attacked April 14 in an alley near the 3500 block of North Halsted Street around 4:25 p.m. The woman told police that she heard someone approaching from behind. He pulled out a knife and warned her that he would slit her throat, before forcing her to the back of a nearby garage.

After the assault, the attacker stole the victim's purse and iPhone, and warned her, "I know where you live," according to the Tribune.

The victim described the assailant as an African-American male between 25-32 years-old, 5'4"-5'5" tall, wearing a black skullcap, blue jeans and gym shoes.

# Rogers & Hollands adds Rony Tennenbaum jewelry

One of the largest family-owned jewelry chains in the country, Rogers & Hollands, is expanding its demographic reach and marketing to include the LGBT community by adding a new wedding jewelry collection created to celebrate marriage and equality.

The jewelry chain—which operates several stores throughout the Chicagoland area and throughout the Midwest—has announced the addition of Rony Tennenbaum's Jewelry collection to its bridal cases in both its Woodfield Mall location in Schaumburg, and in downtown Chicago's Water Tower Place stores.

Tennenbaum's outreach to the community on "The New Etiquettes of the Rainbow" aims to teach retailers and consumers about the new options in wedding jewelry etiquette. He also consults about making educated purchases.

Already distributed in states such as

Connecticut, New York, Illinois, Florida, Washington and Virginia, Tennenbaum said he is thrilled to be adding his line of wedding jewelry to the Rogers & Hollands chain.

For more information see <http://www.rogersandhollands.com> or [www.RonyTennenbaum.com](http://www.RonyTennenbaum.com).





## 2014 CELEBRITY BOWL

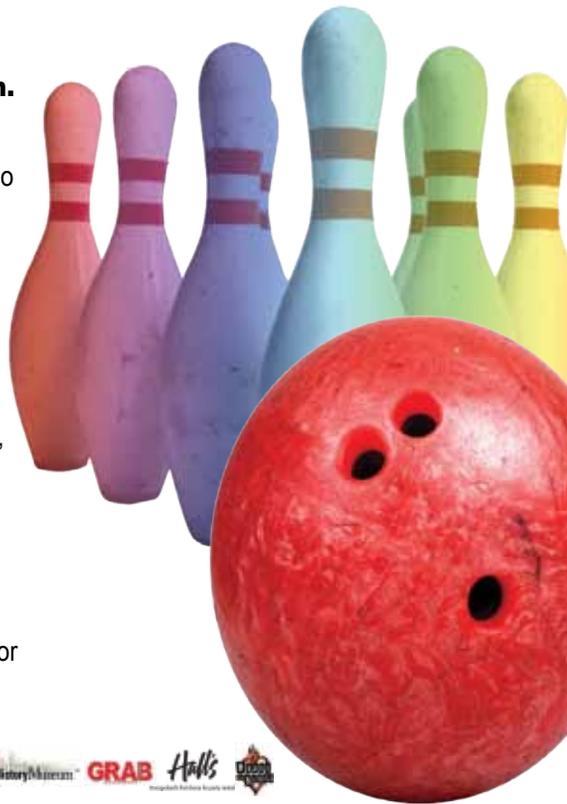
### FUNDRAISING EVENT

**Saturday, May 10**  
**Registration: 10-11 a.m.**  
**Bowling: 11 a.m.-noon**  
**Wrap-up: Noon-12:30 p.m.**

**Waveland Bowl**  
 3700 N. Western Ave., Chicago

This event is FREE and open to the public. Come cheer on over 20 celebrity bowlers including Ald. James Cappleman, Ald. Tom Tunney, Suzi Arnold, Gary Chichester, Tarrina Dikes, Mel Ferrand, Andrew Favreau, Tico Valle, Vera Washington and Zander Mander.

For sign-up info to become a Celebrity Bowler, please call the event coordinator Dick Uyvari at 773-769-5115





The 2014 Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl is sponsored by Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, 3712 N. Broadway, #637, Chicago, IL, 60613-4235; [www.GLHofFame.org](http://www.GLHofFame.org). Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) Illinois not-for-profit corporation.



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**Sunday JUNE 8TH**  
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# Women of All Cultures Together marks 20 years

BY SARAH TOCE

Chicagoans unite over many things: Cubs or Sox baseball, the Hawks and the Bulls, loaded hot dogs on Navy Pier, parties in Boystown or Andersonville, new retro merchandise at Gaymart.

But lesbians have an extra-special bonding experience every month. The group is called Women of All Cultures Together, or WACT. What? Never heard of them? That might just be intentional.

The Pot Luck Brunch group was formed in 1994 by Marilee Snyder, Evette Cardona, Phyllis Johnson and Claire Huang to provide a social-networking experience for women who did not want to participate in the bar scene. The slogan was a prompt tongue-in-cheek "A girl's got to eat." It was also called Women of All Colors and Cultures Together at the time.

But what happened during the first 20 years resulted in much more than the act of absent-mindedly inhaling Giordano's pizza.

Rita Adair says she feels a part of history being involved in WACT.

"For me it is a testament of women from all cultures who love women and desire a venue to network. I am very excited to know that for 20 years, without a political, religious or connec-

tion to another group, [WACT] has lasted and is doing well. This is history in the making, and I'm proud of WACT," Adair said.

Phyllis Johnson remembers: "I think [the 20th anniversary] is remarkable. Maybe the lack of an agenda is positive. Maybe more than ever the need to gather to socialize with a mix of old friends and new women is always needed. The anniversary is an opportunity to explore the possibilities of reaching beyond the systemic separation of cultures that still exist in Chicago's lesbian community."

"WACT holds a special place in my heart and soul. It's creation coincided with my coming out," Cardona said. "It introduced me to organizing in the lesbian community, and this was before Internet, Facebook or email—60, 70, 80 women who would gather every month, all done by word of mouth. And because of WACT I was able to meet amazing Latina lesbians outside of salsa night at Paris Dance, who were interested in forming a social network for Latina women who loved women. That network became Amigas Latinas, which was a transformative experience for me and hundreds of Latina women throughout the Chicago area."

Not everyone started with the group at its infancy. For Torlene Williams (known to the



Members of WACT. Image from Melvyna Gaynor

other ladies in the group as Toi), the celebration is infinitely sweet regardless of tenure.

"Having moved to Chicago seven years ago, being a part of this group has allowed me to meet many interesting and diverse women who have helped me integrate into the city. I also met my partner in this group," Williams said. "The intellectual, emotional empowerment, as well as support, has been astounding. We meet, converse and provide therapy on everyday living in this complex world and lifestyle. I am grateful. The organization has operated without a budget, formal structure and controversy because we all accept each other as human beings, supporting and strengthening who we are."

"We are everywhere and no one in particular is in charge," is what the group states on their material. Supporting "all lesbians and bisexual women," WACT attendees are "interested in meeting and befriending each other across ethnicities, ages, incomes, etc. We are about togetherness."

Togetherness includes working with other service organizations and gay-friendly community resources like The Literary Exchange, Af-

finity Community Services, Gerber/Hart Library, Horizons (now Center on Halsted), Evanston Group, Chicago 35, Women and Children First Bookstore, and Lezin Color.

A humble 10 ladies attended the first potluck brunch in 1994. Growing steadily throughout the decade and then fading in the 2000s, WACT is nothing if not resilient.

Now, in honor of the members' 20th year of friendship, support and acceptance, WACT is throwing a big party at the Chicago Theological Center, 1407 E. 60th St., on Saturday, May 3. Presenters will speak and a history of WACT will be displayed. Music by DJ Doris, line dancing lessons, networking and—of course, food—will be available. Parking behind the building is free.

Adair expects more than 150 people will attend.

Can't make it to the anniversary celebration? Attend one of the next WACT brunches, and bring a dish to share on the first Sunday of every month.

Find out more about WACT by visiting their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1424956277761473>.

## LGBTQ homeless youth summit May 2-5

CHICAGO—Windy City Times is hosting a summit May 2-5 on LGBTQ youth in the Chicago region, to assess the current issues impacting homeless youth, and new solutions to these complex issues. Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services, is the summit's director.

The title of the summit is "Owning Our Lives: Dream It. Speak It. Do It!!" The website for registration, donations and full information is <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com/>.

Each of the summit's three days will have a different area of focus:

—Friday, May 2, 2-8 p.m.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

Open to people 25 and under who have been impacted by homelessness.

Registration: FREE

—Sat., May 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

University of Illinois at Chicago, Behavioral Sciences Bldg, 1007 W. Harrison St.

Open to youth, nonprofits, government agencies, politicians, foundations, activists, service providers, academic researchers and individuals working on these issues.

Registration: \$45 adults, youth free

—Mon., May 5, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Museum of Broadcast Communications, 360 N. State St.

Report to government agencies, politicians, foundations (private, public and corporate foundations encouraged to attend), academics, and donors.

Registration: FREE

The first two days of the summit will be broken down into general plenary sessions and facilitated workshops focused on areas including: Housing issues (shelters, DCFS, HUD, etc.), public policy (city, county, state, federal), legal issues (emancipation, public safety), education and job training, healthcare access, mental health and substance abuse.

While attendance at the summit is focused on youth, non-profits, service providers, government and foundations, the summit does need help from the general public.

The summit has several goals, including:

—Looking at the complex causes of homelessness

—Shining a light on existing work being done

—Reporting on the gaps and needs

—Listing short-term and long-term strategies

—Creating action steps

Information and links to registration and donation pages here:

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com> or email: [youthsummit@affinity95.org](mailto:youthsummit@affinity95.org).

## SENIOR from cover

All of the units have kitchens and bathrooms, with shared laundry on each floor. They are for independent-living, and all are for those needing affordable housing. The rents will be subsidized, and will be based on average rents in the neighborhood.

"A lot of the units were designed and informed by the seniors at Center on Halsted," Valle said.

Construction began in June 2013. They have stripped the police station down to the bricks, and may leave some of those exposed. They are also returning the tin ceilings that were removed during construction and mold abatement. They are going for "Silver" certification for LEED, or Leadership in Energy

and Environment.

Valle said the dream for a senior facility started 10 years ago when they were first looking to open an LGBT community center. They knew that other properties might become available for expansion of services, including the Town Hall police station, which is why the location of the Center, at 3656 N. Halsted, was chosen.

For more information or how to apply for an apartment, contact Senior Services Case Managers Megan Jackson or Jonathan Tague at, respectively, [mjackson@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:mjackson@centeronhalsted.org) and [jtague@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:jtague@centeronhalsted.org), or call 773-472-6469. See <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/>.

Videos and more photos are online.



Center CEO Modesto Valle in front of the new senior center and housing facility. Photo by Hal Baim

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Members of Southside LGBTQ (Let's Gather, Building Together Quality community) Group. Photo from the organization

## Group reaches out to South Side LGBTQs

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

Contrary to conventional wisdom, queers exist on the South Side. Native South Sider Janet Anne Bloom, 56, decided pilgrimages should not be necessary for LGBTQ people to find community.

Bloom launched Southside LGBTQ (Let's Gather, Building Together Quality community) Group at the Unity Center, 3339 S. Halsted St., in July. It draws about 20 LGBTQ people—ages 21 and older—and meets from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Members range in age from 21 to 73.

"It's nice to have a safe space to be queer without going north," Bloom said.

The Unity Center, located in Bridgeport, began serving Lithuanians who began coming to Chicago and locating in that neighborhood. It served as a community center, from where a social network grew, according to Bloom.

It now serves the larger Bridgeport community. For instance, it's where people can sign up for the Low Income Heating and Electricity Assistance Program (LIHEAP). That is how Bloom discovered the Unity Center. Bloom is a cancer survivor, who was homeless before moving to Bridgeport.

Bloom is also an out and proud lesbian who identifies as queer and likes to knit. Testing the waters, Bloom asked Unity Center brass about holding a knitting group—before asking about a LGBTQ group.

She said they were enthusiastic about reaching out to the LGBTQ community, given the group's intended demographic. Each meeting begins with members sharing "one good thing" that happened.

Although the group has a varied age range, it averages under age 30. So, Bloom spends some time educating the young LGBTQ people about darker days in Chicago's queer community.

She shared the story about the Sept. 12, 1985, raid of the now-defunct Carol's Speakeasy, 1355 N. Wells St. A member confused the event with the Stonewall uprising. Bloom remembers being "in the bars before the time that sex killed." Most of the bars she frequented have closed.

Of course, not all group activity is that heavy. Game nights could include playing Cards Against Humanity. Also, members might just sit around and talk or network, or they might go on "field trips" to plays or LGBT institutions like The Baton.

However, they'll be participating in a drumming circle in First Lutheran Church of the Trinity's parking lot on April 24. The house of worship is Bridgeport's first church to welcome LGBTQ people to attend.

"We're here [and] we're queer—without fear," Bloom said. "It's about time the South Side acknowledges the queer community."

Showing affection to your same-sex partner isn't safe on the South Side, Bloom said. She believes the group would help form coalition for equality.

"There's safety in numbers," Bloom said. "That fight needs to come to the South Side."

She's clear about her ultimate goal.

"There doesn't have to be acceptance," Bloom said. "There has to be tolerance. They don't have to like it."

For more information, visit the group at its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/510479442403878/>.

archival material in Chicago and the Midwest.

To donate materials, call 312-413-7696, or email [fugikawa@uic.edu](mailto:fugikawa@uic.edu) or [lthomson@uic.edu](mailto:lthomson@uic.edu).

## WCT up for Lisagor journalism award

Windy City Times newspaper is a finalist for a Chicago Headline Club Peter Lisagor Award in the category of editorial writing for a non-daily newspaper.

The submission is for a series of 2013 editorials by WCT Publisher Tracy Baim on the battle for marriage equality in Illinois.

The winners will be announced at the annual awards ceremony Friday, May 2.

See full list of nominees at <http://www.headlineclub.org/>.

## Kate Ekman's labor of love: Pride at Work

BY ROSS FORMAN

Kate Ekman was officially elected president for Pride at Work Chicago in January, although she had been the acting president since last summer when Levi Pine transferred to Seattle.

Ekman, 36, lives in the Old Irving Park neighborhood and has called Chicago home since 2005. She is originally from Delavan, Wis., and also has lived in Madison and Southern California.

The purpose of Pride at Work Chicago is to mobilize mutual support between the organized labor movement and the LGBTQ communities. The group also welcomes anyone who identifies as LGBTQ, any union member and allies.

"Pride at Work Chicago meets monthly to discuss business that is chapter-wide, mostly our large-issue campaigns and to do house-keeping types of stuff. We generally meet on Saturdays, and convene anywhere that we can get some free space and where everyone feels comfortable," Ekman said. "Outside of monthly meetings, members

since we already have these protections in our state, but in Pride at Work we're still fighting for it as a national issue."

Other objectives for Pride at Work Chicago include:

—Developing a survey of area unions on LGBTQ benefits, protections and workplace environment. "As far as we know, no one has collected data surrounding the climate for LGBTQ people in unions or workplaces," Ekman said. "We intend to change that so LGBTQ people can better advocate for themselves and one another on the job."

—Preparing for the annual Chicago Dyke March and Chicago Pride Parade.

—Evaluating the group's first presentation at the national Labor Notes conference called Building LGBTQ Worker Power which, she said, "was a great experience."

Ekman said the Chicago chapter is not really reconstituted, "more a reboot or a new version."

"Mel Ferrand was heading the previous iteration from about 10 years ago and told us a little about the history there, but none of the past members are involved at this time.



Kate Ekman at the signing of the marriage equality bill. Photo courtesy of Ekman

break out into smaller committees to work on specific campaign issues that they feel passionate about, such as, ENDA [the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act]. These committees meet in between chapter meetings and work closely to accomplish specific tasks, bringing together the diverse bodies of knowledge and connections that an inter-union membership organization creates. Then, when the group meets together again, they report back on what they have done and where they may need support. We also do any relevant activities outside of meetings, [such as] phone banks, marches, volunteering, showing up at events to represent, etc.

"I want Pride at Work Chicago to be a known space where queer workers can come for support and to mobilize. My ultimate goal is to help transgender people have full health coverage. I'm not the only one in our group who would like to accomplish this, so I feel the more we learn, the more relationships with people and organizations we develop, the more we become a force to reckon [with] in labor, and the more likely we are to be able to help accomplish this goal."

Ekman said there are multiple projects now underway at Pride at Work Chicago, including participation in the passage of ENDA. "We aren't happy about the religious exclusions in the bill, but realize that with the energy and resources going into it right now, it gives us an exciting opportunity to be part of this fight to get millions of queer and trans folks protected from being fired for something that has nothing to do with their job performance," she said. "This bill has been on the docket for 20 years. In Illinois, it probably isn't on people's radars as much

We would certainly welcome them," Ekman said.

There are about 20 active members in Chicago.

"We are growing our base, trying to get representation from as many unions in the Chicago area as possible, [and] we now have people from more than 10 unions, such as Unite Here, UAW, the carpenters union, and more," she said.

Ekman also is the membership coordinator for Unite Here! Local 1, which is an international labor union.

Local 1 represents workers in hotels, airports, casinos, restaurants, convention centers and other in the Chicago and northwest Indiana area, with about 17,000 members.

Ekman coordinated Unite Here! Local 1's participation in the annual Pride Parade and the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality last October.

"Away from [the office], I [still] spend a fair amount of free time on Pride at Work stuff," she said. "I'm also learning Spanish. My sister just had a new baby, so I want to spend my time in Wisconsin with the kids. I [also enjoy] riding my bike and taking yoga [classes]; I can't wait for summer. Everything seems possible once I'm not freezing anymore."

Ekman also is an avid photographer and has been for years. Plus, she enjoys traveling and dancing.

"I'm all focused on things during nice weather," she said. "I think of the Hemingway quote 'gradually, then suddenly' and that is how I think about spring. It is happening gradually still right now, but I'm anxious ... I love being outdoors."

## Asian-American LGBTQ archive items sought

The Queer Asian-American Archive project based at the University of Illinois at Chicago is seeking materials for a new collection aimed at preserving local Asian American LGBTQ history.

Project organizers welcome donations of various items, such as newspaper and magazine articles, photos, posters, event programs and other memorabilia.

Laura Fugikawa, founder and co-director of the project, said she was inspired to establish the archive upon discovering that she and her students had limited research options when seeking queer Asian-American

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Marcelina K. Villalobos**  
 BY ROSS FORMAN



Her job title for United Airlines is ramp service agent, but that doesn't nearly tell what this Chicago native does for Chicago's hometown airline.

Marcelina K. Villalobos can guide airplanes in to the gate, or taxi them away for take-off. She loads and unloads planes of passengers' luggage, bundles of mail, and more. She also is qualified and trained to de-ice planes in the winter.

"One of my cousins who helped me get another job told me how much he enjoyed it, so I thought I'd give it a shot. I started at a different airline, but ended up at United," Villalobos said.

The best part of her job is simple, she said: "Being able to fly anywhere around the world whenever I want." The worst part is simple, too: Chicago winters and having to work outside, regardless of what Mother Nature delivers.

"I am always thinking about where I want to go on my next vacation or mini vacation," she said, smiling.

Villalobos was nominated as a quarterly winner for one of United's top awards—the United 100 Award. "I was nominated by a [pilot] who said I went above and beyond and didn't overlook something that could have caused damage to one of our aircrafts," she said.



**Age**  
35

**Neighborhood**  
Little Village

**Nickname**  
"Nani"

**Favorite movie**  
The Odd Life of Timothy Green, "because by the end I am in tears, something that hits close to home when it was time to let go."

**Favorite TV show**  
"Anything that features Chicago and food, so it would probably be Chicago's Best."

**Hobbies**  
"Cooking, and finding new recipes on the Internet or TV"

**Favorite pizza topping(s)**  
Spinach

**Chicago Force**  
"I really want to thank everyone from the Chicago Force, from teammates to coaches, for not giving up on me and pushing me to get better."

**Little-known fact**  
"I am the youngest of four. I have two older sisters and a brother."

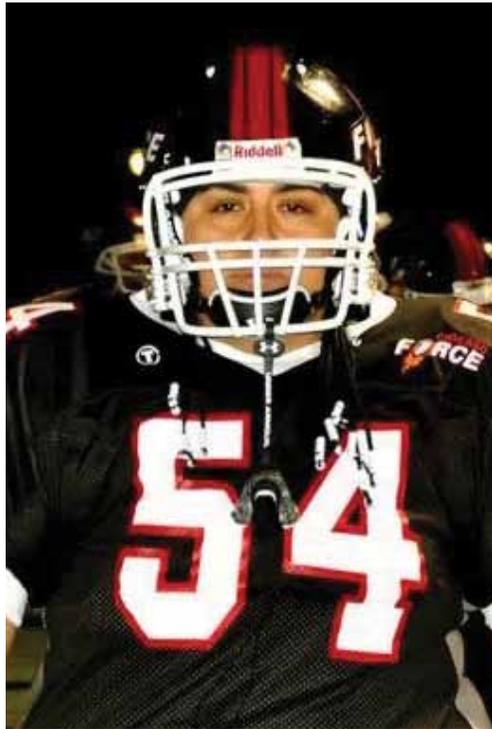


Photo by Sam Hamilton

Villalobos is in her fourth season playing for the Chicago Force as a defensive tackle. "Man, I have so many memories [from the Force], but seeing all the hard work put in to this team from everyone, the dedication, determination, the tears, the fight we all have inside, I love my team for so many reason," said Villalobos, who captured the 2013 national championship with the Force.

"Losing my son Marcelino has been the hardest thing besides losing my parents," Villalobos said. "I never had the courage to have another child, but everything I do, I do to make him proud just as if he were here with me. I want him to know what an amazing mother he has, and that no matter what you put your mind to, you can achieve. He has been my rock, my strength, my reason for never giving up."



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## VIEWPOINT

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

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Tracy Baim

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.  
IRENE  
MONROE

## America cleans up homophobic lexicon

As the country becomes more accepting of the civil rights of its LGBTQ residents, it is also beginning to re-examine its language used to demean us.

In last month's New York Times article "The Decline of the 'H' Word," Jeremy Peters wrote that while the word "homosexual," for the most part, is "inoffensive," "outdated" and perhaps "innocuous," many in our LGBTQ community view the word, nonetheless, as a pejorative term.

According to George P. Lakoff, a professor of cognitive science and linguistics at the University of California-Berkeley, because many still associate the word "homosexual" with sexual deviance, the preferred terms are "gay" and "lesbian."

"Gay doesn't use the word sex," Lakoff said. "Lesbian doesn't use the word sex. Homosexual does. It also contains 'homo,' which is an old derogatory."

I abhor the word "homosexual" because it continues to be used by faith communities today to demean and denigrate LGBTQs—although the word never appeared in the Bible until its 1946 translation. And while there have always been words in the original Greek New Testament scriptures for same-sex activities no condemnations appear that it's an abomination to God.

However, for many African-Americans, the terms "gay" and "lesbian" are as offensive as the word "homosexual."

For many African-Americans, we use terms like "in the life"—an identifier, a code, that derives from the Harlem Renaissance. Another is the term "same-gender loving" that became popular in our LGBTQ lexicon in the 1990s.

For many, terms like lesbian, "queer" and

"gay" are not descriptors use to depict themselves because they uphold a white queer hegemony that many in the African-American LGBTQ community denounce. Also for many, the terms strip African-American LGBT people of our particular history, struggle and spirituality that not only renders us invisible, but it also renders us speechless.

Cleaning up homophobic language has extended beyond our borders.

Last year, and to the surprise of many across the globe, Mexico stepped forward to define and reduce homophobic hate speech. Two commonly used words—"punal" and "maricones"—were the main targets. Both words closely translate as "faggot."

In a vote of three to two, Mexico's Supreme Court ruled that these two homophobic hateful slurs are not legally protected in the country's constitution as freedom of speech. The Supreme Court further ruled that any citizen offended by these words now could seek redress by suing for moral damages.

"Even though they are deeply rooted expressions in Mexican society, the fact is that the practices of the majority of society can't validate the violations of basic right," the Court wrote in support of its ruling.

But as most LGBTQ Latinos know, these two homophobic epithets are so frequently and easily espoused throughout Latin American culture that many are not cognizant of their deleterious effect.

Case in point: Toronto Blue Jays shortstop Yunel Escobar was suspended in September 2012 for three games for wearing eye-black displaying a homophobic slur written in Spanish during a game against the Boston Red Sox.

"It didn't have significance to the way that's being interpreted right now," Escobar emphatically stated through a Spanish interpreter. "That's not the significance that I put into it. That's a word used often within teams. It's a word without meaning, the way we use it."

Escobar, a native of Cuba, contested that the phrase is taken out of context because used in his culture it is not intended to be offensive; it's merely used as banter in their friendly rep-artee.

The word is used frequently here, too.

Just last year, Alec Baldwin allegedly hurled anti-gay epithets in a cussing tirade against

the vulturous paparazzi on his heels, reportedly spewing out the slur "c\*ksucking f\*ggot."

Although Baldwin emphatically refuted using the "F- word" he didn't deny using the word "c\*ksucking," claiming that he simply had no clue that the word is a homophobic slur.

Homophobic epithets are so pervasive across our culture that most good-hearted and well-intentioned heterosexual people like Baldwin are sadly unaware of the psychological and physical toll that these words have on LGBTQ people. Too often these cavalierly used epithets go either unchecked or unchallenged as the hate speech that they are.

However, sometimes in our effort to clean up language we can go too far.

In 2012, the editors of The Associated Press Stylebook announced that they were "discouraging" use of the word "homophobia." (The AP Stylebook is the widely used guide that media use to standardize terms and general usage.) The LGBTQ community was in a kerfuffle about it because the editors made their decision without consultation with the nation's leading LGBTQ organizations, leaders, activists and newspapers.

With an estimated 3,400 AP employees in bureaus around the globe, the AP's suggestion could have had a tsunami-like effect on how the world comes to understand, be informed about or dismiss discrimination against (LGBTQ) people. AP's online Stylebook defines a phobia as "an irrational, uncontrollable fear, often a form of mental illness" and said words such as "Islamophobia" and "homophobia" therefore should be expunged from political and social contexts.

The word "homophobia" derives from the unique history of LGBTQ people and our shared struggle for civil rights across the world. It has become part and parcel of a universal LGBTQ lexicon that accurately reflects our reality. The phenomenon of homophobia has power and unfortunately deleterious effects, but part of our liberation is in our strength to call out acts of homophobia. If the press eliminated use of the word, that would not only diminish people's chances of understanding homophobia's wide-ranging effects but would diminish the reach of LGBTQ activists in our continued efforts to effect change.

## LETTERS

### Action and reaction

Dear Windy City Times:

I am responding to a letter to the Windy City Times from R.M. Schultz about Chuck Colbert's recent article on the Vatican survey.

The article, in my opinion, was right on. We are all entitled to our opinion, but when you engage in name-calling most reasonable people get turned off.

In terms of getting a wider circle of response of those interviewed, I understand Chuck tried to get responses from AGLO and Courage, the two official organizations of the archdiocese, with no response. I even suggested contacting Fr. Barron with no response. You can lead a horse to water but you make it drink.

I communicated with Schultz's pastor and was told that Schultz is not a registered parishioner and the pastor did not know him. He also told me that Schultz does not speak for the parish in this matter. He indicated there were some of his parishioners who did take the survey by going to the archdiocese's website.

It is quite clear that the Vatican issued this survey to move beyond the U.S. Conference of Catholics' ideological bent on anything LGBT. There were some bishops who put the survey on their websites such as Cardinal George's.

The clear message was that the Vatican, under Pope Francis, wanted the broadest outreach possible.

Semantics aside, people were asked what they thought about certain topics. One of the questions dealt with ministering to LGBT families. In this framework, a rose is a rose—call it a survey or poll—and most reasonable Catholics understood it was an attempt to gather opinions on a wide variety of issues in preparation for the Synod on Families to be held in October.

I would encourage Schultz to register as a parishioner and get involved at his parish. This is not about good or bad Catholics; it is about a wide diversity of Catholics loving their faith. As Pope Francis recently observed, who am I to judge?

Joe Murray  
 Executive Director  
 Rainbow Sash Movement

### Sister act

Open letter to Chicago Ald.  
 Scott Waguespack:

You're one of the few alderman in Chicago who

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

I actually respect ... most of the time anyway (together with your allies Alds. Arena, Sposato, etc.). But Mr. Waguespack, REALLY? Seriously?!!

In the Chicago Sun-Times' April 2 article "Proposal to end Sister City pact with Moscow goes nowhere with mayor opposed," it stated, "[Chicago Sister Cities International Board President Samuel C.] Scott's argument struck a chord with Ald. Scott Waguespack (32nd),

Turn to page 29

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
Dixie  
Sheridan

## NOUVEAU 'QUICHE'

The theatrical productions *Hit the Wall* and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (above) are back in town. See below.

## MOVIES

'Child's' play.  
Page 21

Bogdan Dumitrache in *Child's Pose*  
from Zeitgeist Films



## DISH

Puttin' on the Spritz.  
Page 26

Photo wall art at SpritzBurger  
by Andrew Davis



## SPORTS

Girl power.  
Page 30

Photo from Jen Benson



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

CCC brings back  
two Chicago-born  
LGBTQ hits

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Two of the most recent high-profile Chicago shows focusing on the LGBTQ community include The New Colony's 2011 comedy *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* and The Inconvenience's 2012 drama *Hit the Wall*. Both shows opened to critical raves in the Windy City and later journeyed to New York for off-Broadway runs.

Now *Hit the Wall* and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* are both back in town with most of their original creative teams and casts. Both shows are opening within weeks of each other thanks to the Chicago Commercial Collective (CCC), a producing organization dedicated to reviving hit off-Loop theater productions for commercial runs.

"*Hit the Wall* was actually an impetus for us starting the company," said CCC producer Brian Lovener, noting how that show's original limited run at the Steppenwolf Garage immediately sold out, as did its return engagement that summer at the Chicago Park District's Theater on the Lake. Lovener had noticed how many off-Loop shows often had to close despite audience demand due to preexisting subscription seasons or overbooked theaters. So Lovener helped co-found Chicago Commercial Collective to help shine a light on the Windy City's excellent homegrown theater scene.

The CCC officially launched with a revival of Keith Huff's hit drama *A Steady Rain* with its original Chicago Dramatists cast, after it had played a sold-out limited run on Broadway with stars Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman.

While that local revival of *A Steady Rain* wasn't quite a commercial success, CCC had a major hit on its hands reviving TimeLine Theatre's *To Master the Art*. That Julia Child-inspired drama also had the promotional firepower of Broadway in Chicago for a successful run at the Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place in autumn of 2013.

"Our model is to essentially work with the nonprofits, find the right shows that we think have the staying power to run longer and then find commercial investment to make it happen while taking the pressure off of the nonprofit," Lovener said, adding that the commercial revival of *To Master the Art* brought in audiences of up to 17,000—far more people than what a normal season at TimeLine Theatre can accommodate. "It's really a way to expand audiences for these nonprofits."

To launch the return of *Hit the Wall* and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, Lovener said both shows were opening fairly close together to help cut down on promotional costs. He also hopes that the spring timing leading into Pride month will encourage interest in both shows.

Working with CCC has been a dream for Andrew Hobgood, a co-author with Evan Linder on *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*. The show is set in 1956 and focuses on five intrepid and very-prepared members of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein who are meeting for their annual quiche breakfast.

"Brian pretty much asked us to tell him where the perfect space was [for the revival]," said Hobgood, excited to find what he calls



*Hit the Wall*. Photo by Ryan Bourque

the perfect venue for this show in the Chopin Theatre basement. "The Chopin has been more flexible than any other venue we've talked to in terms of us allowing us to create the whole 'from front door to show experience.'"

Out playwright Ike Holter is also very excited to have his *Hit the Wall* back in Chicago, even if it is coming at a very busy time. In addition to re-launching *Hit the Wall*, Holter is also the main curator for the forthcoming Collaboration Sketchfest (where *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* had its origins back in 2010), and he's about to debut a new play called *Exit Strategy* for Jackalope Theatre.

"That is kind of a dream to have the show running through Pride weekend, because that's the full-circle experience," said Holter, noting how he wrote *Hit the Wall* to utilize much of the mythology that has built up around the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York's Greenwich Village that launched the modern-day gay liberation movement.

Outside of Chicago and New York, *Hit the Wall* and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* are proving to be successful. Holter was a tad coy about where else *Hit the Wall* will be produced in future seasons (contractually he said he wasn't

allowed to divulge when and where). Yet Hobgood was practically boastful that productions of *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* have taken off since it was picked up for licensing through Samuel French.

"We've had more than 25 licensed productions in five different countries," Hobgood said, adding that he and Linder often only find out about productions via Google Alerts.

*Hit the Wall* continues in previews through April 27 at the Greenhouse Theatre Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., and then has regular-run performances through June 29. Tickets are \$20-\$55; call 773-404-7336 or visit [www.greenhousetheatre.org](http://www.greenhousetheatre.org).

*5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* plays May 1-June 8 at the Chopin Theatre basement, 1543 W. Division St. Tickets are \$15-\$40; call 773-404-7336, or visit [www.5lesbianseatingaquiche.com](http://www.5lesbianseatingaquiche.com) or [www.chicagocommercialcollective.com](http://www.chicagocommercialcollective.com).

## Pulitzer partner finalists

Playwright Annie Baker was the winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for Drama with her four-character off-Broadway play *The Flick*. But there are some interesting lesbian connections among the two Pulitzer runner-ups.

Lesbian playwright Madeleine George (currently represented in Chicago at Theater Wit with her comedy *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England*) was named finalist for her off-Broadway play *The* (curious case of the) *Watson Intelligence*. Also a finalist was the off-Broadway musical *Fun Home*, adapted by composer Jeanine Tersori (*Caroline, or Change*) and lesbian playwright Lisa Kron (*Well*) from Alison Bechdel's graphic novel memoir of the same name, which examines her family life with a closeted gay father who commits suicide not long after she comes out as a lesbian in college.

In an interesting twist, George and Kron are both spouses, so even if they didn't win the ultimate prize, they can be proud to be partners and Pulitzer finalists together.



Patrick Andrews (top) and Cole Simon in *Dorian*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## DOUBLE REVIEW

### Dorian

**Playwrights:** Ben Lobpreis & Tommy Rapley  
**At:** The House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.  
**Tickets:** 773-769-3832 or [www.thehousetheatre.com](http://www.thehousetheatre.com); \$20-\$39  
**Runs through:** May 18

### Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens

**Playwright:** Tony Lewis  
**At:** MidTangent Productions at Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St.  
**Tickets:** [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com) or [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com); \$15  
**Runs through:** May 17

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Since theater is so ephemeral, why not revive hit shows for people who missed them the first time around? That's undoubtedly the reason why The House Theatre of Chicago is bringing back *Dorian* (which first debuted at the late Bailiwick Repertory in 2006) and MidTangent Productions has revised its 2009 Hydrate production of *Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens*.

Both crowd-pleasing shows have strong LGBTQ interest and imagine the extremes that certain people will go to in the obsessive pursuit of youth, beauty or "fierceness" as the case may be. Both also have magical objects that hold sway over the antagonists and both spring from established works of literature. *Dorian* takes its inspiration from Oscar Wilde's Victorian novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, while *Snow White...* steals from the Brothers Grimm (in addition to pop songs and Disney flicks).

Collette Pollard's sleek and modern setting for *Dorian* is initially a trendy nightclub, where the majority of audience members mill around promenade style. As the show progresses, the audience has to move and crane their necks to gawk at the beautiful and uber-trendy cast as they delve deep into the show's twisted story (there is a seating area for those who don't wish to stand through the show or fully immerse themselves, like so many Jeff Committee members and critics on opening night).

This *Dorian*, as dreamed by writer Ben Lobpreis and director/choreographer Tommy Rapley, means to meld dialogue with dance movement to tell the tale of the callow and bisexual title character (played by Cole Simon) whose outward youth and beauty is maintained via a magical painting that ages and degenerates to show his true nature.

The dance element in *Dorian* sometimes feels forced and isn't always as integrated as

I'm sure the creators would like it to be. Yet there are times when the dancing beautifully captures the dramatic moment, like the derided performance art piece of *Sybil* (Kelley Abell), the deadly and very homoerotic duet between Simon as *Dorian* and Patrick Andrews as the artist Basil.

Also a major delight is Manny Buckley as the cruelly camp cultural critic Harry, who can poison the atmosphere with a strategically and cutting quip. The whole talented ensemble is truly dedicated to this modern-day *Dorian*, which shows that the pursuit beauty can turn deadly in any era.

Far more comic and camp (and set in an actual nightclub), MidTangent's current edition of *Snow White...* is a vast improvement over the original, since the great cast actually sings songs rather than lip-sync. The sound glitches were far fewer than before, and all the updated dialogue and songs feel far more polished. Once again, MidTangent's *Snow White...* is the perfect way to start an evening carousing up and down Halsted Street.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show**, About Face Theatre and Silk Road Rising, extended through May 4. New About Face Theatre artistic director Andrew Volkoff makes a memorable Chicago directorial debut with a very funny and insightful piece on an intersex Indian-American who lives multi-hyphenated existence straddling different genders and cultures. SCM

**Depraved New World**, The Second City, open run. With elements of long-form improv, Second City's 102nd mainstage revue features an extremely sharp cast (especially John Hartman), some high-risk musical improv, several gay-specific scenes and advanced use of music and sound. JA

**El Incas**, Colectivo el Pozo at La Casa, through May 11. Raúl Dorantes' exploration of closeted Latino husbands brings its rarely discussed topic to a storefront playhouse located in the very heart of its dramatic realm's real-world milieu.

**Million Dollar Quartet**, Apollo Theater, through August 31. It was the day that four immortals in American music dropped into a little sun-baked recording studio to make some joyful noise and reckon on their futures, and we just can't get enough of it (now running for its fifth year).

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Way West

**Playwright:** Mona Mansour  
**At:** Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.  
**Tickets:** 312-335-1650;  
[www.steppenwolf.org](http://www.steppenwolf.org); \$20-\$78  
**Runs through:** June 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

"Some people are not cut out for the trail!" declares the Forsberg clan matriarch, preparatory to recounting another tale of her ancestors surviving the trek to the promised land of California. There are different kinds of trails nowadays, though, and Mrs. Forsberg's romantic view of defying adversity blinds her to her own shortcomings regarding management of her late father's trust, so that she now faces bankruptcy. Her daughters, having had no accounting skills passed down to them, are likewise prodigal—Michelle scrapes by on minimum-wage jobs and small-time scams, while Amanda, despite boasting full-time salaried employment, lives far beyond her means on a cache of credit cards.

Well, why not? Doesn't the American Dream promise unlimited opportunity rewarding those willing to take risks? Isn't the pioneer spirit founded upon its readiness to aid those of its community (investing in a friend's patent-medicine business, for example)? If Meesh charges cosmetics on her mom's account to resell for profit on eBay, is it really theft (she argues)

when no actual cash changes hands, and isn't Manda's facility for grant-writing just a refined form of panhandling?

Playwright Mona Mansour understands that the size of the fortune is not important—poor judgment can squander millions in stocks or pennies in a jam jar. As Mom's health deteriorates, and the house crumbles under the neglect that comes of denial, the day finally arrives when there is no money to pay the pizza man, reducing the sisters to raiding fruit trees growing on the lawns of foreclosed neighborhood homes, while feral coyotes howl nearby. If you think this is a worst-case scenario exceeding the limits of plausibility, be assured that it is played out in countless homes today—maybe your own, or that of someone close to you.

Unfortunately, Mansour doesn't trust us to recognize the pitfalls of living in constant crisis mode by seeing and hearing them illustrated repeatedly, but insists on dressing up her sermon with musical breaks that would be less clumsy performed by a live onstage band, instead of Caroline Neff and Zoe Perry vainly strumming guitars against a canned score of inspirational hymns invoked by Mom to dispel any faltering of her belief in the myths of her forefathers—like the news that the start-up enterprise has gone bust, or the success of a pragmatic family acquaintance. Before you express scorn for their distress, however, ask yourself how many missed paychecks would send you foraging in the parks for edible roots and berries?



*L'Imbecile*. Photo by Steven Townsend

## THEATER REVIEW

### L'Imbecile

**Playwright:** Aaron Adair  
**At:** Babes With Blades Theatre Company at Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-904-0391;  
[www.babeswithblades.org](http://www.babeswithblades.org); \$20  
**Runs through:** May 10

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

You're unlikely to have heard of Victor Hugo's *Le Roi S'Amuse*—it was closed by the Paris censors the day after its premiere in 1832 and banned from production for the next 30 years. It resurfaced—with a few slight alterations—in 1851 as Giuseppe Verdi's opera, *Rigoletto*, with which it is associated to the present day. Aaron Adair's adaptation hears to the original shocker, now located in a safely distant post-apocalyptic future.

Society in 2022, it turns out, is structured much like a cross-gender version of medieval Europe. The kingdom under scrutiny is ruled by a libertine queen, whose rise to power was founded in the defeat of her enemy, the puritanical Priestess. The war having rendered most of the male populace impotent, a street trade in Viagra-analog elixirs flourishes, while the monarch enjoys her pick of what virile specimens—male and female—her henchbuddies procure for her pleasure. Chief among the court sidekicks is the Fool, whose cruel taunting of families protesting the sex-trafficking of their children is repaid

in kind when her beloved son falls prey to the royal appetite, triggering a cycle of terrible revenge.

The Babes With Blades company has opted to stage the classic tragedy according to the precepts developed in the 1990s by the legendary New Crimes ensemble and dubbed "neo-commedia." This approach combines elements of traditional Roman comedy with the ritual formality of Peking opera to generate spectacle resembling a grotesque clown show, replete with acrobatic slapstick punctuated by a rough-and-ready score of incidental noise produced on drums, cowbell, kazoo, slide-whistle and other exotic instruments.

This decision is not without risk. The mannered performances engendered by the conventions of this undeniably archaic acting style could quickly alienate audiences unaccustomed to its measured pace and formal delivery. Fortunately, the cast assembled by veteran Chicago director William Bullion arrives well equipped with the physical stamina for the jocular violence characteristic of the genre, as well as the unwavering commitment to keep us invested in the story's progress, despite a text incorporating slam poetry, pop-musical interludes and moments of water-treading lazzi. For sheer visual splendor, however, Stefanie Johnson's collage-based costumes and Kelsey Shipley's low-tech fantasy-gewgaws generate enchantment to dazzle the most sartorophiles. Look for replicas of Maureen Yasko's wickedly charming Regina-with-a-you-know-what enthroned on floats during Pride week.

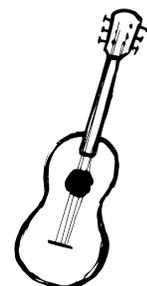
The pioneers settling the old west fought winter, starvation and wild animals.  
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## THEATER REVIEW

## Mud Blue Sky

Playwright: Marisa Wegrzyn

At: A Red Orchid, 1531 N. Wells St.

Tickets: 312-943-8722;

www.aredorchidtheatre.org; \$25-\$30

Runs through: May 25

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Flight attendants Beth (Natalie West) and Sam (female) are overnighing at a standard-issue motel near O'Hare. Sam (Mierka Girten) is having drinks with Angie (Kirsten Fitzgerald), a recently divorced former flight attendant, but the older Beth declines to join them citing tiredness and her bad back. Instead, Beth scores from her local pot connection, Jonathan (Matt Farabee), a high school boy waiting outside

the motel in his prom tuxedo. Soon enough (the play runs just 90 minutes), all four wind up in Beth's room and the party is on. Stranger things happen in real life, which doesn't make Mud Blue Sky less improbable.

Of course, we learn about the characters. All three gals are unmarried and seek validation in some way as women, making Jonathan a useful device. Beth mothers him in her own hard-edged and aloof manner while Sam plays cougar. Jonathan's mother died in a car accident a year earlier, which explains, perhaps (and perhaps not), the awkward appeal of three older women. Still, the ties that keep Jonathan in the room seem weak.

There may be something about Mud Blue Sky I missed. A female friend was wiping tears from her eyes at the end. I left having experienced a play that was very well acted and directed,



From left: Mierka Girten, Kirsten Fitzgerald, Natalie West and Matt Farabee in Mud Blue Sky. Photo by Michael Brosilow

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with a lot of good laughs and a few touching moments, but not one which deeply impressed me. One difficulty is that author Marisa Wegrzyn frequently shifts focus between the four characters, even while giving Beth the most stage time and the ultimate moments with Angie and Jonathan. Mud Blue Sky is Beth's play and yet she is the character who seems least changed by the intimate evening of pot, cognac and confessions. I suspect this play is a women's vehicle and requires a woman's sensibilities to fully fathom.

Estimable director Shade Murray guides his cast with a deft, light hand in a work of intimate ultra-naturalism, although a touch more volume wouldn't hurt, even in A Red Orchid's very small theater. West's dry humor and

tough facade are perfectly delivered in effective contrast to Girten's vampish bad-girl vibe and Fitzgerald's puppy-dog earnest appeal. As Jonathan, Matt Farabee makes considerably more of the role than its words alone would indicate. Although in his mid-twenties, Farabee has notched up several adolescent boy roles in his growing Chicago career, and he does them quite well.

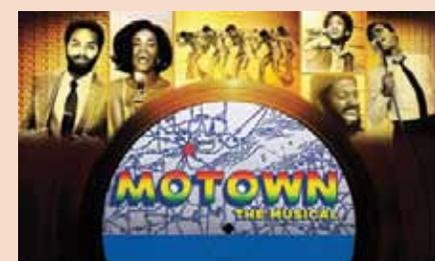
Jacqueline Penrod's scenic design is almost too perfect in its cookie-cutter motel details, right down to the HVAC unit beneath the window and headboard attached to the wall, but a bit too much stage space is utilized for the motel exterior, used only briefly.

Mud Blue Sky is appealing, if not profound—but I'm just a guy.

## ALCC's 'Motown' benefit on May 1

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC) has teamed with Broadway in Chicago, Downtown Bar & Lounge, and Shellback Rum for a theater night benefit on Thursday, May 1, for the arrival of Motown the Musical.

All tickets purchased through ALCC—which are partially tax-deductible and start at \$40—include access to a private, pre-show cocktail and food reception at Downtown Bar & Lounge, 440 N. State St.



Tickets are available at <http://motown2014.brownpapertickets.com/>.

## SPOTLIGHT



If you missed **At the Flash**—Sean Chandler and David Leeper's one-man show that was the very first winner of Pride Films and Plays' Gay Play Contest—you have one more chance to see it. At the Flash was select to appear in the 2014 Dublin Gay Theatre Festival in Ireland, so Pride Films and Plays is offering a farewell fundraising performance. At the Flash plays one performance only at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at the Pride Films and Plays rehearsal space, 1411 W. Wilson Ave. Tickets are \$20; call 800-838-3006 or visit [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com). Photo of David Leeper in At the Flash courtesy of Pride Films and Plays

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## Child's Pose; In the Name Of; notes

The cinema of Eastern Europe has been particularly vibrant in the last five years, with two films—*Child's Pose* (opening this Friday at the Music Box) and *In the Name Of* (available on DVD and Streaming from Film Movement)—as particularly strong examples of this trend.

*Child's Pose*, from Romania, tells the story of Cornelia (Luminita Gheorgiu), an architect and doctor's wife as well as a cultured woman of wealth and power who, nevertheless, is miserable as the film opens. Her beloved son Barbu (Bogdan Dumitrache), she complains bitterly to her sympathetic sister, not only won't come to her 60th birthday party but has once again told her in very explicit language to stay out of his life.

Cornelia blames Barbu's girlfriend for this unfortunate turn of events but the separation turns out to be short-lived. When Barbu kills a young teenage boy while passing another car on the road, Cornelia immediately swings into action, taking no prisoners in her single-minded determination to absolve her son of any guilt.

Entering the rural police station with her sister—the pair dressed in fur coats and reeking of privilege—the class distinctions rife in the country are immediately apparent. Forced to momentarily cool her heels in the waiting room, seated next to the family of the victim, Cornelia is smart enough to appear sympathetic. Already she has discussed paying for the funeral of the dead boy as a first gesture in softening up the family. Over the next few days Cornelia will do a lot more—including falsifying Barbu's police statement, bribing the witness to the accident (in an unforgettable scene), and currying favor with the victim's family during an unannounced visit to their home that is jaw-dropping in its audacity. (Talk about crocodile tears.)

There is nothing, seemingly, that Cornelia won't do for her 34-year-old baby—except leave him alone—in her quest to keep the sulen Barbu out of jail and to once again dominate his life. The scary Cornelia is as frightening and monstrous in her way as her many cinematic forebears—Angela Lansbury in *The Manchurian Candidate*, Olivia de Havilland in *Lady In a Cage*, Katharine Hepburn in *Suddenly Last Summer* and Leopoldine Konstantin in *Notorious*. Each of those maniacal mamas smothered her weak-spirited son with a ferocity that Gheorgiu matches in her portrayal of Cornelia.

However, the actress is given the chance to exude sympathy as well—there is a subtlety in the performance (and in the directing of Calin Peter Netzer, who co-wrote the script) that gives Cornelia an extra bit of oomph. The handheld camera work, which stays very close to Cornelia and the other characters, emphasizes this as well. She's a Cruella de Vil all right, but a three-dimensional one whose motives and actions are queasily familiar.

*Child's Pose* (Romania's Foreign Language entry at this year's Oscars), in addition to featuring this sensational mother-son act, is



Luminita Gheorgiu in *Child's Pose*. Photo from Zeitgeist Films

a fascinating look into a corrupt society that is at times equally jaw-dropping. This movie is highly recommended. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com)

**Briefly noted:** As a closeted, mentally tortured gay priest fighting his desire for the mostly homophobic teenage boys he is charged with overseeing in a halfway house in the Polish wilderness, Andrzej Chyra is also pretty compelling in the Polish gay-themed drama *In the Name Of...* from director Malgorzata Szumowska (who co-wrote the script with Michael Englert). The film, which premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival last fall, has its share of unexpected twists and that sensational performance by Chyra as just two reasons to recommend it. It's now available from Film Movement. <http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=331>

### Film notes:

—**CIMMfest: The Chicago International Movies & Music Festival** is back for a sixth year with another stellar line-up of more than 90 features, shorts, videos and filmmaker panels as well as more than 65 live music and DJ special events on Thursday, May 1-Sunday, May 4. LGBT film and music enthusiasts will want to note several of the fest's offerings, which include:

**A Life in the Death of Joe Meek**, a documentary portrait of the legendary record producer who was closeted and took his own life at 37. Co-producer-directors Susan Stahman and Howard S. Berger will attend the 9:15pm, Thursday, May 1 screening at the Logan Theater, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**Bayou Mararajah**, a documentary from filmmaker Lily Keber about James Booker who Dr. John has described as "the best Black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans ever produced." Screens on Friday, May 2, at 7pm at the Society for Arts, 1112 N. Milwaukee Ave.

**The Man Behind the Throne** is director Kersti Grunditz's portrait of "choreographer to the stars" Vincent Paterson, noted for his work with Michael Jackson and Madonna, who is profiled as he embarks on an Elvis Presley themed show for Cirque du Soleil. Screens on Sunday, May 4 at 4:30pm at the Society for Arts, 1112 N. Milwaukee Ave.

A free panel on the **Future of Female Filmmakers** on Sunday, May 4, at 12:30 p.m. at the Collaboration Theater, 3111 N. Western Ave., will include prominent lesbian filmmakers Fawzia Mirza (Kam Kardashian, Easy Ab-

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## MOVIES

# Cameron Diaz: The real thing

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Cameron Diaz is all about breaking the rules ... especially when someone else is breaking them, too. Strutting into a room at the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills, the actress surveys the space and lugs an oversized sofa chair to the opposite corner, where she gets comfortable, her slender legs curled behind her, heels still on.

In person, Diaz really is the sweetest thing, but don't cross her—at least not in *The Other Woman*. In this movie the actress, along with Leslie Mann and Kate Upton, serves some nasty shenanigans to a lover she learns is secretly married. (And because you need that sassy colleague to give you sage advice on getting even, Nicki Minaj co-stars.)

For this gay press exclusive, the actress recalls the faux lesbian action on the set of *The Other Woman* (out in theaters April 25), clarifies statements she made regarding her sexuality (don't call her bisexual) and advises the ladies to "step it up a little bit."

**Windy City Times: Recently I was at the gay club and they played that unforgettable sing-along from *The Sweetest Thing*: "The Penis Song."**

Cameron Diaz: No way! That's so awesome.

**WCT: When you did that song with Selma Blair and Christina Applegate in 2002, did you ever think the gays would still be dancing to a song about penises this many years later?**

CD: Not at all, but I guess we should have figured! We should've guessed that. It's quite obvious.

**WCT: Because the penis is timeless.**

CD: [Laughs] Exactly. The penis is timeless.

**WCT: Because of its girl-power fierceness, *The Other Woman* aligns itself with *Nine to Five*, *Sex and the City* and *The First Wives Club*. Why do you think gay men in particular are so drawn to these movies?**

These women are underdogs. In *Nine to Five* it was really about discrimination. Gays and lesbians know what it's like to be discriminated against, to be the underdog and to have to fight to be seen. That's something that could be relatable. It's that feeling of beating all the odds and pushing through, and continuing to go on even though you get beat down and you feel like you can't possibly make it through.

**WCT: Going back, what movie of yours do you attribute to the beginning of your gay following?**

CD: I don't know!

**WCT: How about *Being John Malkovich* from 1999?**

CD: Because [of] Lotte! I mean, of course! Lotte found out who she was. She was self-realized and empowered by it, and that's what I really loved about her—her recognizing herself and honoring herself, and no matter what she just kept going until she was able to fully express herself.

**WCT: Actually, Lotte sounds a lot like you. In the last few years you've been expressing your own sexuality with honesty and openness, saying in interviews with *Glamour UK* and *Playboy* that just because you're sexually attracted to women doesn't mean you're a lesbian. The Kinsey Scale actually suggests that everyone is a little bisexual. Is that**

**what you believe, too?**

CD: What I really think is a problem is that, for some reason, everybody needs to label. There needs to be a label for something, and you have to qualify it with a label. If we didn't put these labels on ourselves, I think we would probably live in a much better society. We would just let people be who they are and we wouldn't have to define them.

Over the years I've known people who are male who love women, who want to be in a relationship with a woman, who want to raise a family with a woman, who have that relationship and that's where they want to put their energy—but they also are sexually attracted to men. And just because someone's sexually attracted to a man he has to choose whether he wants to be with a woman or a man, and vice versa with women. Women may want to have a relationship with a man, and to raise a family with him, but may also be sexually attracted to women.

Because we have to label it, because we make people choose who they want to be, people aren't happy. They're ruining relationships and friendships and marriages, and they're feeling like they can't have all sides of themselves. They feel like they have to choose. If we just allowed people to be themselves and to be open to it and not have to be absolute one way or another, life could be really full.

**WCT: This view of sexuality seems to be a recent trend, and now people often refer to themselves as "queer" because it's more indefinable.**

CD: Right, right. But does sexuality really define a person? Who you're sexually attracted to—does that define you as a person? It's just a part of who you are. Does who you love define who you are? It doesn't. We need to see ourselves in the full spectrum of the human being.

**WCT: Since making these statements about your own sexuality, people have tried putting you in a box.**

CD: Yeah.

**WCT: The press is saying, "Cameron Diaz is**

**bisexual." But it sounds like you don't want to put yourself in that box?**

CD: I don't. People get uncomfortable [when you don't]. I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but it's a beautiful thing that we can appreciate beauty in other women. I think that's amazing. If they're confident in themselves and know who they are, heterosexual men can look at another heterosexual man and go, "Yeah, he's pretty hot. He's a sexy man."

**WCT: And you have said you can do the same with the ladies.**

CD: Of course.

**WCT: Could you see yourself in a relationship with a woman, though?**

CD: That's not at all what I said. That's not what I was saying. That's what people are [saying]. What I'm saying is that I can appreciate the beauty of another woman. I've said this forever: I think women's bodies are beautiful—all shapes, all sizes. Every part of a woman is beautiful and that's something that we've celebrated culturally throughout history.

**WCT: And men, as well. I mean, how about those Greek gods?**

CD: Exactly. Greek gods! You go to Florence and you see da Vinci and you go, "Oh, of course—this is a celebration of the body." So, I feel like saying that is just stating something that's obvious. People get weirded out when you bring in sexuality, when you say "sex," when you say you find someone else sexually attractive—because people feel like they can't control that! That if for someone reason they find somebody sexually attractive they're going to lose all control of themselves and they're going to question themselves and not know what it is. It's not black or white. There is a spectrum.

**WCT: If a lesbian were to stop you on the street and reference one of your movies, which scene do you think they would point to? I mean, you fucked a Ferrari—that, I'm**

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**DIAZ from page 22**

sure, was enjoyed by many a lesbian.

CD: Yeah, that's always a good time. [Laughs] But I don't know. It's hard to tell. I've played so many different characters, and I don't want to just generalize that all lesbians like the same kind of woman [smiles and points to herself]. And there's a lot to choose from! Everybody has different "preferences." [Laughs]

**WCT: Your girl crush in 2006 was Pamela Anderson. Have your tastes changed at all?**

CD: Who do I have a girl crush on?

**WCT: Leslie Mann?**

CD: Leslie is just seriously one of the loveliest human beings. But I don't know right now if I have a girl crush! I haven't taken a second to look around because I've been working so much. Honestly, I think the girls need to step it up a little bit. I'm disillusioned with all the Botox and all the filler and all the fakeness. I really love a natural beauty, something that you can celebrate.

**WCT: Diane Keaton, Annie Lennox and Annette Bening are all aging naturally.**

CD: They are, because they're self-possessed.

**WCT: So, as you age, you're not interested in plastic surgery?**

CD: No. It can be done well, but what I see with the women who do a lot of it is, the objective is to look younger, but they just start to look different. They don't necessarily look younger, but they do look different. I don't think that I would ever want to look different. I don't know if I could look into the mirror and be OK with seeing somebody other than myself.

**WCT: The idea of being a cartoon version of yourself isn't appealing?**

CD: I did a little bit [of plastic surgery]. I tried it out, and that's what disturbed me. I didn't look like myself. It scared me. I didn't look younger. I just looked different.

**WCT: If you could team up with two of**



Cameron Diaz. Photo by Barry Wetcher

your gay friends to get back at a man who wronged you, a la *The Other Woman*, whom would you pick as your gay sidekicks?

CD: Oh my God, for sure my friend Brad [Cafarelli]. He's my publicist and would be perfect because he's so clever and stealthy. He's just super-keen. He doesn't miss a detail. And he sees it all! I want him on my side for anything. And he's hot. I would also say Teddy [Bass], my trainer, who is just fearless and could crawl into any space and get anything done.

**WCT: According to your co-star Kate Upton, there was some lesbian action happening behind the scenes of *The Other Woman*.**

CD: [Laughs] What did she say?

**WCT: That there was a lot of butt-pinching.**

CD: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah!

**WCT: Feel free to elaborate.**

CD: We actually just did a very funny AOL "Unscripted" thing that just went off the rails. It was so funny.

**WCT: Was it lesbianic?**

CD: Yeah, totally. Like, full-on hilarity. But, yeah, [what happened behind the scenes] wasn't lesbian as in making fun of. It was putting it in a way that, you know, it's...

**WCT: It's playful?**

CD: It's playful, exactly. Thank you. Totally playful. But Leslie [Mann] has this thing with butts, and it's because she has daughters. As a mom she's all like "goochy goochoo," "squeezy, squeezy, squeezy" and she's always pinching their tooshies. So Kate and I, when her kids weren't around, we got all the "squeeshy, squeeshy, squeeshy" and all the pinching and all the grabbing. [Laughs]

**WCT: So that's as lesbian as it got?**

CD: It's more like mom-ing. And, you know, some lesbians might find "mom-ing" really hot!

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

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## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# Christina Perri follows her 'Head' and 'Heart'



BY JERRY NUNN

Singer Christina Perri—who hails from Philadelphia—proved herself before even signing a record deal with a gem of a song called “Jar of Hearts” that was used on the television show *So You Think You Can Dance*. She was signed to Atlantic Records and followed it with another hit “Arms” and a *Twilight* Saga song “A Thousand Years.”

Armed with only a blonde streak in her hair and a body inked with tattoos, the songwriter made the season bright on *A Very Merry Perri Christmas* in 2012.

Her new album, *Head or Heart*, was released this month, and she dropped in on Chicago to the House of Blues to perform some tunes from it. She talked the day before the performance, and here is what she said.

**Windy City Times: First off, I read you were in musical theater as a child.**

Christina Perri: Yep. I was obsessed and I still am. I did theater from about eight years old

until 18. I used to teach the same camp that I went to afterwards I moved to L.A.

**WCT: What is your favorite musical?**

CP: That is so hard to say. I have to say *Rent* because I have seen it the most. I really love *Book of Mormon*, *Mary Poppins*, and *The Sound of Music*. I am a super-nerdy old-school musicals fan! Oh, I love *Wicked* and *Once* also.

**WCT: How was having your song “Jar of Hearts” on *Glee*?**

CP: Oh my God. I am a huge *Glee* fan, too. I am so obsessed with Lea Michele [who plays Rachel]. She is my favorite—*Spring Awakening*, hello! When she did “Jar of Hearts” I remember it was actually the day my first album came out. We did not plan that. I don’t even know what you call that. It was the best luck ever. She sang the song so strongly. It was so rad, there is just no other way to put it. It was so overwhelmingly cool.

I also didn’t believe anyone until I saw it because that is too awesome, like no way! Then when I saw it I knew it was real. I told Lea I loved it; then she ended up cutting one of my songs recently on her album. That whole thing keeps blowing my mind. I wrote “Empty Handed” on her album *Louder*.

**WCT: I just spoke with her about the album and we mentioned you, actually. You have a new song on the soundtrack of the TV show *Girls* called “I Don’t Wanna Break.”**

CP: That is true. I love that show, too! That was really special. I got to hang out with Lena Dunham [who plays Hannah on the show]. She is just as amazing in real life as you would hope she is. She came out to the studio when I was doing that song. I wrote it with her boyfriend Jack and he co-produced it. We were in



Christina Perri. Photo by Jerry Nunn

New York and did it in one day. She came and we had sushi. She is just awesome and so is Jack Antonoff—you know, from the group fun. We really hit it off and wrote that song in 20 minutes.

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

CP: He is so cool and really not cool at the same time—more like my kind of not cool.

**WCT: He’s a big gay supporter so that is why I liked hanging with him.**

CP: And am I, just so you know...

**WCT: I was hoping with all of this Broadway talk.**

CP: Of course. All of my friends are hairdressers. I grew up in a hair salon.

**WCT: Where did that blonde streak in your hair come from?**

CP: Oh my God. I had that for years before my record deal. Then I had it all the way until it grew out basically. After I switched up my hair on purpose to not be stuck with that because I had this awful premonition wondering if Slash doesn’t want to wear that top hat but has to because it’s his thing. I thought no way and being a girl makes me want to change my hair all the time! I didn’t want to be the same all of the time, new album, new hair so that is how it goes.

**WCT: Looks great to me. Was the track “Be My Forever,” with Ed Sheeran, inspired by your previous tour with Jason Mraz?**

CP: It totally has a Mraz-y vibe to it. I get

that. I wrote it with a guy named Jamie Scott about six months after the Mraz tour. I still had a little of that in my system. I’m a huge Mraz fan in general and have been since his Java Joe days. I was like 15 when I fell in love with Mraz.

I wasn’t thinking of it consciously but I wanted that campfire, like a party, sit around with a guitar to have a little jam style in that song. I think Jason just happened to patent that. It wasn’t my intention, then again Jason is known for writing happy songs and that is the first happy song I’ve ever written so of course it is like his thing.

**WCT: With the album being called *Head or Heart*, is it about connecting to your emotional side?**

CP: To be quite honest, I don’t know how not to have an emotional side—I’m Italian, a Leo and a girl. I could name about 50 things! My number one inspiration would be emotions. I have been writing songs since I was 15. It is the only thing I know how to do when I am feeling an 11 or a zero, which is how I describe it. Most people are somewhere in between. I feel like writers have a super high or a super low. We have to have a place to put that. It is funny because in real life I am so dorky, silly, and happy all of the time. People ask me why my songs are so emotional but that is where I put my stuff. Everybody has somewhere where they put that heavy stuff so I put it into my songs.

I am just happy this album is not a breakup album. My first album I didn’t realize was until I wrote this one. I captured a little bit of everything. I think because in the three years that I wrote this album I went through so much shit. I fell madly in love and wrote about it for the first time. There are four songs on this album that are not about guys. They are about a relationship with me, learning to be me on the planet and being okay with that.

One of the songs is about the 15-year-old version of me—the last song, called “I Believe.” “Burning Gold” is a song about when I moved to Los Angeles from Philly. I was absolutely terrified but I wouldn’t give up on that flame inside of me that kept going. There is all of things and so much more dynamic but the one thread to the whole album is emotion. It is all of the feelings that go with these experiences that I have had. They are all true stories.

**WCT: I have always wanted to ask you this. Since you started blowing up when Katy Perry did, do people get you confused with similar names?**

CP: Oh, constantly! Here is the thing, everyone asks if we are related. I’m like, “We don’t spell our names the same so no.” I wouldn’t mind it because I love her. Every single radio show I have done ever since the beginning of my career everyone has brought it up. I hear it all the time.

**WCT: You have such a way of connecting with fans.**

CP: It is so awesome to connect with people’s hearts.

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# Local gay singer Jonathan Zeng releases new CD

BY CHARLSIE DEWEY

Singer-songwriter and pianist Jonathan Zeng and his partner, Edward Wagner, moved to Chicago in January.

Previously the pair was living in Cincinnati, where Zeng had recently had a teaching job offer rescinded when the school found out he is gay.

"I was offered a job and then they asked if I was gay and they told me I couldn't have the job," he said.

Zeng, who has a background in musical theater and operatic performance and who has performed throughout the country, said the incident was the catalyst for his first foray into songwriting, and led to him producing an EP of original material that was released April 1.

The album was funded through a successful Kickstarter campaign.

"It was a great outlet for me to express my feelings and to hopefully do something positive out of that situation," he said.

The title track, "Through These Doors," was the first song Zeng wrote and he said it was specifically inspired by his experience with the school.

He said the entire album is related to the experience either directly or indirectly.

"Most of the songs have to do with some sort of cultural awareness or making the world a more accepting, better place," Zeng said.

"A lot of my music and a lot of the messaging is about how we as a society are more similar than we are different and that religion and other mentalities, though intended to make our lives better and be a good thing, often cloud our vision and make us judge others. I really am hoping my music will speak to a more inclusive society."

The incident gained national media attention and Zeng received an outpouring of support,



Jonathan Zeng.

which also inspired the album.

"I'm hoping just by speaking out about it. ... Young people in that school environment or in similar environments will realize that it is not the only way to think in the world," he said.

"I grew up in a very conservative, not LGBT-friendly environment, and it took me a long time to come to terms with who I was," he said. "Finally I did and it was such a wonderful thing for me to have my eyes open, so to speak, and then to be thrown sort of back into that mindset when I was refused that job was really hard for me."

Zeng said that his musical-theater background definitely comes through in the album.

"It's more of a popular, modern singer-songwriter style, but with definite musical theater influences," he said. "You might compare it to other singer-songwriters with piano as their main instrument."

He also said that he doesn't want to shy away from being a gay performer and thinks it's important that people know that he is gay and many of the songs are about two men even though his lyrics allow for a universal interpretation.

"For instance, the song 'I Found You,' is a love song from me to Edward," he said. "I don't specifically mention his name, it's not specifically male-male ... it's about love, but it's important to me that others know that this is between me

and Edward, and that it is as beautiful as any straight relationship."

The album is performing well, reaching number one on the Reverbnation Chicago Singer-Songwriter chart.

Since he is just getting acclimated to his new life in Chicago, Zeng does not have any plans for a release party currently, but hopes to do something to promote the album in the coming months. He is also searching for a new band to perform with since his band mates are back in Cincinnati.

**Zeng's album is available under Jonathan Z on iTunes and Amazon; hard copies are available through his website at [www.jonathanzeng.com/](http://www.jonathanzeng.com/).**

## 'The New Black' screening, talk on April 26

The New Black—part of the (In)Justice for All Film Festival that's taking place in various venues around Chicago—will screen (with a discussion) Saturday, April 26, 5-8 p.m., at Chicago Theological Seminary, 1407 E. 60th St.

Trinity United Church of Christ Singles Community: Same Gender Loving Family and the Charles Shelby Rooks Society are presenting this event.

With Yoruba Richen directing, The New Black is a documentary that examines how the African-American community is grappling with LGBT rights in light of the recent marriage-equality movement and the fight over civil rights.

The post-screening discussion will feature moderator Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III of Trinity United Church of Christ. Panelists will include Dr. Donique McIntosh of Liberation United Church of Christ; the Rev. Phyllis Pennese of Pillar of Love Fellowship United Church of Christ; the Rev. Charles Straight of Faith United Methodist Church; and Rockerick Hawkins of the Chicago Urban League.

RSVP at [www.InjusticeForAllFF.com](http://www.InjusticeForAllFF.com).

## College disinvites Dustin Lance Black over photos

Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black has slammed administrators at his former college in an open letter after the school withdrew an invitation to speak at an upcoming ceremony due to naked photos made public of the star in 2009, according to Pink News.

Black was asked to be the speaker at this year's graduation ceremony for California's Pasadena City College (PCC); however, PCC Board President Anthony Fellow announced the college has rescinded the invite because of the photos. In part, Black (who graduated in 1994) wrote, "If I was a heterosexual man or woman with this same painful injury in my past, would PCC's Administration still be rescinding such an honor?"

He also stated, "In 2009 a group of people surreptitiously lifted images from my ex's computer and shopped them around to gossip sites in a money making scheme," adding that the following year he "took the perpetrators of this theft to Federal court and Judge R. Gary Klausner ruled unequivocally that the defendants had indeed broken the law."

Locally, Black is slated to speak at Elmhurst College's Frick Center Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m.

WINDY CITY TIMES presents



### FRIDAY, MAY 2 (for youth)

2-9 pm, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, 225 E. Chicago Ave. Open to youth age 25 and under who have been impacted by homelessness.

Registration: FREE. But you must register online <http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com>

What the youth who attend will receive:

- \$50 gift card
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### SATURDAY, MAY 3

9 am-5 pm, University of Illinois at Chicago, Behavioral Sciences Building, 1007 W. Harrison St.

Open to youth, non-profits, government agencies, politicians, foundations, activists, service providers.

Registration: \$45 adults; youth free. You must register online.

### MONDAY, MAY 5

8 am-Noon, Museum of Broadcast Comm., 360 N. State St.

Report from the summit to government agencies, politicians, foundations and other funders.

Registration: FREE. But you must register online.

The foundations and groups so far assisting with the summit include: The Crossroads Fund, True Colors Fund, Polk Bros. Foundation, Alphawood Foundation Chicago, Liz and Eric Lefkowsky, Pierce Family Foundation, Lehman-Stamm Family Fund, Woods Fund of Chicago, Heartland Human Care Services, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Affinity Community Services, Lambda Legal, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, and ChicagoPride.com. The venues donating their facilities are: Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, The University of Illinois at Chicago Gender and Sexuality Center, and the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

Information and links to registration and donation pages here:

<http://chicagosummit.lgbthomelessness.com>



WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

## SpritzBurger; Bites Asian Tapas

BY MEGHAN STREIT

This week's column looks at two very different restaurants that are in the same neighborhood: Lake View.

**SpritzBurger** (3819 N. Broadway; <http://www.spritzburger.com>) is a collaboration between well-known culinary masters The Hearty Boys and Gale Gand that opened on Valentine's Day. The Boys' eatery Hearty had occupied the same spot, but things have been revamped, to say the least.

One of the many bright spots at this space consists of the homemade sodas that are partially responsible for the eatery's name—and that stand out as much as Matthew Lew's wall art. (Check out the chipmunk sipping on the east wall and the Mona Lisa doing the same above the stairs.) Attention has been paid to detail, even regarding the pickled vegetables each patron has at the table.

As for the "burger" part, this restaurant offers much more than the standard beef patties—although those are done quite well. My friend's Amish B&B was a delicious concoction with Salemville Smokehouse blue cheese and thick-cut bacon along with greens and house garlic mayo. However, my turkey burger (with havarti, apple-ginger chutney and greens) was every bit as good. There are also burgers incorporating everything from chickpea patties to Spam—in other words, there's something for everyone.

Also, don't pass on the many other items, including various salads and appetizers such as the crispy chicken livers, which my guest and I liked even though the garlic didn't quite "behave" as it was supposed to.

Lastly, don't forget the desserts. Gand, a James Beard-winning pastry chef, naturally knows what she's doing. For us, the high point



was probably the simplest item: Rice Krispie treats with salted-caramel and chocolate-fudge dips. I highly recommend this place.

Then, there's **Bites Asian Tapas** (3313 N. Clark St.; <http://www.bitestapas.com>), which incorporates fusion down to its very name, which mixes "Asian" with "tapas," appetizers rooted in Spanish culture. (The fusion/eclectic mix is also apparent in the restaurant's decor, which includes traditional Asian items with neon signs and old-school record players.

The ideal way to enjoy Bites' tapas dinner menu is to order a variety of dishes from the six menu categories. Servers bring all the necessary sharing plates and serving pieces (in addition to silverware if you're not so comfortable with the chopsticks), so it's easy and fun.

The menu is neatly divided into six sections: Meaty, Under the Sea, Meatless, Buns, Sides and Last Bites (desserts). I'm not sure who named some of the items, but they can be provocative—and it can be an interesting experience ordering those items: For example, fried boneless chicken served with Asian whiskey sauce is called "Drunk Chicks."

However, despite any awkwardness in ordering, eating the items was sublime. The Oriental paella (crab-fried rice with egg, tomato and scallion) was wonderful, and the crab cro-

quettes and "Sexy Shrimp" (shrimp wrapped in a crispy wonton with sweet chili sauce) weren't far behind.



And you know what also work? The desserts. With offerings like ginger-lemon cheesecake and cookie-dough chopsticks, you must make room—or at least order them to take home.



**Mr. Peppermint** is a three-year-old male New Zealand White. He has a lot of personality; he loves to follow you around the house, wedge himself under your feet while you sit, or hang out on the couch and watch TV. He is friendly, sweet and very tidy with his litter box.

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**PRE-NUPTIAL COUNSELING FOR LGBT COUPLES.** To celebrate the Marriage Equality Act, Dr Kiya is offering special rates for any LGBT couple who would like pre-nuptial counseling. Call for a **FREE phone consultation: 773-880-5492. [www.drkiya.com](http://www.drkiya.com) (6/4/14-26)**

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D14137671 on April 7, 2014, Under the Assumed Name of "Laboratory Arts and Media" with the business located at 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., #225, Chicago, IL 60622. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) are: Ralonda McInosh, 1440 N. Milwaukee Ave., #201, Chicago, IL 60622. (4/30/14-3)

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# Soccer sensation Abby Wambach set for season

BY ROSS FORMAN

Abby Wambach has been out since she was 22—just not to the world.

Her soccer coaches and teammates knew. So, too, did her friends and family.

And over the past 12 years or so, Wambach has developed into one of the best soccer players in the world, hands down.

Her sexual orientation has had no impact on the field.

Wambach was a member of the University of Florida's first NCAA Division I women's soccer national championship team and a three-time All-American. She is a two-time Olympic gold medal winner and the 2012 World Player of the Year from FIFA, the international governing body for the sport. That's just the start of the amazing kicks from her career. Just consider:

—She is a six-time winner of the U.S. Soccer Athlete of the Year.

—She has been a regular on the U.S. women's national team since 2003.

—She stands as the highest all-time goal scorer for the national team and holds the world record for international goals (167) for both men and women soccer players.

—She won the 2011 ESPY Award for Best Play for a goal against Brazil.

—She was the 2011 Women's Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year and the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year, the first individual soccer player ever—man or woman—to receive the award.

"It's always fun to turn a new chapter, create a new story. I think that's part of why I love doing what I do so much because every year you get to keep exploring yourself individually, but the team too. And every year, every team is different, be it because of personnel, personalities, talent, whatever," Wambach said in an exclusive interview. "I think the teams that have the most success are those that open to the options, the ideas of writing a new book. And if you can all get on the same page as quickly as possible, you'll find a lot of success that way."

Soccer is simply fun for this flashy forward who will celebrate her 34th birthday in June. Wambach, born and raised in Rochester, N.Y., has been playing soccer since she was 4.

"Obviously there's the grind of long seasons,

[prolonged] fitness, all of the things that become habitual more than anything. But at the end of the day, I'm still a competitor. I compete doing the most random things, even off the soccer field," said Wambach, whose competitive nature drives her to be the best, always—even just playing card games.

"I like competing and I like putting myself in an environment where I have to push myself physically and mentally. If there is a chance that I can try to win at something, I'm going to make it into a game."

Wambach is now the star for the Western New York Flash of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL), and the team plays its home games at Sahlen's Stadium in Rochester, N.Y. This is her second season with the team, and Wambach was in uniform when the Flash played against the Chicago Red Stars for Chicago's season-opener on Saturday, April 19, at Toyota Park in Bridgeview.

The NWSL, she said, proved last season that it can be successful.

"I think there are some really, really good soccer players [in the NWSL]," she said. "Every game is close. Almost every game last season was a one-or two-goal game; that kind of shows the parity among the teams, which makes every single game important and every single game winnable and losable. That's kind of what you need to get fans to come and watch, getting them excited about the product on the field."

"You want to get better year after year; you want the stadiums to look prettier, to look nicer, to be newer; you want the product on the field to be better. Otherwise, what are we doing here? I think the reason why all of us sacrifice and participate in what we do is, so we can hopefully grow the game. If we continue to do what we've been doing over the past few years—at the National Team and in the professional level—then we will continue to grow the game, which we are doing now."

Wambach has had an amazing run on the international stage, with eye-popping, jaw-dropping goals around the world. She's shined in the Summer Olympics and sparked in the FIFA Women's World Cup—and multiple times for each memorable tournament.

"I feel lucky in that I can really focus my energy for a year or two, getting as fit and healthy as I can possibly be for those couple of years. I think I'm really good at knowing



Abby Wambach in action. Photo courtesy of Mark Novak/Western New York Flash

the times in which I can peak and I think that's something that definitely has extended my career," she said. "It's almost as if I've had multiple careers, based on who the coach is, who my teammates are, and where we're at as a National Team."

"My career has been steady, long, and hopefully it can keep going."

"I don't really get too wrapped up in the stuff that I've accomplished. I guess those are the moments for retirement [to reflect]. I'm confident, comfortable with the things that I've done. I don't look too much at who I am as a celebrity, or [winning the] World Player of the Year [honor]. All of that stuff is a by-product of working hard, committing yourself to playing the game, and hopefully growing and evolving the game. I definitely think that's how I look at myself. I also think staying modest and humble is super important because there are so many great futbol players in the world, and I've been lucky to play with a lot of them and been lucky to play against a lot of them. I try to keep the mindset that I'm not better than anybody. Even on the field, it doesn't make me a good person, if I'm a good soccer player—and that's very, very important for me to continually express and feel."

Wambach said her biggest on-field regret to date is never having won the World Cup. She also regrets never having had a normal nine-to-five job ... well, sort of.

"Not that I regret it because I love what I do. But, I think it would be real interesting to learn what it's like to have a job and ... feel

what normal people feel," she said. "It's hard to even say things that I regret because I don't really live like that; I live life to the fullest and have no regrets."

Her life—her personal life, that is—was thrust into the public eye last October, when she revealed she had married fellow soccer player Sarah Huffman in Hawaii. The two had been teammates many times on the field, even last season with Western New York, yet Huffman now plays for the Portland Thorns FC.

Their wedding, Wambach said, "was really special with a lot of friends and family [attending]. We're still riding the high of year one of marriage."

Wambach said she has been approached by many LGBT community members, for any number of reasons, including requests that she be a further spokesperson for the LGBT community. But, Wambach added, "The reality for me is that I don't really try to make statements with things that I do with my life. Not because I don't believe in it, but, I play sports, and I think there definitely is an avenue and an environment where you can cross over and gain popularity and publicity because of your sport in political arenas, but, I never really was in the closet."

"After I turned 22, I was out with my teammates and everyone. It's interesting now because people were saying last year that Abby finally came out of the closet. But the reality

Turn to page 30

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| <p><b>Bucktown</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Club Lucky</li> <li>☞ Silver Cloud</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Highland Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Bluegrass</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Logan Square</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Bistro Campagne</li> <li>☞ The Chicago Diner</li> <li>☞ Longman &amp; Eagle</li> </ul> | <p><b>West Loop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Carnivale</li> <li>☞ Wishbone</li> </ul>              |
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# CALENDAR

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## Wed., April 23

### Lambda Legal's Bon Foster Civil Rights Celebration

The Bon Foster Celebration is named in honor of the man whose legacy was the founding of the Lambda Legal Midwest Regional Office and the subsequent civil rights victories fought and won in the Midwest. 6:00pm <http://www.lambdalegal.org/bonfoster>

### Latino Community welcome event for David Ernesto Munar

Munar, the new President & CEO of the Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC), will be the first Latino to head HBHC. Host committee: Mona Noriega, Evette Cardona, Julio Rodriguez, Kenny Ocasio, Rodrigo Carrillo and Sol Flores. RSVP to [rodrigo@lacasanorte.org](mailto:rodrigo@lacasanorte.org) 6:00pm Angel's Restaurant, 230 S. Ashland Ave.

### GenderQueer Chicago

GenderQueer Chicago is a grassroots, peer-led group that works to create safe spaces for all of us to talk about, think about, explore, and express gender. They are open to those who wish to talk and think about gender. GenderQueer Chicago meets every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00PM. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

### Community Forum on HIV Cure Research with Timothy Ray Brown, The Man Who Once Had HIV

Learn about exciting scientific advances to bring about a cure for HIV disease, featuring Timothy Brown, a.k.a. "the Berlin Patient," who once had HIV. Free. Registration required. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Tickets: <http://events.aidschicago.org/site/Calendar?id=100541&view=Detail>

### Chefs and the City

Over 40 top Chicago chefs, world class fashion show and an exclusive VIP tasting and after-party benefits Vital Bridges. \$250 regular, \$400 VIP. 7:00pm Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604 773-271-5117 Tickets: <http://www.vitalbridges.org>

### Windy City Gay Idol

12th annual search for the Windy City's best singers in the LGBT community. 9 p.m. sign up 10:00pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark, <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/Idol2014-8x10.pdf>

## Thursday, April 24

### Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand Up Comedy Show

About Face Theatre and Silk Road Rising present the Chicago premiere by

Aditi Brennan Kapil, directed by AFT Artistic Director Andrew Volkoff, with Fawzia Mirza in the title role. Provocative play masquerading as a stand-up comedy routine, an Indian intersex person, or hijra, explores history, mythology, gender roles. Through April 27. Start times to come. 12:00pm Silk Road Rising, Pierce Hall at the Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago 312-857-1234 ext. 201 <http://www.silkroadrising.org> Tickets: <http://aboutface theatre.org>

### Sexual Health 101: Positive Approaches to Anatomy, Puberty, and Communication

Overview of sexual health topics: anatomy, puberty, communication using ICAH's sex-positive, youth-centered, LGBTQ-inclusive, and risk reduction approach to sexual health education. Each Adult Ally Training is \$30 per person, includes refreshments and training materials. CDPU's available for IL teachers no additional cost. [aisha@icah.org](mailto:aisha@icah.org) 5:30pm Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health ICAH 226 S. Wabash Ave., Ste. 900, 312-427-4460 x228 <http://www.icah.org/content/training-calendar-and-registration>

### An event in support of Alderman Tom Tunney

Honorary hosts: State Rep. Greg Harris, Alderman Deb Mell, State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, Alderman James Cappleman, Water Rec. Debra Shore. \$1,500, \$500, \$150. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St

### Dining Out For Life

Dine Out. Fight AIDS.. Celebrate food, friends and a great cause at the 20th annual Dining Out For Life, providing housing with life services to those living with HIV/AIDS. For more information contact Joey Wasserman at [jwasserman@edgealliance.org](mailto:jwasserman@edgealliance.org) 6:00pm Various locations <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/chicago> Tickets: <http://www.edgealliance.org>

### Battle 4 the Paddle

A homebrew competition. Enjoy some of the best local homebrewed beers, and help select the winning brew. The winning beer will be brewed at Andersonville Brewing Co., and available on-tap at A'Ville Brewing and Hamburger Mary's. There will also be tours of ABC's Brew House and all of ABC's mainstay beers are \$1 off all night long. Purchase tickets in advance at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/631619](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/631619). 7:00pm - 10:00pm Hamburger Mary's 5400 N Clark St.

## Friday, April 25

### Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, this show returns to Hydrate with an all-new revival production. Friday and Saturday nights, April 18 through May 17. Tickets: \$15 - available at the door or at [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com). Shows begin at 8 pm, doors open at 7:30 pm. Featuring MTP regulars Katerina Papadatos, Debbie Fox, Aaron Michael Adamkiewicz and Jennings Wynn, as well as the fresh talents of Casi Maggio, Dixie Lynn Cartwright, Specificity Jones, Tequila Mockingbird, Suki Shore, Daniel Piechocinski and Kyle Blair. By MidTangent Productions. 7:30pm - 10:00pm Hydrate Nightclub 3458 N Halsted St.

### Scruff Invades Chicago

Johnny Scruff and the boys of the hottest gay social app invade Chicago for one night. Hosted by the Scruff team, Joey, Spencer, Xavier, Scott and Matthew Harvat. 5:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

### Chicago Danztheatre Ensemble Art & Activism Gala

Close of month-long exploration of Art & Activism: An evening of music, dance, theater, poetry, and prose. 7:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Tickets: [http://Performers include Angelique Nelson, Bryant Cross, Alia Idiomatic Jhane, Janna Sobel, Timothy Joel "TJ" Medel, Abraham Mellish, Alpha and The Princes of Futa, and performances by CDE's Alexander St. John & ensemble](http://Performers include Angelique Nelson, Bryant Cross, Alia Idiomatic Jhane, Janna Sobel, Timothy Joel )

### Cabaret

Tony Award-winning musical legend. Through May 25. \$35-\$37.50. 8:00pm Citadel Theatre, 300 S Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest, IL <http://www.citadeltheatre.org>

### Women and HIV Luncheon

Join AFC and AbbVie for candid discussion about the journey of HIV-positive women, focusing on HIV disparities among people of color. Info: Carole Jakes at [carole.jakes@abbvie.com](mailto:carole.jakes@abbvie.com). Register at the website. 11:30pm - 1:30pm Lawndale Christian Health Center Skyline Conference Center, 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago <http://events.aidschicago.org/site/Calendar?id=100601&view=Detail>

## Saturday, April 26

### Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Weekly Saturday meetings. A peer-led support and education group for people with mood disorders and family and friends. Ask receptionist for room number. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 872-216-3272 <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

### LGBT Buyer/Seller Panel Discussion

Dream Town's LGBT Client Services Division brings industry experts and community leaders to discuss how marriage equality in Illinois will affect home ownership rights. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 312-373-8900 <http://dreamtown.com/lgbt>

### Asians & Friends April 26 Spring Tea



## 'BLACK' LIST

### Saturday, April 26

Yoruba Richen is the director of *The New Black*, screening at the Chicago Theological Seminary. [Richen is not slated to attend.]

Photo by Luke Rattray

### Party PRIDE Rooftop Spring Tea Party-the Dress Reveal event.

Kevin Vong, a fashion designer based in Chicago, will unveil his latest creation, a dress made of silver coins. Tickets by phone. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Rooftop of The Belmont, 3170 N. Belmont Ave. 312-409-1573 <http://www.afchicago.org>

### The New Black screening (In)Justice for All Film Fest

5:00pm Chicago Theological Seminary, 1407 E. 60th St., <http://www.injusticeforallff.com>

### Gerber/Hart Library and Archives annual book sale

Through April 27. 12:00pm - 6:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 5315 N Clark St <http://www.gerberhart.org>

### Affinity Trailblazers (Formerly known as the Senior Group)

Community and information for and among seniors to identify challenges of being in the 60+ age group; to advocate for individuals in this age group; and to provide support for those whose partners have health issues. Last Saturday of the month. Please bring a dish and/or beverage to share. Info: Phyllis Johnson at [seniorgroup@affinity95.org](mailto:seniorgroup@affinity95.org). 11:00pm - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services 1424 E. 53rd St. Suite 306 <http://www.affinity95.org>

## Sunday, April 27

### Cicada

Coming-of-age ghost story deeply rooted in the life of a small southern family on the verge of transformation. Through May 25, 2014. Tickets: Previews, \$30 adults. Regular run, \$35 adults; \$20 students. 4:00pm, 773-404-7336 Tickets: <http://greenhousetheater.org>

### Human Rights Watch Screening of Valentine Road

In 2008, eighth-grader Brandon McInerney shot his classmate Larry King at point blank range. The film raises awareness about safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) teens. Part of 2014 Human Rights Watch Film Series. Followed by a panel discussion. 6:30pm Gene Siskel Film Center 164 N State <http://www.hrw.org/chicago>

### Iggy Azalea

Rapper Iggy Azalea, Outbreak Tour. Doors 6pm. \$27.50 a, dvance, \$30. day of. All ages. 7:00pm House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, Chicago <http://www.houseofblues.com/Chicago>

### Windy City Gay Idol

12th annual search for the Windy City's best singers in the LGBT community. Up to 20 singers perform and are judged by an expert panel of judges, but it's the audience's votes that count. Top two performers will advance to the semi-finals in June; first place singer wins \$100 cash! 7 p.m. sign up. \$5 cover; \$10 contestant sign-up fee. 8:00pm 3160 Chicago's Piano & Cabaret 3160 N. Clark <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/Idol2014-8x10.pdf>

## Tuesday, April 29

### C.R.U.'s Special Guest: Julio Rodriguez

LGBT trailblazer Julio Rodriguez will be joining us to discuss the intersections of LGBT and Immigrant Rights! 6:30pm - 8:30pm Project VIDA 4045 W 26th Street <http://on.fb.me/1jEAVak>

## Wed., April 30

### Nia Vardalos, LSSI Benefit

Author of Instant Mom and Academy Award-nominated writer and star of the film My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Hors d'oeuvres, open bar. Tickets \$100. online. Benefits Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Chicago Illuminating Company, 19 E 21st St., Chicago 2242074333 [www.lssi.org](http://www.lssi.org) Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-nia-vardalos-a-benefit-for-lssi-tickets-10808262805>

### Affinity Forty Plus Meeting

Includes but is not limited to individuals who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or transgender women who are at least 40 years of age. Led by Glynis Morris. Activities defined by participants. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. 7:00pm, <http://www.affinity95.org>

### Romeo & Juliet

New dance version featuring longtime Joffrey dancer Matthew Adamczyk, gay and macho, dancing Juliet's father, another bastion of solemn, masculine energy, through Sunday, May 11, Adamczyk also has an art showing the Center on Halsted through May 27 7:00pm The Joffrey Ballet 10 E Randolph 800-982-2787 <http://joffrey.org> Tickets: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

## Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl May 10 at Waveland

Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (GLHF) will host the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Celebrity Bowl Saturday, May 10, at Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western Ave.

Registration is 10-11 a.m., bowling is 11 a.m.- noon, and wrap-up is 12-12:30 p.m. The Bowl is the group's major fundraising effort and provides vital support for the continuation of the Hall of Fame.

Among the slated celebrity bowlers are Ald. James Cappleman, Ald. Tom Tunney, Suzi Arnold, Gary Chichester, Tarrina Dikes, Mel Farrant, Andrew Favreau, Modesto "Tico" Valle, Vera Washington and Zander Mander, among others.

Those wishing to participate in the event by becoming a celebrity bowler (by raising funds through pledges), and those who want to pledge and/or receive additional information should contact Dick Uyvari at [dickandjoe@comcast.net](mailto:dickandjoe@comcast.net) or by 773-769-5115.



Janelle Monae. Photo by Jerry Nunn

## Taste of Chicago names headliners

The City of Chicago and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) is pleased to announce the lineup of performers at the Petrillo Music Shell for the 34th Annual Taste of Chicago, July 9-13 in Grant Park.

Janelle Monae—the award-winning songwriter, performer, producer and "avant-garde funkstress"—will headline the Petrillo Music Shell on Thursday, July 10. Nickel Creek will perform July 11, as will Emmylou Harris. Chi-

cago's Jeff Tweedy (the lead singer of Wilco) will perform July 12. Also slated to perform at the event are Aloe Blacc (who co-wrote "Wake Me Up" with Avicii) and the reggae group The Wailers, who collaborated with Bob Marley.

Admission is free and festival hours are 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets for the seating area at the Petrillo Music Shell are scheduled to go on sale May 22 at the Taste website, [tasteofchicago.us](http://tasteofchicago.us).

## KNIGHT from page 21

bey, Scrooge & Marley, etc.), writer-director Wendy Jo Carlton (Easy Abbey, Jamie & Jesse Are Not Together, Hannah Free) and Easy Abbey star/producer Lisa Cordileone as part of the group.

Complete schedule, advance tickets, etc. at [www.CIMMfest.org](http://www.CIMMfest.org)

—Out filmmaker Matt Wolf's latest movie, the documentary *Teenage*, opens Friday, April 25, at AMC River East 21, 322 E. Illinois St. The film traces the evolution of this demographic that has come to have an unprecedented historical impact on U.S.

## Antique/jewelry show April 24-28

The Chicago International Art, Antique & Jewelry Show, which the Palm Beach Show Group will present, will debut at Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., April 24-28.

Exhibitors from all over the world will be present.

Tickets are \$20; see [www.ChicagoSpringShow.com](http://www.ChicagoSpringShow.com) or call 561-822-5440.

culture, and will hopefully explain how that happened! <http://www.teenagefilm.com/>

—James Franco's collaboration with out director Travis Mathews, the LGBT festival fave *Interior. Leather. Bar* (which divided audiences and had its Chicago premiere at last fall's Reeling) is now available to rent or to buy from Vimeo. <http://vimeo.com/ondemand/interiorleatherbar/91758445>

—Another LGBT film fest documentary from last year—the sweet, often charming and at times bittersweet *Romeo Romeo*, which focuses on a darling lesbian couple and their long struggle to have a baby—is also now available from Vimeo. <http://vimeo.com/ondemand/romeoromeo>

# BILLY MASTERS

Have you heard about Bryan Singer and the underage teen? In 1999, Michael Egan was 17.

He claims Marc Collins-Rector lured him into a world of alcohol, drugs and gay sex. Collins-Rector was the chairman of Digital Entertainment Network—a proposed gay Internet site that would stream videos to subscribers. In the complaint, Egan claims that Collins-Rector facilitated a meeting with Singer at the DEN estate in Encino, Calif.: “In compliance with the ‘rules’ imposed by Collins-Rector that peo-



Film director Bryan Singer (above) is in the middle of a legal situation, Billy says.

ple in the pool area were not allowed to wear clothes, Plaintiff was nude as was Defendant Singer. Collins-Rector ordered Plaintiff out of the pool, and Defendant Singer hugged Plaintiff and grabbed his bare buttocks. They then went to the jacuzzi where Collins-Rector had Plaintiff sit on his lap and fondled Plaintiff's genitals. Collins-Rector then passed Plaintiff to Defendant Singer and Plaintiff was made to sit on Defendant Singer's lap. Defendant Singer provided an alcoholic beverage to Plaintiff and mentioned finding a role for him in an upcoming movie that he was directing. Defendant Singer told Plaintiff how ‘this group’ controls Hollywood, and that he was sexy. Defendant Singer masturbated Plaintiff and then performed oral sex upon him.” And that's just the beginning.

Allegedly, Egan was violated on numerous occasions. In fact, his mother claims to have filed a report with the LAPD and the FBI in 1999—a claim that has yet to be substantiated. Nonetheless, in most states, the statute of limitations has already expired, except in Hawaii. According to the suit, Egan was flown to Kailua, Hawaii, to stay at the Paul Mitchell estate in 1999—sigh, now they're dragging poor Paul Mitchell into this. Egan claims that Singer made him inhale cocaine. After that, Singer again forced him to have both oral and anal sex—because someone high on cocaine has such a reliable memory.

The problem is Singer states that he was actually in Toronto shooting X-Men on the dates of the alleged abuse in the Aloha State. The director's lawyer promises to file a counter suit with a claim for malicious prosecution. It should be added that Egan is being represented by Jeff Herman, the same attorney who represented several of the accusers in the Kevin “Elmo” Clash lawsuit. So, this could be the tip of the iceberg.

Your past often comes back to haunt you if you're in the public eye. Take Dustin Lance Black. This week, he's pissed off that Pasadena City College rescinded an invitation for him to be their commencement speaker. The school was recently in the news after one professor admitted to sleeping with students, and another showed students nude photos of himself. When

the board of trustees became aware that there were photos of DLB having unprotected sex on the Internet, they felt that perhaps he might not make the best commencement speaker. Lance wasn't happy. He wrote a lengthy letter on the subject which talks about people breaking into his ex-boyfriend's computer, stealing these photos, and trying to make money by selling them.

At this point, let me add that this “ex-boyfriend” is Jeff DeLancy, who was/is a male escort and did online sex videos under the name Cameron (a mega-hot sample of his work can be found on BillyMasters.com). Lance describes the photos thusly: “These were old images from a far simpler time in my life, a time before digital camera phones and Internet scandals.” I question this statement since my weekly column has been online since 1998. And, like me, I'm sure many of my fans had cameras in their phones back in 2006—which is when the photos in question were taken.

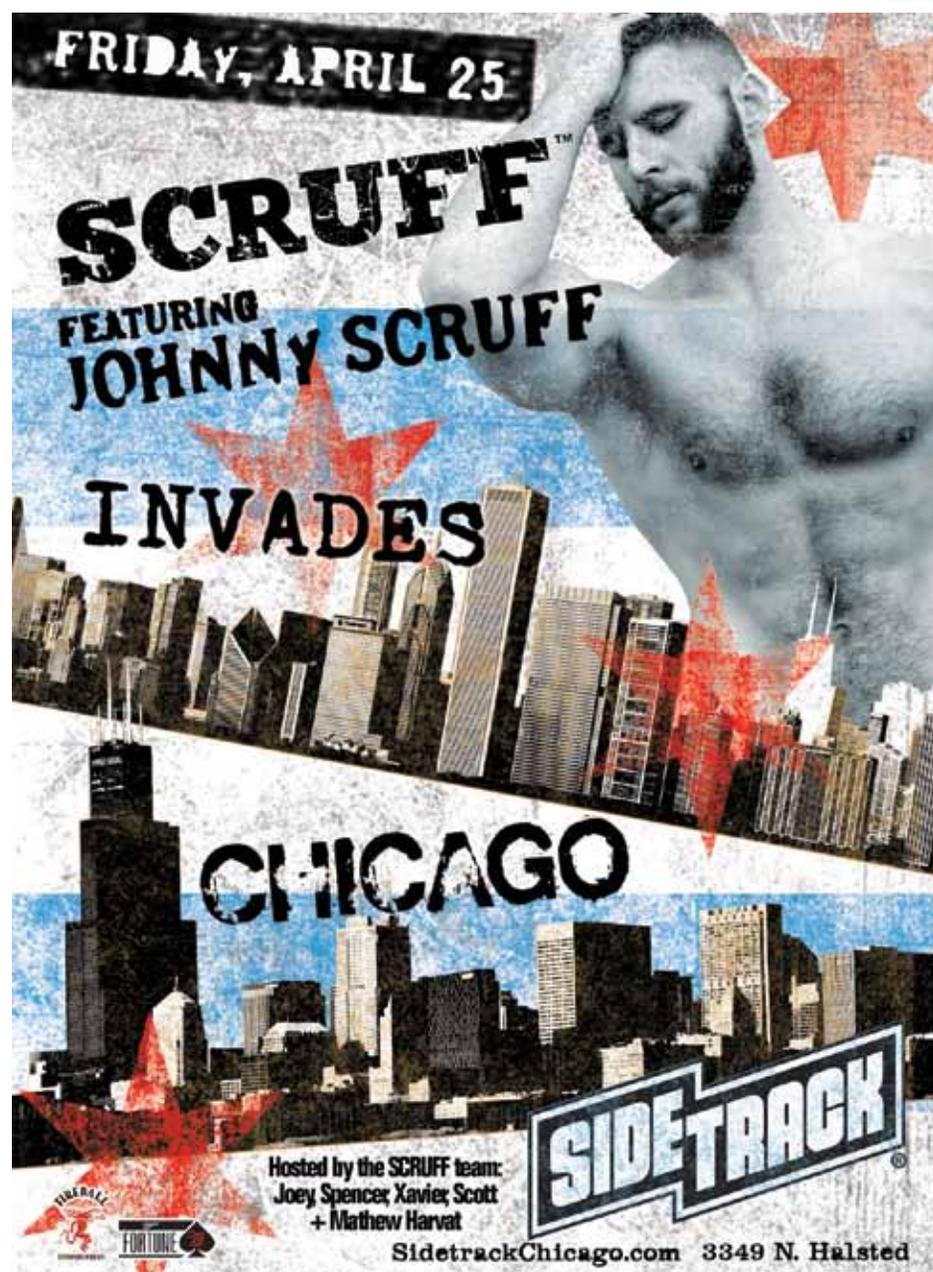
He continues by saying that the school is “sending the message that LGBT students are to be held to a different standard, that there is something inherently shameful about who we are and how we love.” I don't know which part of this insults me more. Does anyone really believe that if a female writer were in the same position (in this case, the missionary position), she wouldn't be dumped as commencement speaker? And if there is nothing inherently shameful about “how we love,” why has he purposely distanced himself from the unprotected sex aspect? Because that's what the “scandal” was all about.

He sums up by saying this: “With this cruel act, PCC's Administration is punishing the victim. And I ask you this: If I was a heterosexual man or woman with this same painful injury in the past, would PCC's Administration still be rescinding such an honor?” I believe I can answer that question—yes. I think Dustin Lance Black is basically a good person and a fine writer. But perhaps it's time for him to stop trying to rewrite history in order to portray himself as a victim. DLB has not built his cache on simply being a writer. It's because he's an activist and a self-proclaimed leader in the gay community. He's out there front and center—perhaps for altruistic reasons, perhaps not. But if you're putting yourself out there, you are leaving yourself wide open. (I will avoid the obvious joke.)

This leads into our next story, which is much more positive—so to speak. The United States Post Office is poised to release the Harvey Milk stamp on May 22, which is not only Harvey Milk Day but would also have been the activist's 84th birthday. The USPS made one major change in the stamp since it was first announced—it will be a Forever stamp. So buy as many as you can, and you can use them forever—well, until the USPS goes bankrupt!

Lastly, we hear that Annette Bening may star alongside John Lithgow this summer when Shakespeare in the Park presents King Lear. Did someone find a version of this play that features the king's mother?

When Dustin Lance Black could be Bryan Singer's wingman, it's definitely time to end yet another column. While researching this column, I discovered that DLB's attorney when trying to squelch the bareback pics was Martin Singer—the same attorney being employed by Bryan Singer. In fact, Marty also represented Tom Cruise when he sued for people calling him gay. Small world, eh? More details like this can be found at [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that's been bringing you Internet scandals since 1998! If you have any questions, feel free to write me at [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before someone hires Annette Bening to play Ophelia! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



## LETTERS from page 12

whose ward includes parts of Ukrainian Village.

“As a Council, we're cutting off that last tie that might exist between different cultures and different countries,” Waguespack said. “You cut off people who are moderates in Russia, who are opposed to Putin and what he's doing, who are opposed to the invasion of the Crimea, who are opposed to a Russian future that challenges the Western European powers, challenges the Ukraine and puts everybody on a war footing.”

I can tell you have no knowledge of Russia under Putin.

Please reconsider before it's too late because your actions in this matter will be a historical record. God forbid, your historical record will be the equivalent of you voting to have Chicago be a sister city of Berlin in 1938, right after Germany annexed Czechoslovakia.

Cultural ties, you say? How many more cultures would you like to see subordinated by Putin? How many more dead people will it take? Are 250,000 Chechens not enough? How about thousands of Georgians? Or the 96 Poles—including the president of Poland—killed in the plane crash four years ago?

Ethnic groups are not your thing? Well, how about other minorities like the LGBT community? Any other causes you're interested in? Independent journalists? Putin's political opponents? Human-rights activists? How many more will need to disappear or be assassinated before you change your mind?

Are you honestly so naive to think that the sister city ties between Chicago and Moscow include ANY involvement from moderate Russians or anyone opposing Putin? You don't know Russia, sir.

Stand up to Rahm Emanuel and suspend Chicago's sister city ties with Moscow.

Regards,  
A. Sobczyk  
Chicago

## The unconverted

To the editor:

They failed us—again! Despite a 71-47 Democratic majority in the Illinois House, the “Youth Mental Health Protection Act” that state Rep. Kelly Cassidy introduced was defeated 44-51. This means that many Democrats either voted against the measure or failed to vote, hiding behind “excused absences.”

As was the case when the marriage-equality bill languished with no vote being taken, powerful House Speaker Mike Madigan refused to use his considerable means of persuasion to ram this bill through the house. If the bill is important to Madigan it passes, no matter how unpopular. The pension “reform” act attests to the speaker's ability to enact legislation favored by the business elites he represents.

The defeat of Cassidy's bill means that children and adolescents may still be forced into phony, harmful “conversion therapy”—a practice based on the assumption that homosexuality is an illness, and one condemned by many professional organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association. Stopping this blatant form of child abuse is an important step toward social acceptance of LGBTQ people.

Bob Schwartz  
Gay Liberation Network



Jen Benson. Photo courtesy of Benson

## PROFILE

# Chicago lesbian hooked on the CrossFit craze

BY ROSS FORMAN

Jen Benson is a CrossFit coach and competitor—and clearly hooked.

“I definitely got bit by the competition bug,” she said.

Benson, 40, an out lesbian who lives in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village, competed in the CrossFit Open last year, which is the first stage of competition that allows athletes to qualify for the CrossFit Games; it is open to anyone who wants to throw their hat in the ring.

Benson has since competed in the Athena Classic in Arlington Heights, Ill.; the Granite Games in St. Cloud, Minn.; the Midwest Classic team competition at CrossFit BodyTech; the Freeze Fest in St. Paul, Minn.; and the Galt Games-Winter Edition in Chicago this past February.

This year, she entered the master’s division, so she’ll compete against a field of age-adjusted peers, she said.

So what is this craze called CrossFit?

“CrossFit is a core strength and conditioning program that uses constantly varied, functional movements performed at high intensity to reach its goal of developing increased work capacity across broad time and modal domains,” said Benson, a CrossFit Coach, meaning, she is “the person who runs classes, teaches and scales the movements, motivates the athletes and creates the programming plan for the gym, often called a ‘box’ in CrossFit lingo.

Every CrossFit class is led by a coach who has, at minimum, completed the CrossFit Level 1 Trainer course.

“One of the reasons CrossFit is so successful, in my opinion, is that it is community-based,” Benson said. “While there are people who do CrossFit workouts on their own in traditional or home gyms, most of us belong to an affiliate and workout in small groups. People bond very quickly over the intense experiences, and those relationships are what keep people coming back and working so hard. I could never have continued to do this kind of work without the support and camaraderie of my CrossFit family.”

Military and first-responders were the initial adopters of the CrossFit program, Benson said. “Now, you find a broad cross-section of society doing it.”

“CrossFit is my happy place. I feel the most alive and relaxed while both doing my workouts and when coaching others. Somehow, the rest of life’s worries melt away for a little while.”

Benson, who said she is “in a relationship,” is a visiting teaching associate and UIC College of Nursing, where she teaches pre-baccalaureate nursing students during their maternity clinical rotation. She is originally from Minneapolis and has lived in Chicago since 2002.

Benson played for the Chicago Force football team from 2008-2010, and has a lengthy sporting resume: she was on the cross country skiing team in high school; has run four marathons in three years; and plays flag football in the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) for the Diesel Daisies.

Benson is a Level 1 CrossFit Coach at Big City CrossFit (www.bigcitycrossfit.com). BCCF is a new affiliate, which opened in January in the West Loop.

Benson also is a certified nurse midwife (CNM) and has worked as a clinician in women’s health for about 12 years. “Four years ago I went back to school to pursue my PhD in Public Health at UIC,” she said. “Right now I am working on my dissertation proposal to do a survey of lesbian parents who build their families using alternative insemination. There has been little to no attention given this group in public health research. I am hoping to shed some light on the experiences, needs and health outcomes of these families.”

As for the CrossFit controversy involving transgender woman Chloe Jonsson, Benson said she didn’t know enough to comment on specifics of the case but added, “I believe in equality, and no one should be impacted based on their gender identity.”

## WAMBACH from page 27

for me was, I never felt like I was in [the closet]. I don’t feel any different because everyone in my life knew.”

Still, she added, “I appreciate if [my coming-out to the rest of the world] helps someone feel more comfortable in their world.

“I definitely think there will be people who are positively impacted by Jason Collins and Michael Sam coming out, especially men. But I also think, at some point, hopefully in the very near future, that we can stop talking about people’s sexual [orientation], and start the conversation on the bullying and sports overall. First and foremost, I want to be known as a good person and a soccer player. All of that other stuff is irrelevant, based on what I do on the field. And I think most other athletes will agree.”

Wambach’s world has not changed, at all, since her wedding last October, she stressed, “except having more responsibility with the relationship.”

“I don’t see myself as a spokesperson for the gay community; I don’t look at myself as that. I would see myself as the spokesperson for something different, but what, I don’t really know right now,” said Wambach, who has attended Pride Parades in the past.

When asked about the challenges male athletes seem to face more than women when coming-out, Wambach said it stems in the “machismo” of male athletes.

“Unfortunately, there’s also a stereotype that, if you’re gay, you’re less manly. But that’s just not the case,” she said. “So, I think it’s been harder for men, and probably will continue to be harder for a while longer. Hopefully the Jason Collins’ and Michael Sam’s of the world will keep coming out and opening the door, so someday there is no conversation around this subject—and I really believe that.”

## 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.

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THURSDAY, MAY 15 \* 8:30 sign / 9:30pm start

**PHOENIX** 1932 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village  
THURSDAY, MAY 22 \* 8pm sign / 9pm start

**SPIN** 800 W Belmont **WILD CARD**  
SUNDAY, JUNE 1 \* 9pm sign / 10pm start

**SIDETRACK** 3349 N Halsted **SEMI-FINALS**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 14 \* 2pm door / 3pm start

**MAYNE STAGE** 1328 W Morse **FINALS**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25 \* 6pm door / 7pm start

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